



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Dated: October 3, 2008**  
**The Light Millennium**  
**<http://lightmillennium.org>**

**Meeting Address:**

Ali Baba Turkish Restaurant  
2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10022

**Board Members Present:**

Bircan Unver Culkun  
Sam Paley  
Humeyra Kocak  
Figen Bingul

**Guest:**

Merve Arabaci

*Minutes taken by Figen Bingul, reviewed by Bircan Unver*

The Light Millennium Board of Directors convened at Ali Baba Restaurant in NYC on **October 3, 2008**. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

**Minutes:**

- 1) Bircan Unver is elected as the Meeting Chair.
- 2) Agenda is adopted.
- 3) The minutes of the May 23, 2008 meeting are approved.
- 4) **Review of Financials:**
  - \* Humeyra Kocak informed the BoD about the donations she gathered from people whom she had contacted to form a support group. She presented the checks she received to Bircan Unver. Bircan Unver thanked Humeyra Kocak for her great efforts in bringing support to the organization, noting that this will be a big step toward sustaining the organization. Sam Paley made a donation to the organization during the meeting. (See attachment #1 for the list of donations.)
  - \* Bircan Unver will send a thank you letter to Emir Bingul to be able to inquire for a matching donation from his employer.
  - \* **2007 IRS documents:**
    - Program Services: 2,278.-
    - Donations: \$911.-
    - Deficit: \$1361.-
  - Net Assets – Balance: Beginning of the year: \$12,683.-
  - Net Assets or fund balances at the end of the year: \$10,315.-
  - Total Liabilities and Net Assets Fund Balances: \$116,499.-
  - \* Bank statement:
    - Ending balance as of October 3: \$ 59.58
- 5) **Ongoing Projects:**
  - a) *Parade of Faces: Who Speaks for Turkey?* Bircan worked effectively and productively with Phil Lane, based upon receiving Stephen Kinzer's acceptance of the proposed project idea (*in Feb.2008*), from March to June 30, 2008. Phil was very helpful up to this

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process and until Bircan left for Turkey. Bircan had a meeting before she left, delegating the responsibilities. They decided him to focus in the US and send out the Lol's while Bircan's focus area was going to be Turkey for the summer. But she was not able to get a result from Phil in terms of the process; instead Phil sent her brief notes telling that he did not get a chance to send out the Lol's, etc. This became an issue between them throughout the summer and still is a concern today.

Afterwards Phil Lane couldn't put much effort and time due to his wife's pregnancy, and later the birth of his twins (August 20<sup>th</sup>). Bircan repetitively tried to re-activate the collaboration and continue working on the documentary project with Phil Lane in September and October 2008.

See Attachment #2 for Bircan Unver's report on *Parade of Faces: Who Speaks for Turkey?* project.

- b) A program with Prof. Talat Halman on YUNUS EMRE is confirmed to be held on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at Columbia University.
- c) A series of book launching events with Adalet Agaoglu for *Summer's End*: First event is scheduled for November 12, 2008 at the Turkish House. Events in Chicago and Princeton University are not finalized yet.
- d) A fundraising event on archeology with Prof. Sam Paley: Sam Paley explained that he can do this only if he has the information from the excavation. He is waiting for the excavation report with images to be able to prepare. If he receives the report timely, an event for December might be scheduled.

#### 6) Report on LM:

**ISIKBINYILI.ORG**> Bircan e-published the Summer issue with Pelin Bali in Istanbul. Bircan also donated the contents of her book "SANATIN LABIRENTLERINDE" to ISIKBINYILI.ORG as an on-line version. It is partly e-published on ISIKBINYILI.ORG. The contents of the book feature 52 artists, academicians, art critics, and gallery owners along with various essays on life and culture.

#### **UNDPI activities - new rep. for 2009:**

Bircan served as the co-chair of the Research, Communication and Website Subcommittee under the Planning Committee of the UN/DPI NGO Annual 61<sup>st</sup> Conference from February to until April 21, 2008, and she was a member of the related Planning Committee.

**Also**, Bircan was the co-chair of the NGO Mental Health – ICT Working Group Annual Program, "Global Well-Being & Media" which was held at the UN/Church Center on April 10, 2008.

