

UMD Voice



**REMEMBERING THE OHRID
FRAMEWORK COERCION**



**BEST PROMOTER OF
MACEDONIA AWARD**



**GREEK ORTHODOX BISHOP
THREATENS TO DESTROY
MACEDONIAN RADIO STATION**



UMD GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2011

**Celebrating 20 Years of
Macedonian Independence**

UMD Voice

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR MACEDONIA?

• • •

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE, UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO SHARE?

• • •

DO YOU LOVE TO WRITE, TAKE PHOTOS?

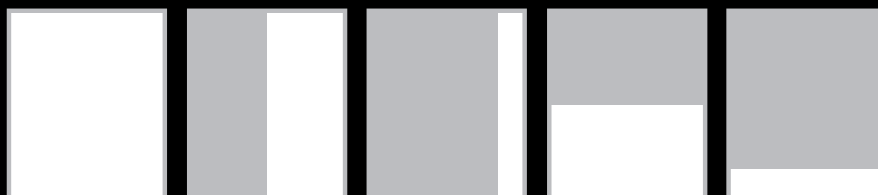
IF YOU ANSWERED YES ...

... then consider submitting your original writing and photos for publication in UMD Voice Magazine!

Apply at: editor@umdiaspora.org or call: +1 (800) 863-9583 x1, or +1 (202) 756-2244

ADVERTISING RATES

Back Cover (full) - \$1000
Inside cover (full) - \$750
Any inside full page - \$600
1/2 page (vert/horiz) - \$400
1/4 page (vert/horiz) - \$250



Please contact us for special pricing deals. We are happy to arrange an affordable advertising package for your needs:

United Macedonian Diaspora
1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20004

(202) 756-2244 • umdvoice@umdisapora.org

All advertising is subject to approval by UMD Voice's editorial staff, which reserves the right to refuse or cancel any advertisement at any time.





**UNITED
MACEDONIAN
DIASPORA**
ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА

United Macedonian Diaspora

1101 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20004
Phone: (202) 756-2244
Fax: (202) 756-7323
info@umdiaspora.org
umdvoice@umdiaspora.org
http://www.umdiaspora.org

Australia Office:

PO Box 2153
Hawthorn, VIC 3122 Australia
Phone: 0438 385 466
australia@umdiaspora.org

Canada Office:

3555 St. Clair Avenue East,
Toronto, ON M1K 1L6, Canada
Phone: 1-800-UMD-9583
canada@umdiaspora.org

Editor: Mark Branov

editor@umdiaspora.org

Contributors: Martin Anastasovski; Victor Bivell; Zoran Dabik; Aleksandar Donski; Carlos Flores-Juberias; Victor Friedman; Tiho Georgiev; Ivona Georgievskia; Petar Jankov; Tomislav Jovanovski; Dame Krcoski; Emilija Kukubajaska; Marija-Emilija Kukubajaska; Pande Manojlov; Gorgi Markoski; Sally McNamara; Jason Miko; Marjana Miladinovska; Bobby Mircevski; Valentina Miskovska; Aleks Mitreski; Vera Najdovska; Eugenia Natsoulidou; Kiril Nestorovski; Goce Peroski; Stan Pigon; Vlatko Sekuloski; Gjoko Sikoski; Daniela Stojanova; Elena Stojanova; Maria Stoyanchev; C. Benjamin Tracy; Vodenka

Layout and Design

Cindy Armstrong

Any opinions or views expressed in articles or other pieces appearing in UMD Voice are those of the author alone and are not necessarily those of UMD; the appearance of any such opinions or views in UMD Voice is not and should not be considered to be an endorsement by or approval of the same by UMD.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Letter from the President
- 5 Editorial: Remembering The Ohrid Framework Coercion
- 7 Letters To The Editor
- 8 Anita Talevski: Macedonian "Iron Woman"
- 11 Product Profile: Macedonia's First Cognac
- 12 H.M. Arndt, Macedonian Consul in Germany's Rhineland
- 13 May 1st Party in Cegan, Aegean Macedonia: A Tradition Is Born
- 14 Tribute to Macedonian Film in Valencia, Spain
- 14 Jankov: Political Cartoon
- 15 Preston F.C.: Debt Relief Fund
- 16 Ancient Macedonia, and Today's Republic of Macedonia
- 18 The Macedonian-Roman Wars, Part III: (178-168 BCE)
- 21 In The Theater of The World: Alexander of Macedon, in first person
- 22 New On The Web: Macedonian Music
- 23 Poetry: We Love You Macedonia, In All Your Colors
- 24 The Vatican's 16th Century Manuscript with Macedonian Lexicon
- 26 Exploring the Beauty of Macedonia's Highlands
- 27 God, and the Macedonian in us
- 28 Toronto Fundraiser: The Educational and Cultural Movement of Voden
- 29 Neither On The Ground Nor In The Sky
- 30 Spotlight: 'Best Promoter of Macedonia' Award Ceremony
- 32 Report from Egej - 'Choose Your Reality'
- 34 UMD Outraged with Greek Metropolitan's Incitement of Violence
- 35 Ambassador Dabik: Macedonia and Media Freedom
- 36 Interview with Letka Dimovska Polizova
- 38 Amnesty International: Time to Deliver Justice to the Victims of War Crimes
- 38 The Macedonian Economy, an Opportunity for Growth
- 39 Miko: Moral Lepers and Moral Heros
- 40 3rd Annual UMD Global Conference in Washington, D.C. - A Huge Success!
- 45 "Macedonian Companions": A Global Program to Support the Macedonian Cause

UMD Global Conference Key Speeches:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 46 Victor Bivell | 49 Sally McNamara |
| 50 Victor Friedman | 51 Aleks Mitreski |



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

I was seven years old when Macedonia declared its independence on September 8th, 1991, and my parents could not have been prouder. With my maternal grandparents living upstairs, I had always enjoyed a double shot of Macedonian pride every day: stories, traditions, customs, language, and history.

I think I was eight or nine when I got my first library card at Garfield Public Library. I only encountered one book about Macedonia, entitled: "Macedonia: 4,000 Years of Greek History" donated to the library by the "Pan-Macedonian Association." I read the book from cover-to-cover, and I was furious at its claims that the Macedonians were Greek. I used to learn Macedonian history from my father every Friday, which is when he went to the Macedonian store down the street, to buy the weekly magazine *Make-donsko Sonce*, and he would read it aloud to my sister and me. We had always known that Philip II and Alexander the Great were Macedonian, and since two of my uncles are historians and professors, I definitely got my fair share of history lessons.

Later, in the seventh grade, we began studying ancient history at school. Along came the page where it said Alexander the Great was Greek, and my teacher repeated

this to the entire class. I protested: "Alexander the Great was not Greek, he was Macedonian!" The teacher brought me outside of the classroom, for what I thought would be a scolding. But, instead, the teacher said to me: "Metodija, I know, but that is what the book says and I have to teach it this way."

I will never forget her words: "That is what the book says." Why is there such a relatively limited amount of books in English recording the truth about Macedonia? The answer is simple: the Greek state has invested millions of euros on Hellenic Studies endowment programs at the world's universities, to pay scholars to "absorb" Macedonian history into Greek history, just like the Greek state absorbed Aegean Macedonia in 1913. I wish the Macedonian state would spend just 2% of what they spent on "Skopje 2014" to establish Macedonian Studies endowment programs at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Oxford and Cambridge, to counter the revisionist Greek historians, and to let the truth about Macedonia be shown to the world, based on facts and evidence.

I recently returned from a twelve-day trip to Macedonia, including visits with the President and Prime Minister. September 8th arrived, and I had no idea what to expect! I had read about the controversy over "Skopje 2014," and especially its cost. Indeed, all of Skopje is under construction. Then, I crossed the Stone Bridge and, as I walked up, I saw the enormous statue of Alexander the Great on his horse Bucephalus. Though I still had some reservations about the project overall, it made me feel proud to see this statue. I especially wished my late father Alexander Koloski had lived to see it, and to see twenty years of Macedonian independence.

I walked a few blocks to the main square, and started to notice how the entire square was filling up. There must have been 250,000 people, if not more - the largest celebration in the history of Macedonia! Speech after speech, song after song, I thoroughly enjoyed it all.

After the Prime Minister spoke, the Alexander the Great fountain was officially revealed. The light show was spectacular! Every single person in the square had their cell phones up, to record the fountain. To me,

this was the highlight of the entire event.

I know there was opposition, and I know not everyone will like everything the government in Macedonia does, but to me, this was a moment to be proud of. I encountered some very positive comments among the people around me, including: "Skopje finally looks like a European city."

Macedonia is all we have; we must protect it, build it, make it prosperous, make it successful, and make it a role model for the entire region. UMD is ready and willing to help Macedonia and the Macedonian people worldwide to ensure this. Together, we are stronger.

The 3rd Annual UMD Global Conference this past June set the tone for the 20th Anniversary of Macedonia's independence celebrations worldwide. UMD has been at the forefront of the Macedonian cause outside of Macedonia since it was founded in 2004, and UMD will continue to serve as a voice for Macedonians in Washington, D.C., Canberra, Ottawa, and Brussels.

As we mark the 20th Anniversary of Macedonia's independence, I encourage you to give your moral and financial support to UMD's efforts. Please consider becoming a member today, or donating \$20 a month, or joining the Macedonian Companions program, at a tax-deductible \$1,000 a year for 3 years. Without your support, we could not continue our important work.

All of us at UMD are very excited about this issue of UMD Voice; the content is amazing, and Mark Branov and his team have done a fantastic job! UMD Voice is the only fully bilingual English/Macedonian publication, and our last issue was downloaded over 40,000 times!

Please enjoy reading UMD Voice magazine. Mark and his team have much in store for you.

Sincerely yours,

Metodija A. Koloski
President

EDITORIAL

Remembering The Ohrid Framework Coercion

By Mark Branov



2011 is a year of remembrance, it seems. For instance, it marks the 20-year anniversary of Macedonia's independence from Belgrade. It also marks the 10-year anniversary of the country being invaded by Albanian terrorists called the National Liberation Army. A man named Ali Ahmeti led that army in 2001. His political party is now the junior partner in Macedonian government, and his lieutenant is the Minister of Defense.

I remember the summer of 2001 in Macedonia like it was yesterday. For instance, I remember enjoying a Turkish coffee on my grandmother's balcony, and then being nearly knocked off my chair by the thunderous sound of Ukrainian-made helicopter gunships, lumbering low across the sky, on their way to the nearby village of Arachinovo. They looked like flying tanks.

I also remember that Arachinovo was where a large band of NLA terrorists were pinned down in makeshift bunkers, and where the ARM was pounding them for days. The village was surrounded, and it seemed certain that the NLA would not escape. But then, I remember the President ordering air-

conditioned motor coaches into that town, to quietly escort them to safety, with their weapons as carry-on luggage.

Years later, I remember the somber, noble image of a young widow. Her husband was an ARM soldier, and had been killed by Ahmeti's army. She was the guest of honor at a charitable banquet, which is held annually at my church in Toronto. The event raises money from the Macedonian community in Canada for the orphans of 2001; the children that were left fatherless. At the time of her husband's death, she had been pregnant with their first child. That child is 10 years old now.

Based on these memories, I can't help but doubt Mr. Ahmeti's dramatic conversion from terrorist to statesman. But his recent comments in the media certainly do not help, either. For instance, on August 3, 2011, on the topic of partitioning neighboring Kosovo, Ahmeti told German reporters: "If there are attempts to change the borders (in Kosovo), I can not take responsibility to be keeper of the peace in Macedonia, because it can come to a situation where (the Albanian) people will organize themselves ... as in 1999 and 2001. If such things happen ... no one can guarantee that the Albanians will not organize a common front..." This is the man who controls the Ministry of Defense.

Naturally, the international politicians, diplomats, and think-tank intellectuals fail to react to such provocations against Macedonia; it is apparently not in their self-interest. Instead, they have been loudly "celebrating" the 10-year old Ohrid Framework Agreement, which ended the 2001 war. Many of the co-celebrants from Brussels still have a lot of trouble pronouncing the word "Macedonia". They find it much more convenient to use the f-word (F.Y.R.O.M.). And yet, those same individuals have no trouble pronouncing imperialistic opinions about Macedonia's internal affairs.

Lost on these men in expensive suits is that the Ohrid Framework Agreement is hardly an agreement at all. The word "agreement" suggests "unanimity of opinion," or "harmony



UNITED
MACEDONIAN
DIASPORA
ОБЈЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИАСПОРА

Founded in 2004, United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) is the leading international non-governmental organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities throughout the world.

With headquarters in Washington, D.C., UMD has an office in Melbourne, Australia and Toronto, Canada and representatives in Paris, London, Brussels, Vienna, Kiev, St. Petersburg, and Stuttgart.

UMD is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization in the U.S., and UMD (Canada) is a registered charity.

BOARD/OFFICERS

Stojan Nikolov - Board Chairman/UMD
Voice Development Director

Metodija A. Koloski - President

Aleksandar Mitreski - Vice President

Ivona M. Grimberg - Secretary

Denis Manevski - Treasurer

Robert Pasquale, Treasurer, UMD Australia

Ordan Andreevski - Director of Australian Operations

Jim Daikos - Director of Canadian Operations

Goran Saveski - Liaison Officer

Dame Krcoski - Board Member, Representative, Perth/Western Australia

Dimitar Nasev - Regional Representative, Los Angeles/Southern California

Argie N. Bellio - Regional Representative, Fort Wayne/Indiana

Blagoj B. Petkovski - Regional Representative, Greater Washington, D.C. Area

Claude Zoran Spasevski - Representative, Paris

Boris Kamchev - Representative, St. Petersburg

Zlatko Nikolovski - Representative, Vienna

Martin Nikoloski - Regional Representative, ACT/Canberra Region

Tony Joseski - Regional Representative, Sydney/NSW

Dijana Despodova Pajkovska, Representative, Kiev, Ukraine



in feelings.” A more accurate name would be the Ohrid Framework Coercion. A coercion is defined as: “use of force or intimidation to obtain compliance,” and, make no mistake, that is exactly what happened in 2001.

10 years later, Ahmeti has become a key powerbroker in the government of the country. So, as long as terrorism benefits from the OFA, its legitimacy is undermined. Let us not pretend that the OFA is a product of a peaceful negotiation or a democratic process; it is the product of Kalashnikovs and body bags.

Instead, the OFA was sold to the Macedonian people as a binding and permanent peace agreement, and a progressive step forward. “The Ohrid Framework Agreement propelled Macedonia towards full democracy, civil rights, and recognition of the cultural and ethnic identity of people in the country,” says James Pardew, former NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Operations. But when we actually read the OFA, a different picture emerges.

In summary, the main concession from the NLA is that they would lay down their weapons, and they would instead become politicians. They would exchange their camouflage military fatigues for Armani suits, they would exchange Jeep for Mercedes-Benz, and they would promise to stop murdering people.

In exchange, the Albanian community in Macedonia would gain a host of new ethnic minority privileges that are unheard of in the Balkans, not to mention in some G8 countries, including:

- affirmative action programs in the public service, police and army for the Albanian ethnicity
- special “double majority” provisions, where not only the majority of parliament, but also the majority of Albanian representatives is required to do things like approve judges or “use symbols”
- The flag of Albania and other Albanian symbols to be placed in front of public buildings in places like Tetovo and Gostivar, with no need for approvals
- primary and secondary education in the Albanian language, i.e. a segregated school system, with state funding for Albanian language universities, and
- official government use of the Albanian language for conducting public business

So, my question for Mr. Pardew is, if none of



these concessions had taken place, would Macedonia be lacking in: “full democracy, civil rights, and recognition of the cultural and ethnic identity of people in the country?” I would argue the answer is “no”. If all of these new concessions were removed, the Albanian minority would still enjoy democracy, civil rights and recognition of their identity. None of these measures are human rights. In fact, they are the spoils of war.

Furthermore, I would also argue that Greece, Bulgaria and Albania are severely lacking in all three of Mr. Pardew’s worthy parameters, regarding their own domestic Macedonian minorities. But no OFA is being planned for any of those countries. In fact, those countries fail to offer their minorities even the most basic recognition and human rights. This is another reason why opposition to the OFA remains so strong in the Macedonian community - it is a case of “do as we say, not as we do.”

Meanwhile, after 10 years of OFA implementation, Mr. Ahmeti is still shamelessly proclaiming to the press that he can’t be expected to “keep the peace” in Macedonia, just like he did in 2001. Incidentally, I invite you to check his DUI party’s unilingual Albanian language website. It proudly portrays four flags on it: two foreign countries (Albania, and the USA), and two foreign organizations (NATO and the EU). The



Macedonian flag - pardon me, the "new" Macedonian flag - is nowhere to be seen, despite the fact that it was redesigned to enhance ethnic harmony in the region. Indeed, the flag of Macedonia is invisible on DUI's website, just like Mr. Ahmeti's loyalty to Macedonia. The flag has also done nothing to appease Athens in its quixotic dispute of Macedonia's existence. So, both facts beg the question: why do we need this new compromise flag at all? It should be abandoned, along with the policies of trying to appease domestic terrorists and hostile, jingoistic neighbors.

Thus, in conclusion, there are three messages being sent to Macedonia, which are quite clear.

The first message is from DUI, the political child of the NLA. The message is: his party's promise to maintain the peace is a temporary and conditional one, and it can be rescinded at any time, whereas the Macedonian concessions in the Framework Agreement are permanent and unconditional.

The second message is from the international community of nations. The message is: the most effective way for an ethnic minority to gain political power in the region is to start killing civilians. By extension, the least effective way is to be peaceful and law-abiding, like the truly oppressed Macedo-

nians of the Aegean, in northern Greece, like the truly oppressed Macedonians of Pirin, in southwestern Bulgaria, and like the truly oppressed Macedonians of Pustec, Golo Brdo and Mala Prespa, in southeastern Albania. What an awful message the international community sends! It does not bode well for the prospect of avoiding future conflicts. In fact, just the opposite: the OFA is an incentive to violence. It is no wonder that wars are so popular.

The third message is from Athens, Sofia and Tirana, and it is the quietest. Their message is: it makes no difference how Macedonia treats her minorities or doesn't treat them, it makes no difference how she conducts her business or how she doesn't conduct it, what flag she waves, what statues she builds, or what concessions she offers: the basic recognition of Macedonian minorities in Greece, Bulgaria and Albania is and will remain out of the question, and some sort of corresponding Greek, Bulgarian or Albanian version of the OFA, to benefit Macedonian minorities in those countries, is completely out of the question.

But still, the most hypocritical voices in this drama originate in Brussels. Those voices are silent about Macedonian minorities in any EU or NATO country, but they are aggressive and unanimous in their support of the OFA for Macedonia. And all the while,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Congratulations for UMD Voice Magazine - Spring Issue 2011, and may I wish you great success in your future work!

At last, your publication has come out in Macedonian language. This way, the majority of our older generations that don't know the English language will be able to read and understand.

Because of them, and because of the younger generations, that want to learn the language of their parents and grandparents, they will accept your innovative gesture with great pleasure.

Heartfelt greetings to all who contributed to UMD Voice becoming bilingual.

Sincerely,
Slavica Koretic

Respected friends,

I wish to thank you for using our mother language!

Sincerely,
Jelica Isely

they insist on using the f-word for the country they pretend to care about. So, while the political players skillfully feign emotions in front of TV cameras, the Macedonian people do not "celebrate" the 10-year anniversary of the Ohrid Framework Agreement this year. And as for the orphans of 2001, they just miss their dads. And they miss them every day, of every year.





UMD Voice wishes to thank ASI Photo (asipphoto.com) for the donation of these images

ANITA TALEVSKI:

Macedonia's Iron Woman

By Mark Branov

Tragedy, daring to dream, perseverance, and victory: Anita Talevski's life story is still being written, but it already reads like a Hollywood film.

MB: First off, please tell our readers a little about you, and your family background.

AT: My mother and father are from Bitola, Macedonia. They immigrated to the United States around 1970. My father worked first as a ship's carpenter in Gary, Indiana, and then found a job in the steel mills. He worked very hard for his family and one day was able to afford to move us to a very nice community in Valparaiso, Indiana, where they still live.

MB: Tell us a bit about what happened when you were seven years old.

AT: Shortly after we moved to Valparaiso in our new home, my dad took my sister and I with him to buy some materials to do some finishing work to our new home. We got in a horrible car accident. It was June 25, 1980.

I was in the front seat and my sister was in the back seat and my father was driving. Back then there were no laws for seat belts in the USA and in Bitola it was not common to wear a seat belt either. We were on Route 30 heading west towards Merrillville, when a driver in a white van cut us off. I flew through the windshield, boomeranged back to hit my head on the headrest. I went down into the fetal position, with a serious brain injury and two broken legs. I was in intensive care for 18 days and it was not certain if I would come out of a coma, nor was it certain if I would be able to walk again. I was very badly injured.

MB: The Ironman Triathlon is a 2.4-mile (3.86 km) swim race, a 112-mile (180.25 km) bike race, and a marathon run (26.2

miles 42.195 km), raced in that order, and without a break. I feel tired just thinking about that. What first sparked your interest to compete in an athletic event of such difficulty?

