



The First Time Travels in Latin America and Turkey

In 2008 and 2009 Historic Environment Education and Time Travels have been introduced into new countries like Nicaragua and Turkey. After months of preparation the first Time Travels took place in April and May this year in three municipalities on the Turkish west coast, Time Travels to Manisa in 1955, Smyrna 590 B.C and Yesilova Stone Ages Site 6000 B.C. The three Time Travel committees have made a tremendous job in preparation and training.

“The Time Travel method is an extraordinary educational tool for our country,” says Saygin Bayrak who is the chairperson of the Time Travel group in Karsiyaka municipality arranging the Time Travels in the old city of Smyrna, Turkey.



The alphabetization song is singing loud and clear at the coffee farm in la Dalia, Nicaragua, in the Time Travel to 1980

March 12 2009 was a milestone for Time Travels in Nicaragua when the first Time Travel in the country as well as in the whole of Latin America was arranged at a coffee farm close to the small town of La Dalia. The year for the Time Travel was 1980, just after the Sandinista revolution.

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Students and teachers at the Athena temple in old Smyrna, Turkey in the Time Travel to 590 B.C.

People believed in the future and wanted to develop the country. What is my contribution?

Bridging Ages, International Organization in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels is growing. More persons are joining the e-mailing list and Time Travels are introduced into new countries. Time Travel Groups consisting of people from municipalities, museums, schools, universities and other heritage organisations are formed in several communities and regions. The goal of Bridging Ages is to support and inspire each other in the development of education at local historic sites and make these sites important to both local and visiting people. We wish the Time Travel groups in Turkey and Nicaragua, as well as other Time Travel groups throughout the Bridging Ages organization all the best for the future. Many of us will get together at the annual conference in Finland in September for inspiring lectures, workshops, meetings and a Time Travel to 1809. See ya.

Ebbe Westergren
President of Bridging Ages

Remember to register for Bridging Ages next Conference in Finland, 10-13.9.2009!

“Bridging Local History in a Global Context” will gather enthusiasts from all over the world focusing on Historical Environment Education. The theme will be discussed in seminars and workshops and the programme contains also a Time Travel to 1809, interesting excursions etc. The conference will take place on the western coast of Finland, at Stundars Open

Air Museum. (10-11.9.2009) and in the surroundings of the city of Kokkola (12-13.9.2009). See Newsletter 2/2009 www.bridgingages.com for full programme and registration.

We are looking forward to have your registration at latest July 6th.

Welcome!

The first Time Travel in Latin America La Estrella coffee farm in La Dalia, Ni- caragua, 1980

First of all I must say that I feel very proud for having arranged the first Time Travel in Nicaragua as well as in the whole of Latin America.

Ebbe Westergren from Kalmar, Sweden and I started the preparation for the time travel in the small mountain town of La Dalia only two and a half days before the event. It was a hard job. We had earlier decided on focusing on the coffee plantations, which became important in the La Dalia region in the 1970s. But now we had to find a site. The first farm we visited was not a good representative for early coffee farms in La Dalia and there were no labour houses. We got some suggestions of other farms nearby. When we came to La Estrella coffee farm we realized after a while that this was a perfect farm for a time travel. The boss of the farm, El Peluche, received us with open arms. He liked the time travel idea and was proud that his farm was chosen for a time travel. We decided on the year 1980, one year after the Sandinista revolution when there was a lot of expectations and hope in Nicaragua. That year also a gigantic literacy campaign was launched and thousands of brigadistas were sent all over the country to teach people how to read and write. The La Estrella farm had a lot of houses from 1980 still in place: administration buildings, the workers houses, office, cantina, even the classroom where the alphabetization classes took place in 1980. And of course big coffee plantations. Everything was still in use in more or less the same way as 1980.

There were two hard-working days to write the scenario, decide upon the key questions and activities, find props, write the role cards etc. March 12 about 60 people gathered for the time travel workshop, people from Dario, three hours away, from the big city of Matagalpa and of course from La Dalia.