#### **Developed, proposed and promoted several projects:**

- Health is the Human Rights in collaboration with World Council of Affairs of Connecticut
  - MyTask & MyProject
  - Video project with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students based on Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
  - Next60 in conjunction with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UDHR
- None of above projects were implemented or fully accomplished.*

- 7) Bircan proposed to be reimbursed for her travel and related expenses for the PARADE OF FACES: WHO SPEAKS FOR TURKEY documentary project depending on the funding supplied for the project. She also indicated that she considers to be reimbursed, starting

from 2008, for her expenses if the organization is funded. Sam Paley indicated she should and it was seconded by all.

- 8) Merve Arabaci accepted being the Volunteer Coordination and Youth Representative of the organization to the United Nations for 2009. She also has shown interest to work with Humeyra on Business Plan for the organization.
- 9) **Report on LM's participations:**
  - Bircan attended several workshops organized by the Non-Profit Coordination Committee of NY, in particular, from their annual meeting in February until the end of May 2008.
  - Attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Philanthropic Summit in March 2008.
  - Attended the Non-Profit Connection Conference in April 2008.
  - Attended the NYTimes Non-Profit Management Excellence Awards Ceremony on June 26, 2008.
- 10) Bircan researched through NPCCNY and informed the BoD by email that an Advisory Board member could professionally get involved in a new project and also receive compensation. This will be applicable solely on the condition "when" a particular project fund is available for that purpose. Accordingly, it won't create a conflict of interest when a voluntary Advisory Board member professionally works on a particular project produced by the organization.
- 11) The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next Board Meeting date was tentatively scheduled for October 24, 2008.
- 12) Attachment #3: A summary of the issues Bircan Unver and Merve Arabaci discussed at the end of the meeting (emailed to the BoD by Merve Arabaci on Oct 3, 2008)

**Attachment #1: List of Donations (emailed by Humeyra Kocak on Oct. 8, 2008)**

LIGHT MILLENNIUM'S DONATION LIST  
AS OF 10/8/2008

NAME	AMOUNT	PAID
UNITED REAL ESTATE INC./MR.CHRISTOPHER ALLISON	\$50.00	Check
MR.DILAVER KOCAK	\$50.00	Check
MR.ZARAHAN IMIRZALIOGLU	\$50.00	Cash
MR.OKTAY & JULIDE ERSIN	\$20.00	Check
GARDEN STATE HOME FINANCE INC./MR. SUREN YANUR	\$50.00	Check
MR.ONUR KARA	\$20.00	Check
MR.FRANK LEHMANN	\$15.00	Check
MR.MAHMOUD MONTASSER	\$15.00	Check
MR.VEYIS AKGUL	\$60.00	Check
MS.ELIF SEMERCIOGLU	\$5.00	Cash
MR.ALI DENIZ	\$100.00	Check
MR.ERDINC KARA	\$50.00	Check
PROF.SAM PALEY	\$100.00	Check
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$585.00</b>	

**Attachment #2:** Bircan Unver's report on *Parade of Faces: Who Speaks for Turkey?*

I and Stephen Kinzer attended several meetings for seeking funding for the PARADE OF FACES documentary project in Turkey. Kinzer's presence there was the greatest chance for the project. I continued my attempts and meetings after Kinzer returned to the States. Yet, we were in contact and he supported me greatly throughout the process.

As summary in terms of reaching out the targeted funders in the US and in Turkey, please see below:

From May to June 30, 2008:

- FORD Foundation
- HSBC
- ANNENBERG
- NYTIMES Foundation (found conflict of interest)
- TURKISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Bircan had to cover all her travel cost and related expenses within her personal capacity during the whole process both in New York and Istanbul. These expenses might be reimbursed to Bircan when this particular project is funded (based on October 3, 2008/BoD Meeting).

ALSO:

- Western Union for Book-Tour Project for the new edition of the CRESCENT & STAR

Letter of Intention or full-proposal or an application was submitted to all above names.

-- TURKISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION: I am on top of it and it is still in progress. I am hoping that we might be able to get 1/3 of the proposed drafted budget after my attempts to reach the President of Turkey (delivering the folder to his top advisor, to both NY and DC Ambassadors and the NY-Turkish Consulate (on Sep. 10), and Washington D.C. meeting on Nov. 7 at the Turkish Embassy.)