AT: I had always liked to watch the Olympics and ABC Wide World of Sports programs on Sundays as a child. What sparked my interest in the Ironman triathlon was watching Paula Newby-Fraser repeatedly win in Kona, Hawaii. This fueled my aspiration to become an athlete in high school, so I participated in swimming and track. The Ironman was back in my subconscious mind. I got discouraged after high school with sports when I made friends with ladies in ballet, and they convinced me that I would become too bulky and muscular. I stopped sports, and fell into some unhealthy habits. After a number of

years, these unhealthy habits took their toll. Somehow, I started my way back into sports, and at 35, I met a male triathlete from Romania working in the USA. As it happens, he broke my heart. So, maybe just to prove that he wasn't that special, I took the first steps on my journey to become an Ironman triathlete myself. I had already put in lots of hours in the gym and loved working out, so I thought I would start with baby steps.

MB: What was the reaction of family and friends when you told them you were determined to do it?

AT: Nobody knew what the heck I was up to, and nor did I, really. I had been getting myself into trouble back home. Despite completing my Masters of Fine Arts in Chicago, and doing a Fulbright in Macedonia. I had become extremely depressed. I was seeing a therapist because I have been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, but medication did not seem to help to get me happy. So, one day, a major turning point came in my life. Without saying a word to my family and friends, I walked out of my parent's home in Valparaiso, I took a cab from Valparaiso to O'hare Airport, and hopped on a plane to San Diego. After finding a place and getting settled, I signed up for swimming at the University of San Diego Masters Swimming and Triathlon programs, and took it from there. Terry Martin, my coach and a former pro triathlete, saw that I loved to exercise and asked me to add some runs in addition to my swimming and biking. He told me that I could probably train for an Ironman. The problem was all Ironman races sell out quickly, and are very costly. I called my mom and told her what my coach said, and kindly asked her to pay for my entry fee into a sold out Ironman in Arizona, on behalf of the charity North American Sports, which she did. My coach believed in me and I trained hard, following a training plan. I got online through Beginnertriathlete.com. Later, I met a woman by the name of Rachael Richards from the Triathlon Club of San Diego, and she started a fundraising campaign for me. I was fit enough at the time to do Arizona. None of my family or friends from the mid-west knew much about what I was up to. Looking back on it now, it's almost like I had completely given up on myself until that one day, when I decided to leave Valparaiso and focus on my triathlon goal. It changed my life forever.

It's very nice when they put the medal over your neck, and you hear the commentator say: "Anita Talevski, You are a three-time Ironman!"

MB: What kind of training and preparation is required to attempt an Ironman Triathlon?

AT: The training for an Ironman is complex. There are the three sports to balance: swim, bike, and run. In addition, lifting weights is essential, and carefully minding your nutrition. An amateur triathlete like myself would normally put in 15 hours a week but I was having so much fun that last year, I would put in 25 hours a week, and I did two Ironmans in one year. A pro would probably put in 30+ hours a week, but they are supernatural in their ability to go fast during a race. There is a lot of mental preparation that goes with it as well. You have to train your mind and body to get out and do the workouts and you have to tell your body to move. You must leave your emotions at the door and forge ahead with goals. You learn to overcome setbacks and obstacles that stand in your way of achieving your goal. Also, you start reading a lot of material about triathlon, to prepare yourself psychologically.

MB: I understand that you have actually completed three Ironman Triathlons, and you are now training for a fourth. Tell us about the lead up to day itself.

AT: The Ironman organizers take care of the athlete's pretty well days before a race. They set up an athlete village near the starting lines to promote new endurance-specific products. All athletes are tapering off their training two weeks before the race, so workouts are very easy... 45 min long, to recover the muscle fibers that have been torn from intense training during the season. The athletes take the time to mingle at the expo, and usually rest-rest-rest in their hotel rooms, keep eating healthy, and drinking tons of water.

MB: What is it like to push yourself to a level of total exertion, and then go beyond?

AT: The hard part is the training. Once the cannon goes off and the race starts there is nothing much you can do but move forward. If you have trained properly, you will finish, as long as nothing goes wrong technically with your bike or your health. It's not easy to push

yourself this much, so you begin to question your sanity, sometimes, but you just keep breathing and moving forward. All your training throughout the year is put into practice, so, on that one day, you just charge ahead. Those last six miles of the marathon are a killer, but there is no reason to quit. You want to be done so badly, but you just keep going, and you are in a community of people that are not giving up either, so you sort of go with the flow and feed off of that.

MB: Do you ever think of quitting?

AT: Quitting is not an option when you are in the race. Quitting does go through your mind during training, though, because its very intense and time consuming, and you have to make time to rest and recover.

MB: How do you feel at the end?

AT: By the end of the race, you are totally spent, and you don't have anything left. But, after you put some food in your system and rest, you feel wonderful. At the end, you are happy to be done and have the Ironman title, and you feel a sense of accomplishment. It's very nice when they put the medal over your neck, and you hear the commentator say: "Anita Talevski, You are a three-time Ironman!"

MB: Accidents and all manner of tragic events happen every day. As someone who has overcome enormous adversity, what message do you have for others, who are now facing a life-altering obstacle?

AT: My advice is: hang in there. Life is dynamic and always changing. Don't sweat the small stuff, let all of that go. We all have the inner willpower to become something beyond ourselves. All it takes is baby steps towards your goals. Make goals, and work towards them, and stay focused. Think of it as a project for yourself. Not everyone can win an Ironman or be an elite athlete, but just to finish and know that you have overcome something that you were lacking in your life is an amazing feeling. And people do start to see you differently, too, because you are seeing yourself differently.

STAY CLOSER TO YOUR LOVED ONES IN MACEDONIA with www.ex.mk

"Earlier, when I wanted to give joy to my grandchildren on their birthdays and New Year, we had to use friends to send them presents from here. It was very tiresome. For a long period of time, I was searching for an online service in Macedonia that is professional and secure, so when I discovered www.ex.mk, I was relieved. Using it is easy, the payment is secure, and I was pleasantly surprised by the prompt delivery." - Mr. Veselin Matov, Canada

Mr. Matov is just one of many Macedonians from around the world who have discovered online shop www.ex.mk. This site provides you with a perfect opportunity to stay close to your relatives and friends in the homeland.

WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS

Online shop www.ex.mk offers a wide range of products at affordable prices, and features secure online payment and prompt delivery. We offer more than 2,500 products, like flower bouquets, gifts, home goods, clothing, books, gadgets, baby products, toys... Now, it is really easy to express thoughtful attention with carefully chosen gifts to your loved ones in Macedonia. Together with the products, you can also send a personalized message free of charge, and it will be attached to the package.

"My satisfaction as the buyer, and their happiness at receiving the gifts, was irreplaceable!" - Ms. Sanja Kordic, Australia

"As user of Exquisite's services for almost two years, I sincerely recommend it to all our citizens, as an excellent place where they can find presents to surprise their loved ones from so many miles away. What separates www.ex.mk from the others is wide range of products, fast delivery, and above all, professionalism" - Ms. Despina Jankovska, Australia



YOUR PRIVACY AND PAYMENT SECURITY IS PARAMOUNT

Exquisite is fully dedicated to the security of our buyers' payment and credit card information. All online transactions are performed using the professional system of Halkbank AD Skopje, supported by Casys International - Cpay, a leading company for secure credit card transactions. Before entering of the number of the credit card, our clients are redirected to their secure web site, www.cpay.com.mk, where the number is entered and the transaction is confirmed. There, all data is stored in accordance to the highest bank security criteria. Together with our partners, we use international experience in this area in order to enable maximum security and confidence.

DELIVERY

All orders are delivered in period of 24 hours for Skopje, and 48 hours for other cities in Macedonia. We insist on delivering all products personally via our own delivery team, to ensure special attention and discretion.

CUSTOMER CARE

We strive to respond responsibly and immediately to all our clients' needs.

MILES BECOME SECONDS - www.rasprodazba.com



With the internet, distance is nothing any more. Miles became seconds, and your loved ones, relatives and friends are right next to you. You can get in touch with them via Skype, send messages and photographs through Facebook, or simply communicate via mobile phone.

Thanks to technology, we present you another option for even closer contact with your loved ones. With just one click, you will no longer miss out on getting presents for your loved ones on their birthdays, anniversaries, home celebrations and weddings.

Macedonia has entered the world of electronic commerce, with a page that offers daily deals on all kinds of products, at a discounted price from 50 to 90 percent. You only need to log in to www.rasprodazba.com, to purchase a gift for your brother, sister, parents, neighbors, and friends from childhood.

www.rasprodazba.com allows you to buy vouchers that your relatives or friends would use to get a gift for their birthday, anniversary, engagement or the most beautiful moment in life a wedding. Give them the surprise that will knock them off their feet! Fill their life with a smile and show them that your care, and do all this without leaving the comfort of your home.

Simply get on your computer, log in to www.rasprodazba.com, select a deal available, and purchase a voucher that shall be sent to your email address. Then, forward the voucher, with just one click, in the form of a present to the email address of the person you wish to receive the gift. All that is left if for them is to enjoy their present.

If you need a deal that is not posted, feel free to write a message to info@rasprodazba.com, and we will do our best to fulfill your wish. With just one click, you will give a surprise that people never thought possible, as Macedonia establishes herself on the map of world-wide electronic commerce.

Do something special for your loved ones in the homeland!

Sincerely,
Team Rasprodazba.com

PRODUCT PROFILE

Macedonia's First Cognac

By Martin Anastaskovski

As the Macedonian economy integrates with the global marketplace, the race is on to create strong Macedonian brands with worldwide recognition. One of those new brands is Traikovsky, and UMD Voice correspondent Martin Anastaskovski had a chance to meet with Biljana Trajkovski, the company's representative.

MA: People from the Tikvesh region are renowned connoisseurs of Rakija (Brandy). Does that make them good distillers too?

BT: It is inevitable that people living in the best wine-making region in Macedonia are connoisseurs of their own product. They have been producing various alcoholic beverages for centuries and that involves exquisite methods of production where every producer adds his own personal touch. The tradition has been carried on from generation to generation enabling lots of diversity in the taste of wine and spirits that come from this region.

MA: When did you begin producing Traikovsky Brandy, or is it more precisely Cognac?

BT: Traikovsky Wine Brandy actually belongs to the family of French Cognacs and it is produced according to the same method as Cognac is produced. We have a long tradition in producing our wine brandy. My grand-grandfather used to make this alcohol for his household and the same recipe was carried on from generation to generation. Not too long ago we began our commercial production but the idea has been out there for a long time. We invested in our distillery six months ago and the fruits of that labor came out in 2010 when we put out the first line of Traikovsky Wines & Spirits. We started with the wine brandy and later we added Zolta Rakija (Yellow Brandy), and Mastika as well, as fresh and aromatic wines under the same brand Traikovsky.

MA: This is something new for Macedo-



nia. There are not too many distilleries that produce their own authentic home recipes. What made you decide to start your own company?

BT: I contemplated this idea while I was studying in France. I realized that my grand-grandfathers had their own recipes not only for traditional Macedonian spirits such as Rakija and Mastika, but also they knew how to make wine brandy, which involves a lot more than making Rakija. Being aware of this potential and realizing that our home is located in the best region in Macedonia for producing wine, it would be unreasonable if we didn't try. So we invested in a distillery and now we have a showroom in Skopje where people can buy Traikovsky Wines and Spirits.

MA: I found out that your workshop is in a high mountain village. Tell me something more about it.

BT: Exactly. The assortment of Traikovsky Wines & Spirits is produced in a picturesque village, located on a plateau of Mount Kozuv, where the beautiful nature is still untouched by human hands. Through the village of Krnjevo,

where our production facilities are located, passes the Bosavica River, a fast mountain river which is home to river lobsters and fish, whose presence is a good indicator of the purity of the water. Apart from that, the vineyards from which we make the brandy, rakija, mastika and wine are located at 700 meters above sea level. That is combined with a favorable climate, with day and night temperature variations that contribute to the development of beautiful and intense aromas, which one cannot develop in the Tikvesh region, due to the high day and night temperatures. The very presence of the river, along with the sunshine and humidity, provide for the grapes to ripen under the sun, without need for irrigation. We are considering the construction of a storage and presentation centre right next to the production facilities, in order to develop rural tourism. It would offer visitors a chance to enjoy the wonderful nature of the Kozuv mountain, the taste of our unique wines and spirits, and the traditional cuisine of the region, all at the same time.

For more information: www.facebook.com/traikovsky.wine.brandy

H.M. ARNDT:

Representing Macedonia in Germany's Rhineland

By Goce Peroski, translated from German language



A key European member, the engine of the European economy, and home to a significant Macedonian diaspora minority, Germany's strategic relationship with the Republic of Macedonia is of utmost importance, especially for the latter. Mr. Holger-Michael Arndt will soon become the new Honorary Consul of the Republic of Macedonia in the German federal state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. He is an accomplished lawyer and mediator, as well as being one of the managing directors of CIVIC - Institute for International Education GbR, in Düsseldorf. He has extensive experience working with eastern European state institutions, in areas such as anti-corruption and education. UMD correspondent Goce Peroski had a chance to speak with Mr. Arndt in July:

GP: The departing Minister of Foreign Affairs in Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Antonio Milososki, asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, H.E. Mr. Guido Westerwelle, to empower you with all the duties of an Honorary Consul in Nordrhein-Westfalen,

in February of 2011. The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed this request in July. What tasks do you expect, as a future Honorary Consul of the Republic of Macedonia?

HMA: The note of Minister Milososki especially expressed a desire to engage in some intensification of friendly relations between the two peoples in the future. It may sound abstract, but for me, it means to aggressively represent Macedonia in German society, to highlight the country's potential and its people, and thus to create understanding between our two nations. A substantial part of my activities will be supporting the work of the Macedonian Embassy in Berlin.

GP: How could that support look, specifically?

HMA: I have in the past tried to add my own humble contributions. For instance, this year, in May, the Eurovision Song Contest was held in Düsseldorf, and I was very glad at that time to accompany the delegation of the Republic, together with the Ambassador,

H.E. Ms. Cornelia Utevska-Gligorovska, and to organize a Macedonian evening.

GP: From where did your interest in Macedonia originate?

HMA: Since childhood, my parents and I traveled in the former Yugoslavia to visit their friends, and spend the summer with them, starting in the 1970s. Since 2001, I started to build professional contacts in Macedonia, specifically, as a lawyer and partner of CIVIC - Institute for International Education, and also through intensive work with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, in Skopje. My work was in the field of training and education for young people, in the nationwide public administration of Macedonia, and outside the borders of Macedonia, as well. This year, in August, along with a colleague, I will participate in the Ivanov Summer Academy, with a lecture and workshop, and in September, I will continue to conduct the project Shaping the Future of Europe. We hope that, as early as this year, we will be able to provide meetings between German and Macedonian government officials.

GP: In Germany, are you getting attention for your new role?

HMA: In my private and professional context, I have always noticed a great curiosity about Macedonia in Germany. One national and two local German newspapers have already reported very favorably about my work. I notice that there is great need for information about the country, the Macedonian people and Macedonian politics. Especially with the future website of the Honorary Consulate, which I plan to have created at a high artistic level, I want to give answers to questions, and to attract further interest.

GP: What is Macedonia's image in Germany?

HMA: Macedonia mostly evokes positive associations in the German public, but I have noted a declining interest from the political side. The reasons for this are familiar enough:

Due to its southern neighbor, Macedonia is massively hampered to present a positive and clear image within the possible negotiations for accession to the European Union. At the same time, they drastically complicate Macedonia's ability to develop, together with other Member States of the European Union as a full member. The distracting Greek political blockade intentionally provides a false impression of Macedonia as a (rural) "sleeping beauty". But that does not represent reality; in Macedonia, the state has a lot of (economic) potential that is being overlooked, and this should be emphasized! In personal conversations, I often hear the basic questions like: "How can you get there?," "Do you spend your holidays there?" and "Is it nice there?"... An Honorary Consul needs to answer these questions well, and if I have one on hand, it would be good to give them an actual tourist guide.

GP: What are the earnings of an honorary consul?

HMA: In order to make money, becoming an Honorary Consul would be a very wrong strategic decision! Rather, it is honorary service, which will take more or less time. But I

am ready to invest the time for a people who have known since my earliest childhood, and whom I respect deeply.

GP: How do you intend to support the Macedonians living in Germany?

HMA: In discussion with a Macedonian partner we must deal with the question of if it is necessary and viable to create a common organization at the federal level representing various Macedonian interests. In Germany, it is still not possible to hear the voice of Macedonians loudly and consistently.

GP: Despite your many activities, what do you do in your spare time?

HMA: I try to put my free time to maximum use. When I can leave my office completely, I love to canoe in north-eastern Germany, and I love to discover the national parks in Macedonia.

Germany is a federation of states, and Nordrhein-Westfalen is Germany's most populous state, with 18 million. Nearly 40,000 Macedonians live there, and the Honorary Consul's headquarters will be in the state capital, Düsseldorf.



MAY 1ST PARTY IN CEGAN: A New Tradition Is Born

By Eugenia Natsoulidou

On May 1, the weather didn't cooperate, as it rained all day across the Egejska region, but those who couldn't make it missed the best party ever! In the old village of Cegan, Macedonians from all four parts of Macedonia had the chance to meet, and to enjoy singing and dancing together, and the weather could not dampen their spirits.

The party started at noon, and continued into the night. We enjoyed music from a band based in Neret, Lerinsko, as well as a great music group from Sandanski, Pirinska. Later, the younger participants played the accordion, and a small tapan, and sang all the best patriotic Macedonian songs. The young men, we found out, were actually from Golo Brdo, but work in Egej during the summer months.

After, we all enjoyed some rakija together!

It was great to see some members of the Cegan Association in Skopje, who traveled by bus such a long way to participate, in the village of their birth. Among them, there was also the excellent singer Marija Dimkova, who sang us some wonderful songs. She was also touched to meet some new friends from Pozar, which is her village of origin. We also were all glad to have Kole Botsfaris, playing the accordion and sharing his musical talent.

It was a great and unique event, and the Educational and Cultural Movement of Voden plans to hold the May 1st party ever year from now on - and each year in a different Macedonian village in Egej - where the Macedonians will be united and free to enjoy themselves, in the best Macedonian way!



“ETNOCINEMA 2011”:

A Tribute to Macedonian Film

Valencia, Spain - The impending 20th Anniversary of Macedonia's Independence was the perfect pretext for a special event dedicated to Macedonian cinema. The Etnocinema Festival is celebrated every summer in Valencia, Spain, under the auspices of the Valencian Museum of Ethnology and the Valencian Provincial Government, and the 2011 edition was dedicated exclusively to Macedonian film. With the collaboration of the Kinoteka na Republika Makedonija and under the direction of the Hon. Consul of Macedonia in Valencia Dr. Carlos Flores Juberías, the event gave a rare opportunity for the Spanish public to become acquainted with the modest, but also brilliant,

post-independence Macedonian film scene, with its roots in a tradition that goes back over a hundred years.

All in all, six films were shown. Some were well-known and widely acclaimed features, including *Before the Rain* (Milco Mancevski, 1994), *The Great Water* (Ivo Trajkov, 2004) and *Mirage* (Svetozar Ristevski, 2004). These works provide a dazzling journey through the history, culture and the realities of a country which is still an enigma for most Western Europeans. Most of the films were specially subtitled in Spanish just for the occasion, since most of them had never been previously shown in Spanish theaters.

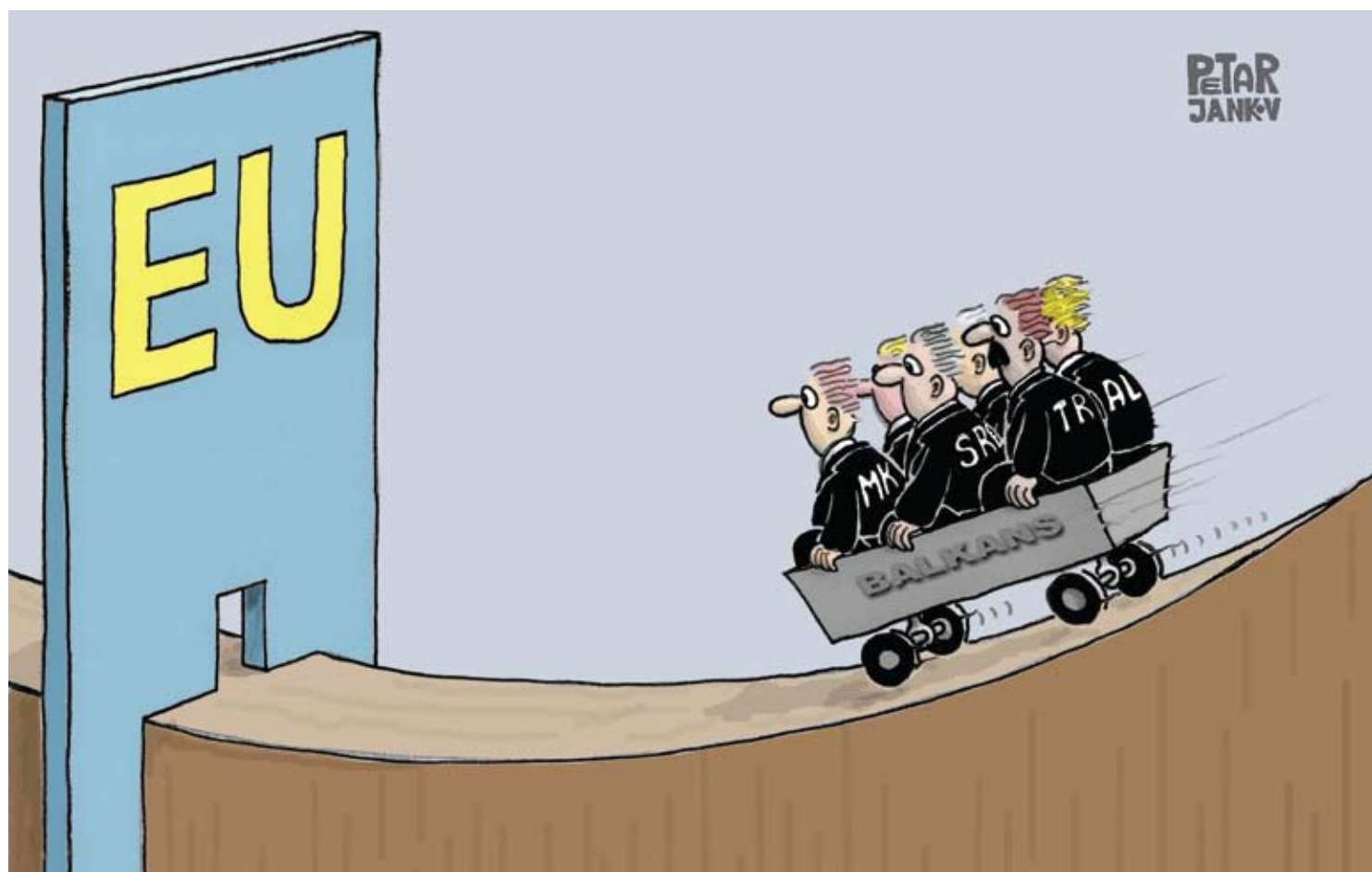
The reception of the public was extremely



positive, and “I didn’t even know that there were films made in Macedonia, and these are great” was a frequently-heard sentiment. This enthusiasm was matched by generous news coverage, with extensive interviews aired at the Valencian public TV Canal 9, and Levante TV, and well as print coverage in major local newspapers and specialized magazines.