We started in the morning with a presentation about the time travel method. Ebbe showed slides from time travels in different countries. I spoke about my time travel experiences in South Africa last year.



A lesson on vowels and words as part of the literacy campaign in 1980. The brigadista teacher is wearing the original shirt and scarf.

In the afternoon we travelled to La Estrella coffee farm, started the time travel and moved to the year 1980. The topic was coffee farming and the alphabetization campaign. We even had the old leaders of the farm from 1980 and real teachers from the alphabetization. We divided the big group into two parts, one group worked in the coffee plantation, repaired baskets, made coffee and tortillas while the other group went into the classroom and had a lesson on vowels and words. Bosse and Chibola were real good teachers and I think that this part of the time travel was the best. I was a very intelligent student, of course. The key questions we discussed a lot were “What is the way forwards for Nicaragua after the revolution?” and “How do I contribute to the development of the country?”

Most of the group spoke only Spanish but there were six interpreters translating from English to Spanish and vice versa.



Fight illiteracy and build up the country. A flag from the campaign in 1980. To the right Marlon Rivera, the leader of Time Travels in Nicaragua.

The time travel was a big success. Everybody was happy and developed their own character. We all did our best, sang revolutionary songs and shouted slogans from the time. The time travel, even if it was short, was really great, I must say. And maybe the best result was that we put some interest about the time travel method into the Ministry of Education Authorities in La Dalia, the Matagalpa region and Managua, too

*Marlon Rivera Aldana
English Teacher at the Olof Palme Institute
La Dalia, Nicaragua*

The first Time Travels in Turkey

In April 2009 the first Time Travels in Turkey took place. They are part of the Tusenet project concerning Democracy, Human Rights and closer relations between Turkey and the European Union. It is a project between Kalmar läns museum in Sweden and three Turkish municipalities close to the Aegean Sea– Karsiyaka, Bornova and Manisa. In each municipality a Time Travel group has been formed. Here are the reports from the three groups.

Bornova, Izmir Yesilova 8000 years ago

Two Time Travels were realized in Yesilova Höyük which is the oldest settlement area in Izmir. The Time Travel were conducted by the Municipality of Bornova, Ege University and Kalmar County Museum. About twenty 6th grade students and teachers from Isikkent Education Campus participated. The Time Travels took part in the prehistoric village in Bornova, where there are two Stone Age houses, a furnace, an oven and a courtyard constructed in 2009 by the Municipality of Bornova.

Before the first Time Travel the students prepared by visiting the archaeological excavations. The students were also taken to the archaeological park to dig in the artificial excavation area. In the Time Travel back to the Neolithic Age, 8000 years from today, the students cooked, made bread, pots and stamp seals, prepared jewellery and ornaments in clay while discussing questions like how to handle with the ecological problems and climate change and how to deal with the changes in society.

They even participated in free time activities at the end of the Time Travel as they didn't want to leave the Stone Age village.

The first experiences of Time Travels have been an enjoyable and informative study for the participants and trainers. Moreover, it has been a good example of harmonious cooperation between several institutions.

Scenario, extract Yesilova - The Green Plain Settlement

People in the settlement on the green plain between the two rivers live a good life with plentiful resources. But now times are changing. There is a lot of turmoil and unrest in the society.

One problem many people are talking about is the change in the climate. It has been warmer the last years. There is less rain, sometimes the crops have not ripened and there have been to little pasture for the cattle. The people on the green plain have also heard about the extreme droughts in the inland and that many people are forced to leave their homelands. There is an uncertainty how to cope with the changes in the climate and how to deal with all the immigrants coming to the plain...



While working everybody talks about the changes in the society and in the climate. The children are making pottery and stamp seals to be used in the village 6000 B.C.

