

Newsletter
Nov 2023



Bridging Ages First Digital Conference. Gathering Digitally to Explore Cross-Cultural Relationships in History by using the Time Travel Method



The 2023 Bridging Ages International conference took place on the 12th and 13th of September with the theme of “Cross-Cultural Relationships Throughout History.” The host, Bridging Ages North America, was originally going to stage an in-person conference in the Yukon Territory of Canada but when funding was not secured for the costly flights to that remote region, it was decided that a digital gathering would suffice for this year. Though an in-person Bridging Ages International conference is always preferred, the 2023 digital gathering of Time Travel practitioners was nonetheless a success.

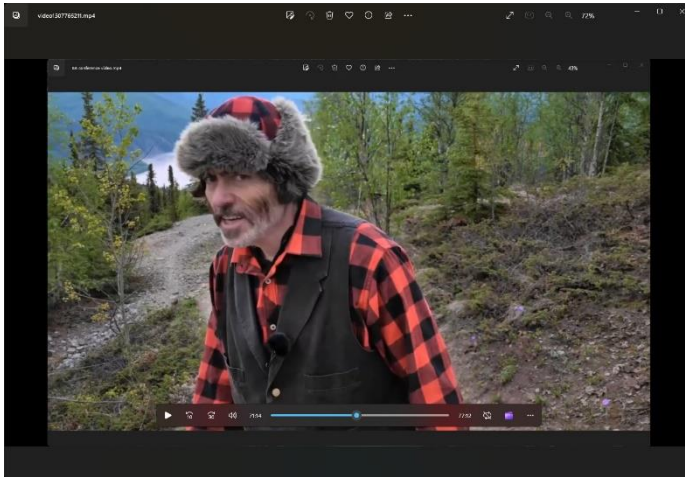
In this Newsletter you can read about:

Reports from the digital conference hosted by Briging Ages North America.

Makweteng Potchefstroom Photo Exhibition & Book Launch

Invitation to digital training workshop on Time Travels dec 14th

Call for articles for the Annual report 2024



Yukon and the history of the Klondike Gold Rush. This welcoming presentation was followed by a compilation of footage from the Friends of the Klondike Corridor's YouTube series highlighting the history and beauty of the Yukon and Alaska. The video series features Time Travel character Tin Cup Kelly portrayed by Bridging Ages board member Scott Green and is a fun way to explore the land that is often called "North of Ordinary," and a place where we will hopefully all meet together soon. (You can access the videos

Hosted by board member Scott Green of Bridging Ages North America, the conference kicked off with a fantastic presentation by the Honorary President and founder of Bridging Ages, Ebbe Westergren. Ebbe described the Time Travel Method, highlighting it as "an educational method which uses local heritage, sites and stories in a learning process to create reflection on contemporary issues, and provide tools for community building." Using images from many of the Time Travels he has presided over, Ebbe's presentation emphasized that one of the goals of the Time Travel Method is to promote social cohesion.

Ebbe also provided a timeline of the Method's use beginning with the first Time Travel in May of 1986 at a 3000 B.C. Stone Age site near Kalmar, Sweden, conducted by the Kalmar County Museum. Ebbe then showed how various countries around the world adapted the Time Travel Method over subsequent years and how the Bridging Ages organization began with the first conference in Vimmerby, Sweden, in 2004. Ebbe's presentation served as a great kickoff to the conference, acting as a review of how the Time Travel Method has developed into a powerful pedagogical tool with a strong international governing organization and 1 million Time Travel participants since 1986!

Next, the conference attendees, fifteen in total on this first day, were welcomed to the virtual Yukon via a taped message from Parks Canada Heritage Presenter Gaby Sgaga at her home in West Dawson City. Gaby gave us a great overview of the First Nations people of the

here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@klondikecorridor>)

Board member and Kalmar Lans Museum curator, Linda Liljeberg, then took us on a virtual field trip to her Museum's Stone Age Time Travel site. A warm fire, drums for music, and bowls for food preparation were visible as Linda talked about the core of their Stone Age Time Travels including the importance of flint for starting fires. Kalmar Lans Museum does over 100 Time Travels each year. As Scott Green stated afterwards, such a scene gets those who have experienced one excited for a Time Travel.