For info, see: www.museuvalenciaetnologia.es

BY PETAR JANKOV, REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION



PRESTON MAKEDONIA F.C.

Debt Demolition Fund

By Bobby Mircevski

There is hardly a Macedonian person today living in Melbourne, Victoria, or indeed throughout Australia, who has not heard the patriotic chant of 'Makedonia, Makedonia, Makedonia' echoing from the crowd at a Preston Makedonia game at least once in their lifetime. It is a feeling that only a Macedonian can understand - one that conjures up a mixture of emotion, passion, sacrifice, loyalty, courage and hope.

For over 50 years, the Preston Makedonia Football Club has been the national face of the Macedonian community here in Australia and can arguably lay claim to being the biggest and most well known Macedonian sporting club outside of the Republic of Macedonia. In many ways, Preston was responsible for putting Macedonians on the map in this country, through its successful participation in the National Soccer League during the 1980s and 90s. Not only is it a focal point for members of the local Macedonian community, but it also provides the younger members of our community with an opportunity to learn and play the 'world game' and at the same time experience that feeling of being Macedonian. And the club continues to be a linchpin, the 'glue' that binds the young and old Macedonians together.



But today, all that which has been built up over the past 50 years is at serious risk. 2011 marks what is without doubt the most critical juncture in the history of the Preston Makedonia Football Club. There is every likelihood that Preston Makedonia will cease to exist beyond this year and will be forced to shut its doors permanently unless it can pay off its large tax

debt of approximately \$150,000 which has been mounting over the past decade.

The reasons for this are numerous, and some of these reasons have been within the club's control, but a significant number of them have been the result of external forces and influences which the club has had little or no control over. And this heavy financial burden, which now plagues the club, also discourages good and honest people from making a positive contribution, because they know it will be an uphill battle to reduce the club's crippling debt and maintain a successful football team on the field at the same time.

However, if there is one thing that Macedonians are renowned for it is their unwavering spirit and willingness to fight to the end. That is why this has not stopped the courageous group of people who today serve as the youngest committee in the club's history and for the first time even includes a female member as vice president. This small team of members represents what is arguably the club's last stand and they are keen on learning from the mistakes of the past and building for the future.

That is why we are calling on every Preston Makedonia supporter, the Australian and



international Macedonian community to help us raise \$150,000 by December 2011, to eradicate a debt that is threatening our very existence.

We have already received the support of one of the club's greatest sons and current Socceroo star, Sasa Ogenovski, who offered this heartfelt message to the club's loyal army of supporters:

"Membership support has been the lifeblood of our football club for over 50 years and the passion of our supporters and the Macedonian community will have a huge impact on whether this club is still around for the next 50 years. I know that when my overseas football journey comes to an end, I'd love to be able to play out my career in the famous Preston Makedonia jersey for one more glorious season. But for that to happen the club needs your support now more than it ever has."

The club is currently in the process of organising a number of fund raising activities



with the sole purpose of making the Preston Makedonia Football Club debt free, and the first of those initiatives is the launch of the Preston Makedonia Debt Demolition Fund. We gladly welcome all financial contributions and donations from the community no matter what the amount.

Remember that every dollar counts, and will move us closer to being in a position where we can focus entirely on building our future instead of healing the wounds of the past. Together we can and will eliminate our debt and start fresh with a new structure and vision for the future.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

1. by visiting http://www.prestonlions.com/plfc/debtdemolition_main.php and clicking "Donation",
2. By Direct Deposit (EFT) to the following account details: Account Name: Preston Lions FC, BSB: 063875, Account Number: 10411159, or
3. by mailing a cheque to: Preston Lions FC, PO Box 382, Preston, Victoria, Australia 3072

If you would like to discuss further how you can contribute to the Preston Makedonia Debt Demolition Fund, please contact the club via email at Preston.Lions.FC@gmail.com. We hope that you will join us in helping to make the Preston Makedonia Football Club debt free!

ANCIENT MACEDONIA

and the Territory of Today's Republic of Macedonia

By Aleksandar Donski

Greek propaganda claims that ancient Macedonia was situated on the territory of today's Greece, while the territory of today's Republic of Macedonia coincided with the territory of Paionia. This premise would deny today's Macedonians the right to claim their own ancient Macedonian ethno-cultural heritage. It has the intended effect of restricting their historical antecedents to Paionia alone.

It is unquestionable that the borders of ancient Macedonia changed constantly over different periods. At its inception, ancient Macedonia spread only over a small part of what is today southwestern Macedonia. Later, the conquests of its rulers effected changes in Macedonia's borders, and the country came to include Aegean Macedonia. However, this land came under Greek authority for the first time only in 1913, via the Treaty of Bucharest. Today, Macedonians living in this recently-acquired territory of the modern-day Hellenic Republic are regularly



denied any right to identify with their ethnic or national traditions by local Greek authorities. And likewise, the constant stream of history-related media propaganda from Athens is very closely linked to the government's

21st century goal of suppressing the Macedonian minority in northern Greece. Indeed, considering this modern political dimension, it is highly suspicious that classical scholars could ignore certain salient facts.

In earlier times, ancient Macedonia spread over a large portion of today's Republic of Macedonia. Surely, the signatories of Professor Miller's letter to President Obama are aware of the ancient Macedonian region Lynceus, which largely extended over the territory of today's Republic of Macedonia. The ancient Greek geographer, Strabo, (63/64 BCE – ca. CE 24), states: that the Lynceus region was an inextricable part of ancient Macedonia. He also wrote: "...in fact the regions around Lynceus, Pelagonia, Orestia, and Elimeia, used to be called Upper Macedonia, though later on they also were called by some 'Free Macedonia'. But some go so far as to call the whole of the country Macedonia" (Strabo Geography, Book VII, Chap. 7, 6). In ancient Macedonia, or Lynceus, there lived a famous tribe called the Lyncestians, whose inhabitants were part of the ancient Macedonian population. Philip II's mother, Eurydice, came from the Lyncestian tribe and actually she was born on the territory of today's Republic of Macedonia.

Thucydides also wrote about the Macedonian origin of the inhabitants of Lynceus: "There is an upper Macedonia, which is inhabited by Lyncestians, Elimioti, and other tribes; these are the allies and the 'client states' of the lower Macedonians, but (they) have kings of their own". (Thucydides, Book II). The capital city of the ancient Macedonian region of Lynceus, called "Lynk," was located on the territory of today's Republic of Macedonia, near the current village of Bukri, Visoko Brdo. The ancient Macedonian city of "Heraclea," also located on the territory of Lynceus, is reported to have been personally established by Philip II of Macedon. Even today, the city's ruins are evident on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and all are free to visit these sites. Other sites found in today's Republic of Macedonia include the famous ancient Macedonian cit-



ies: Gordinia, Atalanta, Eidomenè and a significant part of the ancient Macedonian region of Amphakstida.

That Eidomenè is located on the territory of the present Republic of Macedonia and also was an ancient Macedonian city is further supported by Thucydides. In his description of the war between the Thracians and the Macedonians, in the middle of the fifth century BCE, Thucydides explains that the Thracian army attacked the Macedonians and took the city of Eidomenè: "Leaving Doberus, the Thracian army first invaded the country which formerly had been the principality of Philip, and took Eidomenè by storm." (Thucydides, Book II). Thucydides (II, 100) also mentions the conquest of the ancient Macedonian cities of Gordinia and Atalanta, also located on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

Another city located on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia is the ancient Macedonian city of Dostonei. Further evidence of the existence of an ancient Macedonian civilization is clear from the presence of numerous defensive fortresses that ancient Macedonians built to protect themselves from outside attacks. The most famous of these is located outside the city of Demir Kapija, and there are others elsewhere in the Republic of Macedonia.

Thousands of ancient Macedonian coins and other objects such as jewelry, weapons, household artifacts and tombs have been unearthed in the Republic of Macedonia and are on display both in Macedonia and in other countries. Numerous artifacts from Macedonia's ancient past testify to the fact that a vibrant, ancient and distinctively Macedo-

nian civilization thrived on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. Some data on this topic can be found in "Ancient Kingdom of Macedonia in the Republic of Macedonia" by Prof. Dr. Viktor Lilcik (The Journal for Archeology, History, History of Art and Ethnology, Year VIII, No. 23, Skopje, 2004, Republic of Macedonia; ISSN 1409/5742).

The territory of Paionia, which the signatories stoutly maintain is the historical territory of today's Republic of Macedonia, also changed its boundaries constantly throughout its history. A large part of Paionia was located on what is today the part of Macedonia that is under Greek authority. Note for example that during the Bronze Age, Paionia stretched along the central part of the Aegean portion of Macedonia, in present-day Greece. Around the sixth century BCE, Paionia occupied an even larger expanse of Greece's Aegean Macedonia and also included the area around today's Thessaloniki/Solun. Along with the ancient Macedonian cities of Aerop, Atalanta, and Lete, it stretched even as far as Amphipolis on the border with Thrace. In the fifth century BCE, Euripides wrote that the Paionians were a people who inhabited the Pangai Mountains, east of Amphipolis and Chalkidiki, in southeastern Macedonia.

Later, as the Macedonians pushed the Paionians northwards, they extended their own boundaries. In 217 BCE, King Philip V of Macedonia completely conquered Paionia and the Paionians were merged with the ancient Macedonians making the two peoples into a single nation. At that point, ancient Macedonia spread to occupy what is now the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.



THE MACEDONIAN-ROMAN WARS:

Part Three (178 – 168BCE)

By C. Benjamin Tracy, B.A., English and Latin, M.S. Ed.

The third act in the theater of the four wars between Antigonid Macedonia and Rome (201 – 148 BCE) brings onto the stage a revolution and the last king of the Antigonid Dynasty: Perseus (212 – 166BCE). The decade of the new reign post-Philip V brought Rome and Macedonia face-to-face again in fierce combat, and competition for superiority and survival. It was the ascension of the new king, along with his embittered feelings towards Rome, that alerted the latter of Macedonia's fortitude and resilience, and so, both nations re-organized themselves for war.

At the conclusion of the Second Macedonian War, Philip V was defeated and agreed

to an armistice with Rome, under the generalship of Titus Quinctius Flamininus. The City-States had remained Roman protectorates, and Macedonia and Rome entered into a truce, in 179BCE. Philip's untimely death that same year ended the Macedon-Rome peace treaty. His adopted son and successor, Perseus, inherited and re-mobilized a war with Rome. Many prior factors had instigated the war, but the thirty-four year old king's resentment towards the demands of Rome upon Macedonia galvanized it, as the treaty's compromises subjugated and paralyzed his country; Perseus, like his father, neither trusted the motives of Rome nor its presence in the Hellenic City-States. Con-

sequently, Perseus incited his nation to revolt against Rome, to regain its eminence and power, and to continue the resistance to foreign occupation. Much has been written of the character, deeds and life of Perseus by the ancient authors Livy, Plutarch and Polybius; a reader interested in learning more about him is recommended to explore those authors' accounts; here, however, is an abridged citation of his martial engagement with Rome.

To regain the imperial strength of Macedonia and win back control of territories lost to Rome in the peace treaty, Perseus' only strategy was to undermine and undo all that Rome was arranging. He at once pressed

into the territories north of Macedonia and south into Hellenic City-States, expanding Macedonian frontiers and solidifying amiable relations, a feat unattained by Philip. This was in violation of the treaty's terms, as it threatened Rome's jurisdiction and traction in the Hellenic peninsula. Along with the notification of the violation, intelligence arrived to Rome citing Perseus' alliance with Illyria, successful maneuverings in Byzantium and Asia, and charges against him concerning his attempted but failed assassination upon King Eumenes of Pergamum, an ally of Rome. The Senate and the People of Rome treated Perseus' activities as suspect; despite their dismay over entering another war, they reacted swiftly, believing Perseus to have "been left this war as a bequest from his father, handed on to him together with the throne... [Perseus] had been nursing it along and tending it in all his planning, and now it was very close at hand" (Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita* 42.11). Additionally, Perseus had such national and transnational military provisions and warriors, a copious supply of grain and pecuniary security that he was completely autonomous and fortified. Roman imperialism was now much more threatened, for "the Macedonian kingdom remained the only great power situated near to Rome, and the only power which might seem able to, if anywhere Rome's good fortune should fail her, arouse in its kings the spirit of the ancient Macedonia" (Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita* 42.50).

Roman envoys were dispatched to Macedonia; the envoys denounced the treaty violations and demanded reparations from Perseus; they told him the treaty once made with his father was renewed in the new reign. In a long tirade, Perseus "harshly in reply, being inflamed with anger, accused the Romans of greed and arrogance, upbraided them and roared the commissions to have kept coming one after another to spy on everything he said and did, as the Romans 'deemed it right' he should be instantly and obediently at their command in all his words and actions" (Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita* 42.25). Perseus, thereafter, had stated in his written document to the Roman envoys the treaty to have been voided upon his ascension, for it had "nothing to do with him... [he] had suffered it to be renewed, not because he approved of it, but because when he had only just taken possession of the throne he had to endure everything" (ibid). He would consent to a revised treaty contingent upon his conditions. He then "or-

dered them to leave the frontiers of his kingdom within three days" of which they obliged, rejecting his terms. The Roman envoys then were sent to its loyal allies (Pergamum, Egypt, Syria, Rhodes and the City-States), urging a reinforcement of diplomatic security and support, which was unanimously accepted by all. Rome and Macedonia were positioning themselves for hostilities.

Roman legions were deployed to Epirus and to Illyria to prepare invasion routes and position garrisons by means of infantry and cavalry in the territories of Apollonia, Uscana and other locales throughout the two nations. A grand conference (though spurious and in pretence of re-establishing peace) between King Perseus and the Roman consul Marcius Philippus was held during the winter so as to discuss the motives of and the allegations against Perseus; the charges were stated and deliberated, and both leaders separated that evening believing war was to be imminent.

The Macedonian city of Citium was chosen to converge all of his nobles, bodyguards, cavalry and the Macedonian army with allied Thracians, Gauls, Agrianes, Cretans, Paeonians, Aetolians, Boeotians and Hellenes of different races. The grand total of the assembled army reached nearly 67,000 including the renowned regiment of the best young warriors the agema. "It was generally agreed that no Macedonian king had ever had so large an army, apart from the force which Alexander the Great took over to Asia" (ibid).

On the winter solstice and atop a platform accompanied by his two young sons, Philip (brother-adopted son) and Alexander, Perseus delivered a harangue to his troops. He recalled the injustices and indignities done upon them by Rome, glorified the titanic size and brawn of the Macedonian army, and reanimated within them the "spirit shown by their ancestors, who, after subduing the whole of Europe, had crossed into Asia and



Perseus held his own conference with his council at Pella, in the ancient palace of the Macedonian kings. He declared to his council he would endure the war befitting a brave man, regardless the tides of war might bring, or be the champion to free the world of Roman domination. "Let us wage war, then, said Perseus, since this seems best, with the good help of the gods" (Livy, *Ab Urbe Con-*

dit 42.51). The Macedonian city of Citium was chosen to converge all of his nobles, bodyguards, cavalry and the Macedonian army with allied Thracians, Gauls, Agrianes, Cretans, Paeonians, Aetolians, Boeotians and Hellenes of different races. The grand total of the assembled army reached nearly 67,000 including the renowned regiment of the best young warriors the agema. "It was generally agreed that no Macedonian king had ever had so large an army, apart from the force which Alexander the Great took over to Asia" (ibid).

On the winter solstice and atop a platform accompanied by his two young sons, Philip (brother-adopted son) and Alexander, Perseus delivered a harangue to his troops. He recalled the injustices and indignities done upon them by Rome, glorified the titanic size and brawn of the Macedonian army, and reanimated within them the "spirit shown by their ancestors, who, after subduing the whole of Europe, had crossed into Asia and



en route to the palace of the Illyrian king Gentius in Labeates, Perseus sent envoys to propose an alliance that was rejected due to the king's lack of pecuniary means. Perseus withdrew into Macedonia without the alliance but with secured Illyrian garrisons in his wake. Throughout the ten year engagement with Rome Perseus had accrued not only garrisons, an increased number of soldiers and might, but also wealth and conceit; it was the latter two that became his weakness, for his avarice and arrogance fused into the Achilles Heel that brought about his defeat, and the eventual end to the dynasty, in the war against the Romans.

The offer of payment for peace through King Eumene's mediation, the offer of alliance with King Gentius of Illyria, and the offer of a Gallic army en route were altogether dismissed, for Perseus' avarice was stronger than his wisdom. In reply to the proposition of Clondicus, chieftain of the Gauls "[Perseus] was better at guarding his money than his kingdom and began to discourse on the treachery and savagery of the Gauls." The Gauls returned the affront with a withdrawal to their country, leaving Perseus on his own

(Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita* 44.27).

During the last four years of the war, and after several martial encounters with each other, Macedonia and Rome (under the generalship of Lucius Aemilius Paulus) engaged each other on June 22, 168BCE in the decisive battle at Pydna. Paulus and the Roman army had advanced trackless onto the plains between Heracleum and Libethrum, arriving within close proximity to Perseus, surprising him and the Macedonian army, forcing the latter to retreat towards Pydna. Once again the innovative and highly flexible martial style of the Romans surpassed the legendary Macedonian sarissae phalanx; Paulus' use of elephants (having adopted the elephantine tactic from the battles with King Pyrrhus of Epirus one century past) also proved devastating to the retreating Macedonian infantry who had sought the shoreline for refuge. The uneven terrain and lack of retreat but to the Roman controlled sea, gave no opportunity of victory to Perseus and the Macedonians that day.

The Macedonian army was destroyed and Perseus' allies in the region submitted to Rome, leaving Perseus no other alternative but to surrender and abdicate. A multitude

of Roman citizens gathered along the Via Sacra in Rome to not only view the triumphant procession of Paulus, but to see Perseus, his three children, and the remnant of the Macedonian military force and booty, mixed emotions filling each Roman heart. "Never had so great a crowd assembled anywhere for any spectacle... for Perseus was the source and center of the war, not only his own renown and that of his father, his grandfather, and the others with whom he was connected by blood and race, that made him a figure of universal interest; the glory of Philip and of Alexander the Great, who made Macedon the greatest imperial power on earth, shone upon him" (Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita* 45.7).

Plutarch describes the procession into Rome of Perseus behind Paulus' victory chariot, as was the Roman custom of a victory parade. Thereafter the parade, Perseus and his children were banished to the small town of Alba Fucens (detention for the defeated), where he died two years later. "Two of his children also died. But the third, Alexander, is said to have become expert in the toreutic art (artistic metalworking); he also learned to write and speak Latin, and was secretary to the magistrates, in which office he proved himself to have skill and elegance." (Plutarch *Aemilius Paulus*, 37.3 Bernadotte Perrin, Ed.)

Rome voted not to enslave Macedonia, but to grant her liberty, yet governed by Rome; the nation was to be partitioned into four districts, and individually governed by means of Roman magistrates. The latter decision was based on Rome's concern of Macedonia's expansive size and iron-willed people – dynamics for another revolt. The Romans predicted accurately, for another revolt did occur eighteen years later, bringing onto the stage the fourth Macedonian War, led by Andriscus, ruler of Adramyttium in Aeolis (western Anatolia), who claimed himself King Philip VI.

In 2005, Macedonian and Italian archaeologists discovered King Perseus' tomb at the site of Alba Fucens, 100km east of Rome, along the Via Valeria near Magliano de'Marsi (Aquila), Italy. The Italians invited Macedonian archaeologists to assist in the research. The Macedonian Scholar Association and Macedonian-Italian Friendship Association in Bitola discovered Perseus' final retreat to have been a town at the place of the present-day village of Crnobuki, on the right side

IN THE THEATER OF THE WORLD:

Alexander of Macedon, In First Person

By Aleksandar Donski

UMD Voice Contributor and historian Celeste Benjamin Tracy has recently published her first novel "In the Theater of the World". Ms. Tracy is American of Spanish and Hungarian-Czech descent, teaches Latin in Long Island, New York, and holds degrees in Latin, English and Education.

