



International Organization in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels

Newsletter No. 3, 2012, December

# “Crossroads in History” Bridging Ages Conference in Historic Environment Education and Living History



Historic Mesilla Plaza, Las Cruces

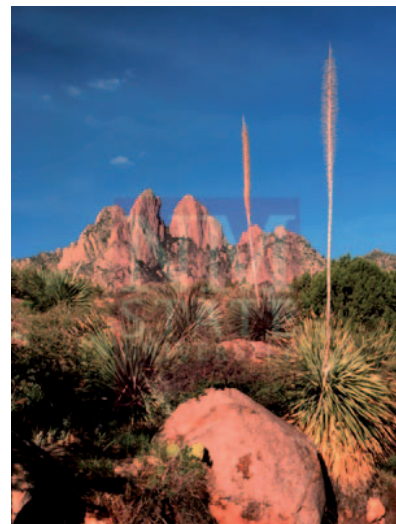
## Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA April 15 -19, 2013

You are invited to the 9th annual Bridging Ages Conference that will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. This is the first time we will meet in the USA. There will be presentations from Europe, Africa, Asia and the USA on a variety of topics from living history and Time Travels to oral history and engaging people in museums with local historical resources. At the crossroad in Las Cruces, people from several countries will come together to explore local history in a global context. Hosts are the New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.



## About Las Cruces, New Mexico

Las Cruces, New Mexico is located in the desert of the Southwest part of the United States. It is a mixture of American and Mexican cultures, languages, and traditions that offers a rich history and a lively landscape of stark mountains towering over arid plains and lush river valleys. Native Americans have lived in this region for thousands of years, Europeans have passed through here since the 16th century, and it is one of the youngest states in the United States. In fact, during our Time Travel at the conference, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of New Mexico joining the U.S. as a state. Las Cruces has served as a crossroads for people for centuries, and it is fitting that it will again serve as a crossroads for the people of the Bridging Ages organization.



## Time Travel to 1912

### The year when New Mexico became a state of the U.S.

The Time Travel will be a chance for conference delegates, as well as persons from New Mexico and Arizona Historical Societies, to experience a crossroad in history, when New Mexico became a state and when the society was changing fast. Graduate students from the university class in Las Cruces have developed many of the characters and have also written a manual for teachers to prepare for Time Travels to 1912 with learners.



## Tentative Conference Schedule

<b>Monday, April 15:</b>	Opening reception 6 pm at Zuhl Museum with a blues band entertaining.
<b>Tuesday, April 16:</b>	Papers, panels and workshops during the day. Dinner at the Magoffin House in El Paso, Texas.
<b>Wednesday, April 17:</b>	Papers, panels and workshops during the day. In the afternoon, we will tour historic Mesilla Plaza, the Taylor State Monument and have some time for shopping. Dinner with Mexican touch and entertainment at La Posta.
<b>Thursday, April 18:</b>	Papers, panels and workshops in the morning. In the afternoon, conference participants will Time Travel to 1912 at Fort Selden State Monument. Also persons from New Mexico Historical Society and the Arizona Historical Society will join in the Time Travel. Western dinner at Fort Selden State Monument with entertainment.
<b>Friday, April 19:</b>	Excursion to White Sands National Monument, Mescalero Indian Reservation, and Lincoln where Billy the Kind escaped from jail.

Follow us on Facebook "Bridging Ages 2013 in Las Cruces, NM" and [www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com) for registration and the latest updates on the conference. Registration opens in the beginning of January.

Registration fee: \$150 US. (\$100 US for students). The conference hotel is \$85 US per night. The History Department at New Mexico State University and the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum are jointly sponsoring the conference.

For more direct information, contact Dr. Jon Hunner, Chair, History Department at New Mexico State University at [jhunner@nmsu.edu](mailto:jhunner@nmsu.edu) or in the U.S. at 575/646-2490.

**Welcome!**

## South of Italy

### “The gateway to the east”

### Time Travel in Otranto to 1163

During October 2012 boys and girls, teachers, parents and friends of Otranto, Italy, were involved in a Time Travel as protagonist of their early history. The Time Travel to 1163 recreated a typical day at the Greek monastery of Saint Nicholas of Casole. Otranto was then a very important port for trade between The East and the West and the monastery was a famous center of cultural exchanges and classical studies. The library of Saint Nicholas of Casole became one of the richest in the West.

#### Scenario

*Today, Abbot Nicetas, Abbot of Saint Nicholas of Casole, receives an important guest at the Greek monastery: Archbishop Jonathan from Otranto. The monks need help and volunteers arrive. There are a lot of preparations for the reception. The same day, mothers and sisters of the boys' novices have the possibility of visiting them at the monastery school. They will learn how to make herbal medicine and copy documents.*



Preparation for the reception at St. Nicholas of Casole.



Learning? What? How?  
What is the role of the library?  
What are the advantages of a cross-roads of cultures and religions?

