



## NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISE TURQUIE.

No 25

DECEMBER 2019

In this last edition of 2019, we wanted to touch on year-end traditions once again and particularly those pertaining to Santa Claus, otherwise known as Saint Nicholas. While as a Muslim country Turkey does not have the Christmas tradition, it is home to the church of Saint Nicholas who lived in Myra (today Demre, near Antalya) in 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, where he was the bishop. His generosity, in particular to children, started the tradition of gift distribution but not necessarily always on December 24.

Unlike in the United States or other Christian lands around the globe, Santa Claus visits Switzerland not on 24 December but on 6 December. He does not bring individual gifts, but a huge bag filled with chocolates, peanuts and mandarins for everyone to share.

This is how the Santa tradition in Switzerland works. In the evening of 6 December, the *Samichlaus* (or Santa Claus) visits every family with his helper *Schmutzli*, who is usually dressed in all-black clothes with a blackened face. Again, unlike in other countries, Santa actually knocks on the door and is invited in (maybe Swiss chimneys are simply too narrow for him to climb down?). Sometimes, Santa has a donkey with him that carries his bag.

Once inside, he orders his helper to put down the big bag with the treats and open it. He then calls everyone forward one by one and gives them a report on how they behaved in the last year. He'll sing them praises and sometimes mention areas for improvement. After receiving their report, every child can try to improve their standing with Santa by reciting a Christmas or Santa-related poem. A good report and a good poem will get a child a big handful of treats while, a bad report and no poem is said to endanger the receiving of blows from Santa's helper or being stuck into Santa's bag and carried off with him. Promises to do better next year are said to save children from this fate. Santa also gives a yearly report about adults including parents but usually in a humorous fashion (not to be taken too seriously).

So this year on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>, peek from your windows in case you catch the Santa knocking on the doors...

We wish you all a joyful festive season and a Happy 2020!

Editors

Please keep us posted on events and news that you would like to share at [editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com](mailto:editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com)

[Edited by Bezen Hong](#)

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## DECEMBER AND JANUARY EVENTS

### Association Events

Happy Hour - December 5 from 6pm  
1204 Geneva

We hope to see many of you for our last event of the year and to raise our glasses to a happy new year!

Fondue Night – February 5 from 7pm  
1204 Geneva

For both events kindly register at [assosuisseturquie@gmail.com](mailto:assosuisseturquie@gmail.com).

For future Association events : <http://www.chtr.ch/fr/prochaines-activit%C3%A9s.html>

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The Global Refugee Crisis: A Way Forward –December 2 at 6:15pm  
Auditorium A2, Maison de la Paix, The Graduate Institute, Geneva

There is an emerging consensus that an integrated approach is called for to deal with the global refugee crisis. The lecture will attempt to identify from this standpoint some academic, political, legal and institutional initiatives, reforms, and responses.

Chair: Bhupinder Chimni, Professor of International Law. For more details: <https://graduateinstitute.ch/communications/events/global-refugee-crisis-way-forward-1>

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Turkish Theatre: “Hanım & Efendi” – December 5 at 20:45  
Cinerama Empire – Geneva

Ceyda Düvenci and Bülent Şakrak are challenging in a witty but thoughtful way our perceptions on marriage and relationships. To reserve, please contact: [info@cenevre-kultur.com](mailto:info@cenevre-kultur.com) or <https://etickets.infomaniak.com/shop/iLuS3hm5Su/>

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Movie Night: "Mucize Ask 2" (The Miracle 2: Love) – December 12 at 20:45  
Cinerama Empire – Geneva

Mahsun Kırmızıgül's latest movie is in Geneva! It shows complications of village life and of new starts. To reserve, please contact:

[info@cenevre-kultur.com](mailto:info@cenevre-kultur.com) or [www.cenevre-culture.com](http://www.cenevre-culture.com)

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Fazıl Say and Marianne Crebassa (mezzo-soprano) – January 19 at 8pm  
Grand Théâtre de Genève

The programme includes Debussy, Ravel, Fauré as well as Fazıl Say's own composition. Marianne Crebassa is considered not only a star mezzo-soprano but one who is not shy of musical adventures. For more information and tickets: <https://billetterie.gtg.ch/selection/event/date?productId=1426216865>

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lausanne Bizim Lozan on Sale

The much-praised book recently published by our Association is available for purchase at:

- Bookstore Letu in Geneva
- Gallery Heritage in Geneva
- Online on our website [www.chtr.ch](http://www.chtr.ch)
- And also

on <https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=22298731039&searchurl=sortBy%3D0%26vci%3D601833>

We believe it will be a much-appreciated gift by your friends and family!