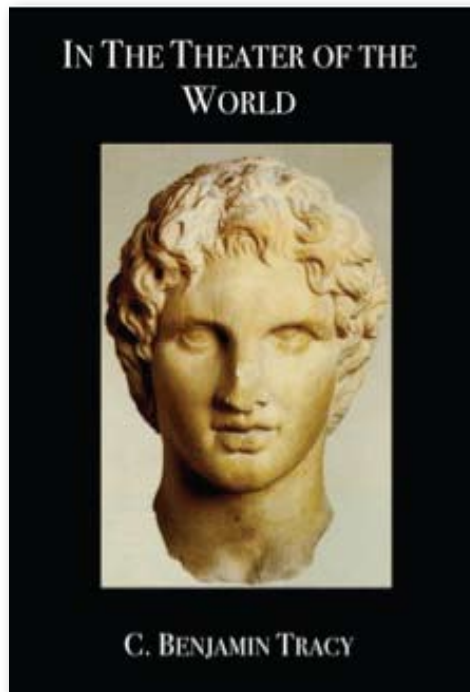
AD: Ms. Tracy, please tell our readers about your new book.

CBT: In 328BCE, Alexander is recorded to have said: "I view my world as a theater, and my acts are demonstrated holding both sword and scepter. I am on a stage... before me, the audience of the world," thus I used his statement as the theme for the novel. In *The Theater of the World* is an novel about Alexander the Great during his adolescence, written as autobiography. Alexander begins with a prologue in the Spring of 324BCE, introducing himself to the reader and explaining his purpose in writing his autobiography. The goal is to immerse the reader in a lyrical recounting of Alexander's youth, from age thirteen to twenty. The primary reason why I wrote the novel was to inspire teenage readers to strive and pursue his or her ambitions, be healthy and strong of mind and body, honor the ancestors and nation, and learn about Alexander's admirable qualities, so as to emulate them. I hope a reader with prior knowledge of Alexander will get to know him intimately, and the reader knowing little or nothing of him will be inspired to learn more about him.

AD: As Alexander is the narrator of the story, how do you have him "portray himself"?

CBT: Throughout his very short life, he performed his feats through the guise of his heroes Achilles and Hercules, who had become his alter egos. His perspectives, behaviors and achievements in adulthood likely evolved from the experiences of an introspective and intense teenage dreamer who imagined himself perpetually on a stage. And so, I go to the early evolution of the historical figure, and portray him as a passionate teenager:

bold and brazen, brilliant of mind, emotional, tenacious, physically powerful but with a non-specific ailment, impulsive, fiercely loyal, and in need of praise and love from his family and friends, especially from his father, King Philip II. Rather than glorify him, I seek to humanize him, and show him as a teenager of ancient civilization who is not so different from today's adolescent. I immerse the reader in his world and in the significant traditions and culture of ancient Macedonia, having attempted to avoid anachronisms that would sacrifice authenticity.



AD: How do present the geography of the world in which Alexander lived?

CBT: The geography of Alexander's world is presented historically, devoid of anachronisms, identifying specific nations by their ancient, genuine names to maintain the continuity of the novel's setting. Macedonia is Macedonia, identifying clans from Upper and Lower Macedonia, speaking the Macedonian language; Greece as the City-States, its districts and peoples as Achaea, Aetolia and Attica, speaking the Hellenic language. As for the neighboring nations, I refer to them as

Epirus, Illyria, Thrace, Hesperia, Persia. The peoples of those nations I identify them as, respectively: Epirote; Illyrian and its northernmost tribesmen Autariatae; the neighboring Celtae; the Maedi and Thracians of Thrace; the Samnites, Romans, Lucanians and Brutians of Hesperia, and Persians. Presently, a map is not provided in the novel. I am in search of an artist to commission to illustrate a map.

AD: As a novel format, how do you recount the events of his youth without it reading like an essay?

CBT: Descriptively, applying the senses, and at times, lyrically, including my own poetry so as to show a poetic Alexander. I took creative license in a small number of scenes to mesmerize the reader. The majority of the novel's foundation, however, is historical. I also inserted some of Alexander's original quotations from his adulthood, believing Alexander to have held these perspectives in his youth and later to have applied them during his reign. The timeline of the novel includes such events as: the famous taming of his war horse Bucephalus, his three-year education by Aristotle, his regency, his first military engagement against a Thracian army at age 16, his major role in the Battle of Chaeronea, his exile and experience in Illyria (which I needed to embellish since available resources are lacking in detail), his collusion with the Persian satrap Pixodarus, and, concluding the novel, the assassination of his father, Philip II. Also, I expounded upon his friendships and included his first arranged encounter with a courtesan.

AD: Who are the characters in the novel, and how did you develop them?

CBT: I included historical characters and created others, which I indicate in my Author's Note. The historical characters in the novel are developed based upon their interactions with Alexander recorded by the ancient authors Plutarch and Arrian, and several modern authors' biographies. As expected, limited documentation requires that I create

some personalities and enhance others, but I emphasize the characters whose personalities were developed using ancient resources, including Craterus, Lysimachus, Perdiccas and Hephaestion. Ancient and modern sources identify them as Alexander's closest companions. Each of them is portrayed as having a close relationship with him, however, of the four, Hephaestion is presented in the novel to be Alexander's spiritual soul mate, his 'other self', dearest among his friends, as Arrian entitled him, carissimus (Latin: most precious, most beloved); I believe Craterus to have been fidelissimus, most devoted. I imagine Lysimachus to have revered Alexander, and Perdiccas to have been Alexander's closest before Hephaestion appeared, for at his death bed, Alexander gave Perdiccas his royal ring. I devoted tremendous energy and time to 'get into their heads' so as to make them realistic and personal while respecting historical evidence. Of the characters I developed in the novel, the most challenging for me had been Aristotle. Aristotle was the greatest cerebral influence upon Alexander. Resources indicate Alexan-

der to have said that Philip gave to him life, but Aristotle gave to him knowledge, and so, I was compelled to show a teacher whose mind and methodology were spellbinding to Alexander; a teacher who facilitated learning rather than dominating it, whose teaching was provocative enough to stir Alexander's analytical mind, and whose personality was commanding but compassionate.

AD: What of Alexander's daily life, his surrounding and country?

CBT: The natural world of Alexander is illustrated through his senses, and I labored to stir the reader's senses: the scents and feel of the terrain, and the tastes, sights and sounds of his daily life. Though having never visited Macedonia, I tried to paint a mountainous, verdant, luxuriant, awe-inspiring, mysterious landscape that I believe to have shaped and cultivated his nature. I imagined him, his family, his companions and people to be highlanders, powerful and resolute, lovers of horses and of nature, skillful in the toreutic arts (metalworking), fortified and strengthened by means of suffering from centuries of

prejudice by the City-States to the south, and other surrounding kingdoms, all of which is historically-based.

AD: Writing a narrative in the voice of an ancient historical figure is a challenge. How did you manage to balance history with creativity?

CBT: In referencing the Acknowledgment section of my novel, I indicated that twenty-two years of collecting information and acquiring knowledge of Alexander the Great was an odyssey of learning for me... my research experience, having begun in 1982, was a timeline of events that prepared me to take on a project such as this. Family and friends throughout that time encouraged, advised and educated me, and I am forever grateful for their support. The novel is written without intention to aggrandize, but only to inspire interest in Alexander, by means of introducing him in his youth.

In the Theater of the World is available now on Amazon.com as a Kindle e-book, and will be coming soon in paperback as well.

NEW ON THE WEB

New On the Web: <http://www.myspace.com/lisamanis>

Imitating Reba McEntire at 4 years of age, writing her own songs since she was eleven, this Pickering-raised talent was first discovered at a Canada Day karaoke show. Her choice of song? The Power of Love by Celine Dion. She was only 6 years old. Shania Twain's vocal coach, Ian Garrett was one of the first to help train this spectacular voice.



New On The Web: <http://www.thebestofmacedonia.mk/>

Nino Trajcev, from The Best of Macedonia team says: "Our mission is to choose the best Macedonian entertainment, folklore and children's songs in the past 20 year period, that left their mark on the Macedonian music scene as for their popularity and quality."



WE LOVE YOU, MACEDONIA!

(in all your colors)

By Marija-Emilija Kukubajska and Emilija Kukubajska

Golden Macedonia:

Your grain- bread, or your heart- your soul?
What could be sweeter in you,
What could be more noble and more de-
serving of God's mercy?
We love you! Take care of yourself! Because
not all that glitters is gold!

Macedonia of scarlet-

Of a love for truth set on fire by God's
strength
Dating back to the beginning of time, and
Throughout blood-stained millenniums,
Divided but never cooling.
Of all the world's suns,
Is yours the only one to be hidden? Why?
It's in our blood!

Macedonia of blue-

Our sky a spiritual cape, woven from a holy
heart,
Let me wrap myself in you and fill me with
your warmth,
Like a parent's, to raise myself toward pure,
new works.

Macedonia of green-

Your leafy feathers, your fluffy chicks,
spread throughout hill and vale,
For faithfulness, for singing, for food and
strength.
With a pink palm I pass over them, pet
them, bless them.

Macedonia of white-

I wish for the snow to be a protective skin
against sickness,
And your soil beneath it, a table full of health
that we all share,
Like brothers, to celebrate hot and to have
it leftover.

Macedonia of silver-

Your watery waves have washed our
wounds.
Under the surface- our wounds dug through
our clothes chests,
And for them, there is no worldly cure. But
now,

Baskets with newborn leaders are arriving,
to fight for you, because they love you.

O glorious Macedonia, a bride with a plenti-
ful dowry.

The fruits of the Spirit, let us celebrate them,
and sow them with love,
With a joyful peace and patience, pleas-
antly, let us grow the life-giving harvests
willingly
For a better tomorrow.

We love you, Macedonia! May God be with
you,
We believe in you! Cheers!

We love you, our offspring, enslaved,
robbed and sold, and again,
With a pure love, plaintively but hopefully,
awaiting its in-laws,
And after the weddings, feasts, and moving,
remaining again without its dearest children.
How much longer will we forgive, keep
silent, and allow our children to be burned
In a furnace, against the self, against Par-
enthood?

How much longer will we allow false values
to feed them, to remove them
From the natural rights of an alphabet, an
ancient tongue, faith, and a history?

Our dear, calm mothers, our wise fathers
and wonderful ancestors,
Beaten and overworked grandfathers,
robbed grandmothers
And our youth poisoned, blinded, choked,
cornered in channels of a New Age
Dependence on lies- we only have one true
name and a thousand and one false ones,
Untrue antonyms.

But we are Macedonians, O Macedonia!
Named by God and not renamed by evil
godfathers.

Tell me why mother, why, just when we think
that with the springtime
Come the words that will open the door
toward light,
Evil and underhanded spirits come, speak-

ing about ethics and against our ancient
history,

And stoning the Good Samaritan.
They gossip everywhere, and they know
what they are doing has a purpose
That opposes peace and justice, while they
are supposedly protecting the best name,
The name of its nation.

Lord, protect us from those Pharisees in our
own country,
The country of Alexander, Paul, Clement,
Cyril, Marko, Samuel,
Of Ohrid, Bistra, and Shara, our colorful
beauty, Macedonia, our beloved.

We have many enemies, too many.
What have you not done against injustice,
you have never rested from the curses of
history-
Crippled, wild sinners, dying of heat with no
shelter,
Only the skies shelter you, sister, God's
shelter for you, above heights and valleys,
Faithfully guarded you for salvation, for us,
for the rare cases of justice,
Which don't give up out of honor and virtue
in the Macedonian struggle.

But know, from today, to the end unseen, as
long as you are still poisoned,
From inside our outside, we are the cure,
we who are yours forever,
We know your history of pain, we who are
sleep deprived but tireless,
Smart and grown up, but like innocent chil-
dren, overjoyed at every sign of waking
From your comas and nightmares, from
chambers ancient and modern.
We are with you, we are for you,
WE LOVE YOU, MACEDONIA!



THE VATICAN'S 16TH CENTURY MANUSCRIPT C152, AND ITS LEXICON OF MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE By Vodenka

Ela moia parigorie
Da te celvam vustata
Kak ovostie me miriset
Sro to rodi krusata
Tako ti visnego Boga,
Ne mi vezmi dusata
Sto si lepa...
Come my consolation,
So I kiss your mouth
That has the smell of the fruit
That the pear tree gives
My God Almighty,
Do not take my soul
So beautiful you are...

Source: "A Macedonian lexicon of the 16th Century AD", Institute of Slavic Studies of Paris, 1958, Ed: Ciro Giannelli, professor of the University of Rome, in collaboration with Andre Vaillant, professor of the College of France and of the School of Superior Studies

The song lyrics (at left) are not recorded on any disc, you will not hear them at any festival, nor are they registered in any collection of Macedonian folk songs. Amazingly, they are actually written in the page margins of a 16th century manuscript, next to the text of two comedies by Aristophanes, plus a version of Gennadius Scholarios, on manuscript C152 of the Central Library of St. Peter, in Rome!

This manuscript was donated along with six others to the St. Peter's Basilica by a high dignitary of the Orthodox Church, Sylvestro, Mega Protosyngelo (Chancellor), of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Each of the seven volumes bear on the last page the same identical dedication: "This book, I dedicate myself, the humble Sylvestros, Great protosyngelos of Jerusalem, to Holy Saint Peter in Holy Rome ... By my own will and opinion I donated it to Saint Peter for the glory of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: ROCE, zrkz" It is believed that the code "ROCE" refers to the year 1620, AD; while the term "zrkz" refers to the year 7127, counting from the creation of the world, at Genesis.

Based on the evidence, it is likely that Stylianos decided one nice day in 1620 to become Roman Catholic. So he traveled to Rome, was re-baptized Sylvestros, and he donated to the Vatican seven precious manuscripts from the Eastern Church as a gesture of good will.

As for how these manuscripts came into his hands, it is likely that he stole them, or "liberated" them. The first six manuscripts were clearly taken from the libraries of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, but the one now marked "C152" was different, and it was clearly obtained elsewhere.

There are some interesting peculiarities on manuscript C152. For instance, written on page 213, we read: "These books and rules were bought through the Holy Sepulchre, by the Blessed holy Monk Sylvestro and Protosyngelo of Jerusalem, in the year 1620 month July. 11th". But on the same page, next to the Gennadius Scholarios portion, we also read: "...was written by me, the sinner and smallest of priests Gginou, housekeeper of the Holy Archdiocese of Pogoiani and who reads this, pray for me to the Lord." Also on page 191, we read: "in God's glory, 1620, month June, 14th, Gginos, priest and housekeeper of Pogoiani".

Here is how this story likely unravelled: Stylianos-Sylvestros began his journey from Jerusalem to Rome, in the winter of 1620. In the summer of that year, he arrived at the monastery of Pogoniani, in Epirus, north-western Greece. There, he discovered the precious manuscript, now marked C152. He observed the text of the two comedies of Aristophanes and the Theogony of Hesiod, and perceived the priceless value.



Gginos is a derivative of Gjin, or John, in Albanian. Thus, we can conclude that Sylvestros convinced an Albanian priest named Gginos to copy a version of Gennadius Scholarios/On the faith of Christians, in the numerous blank back pages of the manuscript. Sylvestros then asked Gginos to buy this work, on behalf of the Holy Sepulchre. Later, however, he will add in his own writing "... (the Holy Sepulchre) of St. Peter".

After, Sylvestros departed from Epirus to Rome, and converted to the Catholic church. As a sign of good faith, he donated the manuscript to the Vatican, together with other six manuscripts in ancient Greek.

So, what does all of this have to do with Macedonia? Andre Mazon and Andre Vaillant are the most famous slavologists of the 19th and 20th centuries respectively, specializing in south Slavic languages and dialects, and they have both recognized the importance of the handwriting on this particular manuscript. Indeed, Vaillant concludes that the implications of manuscript C152 are enormous, for at least three reasons:

1. In the page margins, aside from the song recorded at the beginning of this article, and next to the other texts, are recorded also 300 other phrases, words and lyrics, which are invaluable lexical material on how the language was spoken by the Macedonians four centuries ago
2. All of these phrases and songs were recorded by someone who taught Greek language using readings from Aristophanes to children in area of Vogatsiko, Kastoria (Kostur), during the period 1580-1600

3. In return, he asked his students to teach him their native Macedonian language, which he recorded as a lexicon, on the back of this manuscript!

Modern Greek historians and journalists in this area insist that "since ancient times, Greek and only Greek language was spoken in Vogatsiko". As for the current residents, we are afraid that the Greek ones might crucify A. Vaillant if he dared to question the ancient origins of this land. But the facts speak for themselves.

According to Vaillant, all the Macedonian entries in the lexicon are written in calligraphic and orthographic Greek letters, that under or beside each entry, the corresponding definition is given in Greek, and throughout, the Greek dialect used demonstrates the

writer's Epirotic origin.

For instance, on page 12 of the manuscript, the Macedonian phrase for "Which way to Bogkasko?" is recorded, which is a reasonable question for a young Epirot in western Macedonia. Epirus lies at least one hundred kilometers away and beyond the Pindos mountains, which we must remember were near impassable back in 1580. This expression also gives a valuable information on the origin of the toponym "Vogatsikon".

Another interesting feature of the lexicon is all of the erotic expressions which stand out, such as: "ela legi pokre mene" meaning, Come lay down with me. These phrases suggest the love interests of a young Epirote teacher for the local Macedonian maidens in town.



IGOR TALESKI,

On Exploring the Beauty of the Macedonian Highlands

By Martin Anastasovski



An interesting key growth area with great potential in the Macedonian economy is eco-tourism. Relatively close to many of Europe's great cities, and blessed with large areas of untouched wilderness that are hard to beat, many think that Macedonia has a bright future in the eco-tourism market. One particular niche is mountaineering, and UMDV correspondent Martin Anastasovski had a chance to speak with Igor Taleski, an experienced mountaineering enthusiast.

MA: Igor, when did you start mountaineering?

IT: Part of my family originates from Bogomila, and since I was little I used to spend my summer breaks there. I would stare at Mt. Jakupica with its peak, Solunska Glava, and dream about climbing it one day. Since I couldn't go there alone, I would play in nearby hills for hours. Also, I grew up in a part of Skopje that is very close to Mt. Vodno, which allowed me and friends to go play there. So, since I was very little, I developed this habit to be in nature and on mountains as much as possible. Consequently, that developed into a passion around 1998. First, I joined a mountaineering club that organized tours on the taller moun-

tains in Macedonia, and later, I started doing it as much as possible together with my wife Vesna and my friends. Now, we usually take on more remote mountains and peaks that demand solid climbing skills.

MA: How does Macedonia measure up in this respect? How are mountains in Macedonia?

IT: Two thirds of the surface of Macedonia is covered by mountains and it is no wonder you can always meet a group or a lone mountaineer at any given time of year. Our people have this connection with the mountains; there is something about them that must be experienced. Some locations are really good for summer and there are also "winter wonderlands" with Alpine peaks and ski slopes. If I must single out some places, I would mention Matka, Demir Kapija, and Solunska Glava. These places offer 150-600 meter vertical terrains with amazing climbing features. In Prilep and Shar Planina, there are massive granite rocks for bouldering and also, I should add the frozen drops at Patishka Reka. This is just a small part of the available alpinist landscape in Macedonia. We haven't discovered more than half of what this country has to offer.

MA: What are the benefits of mountaineering and trekking in nature?

IT: The most obvious benefit is being in a green environment where the air is clean, where the landscapes let you rest your eyes and your mind, and everything is just so peaceful. It's an optimal way to recharge your batteries that get drained by city life, traffic jams and pollution. Nature knows how to be generous by giving us unforgettable experiences that are inspiring and life-giving. It makes us return again and again. Do we become better human beings thanks to this? Yes and no. We have to search for that virtue, and we have to earn it. An American alpinist once said, "How do we reach the top of the world? – We reach it when we climb the mountains inside of us: fear, jealousy, and suspicion" So I guess we all have different ways of finding peace. Enjoying nature definitely helps.

MA: Is there interest for mountaineering in Macedonia?

IT: This tradition in Macedonia is centuries-old and these wonderful mountains around us make everything accessible. The first official clubs were founded in the 1920's. Members not only climbed mountains, but also explored submerged caves, skiing, and

rescue operations. Organized mountaineers reached the highest peaks in the 1950s. At one point, the hosts of the lodge Chempres on Jakupica had their hands full with more than 1500 mountaineers, and 250 additional tents had to be pitched to accommodate everyone. According to one document in 1986, there were around 120 mountaineering chapters with over 30000 members. Today it is not as massive as before but still, there is sufficient interest. I believe it will become more popular as we provide more information on peaks, trails, mountain lodges, rock-climbing trains, ski slopes and so on. However, people must learn the ethics of mountain sports because we don't want to put our mountain environments in danger, so people can enjoy them in the future.

MA: What can the government or local governments do for mountain sports?

IT: I can only speak in terms of alpinism, but I am sure this concerns all mountain sports. First of all, the government needs to gain understanding about what we do. Politicians must hire the right people for the right job. That means, every sport should be supplemented by professionals who are going to nurture its growth and success. We think the government doesn't consider mountaineering or alpinism as sport because it is not competitive, but they should look closer and recognize the value of these sports. In the



past, alpinists were ordained by their governments, they were made national heroes for completing serious endeavors, and Olympic committees would give them honorary medals. We are not asking for any of this. We just want the government to understand what we do so they can direct proper initiatives to support our sport.