Comments

“Travelling to 6000 B.C. was a great experience which gave me a totally different way of looking at history.”
Duygu Uzdaz, Bornova municipality.

“Time Travels is a very important educational method. We have to work to make it sustainable and widespread.”

Jülide Karakus, Bornova municipality.

Bornova Time Travel Group

Karsiyaka, Izmir Time Travel to Smyrna 590 B.C.

On the 5th and 6th of May 2009 two Time Travels were realized by Karsiyaka municipality and Smyrna Excavation Administration with the help of Kalmar County Museum. The first day 37 high school students and the next day 15 elementary school students, plus c. 20 adults each day, had the opportunity to take part in the daily life of a Smyrnian person 590 B.C.

The Time Travel began with a ceremony at the Athena temple led by King Basileus. After the ceremony prepared for the festival by painting pottery, building the fortification wall, making necklaces and cooking. They discussed and argued how to make Smyrna the top city around the Mediterranean Sea again, if wealth is for everyone and if the gods have all the explanations for the structure of the world. The Time Travel ended with an offering to the goddess Athena inside the temple. Musicians, philosophers and bards of the city sang songs and read poems.

Scenario, extract

Smyrna preparing for the festival in honour of the new Athena temple, ten years after the Lydian conquest.

Smyrna has had a hard time after the Lydian attack ten years ago. Parts of the city were destroyed, including houses, the city wall and the Athena temple. The

last years have been a time of renovation and rebuilding. There have also been big efforts to rebuild the Athena temple, to make it even grander than before.

Today is a big day for the city; the restoration of the Athena temple is finished. The new temple for the goddess of Smyrna can be used for the first time. A festival is going to be held and there are lots of preparations to be done.

People are called in from neighbouring farms to prepare for the festival and to bring food products...



The Time Travel in Smyrna began with a ceremony at the Athena temple led by King Basileus. One of Basileus' assistants is reciting a poem from the time.

Comments

We felt the spirit of the past. These Time Travels should be provided for all students. It enables us to learn about the history, ourselves and our society.

Yesim Kuynulu, teacher at Karsiyaka Anatolian High School

I'm honestly proud of joining this pioneering project which performed for the first time in Turkey. I wish that all students would have the chance to join a Time Travel. It is such an efficient teaching method and I learnt a lot of things about Smyrna."

It was really mystic and fascinating when we gave the presents and made our wishes to Athena. The time travel was a big experience. This is the best way to learn history. Every student should participate in a time travel.

Snay Kohvec - grade 9, Karsiyaka Anatolian High School

Everything was great, magnificent, enjoyable. When we made the sacrifice for Athena I really felt that we were in 590 B.C. The music was fascinating. I think I will never forget this day. This kind of activities must be popularized all around the world.

Mert Aktulum - grade 9, Karsiyaka Anatolian High School

Karsiyaka Time Travel Group

Manisa Time Travel, Manisa 1955

In the Time Travel in Manisa the Seven steps for the Time Travel method was applied. We chose a site (1) "Tophane" on the slopes above the city where Manisa Tarzan had lived. We researched the site (2) and "read the landscape" (3), interviewed people who lived in the 1950s, read books, looked into archives and newspapers. We had workshops and training days (4). The learners studied the 1950s, Manisa life and Tarzan (5). The Time Travels took place April 28 and 29 April, the first day with students in grade 4 and 5 from Children Art and Culture Center, the second day with students from grade 6-8 from Ali Rıza Çevik Elementary school. University students from CBU University in Manisa helped in the Time Travel (6). Evaluations were made both with learners and the leaders of the Time Travels (7).

A couple of days before the first Time Travel the last preparations for material and transport were made, the area was visited and the appropriate places for the activities were determined.

The Time Travel starting with the participants catching sight of two people beginning to cut down trees for a new avenue. The children tried to stop them. After a short quarrel the woodcutters promised to come back with a written permit. While waiting the children wrote protest placards, planted flowers, examined plants and trees.



