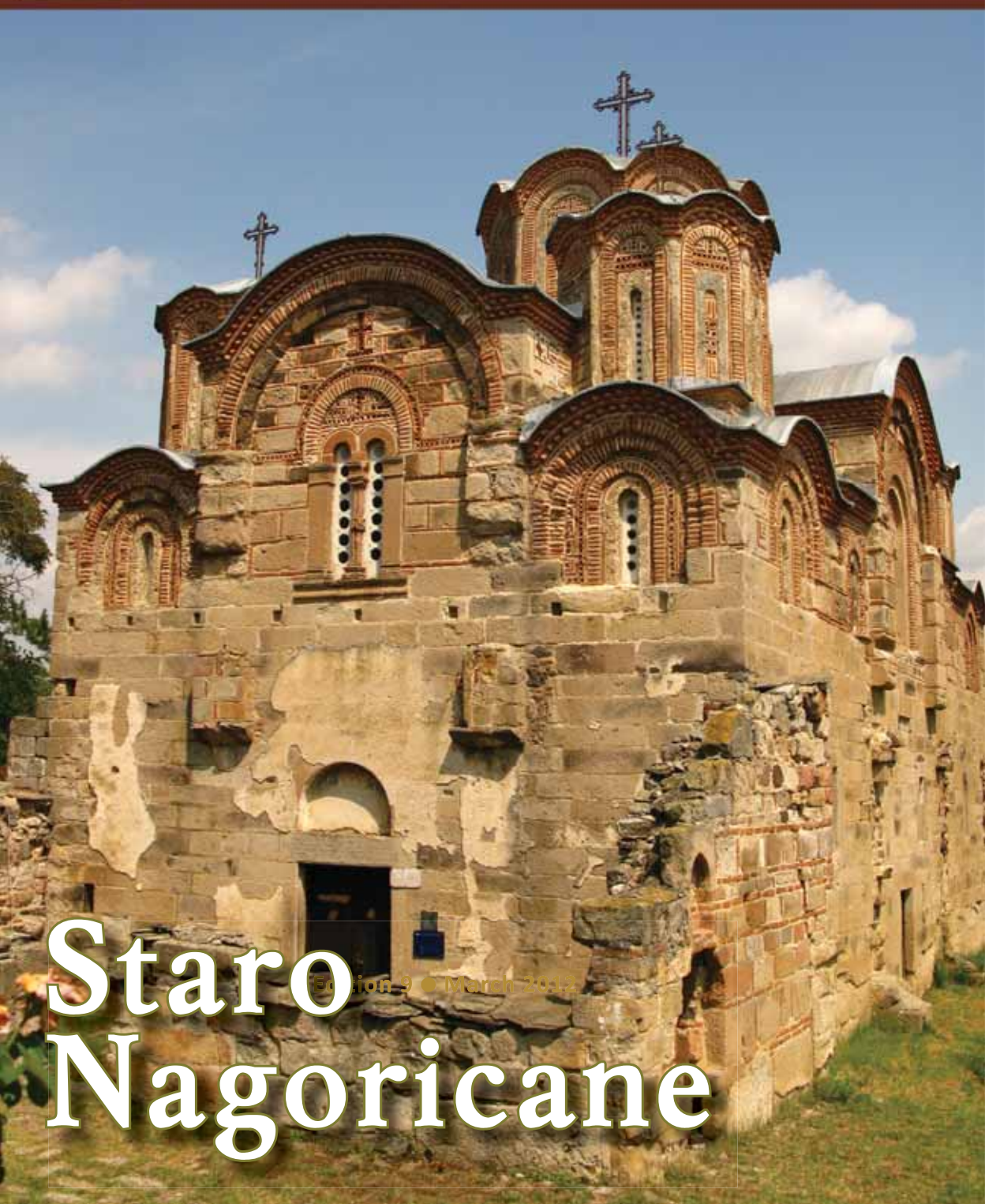




Macedonia Welcome Centre

m a g a z i n e

Edition 10 • June 2012



Staro Nagoricane

Edition 9 • March 2012



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кој го сакаме!



Центар за подобрување на психофизичкото здравје

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Dobredoide Macedonia Welcome Centre International Charity Bazaar 2012

9 JUNE 2012 FROM 10.30 a.m. TO 4 p.m.

**Makedonija Street
(behind the Memorial House of Mother Tereza)**

- Opening ceremony from 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Performances by Skopje schoolchildren from 11 a.m. to 13.30 p.m.
- Embassies and organizations will promote and sell products from their countries.
- Lottery prizes will be drawn at 15 p.m. Winning numbers will be published on DMWC web site www.dmwc.org.mk, prizes may be collected at DMWC offices from 11 to 15 June between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

PRE-BAZAAR EVENTS

**26 May 2012 - Peace, Love and Hope Children's Art Workshop
lead by Zaneta Gelevska-Veljanovska.**

30 May 2012 - Press conference at Skopje Fair.

31 May 2012 - Art Exhibition and Sale of works donated by prominent Macedonian artists organized by Bukefal Gallery, Ohrid, and of the art works created by the children at Peace, Love and Hope workshop at 7 p.m. at the Gallery of NLB Tutunska Banka, 1 Vodnianska Street, Skopje.

COME ONE COME ALL!

**All funds will be donated to Idnina School
for children with special needs in Skopje.**

Join us for these exiting activities and help support children with special needs in Macedonia!



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The Land of Lakes

Can there be a beautiful country without the splendid landscapes of the sea and its coast? Yes! Macedonia is a land of lakes.

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Publisheed by

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Activities of “Dobredojde” Macedonia Welcome Centre

Regular Activities

(free of charge for members)

MONDAY

Cooking Class

10.30 a.m. – 13.30

with Ivona Djurin

and Gilda Stefan Pelitier

TUESDAY

Albanian I

9 a.m. – 10.30

with Florije Shaini

English Conversation

11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

with Michelle Osmanli

WEDNESDAY

Yoga

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

with Irina Georgieva

French I

10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

with Gilda Stefan Pelitier

THURSDAY

MWC Open Day

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Coffee Mornings

Cultural events (Literary Soirees,
Exhibitions, Book Promotions, etc.)

by announcement

Art Class (dates to be announced)

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

with Zaneta Gelevska Veljanovska (Zani)

FRIDAY

Macedonian I

9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. with Sonja Krstevska

Macedonian II

(start date to be announced)

Macedonian Literature Master Class

10.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

with Robert Alagjovzovski

Jewellery Making Class (on demand)

10.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

with Aleksandra Zinovski Vilic,

Coffe Mornings

Embassies, international communities and organizations introduce their countries, cultures and activities. A monthly event open to members and non-members.

May Coffee Morning

Thursday, May 17

May Coffee Morning was held on Thursday 17 May 2012 within the framework of the DAYS OF THE CULTURE OF MONTENEGRO and was dedicated to the Day of Independence of Montenegro. The Coffee Morning was hosted by the Embassy of Montenegro. The First Secretary, Mr. Danilo Brajovic, gave a short presentation on the tourist potential of his country entitled “MONTENEGRO’S MORNING”. Then the guests were greeted by the spouse of the Ambassador, Mrs. Lenka Mrdovic, who offered us some traditional Montenegrin food and drinks.



June Coffee Morning

Thursday, June 14, 11 a.m.

On June 14 the Embassy of France in Macedonia and the French Institute in Skopje will offer a French Coffee Morning in a friendly atmosphere of DMWC with *croissants* and other French specialties. Video presentation and young singers of French songs will give you a taste of France, well-known land of gastronomy, fashion, new technologies and artistic creativity.



Summer Crossroads



by Emilija Miladinova
Avramcheva
**President of
"Dobredojde" Macedonia
Welcome Centre**

June 1 is celebrated all over the world as the International Children's Day. On this day we should spare a thought for the millions of unfortunate and invisible children worldwide who have been separated from their families by poverty and other afflictions and are living on the streets, in institutions or in forced labour.

International Children's Day evolved from the World Conference for the Well Being of Children held in Geneva, Switzerland,

in 1925. Attended by representatives of 54 countries, the conference passed the "Geneva Declaration Protecting Children" which focused on poverty, prevention of child labour, education and other issues related to the welfare of children around the world. After the conference, various governments around the world designated June 1 as Children's Day to encourage and bring joy to children as well as to draw the attention of society to children's issues. This day should remind all the world of how special and important children are to all of us.

Last year we celebrated the International Children's Day at the premises of *Dobredojde* Macedonia Welcome Centre with a recital by children from international and Macedonian schools of Skopje. Building on last year's success, this June we will celebrate this day on a larger scale with a series of children-focused events culminating on June 9 in the first International Charity Bazaar in Macedonia that would benefit children with special needs. We hope that this event will lay a foundation of a lasting tradition and that the international community in Macedonia will continue to be part of this humanitarian endeavour. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the embassies actively participating in the first DMWC International Charity Bazaar. I would also like to thank all our supporters and participants, with my special thanks going to H.E. Alain Brian Bergant, Ambassador of Slovenia in Macedonia, for taking his role

of Honorary President of the Charity Bazaar so seriously and for his enormous help and contribution. Without his support, energy and efforts, the success of this first Bazaar would not have been possible.

Summer is the time when we, Macedonians, usually visit our lakes and mountains to chill off and get some sun tan, to take in some fresh air and new energy before winter comes again. I encourage you to visit Ohrid, Prespa, Dojran and Mavrovo Lakes, each with its distinct character, but all magnificent and refreshing. If you prefer hiking in the mountains I challenge you climb up the Pelister, Kozuf, Kitka, Korab and Sar Planina. If you are not a hiker but enjoy fresh mountain air, then I suggest you visit Berovo, Krusevo, Mariovo, Lazaropole and Galicnik. In this issue of the Magazine you will find several suggestion and inspiring stories about these locations and their natural and cultural attractions including monuments and famous churches and monasteries.