MA: Which places would you recommend to those visiting Macedonia. Could you share with us some hidden gems?

IT: Sincerely, I don't think I know my coun-

try well enough, simply because there are so many places that haven't been explored. That's why I will speak of places that I have visited myself: Matka, Solunska Glava, Bistrica, Pelister, and part of Shar Planina. For example, I have rarely visited mountains in the east of the country, which is a shame. But whenever we go on an adventure, we are always dumbfounded by the beauty and mystery of those remote frontiers. I invite everyone to come and explore Macedonia. I sincerely feel that the country has capacity to awaken the adventurer in all of us.

GOD, AND THE MACEDONIAN IN US

By Pande Manojlov



Often times as a writer and as a poet, a gift given by God, I delve into mysticism. I befriend the fathers of the desert, embodying the gifts given to us by God through prayer. I should mention, I am not much concerned with church or the matters related to it. Like many fellow Macedonians, I live with God in me, and I do my best in adhering to God's commandments. God is my lyrical experience, in which the religious is fused with the aesthetic. The same can be said in a more philosophical jargon: I experience the fusion of Logos and Beauty.

God is also in my Macedonianism! And the prayer that comes from the heart deduced through poetic verses is not a prayer in the pure sense of that word. It is not dedicated

to some abstract deity, rather, it is dedicated to Jesus Christ and the Mother of God. In the Church, I see the Temple of God, a place as peaceful as the sky, a place for prayer where the soul can be cleansed.

Marxist lectures taught us that that the church must be separated from the state, and pushed various tenets to divert the attention of the people away from the church. Is it a consequence of this debauchery that we have become disinterested in what is going on in our Macedonian Orthodox Church? We, the mortals, like the government in Macedonia, have no idea what goes on. We are perhaps looking for excuses not to raise questions in the workings of the church, in fear that we might be meddling in God's

deeds, or in the realm of the church and church life. The government seems like it doesn't care, either way.

And yet, we keep reading and hearing that our people are lamenting about something dark unfolding in our Macedonian Orthodox Church in Australia. Something dark is unfolding here in Macedonia as well. The case with the graveyards in Kavadarci, the building of an illegal temple of Orthodox Ohrid Archbishopric, later occupied by the notorious Vranishkovski. Yes, it has been happening for years, and Bitola's reverends have kept silent and acted as if everything is just fine. While our people were keeping quiet some others have been keeping busy building a church within a church.

Icons are being stolen from our churches, icons of immeasurable value to our national

culture and identity. Some are raising questions and those who owe us the answers are silent. God and our church, our faith in Macedonia must be elevated to the level of religion. This phrase might not be a liturgical one nor is it used in the church. Nonetheless, it must gleam in light as if it were a canon of the church, as ethnography of every Macedonian, as an ascetic proverb that will lead us today, and in the bleak tomorrow.

With a necessity that is indebted in our existence, we must recognize the close relationship between God-Man-Homeland. We are becoming more numerous, those Macedonians who believe in God, but, more in God and less in our homeland? During elections and after elections, is someone trying to kill off the Macedonianism in us?

Because of certain reasons, we are silent

just like we are silent about the misdeeds in our holy church. Willingly or unwillingly, consciously or unconsciously, one day, every single one of us in Australia or here in Macedonia, may find our own personal temples to find solace, because we may no longer tolerate the way our churches' reverends are treating our temples. Do we need to resort to that? Do we need to be mute or do we need holy light? Where will we seek our inner peace?

Peace and serenity are necessities to every human being. Spiritual peace is gravely needed for us Macedonians today, because every day, someone negates our existence as a people, as a state and as a church. And we need these things just like we need God. We need to be a people, we need a state and we need a church.

FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT EDUCATIVE & CULTURAL MOVEMENT OF VODEN

By Mark Branov

On May 20, 2011, approximately 250 representatives of Toronto's Macedonian community came together to raise funds for the Educative & Cultural Movement of Voden. It was a very enjoyable evening; a chance to learn more about what this activist organization in Aegean Macedonia is doing, and a chance to share a meal and meet with old friends.

The Educational and Cultural Movement of Voden (Edessa, Northern Greece) has a clear mandate. The local people in this historical town created it for the love of their family traditions within the rich ethnic Macedonian culture; a culture officially oppressed by the Greek government.

With a strictly non-political agenda, the Voden group works to build partnerships with like-minded organizations from all parts of Macedonia and beyond, and to highlight Macedonian cultural expressions from the region.

One major initiative is recording traditional folklore and artistic expression that can easily disappear in Greece, where the officially unrecognized Macedonian language is actively threatened by the state. These precious artistic works include traditional music, song,



and dance, as well as an oral story-telling tradition and ancient fables passed down from grandparents to grandchildren. The group also assists the emergence of Macedonian artists in Greece, who often have no means to display their art, and has organized free language lessons for people who want to read, write, speak and understand their ancestral Macedonian language better.

Despite the constant danger of recrimina-

tions from extremist groups, the Voden patriots have taken the responsibility to protect their cultural customs and heritage head on, so this inheritance from the ancestors may pass to the next generation. The group also publishes a periodical magazine called Zadruga, and offers an internet based radio-station with Macedonian music.

For more information, please visit: <http://edessavoden.gr/>

"NEITHER ON GROUND NOR ON THE SKY"

A brief meeting with a hard working soul on "Sirok Sokak" in Bitola

By Pande Manojlov

Bitola's famous "Sirok Sokak" - the street where people walk night and day, also called the "Korzo" - is once again full with people this summer. It seems like everyone from the city is out on this street, the same street where Evlija Celebija, Resad Petti, Damjan Gruev, Kemal Ataturk, Krste Petkov Misirkov, the Russian Consul Rostkovski, the beautiful ladies from Bitola, and the well known hot shots once walked... You can hear people speaking Macedonian, English, Swedish, and also Turkish, from the many tourists that are visiting from Turkey. But, at night, in the late hours, we have the Macedonians from Australia. You can hear the elderly speaking in the dialect they kept from the years when they left the country, and you can also hear the young generations speaking mainly English with maybe one or two Macedonian words thrown in to remind us that their roots are from here...

Right here, meetings occur between those who stayed here, and those that were forced to leave their birthplaces, and their meetings are filled with tears through which memories from the past come by like a river. From tears, minutes become centuries, and not a word can they say, the brothers, friends that haven't seen each other for such a very long time...

Questions follow about their health, the families, who is still alive and who isn't, do we know him or her... and after, how do you the Macedonians live here in Macedonia, and how do you live in Australia... and just like that the endless conversation starts, as memories are shared and destinies are explained from those who still live here and those who are far away across the oceans.

On the holiday "Petrovdan", at night, the music is turned on around the fountain next to the monument of Philip II the Macedonian, whose statue is proudly sitting on his horse. The hot shots from Bitola right away gave him the nickname "Filipce." We were sitting with Dusan Ristevski, one of ours, a writer who was visiting from Sydney, with the Australian-Macedonian theater group. They had come to perform the beautiful show "Mister Bal-



kan". We are sitting at the café owned by Kire "Popo", who came back from Melbourne, and who has decided to open up café in Bitola, to invest the hard earned money for which he worked two shifts, back in Australia.

I asked Dusan about what kind of welcome he and his theater group receive in Macedonia. He almost started crying. He didn't even want to talk about his welcome. He was speechless. Not a word came out of his mouth, regarding the "great" welcome, even though his group came with love, wanting to show themselves in the real light, here in their birthplace, their fatherland Macedonia! Not even a thank you.... nothing...even though they had welcomed numerous theater groups in Sydney and Melbourne...

And, you – Dusan is asking me - why didn't you write on the monument of the Macedonian King Philip, the creator of Heraclea, who he is and what has he done? Why don't you write his name on it? And why did you write on the statues of the Macedonian heroes in front of the city clock that they died? Who did they give their lives for? Or did they just lose their lives like that for no reason, in the forest; maybe they just didn't know the road by Vejce? Why didn't you write that they died fighting against tyranny and aggression against the freedom of Macedonia and its people, in the war against the Albanian ter-

rorists and bandits in 2001?

I was speechless. My face was pale. Statues in memory of some memories, placed in the center of Bitola. We didn't credit the Australian-Macedonian theater group from Sydney, nor the heroes and their statues...It is Macedonian shame, and yet we are fighting for our name, for our identity... Who is fighting? Or, are we fighting each other, intentionally or not, and are we embarrassing ourselves?

One of the Macedonians from Australia sitting on another table asks - Where are the villagers at Mas Pazar with their products? Why are all the stores run by sub-sellers? Don't you see, because of that we are destroying what's left of the villages, don't you see that the young generations want to get out of here, like us in the communism?

Again I was speechless. I didn't manage to ask my friend about his life in Australia, and for what kind of Macedonia he is fighting for, together with all the Macedonians over there, when those who are here don't know if they live on the ground or in the sky... And typical from us in Bitola, we only know how to be proud about Bitola, and the pianos, the city of consuls, and we forget about our people who migrated all over the world, the same way we forgot to write the name Philip II of Macedonia on his statue, the father of Alexander the Great from Macedonia...

SPOTLIGHT:

Best Promoter of Macedonia Awards

By Stan Pigon



In March 2011, the final ceremony for the first ever Best Promoter of Macedonia Award took place, at the City Museum of Skopje. The organizers were pleasantly surprised by the event's huge success, with significant media coverage from Macedonia and neighboring countries. The event honored six laureates for 2010, and also celebrated the achievements of all 28 participants, with a presentation of diplomas and medals.

In effect, the event became a spontaneous manifestation of love and support for Macedonia and the Macedonian cause, and it was heartwarming to see the emergence of strong support today, from citizens, from celebrities, and from media of very different political orientations. The voting was important, but in the three months leading up to the ceremony, a new tradition was born, and the circle of friends of Macedonia was strengthened. With this project, we all win!

In September 2010, the authors of MacedoniaLovesYou.com received a fantastic surprise gift from friends, on the site's third anniversary. It was medal, specially designed and hand crafted in Skopje. That is what inspired the idea of this new award, which came to us over a glass of Macedonian Vranec, in one

of nice restaurants of Debar Malo. Why not share it with others? There are so many fantastic promoters around the world, who have Macedonia in their hearts, and who inspire others to express their love, too.

The Best Promoter of Macedonia Award debuted on October 21st, 2010. Voting started on Facebook on November 15th, and the Project had enjoyed strong support both on the Internet and in the Macedonian media. Over 6,100 votes were registered, but the number cannot reflect the enormous enthusiasm and positive energy that was generated.



In that way, the Award really did bring people together. Nominees supported each other, exchanged views and shared their experiences in promoting Macedonia. In December, the online Promoters' Days was held. Every day, an achievement of one of the Promoters was presented. Actually, the Award is much more than just voting. It is a time of celebration, a networking space, and a kind of online festival of support for Macedonia.

Every one of those fantastic 28 promoters support Macedonia the best way they can. They come from different walks of life, Macedonians and foreigners, but they share the same enthusiasm and have the same goal. They write books and songs, they cultivate Macedonian traditions; they write blogs and design web pages. They organize educational tours and raise funds for medical equipment, they protect and publicize Macedonian cultural heritage. They are goodwill ambassadors of the country: artists, sportsmen... but also business consultants, who support and promote Macedonian export and entrepreneurship. The Award proudly presented them all... Several hundreds of links and stories were posted on Facebook page, for all to see. For almost three months,

the Award highlighted achievements of the nominees, but at the same time, it brought attention to important aspects of Macedonia's promotion. There are so many different ways one can support the country.

The Award organizers were extremely happy to see representatives of Macedonian Diaspora on the nomination list, who act both locally and globally. They voice their concerns about the country's interests in various places, but most importantly, they continue to cultivate Macedonian traditions and cherish their language. On the web site of the Macedonians in Albania, there is photo of a young boy. He stands in front of a small blackboard in an improvised classroom, and proudly looks at the sentence he wrote in his ancestral Macedonian language. His face beams with positive energy and obviously he is happy to be able to better learn Macedonian, the language of his parents, grandparents, and grand grandparents... sadly, at the time when it was posted, not so happy news broke about the difficulties faced by Macedonian teachers in Golo Brdo, which made it that much more important.

The Best Promoter of Macedonia Award was initiated in 2010 by the Macedonia Loves You Project. It was co-organized by Nova Makedonija and supported by Kanal 5 and Kapital Media Group, as media partners. The 2011 Award will again be organized as a private initiative by the Macedonia Loves You Project. Nova Makedonija, Kapital Me-

dia Group and Kanal 5 Televizija will continue their media partnership and co-organize the contest. Media support is so far declared by MIA, MRT, UMD Voice Magazine, FORUM and LIFE magazines, and remains open to other interested media partners. The Award grows, and the organizers hope that in future it becomes more institutionalized, with perhaps a foundation or NGO being established in Skopje.

Organizers invite everybody to join the 2011 Awards nomination and voting. Information about the Award is available in a special section of www.macedonialovesyou.com, as well as on Facebook at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=hp#!/Macedonia.BestPromoter-Award>.

Nomination and voting will take place at the end of the year, but the Award project is active all year around. Before Easter, the first online festival of Macedonian poetry was held, dedicated to Members of European Parliament, who received original Macedonian poems in their mailboxes Macedonian poems. The Facebook Page brings information about promotional events, and is updated several times a week. Comments and suggestions are welcome to the Award email address: nagradata@macedonialovesyou.com. The latest news can also be followed on Twitter: Best Promoter MK @nagradata. Nominations for 2011 Award start on September 14th.



LIST OF NOMINEES - 2010

1. Goran Atanasovski, "Travel To Macedonia" project
2. B.A.L. Team, modern dance studio, and "Break A Leg"
3. Stevce Donevska, promoter of Kratovo
4. Victor Friedman, linguist, professor, University of Chicago
5. Philip Gorshevski, MD
6. Gordana Janakieski, animator and creator of "King Marko"
7. Zoe Naskova, "Educational Tours" project
8. Blagoj Nacoski, opera tenor
9. Vasco Markoski, "Free Time Guide Macedonia"
10. Fabian Vendrig, promoter of Macedonia, Netherlands
11. "Miracles of Macedonia" Team, Macedonian Facebook photo collection
12. Vesna Palmer, the "Macedonian Mission for Humanity"
13. Meto Koloski, president of the United Macedonian Diaspora
14. Nicholas Gjurgjaj, president of the Macedonian Society "Ilinden" from Tirana
15. Shenol Memes, president of the Turkish-Macedonian Association "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk", Bitola
16. Vasilka Dimitrovska, archaeologist, blogger, researcher, tour guide
17. Goran Boskovski, artisan
18. Biljana Ivanovska project "Macedonian guide"
19. Regina Ikonovska, TV Channel AB, author of "Wonderful Country"
20. Vesna Sokolowski, "Circle Project," London
21. Niko Traykov, promoter from Mala Prespa, editor of TV Crystal
22. Patrice Kerper, promoter of the U.S. Peace Corps volunteer
23. Biljana Shkortova, Miss InterContinental
24. Team Macedonia Export, export promoters
25. Zlatko, Marianne and Michelle Dimoska, Macedonian karate team
26. Team Etnokreativ, promoters of Macedonian folklore and tradition
27. Tony Grchevski, Association Makedonium in Belgrade
28. Darko Gavrovski, promoter of Tetovo

REPORT FROM EGEJ:

"Choose Your Reality"

By Vodenka

In the Greek political system and manipulated mainstream media, it is almost impossible for minority groups like Macedonians and Turks to be able to take any part in state decision making, or even in the local administration authorities, and push for their human and ethnic minority rights. The minority groups, of course, are the least responsible for Greece's current political and economic crisis, but are paying the consequences of these politics anyway, even more than their Greek co-citizens, due to their disadvantaged status inside the Greek state.

In his article *The Virtual Reality of Greek Politics*, a Greek journalist named Fotis Georgeles summed up the atmosphere in the country with great eloquence. He begins:

"...As I stand in the line up for the cashier, waiting to pay, I can't help but overhear the dialogues of my fellow citizens of the Hellenic Republic, for instance: 'Come on, man, no way they will get us out of Europe. After all, they want us to owe them, we are their best customers.' Are the people to blame, for thinking this way?

On the same day, in a major newspaper, I read the amazing words: 'The U.S. factor is pushing for a loan in order to maintain surveillance of the country.' Got it? They should ask us for forgiveness, because they lent us so much money!

Then, the New Democracy Party MP Stamatidis reveals the plot on the NET State-television news program, that we should take into account the pro-Turkish positions of Commissioner Olli Rehn.

This country has achieved a virtual reality, even outside the internet. It lives a "second life." There is one reality, shared by the European Union's 27 countries, all the governments, and the rest of the planet. And then, there is also the Greek reality.

So, choose your reality. But after you choose, there is still no "disconnect"...

There is no shortage of conspiracy theories as to why the situation in Greece is the way it is, and many of them are more colorful and



imaginative than these. The country's conspiracy culture suits the power structure in Athens well, because no matter what, the blame for any wrongdoing is deflected away from the Greek state. Gorgeles continues:

"...Within a decade, we managed, from a primary surplus of the state budget of 5% in 1999, to reach a deficit of 10% in 2009 ...the deficit went to 4.5 billion in 2007, 11.5 billion in 2008, 24 billion in 2009. And that is without the interest! With interest, it goes up to 36 billion. What happened this year? How can we go back, stop the waste and plundering? Nobody responds to that question, but they just shout 'resistance to the junta of the IMF.' In the reality of the rest of planet Earth, Greece is not carrying out with the reforms needed, it is not adhering to the EU/IMF program, and it is not reducing state waste. In the reality of Greece, we are blaming the government for implementing the 'memoranda of foreign rulers.' Meanwhile, the in-

credible Greek media establishment blames both items, simultaneously. Having split the people in a false dilemma of pro-memorandum/anti-memorandum, this year the division line is pro-consensus/anti-consensus. We prefer to starve, than to succumb, no to consensus, and the blue (opposition) media write to prepare the next prime minister for the drachma. Others describe the provocative intervention of foreigners. TV newsmen shiver in anger, that they want to ban the opposition. Does the European community want to ban the opposition?

But the real opposition in this country is represented by the IMF's Paul Thomsen, and he is not even Greek. He is the only one who says it is not possible to always burden the

same people to fund excessive state costs. The ND and the PASOK both engage in the most consistent pro-government politics. The PASOK Government publically agrees with the Troika (International Monetary Fund, European Central Bank and European Union) about the plan of salvation, but it does not apply that plan. The so-called ND opposition indulges the government's non-implementation. That game has been played for a year now, with false contrasts, technical tensions and secret agreements, and it is called "internal redistribution of debt." They refuse to tamper with the funding mechanism of the political parties' electoral clientele, and they try to transfer the bill to the private sector and the young people. They do not touch the state and party bureaucracy, their own income and insurance benefits, or their own departments, agencies, organizations, committees, administration boards, travel expenses, member remuneration, compensations, or subsidies. Instead, they leave the next generation without work, and without insurance funding, while thousands of private businesses suffocate. Uniting the political system works to protect their "shop", even if it means the bankruptcy of the country!"

As is described here, the Hellenic Democracy is not functioning, and it has never functioned. On the most important issues facing the country, there is no real opposition, regardless of who is in power. PASOK and Nea Demokratia share an incestuous relationship, each covering for the other, while manipulating the emotions of the people, and keeping them in the dark about many important economic issues - and the issue of minorities is no different. Gorgeles goes on:

"With the concerted efforts of all parties to create a sense of disorientation and distraction, they are simply hiding reality. They confuse the citizens with false dilemmas, and they get away with it. The majority of society looks favorably on reforms, in politics, for trade unions, and in the mainstream media system, but the true reform forces at work are outnumbered. The European community does not want to ban the opposition, in fact it wants the very opposite. It wants to put the dilemma to the people, and to break the secret bipartisan consensus."

Clearly, on the biggest economic issues fac-



ing the country, there is no real difference between a PASOK government and an ND government. So, what kind of democracy is that? Gorgeles then delves into the key psychological aspects of this problem, and the heart of the matter:

"... PASOK's Maria Damanaki summed up the real dilemma from Brussels: either we coordinate our reality with the reality of our European partners, or we continue in our own virtual reality. But the Greek reality is now somewhere beneath Europe, close to Libya. Bankrupt media and bankrupt parties pounced immediately to attack Damanaki for her statement. And this fact in itself is revealing and very dangerous. The attack on her shows that - within the power structure that lead the country to bankruptcy - we see the birth and maturation of a new mindset, which is the following: that the prospect of Greece becoming a Third World country is not so ugly after all, if the alternative means Greece becomes just a "normal country", and the looting has to come to an end."

This is the key phrase worth remembering: a "normal country". A normal country is a country which collects taxes and pays its bills, plans for the future, allows peaceful dissent, nourishes democratic institutions, fosters good relations with neighbors and allies, and respects the rights of all citizens, regardless of their social status or ethnic background. In all of those respects, Greece falls short, by a wide margin.



Gorgeles concludes:

"...The new mindset means the establishment is fully prepared to start printing inflationary drachmas in the Holargos mint, while the political parties' "armies" continue their goal of draining the public's wealth. The interlaced entrepreneurship will still get their jobs and subsidies, as always, and the bankrupt media will hide their own bankruptcy inside the general national bankruptcy. They will deviously appropriate public lands like in Vatopedi Monastery, they will acquire funds with junk bonds, and with the wealth accumulated over the years, they will buy up Greece for a pittance. Meanwhile, the rest of us will certainly fail, wages will be 200 euros, and young people will be looking for work in Bulgaria.

