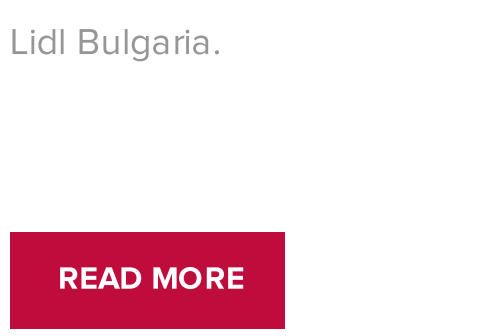




The Latest ABF Community News



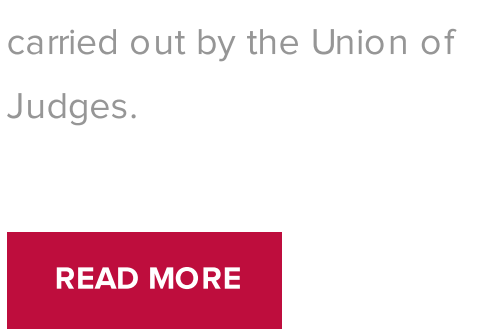
The Secret Way to Visit Muzeiko for Only Two Levs?



Every second Sunday of the month, Muzeiko's entry fee for children and parents will be only 2 levs. Thank you, Lidl Bulgaria.

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Where is the Real Justice in the Small Towns?



Regional courts are the place where common people go to find justice. Check out other findings from the research carried out by the Union of Judges.

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We Are #ATTHEMUSEUM. Are You?



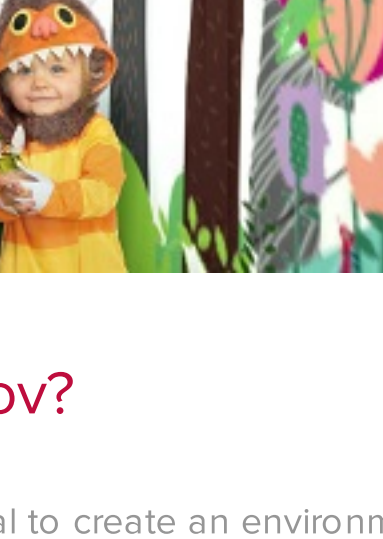
We are looking for cultural institutions that love children. If this is you, apply for our yearly prize #ATTHEMUSEUM

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Why not share the wealth? It's FREE

ABF Newsletter has a wealth of information valuable to our community – go on and share it!

[CLICK HERE To Share This Newsletter](#)

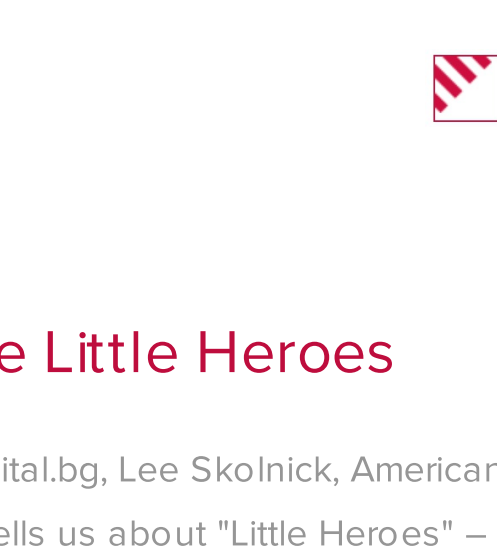
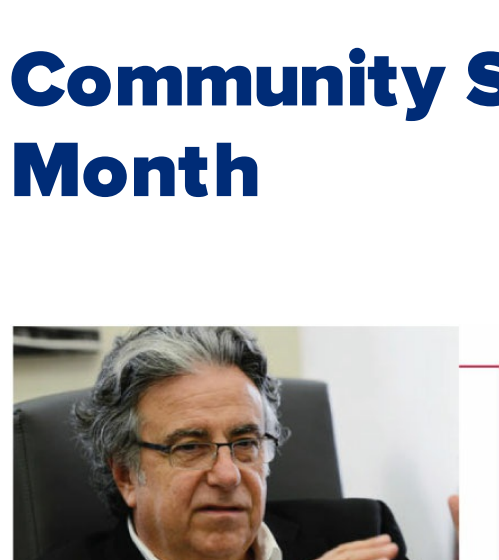


How Are "Little Heroes" Changing Pirogov?

Little Heroes will modernize the children's ward at Pirogov Hospital to create an environment where children and young people will feel special in a truly supportive, child-friendly setting. Pirogov's clinical excellence in providing medical and surgical care to children and the new child-friendly setting will bring it on par with leading children's hospitals in the world.

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The Month in Pictures...