"Tarzan" and the children tries to stop the woodcutters from cutting down the trees. The children have even made protest placards. Manisa 1955.

They also enjoyed games like topaç, listened to music and talked in the coffee house about the future for Manisa, traditional or modern way of life, environment or development. Some prepared food and drinks, like gözleme, ayran and coffee.

When the woodcutters came back with their permit the children shouted for Tarzan. Tarzan came running and there was an intense and fierce discussion about the importance of trees and a clean environment. In the end the woodcutters gave up, at least temporary. The people thanked Tarzan and celebrated by eating food, singing and playing games.

After the Time Travel both adults and children wrote their experiences and comments in a memory book.

Scenario, extract Manisa in 1955, the green city?

The city of Manisa is taking a step into the modern times. The population is growing and the city needs to be modernized with better roads and higher standard of living for people. A new avenue is planned. All the trees in the area of the road have to be cut down as well as some of the old trees in and around the city.

The assistant gardener Ahmeddin Carlak, “Tarzan”, is not at all happy with the new plans for the city. He tries in many ways to convince the leaders of the municipality that trees are important for the wellbeing of the people.

Today the first trees are going to be cut down for the modern avenue. Rather many people have gathered in the morning. Some are only curious but some are here to protest and will try to stop the plans to fell the trees. The atmosphere is tense. People are upset. Will the tree cutters come? What will happen?

In the evaluations after the Time Travels we see that all students and leaders were happy with the project. The students said they felt as if they were living in 1955. They saw how important mother nature is. They said they would never forget what they experienced in the Time Travel, adding they would like to join another Time Travel.

In the evaluations we observed that the project had reached its aim, the students felt the spirit of that time, and they also felt the love of Tarzan and his fight for trees and nature. All these positive reactions made us very happy and has encouraged us for making more Time Travels.

Comments

“I believe that this teaching method is one of the best. Thanks a lot for this experience”
Salih Iltenmis, teacher from Manisa

“It was a very successful project. It is an honor for me and my students to take part. And education has never been such fun before.”
Ebru Iltenmis, teacher from Manisa

“Going back to 1955 made me very happy . I didn’t want those moments to finish because there was no pollution. People respected the environment more, I believe that it must be the same today.”
Özge Uzun - 5/C

“It was really fun. My task was to call Tarzan and I loved it very much. We played games of 1955. We sang songs. The love of Tarzan for the nature was very good. I hope I can join again.”
Mehmetcan Sapçı - 4/E

“It was the best experience in my life. I learnt a lot, now I will protect the trees and I will not pollute the environment.”
Baric Sanıtok - 4/D

Manisa Time Travel group

Ikageng, a township in Potchefstroom, South Africa Time Travel to 1986

A Living History Project according to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Kronobergs County Council, the Växjö City Council in Sweden and the Tlokwe City Council in South Africa, started in 2008. Ebbe Westergren and colleagues from the Kalmar & Smålands museum introduced the Time Travel educational method as part of Local Historic Environment Education to various stakeholders at a workshop held in Potchefstroom in November 2008. A Working Committee (WC) was established under the chairmanship of Velaphi Fatyela, history teacher of Botoka High School, in order to plan a Time Travel in Ikageng. The working group consists of delegates from high schools in Ikageng, the Tlokwe Heritage Foundation and the Potchefstroom Museum.

The Committee was tasked to compile information on the history of Ikageng, align the information with the school’s curriculum and write a scenario for a Time Travel.



A protest march in the AME Church, Ikageng in 1986.

Time Travel workshop in March 2009

The aim of the workshop was to practically demonstrate the Time Travel method, the Seven Steps, to the workshop attendees. They consisted of 36 people that mainly represented educators from secondary schools in Ikageng and the North West University, members of historical foundations and museum officers.

The workshop consisted of a theoretical section with various lectures from historical, research and educational fields as well as a practical section where the workshop attendees took part in the actual Time Travel back to the year of 1986 at the AME Church in Ikageng.