But there are many who are actually betting on the collapse of the country, hidden behind "patriotic" slogans and "not negotiable" attitudes, and longings for the "Greek" drachma. After 20 months of intense debate, nobody is entitled to say I did not know."

UMD OUTRAGED BY GREEK METROPOLITAN ANTHIMOS'S INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MACEDONIANS;

UMD Calls For Excommunication and Criminal Charges

August 20, 2011 – Washington, D.C. – The United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) expressed its outrage at Sunday's sermon by Metropolitan Anthimos of Solun (Thessaloniki). He called upon Greek youth and others to join him in 40-50 buses, travel to the town of Ovcharani (Meliti), and destroy a planned Macedonian language radio station.

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul oversees the Holy Metropolises of the "New Lands," including Thessaloniki (Solun). In a letter, UMD called upon the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to publically condemn Anthimos's incitements to violence, and to initiate proceedings for his immediate excommunication.

"Anthimos is a shameful embarrassment to all of Orthodoxy and should be stripped of his title by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod," said UMD President Metodija A. Koloski. "This rhetoric is barbaric and injurious to Greece, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Church. Instead of promoting Christian values of peace, tolerance and togetherness, Anthimos uses his position of trust to incite the Greek nation to ethnic hatred and violence. As a Christian leader, Anthimos's speech is completely unacceptable, and he deserves to be excommunicated."

On Sunday, August 14, 2011, Metropolitan Anthimos stated the following, which was captured on video:

"We have some of those who were left here since the Civil War period, as we call it, that difficult period, who did not leave to the other side and stayed here with us... [They] are now revolting, and are instigated from abroad by the Skopian [sic] propaganda ... That is why we address to the Ministry of Interior and deputy ministers relevant to the media to tell us: is it true, such a radio station will become in Meliti ... yes or no? If it is yes, then I, and the youth, and anyone else who wants to ... [with] at least 40 or 50 buses must go there, and together with our brothers in Florina and



Meliti, we will destroy everything into broken glass and nails . . . It is not possible to do the job differently."

Despite nominal leadership from the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul, the Greek Orthodox Church is enshrined in the Greek constitution as the "prevailing" religion, and the state pays the clergy's salaries and pensions. "The Greek State's use of the clergy to terrorize Macedonians in northern Greece has a long and bloody history, going back to the likes of Bishop Germanos Karavangelis, who ordered beheadings in the streets of Kostur" said UMD Voice Magazine Editor Mark Branov, "It is long past due for the Greek Orthodox Church to fully adhere to Christian principles of love and tolerance, and for the Greek state to use its laws for something other than persecuting national minorities."

Today, UMD also urged the Macedonian minority in Ovcharani (Meliti), the Mayor of that town, Pande Ashkalov (Panagiotis Anastasiadis) and the organizers of said radio station, to bring a case against Metropolitan Anthimos, and ask the Public Prosecutor to lay appropriate charges under Greek law.

Metropolitan Anthimos's public appeal for violence is a clear violation of Greek law, and the Public Prosecutor must intervene.

Notes: Solun and Ovcharani are the Macedonian names of these cities prior to the Greek state forcibly renaming them Thessaloniki and Meliti, respectively. Pande Ashlakov is the Macedonian name of the Mayor of Ovcharani; however, due to anachronistic and remarkably oppressive laws of the Greek state and the Greek Orthodox Church, one may not be baptized in Greece without a "Greek" name.

For a full video of the sermon with English and Macedonian subtitles, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1F6zDoxpbrQ>

Previous UMD press releases related to Metropolitan Anthimos:

1 April 2011: <http://umdiaspora.org/content/view/554/52/>

6 April 2010: <http://umdiaspora.org/content/view/467/52/>

7 November, 2007: <http://umdiaspora.org/content/view/277/66/>

THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA AND MEDIA FREEDOM

By Ambassador Zoran Dabik, Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE, UN and other international organizations



Since its independence, Macedonia has passed and still passes through many temptations. Some are specific to the development of every young democracy, some are specific to multiethnic societies, and some are unique, but still firmly tied to the essence, emancipation and identity of Macedonian nation, personified through various forms of denial of its existence.

In the past twenty years, Macedonia has managed to rise above numerous internal and external problems and step firmly to the irreversible path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, implementing a massive set of democratic values, where the right to inform and be informed are at the top of the list.

Recently, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic issued a report in connection with the situation of media freedom in Macedonia, and it sparked media interest in the country.

The OSCE Mission to Skopje is the oldest such Mission (established back in 1992 in order to prevent any spillover of violence from the north) and the Organization itself is very present and active, and thus well known to almost everyone in the country. However, the OSCE representative function of media freedom, and the representative's name, were quite unknown to the Macedonian public.

The reason is there was never any need for the engagement of the representative working to care for the freedom of journalism on the behalf of the OSCE. This is one of the best indicators that the media organizations in Macedonia over the last two decades have always been and are free to create their own editorial policies.

After the investigation and then initiation of judicial proceedings against several media houses in Macedonia ("A1" television and the newspapers "Koha e re", "Spic", and "Vreme"), the attention of Representative on Freedom of the Media OSCE Dunja Mijatovic was directed toward the Republic of Macedonia for the first time.

In talks with her several times, I have pointed out that in these cases there are suspicions of serious crimes being committed, in relation to tax evasion, money laundering and others. The obligation to pay tax is not exempt to any legal entity, nor those involved in media activities. The primary rule, the rule of law, is that all are equal before the law, and there is no real freedom of information beyond the rule of law, and beyond establishing equal relations and conditions in the media marketplace.

With regard to expressed concerns and questions on the functioning of the Broadcasting Council and the Board of the Macedonian Radio Television, and termination of employment of the president of the Independent Trade Union of Journalists T. Chaushidis, I think that her reactions were made without thorough consultations with relevant stakeholders, without considering the results of the parliamentary debate on the Broadcasting Council, without hearing arguments of the Council of the Macedonian Radio and Television, nor the arguments of the employer of Ms. Chaushidis.

In any case, almost 200 electronic and print media organizations operate smoothly in Macedonia today. No one thinks to censor the global Internet media, and there is media transparency in the public and Parliament,



through open debate on the situation in the media. This is the best evidence that the free flow of information in Macedonia is not and cannot be obstructed, and that the process of democratization of the Republic of Macedonia is irreversible.

The Republic of Macedonia highly appreciates the contribution of the OSCE to democratic reforms, as representative for media freedom, which by definition has a very important responsibility and a difficult task. Well-intentioned advice is always welcome. Foreign Minister Nikola Popovski recently expressed his willingness to meet with the OSCE Representative on Media Freedom in Macedonia because of that commitment to successful implementation of democratic reforms, and an immediate desire to discuss the real situation of press freedom in Macedonia. Transparency, trust-building and responsibility are the ways in which the Republic of Macedonia follows the road to the European Union and NATO membership, and this shows that Macedonia does not intend to deviate from that path.



INTERVIEW WITH LETKA DIMOVSKA POLIZOVA

By Goce Peroski (Germany)

GP: You are the director of the women's chamber choir, Sveta Zlata Meglenska, which was founded in 1996 by the Macedonian Orthodox Church. Why was it founded?

LDP: I began my work in 1991, with the formation of the first Macedonian church choir, Sveti Kliment Ohridski at the Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral in Skopje, which was blessed since its inception by His Holiness g.g Gavril. Meanwhile, as the years passed, I began to feel the need for new improvisation and concepts in relation to Macedonian church choral singing. Simply put, when you love something so much that you feel it is essential, when your creative power flows through you, then you devote yourself selflessly to this cause, you take action, and you

transform the basic idea into an act called the women's chamber choir Sveti Zlata Meglenska, and it is an integral part of the Polog-Kumanovo eparchy, with blessings of the Bishop g.Kiril. I was able to experience the church compositions as prayers for the first time with this choir, as warm, godly messages that hold great emotional excitement.

GP: The choir Sveta Zlata Meglenska promotes Macedonian church music both in and out of Macedonia, and is the first such choir in the Republic of Macedonia. With this choir, you were able to bring international acclaim to Macedonia. Your most recent achievement was at the International Choral Festival in Graz, Austria, where you were congratulated by the

Macedonian President. Dr. Ivanov. Can you discuss some of your greatest international achievements?

LDP: Our choir was able to show an incredible representation of Macedonian choral singing in the following countries: Great Britain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland, Portugal, Croatia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Spain, United States, and Austria. We were able to accomplish all this with the support of the Office of Cultural Affairs, the Office of Foreign Affairs, and through the Macedonian embassies; the district of the city of Skopje, church and other Macedonian societies in the diaspora, as well as many other benefactors. This year, we are celebrating the 15th anniversary of our inception, and we

marked this by participating in the World Choral Festival in Graz, as part of the program for international cooperation and national interest of the Office of Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia. We won 2 gold and 1 silver medal. During these 15 years, we have become respectable in the international community. We have numerous awards and acclaims which confirm the tremendous success of the angelic voices in the Catholic majority we face outside our country. Our choir has tirelessly promoted Macedonian culture, the Macedonian Orthodox Church, traditional choral singing, and Macedonian authors all throughout its 15 years. With its existence, Macedonia gained numerous awards, the most significant of which are 3 Grand Prix awards, 9 gold, 7 silver, and a few bronze medals. I should add that for each individual award, we have been congratulated by various politicians, ambassadors, colleagues, and friends. For our most recent achievement in July at Graz, we had the honor of being congratulated by our country's president, Dr. Ivanov. He is a big supporter of our work. Depending on his schedule, he regularly attends our concerts and honors us with his presence.

GP: Beside your international performances and competitions, you have had a productive collaboration with the Macedonian organizations in the diaspora. You and your choir have participated in the First Global Conference of the UMD in Washington, DC in 2009. Do you have any strong impressions?

LDP: Certainly, each one of our trips and meetings with the diaspora always present us with strong impressions. We have collaborated with the diaspora for a long time. Invitations from the diaspora, our own churches, societies, organizations and individuals always bring us pleasure. It is a great feeling to be among our own people in the Macedonian diaspora.

GP: Our organizations in the diaspora found out through an article in the magazine "Focus" that you were suspended from your position as cultural advisor for the Agency of the Diaspora by its director, Mr. Vasil Naumov. The reason given for your accusation was that you had participated in the celebration of the Patron Saint day of the Macedonian Orthodox Church association, St. Archangel Mi-



chael in Neive, Italy with your choir. You performed traditional Macedonian church music in the Cathedral Duomo-Alba privately, and not officially representing the Macedonian Government, which the Director of the Agency of the Diaspora took as "ignorant", and damaging the international standing and respect of the agency abroad. How do you respond to these accusations and actions against you?

LDP: I don't want to exaggerate when I say that what's happening to me now is craziness meant to bring me down, and which could damage both sides of the conflict. This poorly thought out situation brought me great emotional pain and degraded me. Despite the accusations of my "ignorant conduct", I know that I only achieved a noble goal which was in the national interest, supported by the Office of Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and with this helped advance cultural ties with Macedonians in the international community. For this reason I am prepared to defend the position that nothing should stand in the way of protecting our national interests, and I will confront all inhumane efforts against me.

GP: After the article was published in "Focus", you were given a second suspension. At the same time, you were also laid off from your job at the Agency of the Diaspora. What is your reaction to this action against you? Will you take legal action against this last decision? Can the

Macedonian diaspora help you and your family?

LDP: My reaction to this "inhumane action" does not matter. In the article in "Focus", I clearly stated my critique of the manner in which the agency intended to punish me, now compounded with my firing. He, or they, want me to lose my motivation and my purpose for living. In wanting to punish me and my family, they actually punished the diaspora and shortchanged them from the pleasure of our work. All this time I only wanted to be able to establish a connection between the diaspora and the fatherland through music as a universal medium which would deeply touch the Macedonian diaspora, especially through church choral singing, because people become closer and more humane through it. But people don't say in vain that hope dies last. I believe in the legal system and I hope that justice will win, as I move forward. On this occasion, I would like to thank all of my friends and colleagues who have always respected my work and the way in which I promoted the connection between Macedonia and the diaspora. They have given me moral support. They told me to stand strong on my journey toward justice and thus prevent all ill intentions towards me and my family. All of this support from the diaspora is the biggest spiritual help for me. I have never put the material before the spiritual, and because of this, I said in my conclusion to the disciplinary committee, "What doesn't kill me will only make me stronger".

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:

Time to deliver justice to the victims of war crimes

1 September 2011 - Amnesty International is calling on the Macedonian authorities to reverse immediately a parliamentary decision which will have the effect of denying justice, truth and reparation to victims of the 2001 armed conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic.

The parliament of the republic decided on 19 July 2011 to apply the 2002 Amnesty Law to all cases returned to Macedonia for prosecution from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The decision will terminate the investigation and prosecution of four war crime cases, "NLA leadership", "Mavrovo Road Workers", "Lipkovo Water Reserve" and "Neprošteno", returned to Macedonia for prosecution in 2008.

"The parliament's decision is clearly inconsistent with international law and will leave the victims and their relatives without access to justice," said Sian Jones. Amnesty International's researcher on the Western Balkans. "Macedonia has to comply with its international obligations. Its authorities must thoroughly and impartially investigate all cas-

es returned from the ICTY and ensure that all those allegedly responsible for violations of international humanitarian law are brought to justice. The survivors and victims must also be provided with full reparation."

Since 2001 no adequate measures have been taken to investigate the cases of six ethnic Albanians believed to be the victims of enforced disappearances by the Macedonian Ministry of Interior police during the internal armed conflict. Nor have any effective measures been taken to investigate the abduction of 12 ethnic Macedonians and one Bulgarian national, all of whom are believed to have been abducted by ethnic Albanian armed groups during the armed conflict. "The relatives of all those who were disappeared or abducted deserve to know the fate of their loved ones", said Sian Jones.

Amnesty International understands that the parliamentary decision was part of a post-election agreement between the two ruling parties, the nationalist VMRO-DPMNE and the Democratic Union for Integration, Macedonia's largest ethnic Albanian party.



"The prosecution of violations of international humanitarian law cannot be subject to political interference," Sian Jones said. "The parliament appears to have created a climate of impunity for persons suspected of violations of international humanitarian law, including members of the government itself."

Amnesty International has written to the Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski urging him without delay to ensure the prosecution of all cases as required by the ICTY. Amnesty International understands that the parliamentary decision will be considered by the Constitutional Court. The organization notes that the Macedonian Constitution provides for respect for human rights in accordance with international law, and that international treaties have primacy over domestic legislation.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/macedonia-time-deliver-justice-victims-war-crimes-2011-09-01>

THE MACEDONIAN ECONOMY, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

By Maria Stoyanchev

Over the last 20 years, the former states of Yugoslavia have been struggling to keep up with already established markets, both economically and politically; however, the struggles faced by Slovenia, Croatia and, even Serbia, are not as imposing as those facing Macedonia, not the least of which is the ongoing problem with Greece.

Nevertheless, there are some very positive aspects of doing business in Macedonia. One such aspect is a lack of direct exposure to the issues facing other EU countries, including neighbors. This is due in part to a thoughtful macroeconomic policy stance that will offer a slow economic recovery in 2011. Other positive signs include manageable inflation, an increase in exports through 2011, and a generally low exposure to external debt, which means a lower chance of

default. Macedonia also benefits from a generally strong banking sector.

Negative aspects hindering growth in Macedonia include things beyond the control of its people and government. These problems are not insurmountable, but can be repaired with some important shifts in mentality and, significant effort.

The harder to control of these issues include minority tensions and unrest and, the struggle to join the European Union and NATO. Easier to control issues include the ongoing problem of fiscal deficit, which will run through 2011. Financing has been available; however, the country must work on reducing the deficit in order to avoid future monetary problems. Furthermore, the current environment for doing business is not yet in line with standard business practices

in more established markets, but this can be readily changed with new laws to punish bribery, corruption, and political interference in the judicial system.

In order for Macedonia to accomplish the task of economic growth, it is imperative for its people to be included in the world community of nations under its rightful name, Macedonia and, for this recognition to be universal. The prospect of that taking place is still unclear. In the meantime, it is also imperative for the country to improve its current commercial environment, so that those who wish to help the country grow can do so by opening businesses and offering jobs to the people, without the unnecessary risks they currently face in a system that requires reform.

The difference what is possible and impossible lies in the determination of us all!

MORAL LEPERS AND MORAL HEROES

By Jason Miko

In early June at the United Macedonian Diaspora Global Conference in Washington, DC, US Assistant Secretary of State Tom Countryman told the gathering that the so-called name issue “seems unfair.” How different is that statement from the following: Last week in New York City a young boy was murdered. The murderer, fortunately, was caught and confessed. But in his confession he said “I understand this may be wrong....” May be wrong?

We often hear the statement that “life is unfair,” when referring to some situation that is, well, unfair. And we hear that statement because it happens to be true. We can admit that life is unfair, because life is unfair. Only death and taxes are guarantees in life we say. We may not be able to do anything about life being unfair, but we admit the truth even as we try to right the many wrongs out there. But Countryman can’t even admit that this situation is unfair. “Seems unfair?” Tom, it bloody well is unfair. So say it.

The reason that Tom and others at the State Department and within the EU and NATO say that the situation “seems unfair” is because of one of two possible reasons. First, most of them have a flawed worldview. Their worldview subscribes to a belief in moral equivalency, meaning that they see both sides (Greece and Macedonia) as being equally at fault. The second possible reason is that because they are afraid of how Greece will react. Either way, to not acknowledge the truth and instead cast blame on both parties makes you a moral leper.

Now contrast what Tom said with what Sally McNamara, Senior Policy Analyst in European Affairs at the Heritage Foundation’s Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, said at that same conference: “This is about right and wrong.” For this Sally McNamara is a moral hero.

US President Ronald Reagan famously called what was right, right and what was wrong, wrong. He was able to distinguish between good and evil because he had a worldview that subscribed to the belief that there is right and wrong and good and evil in the world. He called the Soviet Union an “evil empire” because it was. He was not



afraid of how the Soviets would react because he called them this. He was not afraid of hurting their feelings because he called them this. And Ronald Reagan certainly did not subscribe to the belief that all sides are equally culpable.

In March of 1983 President Reagan gave a speech to a group of church leaders in Orlando, Florida who were discussing whether or not to push for a US unilateral nuclear freeze proposal which would have put the US in a dangerous position. Reagan said in part: “So, in your discussions of the nuclear freeze proposals, I urge you to beware of the temptation of pride – the temptation of blithely declaring yourselves above it all and label both sides equally at fault, to ignore the facts of history and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire, to simply call the arms race a giant misunderstanding and thereby remove yourself from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil.”

And yet almost 30 years later we have elected and unelected leaders who either cannot acknowledge the truth or who actually believe that both sides are at fault in the Macedonia/Greece example. And when you are not willing to condemn what is wrong, or when you are willing to call what is right, wrong, then you begin to create conditions where the very foundations of your society and culture are at risk of falling apart. This is very dangerous when leaders – elected and

especially the unelected since they are not accountable to the voters – engage in this type of behavior. When this begins to happen, the very destruction of that society is not far away.

And we see this manifested in other ways as well. All you have to do is open the paper, turn on the news on the TV or radio or read it on the internet to know that countries and communities around the world – but especially the cultural and political West – are decaying because there is little desire to call right, right, and wrong, wrong.

Reagan knew who was right and who was wrong in the US/Soviet example. If he were alive today, he would know – and say – who is right and who is wrong in the Macedonia/Greece issue. Today, I hope our elected and unelected leaders know who is right and who is wrong in the Macedonia/Greece issue and I hope and pray they can yet still have the backbone to say this publicly. Yes, Macedonia may have made some mistakes along the way. But it is Greece that started this whole issue by attempting to deny a people their most basic human right – that of their name and identity. For this, Greece is dead wrong.

Jason Miko is known as the producer of the Macedonian film A Name Is A Name, and is a columnist for the newspaper Dnevnik. This is reprinted with permission.

3RD ANNUAL UMD GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) successfully completed its 3rd Annual Global Conference (UMD GC2011) at the JW Marriott in downtown Washington, D.C. from June 23-25, 2011. Macedonians and friends of Macedonia from Australia, Canada, Macedonia, and the United States traveled to attend UMD GC2011 making it a truly global event! This year marks the 20th Anniversary since Macedonia's Independence; therefore, UMD's Board of Directors titled UMD GC2011 "Shaping the Future," and envisioned a policy-oriented conference where participants could discuss Macedonia's progress, current state of affairs, and future.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

The conference began with Arizona Senator John McCain receiving the prestigious UMD International Freedom Award. UMD's Board of Directors select candidates for the International Freedom Award based on his or her impact on society, public service record, and success in promoting justice, peace, democracy, individual freedom, and economic opportunity; such stringent criteria make this award one of UMD's most prestigious honors.

Senator McCain welcomed UMD's delegation to his office, expressing gratitude toward UMD and toward those who recognize his support for Macedonia. Senator McCain pledged to advance U.S.-Macedonia relations, praised Macedonia's contributions to U.S.-led efforts in Afghanistan, and promised to advocate for Macedonia's NATO membership.

Later, about 60 conference attendees visited over 135 congressional offices to encourage representatives to join the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans. Several members immediately vowed to back the Caucus.