For all those who for different reasons have decided not to leave Skopje this summer or are bound to stay within the city limits even during week-ends there is *Skopsko leto* (Skopje Summer) festival organized under the patronage of the City of Skopje and the Ministry of Culture. Skopje Summer lasts over forty days and is notable for taking art out of conventional spaces to unusual locations in the city. There are musical and theatre events and exhibitions catering to all tastes.

For us at DMWC summer is also the time when we say good-bye to our foreign friends who are leaving Macedonia and welcome new members arriving in the country. I would like to thank all those DMWC members who will be returning home or moving to new duty posts this summer. I wish you all the best in the future, wherever you are!

We look forward to meeting and serving new members and starting new friendships. On behalf of DMWC I would like to greet all those moving to Macedonia this summer with a hug, extend to them a great welcome and an invitation to join DMWC.

Message from the Honorary President



Dear friends,

As the Honorary President of the DMWC International Charity Bazaar 2012 I am happy to announce that building on the successful celebration of the previous year, *Dobredojde* Macedonia Welcome Centre (DMWC) will celebrate the International Children's Day for the second year in a row. This year it will be celebrated together with the international community in the form of a charity bazaar that will at the same time be the first international charity bazaar organized in the Republic of Macedonia. This humanitarian event with multicultural and multiethnic character will be organised in cooperation with the diplomatic and consular representations in Skopje, EU Delegation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and the Municipality of Skopje Centre.

The DMWC International Charity Bazaar 2012 will take place on Saturday, 9 June from 10:30 to 16:00, in front of the Army Hall and behind the Memorial House of Mother Theresa. As part of the programme, we will have several performances and art workshops by children from various schools: NOVA, QSI, American School, Macedonian children's orchestra MKUD "Cvetan Dimov", Piano FORTE band, Bratstvo school, Sumnal Roma Center, "St. Kiril and Metodije"-Kuceviste and many others.

It will be a good occasion to go out with your children and join us, knowing that besides having fun and spending quality time with your family, you will also be helping other families and their children, since all the collected funds will be donated to a project for children with special needs

at "Idnina" Special Elementary School in Skopje to improve their facilities. We have selected this project in order to give these children better developmental and educational opportunities, thus, on the one hand, helping to realize their equal rights to development and education and, on the other hand, encouraging humanity in the society and promoting awareness of the responsibility to protect and help the children that need our help.

In the afternoon there will be a lottery draw with many interesting prizes, including a bicycle, mobile phones, bank vouchers wine and other prizes donated by Macedonian and international companies that work on the Macedonian market. We really hope you will join us and enjoy the diverse cultural programme specially created for you with the outstanding efforts of the international and Macedonian children and take an active part in the games and the lottery, and do some shopping at the national stands. All the money from your purchases will go directly to the fund for children with special needs in Macedonia.

On 31 May at 7 p.m. everybody is welcome to the Art Exhibition and Sale of works by famous Macedonian artists who had donated their paintings to the bazaar through the "Bukefal" Gallery from Ohrid that will take place in the Gallery of the NLB Tutunska banka at 1, Vodnjanska. Paintings from the Children's Art Workshop conducted by Žaneta Gelevska Veljanovska will be exhibited and sold there as well.

Interacting with children and their parents from many different countries, you will have a unique possibility to experience valuable creative moments and to support a good cause. We're striving to make the world a better place for our children, so why not spend some time and make the world better for those children who may not have the same opportunities? For us it may be a small step, but for these children it will mean a lot. I do hope our first DMWC

International Charity Bazaar will become a tradition so that the Macedonian capital Skopje will join other world capitals that host similar events.

Finally, I salute *Dobredojde* Macedonia Welcome Centre for organizing the first DMWC International Charity Bazaar 2012 in the Republic of Macedonia and thank all the embassies which decided to participate in this humanitarian event, as well the Municipality of Skopje Centre and all the Macedonian and international companies and all the volunteers for their support and donations.

Mahatma Gandhi said: "Be the change you want to see in the world". International Children's Day is a perfect opportunity for making this change. The children are our future, so help them! I do believe that with joined forces we will succeed in helping the children with special needs as well as their parents and show them that there is a brighter and better future.

So, let's participate in the DMWC International Charity Bazaar 2012 and enjoy this important day together.

See you on 9 June!

Alain Brian Bergant
Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia
Honorary President
of the Charity Bazaar 2012



Summer Cultural Hotspots



**by Robert
Alagjovzovski
cultural
manager,
literary critic**

Tour operators predict the success of the summer season by the indicators of the 1st of May holiday. If the weather is fine and tourists overcrowd their favourite destinations then the whole summer would be like this. And indeed, this was one of the hottest days in the

decade, and the tourist sites such as Ohrid, Dojran and Matka had record numbers of visitors. So, we are to expect a hot and long summer and lots of tourists. Indeed, more and more visitors, from many European countries, such as Germany, Holland and Czech Republic are visiting Macedonia. There are new visitors from distant lands like Russia and Finland, as well as regional connoisseurs from Croatia, Slovenia and Bulgaria. Judging by their satisfied faces in holiday snapshots, one might conclude that this year's tourist offer is good and that, finally, people working in the sector have learned their job. Part of the tourist programme is of course cultural, including visits to ancient sites, cultural heritage

spots, public institutions, museums, galleries and festivals.

In the three years of the existence of Macedonia Welcome Centre Magazine we have contributed to the process of tourist discovery and promotion of Macedonia identifying and recommending real gems of cultural sites and events: Skopje churches and mosques, Kratovo towers, Ohrid monasteries and fortress, Strumica waterfalls, our high mountains and beautiful rivers, Skopje Summer and Ohrid Summer festivals and Struga Poetry Evenings. We have welcomed YOU, our readers, to visit the cultural hotspots and to experience a real Macedonian atmosphere, the mastery of the crafts, the finest tunes of the violin or the zurla, the warmth of the nights, the buzzing of flies and mosquitoes, the freshness of the breeze and the noise of the people. But for those of you who have been following our magazine for some time we would like to suggest a few more spots and experiences off the beaten path. Visit these spots in the long dawns or the refreshing nights of this hot summer.

If you head to the north or north-east, towards Kumanovo, apart from the famous megalith observatory in Kokino, remember to see the fantastic frescoes of Staro



Dojran Lake



Megalith observatory in Kokino

Nagoricane Monastery, the old iconostasis of the Matejce Church of St. George and the beautiful scenery of Karpino Konaks, where summer visual arts colony takes place. Or arrange for a late-night bath in the semi-public thermal springs.

When visiting the Osogovo Mountains and their ancient villages and towns, do not miss the Rock Art Centre. Let its enthusiastic guides show you rock drawings from very ancient times. If you roam around the plateau of St. Nikole, go off-road for the legendary Villa Zora, Payonic capital. Visit the ancient fortress in Vinica, and identify the donjon above Stip. Climb down the canyon near the city of Veles and search for less known monastic spots. Taste of some good wine in the small wineries in Negotino and Kavadarci. Search for the ruins of the Presek Fortress above the cliffs of Demir Kapija. Spend a fresh afternoon at the mineral springs on the Kozuf Mountain. Take a look at the museum collection from the ancient site of Isar in Valandovo. Feel the mist of the Kolesino waterfalls. Taste the richness of the white sheep cheese in an authentic shepherd hut in the region of Malesevo. Look for the story of the Lesnovo watermill stone in Probistip. Enjoy tasty carp ribs in Dojran, buy a few slot-machine chips at a casino in Gevgelija. Go off-road in the unbeaten wilderness of Mariovo, climb up to the mysterious Alsar mines. See Pelagonia plain from the Treskavec Monastery. Explore the monastic caves and the untouched ancient village of Zrze.

Climb up to the Pelister glacial lake and go down on foot to the Prespa Lake. Visit the Snakes' Island and enjoy the ancient Golem Grad ruins. Do not miss the Festival of Monodrama on the lake shores. Leaf through the books of the smallest library in Babino near Demir Hisar. Go for paragliding from the Krusevo peaks. Admire the naked breast of the Holy Mother of God in St. Zaum Monastery, reachable only by boat. Take a donkey or jeep ride on the top of the Galicica Mountain for a splendid view of the two lakes. Stay in Velestovo for Poetry Nights. Attend the fair during the village day of Visni, high in the mountains above Struga. Take a tour around Vevcani Springs and listen to the local legends going back far into the pagan era. Relax in the sulphur thermal spa in Kosovrasti near Debar. Converse with the writers of the unique literary colony in Galicnik. Hike to the highest peak of Korab. Lie down in the pastures of the Shara Mountain. Enjoy the noise of the River Radika. Visit Bhabas' graves and the Blue Tower at the Tetovo Teke. When you enter the realm of Skopje, take a homemade lunch in a semi-official restaurant in the village of Sisevo. Then you will be ready for the heat of Skopje's concrete jungle.

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Learning to Relax

by Irina Georgieva



These days very often you can hear: "Relax, just relax".

But how does one do that?

One hundred years ago the American philosopher and psychologist William James suggested an experiment to

illustrate the mind-body connection. Relax on your back and become calm. Once you have succeeded in relaxation then try to make yourself angry without straining or altering your body position. In other words, try to become angry without tensing your muscles, changing your breathing, clenching your teeth, raising your blood pressure or your heart rate or manifesting any other physical sign. Impossible! Every thought, every emotion leaves its imprint on our physical being.