The Time Travel Working Committee had decided on the AME church as the historical site for the Time Travel. Archives and interviews were the major sources for planning the Time Travel. The church was used for political meetings against the apartheid regime in the 1980s. In the Time Travel a meeting with the Civic organization in Ikageng was relived. Everyone had the crest of United Democratic Front pinned on their clothes as a symbol. The activities in the church included protest speeches, writing posters, singing and dancing. A moment in time was frozen, 20 March 1986.

The event was a huge success and distinctive in its spontaneity, since most of the participants' involvement bear testimony of a good recollection of the protest movement of 1986. Time Travel is an out-of-the box educational experience. It not only inspire learners' interest in history, it also encourages communication and empathy amongst people. The success of the Time Travel for learners later in 2009/2010 all depends on how well they are prepared with their research and characters.

Some comments after the Time Travel to 1986

"It was an exciting, healing journey to the past and a true reflection on the happenings that took place. It is history that is supposed to be documented."

David Ntanga, teacher at Seiphemelo Secondary School

"The Time Travel at the AME church was an eye opener to show that we in 2009 can live in 1986. It revealed the harsh realities that people were exposed to under the State of Emergency - the young people who were crammed into jails for months; young and old in the Apartheid prisons fighting for what is rightfully theirs - human dignity."

Velaphi Fatyela, Botoka High School

"The Time Travel was an emotional experience. I didn't know that political meetings were held in the church, I didn't know that six boys were killed by the police outside of the church in 1986, I didn't know... This is Ikageng history that we as residents need to know."

Wendy Kgori, Resolofetse Secondary School

The Potchefstroom Time Travel Working Group
Venessa van der Westhuizen, secretary

Medieval Festival in Tallinn

Every year in the second weekend of July Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, becomes for four days the blossoming Hansa City Reval, as it was in the Middle Ages. Estonian Folk Art and Craft Union organises the Medieval Festival of Tallinn.

The heart of the Medieval days takes place at the Town Hall Square. In the Masters Market visitors can admire and buy authentic and high-quality Estonian handicraft or participate in different workshops. On the stage entertainers from Estonia and abroad amuse people.

Near Niguliste church there is a special area for children. Handicraft workshops (felting, woodcarving, making a doll etc.) and medieval sport games are organised for girls and boys of all ages.

Different activities like special programs at the museums, trainings and excursions, as well as concerts, are organised all over the old town by the partners of the Handicraft Union.



Children dressed up in Medieval clothes taking part in the festival.

In 2009 every day also has its speciality: on Thursday there is a medieval masquerade ball in the Town Hall, on Friday a long bow tournament, on Saturday a marzipan market and on Sunday guided tours in the old town. In 2009 the Medieval Festival will be from 9.- 12. of July. Come with us to the Middle Ages!

Leen Jõesoo Estonian Folk Art and Craft Union
More information: www.folkart.ee, info@folkart.ee

Time Travel in New Mexico to 1912

This spring, the Public History Program at New Mexico State University conducted seven Time Travels to the year 1912. For New Mexico, 1912 is significant since that is the year that we became a state of the U.S. Students from the university class developed these characters: a judge, a visually handicapped lawyer, a widow whose husband died in the Mexican Revolution in 1911, a suffragist calling for the vote for women, a farmer making adobe mud bricks, a water engineer from Mesopotamia, a woman suffering from tuberculosis, a fake doctor, and others. In all, over 200 students (from age 11 to 18) visited us at our fair where they traded with a merchant, argued about the Women's vote, made adobes, cooked tortillas, tried medicine from a quack doctor, and participated in a trial of the widow accused of smuggling arms to the Mexican revolutionaries. The graduate students in the class wrote a manual that we will revise this summer and put on-line for teachers around New Mexico to use when they do Time Travels to 1912. This is in preparation for the commemoration of the centennial of our statehood.