That evening, Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska, UMD GC2011 Honorary Chair and 1st Macedonian Ambassador to the U.S.; Jovica Palashevski, Macedonian Consul General to Chicago; and Stojan Nikolov, UMD Board Chairman welcomed conference-goers at the Macedonian Embassy

Senator John McCain of Arizona receives UMD International Freedom Award



dinner and reception. Staff representatives from Senator Frank Lautenberg and Senator Joe Lieberman's offices received the UMD International Freedom Award for each Senator's friendship with Macedonia. New Jersey Congressman Bill Pascrell praised UMD and Macedonian-Americans for strengthening U.S.-Macedonian relations. Although Michigan Congresswoman Candice Miller, chair of the Congressional Macedonia Caucus, could not attend the reception, her Deputy Chief of Staff Sean Moore read a letter from the Congresswoman expressing her friendship and encouraging stronger U.S.-Macedonia relations.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Following introductory remarks from Ambassador Acevska and UMD President Metodija A. Koloski, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Countryman delivered a keynote speech addressing the strategic importance to U.S.-Macedonia partnership. Subsequently, a panel debate entitled "As-

sessing Macedonia's Progress - 20 Years after Independence" featured The Honorable Mary Catherine Andrews, the National Democratic Institute's Robert Benjamin, U.S. Helsinki Commission's Robert Hand, the Heritage Foundation's Sally McNamara, and InvestMacedonia's CEO Viktor Mizo. Former North Dakota Congressman Earl Pomeroy concluded the panel by discussing his most recent trip to Macedonia. The thought-provoking panel gave way to a stimulating question and answer session.

At a luncheon dedicated to promoting U.S.-Macedonia strategic partnership and cooperation, Ambassador Acevska discussed how U.S.-Macedonia relations have progressed since Macedonia's independence in 1991. In addition, producer of the film "A Name is A Name" Jason Miko received the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award. He urged all Macedonians to unite in support of Macedonia and he promised to continue fighting for the Macedonian cause.

UMD hoped to present the UMD Inter-

national Freedom Award to Secretary Lawrence S. Eagleburger during the luncheon; however, he unfortunately passed away recently, and thus UMD presented a posthumous award to a member the Eagleburger family later this summer. In agreement with suggestions that former Macedonian Foreign Minister Srgjan Kerim and former Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki, UMD supports their idea of renaming a major street in Skopje after Secretary Eagleburger. Additionally, UMD intended to present the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Major General Michael Dubie of the Vermont National Guard; however, he could not attend due to illness. UMD will present the award to him at another time.

Later that day, Steven Grimberg moderated a panel regarding Macedonia's judicial system. Panelists included Justice Department's Marcus Busch, Justice Department's Thomas Peebles, Massachusetts District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns, and World Bank specialist Tea Trumbic. The panel concluded that political elites should not interfere with the judicial system and that Macedonia's judicial system requires further reform.

UMD Board Chairman Stojan Nikolov moderated the panel "Generation M - The Young Leaders Program of UMD," which featured Generation M Board Members Andrew Ananievski from Melbourne, Australia; Alexander Karapancev from Toronto, Canada; Anthony Naumoff from Skopje, Macedonia; and Dimitar Popov from Chicago, Illinois. They recommended ways of encouraging young Macedonians to become leaders and ambassadors in the Diaspora community. Special guest panelists included Emil Gjorgov from the University American College in Skopje, Aditi Ramchandani from the Network of South Asian Professionals in D.C., and Beril Unver from the Turkish Coalition of America, who detailed experiences within their own ethnic communities.

An off-the-record briefing with State Department Desk Officers handling Albania (Sarah Hutchinson), Greece (Chris Snipes), and Macedonia (Sammie Smith) ended UMD GC2011's policy-oriented segment.

The evening finished with a reception on the JW Marriott terrace overlooking Washington, D.C., and the cultural program "Experience Macedonia." Macedonian Consul General Jovica Palashevski received a plaque from UMD President Koloski recognizing him as the 1st ever Consul General

to Chicago and acknowledging his efforts in establishing Macedonian representation in Chicago. Elizabeth Naumovski emceed the cultural program, which featured the Aleksandrija Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble and Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble. Moreover, prominent Macedonian-American artists Irena Gapkovska and Blagojce Stojanovski opened their first exhibits in Washington, D.C. Blagojce presented his mural "Double Holocaust," which represents the similar struggles of the Israelites and Macedonians. Nostalgija, a Macedonian band from New Jersey, ended the evening with Macedonian ora that brought everyone to the dance floor.



SATURDAY, JUNE 25

UMD's Annual Board Meeting started the day's events. Board members publicly reviewed UMD's operational and financial progress. Dame Krcoski, UMD's Regional Representative in Perth, secured a position on the UMD Board of Directors. UMD members and supporters engaged in a question and answer session with UMD's Board.

Following the meeting, UMD Vice President Aleksandar Mitreski moderated a panel in which Ambassador Acevska; Victor Bivell of Pollitecon Publications from Sydney, Australia; and Ivan Trposki of the Literary Society of Grigor Prlichev from Sydney, Australia recollected their involvement with Macedonia and the Macedonian commu-

nity abroad since independence. Mitreski presented Bivell and Trposki with plaques distinguishing their longtime service in advancing the Macedonian cause. The panel grew emotional, as all in attendance shared personal stories, including Olga Sandalovich, the 2010 recipient of UMD's Outstanding Achievement in the Arts Award, who is 81 years of age.

A Gala celebrating 20 years since Macedonia's independence rounded out UMD GC2011. Honorary Chair Ambassador Acevska opened the event with welcoming remarks. Current Macedonian Ambassador to the U.S. Zoran Jolevski also spoke. Following these speeches, UMD Board Sec-

retary Ivona Grimberg introduced a video message from Ambassador Philip T. Reeker, who could not attend the Gala, and then presented the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Ambassador Reeker's wife, Mrs. Solveig Reeker. Mrs. Reeker thanked UMD on the Ambassador's and her behalf.

UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov then presented the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Professor Victor Friedman, who, speaking in perfect Macedonian, fondly recalled visits to Macedonia and his scholarship on Macedonian issues.

UMD President Metodija A. Koloski presented the next UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Ambassador Christopher R. Hill, the first U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia,







who praised Macedonia's 20 years of progress and called for the Diaspora's continued engagement in Macedonia.

Macedonian-American businessman George Atanasoski received the 2nd ever UMD Lifetime Achievement Award. In presenting the Award, UMD Vice President Aleksandar Mitreski referred to Mr. Atanasoski as "the largest Diaspora investor in Macedonia" who has advocated for Macedonia more vocally than almost anyone else. Mr. Atanasoski pledged to "never back down," and to continue supporting Macedonia. He praised UMD and remarked that all Macedonians must unite to support UMD and the Macedonian cause.

UMD Advisory Council Member Mark Mitskovski addressed Gala attendees and announced his idea for a "Macedonian Companions" program, with hopes of attracting 300 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia to donate \$1,000 per year for three years. The campaign would furnish UMD with an annual operating budget of \$300,000, totaling \$900,000 over three years. By financing UMD's operating needs, the Companions would ensure UMD's continued success promoting and advancing Macedonian culture and interests worldwide. During UMD GC2011, 35 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia pledged their support for this important initiative and committed to advancing the Macedonian cause alongside UMD. These individuals received a standing ovation.

Last but not least, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski presented the prestigious UMD Macedonian Heritage Public Service Award to Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska for her service to Macedonia and the Macedonian people. Overwhelmed with joy, Ambassador Acevska thanked UMD and pledged to continue working in Macedonia's best interests. She also vowed support for the "Macedonian Companions" program.

The Gala featured a special performance from the Tanec Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble and concluded with more traditional

Macedonian music from Nostalgija. Overall, the UMD GC2011 was a huge success! UMD would like to thank all donors, participants, panelists, and awardees. UMD gives a very special thank you to the volunteers headed by Diana Booth for making this event possible. UMD is also especially grateful to our sponsors. Without their support, UMD's 3rd Annual Global Conference would not have succeeded.

(Pictures courtesy of Dejan Stankovski and Robert Givelas)



"MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS"

The global program to support the Macedonian cause

On Saturday, June 25, 2011, during the Gala of the 3rd Annual United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) Global Conference celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Republic of Macedonia's Independence, UMD launched a new program: Macedonian Companions.

The program is designed to attract 300 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia from around the world to donate \$1,000 per year for three years, which would furnish UMD with an annual operating budget of \$300,000 over three years, totaling \$900,000. By securing UMD's operating needs, members of Macedonian Companions ensure the continued success in promoting and advancing our culture and interests across the global Macedonian Diaspora.

Following the superb remarks by UMD Advisory Council member Mark Mitskovski, who initiated the Macedonian Companions program, 35 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia from throughout the global Macedonian Diaspora, stood up proudly at the Gala pledging their support to this important initiative and commitment to UMD's advancement of the Macedonian cause!

The Macedonian Companions campaign is the 1st of its kind in the history of Macedonian organizations. Just as Alexander's Companions where the most effective military cavalry unit of the ancient world, so will the present day Companions be relative to their influence and ability to provide the Macedonian cause the necessary resources



to achieve our objectives as an equal nation of peoples within the world community.

"As Goce Delcev stated; "I understand the world solely as a field for cultural competition among nations." If one accepts this premise, then let Macedonian culture, values, and abilities be allowed to compete equally in a world that values excellence and advancement," stated UMD Advisory Council member Mark Mitskovski.

Under the Macedonian Companions program, UMD will prepare annual strategic plans wherein it defines its intended objectives and year-end reports assessing its progress, achievements and failures relative to its prior strategic plan. The Advisory Council Macedonian Companions subcommittee will be the managing oversight group

responsible for overseeing the Macedonian Companions program. The funds raised from the Macedonian Companions campaign will be earmarked for use starting January 2012.

"Your critical support gives UMD the confidence and motivation to carry on the dreams and aspirations of our forefathers to secure the equal rights of all present and future generations of Macedonians worldwide! Please help us ensure that our Macedonian heritage and values are respected in this rapidly changing and challenging world. " concluded Mitskovski.

To pledge your significant support of the Macedonian Companions program, please contact UMD's Vice-President, Aleksandar Mitreski at amitreski@umdiaspora.org.

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Mark Mitskovski
Ambassador Ljubica Z.
Acevska
Chris Antoniou
George Atanasoski
George Markou
Jerry Naumoff
Minister Gligor Tashkovich
Nicholas Thaw
Chris Stanwyck
Lou Vlasho

Stephanie Atseff
Alexander Ballios
Donco Bauloski
Odyssey Belchevsky
John L. N. Bitove, C.M.
Jordan Bitove
Dr. Robert Givelas
Tony Joseski
Metodija A. Koloski
Dame Krcoski
Vlade Lembovski
Dr. Lefter Mantse

Peter Medichkov
Jason Miko
Dimitar Nasev
Robert Pasquale
Chris Pavlovski
Gus Philippov
Steve Pliakas
Bosko Rajcovski
Donald Sazdanoff
Vlado Serdenkovski
Ivan Trposki
Anonymous

Anonymous
Dr. Kiril Trpkov
Marilyn Trentos
Marko Nikolovski
Trajko Papuckoski
Celeste Benjamin Tracy
Vlado Smilevski
Jim Daikos
Chris Sterjovski
Mike Grebovski
Lou Nestorovski
Dr. Anastas Mukoski

Dana Klein
John Kuzev
Jim Mangos
Greg Tsanis
Dr. George Daicoff
James Phillips
Irena Gapkovska
Dr. Chris Stefanovich
Slave Dimitrov

PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP IS THE BALKAN ANTIDOTE

By Victor Bivell

This speech was given at the Third Annual United Macedonian Diaspora Global Conference, Washington, DC, 25 June 2011

I'm very pleased to be here and to have this opportunity to speak. Let me begin by saying the reason I'm here is because a number of the leading Macedonian organizations in New South Wales asked me to be here to represent them.

My trip was organized by the Aegean Macedonian Association of Australia and supported by over 14 NSW organizations. These organizations want to convey their support for UMD in organizing these annual world conferences. They want to convey their support for UMD's advocacy for the diaspora to work together. And they send their greetings and goodwill to all the delegates here who work to improve the life of the Macedonian people. They also wish to express their views on several issues that are so important for Macedonians everywhere.

These organizations convey their full and total support for Macedonia's name, for the Macedonian identity, and for the Macedonian language. Many also feel strongly about the Macedonian symbols.

The discussion before I left Sydney was clear - these are integral to who we are, and cannot be compromised in any way. These organizations would like all so called "negotiations" over Macedonia's name to end. Now.

The Greek Government, the Bulgarian Government and the Albanian Government must recognize in full the Macedonian people in those countries. This includes the Macedonian identity, language, culture and history. It is time for these countries to give more than lip service to human rights and human dignity. It is time they proved they are genuine about becoming civilized countries. It is time for these countries to find progressive leadership that can lead them in the right direction.

The Macedonians have already compromised - we are not demanding the return of the land that was taken in 1912-13. If those countries can find within them progressive leaders who are genuine about rights and

dignity, who can compromise instead of make absolute demands, the territorial integrity of those countries will be strengthened, not weakened. There is no reason why these countries and the Macedonian people cannot enjoy a common future in a united Europe.

That's a positive vision, and to achieve it all we ask for is our rights and our dignity. That's the feeling in Sydney and NSW, as best as I can convey it.

I'd now like to make a few observations and comments purely on my own behalf on several other issues. So please forgive me if some of the organizations I mentioned above may not happen to agree with everything I say.

I mentioned the need for good leadership in Greece, Bulgaria and Albania, but good leadership is also crucial for Macedonia. I'll give two examples from Australia.

This conference is celebrating 20 years of Macedonia's independence, and as it happens I've been a Macedonian activist for 20 years. It was Macedonia's independence that helped to re-awaken my Macedonian roots and get me involved to try and make a contribution. I chose to do that through publishing on human rights and politics. Particularly from the Aegean angle as my family is from what is now Greece.

One decision I made very early on was not to get involved in fighting other Macedonians. I wanted to keep my eye on the ball. The ball was human rights and ending the institutionalized racism in Greece. I did not want to fight other Macedonians, or get distracted by disputes with fellow Macedonians.

I still feel this way, but it means there are certain issues I haven't got involved in. But I'll now make a comment on one of those issues, because it has ramifications for Macedonians everywhere, and it goes to the heart of why good leadership is so important.

Some of you may know that the Australian Macedonian community has been torn apart for about the last 14 years over what is called the "church dispute".

In the early 1990s, Greek opposition to Macedonia's recognition, and the efforts of the local Greek lobby to change the name of the Australian Macedonians by adding the "slav" prefix and to change the name of the Macedonian language by adding the "slavonic" suffix, were great unifiers of our people. Under attack, the Macedonians in Australia were united in a common cause and common identity.

So it is ironic and quite sad that the biggest disruption to that unity has come from an internal Macedonian source. That was the arrival in the mid to late 1990s of the church dispute. Nothing has split the Macedonians in Australia as this has. Put simply, the dispute is about who owns the church properties that were built by the Macedonian immigrants.

Personally, I can't think of a more useless dispute. The argument is not over whether to build more churches. Not over where to build more churches. Not over who will pay for more churches. Not even over how to get more people into the churches. But over whose name should be on the title deeds - the community and immigrants who built the churches, sometimes by mortgaging their homes, or the bishop or church. As stupid as it is, this has been going on for 14 years. About 14 years!

In the spirit of going where angels fear to tread, here's my point of view. I look at it this way. In the Bible it says "by their fruit you will know them". I love that expression. It's served me well over the years. And it's so simple and wise. Let me read the full quote: "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will know them." So, I put this challenge to the leadership of the Macedonian church. What are your fruits in Australia? Are you a prophet or a wolf? What are your fruits?

When I look around, this is what I see. I see Macedonians who were once united now divided, I see anger, I see court cases, I see the wasting of what I'm told are millions

of dollars in legal fees, I see the community spirit struggling, I see our people demoralized, our youth disengaged, I see Macedonian people looking for real leadership.

The leadership of the Macedonian church needs to explain itself. Why is having its name on the assets more important than Macedonian unity and the Macedonian community spirit? What does it care for more? The spirit, or mammon? The community spirit, or materialism? The Macedonians in Australia are waiting for your answer.

My second example about leadership is political. Some may disagree with me, but I think that over the past 20 years, on balance, Macedonia's political leadership has done a good job. Despite the adverse international circumstances, Macedonia has survived, it is well regarded, and it should have and hopefully has got a fantastic future. Macedonia's political leadership has done well.

But there are three areas where more needs to be done - developing a strong Macedonian economy, human rights in the neighboring countries, and making better use of the diaspora. Now, the diaspora is not a Santa Claus sack where you reach in one day and take out a church asset and reach in another day and take out a few votes. The diaspora is a resource that needs to be used properly.

When it first came to power the current government made a good start in that direction. But that momentum has not been maintained. I suspect it has done a better job in Europe and North America than it has in Australia, where its record is patchy, though it is better than all previous governments.

In Australia, the problem is this. No Macedonian leader has shown any real interest or commitment to the Macedonians in Australia. There are around 200,000 people of Macedonian descent in Australia, or close to the equivalent of two Bitolas.

Yet in the past 20 years, the only serving president to visit was Boris Trajkovski, during the Olympic Games in 2000, and the only



serving prime minister to visit was Nikola Gruevski in 2009. Mr Gruevski was originally going to spend a week in Australia, but I read that a late minute meeting in Brussels cut this to a few days.

He spent a day if that in Sydney. One day. Ditto in Melbourne. Over the past 20 years all of the prime ministers of Macedonia have spent a combined total of one day in Sydney and one day in Melbourne. One day in 20 years.

Now we know Australia is far away, but it's not Pluto. What should the Macedonians in Australia think? What does this say about how the Macedonian leadership views the Macedonians in Australia? What does it say about how they are making use of, or failing to make use of, the diaspora and the contribution we can make.

So I put this challenge to Macedonia's political leadership. Nikola, why was Brussels, or wherever that meeting was, more important than the two Bitolas of Macedonians in Australia? When will you and future prime ministers take Australia's Macedonians seriously?

It can be done. Way back when Yugoslavia was breaking up, the leader of Croatia visited Australia and was on the national news. His message was simple: 'Bring your family, bring your capital, bring your skills and help build Croatia'.

I've been waiting 20 years for a Macedonian leader to come to Australia with a similar message. But, it's not too late. We can all make a contribution to building the Macedonian economy. It's something as activists we should all promote. The theory is there. But the message would be so much more effective if it came from the government. That's what leaders do.

I suspect I've used most of my allotted time so let me conclude with some comments on what I do – which is publishing. Publishing for the Macedonians is a privilege. There's not a lot of money in it and there's not a lot of glory, but it is an honour. And I'll tell you why. Because the Macedonian people have real stories to tell. As a publisher I long ago learned that every human being has a story worth telling. It may be only a one page anecdote or it may be a 500 page book, but everyone has something unique and worth telling.

In the case of our people, so deep and rich and full is the well of Macedonian stories that when I publish for the Macedonians I feel that I am dealing with people's hearts and

souls. Those stories have the power to touch people and to move them deeply.

People ring me or email me to say they have just read a particular book and they were so moved that they just had to tell me, that they are so proud that we have books as good as other people, that they have just read about a relative or seen a picture of a relative for the first time. It is these expressions of appreciation that stay with me, that make me believe that publishing for the Macedonians is something of real value.

But there is a problem. Most of our people's stories won't be told. They will be lost, forever. "Lost forever" could almost be the epitaph for much of Macedonia's history. The Ilinden generation and the Balkan Wars generation are gone, and so too most of their stories. The Greek Civil War generation is mostly gone. Another 10 or 20 years and their stories will be lost forever too.

We need to change that. We need more publishers, more editors, more authors, more journalists, writers, documentary makers, film producers, historians, family historians, oral historians, translators, collectors, curators, web masters and so on. We need to inspire these people to get to work. And we need to do a lot more with the material we already have. There is more than enough material to keep everyone busy for a very long time. It is by telling these stories that we can release our own demons, both personal and as a community. It is by telling these stories that we can change the attitudes of the governments in the neighbouring countries. And telling these stories is the least we can do to make sure that our people's history is not lost forever, that their suffering was not for nothing.

Finally, let's not forget that 2012 and 2013 are the one hundred year anniversaries of the First and Second Balkan Wars, of the invasion and annexation of Ottoman Macedonia by Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia.

Please, let's not forget to commemorate these events. To my mind some key dates are 8 October 1912 when the First Balkan War began, 17 October when Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia entered the war, 12 November when Greece captured Salonica, 16 June 1913 when the Second Balkan War broke out, and 10 August 1913 when the Treaty of Bucharest was signed.

Let's not let these dates go unmarked. Please, book your spot outside a Greek or Bulgarian embassy as soon as you can.

The organizations that supported Victor Bivell's attendance at the UMD Conference were:

- The Aegean Macedonian Association of Australia;
- The Macedonian Aegean Association of NSW;
- The Macedonian Orthodox Community Sveta Petka, Rockdale, NSW;
- The Bitola Cultural and Social Association of Sydney, NSW;
- The Macedonian Orthodox Community of Queanbeyan and Districts, "Sveta Ilija";
- Macedonian Orthodox Community of the City Of Greater Wollongong, Sveta Dimitrija "Solunski";
- The Macedonian Orthodox Community of Newcastle, "Sveta Bogorodica";
- Macedonian Welfare Association of Port Kembla, NSW;
- Aegean Macedonian Cultural and Sporting Association "Kotori" Richmond;
- Gjavato, Kazani and Dolenci Cultural Association of Sydney, NSW;
- Macedonian-Australian Pensioners Association of Cabramatta, Sydney - Metodija Andonov "Chento";
- Macedonian Cultural Artistic Association "Makedonka" of Sydney;
- Macedonian-Australian Pensioners Association "Goce Delchev";
- Macedonian-Australian Museum of Australia Trajan Belev "Goce";
- and others.