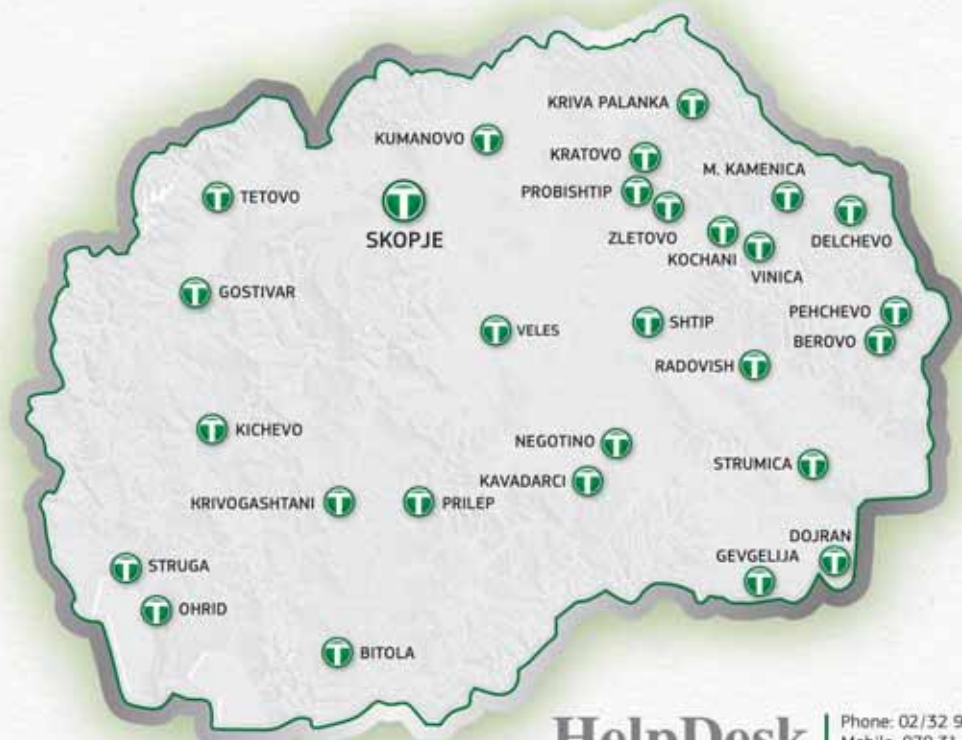
In our highly intellectual, "head-oriented" world many of us are physically stressed without knowing it because we wrongly imagine our mind and body are separate. If we are more aware of the physical beating our body takes from our mental and emotional lives we might take more precautions against undesirable mental states. This is one reason why classic Yoga texts include moral and ethical training among other disciplines.

Learning to relax in poses like *shavasana* (corpse pose) helps us to feel and release tensions that are deep within us. Not only the tensions in gross skeletal muscles but also subtle tensions in the eyes, heart, diaphragm, stomach and skull can be identified and released. This healthy habit helps us to distance ourselves from negative tensions and deal with them more effectively, a valuable skill in our heart-attack-prone society.



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The Uprising on the Saint's Day

The 2nd of August, the day of Saint Ilija (Elijah), is one of the most glorious days in the modern history of Macedonia. It is the day when the national statehood is celebrated. On this day in 1903 Macedonian freedom fighters started an insurrection and established the first, albeit short-lived, republic in the Balkans. On the 2nd of August 1944, in the flames of the World War Two, the antifascist Communist and national liberation movement proclaimed the People's State of Macedonia as part of the federal Yugoslavia. The Macedonian Independence in 1991, although voted in on 8 September has been symbolically called "the third Ilinden" (St. Elijah's day).

The 1903 uprising against the Ottoman Empire established the Krusevo Republic following the liberation of the town of Krusevo. The regional staff of the rebels set up a local authority with representative executive and legislative bodies. It lasted for only ten days but it brought about the manifesto that summoned all citizens of Macedonia, regardless of religion and ethnicity, to a struggle against tyranny.

On August 2nd 1944 the Anti-Fascist Assembly of the National Liberation of Macedonia (*ASNOM*) proclaimed Macedonia as a nation state of the ethnic Macedonians and proclaimed the Macedonian language as official. The citizens of Macedonia regardless of their ethnic affiliation were guaranteed all civil rights, including the right to their mother tongue and religious faith. Thus Macedonia

became a state for the first time in history as part of the Yugoslav Federation.

Each year on the 2nd of August the historical sites of Meckin Kamen in Krusevo and Pelince near Prohor Pciniski in Kumanovo are crowded with people celebrating the national statehood. These are the most important annual mass political events.

WHY SAINT ELIJAH'S DAY?

But after the patina of historical importance settles, one might ask: why was the uprising held on this particular Saint's day? Is there any reason why this date had been chosen and what does it tell us about the socio-cultural cycles of the past and about daily lives of our ancestors? The researchers of folklore and religion would certainly find some meaningful connections. The Holy Prophet Elijah might not be the most important figure in Christianity but he has acquired many meanings and symbols important to the traditional life of the Macedonian people. They are, of course, connected with the summer agricultural activities and the harvest. Many legends do not allow working on this day due to the variability of the weather and danger of thunderstorms. A popular image represents the prophet as the master of thunder and lightning. This image derives from the hot weather prevailing during this period of the year. If one compares the weather records through the years it will turn out that a typical 2nd of August has morning heat

followed by a summer storm with thunder, lightning and short but intensive showers spoiling the afternoon. A popular saying predicts that if such is the weather on the Saint's day then nuts would rot in their shells. Depending on the micro-climate it is time when the harvest is finished or still is to be commenced. The break in agricultural work seems an ideal time for an uprising.

But, of course, the importance of religious holidays and the tendency to connect historical events with important and easy to remember dates seems to prevail in this case. St. Elijah is considered very important for all the three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam as a preacher of the true faith. Christian iconography represents the Old Testament Prophet Elijah as an old man driving a chariot across the sky. The Book of Kings narrates of Elijah as defender of the true faith against the Phoenician god Baal. He brought fire down to the people from the sky, but also vanished in a whirlwind riding a burning chariot. It is believed that he did not die in the fiery chariot but ascended to Heaven.

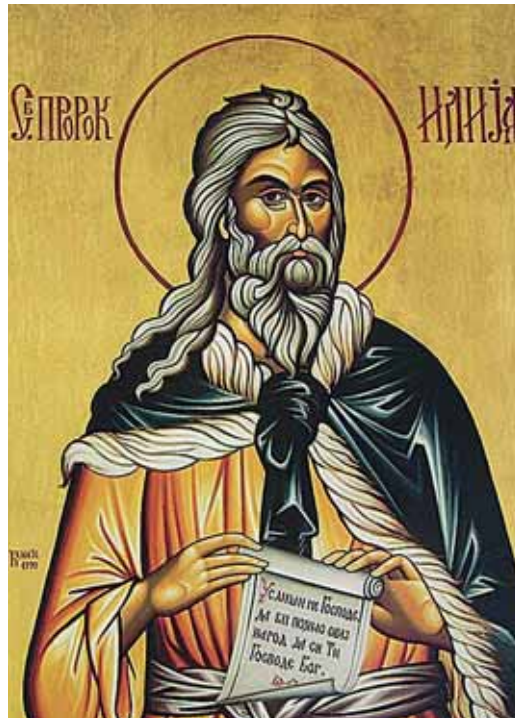
With time other religious associations have layered on the Prophet's glory. He is also strongly associated with the celebration of the Sun, especially among the converting Pagan populations. Even in ancient times authors found similarities between the names "Elias" (the Greek

for "Elijah") and "Helios" (the Greek for "Sun"). It is believed that from here the association of Elijah with the Sun has survived in the folklore. Some even attributed to this the habit to devote to the saint the monasteries built on the tops of mountains. Indeed, in the southern part of Macedonia many monasteries devoted to Saint Elijah overlook their surrounding country: in Strumica, Dojran and Udovo. It is believed that Elijah took the power of the supreme gods, like Zeus in Greece,

or the lightning god Perun in the Slavic folklore. Among the Slavs Elijah carries the alias Thunderer. He is celebrated as the holder of keys to the skies, as the one who locks and unlocks the rain, the thunder and the sun. He is the patron of many mediaeval guilds and handcrafts, who used to have a big feasts on this day. Today many villages having St. Elijah as their patron celebrate *Ilinden* with huge feasts and fairs,

similar to those of the medieval times. Peasants still fear to work on St. Elijah's day as thunder might strike from the sky.

During the Communist period the religious aspects of *Ilinden* were ignored when the statehood holidays were celebrated. In today's democracy, when the interest for old traditions and religious life is on the increase, the religious and traditional meaning of the holiday adds to its political significance.



The Splendour of Byzantine Art



Staro Nagoricane, a village in a rural district near Kumanovo, possesses such a rich cultural heritage that many towns would admire. Its Kokino Megalithic observatory was ranked the 4th oldest in the world by NASA. There is the cell of Saint Prohor Pcinjski, the most famous local saint in this part of the Balkans. Then, it has one of the biggest military monuments, Zebnjak, devoted to the Serbian army in World War I, as well as a few churches with rich cultural and spiritual heritage. Among them is the church devoted to Saint George which is one of the most important examples of medieval Byzantine art in Macedonia. It was built in 1068 by the Emperor Roman IV Diogenes who wished to honour Saint Prohor and the cell in which he started his monastic life. The legend says that when the future

emperor once followed a wounded deer during a hunt, the bloody trail led him to the monk's cell. The monk pleaded not to shoot the deer and prophesised that Roman would soon become Byzantine Emperor. The prophecy came true. The grateful Emperor built the church devoted to Prohor Pchinjski. From that time only the facade walls and a very small fresco fragment remain, but they are a sufficient indication of how richly the old church was decorated. The present church was renewed by the Serbian king Stephan II Milutin (1282-1321) in 1313, which is written on a stone at the rear entrance. The church is a monumental building with five richly decorated domes.

The fresco painting dates back to 1318 and was done by the most renowned Thessaloniki masters Michael and Eutykhios. They painted the St. Nagoricane

Church at the pinnacle of their careers. The church is a masterpiece of the new Palaeologue style, close to that of the royal workshop of Emperor Andronicus II. They have also painted the church devoted to the Mother of God in Ohrid, but it seems as if only the signatures of the painters connected the two churches. The forms in Nagoricane are smoother than the ones in the Ohrid church, the modelling is more diverse with rich colouristic relations and tonal strength, and the line of drawing is steadfast, with exceptionally rare wavering. In the composition of the Throne of the Mother of God in the conch, the Byzantine classicism is transformed: inlay of precious stones and wood carving are faithfully rendered by the painters. The faces of the saints are incarnadine with wide pale pink surfaces which almost unnoticeably fade into light green which then fade into dark brown around the edges. The faces are realistic and unusually expressive. In the altar one of the depictions of the Mother of God is the only fresco painted on stone and not on the wall. The donors (*ktitors*) of the monastery, the Serbian King Milutin Stefan II with his wife Simonida, daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Tsar Andronik II Paleolog, are represented in the usual



way: they are accompanied by an image of St. George holding a sword, a gift to the king.

