



## **Bridging Ages, International Organization in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels**

### **Annual Report 2012**

#### **Board**

- President: Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden
- Vice President: Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, USA
- Secretary: Eugenia Bolognesi, Association Palatina-Istanbul, Rome, Italy
- Agrita Ozola, Tukums Museum, Latvia
- Annina Ylikoski, Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK, Finland
- Ebru Iltenmis, Manisa Municipality, Turkey
- Terry Swanson, Gibbs Museum, Minnesota, USA
- Louis Marais, Bridging Ages South Africa/Western Cape
- Tiia Mets, Tallinn University

#### **Office**

Kalmar County Museum, Sweden

#### **Committees**

Nomination committee: Agrita Ozola, Maarja Merivoo-Parro

Newsletter/ website committee: Helen Eklund, Annina Ylikoski

Conference committee: Ebbe Westergren, Jon Hunner, Agrita Ozola plus Ebru Iltenmis, Ümit Tuncag, Erdem Muhtaroglu, Umit Eryarar, Bahar Balaban and others for the Izmir/ Manisa conference

Funding committee:

#### **Board meetings**

Skype: 17 January, 1 March, 12 April, 22 August, 7 November, 11 December

Board meeting in Izmir: 7 June

#### **Newsletters**

Three Newsletters have been published, each of them eight pages, May, September and December

### **Bridging Ages International Conference in Izmir and Manisa, Turkey, 5-7 June (excursion 8 June)**

Host and local organizer: Manisa, Bornova, Bayrakli and Karsiyaka municipalities with support from TBB, Union of Turkish Municipalities

Theme: "Discovering Historical Footprints", "Using New Perspectives on Wellknown and Neglected Narratives"

The two first days the conference was held at Yasar University, Izmir, the third day at Manisa Cultural Center

Key Note Speakers: Bilsen Basaran, Turkey; Antoinette Sithole and Mpho Kumeke, Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum, South Africa; Annina Ylikoski, BARK, Finland;

18 presentations in total. Group activities and common discussion the last day

Time Travel at Old Smyrna to a wedding in 590 B.C.

150 delegates (30 from abroad) from 9 countries, 200 persons in the Time Travel, of those 20 learners

Excursion to Ephesus and Seljuk

### **E-mailing list**

About 450 persons are on the e-mailing list, from 20 countries on 4 continents: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland, England, Wales, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Serbia, Turkey, USA, Nicaragua, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa.

### **Literature**

Museum International 249-250, May 2011, Unesco 2012. Social benefits of heritage; Articles from the Bridging Ages conference in Kalmar, Sweden, November 2010; 140 pp

### **Comments**

Bridging Ages continues to grow slowly as an organization in 2012. More than 10 000 students and adults have taken part in Time Travel programs all over the world, the main part in Finland, South Africa, Turkey and Sweden. More than 4000 adults have participated in trainings, seminars and workshops.

The International conference in Turkey was a success and an inspiration for many. Several municipalities and universities mentioned their interest to join Bridging Ages Turkey

Some of the articles from the Bridging Ages conference in Kalmar 2010 were, after a short delay, published in a double-issue of the prestigious Unesco worldwide magazine, Museum International, printed in five languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, French and Russian

*30 January 2013*

*The Bridging Ages board*

*Ebbe Westergren*

## **Reports from participating countries and institutions**

### **New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA**

Dr. Jon Hunner

In 2012, our main accomplishments were 1) a class in Time Travel taught to university students; 2) a presentation on Time Travels to the New Mexico Historical Society annual conference: and 3) planning for the 2013 Bridging Ages conference in New Mexico.

For the NMSU Time Travel class, twelve university students studied the technique during the spring. At the end of the term, we Time Traveled to 1912 with about 400 students from age 11 to 18 through the month of April. Several of the students in the university class then attended the N.M. Historical Society conference in Santa Fe on May 2 where we held a workshop on Time Travels to about 25 attendees of the conference.

Throughout 2012, the Public History Program and the NM Farm and Ranch Museum (co-sponsors of the Bridging Ages conference in 2013) planned for the conference. We held planning meetings, had graduate students assist with local arrangements, and wrote up 100 character biographies for the Time Travel event which will take place at the end of the conference. We also began planning to have teachers from Finland and Sweden meet teachers from the Las Cruces Public Schools and professors from New Mexico State University when they are here for the conference in April.