The first conference paper was presented by Casa San Ysidro, a historic site in Corrales, New Mexico, U.S.A. Site manager Aaron Gardner and volunteer Mary Bates presented "Trade of New Spain: 1776: Strangers in a New Land," talking about their Time Travel program which Scott Green initiated in 2018. Mary and Aaron indicated that the Time Travels they've conducted have mostly been part of special events at their site but have enriched these experiences for many visitors. Mary pointed out that "getting people to engage creatively and asking 'what if'" is a good way to get people involved at the site. Mary stated that, "Narrative storytelling through characters, to not only reveal the past, but also the present, and engage the audience" is, from her limited experience, the essence of a Time Travel. Aaron and Mary hope to get the Time Travel Method going at local schools soon.

Annina Ylikoski, former Bridging Ages president and leader at the Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK in Finland was next on the agenda and presented a paper titled, "Co-creative Time Travels on a cross-cultural theme – The evacuation of Karelians in Finland 1944." Annina's organization does 50 Time Travels every year. In her presentation, Annina spoke about the work her heritage organization does and how their activities are often both hybrid and digital now. She talked in length about the Erasmus+ project, "Digital Solutions for Applied Heritage" which is a joint program with Sweden and Estonia. She explained how the project works across three schools with a digital kickoff and a delegation of teams researching different aspects of the history leading up to a May Time Travel. Annina expertly illustrated how digital meetings at schools can elevate a Time Travel program and create connections across schools and even countries. "It's like Time Travel 2.0 in many ways because the digital gives new possibilities to do collaboration... "

On day two of the conference, Daniel Ssettaba and Cellina Apio from Uganda presented a paper titled "Mbwaii: A Contemporary Folk Tale." In their presentation they highlighted the art of storytelling and its power to interface contemporary stories and folk tales. Mbwaii is an acronym for Maybe We Are All Invisible Illusionists, and, as Daniel puts it, works as, "the perfect Time Traveling tale." It is a stage production that will tour the world and become a multi-media project. Cellina talked more about the project while beautiful images from Uganda were displayed. The enthusiasm of Daniel and Cellina will translate well into building a program with strong Time Travel elements.

Anna Achiola, chair and Creative Director of the Medieval Rose Association in Rhodes, Greece, spoke about how their cultural heritage organization stages events that utilize living history. They have begun working to use the Time Travel Method to expand their festival offerings. "When applied in our training programs it will give new meaning and will help connect the past with today and the future." New to the Methodology, Anna and her

colleagues derived great value from the Time Travel training in Giresun, Türkiye prior to last year's Bridging Ages conference. Anna talked about their first Time Travel concept which utilizes a primary source poem to help students explore the Plague or Black Death which ravaged the populations of Europe in Medieval times. The Medieval Rose Association is building a quick and strong foundation for a long-lasting Time Travel program.

Linda Liljeberg and Adam Norman from Kalmar Lans Museum presentation titled, "'Neutrality'? Reflections from a Time Travel to second world war in Sweden" looked at a very complicated history. Also part of the Erasmus+ funded project DISAH or Digital Solutions for Applied Heritage that Annina spoke about on the first day of the conference, the project was part of an initiative to "to tackle educational consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic." The theme for the Time Travels was: How to be a teenager in a world that is on fire? The project enabled participants to navigate the difficult question of, "How is it to be outside a conflict?" Linda and Adam also indicated how working with two other countries enabled reflection upon the history from other cultural perspectives. Using digital tools and connecting remotely propelled and heightened the interactions between countries.



Cristiano Rossi, an independent historian and researcher in northern Italy, presented his thoroughly researched paper titled, "A Case of Cross-Cultural Conflict: The Tatar Yoke in Russia (1237-1480)." Cristiano took us on an exploration of this history involving the Mongols and Genghis Kahn. Following his presentation there was a discussion of how Time Travels have been done in Italy and how this intriguing history could lend itself to further investigation using the Methodology. Ebbe asked, "What are the key questions?" Cristiano responded, "I'm most fascinated by the fact that sometimes clashing cultures can then merge together forming something unique."

On the final day of the conference there arose the idea to hold a workshop for institutions that are just starting a Time Travel program and would like more direction. Kalmar Lans Museum and Bridging Ages board members will lead the workshop which is now planned for December of this year.

The conference was a learning and communal experience for all involved! Though not as dynamic or involving as an in-person gathering, it still enabled interactions between new and experienced Time Travel Method implementers. We heard about amazing Time

Travels which are happening in different parts of the world. We learned how cross-cultural relationships in history are being explored through Time Travels. And, as Ebbe indicated, we began thinking deeply about how to build lasting relationships through Bridging Ages International.

