



### Bridging Ages Conference in İzmir-Manisa, Turkey 5 - 7 (8) June 2012



**“Discovering Historical Footprints”  
“Using New Perspectives on Wellknown  
and Neglected Narratives”**



www.manisa.bel.tr



*İzmir by the Mediterranean Sea*

## Invitation

The annual conference 2012 of Bridging Ages, International Organisation in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels, is organised by Manisa, Bornova, Bayraklı and Karsiyaka Municipalities with support from Union of Turkish Municipalities.

The conference starts 5 June in the morning and ends 7 June in the afternoon, the two first days in İzmir and the third day in Manisa. 8 June is an excursion to the ancient city of Ephesus and the house of Virgin Mary. Don't miss that!

The Program includes Key Note Speakers from among others Turkey and South Africa and also presentations from the Bridging Ages countries and workshops. There is a Call for Papers in this newsletter, for anyone who likes to have a session in line with the topic of the conference.

The Time Travel is in the afternoon 6 June, at the ancient Athena temple in Old Smyrna, 590 B.C. It will be an unforgettable experience.

Registration 1 February to 20 April.

Registration fee: 200 euros, 500 TL. Excursion (8 June) 20 euros, 50 TL

Information and registration: [bridgingagesturkey@gmail.com](mailto:bridgingagesturkey@gmail.com)

[www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com)



# **Call For Papers**

## **"Discovering Historical Footprints"**

### **"Using New perspectives on Wellknown and Neglected Narratives"**

#### **Bridging Ages annual conference in Izmir and Manisa, Turkey, 5-7 June 2012**

In the conference we want to explore the use of the footprints from the past in today's society. Some of the footprints are wellknown, some have been completely forgotten. Often the history has been told from the victors' point of view.

Are there any new perspectives on the well-known stories? What are the stories that nobody has told before? And why are these stories important today? What role do they play in today's society? How do we tell history from below, the stories of servants, slaves, workers, women and children?

How do we use the Time Travel method in presenting historical footprints, wellknown or forgotten, in engaging the local population, in education, in developing the community, in highlighting important issues of today, in Time Travels?

We invite educators, scholars from universities, museums, heritage organizations, municipalities, community organizations, tourism sector and other interested. If you want to present a paper at the conference please submit your proposal, including the title, an abstract of half a page and a few words about yourself to [bridgingagesturkey@gmail.com](mailto:bridgingagesturkey@gmail.com), before March 1st 2012.

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*A wedding at the Athena Temple in Smyrna, 590 B.C.*



## Medieval Time Travels in Vaasa, Finland

### Vaasa Free Christian Folk High School

About a decade ago Kalmar County Museum was invited to Ostrobothnia, Vaasa and Fria Kristliga Folkhögskolan (Vaasa Free Christian Folk High School). The intention was to arrange a Time Travel for the students of FKF in Vasa. The Time Travel was very much appreciated. Since then the cooperation has continued.

Once a year in September, Kalmar County Museum visit Vaasa and Fria Kristliga Folkhögskolan. Together we arrange Time Travels for the students. The Time Travels have been held to the Iron Age, the Middle Ages and the 19th Century. *"Taking part in a historical Time Travel has proven to be an excellent way to experience a different reality. The use of historical clothing and equipment also helps to increase the understanding of a different time and existence", says Thomas Nordström, Principal FKF.*



*Prepared to defend Korsholm's Castle in 1395*



*Celebrating peace at the castle in Korsholm. Students from Fria Kristliga Folkhögskolan in Vaasa in the Time Travel to 1395*

In November each year Fria Kristliga Folkhögskolan arranges "Finland-Swedish Medieval Time Travels" for pupils in several primary school classes. The Finland-Swedish Medieval Days have become well known and appreciated.

*"I think the pupils who take part in a Time Travel learns history better", Hanna Sandberg one of the Folk High School students, says. "But it is important that they have studied the time period beforehand."*



*Will the cross help to resist the plague? Primary school learners in a Time Travel to the Middle Ages*



## **Researcher's Night in Venice**

### **Peace between the Christian world and the Muslim world?**

### **Time Travel to 1454.**



*The signing of the peace treaty in 1454*

At Researcher's Night, 23 September, in Venice, Ca Foscari University presented 290 activities to the public. One activity was a Time Travel workshop/ event in the 15th century courtyard of the university. Ebbe Westergren made a presentation of Historic Environment Education and the Bridging Ages organization before Marino Zorzi, former director of Biblioteca Marciana, presented the historical context of the peace treaty between the Republic of Venice and the Ottoman Empire in 1454. Then all the participants, about 40 persons, were invited to take part in the Time Travel to 1454 and prepare the treaty. Some played the role of Ottoman delegates and others, delegates from Venice. Many represented servants. And the big question was of course: can we live

together in peace, muslims and christians, although we are so different? At the end the treaty was signed which gave peace and a flourishing future for both empires. We received very positive feedback from the participants of the workshop and Time Travel. As a result of that we are currently working to establish a relationship with Ca Foscari University to create further Time Travel activities.