#### Comments from participants

*“Meet people from other cultures and traditions is important to understand their language and learn about their way of living. But, it is not only to acquire new information because learning about other cultures helps us to grow inwardly.”*

*“Learning by doing is much more fun than studying in books. Above all, we were able to concentrate on the activities more than we thought.”*

Bridging Ages Venice in collaboration with the “Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana” of Venice, Cà Foscari University, the “Provincia of Lecce”, the school “Istituto Comprensivo di Otranto” and the Municipality of Otranto organized this event with great enthusiasm.

**Cecile Franchetti**

*Bridging Ages Venice*

## Giresun Island and Time Travel tourism, Turkey

Giresun Island in Turkey is the only island of the Eastern Black Sea which is both an archaeological and a natural protected area. It is a region of migration, movements, myths and legends. Many groups of people have moved in here and created communities together with the local population, often as a part of a big empire – Greeks, Miletians, Persians, Pontus', Romans, Byzantines, Trebizonds', Ottomans, republic of Turkey. Around 800 B.C. several Scythian groups and Sakas (nomads) lived in a vast area in Central Asia and Central Anatolia and moved to the coast. At this time the story of Hercules and the Argonauts and the search for the Golden Fur was developed. One of Hercules' adventures is connected to a small island with man-eating birds, Giresun Island.



Marketing material for the tourist event.

### Scenario: 800 BC, Giresun Island, Hercule and the Golden Fur

*Many Sakas have left their land in Central Anatolia and after several weeks and months they have reached the coast and start to settle. But a couple of days the rumors started. The Argonauts are coming. They have been seen on the island. Everybody has heard the story about the Argonauts and Hercules and their search for the Golden Fur. Can the Golden Fur be on the island? A fortune? A treasure? We have to look and see.*

#### Key questions:

Dreams, hopes and happiness  
What/where is my fortune, my happiness, my dreams, my treasure, my promised land? What is our common fortune? Hopes for the future and comfort together?

The purpose of using the Time Travel method is to make a program that will be interesting and knowledgeable for tourist groups and to give students in school a learning experience on the history of Giresun Island and one of the legends connected to it.

**Hale Cerkezoglu Altundas**  
Giresun municipality and museum



Participants in the Time Travel eating and discussing.

## Landscape Education in Algeria, Western Cape, South Africa

### Algeria today

The village of Algeria consists of 40 households, 150 people. 50-60 persons work for Cape Nature, some on the nearby farms. The unemployment rate is quite high. The school has 20 learners, grade 1-6, the campsite is developing. The population is quite stable because of the births. But many of the young people leave and no persons are moving into the village from outside. The social bonds are strong in the community.



Moving up to the new modern house in 1970.

### Time Travel to New Year's Eve in Algeria 1970

In the 1970s the modern times reached Algeria. People moved from small rondowel huts with cow dung floor and kitchen outside by the river, to wooden houses and separate rooms further up. In the Time Travel we followed one of the families from the hut to the wooden house. The participants made decorations, ironed the curtains, made candles, played board games, tried the beer, sang and danced. Although the New Year's Eve celebrations there were big concerns for a farm worker who lost his job and a retired forestry worker who was not allowed to stay in the house belonging to the Forest Company.



At the end of the Time Travel Algeria community made a New Year's Eve promise to continue with the 1970 Time Travel and try to develop it into a cultural event.

The goal of the Time Travel is to bring the Algeria community together, transfer knowledge, skills and respect for the people in the past, develop a cultural event in Algeria and to give hopes for the future. The Time Travel gave the opportunity for the older people to pass the knowledge of the past to the younger generation. For some of the older people memories let to tears of those nearly forgotten days. The Algeria community would like to thank Bridging Ages Western Cape, Bridging Ages International and a very special thanks to Cape Nature for the provision of their staff to help with this event.

**Patrik Hanekom**, Cape Nature, Western Cape  
**Kobi Hanekom**, Groetkloof School, Algeria

## Time Travel training course in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

2011 and 2012 Kalmar County Museum, KZN Museum Service, Port Shepstone Twinning Association and Bridging Ages have organized a training course in the Time Travel method for Time Travel groups in KwaZulu-Natal, three two-day training sessions within a year. Each of the six groups chose a site to develop for a Time Travel event. In October 2012 three of the groups organized their first Time Travels: a public Time Travel to 1968 in the township of Gamalakhe, a Time Travel to 1910 at the Old Prison in Pietermaritzburg and a big public Time Travel to 1828 in the rural area of Umzumbe. 22 persons conducted the whole course, got a certificate and can be seen as Time Travel experts in KZN. Another 40 persons took part in the last training session in Pietermaritzburg in October.

### Time Travel to 1910 at the Old Prison in Pietermaritzburg

The Old Prison in Pietermaritzburg was in use from 1862 to 1987 and has held thousands of inmates, males, females and juveniles, hardened criminals and political prisoners.