Byzantinologists agree that while working in this church Michael and Eutychios reached their artistic zenith, and that this is one of the most beautiful examples of the classical Byzantine style. Sadly, the church is in a precarious situation, humidity damaging the precious frescoes. Macedonian conservators hope to save the frescoes with the aid of foreign grants as they have already done in the Ohrid Church St. Mother of God Peribleptos decorated by the same artists.



The Village of Raging Waterfalls and Religious Tolerance

By Jasmina Mazgalieva



The village of Kolesino famous for its many Christian denominations and more recently also for its marvellous waterfalls lies in the foothills of the picturesque Belasica mountain in the south-eastern part of Macedonia. Since the area around the waterfalls had been made accessible and tourist friendly, the village became an important point on tourist maps. Spiritual richness and natural beauty attract visitors to this remote corner of Macedonia.

What is the spiritual magic of the diligent farmers, famous for their watermelon and

peanuts, living at the altitude of 610 m. Imagine a community of 400 households with 1,300 residents having members of the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant Churches. And the Protestant believers are further divided into Evangelical-Methodist Church, Adventist Church, Church of Jehovah's Witnesses, Baptists and Pentecostals. The older residents, when asked about the different denominations, would usually count the village churches and the families attending the ceremonies. St. Spas Orthodox Church is visited by 160 families and is over 200 years old, the Evangelical - Methodist Church is visited by 60 families, the Adventist church is attended by 15 families, and the Church of Jehovah's Witnessis visited by 10 families. The great variety of believers in this village has given rise to the saying "Whatever mother had lost her child, she will find him/her in Kolesino."

When did this unique religious richness come into being? First, the village is believed to be very old. In the legends, the name of the village is connected with the famous battle between Tsar Samuel and the Byzantine emperor Basil II on the Mount Belasica in 1014. They say "*Kolezh*" (slaughter) comes from the "terrible slaughter of the Macedonian soldiers defeated in the battle. Although, as if to illustrate to the notorious relativity of each oral source, the second legend associates the name with the first resident of the village who was called Kole and when people passed by his sheepfold they said "this is Kolesino" meaning "this belongs to Kole".

So the first residents are believed to have been Orthodox Christians. The Evangelical-Methodist Church in Kolesino is believed to have been born with the arrival of the famous protestant missionary from America, Miss Stone, who travelled through Macedonia and visited these areas on her journey towards the Pirin area of Bulgaria. The story of Miss

Stone was recorded by the media in the beginning of the twentieth century, when the rebel *komiti* kidnapped the missionary, received a ransom and bought weapons to fight for the liberation of Macedonia. This incident became a myth which raised the international awareness of the Macedonian fight for liberation and was the subject of many historical books as well as film and literary works. The first Evangelical-Protestant church was built in 1934. During the Second World War it was put on fire. In 1967 it was restored, this time as a Methodist church.



The 1970s are regarded as the decade when the different denominations blossomed. As a curiosity, the Kingdom of Jehovah's Witnesses in Kolesino was established after the first congress of Jehovah's Witnesses held in the village in 1973. The first members of this religious group in Macedonia appeared in Strumica in 1938, under an influence of the Tuchek Slovenian couple who resided there, the first community of Jehovah's Witnesses having been founded in the The Adventist church, whose believers are called Adventists or sabotjans, was also established in the 1970s. The group acknowledges Saturday and not Sunday as the day of rest.

The survival of these denominations in Yugoslavia was very difficult. For instance, the authorities penalized the believers who refused to work on Saturdays. Of course the residents also recalled many disagreements on religious grounds among themselves; but they say this is how the tolerance was built. The most common disagreements among denominations cited by the older residents centred on matters of marriage. In the early days, only same-denomination marriages were accepted. Then the residents accepted that "they cannot do anything against love." So, it was decided that in case of inter-denominational marriages the bride would accept the faith of the groom. The achieved level of religious coexistence is reflected in the existence of the single village cemetery where all the villagers of different denominations are buried

together, just as they live together.

Kolesino Waterfalls are located in the lower reaches of the river Baba, on the slopes of the Mount Belasica in a picturesque landscape, surrounded by beautiful maple trees and stone cliffs at an altitude of 630 m. The biggest, with a height of fifteen meters, is one of the highest waterfalls in Macedonia, and is about six meters wide. Opposite this main Kolesino waterfall, there are several smaller waterfall located in a row with a height of two to four meters.

The wonderful scenery and nature leave no one indifferent. Recently the Orthodox Church has started to perform unique group weddings at the Kolesino Waterfalls. This happens in July when many people from the region who work abroad return home. The wedding ceremony adds to the attractions of the place.

And finally, another curiosity connected with Kolesino is the famous Macedonian book for children, *The white gypsy*. Its author, Vidoe Podgorec, who hails from Kolesino, drew his inspiration from the landscapes of his native village lying in the thick shadow of the maples.

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Literary Colony at Galicnik



Macedonia is famous for its summer visual arts colonies. Dozens of painters and sculptors create their works in uniquely beautiful natural settings and attractive places such as monasteries. The critics would even say there are too many art colonies, but can one tire of art, creativity and beauty? Yet "Galikul" is very special, as it is the only literary colony. It started in the now distant 1992, and has been successfully reconvening every year since then. Another feature of the colony is that it takes place in the legendary Galicnik village, which seems

to be one of the most wanted cultural spots in the summer. So it is not only July's *Galicka svadba* (Galicnik wedding) and the degustation of Galicnik cheese that attracts locals and tourists to this village. The centre of famous architecture, traditional crafts, church building and woodcarving is, thanks to this colony, again attracting intellectuals after having lost so many artists, writers, researchers and scholars who had emigrated from the region.

The founding father of this high literary event in the inspiring village is Todor Calovski, one of the most celebrated Macedonian contemporary

poets descending from Galicnik. The colony focuses on poetry and essays, the brightest of all the literary genres. Each year during the traditional poetry meeting, many Macedonian poets read or recite their poems in front of curious locals, guests and those who visit their native place during the summer. They all enjoy the magical inspiration coming from the words, the landscape and the atmosphere. Since the very beginning of the colony there were poets not only from Macedonia but also from other countries, thus allowing foreign languages to be heard again in this once important Balkan region, as well as to spread again the glory of Galicnik beyond Macedonian borders.

The symposium devoted to an essayistic subject, such as the "Poetry and Light" or, as it would be this year, "Poetry and Fate", gathers the most famous Macedonian scholars, critics and essayists, many of whom are also poets. Alongside the quality of the literary program, cultural



heritage of Galicnik is a main attraction of the colony that offers its guests visits to local landmarks, like the house of Gjorgji Pulevski, the famous Enlightenment author, the local church, the ethnological museum and the famous St. John Bigorski monastery.



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Macedonia's future is in the Euro-Atlantic family



Your Excellency, since your appointment to the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs, you have travelled a lot meeting so many heads of state, heads of international organizations, prime ministers and foreign ministers. Your activities were especially directed towards the country's integration in the EU and NATO. What story of Macedonia are you telling them? What image of the country you as a Minister of Foreign Affairs would like to present to foreign leaders?

I will start the answer by welcoming the activities of the "Dobredojde" Macedonia Welcome Centre. The existence of such a corner where foreign diplomats and members of the international community working in Macedonia can receive information and services which

every newcomer in our job needs, adds Macedonia to the list of well organized diplomatic destinations and pleasant host countries.

During my tenure of office of Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs for almost a year now, I have had the opportunity to meet a significant number of colleagues, statesmen and international officials, attend important conferences and deliver lectures at eminent institutions. The topics discussed at those meetings and gatherings were related to specific issues of interest to Macedonia, but also to many challenges facing our globalized world of today.

The Euro-Atlantic integration of Macedonia and its role in relation to the future of our continent is a topic I regularly address. In this regard, I particularly stress our persistent dedication to reforms in all areas and our contribution to sharing and spreading the European and Euro-Atlantic values. Together with our European and trans-Atlantic partners, Macedonia aims at realizing the vision of the founding fathers of modern Europe – to make our continent integrated, free and peaceful. This vision, however, can only be accomplished when Macedonia and our whole region is fully integrated in all European and Euro-Atlantic structures and institutions.

This is the key message I repeatedly deliver to our foreign partners. I also remind them about the benefits of Macedonia's membership in the EU and NATO, and not only for us, but also for these organizations, the region and beyond.

At the same time, I speak about our readiness to overcome the last impediment, or the last obstacle, on our way to the fulfilment of our strategic

goals by presenting our valid arguments, including the importance of the judgment of the International Court of Justice.

The story is very straightforward and it is that the Macedonian future is in the Euro-Atlantic family.

Are there prejudices or wrong perceptions concerning Macedonia? What else do people know about our country?

I often say that we must fight hard the stereotypes related to our region. The perception is that the countries, peoples or communities of the Balkans are more prone to conflicts than the rest of the continent. There are probably a number of reasons for that. However, in reality, in this territory there are more binding elements. I believe that in recent years the prejudices have been broken, not only concerning Macedonia, but also for the whole Balkan region. What is more important, we – together with all our neighbours – should continue to work towards breaking the prejudices towards the region that still exist in some rhetoric on the European continent. We have



numerous reasons to act together and we must focus on projects of shared interest. By supporting an open border policy, we encourage foreigners to come and visit our beautiful country, to learn about Macedonian history and traditions and to enjoy the hospitality of the Macedonian people.