*Cecile Franchetti, Time Travel coordinator in Venice, supported by Eugenia Bolognesi*

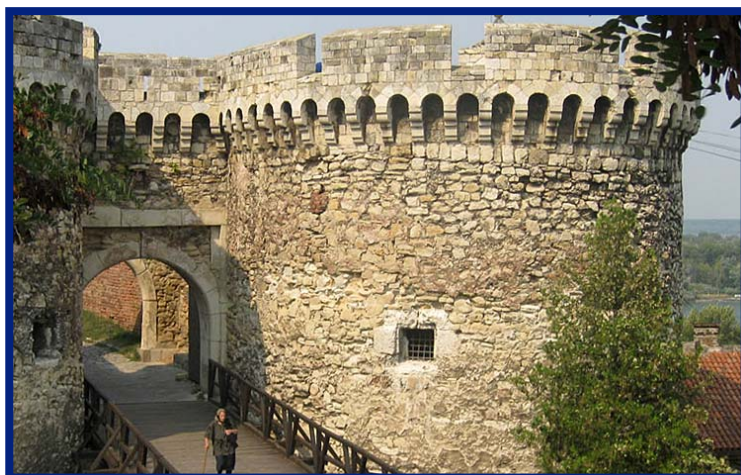
## **Belgrade**

### **Museums and Community Outreach Work,**

### **Time Travel workshop in Belgrade 16-17 September 2011**

During two days in September, 35 people from museums and cultural organizations in Belgrade and Serbia participated in a workshop organized by the Swedish embassy in Belgrade, Helene Larsson, and Culture Center Rex. The workshop was led by Kalmar County Museum, Sweden. There were presentations on "How to use local Sites and Stories in education, for social cohesion and tourism". The participants were given the task to select interesting sites in their surroundings and why these sites are important today. Key questions of democracy, religion, living together, gender and even traffic were mentioned for the chosen sites.

A short Time Travel to 1460 and the wars between the Hungarian and Ottoman Empires were made at the Belgrade Fortress. The discussions focused on Fight or Negotiate; Trust or Distrust; Can Christians and Muslims live together? In the Time Travel almost nobody wanted to make the fortress stronger and train more soldiers but in reality the wars continued and the Ottomans conquered Belgrade in 1521 and made it a part of their empire for more than 300 years. What had happened if they had chosen to negotiate in 1460 and made a peace treaty, like the Venetians, instead of fighting?



*The Belgrade Fortress*



## Linking Natural and Cultural Heritage

### CapeNature Spring School 2011



*The participants of the Landscape Education training course, Clanwilliam, October 2011*

CapeNature is a public institution with the statutory responsibility for conserving the unique natural heritage resources of the Western Cape (South Africa) for the benefit of all. CapeNature, with the guidance, support and expertise of international and local partners, rolled out the CapeNature Spring School in October 2011. Each year this Winter/Spring School is hosted to build internal capacity around specific thematic areas. The theme of the CapeNature Spring School for 2011 centered around capacity building to implement Landscape Education and Time Travels. The team from Kalmar County Museum and Bridging Ages South Africa exposed the participants to the methodology, including theory and practical. The Spring School was hosted in the Clanwilliam and northern Cederberg area. The Cederberg Wilderness Area is a World Heritage Site, rich in both natural and cultural heritage.

Through this capacity building process, this innovative educational methodology will be rolled out to other areas within the Western Cape, South Africa, with support from relevant international and local partners. These include Bridging Ages International, Kalmar County Museum (Sweden), Bridging Ages Western Cape, University of Cape Town (UCT) and Clanwilliam Living Landscape Project.

For more information on CapeNature and the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor:  
[www.capenature.co.za](http://www.capenature.co.za) and [www.cederbergcorridor.org.za](http://www.cederbergcorridor.org.za)



*A Time Travel to 1460 in the Cederberg mountains was part of the Spring School. A group of pastoralists meet a group of hunter-gatherers. Living with differences?*



## "Silent Voices, Emerging Stories The 2nd Bridging Ages South Africa conference Pilgrim's Rest, Mpumalanga, November 1-3, 2011.

The conference was a joint venture with the Provincial Oral History Department of Mpumalanga and explored the phenomenon of a people whose own perspective of history has for years been suppressed and ignored in favour of the racist perspective of the oppressive apartheid regime. "Until a lion writes its own history, it is the history of the hunter that will be told", said one speaker. The Bridging Ages principle of "history from below" and the perspective of the "ordinary person" was the common link between Historic Environment Education and Oral History.