The Time Travel to 1910 was focused on Dinuzulu, king of the Zulus, who was sentenced for high treason but was released in 1910. The key questions were on justice, the Zulu tribe and the South African union. The Old Prison Time Travel can be regarded as an epitome of social cohesion and Historic Environment Education; it addresses issues of land encroachment, justice, the role of religion in politics and reconciliation.

KZN Museum Services in the Department of Arts and Culture continues to play a facilitative and supporting role in the area of Time Travel. Funding is set aside to ensure that there is training provided. It is this partnership that is essential in ensuring sustainability of this significant project.



### Public Time Travel in Umzumbe, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa 1828

In 1828 Shaka, king of the Zulus, passed Umzumbe with 50 000 warriors on the way to Pondoland and an attack on king Faku. When he came to the Umzumbe area he started to make a heap of stones, as a memory of his presence. He also renamed the area, Mthwalume. This heap of stones, Isivivane, now tells the story of king Shaka and his warriors and what happened in 1828.

In October 2012 Umzumbe Time Travel and Tourism, together with Umzumbe municipality and KZN Museum Services, Port Shepstone Twinning Association and Kalmar County Museum organized a public Time Travel to celebrate the site and the narratives. More than 500 people took part in the Time Travel, watched the songs and dances, asked the traditional healers for help, made jewelries and tasted the meat and beer. The discussions were about war or peace and how to restore Zulu dignity.

Because of the success of the event the plan is now to develop it and make it annual.



The heap of stones, Isivivane, now tells the story of king Shaka and his warriors

## Time Travel project in Kliptown, Soweto, South Africa

Everything has its time. Indeed, for the first time in Gauteng province in South Africa a Time Travel pilot project was launched on the eighteenth of October 2012 in Kliptown, Soweto. The focus was on the Freedom Charter, one of the most important documents in South African history and the basis for the constitution of today. The document was adopted in Kliptown in 1955 by the Congress of the People, a group of 3000 persons from the whole of South Africa, and in conflict with the apartheid government of the time.

The training program consisted of a workshop that took place in the morning at Kliptown Open Air Museum and followed by the Time Travel event in a baptist church in Kliptown in the afternoon. The workshop shed some light on the history of Kliptown, the Freedom Charter and on the significance of the Time Travel method.

### Time Travel, Freedom Charter 1955

In the afternoon the participants proceeded to the nearby W.W.Brown Baptist Church, where the Time Travel took place. The church was one of the public sites utilized in 1955 by the community to prepare for the adoption of the Freedom Charter. Creatively, we travelled back in time to 1955 in June just two weeks before the main event of the adoption of the Freedom Charter. Community members and political organizations leaders gathered at the WW Brown Baptist church to compile a list of demands, which would be forwarded to the Congress of the People secretary.

Vivid discussions on land ownership and how to express the demands.



The participants in the Time Travel could choose between four of the clauses in the Freedom Charter – land ownership, mineral wealth, education or equal rights - and express the content of the clause the way they wanted – in some sentences, on a placard, drawing an illustration, writing or poem or a song. The groups were very active and many creative ideas were presented to the audience.

This empirical method of learning left a memorable mark in the minds of both young and old participants, more so to those who were born in post-apartheid South Africa. The Kliptown Open Air Museum strategic educational programmes are well underway and it is hoped that in the near future Time Travels would be introduced to South African schools in Soweto.

**Mpho Kumeke, Education Officer**  
*Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum and  
Kliptown Open Air Museum*



Toy-toying, as always in South Africa.

## Kalmar County, Sweden Gesällen, Archaeology with young students

This year has been exciting to everybody who is interested in archaeology in Kalmar. One block in the centre of Kalmar has been the object for a large excavation in aim to find out more about Kalmars 17th and 18th century. The research and questions have many dimensions, for example, the social status of the area, the water supply, the garbage situation and witch handcraft that was mainly represented. The excavations were conducted by Riksantikvarieämbetet, the Swedish National Heritage Board and Kalmar county museum. Kalmar city council is landowner and developer and the plan is to build department stores and apartments in the block.

The excavation plan also included a large outreach program. There were three guided tours on the site every week, a blog, and many programs and lectures. The archaeologists and the museum has been working in cooperation with pubs, the church, shops, the historical society and schools to get as many as possible involved in the archaeological process and the results.



Time Travel to 1681 and discussions about who is welcome in the new town.



Learners helping at the excavation site in Kalmar.

More than 200 learners in grade 1-5 at the nearby school, Lindöskolan, have been “helping” the archaeologists by asking their questions to the material and by actually working on the site with washing finds, digging and register finds. The project was much appreciated and was part of the school curriculum working towards local history, source criticism and living conditions.

The learners also made a Time Travel to 1681 where they helped with the building of the new Kalmar city. They made tint, woodworking, ropes and food and discussed who was welcome in the new town. The project ended with a “Vernissage” with lectures and exhibitions at Kalmar county museum with archaeologists, learners and the city council.

**Emma Angelin Holmén**  
*Kalmar läns museum*

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