The rest of the above mentioned organizations sent either an e-mail reply or a letter stating that this project is not within their criteria, but they considered it seriously, or something in this line.

I also sent the introductory text of the project to BOEING; contacted their rep. in Ankara, but got a similar response as above.

TURKCELL is interested for a premiere or nation-wide special screenings in Turkey once it is completed, but not for the financing of the production. They've also shown interest for the Book-Tour for Crescent & Star, and I've drafted my proposal and sent to Stephen Kinzer for his schedule and confirmation.

I've contacted with:

ULKER  
ZORLU  
TEKFEN  
Mr. HUSNU OZYEGIN

They showed interest, but for one or another reason they reflected that they have previously made other commitments for sponsorships, but are willing to work with us for upcoming projects.

For the rest of my attempts, please see below the Fundraising Plan & Report of the Process which is also part of the full version of the proposal; Media Appearances and also a letter which I was obtained from CNNTurk which shows an intention to show the documentary (*presented during the meeting*).

## **FUNDRAISING PLAN**

The estimated cost of the project is \$875K to 950K. Our strategy is to identify the most likely places that we can raise ANY amounts of money. "Likely" is defined as: we have an invitation to submit a proposal through a pre-existing relationship and our project is congruent with Foundation or Corporation's Mission as well as their geographical interest and based on pre-requests of some major American Corporations who have business in Turkey.

### Report of the process:

- 1) **Ford Foundation** (*On-Line, Letter of Inquiry submitted as of May 20, 2008, an invitation received for the first week of August in NYC. Accordingly, a request was sent out for re-scheduling of the interview by B.Ü. Bircan e-sent updated proposal on September 15, 2009.* )
- 2) **Turkish Cultural Foundation** - (*Through NY & W.DC Turkish Embassy – On-Line as of June 26, 2008, and updated version of the proposal sent to NY Turkish Consulate (Hon. Mehmet Samsar) on Sept. 9, 2008.*)
- 3) **HSBC** (*Full On-Line Application submitted as of June 18, 2008*)
- 4) **Annenberg Foundation** (*On-Line Letter of Inquiry submitted as of June 22, 2008*)
- 5) **NYTimes Foundation** (*mailed on June 30, 2008*)
- 6) **Boyner Holding** (*Bircan met with Mrs. Ümit Boyner and Nur Beler of TUSIAD along with Stephen Kinzer in Istanbul on Aug. 12, 2008; a decision will be made by mid of September in this regard.*)
- 7) **Koç Holding** (*met with Mr. Ali Koç along with Stephen Kinzer in Istanbul on August 14, 2008; Mr. Koç stated that he will be supporting the project.*)
- 8) **BP** (*Bircan met with the representatives of the BP on Sept. 2 at the BP, Kozyatagi, Istnabul, and potentially they are interested to be the sponsor of one of the six episodes.*)
- 9) **TAV** (*Mr. Cem Kozlu will discuss the issue with Dr. Mustafa Sani Sener, and will get back to Bircan.*)
- 10) **Mr. Cüneyt Zapsu** (*sent in full proposal and budget on Aug. 14, 2008, and followed it up over the phone.*)
- 11) **THY** – (*initial meeting took place on Aug. 22, 2008 at the HQ of the THY.*)*Follow by via e-mail, suggested re-sending of the proposal in November-2008 for its re-consideration within the 2009 Annual Budget of THY.*)
- 12) **Boeing, Ankara and Seattle, August 2008**

### Potential Collaborators:

- 1) **TAIK/DEIK**- Istanbul (*umbrella organization, initial contact made with Mr. Ferit Sahenk, and sent full-proposal.*)
- 2) **TACCI – NY** (*umbrella organization, based in NY, will be contacted in Sept. or Oct.2008*)
- 3) **TUSIAD** - Istanbul (*same as above*): With a referral by Mr. Nuri M. Çolakoglu/Dogan Media; an initial meeting took place among Stephen Kinzer at TUSIAD/Istanbul with Ms. Hale Onursal - Hatipoglu on July 31, 2008, and second with Mrs. Ümit Boyner and Nur Beler took place at the Boyner Holding on August 10,2, 2008.)
- 4) **TOBB** (*work in progress - initial contact made with Mr.Rifat Hisarcıklıoglu via e-mai in August, and a tentatively appointment considered in October or November.*)