I am happy to note that most of my interlocutors are very familiar with





Macedonia. Aside from being well aware of our activities and priorities on the international scene, they very much admire the natural beauties of our country, and especially the well-known hospitality of its people, which makes my mission relatively easier.

Are Macedonian internal affairs and different competitive regional interests making your position as a Minister more difficult?

Different regional interests, and in general the multi-polarity of the international relations, are important challenges for any diplomatic service. I have accepted the challenge to lead the Macedonian diplomacy through times of crisis and times of prosperity, and I do not see any insurmountable obstacles on that way.

Is your approach and attitude of a young and dynamic politician matching your interlocutors' expectations of a typical representative of Macedonia?

I suppose not always, but I can say that their reactions after the meetings are always positive. One of the benefits political transformation has brought is the vast opportunities for young people to

prove themselves. Yet youth must never be understood as an absolution from responsibility and accountability. Indeed, young people look more to the future - to NATO and the EU. It is true that experience adds weight in politics, but youth brings the added value of enthusiasm and fresh look at how to overcome obstacles and attain desired goals.

Does their perception change after foreign diplomats and politicians visit our country?

From my previous experience as a diplomat in Brussels and from my current position as Minister for Foreign Affairs, I would say that perceptions change drastically after having a first-hand experience in the country of your residence and after having direct formal and informal contacts with the people of that country.

What are the informal strengths of the country, its beauties and values you present to influential visitors?

Integration without assimilation has been the guiding principle for the centuries' long peaceful co-existence of all ethnic groups living on the territory of Macedonia. Today, respect for international law is the primary principle for the Macedonian foreign policy, in particular, in relations with our neighbours.

The natural beauties of Macedonia every year are attracting more tourists, particularly people who want to experience different types of tourism – rural tourism, extreme sports, music festivals, etc. With a structured tourism strategy, and development of infrastructure, the Macedonian tourism potential can be better explored.

Do you see the foreigners (diplomats, businessmen, intellectuals, artists, etc.) temporarily residing in Macedonia as a bridge that could add positive

value to the image our country has abroad. How do you approach them, and how do you involve them in the activities of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

Definitely, they are a bridge that presents the image of Macedonia abroad, and it is one of the aims of the ongoing reforms in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen and to intensify the contacts with these groups of foreigners and to establish a more visible modus of cooperation between the Ministry and foreign diplomats, businessmen, artists and other groups of foreigners residing in Macedonia.

For the moment, I can give you the example of the Diplomatic Academy which functions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and where foreign diplomats participate in the programme as guest speakers on a regular basis.

What are in your view the strategic directions in which Macedonia should develop as a modern European society? Are there any strong points with which Macedonia could compete on the European level?

The accession to the European Union is an aspiration that unifies and inspires all Macedonian citizens coming from different ethnic and confessional backgrounds.

Europe is our goal, not only because we belong here geographically and culturally and because of the degree of economic integration, but more than anything because of the identical values that we share - those that are deeply entrenched in the Treaty on the European Union and the Charter on Fundamental Rights, i.e. the indivisible universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity. The aim of the Union to further promote these values by respecting the diversity of cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe, as well as their national identities, including the Macedonian, represents the key motivational factor for our integration in the European family. Such an approach provides progress to the EU, as well as consistency and a reflection of reality.

Minister, please tell our readers what is your secret weapon when "fighting" for Macedonia.

I am a person who sets goals and has a tendency to fulfil those goals. In that fashion I have approached my responsibilities as a Minister of Foreign Affairs. There is no secret weapon, but what is needed is a lot of work, enthusiasm, motivation, and dedication, not only from me but also from the civil servant at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the embassies and consulates abroad.



The Land of Lakes

The first sentence the guides tell about Macedonia is that it is a landlocked country. This statement of fact immediately provokes a feeling of sadness.

Can there be a beautiful country without the splendid landscapes of the sea and its coast? Yes! In the case of Macedonia this statement, although truthful, is misleading. Why? Because Macedonia is a land of lakes. And the lakes are not just a compensation for the absence of a sea coast. The three so-called tectonic lakes: Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran are astonishingly beautiful, and Ohrid is called the Macedonian Sea. (A friend from Marseilles told me that Ohrid water horizon was much wider than the one of his city). Overall, in this small country there are more than 50 lakes. We have to take into account the small glacial lakes but also the significant number of artificial lakes. Macedonia has many rivers and large

plains and plateaus, so in the 1960s, when the industrialization and electrification of the country took off, many hydroelectric plants and water reservoirs were built on these rivers thus creating not only power for the new industries, but also impressive sceneries.

THREE TECTONIC LAKES

The tourists' attention is usually directed to the three lakes formed few million years ago: Dojran, Prespa and Ohrid. Ohrid is the biggest and the most beautiful of the three. It is famous for its clean and clear waters. Lying at 700 meters above the sea level, it acts like a natural air conditioner. In the hot and dry summer all over Macedonia, Ohrid is a fresh escape. The Ohrid Lake is 300 metres deep, and it harbours many unique water species, willing to tell the history of the mother Earth. The tastiest of them are the endemic Ohrid trout, eel and white fish (*belvica*), which due to



Ohrid Lake

continuous over fishing have become rare. It is forbidden to catch them anymore and they cannot be found on official restaurant menus. The witness of many geological transformations, Lake Ohrid has been a refuge for many freshwater species, some of which can be only found in fossil form in other places. This is why the lake is known among biologists as a living fossil museum.

The Ohrid Lake is almost completely encircled by unique limestone mountains which create a special celestial mood. This was felt long ago by pious people who established over 300 churches and monasteries around the lake. One legend says that Ohrid has a church devoted to a saint for each day of the year.

The Ohrid Lake has a perfect water balance. It is attributed to the connection with the Lake Prespa which feeds Ohrid through the porous karst bedrock underneath Galicica Mountain that separates the two lakes. Ohrid is also fed by the River Black Drim which originates near the lake and runs through it. The path of the current of the river through the lake is visible from the air.

Prespa is the most twisted lake, officially the deepest and the oldest. It actually forms two separate lakes the Big, its

shores belonging to three countries – Macedonia, Albania and Greece – and the Small lying in the territory of Greece. On all sides the lake is surrounded by national parks with many endemic species. It is home to many birds such as cormorants, pelicans, herons and egrets. There are few small islands on the lake. Both St. Achilles near the Greek side and Golem Grad near the Macedonian shore have ancient ruins. They date back to antiquity, but history says they were also the Imperial Seat of the 10th-century Macedonian King Samoil. The island is now notorious for its snakes.

Dojran Lake is the smallest, but also the richest in fish and the warmest due to its small depth of only a dozen metres. It also has a beautiful mountain gorge above it, the famous Mountain of Belasica, where one of the most famous medieval battles was fought in 1014. Almost a millennium later, the Small Lake again became a horrid battlefield. European armies fought here during World War I and graveyards of French, British, Greek, Serbian and Bulgarian forces are to be found around the lake. But Dojran has a brighter ancient history. 2500 years ago the Greek historian Herodotus described the ancient tribe of Paeonians, who lived in lake settlements



Prespa Lake



accessible only by boat. The records say the lake was so rich in fish that you only needed to dip a pail in its waters to catch a dozen. To this day the ancient way of fishing with mantras and cormorants has survived in Dojran and huts built on the water are still to be found in the shallow waters of the lake. Dojran was on the verge of an ecological catastrophe and almost ran dry during the drought period of the 1990s but due to the government's intervention in 2000 the lake was saved and now its waters are filling the lake bed again. During the lowering of the water level it became famous for its healing mud which formed due to the fast decay of many algae, plankton and other water micro-organisms.

High on the mountain tops there are many glacier lakes. The Shar Mountain is famous for it. The Big and the Small Lakes on the mountain Baba, in the Pelister National Park are called the Eyes of the mountain. It is believed that glacier lakes, over twenty five in total, date back to the Ice Age. They are heavenly rewards for the most stubborn hikers.

FISHERMEN'S FRIENDS

Then, there are beautiful artificial lakes. Built for the sake of industrial power generation but also for fishing and irrigation, as well as providing fresh water to the growing urban population and spreading in the former river valleys, these lakes have created impressive waterbeds. The lakes near Debar, Kavadarci and Mavrovo are amongst the most beautiful. The Mavrovo Lake has the most impressive scenery, and its appeal is enhanced by

the nearby ski centre. The area is full of the so-called weekend houses and few extraordinary hotels. The lake has many wonderful sights and very often freezes in the winter. The most impressive view of the lake includes the church which is half-submerged in the waters during the winter.

The Lake Tikves is filled with the waters of the famous River Crna (ancient name: Erigon). As it is a protected area, there are not as many weekend houses around it as around other artificial lakes. But still some huts here and there are built to the joy of the local people. The famous Tikves carp is among the most valuable fish on Macedonian tables. Some believe that huge few-meters-long carps hide in the mud of the lake.

The Mladost Lake near Veles is the most easily accessible from Skopje and among the most popular tourist destinations in the region. The boat on by shore became a very fancy restaurant. It is strongly recommended to transit visitors heading south to Greece or north to Central Europe along the E-75 motorway. A legend similar to that of the Loch Ness attracts curious visitors: it says the Mladost Lake hides a giant one-tonne catfish. A few claim to have seen it. But only its 176-kilo cousin was caught in 1997 when the power of three tractors was required to pull it from the lake.

Macedonian lakes are equally loved by tourists, campers and passionate fishermen who populate their scenic shores all year round from early mornings to late nights.