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## **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Gülsin Onay's Recital Was Beautiful and Inspiring

Gülsin Onay was in Geneva on November 22 at Turkish Consulate General's invitation. The great interpreter cherished and honoured by Turkish State is also awarded by Polish State for her representation of Chopin's legacy..

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We Lost Yıldız Kenter, One of the Legendary Theatre Artists in Turkey

She was 91 years old. Daughter of a Turkish father and British mother, during her 60-year career, Kenter took stage for more than 100 plays and played challenging roles in many movies. She performed in plays internationally in both Turkish and English. Among many honors, she was bestowed Adelaide Ristori Prize in 1984 and Best actress in Turkish movie Madame at the Bestia Film Festival in 1989. The World Women Organization of Finland named her one of the most successful 100 Women of the Century. In 2007, Kenter was named a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

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#### **ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine**

Autopoiesis: Semih Zeki

Bozlu Art Project

Until December 14

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/semih-zeki/>

Beyond the Vessel

Meşher

Until December 22

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/beyond-the-vessel/>

Our Blissful Souvenirs

An exhibition devoted to the work of the photorealist painter Nur Koçak

SALT Beyoğlu

Until December 29

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/our-blissful-souvenirs/>

*Name, Place, Animal, Thing*: Nalan Yırtmaç

DEPO

Until December 29

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/name-place-animal-thing/>

Göbeklitepe: The Gathering

Ankara CerModern Arts Center

Until December 31

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/goebeklitepe/>

*Breeze*: Lithian Ricci

Nev Galeri Nevmekan

Until January 5

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/breeze/>

Avni Lifij: The Modern of his Time

The first major exhibition devoted to this important '1914 Generation' artist

Sakıp Sabancı Museum

January 12

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/avni-lifij-the-modern-of-his-time/>

*Dissymmetrical*: Turan Aksoy

Pi Artworks

Until January 14

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/turan-aksoy/>

In the Shade of Time: Hayal İncedoğan

Anna Laudel

Until January 19

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/in-the-shade-of-time/>

Canan Tolon: *You Tell Me*

Istanbul Modern

Until February 2

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/canan-tolon/>

Andy Warhol and Pop Art

Uniq Expo

Until March 29

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/andy-warhol/>

Memories of Humankind: Stories from the Ottoman Manuscripts

Istanbul Research Institute

Until July 25, 2020

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/memories-of-humankind/>

### **Odunpazarı Modern Museum Opening Exhibitions**

Marshmallow Laser Feast's *Treehuger* and *In the Eyes of the Animal*, until December 7

*The Union*, until January 1

Tanabe Chikuunsai IV's site-specific installation, until September 20, 2020

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/odunpazari-opening-exhibitions/>

### **Coming Up:**

ANAMED Annual Symposium: Heritage, World Heritage, and the Future

ANAMED

December 5 – 6

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/heritage-world-heritage-and-the-future/>

Sapor Istanbul Food Symposium

Phanar Greek High School

December 7 – 8

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/sapor-istanbul-food-symposium1/>

Worktable: An interactive exhibition with artist Kate McIntosh

ARTER

December 20 – 22

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/worktable/>

## THE WORLD

### Opening:

Troy: Myth and Reality

British Museum

Opens November 21

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/troy/>

### Continuing:

*Modernisms: Iranian, Turkish, and Indian Highlights* from NYU's Abby Weed Grey Collection

NYU's Grey Art Gallery

Until December 7

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/modernisms/>

The Efendis of 71 Wale Street, Bo-Kaap

The Iziko Bo-Kaap Museum, Cape Town, South Africa

Until December 31

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-effendis-of-71-wale-street-bo-kaap/>

Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion

Dumbarton Oaks

Until January 5

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/ornament/>

Inspired by the East: How the Islamic World Influenced Western Art

British Museum

Until January 26

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/inspired-by-the-east/>

### Coming Up:

The 17<sup>th</sup> New York Turkish Film Festival

December 12 – 15

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/17th-new-york-turkish-film-festival/>

### \*\*CORNUCOPIA NEWS\*\*

Stamboul Ghosts: A Stroll Through Bohemian Istanbul, by John Freely with photographs by Ara Güler

Now available to order: <http://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/stamboul-ghosts/>

Or email [books@cornucopia.net](mailto:books@cornucopia.net)

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