Keep on Time Traveling!

Digital recordings of the conference sessions are available to view here:

Day 1- <https://youtu.be/NoMvdrwwBrg>

Day 2- <https://youtu.be/gxaqkvSQEUBU>

Scott Green



Words from BA President Gushera Khan at the conference opening

Programme Director,

Our Host , Bridging Ages North America

Honorary President, Bridging Ages- Dr Ebbe Westergren, Members of Bring Ages Board, Fellow Speakers, delegates and friends.

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a warm welcome. This year marks Bridging Ages, 17th international conference. Our host Bridging Ages North America made it possible to host this virtual conference during times of financial constraints, when funding is restrictive and travel is not possible for many. Technology has brought about many changes.

This is Bridging Ages first digital conference. It gives many an opportunity to attend and send pre recorded presentations.

In this conference, we will explore cross cultural relationships throughout history in different times and places in this world. Our topic choice for this conference is most relevant Today. There is greater need for a more inclusive, tolerant world, embracing and respecting cultural diversity. We continue to have war, conflicts, and major natural disasters. Today enters 566 days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and or the conflict. We remember families who have been displaced, who were forced to migrate and those whom have lost loved ones. War destroys communities and often disrupts the development of the social and economic fabric of nations. The long term impact of war is disastrous.

The conference sub themes are: indigenous knowledge systems, cross

cultural communication, cross cultural conflicts or cooperation. Over the next two days, we will listen to interesting speakers from Finland, Uganda, Sweden, Rhodes Island, Greece , USA , Italy and Canada

Environmental issues and climate change was one of the themes in 2022 BA conference. We witness more frequent and intense drought, storms, heat waves, rising sea levels and earthquakes. We are all affected by this phenomena. On September 8th, more than 2500 people have lost their lives in an earthquake in Moroco . Our condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and all those who are affected. Bridging Ages goal is to promote learning, social cohesion and contribute to community building using the Time Travel method. It is quite amazing and fulfilling, how the Time Travel method is able to use history to help us connect and develop a greater understanding of common and global issues. Underpinning it all is the affirmation, and building of confidence and self-esteem in each community we touch. Honorary President, Ebbe Westergren will discuss in greater depth the impact of the Time Travel method in achieving this goal.

Before I hand over to Ebbe Westergren- I like to end with the African proverb " I am because we are. A strong message for all generations. Let us have a " Ubuntu life I am because We are.

Thank You

Gulshera

Makweteng Potchefstroom Photo Exhibition & Book Launch

Tlokwe Heritage Institute, Potchefstroom Museum and the Mayor's office -JB Marks municipality- South Africa, held the Makweteng Potchefstroom Photo Exhibition & Book Launch on 25 September

The purpose for this event is to enhance the history of the early Native location, Willem Klopperville (Makweteng); further research are being done to 'tell' the story of those that were banned out of their neighborhood into new neighborhoods that the Apartheid government had prepared for them. The residents of Makweteng were living there, Blacks, Coloured and Indian and were separated to their different new neighbourhoods.

Mr Radikobo Ntsimane, (1st from right) was one of the writers (authors) that was invited and Mrs Losette Absolom, Potchefstroom Time Travel, North

West (2nd from right) is also a member of Tlokwe Heritage Institute.

The Makweteng Photo Exhibition is rotating through the different libraries, showcasing the history of the long lost Native location through photos.

Comments from President : This will make an interesting Time Travel to enhance teaching and learning

Losette Absolom



Invitation: Digital Time Travel training workshop Dec 14th, How to Make your Time travel Sustainable.

At the conference we learned that there was a need for training for new Bridging Ages members. Kalmar Läns Museum and Bridging Ages board members will lead the workshop

Prior knowledge: You have made or participated in Time travel at least one time before. Here we go through the basics but mostly work with how to make your Time travel again, how to make it sustainable?

Submit interest to Linda.liljeberg@kalmarlansmuseum.se

Call for articles to the Annual report:

We like to invite all members to share their experiences from 2023 in the Annual report 'for Bridging Ages International.

Do YOU want to highlight your work. Send you text and picture to

bridingages@kalmarlansmuseum.se no later then 1st feb 2024



To be part of the mailing list or subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to: bridingages@kalmarlansmuseum.se
Layout and editor: Kalmar läns museum.