Refreshing with Skopje Summer Festival

Skopje summer is hot. And residents of Skopje tend to escape the heat. Whoever has relatives or friends to visit or any other reason to leave the concrete jungle, leaves. Yet, there are many people who have to stay in Skopje over the summer. But they soon find out that there is no reason for despair. On the contrary, every year *Skopsko leto* or *Skopje Summer* festival offers an exclusive program for Skopje summer prisoners. Spectators enjoy programmes with world famous stars and the most renowned Macedonian performers which cannot be seen at other times during the year. Director for Culture and the Art responsible for this event organizes this festival under the patronage of the City of Skopje and the Ministry of Culture. Skopje Summer lasts over forty days, from the 21st of June to



ДИРЕКЦИЈА ЗА КУЛТУРА И УМЕТНОСТ - СКОПЈЕ
КУЛТУРНО-ИНФОРМАТИВЕН ЦЕНТАР НА Р. БУГАРИЈА ВО Р. МАКЕДОНИЈА

**СВЕЧЕНО ОТВОРАЊЕ НА
СКОПСКО ЛЕТО 2012**

Програма:
П. Стајнов, А. Лековски,
А. Глазун, Л. В. Бетовен

КОНЦЕРТ НА
Соврска филхармонија

Гостин диригент: Борјан Цанев – Р. Македонија
Солист: Анна Кондратенко – виолина – Р. Македонија

21 јуни / четврток / 21.00 часот
САЛОН НА МАКЕДОНСКА ОПЕРА И БАЛЕТ

the 31st of July. The festival usually opens with a big concert of the Macedonia Opera and Ballet. The opening is symbolically connected with the first day of summer and the World Day of Music.

One of the distinguishing features of this festival is that it has managed to take art out of conventional spaces to unusual locations in the city, and thus has made it provocative and available to each and every resident. In this way Skopje Summer has brought together many places and locations, such as the Old Bazaar, the mysterious Kapan An and Suli An, Kale Fortress, City Park, pedestrian street "Macedonia", the Vardar quay, city squares, old neighbourhoods as well as more remote corners from Matka Canyon to the Marko's Monastery. Some events occur in restaurants and bars. But the festival's rich programme also embraces more traditional cultural spaces such as museums, galleries and theatres.

The scale of the festival is impressive: over 1500 events, several thousands of artists, thirty to fifty thousand viewers and



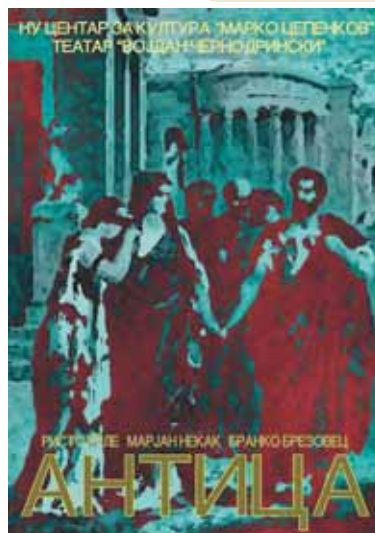
listeners. For the 33 years of its existence, the festival has offered rich and diverse programmes including concerts, theatrical performances, art and photographic exhibitions, poetry readings, multimedia projects, opera and ballet performances and selected film screenings. In addition,

SKOPJE SUMMER 2012 Highlights

JUNE 21	20.00	-Exhibition EASY CONNECTED - SKOPJE-NISH-SOFIA - Culture Information Centre
	21.00	Ceremonial Opening of Skopje Summer 2012 -SOFIA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA–Hall of the Macedonian Opera and Ballet
JUNE 22	20.00	- Opening of the INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE STUDENT FESTIVAL - in front of Army Hall
	21.00	- Concert OF THE SOLOISTS, THE ORCHESTRA AND THE CHOIR OF THE MACEDONIAN OPERA AND BALLET - Suli An
JUNE 23	20.00	- "GREV ILI SHPRICER" – Drama Theatre
JUNE 24	20.30	-"ECOLOGIC FAIRYTALE" – Children's and Youth Theatre
JUNE 25	20.30	- EVENING OF COMPOSER BUZHAROVSKI - City Skopje Museum
	20.30	- "ANTICA" - Macedonian National Theatre
JUNE 26	20.00	- EMITER "SKOPJE" Skopje Urban Stories– City Centre
	20.30	- "DRAGON'S BRIDE" - Drama Theatre Skopje
JUNE 27	12.00	- Book promotion "DUSHKA TASEVSKA – MUSIC BECAME MY DESTINY" - City Skopje Museum
	21.00	- "EMPTY CITY" - COP Universal Hall Skopje - Small Scene
JUNE 28	20.30	- MARRACASH ORCHESTRA - Amphitheatre at Mother Theresa's House
	21.00	- "MISS JULIA" – Macedonian National Theatre
JUNE 29	20.30	-Exhibitions PORTRAITS OF BELGRADE ARCHITECTS, CURSED NEIMAR – BOGDAN BOGDANOVIC - Museum of Contemporary Art
JUNE 30	20.30	- Instalation of BORIS PETROVSKI- City Centre
JULY 2	20.30	- Photography Exhibition - Chifte Amam
JULY 3	21.00	- VASKO SERAFIMOV- Amphitheatre at Mother Theresa's House
JULY 4	20.30	- "NECKLACE OF SONGS AND DANCES" by TANEC - Amphitheatre at Mother Theresa's House
JULY 5	20.30	- Photography Exhibition "URBAN MAN" - Mala Stanica
	22.30	- Costume Sound Greeting "SO-OBLEKUVANJE" – "Menada", Old Bazaar
JULY 6	21.00	- ARIAN AND FRIENDS UNPLUGGED - Kurshumli An
JULY 7	21.00	- "KABADAYAS" - Amphitheatre Mother Theresa (Universal Hall)

the festival offers art and fashion shows, exhibitions of traditional handicrafts, book promotions and other events.

The epithets that critics use for the festival include "the most abundant", "the most diverse", "the longest" and "one of the richest international cultural events held in Macedonia". The festival is well received beyond Macedonian borders and its international reputation is confirmed by its membership of the International Festivals & Events Association - IFEA. Over the years, the festival has become known not only for featuring returning star performers, but also for welcoming young up-and-coming artists and performers from all over the world. Participation in Skopje Summer festival features in every participant's resume and portfolio.



Please visit the web site of the Directorate for Culture and the Arts
<http://www.dku.org.mk/> for full listings and for confirming times and locations of events.

JULY 8	20.30	- Concert of four-hand piano JASNA AVRAMOVSKA AND SLAVICA MICEVSKA - City Skopje Museum
	21.00	-ROMEO AND JULIETTE - Macedonian National Theatre
JULY 9	21.00	- FABULA RASA – Suli An
JULY 10	20.30	András Csáki – guitar – Daut Pashin Amam
JULY 11	20.30	- Concert of WEST COAST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – Suli An
JULY 16	20.30	- KRSTE BADAROVSKI – piano- City Skopje Museum
	21.00	-Kafe Cinema - Fun Park "Luna"
JULY 17	20.00	- Exhibition "Colour Vibrations" of DITA STAROVA QERIMI- Chifte Amam
	20.30	- STEFAN GRASSE – guitar and RAFAEL KEMPKIN - marimba- Daut Pashin Amam
	21.00	- Kafe Cinema- Fun park "Luna"
JULY 18	20.00	- Exhibition "FOUR ELEMENTS" of SQIPE MEHMETI- Mala Stanica
	21.00	- "FOKLORIC STORIES" - Amphitheatre at Mother Theresa's House
	21.00	- Kafe Cinema- Fun park "Luna"
JULY 19	20.30	- KYNNE KABALE – Suli An
	21.00	- Kafe Cinema - Fun park "Luna"
JULY 20	20.30	Concert of „JANE SANDANSKI" - Amphitheatre at Mother Theresa's House
	21.00	- Kafe Cinema - Fun park "Luna"
JULY 21	20.30	- Concert of the participants of the violin seminar of Anna and Oleg Kondratenko - City Skopje Museum
	21.00	-Kafe Cinema - Fun park "Luna"
JULY 23	21.00	- Concert of „OFIR EL VIAJE "- in front of the Museum of Holocaust
JULY 24	20.30	- Concert of BOLOGNA CELLO PROJECT – Daut Pashin Amam or City Skopje Museum
JULY 25	11.00	- BORKA NAUMOVA - SCULPTURES - Museum of Contemporary Art
JULY 26		- TOMISLAVA LOJIC - piano, BARBARA MIKULIC - flute, MARIJO KRNIC - tenor - City Skopje Museum
JULY 30		- Concert of Ensemble of North Cyprus - in front of Army Hall
JULY 31	21.00	- Concert „SYMPHONY" of „LEB I SOL & JEUNESSES MOVING ORCHESTRA", Kurshumli An

YUNUS EMRE

Turkish Cultural Centre in SKOPJE



simplicity of his language and the themes of his poems.

He excelled in describing complex ideas in plain language:

Tolerate the Man Because
of his Creator.

In these two lines he implies that because man had been made by God every person deserves to be loved and respected regardless of his religion, nationality, colour, position, class or gender. Recognizing the humanistic message of his poetry, UNESCO proclaimed 1991 the year of Yunus Emre.

At the Yunus Emre Centre in Skopje there are courses for learning the Turkish language for different purposes and at three levels of proficiency (A, B and C). The teaching is supported by modern infrastructure and advanced methods. Curricula and examinations for certification are professionally prepared to meet EU criteria ("Standards for learning European languages according to common programs"). The centre uses textbooks published by the University of Ankara - TOMER, specialized in teaching Turkish as a foreign language.

Besides the Turkish language classes,

YUNUS EMRE Turkish Cultural Centre was opened on the 26th of March 2010 by Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and Elizabeta Kančeska Mileska, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. The goal of the centre is to promote Turkey, the Turkish language, culture and history.

The centre bears the name of Yunus Emre, the famous 13th-century Turkish poet from Anatolia. His poetry was written in the colloquial Turkish language and in an easy to understand manner, which makes his poems widely-read by poetry lovers of today. Many poets were influenced by the





the centre hosts various cultural activities. As part of the series of meetings with intellectuals and contemporary authors, the centre held a meeting with Venko Andonovski, a professor at the "Blaze Konesky" Faculty of Philology of the Skopje University, a member of the Macedonian PEN Centre and of the Association of Writers of Macedonia, whose novel *The Navel of the World* was proclaimed the novel of the year and awarded the prestigious "Balkanika" international literary award. Muteber Schankazan, the Attaché for Culture and Tourism at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, Huner Schengan, the Rector of the International Balkan University, as well as Turkish and Macedonian authors, professors and media representatives took part in this meeting alongside students who take regular classes at the centre.