Making tortillas in New Mexico.

At a conference in New Mexico in May I presented the Seven Steps to Time Travels, talked about Bridging Ages, and then held a short Time Travel to 1912 with the thirty in attendance, where we debated Women's Suffrage.

Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces

Award!

Partially as a result of his work in Time Travels, Jon Hunner, History Professor at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces received an award from the Historical Society of New Mexico in May 2009 for the best educator of New Mexico history.

Bridging Ages congratulates the vice president of the organization!

Department of Social Development, Western Cape, South Africa and the Time Travel project

Department of Social Development is a proud sponsor of Time Travels in the Western Cape and has a magnificent working relationship with the involved museums and personnel in the province including the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport and the learners from various schools. Through this project the young and the old can come together and build our societies and begin to respect one another.



There is a lot of energy in this old lady, dancing in the Time Travel to 1773 in Wolvekloof, South Africa

Department of Social Development has Older Persons programme among its objectives and design and implement integrated services for the care, support and protection of older persons. We have a mandate to ensure that after care support services are available and these include home based care and economic development projects and inter-generational projects like the Time Travel project.

This department is by all means creating and enabling environment for the seniors of this province, keeping them involved in the community activities as much as possible and introducing community based care services for this golden generation.

Today we have older persons participating in all Time Travels and intergenerational projects with the learners from different communities and cultures. This is one of the other methods of sharing knowledge and transfer of skills to the younger generation.

We wish everyone involved in the Time Travel project in the Western Cape Province, South Africa best of luck for the year ahead.

*Ms. Avela Nqentsu
Project Manager:
Time Travel & Intergenerational Projects*

International meeting in Sweden



Time Travel in Kalmar to the year of 1863. An expedition is preparing to leave Kalmar for a new life in South Africa this year 1863.

In May 6-20 twelve people from South Africa, Uganda and Nicaragua visited Sweden for training in Folkbildning, Historic Environment Education and Time Travels.

Both students and teachers from Kalmar will stay in families and share ordinary school and daily life including the time travels.

Sweden-South Africa-Uganda-Nicaragua Bridging time and countries in secondary schools, using the Time Travel method

In Kalmar, Sweden, there is a course in secondary school named “The Global Supplement” that enables students from six different upper secondary schools to study global issues during two years.

Part of the education is done in cooperation with upper secondary schools in Nicaragua, South Africa and Uganda. One challenge in the teacher and student exchanges is to find a method compatible with our different school systems. We find the Time Travel method very promising and during this school year (from a Swedish perspective beginning in August and finishing in June) we have created the possibility to learn and practise the method together with colleagues both in South Africa and in Sweden. After long preparations for the students and teachers in Kalmar we made a Time Travel to 1863 in May in Kalmar together with teachers from South Africa, Uganda, Nicaragua and Sweden and the Kalmar County Museum.

This Time Travel will be followed by Time Travels in Entebbe, Uganda and Port Shepstone, South Africa during our visit to those countries in October 2009.

The Time Travels are a common experience where several school subjects are integrated. It offers a unique possibility to get a deeper understanding of each other’s cultures and history, both past and present.

Linda Wolfgang and Bo Hellström
Teachers at *The Global Supplement* Kalmar, Sweden

Comments from the learners, 17-18 years of age, after the Time Travel to 1863 in Kalmar

“When we started working with the time travel I have to admit I was a bit critical. What could we really learn from going back in time? We can learn a lot, I must say afterwards. I would even go as far as saying that this might be the best learning method there is, since you experience what you have to learn. As long as you do it with the right attitude you can really broaden your views.”

“I think one of the most interesting parts about the Time Travel was to compare my own character with my own life, and with the life of other people living around the world.”

“It would be interesting to see what happens if you make the Time Travel last longer. If you went to bed as your character, would you wake up as him/her as well?”

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LAYOUT

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