

# 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,

**Y**UNUS 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 13<sup>th</sup>-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.