The famous Turkish actress Turqan Schoray was in Macedonia as a guest of honour at the opening of the 3rd Week of Turkish Film. Held between the 23rd and the 27th of November 2011 in Skopje, it was opened with the film *"The Girl with the Red Scarf"*. The cocktail reception after the screening was attended by Hadi Nezir, Minister in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Erdogan Sarach, Member of the Parliament, and the whole Embassy staff led by the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Skopje H. E. Mr. Gurol Sokmencer, as well as by many prominent members of the art and business communities. Due to the large

interest, the Week of Turkish Film was also held in Bitola.

Yunus Emre Centre organized an evening devoted to Ferid Muhic during which Macedonian intellectuals and readers have expressed their interest in and appreciation of the work of this great poet and thinker. The speakers at the evening included Professors Venko Andonovski and Ivan Dzeparovski as well as the former Minister for Culture of the Republic of Macedonia Gjuner Ismail.

Another cultural event was dedicated to the famous Macedonian poet Mateja Matevski. This event was attended by the President of the Association of the Writers of Macedonia, the writer and critic Rade Siljan, the famous Turkish poet Fahri Kaja, and several members of the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts, poets, writers, journalists and students.

In March 2012 in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey and the *Dobredojde* Macedonia Welcome Centre, Yunus Emre Centre organized a Turkish Coffee Morning at the Welcome Centre. The guests, among whom there were many representatives of the Skopje expat community, were treated to a rich presentation on Turkey as a tourist destination, delicious Turkish food prepared by our activists, life kanun recital and aromatic Turkish coffee, prepared in front of a mesmerized audience using a hand coffee beans grinder and a traditional mangal with hot coals.



The Birds of Macedonia



Hawk

Being a country with diverse geography and a few climate zones, including Mediterranean, continental and mountainous, Macedonia is famous for its birds. Birds of different types populate the skies over this country. According to the official count, Macedonia is home to 335 species. Some of them are resident in the country throughout the year, while others only during one season. Some of the latter raise their young here and then migrate to warmer regions during the winter. There are also wintering birds which stay a good part of the winter in Macedonia to escape the colder climate up north. There are further 16 extirpated species, which used to live in Macedonia, but have found home somewhere else.

Birds are prominent in Macedonian folklore and heritage. "The hawk drinks water on the River Vardar" goes a famous

Macedonian folk song. Collecting and domesticating wild nightingales is still a hobby of many passionate people from the towns' suburbs. The breeding of pigeons is considered almost a sport. In the past it was widespread. Now, it looks like a queer phenomenon, and the breeders always attract attention of the media. Each keeps a few dozen birds in small wooden huts and trains them for flying. At regional competitions a few champions in sky diving and speed flying come from the vicinity of Skopje. The hawks and eagle of Demir Kapija are known to hunt their prey in the plateau of Sveti Nikole, few dozen kilometres north.

Macedonia attracts the interest of many bird watchers. This sort of tourism is starting to grow. Macedonia is advertised as a country in which one can find waterfowl and wading birds, a large number of song birds, raptors,



Dalmatian pelicans

game birds, swifts and nighthawks, many of which occupy several ecosystems as they fly to and from forests, meadows, shorelines, cities and urban green spaces. Bird watchers are particularly keen to spot a rare bird or a so-called vagrant, a bird that does not belong to the Macedonian fauna but has somehow lost way in its travels or got displaced due to weather conditions.

Among the most fabulous regions for birdwatchers is the Lake Prespa, one of the best freshwater sites for birds in the whole of Europe. White and Dalmatian pelicans, pygmy cormorant, glossy ibis and all of Europe's breeding heron species can be found here. Bird watching tourists also admire the Prespa rugged countryside full of scenic mountains, large lakes and extensive lowlands, which they consider ideal for a superb variety of raptors and passerines. The watchers have a chance of seeing the elusive rock partridge and many regional passerines - from masked and lesser grey shrikes to sombre tit, rock nuthatch and black-headed bunting, and barred and

eastern orphean warblers amongst a fine variety of warblers.

Macedonia's Vulture Conservation Project supports ornithological research in the effort to increase knowledge about the bird's life. Local guides involved in this project help to organize fascinating bird watching trips. Levant sparrowhawk, long-legged buzzard, eastern imperial eagle and lanner are among the many raptor attractions. The tours may include a visit to the vulture feeding station, where the conservation project is based.



Pygmy Cormorant

The Story of Macedonian Ruby

By Dean Skartov



Macedonian ruby and filigree jewellery



Cross with Macedonian ruby set in gold by Vlado Gava presented to Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 by a Macedonian delegation

Many countries have their national precious stone: Chinese jade, Australian opal, Czech garnet, Columbian emerald, Baltic amber. This is the story of the Macedonian ruby – the national precious stone of Macedonia!

The story started in the early 1990s when many young men had to leave Macedonia in order to avoid being drafted and sent against their will to the battlefields of former Yugoslavia. One of them was Deko, agricultural engineer and keyboard player who in the 1980s ruled rock'n'roll venues with his groups Badmingtons, Aleksandar Makedonski and Klerzo (<http://youtu.be/y8Jj7UftbZc>, <http://youtu.be/sYrqdSUPJkw>, and <http://youtu.be/btapEcLX98w>). He went to live with his aunt Tanja in Trieste in Italy.

Only a couple of months after finding himself in a new environment he met comm. Primo Rovis, a coffee magnate who at that time was starting his private collection of rare specimens of crystals and fossils from around the world. Having commenced his first part-time job with Primo Rovis, Deko never stopped wondering how little we know about the magic world of minerals and crystals. After almost 10 years in Italy Deko returned home in 2001 with a huge experience and the idea to set up a small

mineral exhibit which could develop it into a successful business.

Thus started the small DEKO shop near the Greek Liaison Office in Porta Bunjakovec. DEKO quickly became popular thanks to the manner in which it presented the minerals. Since that was the period when many were actively looking for new authentic Macedonian values, visitors would often ask if there were any minerals from Macedonia.

I thought that as Macedonia was so small it could not be on the par with Brazil, Russia or China but I was wrong. One day someone told me that such a specialized store must have Macedonian ruby! "How is that possible that there is a Macedonian ruby and I do not know about it?" I was asking myself. I would understand if it were some other stone, but ruby was one of the most sought after gems. Had there been a Macedonian ruby, it would have been already studied and promoted.

But it turned out that there had been no successful efforts to promote this stone.

So, I decided to equip a workshop to cut it! Every gemstone gets its full price on the market only if it is well cut. We invested a few years into research and our very first silver ring with Macedonian ruby exhibited at the artisan bazaar in

Hotel Arka (organized by the Macedonian Artisan Trade Association) in the spring of 2006 got the Best New Product Prize. From then on the knowledge about this new unique Macedonian product slowly began to spread among our people as well as foreign visitors.

Macedonian ruby has a characteristic raspberry pink colour, and it is not transparent. Usually on the world market inexpensive rubies are violet red and almost all of them come from Asia and Africa. In that context Macedonian ruby occupies a unique place as a European mineral. It is especially important since we know that the majority of European gemstone mines have long been exhausted. Macedonian ruby is exhibited, among other places, in the Natural History Museum in London. Now thanks to all the efforts to muster our creative resources to procure new artisan products from Macedonia this gemstone has become a kind of a joker of our artisan economy!

UNIQUE SOUVENIR AND KEEPSAKE

Imagine a tourist who had already visited many countries and many jewellery shops. When such a person comes to Macedonia and sees the beautiful pink coloured local Macedonian ruby, he or she cannot resist buying at least a small piece for a few bucks. Accounting for over 80% of DEKO's income, the sales of ruby give a big impetus to our business and educational activities. The ruby brings together many creative individuals and provides work for several otherwise unemployed persons. The young designer Ivana Sojanovska has been creating the most popular filigree designs for setting the ruby. The idea of the now famous Macedonian ruby filigree star originally came from art historian Veneta Iljovska.

Since last year, when the President of the Republic of Macedonia Dr. Gjogje Ivanov included it in the catalogue of state gifts, Macedonian ruby has been serving the



Silver filigree broche in the star design suggested by Veneta Iljovska

country's diplomatic needs. The Minister for European Integration Mrs. Teuta Arifi uses it too.

Today, many young people are still looking for new values to identify with. Especially in smaller countries where so many goods are imported and symbols copied, one has to look hard for domestic symbols. That's why we felt great satisfaction when a young couple came in to order their wedding rings with a brilliant cut Macedonian ruby. Macedonian emigrants wanting to take back overseas a precious piece of their original homeland are our frequent customers. Some say that they promote Macedonian ruby in the hope that those who remain at home will take care of the country's natural resources.

THE POWER OF PINK

Ruby is the second hardest stone having the value "9" on the Mohs hardness scale only behind diamond that is placed at "10". According to the Vedic medical tradition, pink gemstones influence the heart chakra, the energy centre of love and human effort. That's why Macedonian ruby became the symbol of power of LOVE as well as an effective healing stone for all the sorrows we had to overcome during our past.

For more information on Macedonian ruby visit: www.mkrubin.com.

Translated from Macedonian by Lyubov Gurjeva

VASKO TASKOVSKI

Vasko Taskovski was born in 1937 in the village of Nizopole near Bitola. In 1958 he graduated from the Secondary Art School in Skopje. He graduated from the Academy of Applied Arts in Belgrade in 1964. From 1966 to 1991 he worked as a set designer for Macedonian Television. His works include oil paintings, watercolours, drawings and graphic design. He has had 40 personal exhibitions and has taken part in numerous group exhibitions in the country and abroad.