UMD thanks you for your support!

SPEECH BY SALLY MCNAMARA AT THE UMD GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2011

Ms. Sally McNamara is the current Senior Policy Analyst at the Heritage Foundation's Margaret Thatcher Centre for Freedom, with focus on U.S. - E.U. relations, security and trade.



“...The title of this speech is assessing Macedonia's progress, and the first thing I wrote was: “enormous”. Can you tell me who (back then) would have said that in 20 years, Macedonian troops would be standing at the front of ISAF headquarters when we fight a war in South Asia? People would have thought you needed psychiatric treatment if you said that! We have to look to the Middle East today to talk about how concerned we are not only with country security, but also regional security. (Imagine) that in 20 years from now, Egypt would look like Macedonia is today. I think we would give our right arm for that, but I don't really think things are going to be that positive.

In a recent speech, I was asked to talk about the trans-Atlantic alliance and Russia, and I said then, and I think it matters now, that Europe has a choice to make. That is between ... expansion of the Euro-Atlantic family, and the community of democracies, or, on the other hand, a sort of 19th century sphere of influence, where Great Powers divide up the world between them, and small countries don't really matter. And of course, the choice seems so obvious to us, ... but I ask because if we genuinely believe in a trans-Atlantic alliance, and we generally believe in the Euro-Atlantic family, then they have got to be worth fighting for. And these alliances have been single minded in their pursuit of one goal, a

Europe whole, free and in peace, and last time I checked, that was something we still believed in.

So, we have to believe in NATO expansion and an inclusive Europe, not an alliance that excludes people. And we cannot afford to push the Macedonia issue to the side, because it is bigger than Macedonia, as important as Macedonia is. It is about what we believe in, and it is about our vision. It is about saying to a partner (in Greece) that you are being recalcitrant, you are disregarding your international obligations and you are being irresponsible. When it comes to the European Union, I am a British Euro-skeptic and work for the Margaret Thatcher Center, so you would be astonished if you heard me start saying nice things about the European Union, but it is a choice Macedonians need to make on your own.

Why does Macedonia deserve to be in NATO? One, you fulfill NATO's membership Action Plan. It seems a matter of honor to me, that if we ask NATO to fulfill a very long list of obligations in order to join our club, then we shouldn't pull the rug out from under you at the last minute. You've been forced to stand by and watch Croatia and Albania take their seats at the table, while you have been halted at the finishing line. There's something about that that just strikes me as being so unfair and immoral.

Secondly, you have been a very valuable

contributor to NATO already, even when you are not even in it. I talk about Afghanistan, because I was in Afghanistan last year, and when I walked into the court, I saw there the giant Macedonian flag, as I see today outside this hotel today, and it was your guys who were standing there, ensuring my security and my protection while I was there. So again, it struck me as so completely unfair ... it has been a longstanding NATO principle that we do not let bilateral issues to allow one nation to block another nation from getting into the alliance.

Third, when we go to almost any NATO capital, we see overwhelming support. We've almost gone from the sublime to the ridiculous. Whenever we ask any official or foreign minister: “Do you support Macedonia getting into NATO”, they say: “Yes.” Now, I was disappointed with what the State Department official (Tom Countryman) said earlier, because I thought Obama ... said what was going to do, he said he would speak to Papandreou on this issue, and let's face it, he's been talking to Greece all the time at the moment, and the checkbooks are open. So, I was very, very disappointed to hear what the State Department head said this morning. (loud applause) I have this really odd sense that when politicians say they are going to do something, that they actually do it.

And then the last reason here, simply because Greece said they would not do what they have been doing. They said they would not use a bilateral dispute to block Macedonia from getting in. In 1995, they signed the Interim Accord, and said they would not ‘abuse their dominant position.’

Now, I could go on a lot longer but I think I have made my point. Macedonia has earned its place in the trans-Atlantic alliance, notwithstanding all the comments being made - that you're not perfect, what country is? - and there is still work to be done. But you have earned your place, and you should be in. The European Union has to get serious about this question. This isn't about Macedonia, it is about us, it is about what we believe in, and it is about us living up to our word...”

SPEECH OF DR. VICTOR FRIEDMAN AT UMD GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2011

Dr. Victor A. Friedman is a leading international Macedonian linguist from the University of Chicago, and the author of and contributor to numerous books and other academic works on the subject over approximately 40 years. This year, he was the recipient of the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award, and his speech was delivered in both English and Macedonian language.

“...It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be thanking you here tonight for this award. I can't believe that it has been 40 years already! I would like to congratulate you for the 20th anniversary of Macedonian Independence, 'for many years!'... (In 1971,) I was a first year graduate student in Slavic linguistics, and thought I was going to write my dissertation on either Bulgarian or Georgian. But my professor Zbigniew Golump asked: 'Mr. Friedman, would you like to go to Macedonia this summer?'... Bozhe Vodojevski had sent him an invitation to the 4th Seminar of Macedonian literature, language and culture, and he had asked Professor Golump if he could recommend any promising students. Thanks to a small grant from the University of Chicago, and a matching grant from my parents, I was able to go, and the experience changed my life. As a result of that wonderful experience 40 years ago, I decided to do my dissertation on Macedonian, and that served as the basis of the book that Stojan so kindly referenced.

Many things have changed in Macedonia over the last 40 years, the most important of which was the independence of Macedonia that took place 20 years ago this year. But looking back to 1971, I marvel at what has changed, and also at some of the continuities.

40 years ago, the road from Skopje to Ohrid via Kicevo had not yet been built, and the mountain road through Mavrovo, although beautiful, had some rather exciting moments. Ohrid itself, in those days, was a picturesque market town, with the fountain in the Stara Charshija, and the women from the nearby villages still put on their Sunday best, what today we would call folk costumes, when they would come into town. Skopje was still recovering from the terrible earthquake of July 26, 1963. While many of the buildings had been rebuilt, I remember the pile of rubble next to the hotel Turist, now a Best Western...

For me, as a linguist, one of the most ex-



citing things about Macedonia was the languages. Everywhere I went, not only could I hear Macedonian, which was music to my ears, but also Turkish, Albanian, Romani, even Vlach. Later, I found speakers of Greek, Armenian, and Judezmo - Ladino, as well. It was the languages of Macedonia, first and foremost Macedonian of course, but also the other languages, that make Macedonia such a special place. Wherever I went, people would say to me, 'Languages are wealth'. In fact, everywhere in southeastern Europe, there are similar expressions, except, interestingly enough, that so-called 'cradle of democracy' Greece. In Greek, unlike every other language in the Balkans, there is no folk expression praising multilingualism.

By now, most of you will have heard about that tantrum thrown by the 'cradle of democracy' in June 2009, when those of us participating in the presentation of Vasko Karadj's modern Greek-modern Macedonian Dictionary, were assaulted by thugs from one of Greece's political parties, apparently be-

cause we were calling attention to the fact that Macedonian is spoken in Greece. But Greece's hysterical fear of its ethno-linguistic minorities has even penetrated American men's magazines. In November 2006, a glossy magazine called Maxim - I think some of you younger guys will know what I'm talking about - had a photo spread of provocatively posed bikini-clad models, each representing a different country - the International Miss Maxims - and each with a putative quotation from the model, and a 'hometown fact' about the country. Such as from Spain, the number of bulls that were killed annually, and for Ukraine, the number of tons of radioactive dust that were dumped by the Chernobyl disaster, or for Holland, the difference between Netherlands and Holland. Well, the hometown fact for Ms. Maxim Greece was, and I quote: 'According to the Greek government, there are no ethnic divisions in Greece.' So, they say.

How different is this false homogenization from the rich reality of Macedonia. I'm

reminded of a passage from Joan Starova's novel, *The Time of the Goats*, a novel that he wrote in Macedonian, and translated himself into Albanian, and will soon be published in English by the University of Wisconsin Press, so watch for it on Amazon. He is writing about his childhood in Skopje, just after World War II... : 'Nationalities, faiths and customs were intermingled. The people lived in trust and understanding. Together, it was easier for them to counter the blows of fate in these uncertain times.' Somehow, it seems that, there is always something uncertain going on, and it is always easier to face uncertainties with the support of friends and neighbours...

In 1875, a stone-mason and Macedonian activist named Gjorgji Pulevski from Galicnik in Western Macedonia, published a tri-lingual dictionary in Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish, in which he wrote: 'Thus, the Macedonians are a people, and their land is Mace-

donia.' He also made this same statement in Turkish... In Turkish, Pulevski adds: 'and everyone who lives in Macedonia is called Macedonian.'... Thus, more than a century before independence, a Macedonian activist was conceiving of Macedonia as a homeland for the Macedonians, and all the people who live in Macedonia.

I already mentioned the richness of the diversity of Macedonia, and indicated in passing that I loved Macedonian folk music, even before I had a chance to visit the country. In fact, it was my collection of Macedonian folk music, that enabled me to convince Kristina Kramer (now at the University of Toronto), who was my student at the time, and whose textbook of Macedonian has now sold thousands of copies, and is about to come out in its third edition, that she should switch from Russian literature to Balkan linguistics, and write her dissertation on Macedonian.

People have often asked me why I have studied Macedonian, and I have given some indication here, that Macedonian is the key to a fascinating country, with exciting music, delicious food - my personal favorite is 'zelnik so pras' - and warm, generous, hospitable people. For the linguist, literary Macedonian's fixed ante-penultimate stress, its prepositional syntax, and rich verbal system provide endless fascination, but I would also be remiss if I didn't mention Macedonia's homemade rakija, which, after many decades of serious investigation, in over a dozen different countries, I have determined is truly the best in the world.

And so, as we celebrate 20 years of Macedonian Independence, I wish to all of you, health, happiness, and to the Republic of Macedonia, and to the United Macedonian Diaspora, many, many years and future successes..."

SPEECH FROM ALEKS MITRESKI AT UMD GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2011

Aleks Mitreski is the Vice President and a founding member of United Macedonian Diaspora

“...The path to an independent Macedonia has been long and bloody. Many lives have been lost, destinies altered, futures ruined. The price for Macedonia to belong to the Macedonians has been paid in blood, with many imprisoned, tortured and murdered Macedonian activists along the way.

Goce Delcev, Nikola Karev, Jane Sandanski, Gjorche Petrov, Dame Gruev are just a few of the many revolutionaries who initiated the road to freedom for modern Macedonia, at the turn of the last century. These Ilinden heroes, like many Macedonians before and after, dedicated their lives to freedom, but never lived to see the day of Macedonian sovereignty. And once the Ottoman Empire fell, the struggle continued, with the neighboring Kingdoms of Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, which each sought to impose their own agendas and assimilate the Macedonian people.

The next major wave of fighting in our history came before, during and after World War II, when Macedonians fought with other nationalities against fascism. Our dream for freedom was partially realized, and the Socialist Republic of Macedonia claimed a degree of sovereignty under the Yugoslav

Federation. But large parts of Macedonia remained under Greece and Bulgaria, and many continued to work toward full sovereignty and unity for all of Macedonia.

Among them was Metodij Andonov Chento, the first president of the Republic of Macedonia in 1944. Sadly, Cento's struggle for a united Macedonia was short-lived. In 1946, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison by the Yugoslav regime for his trouble; the Belgrade-Athens axis would not be threatened. As a consequence from the torture he received while in prison, Chento died in 1957. The communist regime would ensure that only pro-Belgrade presidents would be leading SR Macedonia in the future, and the dream of Macedonian reunification would be forgotten.

After the exhilaration of victory against the Nazis began to wear off, it soon became clear that the regime in Yugoslavia would be ruled with an iron fist. Unlike in other parts of Macedonia, the Macedonian language and church would be allowed to grow in Yugoslavia, but the goal of reunification was clearly off limits, even to speak of.

Nevertheless, many Macedonian patriots

continued to work toward making Macedonia a separate, independent country, which would unify their brothers in Bulgaria, Greece, Albania within one republic. The book "Our Cause," by Eftim Gashev, depicts this effort by the activists in Skopje at that time. Twenty young Macedonians were arrested in 1945, of which two were sent to firing squad, and most of the rest were sentenced to between 12 and 20 years in prison. Gashev, an 18-year-old man whose 'crime' was the distribution of flyers, was sentenced to 12 years prison, and served seven. His youth was destroyed, but his dream lived on.

Around the same time, in the 1950s, another important Macedonian activist emerged, who would later become a leader in the Macedonian diaspora. Dragan Bogdanovski started to express his ideas for an independent and united Macedonia. In his university days in Belgrade, Bogdanovski founded a club to discuss Macedonian matters. His activities were quickly discovered by the Yugoslav secret services, he was expelled from the university, and he was forbidden to study at any other university in Yugoslavia.

The university expulsion had a silver lin-

ing for Bogdanovski and for Macedonia. Had he stayed in Yugoslavia, he most certainly would have spent his life in prison, but his decision to emigrate enabled him to work freely for the Macedonian cause. In 1958, he established a printing press in the Cyrillic alphabet, on which he printed Macedonian papers such as *Macedonian Grapevine*, *Macedonian Spark*, and *Macedonian Nation*. Through these newspapers, Macedonians patriots in the diaspora exchanged thoughts and ideas, and shared their common passion: an independent and united Macedonia. He was not alone, as people in the diaspora such as Mile Ilievski, Blagoj Shambevski, Boris Mitskovski, and Mane Jakovlevski worked diligently for the cause as well. These people put their lives on the line for the Macedonian cause.

The 1970s and 1980s marked a significant effort by the Macedonian Diaspora toward gaining independence SR Macedonia from the Yugoslav federation. Organizations such as the Movement for the Liberation and Unification of Macedonia, which was led by Dragan Bogdanovski, pursued this goal, despite the fact that the powerful Yugoslav secret services followed them and threatened them repeatedly. Bogdanovski was eventually beaten on three occasions, and then kidnapped back to Yugoslavia to be put on trial. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Blagoj Shambevski, the secretary of the MLUM, was assassinated by the Yugoslav secret service in Munich in 1971.

While the Yugoslav regime seemed impossible to topple, the Eastern Bloc did eventually fall, and sent winds of change across Europe. This was the spark that Bogdanovski, and the rest of the Macedonian activists in the diaspora needed, to catalyze their efforts. In 1989, in Munich, they formed the DPMNE party, which later added the VMRO prefix. This party started to push for an independent Republic of Macedonia, just as Yugoslavia started to fall apart. While other Macedonian parties at the time were more cautious, VMRO-DPMNE boldly pushed forward, and continued to raise the awareness that we can have our own independent fatherland.

It should be noted, that the president of the Communist Party in Macedonia between 1989 and 1991 was Petar Gosev, who stood up against Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic. He announced that Macedonia would be marching toward independence if any other republic decided to pursue that



same path. On November 11th 1990, Macedonia held the first multi-party elections. Pluralism was instituted for the first time, and on January 8th, 1991, the first multi-party Parliamentary Assembly was held.

1991 would be a critical year for Macedonia. On January 25th 1991, the declaration for Macedonian independence was passed in the parliament, and the work toward an independence referendum started. I vividly remember those times, living in Macedonia, when the fear of the Yugoslav army attacking the country, imprisoning the leaders and attempting to install a pro-Yugoslav puppet regime were quite real. In fact, it had happened already in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia, with what would be disastrous results.

In his memoir, former president Kiro Gligorov would note the tapes he recorded, asking for civil disobedience in the event that Milosevic and the Yugoslav army attacked Macedonia. He also recalled the late Prime Minister Nikola Kljusev, and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Jordan Mijalkov, who asked their family members flee their homes, while they, in the middle of the night, would seize the documents from the Yugoslav National Army offices, thus frustrating any chance for Serbian authorities to institute a new military draft, and saving Macedonian men from being forced to fight and die for the nationalistic agenda of Belgrade. In those uncertain times, bold moves by many brave Macedonians would leave their mark on Macedonian history forever.

On August 6th, the referendum for inde-

pendence was announced, and on September 8th, 95% of the Macedonians who voted in the referendum said a very clear and loud 'yes' for a free, independent and sovereign Republic of Macedonia. On November 17th, the new Macedonian constitution was voted in, and in April 1992, a Macedonian currency, the denar, was introduced. On August 18th 1992, one of the key steps toward full-fledged sovereignty was achieved, when the Army of the Republic of Macedonia (ARM) was formed. Macedonians would have their independence, and unlike in Bosnia or Croatia, not a shot would be fired.

20 years after achieving independence, there is still plenty of work to be done, especially in the arenas of human rights for Macedonians in Greece, Bulgaria and Albania, the preservation and promotion of the Macedonian culture, and economic development in the Republic of Macedonia. The United Macedonian Diaspora is one of many Macedonian organizations around the world that continues to promote our cause, and carrying on the traditional role of the Macedonia Diaspora, and along with Macedonians around the world, we will continue to protect the national interest.

The Macedonian destiny has been a somber one, but our efforts to fight back have been fierce, resilient, united. We shall carry on now, with the same passion as our ancestors. Let's rise up in this new decade, and let's flood the world with the Macedonian spirit and potential. As Macedonians, we must expect nothing less. United, we can!..."

UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA ("UMD") MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND FEES:



By joining the United Macedonian Diaspora, with its worldwide network, you become part of the only Macedonian advocacy organization with a truly global reach. Your help and involvement allows UMD to impact key opinion leaders and policymakers on the issues of deep concern to all of us – from promoting positive Macedonian sentiments and supporting Macedonia to championing human rights and strengthening ties with other ethnic groups. Your annual membership gift will also go a long way towards our charitable programs in Macedonia and around the world, including funds for children, Macedonian language preservation, promoting our rich Macedonian heritage, and furthering the education of our future leaders.

UMD can continue to accomplish the valuable work of our mission only with the help of dedicated Macedonians who value their heritage. All memberships are on an annual basis, and must be renewed by December 31 of each year.

STUDENT: GENERATION "M" LEVEL – \$25 (NEW this year)

Quick Facts:

- Created to foster the unity and participation of Macedonian students under the age of 25;
- Includes youth organized in small groups worldwide to form friendships, to network, and to explore and participate in issues related to their heritage, identity, career paths or other subjects of interest; and
- Opportunity to apply for UMD internships and scholarships.

Benefits:

- Online subscription to UMD Voice magazine and the UMD Bulletin;
- Discounts to UMD events and networking opportunities; and
- Invitation to UMD's Annual Global Conference and Gala.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVEL – \$50 +

- Discounts and invitations to regional events and networking opportunities;
- Online subscription to UMD Voice magazine and UMD Bulletin; and
- Invitation to UMD's Annual Global Conference and Gala.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP LEVEL – \$125 +

- Includes all benefits from the Individual Membership Level PLUS:
- Membership applies to spouse and children under 16.

SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP LEVEL – \$250 +

- Includes all benefits from the Individual Membership Level PLUS:
- Invitations to attend private UMD events; and
- Discounts and invitations to all nationwide and international events and networking opportunities.
- Subscription to a hard copy of the quarterly UMD Voice magazine

MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS MEMBERSHIP LEVEL – \$1,000 + (NEW this year)

Quick Facts:

- Goal is to attract 300 supporters around the world to give a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 (or more) annually for three years (or \$84 monthly);
- Funds are necessary for UMD to continue operating and making impact globally and continuing the Macedonian struggle for justice and preservation of our heritage; and
- The UMD Advisory Council has formed a Subcommittee, which will provide oversight and accountability of these funds on an ongoing basis.

Benefits:

- Proudly saying I support the Macedonian cause and UMD's indispensable work;

- UMD Membership;
- Networking with UMD's extensive supporter base including global policymakers worldwide, business communities, and the Macedonian Ambassadors abroad at intimate private Companions-only functions;
- Invitations to all nationwide and international advocacy events and networking opportunities, including the UMD's Annual Global Conference Gala; and
- Subscription to a hard copy of the quarterly UMD Voice magazine

BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL – \$5,000 +

- Includes all benefits from the Supporter Membership Level PLUS:
- Networking with UMD's extensive supporter base including global policymakers worldwide and the public, cultural, and business sector elite of Macedonia at private, intimate functions; and
- Discounts and invitations to attend UMD's Annual Delegation Visit and Heritage Travel Programs to Macedonia.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL – \$10,000 +

- Includes benefits from ALL membership levels PLUS:
- Invitations to participate in regular conference calls and meetings with UMD leadership to discuss UMD's programs and activities and hear UMD leadership insights to the Macedonian cause.

UMD is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States and a registered charity in Canada. Your support is tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for advice. If you are Canadian, and donating more than \$100, please send a check payable to "United Macedonian Diaspora" to

the Toronto address to receive a tax-receipt:

U.S. OFFICE:
United Macedonian Diaspora
1101 Pennsylvania Ave NW,
6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20004
Phone: (202) 756-2244

Fax: (202) 756-7323
info@umdiaspora.org

CANADA OFFICE:
United Macedonian Diaspora
3555 St. Clair Avenue East,
Toronto, ON M1K 1L6, Canada
Phone: 1-800-UMD-9583
canada@umdiaspora.org

AUSTRALIA OFFICE:
United Macedonian Diaspora
PO Box 2153
Hawthorn, VIC 3122 Australia
Phone: 0438 385 466
australia@umdiaspora.org



Triple "A" Cheese



BEHOLD THE POWER OF CHEESE

The Stanwyck Family



Triple A's management team has over 30 years of experience in Canada and offers nutritional data, recipes, company history and supplies Feta Cheese.

Tel: (416) 561-7053

Email: chris@tripleacheese.com

Web: www.tripleacheese.com

7210 Torbram Road Mississauga, Ontario L4T 3L7