A Time Travel to 1922 made the "bottom up" perspective a reality as the plight of black miners amidst a white miners' strike was reconstructed at the site of a former mining compound. Whilst the story of the white miners, whose slogan was "Workers of the World unite and fight for a White South Africa" is well documented, the perspective of those on the receiving end, those who lost out on income because of the strike, the thousands of black workers, was largely ignored.

The conference was concluded with excellent papers from learners who presented their oral history research to an appreciative audience. A new Bridging Ages South Africa Board was also elected for a term of two years. The Chairperson is Tizzie Mangiagalli who will serve a second term.

*Louis Marais, Coordinator  
Bridging Ages South Africa*



*The black miners are frustrated and angry when the white miners go on strike. No work, no pay. No money, no food. Time Travel to 1922 at Pilgrim's Rest*

### Launch of Bridging Ages KwaZulu-Natal 13 October 2011

In 2008 Kalmar County Museum introduced the Time Travel method in KZN, a collaboration with Port Shepstone Twinning Association. The concept spread to the entire province with increase interest by the Provincial Museum Services, to the highest level of the Minister for Arts, Culture and Sport. All of the above culminated in the launch of the organization Bridging Ages KZN in Gamalakhe, Port Shepstone, 13 October 2011 at a Gala dinner with 250 participants. Thulas Mkhize was elected the chairperson of BA KZN.

The focus on the untold histories make many people from various groups in society interested to take part. Much work has been achieved, with numerous training extending to educators, museum personnel and members of the broader community. Now there are eight heritage committees in the province – Port Edward, Oshabeni, Pietermaritzburg, Eshowe, Nyandezulu, Port Shepstone, Umzumbe and Gamalakhe - working on their local history and Time Travel scenarios.

**More information in next Bridging Ages Newsletter April 2012!**

*Gulshera Khan, PSTA, Bridging Ages KZN*



## Let's experience 1905!

### New developments of the Time Travel programme in Tukums, Latvia



*Illegal meeting in 1905. Start a revolution for independence?*

The Time Travel “Let’s experience 1905” was elaborated at the Tukums Museum in Latvia six years ago. It is a popular programme not only for local schools but also for others. Each year early December Grade 9 and 12 students and their history teachers participate in the illegal meeting in the park of Durbe Manor 1st and 2nd of December 1905, one of the most controversial events in the history of Latvia.

But the museum employees in charge of the programme soon noticed, that though the students like the outdoor activities, many of them don’t really understand the essence of the time. Therefore it was decided to analyze all the work done and look for improvements:

- The fact that the students often are quite well prepared in theory but not ready to “step into the shoes of someone else” in a Time Travel, led to more detailed research on everyday life and the planning of a new reference material for the students.
- Also to pay more attention to the study of the landscape, the buildings as well as their functions and try to capture an image when the place was full of life. This led to many questions and also gave some new ideas improving the scenario.
- The outcome of the programme depends on the way in which teachers understand the essence of the Time Travels and how they prepare the students. Therefore, the Tukums museum now organize several seminars for teachers about the history of Tukums and neighbouring regions.

*“I think the most important issue for developing Time Travels is training for leaders. The quality of the Time Travel depends on how well trained the leaders are, also in management, cooperation and communication. But the most important thing is how enthusiastic they are to enter another time period, to help somebody to interpret it and understand himself better.”*

*Agrita Ozola, Tukums Museum, Latvia*

## Bridging Ages Action Plan 2012-2014

The Bridging Ages board had a retreat after the conference in Tallinn to discuss strengths and weaknesses in the organization and future plans. Everybody agreed that Bridging Ages is developing and moving faster ahead now. The board made an overall action plan for the next three years.

### Strengthening and Developing Bridging Ages

1. **Funding.** Sustainable funding for an office and common projects.
2. **Sustainability and expansion.** The Bridging Ages networks/ organizations in each country are important for sustainability and inspiration in order to expand.
3. **Training courses** for capacity building to sustain and develop the Time Travel method.
4. **Common projects.** To do projects together, share experiences and develop ideas.
5. **Conferences.** The annual conferences give a lot of inspiration and hold the organization together.

*The Bridging Ages Board*

## Historical Fashion Show at the Kalmar County Museum



In the evening of November 16, 2011, some of the 3000 historical costumes from the wardrobe of the sewing studio at Kalmar County Museum were displayed on a historical catwalk, to interested women visitors.

Twenty-four models (museum staff and friends) wore reproduced clothes from the Stone Age to the 1980's. As they walked up the catwalk Kerstin Lönnberg, Costume Designer at Kalmar County Museum told the story of each costume, as well as the materials and techniques.

The costume studio makes and maintains all the clothes that are used by learners, adults, tourists and people from various organizations in the Time Travels and historical events. This fashion show is a new way to make use of them.

*"Dressed for success" in the 1930's*

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Next newsletter April 2012  
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