According to the art critic Vladimir Velickovski, the work of Vasko Taskovski stands out from contemporary Macedonian painting for its consistency, stylistic and spiritual homogeneity, his artistic and moral values, as well as for its thematic diversity. He is a humanist who has penetrated some essential domains and characteristics of today. His work reflects the restlessness of the generation of Macedonian



Spring vibes



The Creator



artists of the second half of the sixties that took on the responsibility to restore and continue the modern artistic tradition established in the few previous decades.

In his work, Taskovski shaped the traces of the past, restored some old symbols and legends giving them new meanings and content. He is aware that art today can't be a consolation anymore, or a revolt in the sociological sense, but it has the power to speak about the moral values of man.

Taskovski affirms the awareness of the

continuity, as well as openness for new knowledge in the modern world. He is a dreamer with his feet on the ground, a dreamer who even in the "awake state of his spirit, hears the unconscious suggestion that comes from the dark depth of our existence".



Indigo Bombay



Jagoda Mihajlovska-Georgieva was born in 1953 in Skopje. She studied literature at the university and since 1972 has been working in the printed media as a journalist, editor, columnist and essayist in the field of culture. At the same time she is one of the most respected film and TV critics and a member of FIPRESCI (International Association of Film Critics). She has been a faithful follower of the most important international film festivals (Cannes, Moscow, Venice, Montreal, the Oscar awards, etc.) for many years. For over ten years she has been the editor-in-chief of the Entertainment and Film Board of Telma Television, national network. She is the author and presenter of a series of TV interviews with well-known personalities from all fields of cultural, scientific and urban life in Macedonia, and the author of two trilogies of travel documentaries on India, Nepal and the Himalayas. She is a member of the Macedonian Writers' Association. To date she has published a collection of short stories, a book of essays, two novels for children and two novels for adults. Her short stories have been included in several anthologies of Macedonian authors published in various foreign languages. Her novel *The Stone of Your Day – A Himalayan Story* (2005) won the Racin award, while *Indigo Bombay* (2008) received *Utrinski vesnik* Novel of the Year award.

Part I

Look at the sky, maybe you'll see a star... At the sky? But there is no sky here, let alone a... Am I asleep? She stirred her body. In the sleep even pain seemed like a dream... Who said that? Whoever it was, she pulled the covers over her head. Let them say what they please, I'm asleep and dreaming. Time is passing... time is passing... What day is it today? Time is passing... And what time is it? What time?

Suddenly she opened her eyes. What a nightmarish night! She shivered, what strange dreams, and all of them as if they were real. She tried to remember something of them, but what she saw silenced her. She was left with only a remnant of anxiety, an inexplicable fear that she felt as her own, fragments of puzzling images. She heard laughter and indistinct voices sunk deep in hazy sounds without being able to recognise their owners. Only silhouettes, insufficiently lit, with shapeless shadows in place of faces, swiftly, swiftly they sped through her consciousness, vanishing through mysterious passageways. Some kind of large bird shook its white wings then vanished, and in its place appeared a dark-skinned boy. Does he have wings too? No. With large, dark eyes and dimples in his cheeks when he smiled. He too disappeared. A pair of sandals danced, floating in indigo-coloured space. Then they vanished. Everything came and went, except for a short dialogue that went on longer...

Are you crying?

I'm cold. She remembered the voice that had stretched through all her dreams, all night long. She wasn't even remembering it, it was as clear as if she were hearing it again. It was still there, inside her, outside her, everywhere, it seemed to have carried over into her wakeful state.

She held her breath, the better to hear it. No, there were no words. And the man who had been singing wasn't there anymore. The voice existed independently. Only songs, magically attractive like intoxicating scents. Was it him who woke me up?

From within, from the depth of her being, came a powerful call to accompany someone.

Who? Why? Where?

Hastily, she freed herself from the rustling bedcover, almost leapt out of bed, and quickly opened the heavy dark blue velvet curtains, pressing her face against the hermetically sealed windowpane. A whole world of crowded forms, of exaggerated colours like screams, and of movements – surrealistically chaotic – burst into her view. She could not hear the sounds, nor smell the smells, but nevertheless, the monotonous hum of the air-conditioner did not succeed as before in maintaining the illusion of a peaceful silence enclosed within four walls. For someone behind her back called out, there's no point in running away, you owe a debt! She was stupefied. Her brain froze... She didn't even manage to turn round, it had already broken her train of thought... Are you afraid? No. Then why am I listening to you? And it won't hurt? This too I dreamed last night, she passed her hand wearily over her eyes. She heard the thumping of her own heart, beating in her breast as if it would leap out at any minute. Streams of cold sweat slid down her neck to her shoulders. Wake up, wake yourself up! she said angrily, the night's over, it's morning.

And that shout of a moment ago, from deep within her, forced her to join with the outside world, on the other side, no postponing it, at once! It compelled her to get ready to go out quicker than she had ever done before. Feverishly she opened the wardrobe, pulling out a skirt and blouse that came to hand, and as soon as she had put them on the question came to her, but where am I going? It doesn't matter, she waved her hand excitedly, I'm going.

Before her eyes appeared her lonely mornings of doing nothing, wandering through the innumerable areas of the hotel complex, the shops, the restaurants and bars, the beauty salons, swimming in the little lakes, drinking fruit-juice cocktails on the terraces... All alike, always the same. A wave of revolt hit her. On top of them stretched the long hours spent in reading. An endless sequence of pages and books and other people's lives...

But come on, hurry up, go out at last! She speeded up her movements, skip them... at least for today, all your... you

know it all... Suddenly her normal everyday existence in the hotel was immeasurably boring to her, even the... Repulsive? Maybe not repulsive, but suffocating, yes.

For the first time she felt it was... What is this feeling? she asked herself, while she combed her long hair briskly. Oh! She breathed deeply, I feel imprisoned. And? And flabby, insufficiently alive! She pulled the comb harder. All this luxury has deadened me, why didn't I notice it before? She looked at herself reproachfully in the mirror. And why just now?

The internal call, persistent and loud now as a scream, almost hurled her out of the room, pushed her with great leaps down the staircase, then left, running through the long corridor to the spacious hotel lobby, only a few more steps, and... She found herself breathing heavily in front of the enormous entrance door made of innumerable panes of glass, the final barrier that separated her from the outside world.

**Translated from Macedonian by
Ljubica Arsovska and Peggy Reed**

From the reviews of Indigo Bombay:

An extremely wide-ranging, ambitious, imaginative and complex structure, but in essence an 'ordinary' novel with the plot of a thriller and a happy ending.

Forum political weekly

Indigo Bombay is proof that the journalist Jagoda Mihajlovska-Georgieva is a first-class writer.

Globus political weekly

The power of personal experience makes Indigo Bombay an inspiring literary work which clearly has the ability to bring back respectability to the word 'best-seller'. This is a ready-made, full-blooded scenario for a film. The novel succeeds in tickling the reading public, above all with its glorification of love.

Life Magazine monthly

Many-layered, worked like a film frame. Skilfully written, mature and fresh.

Utrinski vesnik daily newspaper

Benefits of Hemp Seed and Hemp Oil

Leading researchers and medical doctors consider hemp to be one of the most nutritious food sources on the planet. The hardiness and nutritional power of hempseed could significantly address the planet's protein needs and starvation problems.

As exposure levels to artificial chemicals, pesticides, and radioactive materials increase, more and more people are becoming interested in eating low on the food chain (as opposed to eating animal products such as meat, large ocean fish, crustaceans, and dairy that are high on the food chain where toxins accumulate), this means eating more and more plants. The side effects of eating animal products, such as excessive cholesterol, saturated fat, and weight gain, along with increasingly poor quality and taste as well as artificial chemical use (pesticides, injected hormones, animal vaccinations, etc.) are becoming an overwhelming problem causing millions of people to seek more humane, sustainable alternatives with vegetarian, vegan, and raw-food sources of protein and fat. One of the best sources of plant protein and fat is hempseed. In terms of its average nutrient content, shelled hempseed is 35 percent protein, 47 percent fat, and 12 percent carbohydrate. Hemp seeds contain all the essential amino acids and essential fatty acids necessary to maintain healthy human life. No other single plant source has the essential amino acids in such an easily digestible form, or has the essential fatty acids in as perfect a ratio to meet human nutritional needs. Packed with 33 to 37 percent pure digestible protein, raw hemp seed, with all its original life-force energy and enzymes intact, are one of nature's richest sources of complete protein. Only algae such as spirulina, AFA blue-green

algae, and marine phytoplankton exceed hemp in protein content.

Approximately 47 percent of each hemp seed is comprised of "good fats," with an ideal balance of omega-3 (alpha-linolenic acid) and omega-6 essential fatty acids (linoleic acid and gamma-linolenic acid).

The carbohydrate content of shelled hempseed is 11.5 percent and its sugar content is 2 percent. Of the shelled hempseed carbohydrate, 6 percent is in the form of fiber. The fiber content of hempseed flour is the highest of all commercially grown seeds. In addition to containing the basic human nutrient groups, hempseed has a high content of vitamin E (three times higher than flax) in the form of alpha-, beta-, gamma-, and delta-tocopherol and alpha-tocotrienols.

Hempseed is also an outstanding source of monounsaturated omega-9 fatty acids, which are considered a healthy energy source and a quality beautifying oil. Hempseed is a good source of brain-building and liver-supporting lecithin. Lecithin is a lipid substance (fat-oil) composed primarily of choline and inositol. It is found in all living cells as a major component of cell membranes. The term "lecithin" is derived from the Greek word lekithos meaning "egg," as lecithin was first discovered in eggs.

Hempseed is one of the few seeds that contain chlorophyll. Present inside each seed are infant green leaves that will eventually open and grow as the seed sprouts.

Hempseed, like spirulina, contains the super anti-inflammatory, essential fatty acid known as gamma-linolenic acid (GLA). Because of its balanced fatty acid content and the presence of the gamma-linolenic acid, regular use of hemp oil has shown great improvement in skin conditions like eczema and psoriasis.



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