### **Estonia 2012**

Tiia Mets

22<sup>nd</sup> of February – as reaction to 2011 Bridging Ages conference at Tallinn City Museum, the first Time Travel event took place in Audentes Private School, back to 1980. It was as part of a History Day during a traditional Week of Active Learning. The Time Travel was made in cooperation with Tallinn City Museum. After a successful day they plan to continue with that kind of events in 2013. It is good example about the importance of every open event.

2012 we can call as preparation-year for new projects in Estonia. During the year we had several meetings in different towns and places for future plans. In Pärnu Museum was a presentation about Bridging Ages methods and Time Travel events. It was made on 9<sup>th</sup> of October, for history teachers from town and district schools. In the Kondas Centre of Naive Art in Viljandi was a meeting with people from town government and Viljandi museum. It was on 14<sup>th</sup> of November and there were discussed plans for anniversary of the town 2013, and International Hanseatic Days in Viljandi 2015. In different branches of Tallinn City Museum several meetings were held. The idea is to introduce Bridging Ages and make possible plans for new places, what have not been involved before. Also to find interesting and meaningful time periods/ topics from history for making Time Travels and try to make it as regular events.

Four persons from Estonia (Tallinn City Museum and University of Tartu) visited Kalmar County Museum in Sweden for Time Travel training course in September 2012. Sireli Uusmaa and Kristi Paatsi from Tallinn City Museum made presentation after that to museum pedagogues in Peter I House Museum in Tallinn.

Ebbe Westergren and Tina Lindström from Kalmar County Museum visited Estonia to make seminars about Bridging Ages. 29<sup>th</sup> of November a seminar took place at Tallinn City Museum, 30<sup>th</sup> of November it was at Tartu City Museum.

## **Bridging Ages Western Cape, South Africa**

Louis Marais, Coordinator

Funding from Dept of Social Development for intergenerational Time Travel work: R 400 000

Total TT's for 2012: 26 Participants: 1256 (ave. 48 / TT)

First time for physically impaired to participate in TT's in Cape: Elderly from the National Institute for the Deaf (NID)

More Living Active-Age project: 9 service centres for elderly in Western Cape participate. Workshops led by Swedish partners from Kalmar. Delegation from Cape Winelands visit Sweden in September 2012 to look at elderly care in that country. Reciprocal visits from Swedish counterparts in March and October.

Bridging Ages International Conference 2012 in Turkey: 7 delegates from province attended

Landscape Education project with CapeNature consisted of two (2) training workshops as a follow up to one in 2011. Six nature reserves to develop Time Travels as part of their landscape education program.

One new TT back to 1970 at Grootkloof, Algeria in the Cederberg mountains together with Grootkloof community and CapeNature and Kalmar läns Museum.

Riel Dance project together with Cape Winelands District Municipality, ATKV and Worcester Museum: training to more than 100 school kids in the riel dance. Culminated in a very successful Cultural Day on 16 June 2012.

## Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life, Minnesota, USA

Terry Swanson, Gibbs Museum site manager

Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life, located near St. Paul, Minnesota, had another strong year in 2012. More than 21,000 children (grades K-4) and teachers visited the seasonal site for a pioneer or Dakota Indian field trip in 2012. Additionally, over 500 children attended day camp programs during the summer. While these camps are not designed as time travels in the purest sense, they are grounded in hands-on experiences and children learn to do the types of things pioneer and Dakota children would have done in the nineteenth century.

Say It In Dakota, a week-long Dakota language camp is one example. Working with the University of Minnesota Dakota Language Department, children ages 6-10 learn Dakota ways and language. Each day begins with a smudge ceremony and song in one of the *tipi*. Children participate in a variety of activities such as designing *par fleches* bags-hide containers used to stow belongings; packing and pulling travois-the apparatus used by Dakota to transport goods while travelling from village to village; learning to bead in the traditional way; making and playing hunting games and sharing Dakota-inspired foods.

The collaboration between the University of Minnesota and Gibbs Museum has been at the heart of the success of this camp. U of MN Dakota language instructors teach the language while Gibbs staff work with the children on the projects described above. Core Dakota words and phrases that embody Dakota ways such as *metaku yepi* ("hello my relative" - used to greet every living creature) and *toksta* ("see you again" - Dakota language has no word for good-bye) are taught along with everyday words like *woyute* (food).

Another exciting camp addition is Pioneer Days: School, Work and Play. Campers spend half the time in a one-room school learning "reading, writing and arithmetic," and the other half working with farm animals in the pasture and barn; chopping wood; preparing food in the summer kitchen and learning to play horse shoes and square dance. This past summer, Emma Angelin Holmén, visited Gibbs Museum from the Kalmar County Museum in Sweden and participated in this camp, portraying a recent Swedish immigrant to Minnesota.

At Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life, the primary goal is discovering implementing creative ways to teach children history.



## **Izmir and Manisa, Turkey**

**Ebru Iltenmis, Coordinator**

### **ZAMAN YOLCULUĞU, TIME TRAVEL 2012**

It was determined that Bridging Ages International Project which takes place annually be held in Manisa and İzmir cities in Turkey Following this decision, preparations for the conference started in 2011 and kept on in 2012 and background Works were carried out in collaboration with Sweden Kalmar City Museum and İzmir Aegean Municipalities (Karşıyaka, Bornova, Bayraklı, Manisa).

- **17.02.2012 – 04.06.2012** Committee meetings were carried out regularly as once or twice a month. Each detail about the conference organization was discussed in the meetings and apart from the decisions taken, necessary exchange of ideas and planning ( theme of the conference, budget, participants, place,time application etc.) and contact with Turkey Municipalities Union was realised via their own e-mail groups. Also, there were intercourses in municipality for Manisa act and process was completed in precision.
- **05-08.06.2012 (Discovering footsteps in History)** The Conference was carried out with the participation of several municipality, organization as well as International attendance in high level. 87 people from different cities in Turkey and abroad took part in the conference. Together with the local participants the total was about 200 people.
- A Time Travel Group was formed from university students in Manisa Municipality Youth Center and the first seminar was held for them on 15.03.2012.
- **13.07.2012** Bahar Şahin and Ebru İltenmiş participated in Bridging Ages (Time Travel Project) consideration meeting. Following the conference, Bridging Ages Turkey Network was accelerated and within this scope, there were some dialoging with Ebbe Westergren, head coordinator of the Project. We have still been working on creating an instruction in nation wide.





## **Bridging Ages Sweden/ Kalmar läns museum**

**Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar läns museum**

The Educational Department at Kalmar läns museum had 218 activities 2012 with 13513 people across the county: Time Travels, school programs, trainings, regional development and cultural tourism.

71 Time Travels have been organized with schools in all the 12 municipalities.

The “Creative School” programs have given new opportunities.

Regional projects, examples: Landscape and Stone Age, Högsby municipality

Science, technology and history in a gender perspective, Västervik municipality

Archaeological excavation programs, Kalmar

Also projects on Diversity, Emigration, Crime, Honor-related violence and values, the Viking Age in Köpingsvik, Öland.

The Costume Studio has produced a series of new clothing, cleaned and packed thousands of clothes. Also a lot of new props have been produced and handled in the Time Travel programs.

Eketorp, the reconstructed Iron Age and Middle Age fort on southern Öland had 36 800 visitors from May to early September, quite many school classes especially in May.

The third course in Historic Environment Education, 15 credits, was held at Linnaeus University in Kalmar.

Kalmar läns museum/ Bridging Ages has published several books on Historic Environment Education, the third edition of “This places has meaning” in South Africa, “Levande kulturarv”, together with the Swedish Local Heritage Association.

Bridging ages was the co-organizer of a national conference in Stockholm on the European Landscape Convention.

Kalmar läns museum has been working on international joint projects on Historic Environment Education and Time Travels in and together with the following countries:

- Lithuania, Klaipeda district – CreatLearn, school building competences, more partners in Denmark, Germany and Sweden, South Baltic Program,
- Finland – BARK, Children’s Cultural Network in Ostrobothnia
- Serbia, Belgrade and Kragujevac – Tolerance issues through local history education, Culture organization Rex, Swedish Institute
- Turkey, Giresun – Innovative applications in European museums to museums, Giresun museum and six other museums on the Black Sea, EU-project
- Estonia, Tallinn and Tartu – Presentations and workshops at city museums and university
- Uganda, Entebbe – Sites and Stories pre-study, ICLD/ Sida
- Kenya – Mathematics in the Historic Environment, and South Africa, universities and museums.

South Africa – Cape Winelands, More Living-Active Age, elderly care and heritage, ICLD/Sida; Western Cape, Landscape Education, Cape Nature; KwaZulu-Natal, Time Travel training and events, Palme Center; Gauteng/ North West, trainings and events

There have been 57 different arrangements in other countries, including training courses, workshops, presentations, conferences and Time Travels, with in total 2834 people.



Seven different groups from abroad have been in the Kalmar region for capacity building and seminars, normally one week per group.