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- 5) **TIM** (Mr. Oguz Satıcı - a meeting realized on Sept/ 5, 2008, made an important suggestion, and reflected a great interest to support the project in several ways.)
- 6) **TURSAB** (a meeting was realized with Mr. Basaran Ulusoy on Sept. 6, and willing to be a logistic sponsor based on evaluating the whole project's proposal.)
- 7) **TR-INVEST** (initial contact made, and Mr. Mustafa Mermeroglu is willing to collaborate for this project within their capacity.)
- 8) **INVEST IN TURKEY** (initial contact made, and they expressed that the organization has a little budget but open to collaborate in other forms.)
- 9) **ATC** (an initial e-mail sent to Mr. Louis L. Kahn on Sept. 4, 2008, and also to Amb. James Holmes (Ret), President & CEO & Ms. Canan Buyukunsal, Executive Director on Sept. 15, 2008.)

### **MEDIA APPEARANCES – TURKEY**

**Haber24** – On August 13, 2008: Live, 4:05-4:30PM: Stephen Kinzer with Bahar Feyzan– Mentioned about the upcoming new edition of the book “Crescent & Star” as well as this documentary project.

**NTV** – On August 13, 2008: Live: 7:30 (on Iran/Ahmedinejat): During the introduction of Kinzer, Işın Erelçin mentioned about the upcoming new edition of the Crescent & Star as well as the documentary.

**NTV** – On August 15, 2008 – 8:45 a.m. – Morning News – pre-recorded interview with Kinzer: News about the upcoming new edition of the book and the documentary project.

& Also:

**ISIKBINYILI.ORG** – For a recent interview with Stephen Kinzer on the Newly Revised and Expanded book, “CRESCENT and STAR: Turkey Between Two Worlds”

<http://www.isikbinyili.org/docView.php?d=article&id=200> September 5, 2008

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The following are some things Ms. Unver and I discussed afterwards.

1. LM Website- Main Platform
2. Işık Bin Yılı Website
3. Turkish-Greek Synergy Website
4. LM TV Series- Programs of Projects and Airs at Queens Public TV
5. Events-forums, cultural, projects in collaborations with Universities, general society, UN, and other NGOs.
6. Subdomain- Next 60<sup>th</sup>

Depending on how many events were organized each year we had 40-60 event volunteers and content contributors per year, with 40-50 annual content presenters for the first two websites.

One of our goals is to **reactivate website #3**, but just as we need (ideally) 3 key people who are willing to work on each project, we would aspire to find **someone who speaks Greek** and would become involved with the **translation and design** of the site.

After our web design software issue is resolved, we need to post job offers for a **full-time web developer** for print and media.

Also a **media and public relations part-timer**

1. Stephen Kinzer Documentary
2. Yunus Emre-Columbia Event- perhaps could also develop as part of a TV program
3. **LM-developing it as a globalized web stream TV**, since we are more operating more in our local branches with events and QPTV. The idea would be the expansion of the NGO globally, projects being translated into different languages (Spanish, Russian, Chinese, etc), targeting different nationalities, and ultimately diversifying board of committee members through establishing international committees.

We need to form a **Volunteer Coordination Committee (3-5 people)**. Posts on **Volunteermatch.com** will be reactivated.

**Merve** will form **fliers** to be posted in school hallways (wherever permitted) **about current available positions**

**Editor:** proofread extensively, someone able to respond promptly

**Fundraising Committee Members**

**Grant Writer Intern**

\*\*\*If you have a list of specific duties these positions will be responsible for please email it to me, so that I can design an effective flier. I need help with type of content needed to be included on the fliers for specific positions.

As for **the Business Plan:**

We discussed that we would make the **documents electronic and easy to edit** on word. Perhaps we can set up a **color coding system** (black-original, orange-needs editing, purple-personal comment)

**Sera** could assist with the **research** of the most affordable **prices** of equipment for non-profit, most affordable prices for office space rental, and communication equipment.

Also our operational budget should not exceed 7-10%.

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