Community Stories Of The Month



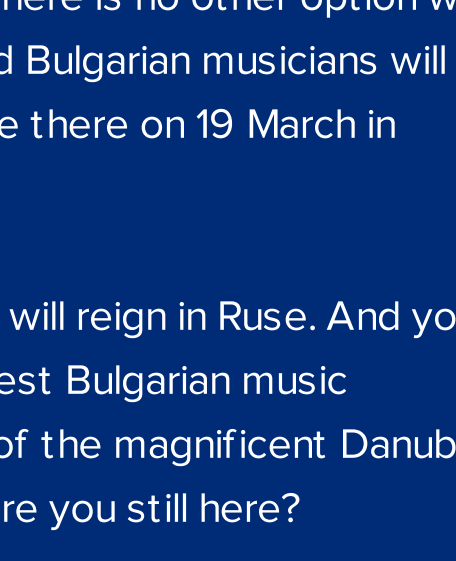
Lee Skolnick and the Little Heroes

In an exclusive interview for Capital.bg, Lee Skolnick, American architect and LHSA+DP owner, tells us about "Little Heroes" – an ABF initiative to transform Pirogov Hospital's children's ward into a welcoming and supportive environment for children and their families. This isn't Skolnick's first professional involvement in Bulgaria – a few years ago the talented architect and his team designed the first children's educational center in Bulgaria – Muzeiko. Now Skolnick and his team will bring the colorful visual language from Muzeiko to Pirogov, as they strongly believe that such environment helps kids recover faster.

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The Magnificent Sonya and La Traviata

Sonya Yoncheva achieved a standing ovation at the Metropolitan Opera with a performance of one of the most beloved operatic heroines – Violetta in La Traviata. This cultural event and the excitement of it was shared by viewers in 70 countries in 2,000 theatres. Starting last year, Bulgaria is part of the Metropolitan's large virtual family thanks to America for Bulgaria Foundation and Via Fest.


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Upcoming & Essential

No plans yet for the upcoming weeks? You've come to the right place!

Tired of looking for fun places to take the kids? No worries, we've got you covered – now you can take them to classical music performances. Yes, we mean it – classical music for children. Don't worry – we promise it will be fun. There is no other option with the amazing Fortissimo Familia – some of the most talented Bulgarian musicians will turn classical music into a magical experience for children. Be there on 19 March in Sofia, Bulgaria Hall.

And then start packing, because from 19 to 26 March music will reign in Ruse. And you do not want to miss the March Music Days – one of the oldest Bulgarian music festivals. Classical music, opera, and even jazz + the magic of the magnificent Danube + the charm of one of the most beautiful Bulgarian cities... are you still here?

And for all the reptile lovers out there (whoever you are) – there is something special coming your way. From March 21 all the way to June 18, you can discover the Reptile Exhibition in Muzeiko – over 40 species of snakes, lizards and other representatives from the world of scaly reptiles await you in the coolest children science center in Bulgaria! Some of the specimens have never set foot (yeah, we know, they don't have feet, but you know what we mean) in the country. The exhibition can be seen every day from Tuesday to Sunday. Let's go stare at the weird creatures! But...please, do not tap on their glass houses...they get cranky.

In case you missed the first news – here's another chance to make your kids fall in love with classical music. Just take them to the Fortissimo Class on March 28 in Bulgaria Hall – the exciting education program done by the same awesome musicians we already mentioned. Go, go, and go!

The youth of Bulgaria always surprises us with raw talent. But you will be amazed by this! On March 30 – April 8, the Young Virtuosos National Competition will take place – we'll find the best of the best in violin, cello, flute and clarinet. The contest will be held in Sofia in the National Palace of Culture.

Close your eyes. No peeking. Now spell the word 'Chiaroscuro', can you? Well, we cannot do it either. But we know some amazing Bulgarian kids who can – and they'll prove it on April 1 when the National Spelling Bee Finals begin.

What's the biggest problem with school today? It's called 'tomorrow'. How can we make sure that school today prepares children for their successful tomorrow? We know some of the people who have the answers – if you want to meet them, be there on April 12 for the Capital and America for Bulgaria Foundation Education Conference in Sofia Event Center.

Are you trapped in the vicious circle of bad communications? Mihail Stefanov comes to the rescue.



The vicious circle of communications starts with a phrase we use every day. What is it and how to avoid being trapped in the circle for the rest of your life? Mihail Stefanov comes to the rescue in this exciting talk from our first community forum. Don't worry, it's a video – no reading necessary, and it's only a few minutes long. Definitely worth your time!


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Business Alternatives in Bulgaria

This year's edition of the program "Business Alternatives" has concluded. The initiative offers knowledge, practical skills, access to business contacts and help in looking for capital for creating small or medium business for entrepreneurs coming from economically vulnerable communities aiming to reach financial independence.

The program is an initiative by Trust for Social Achievement Foundation partnered with America for Bulgaria Foundation and with the additional financial support of the U. S. Embassy. "Business Alternatives" is based on the 50-year successful track record from a similar program in New York City - an entrepreneurial model with a 16-week workshop for entrepreneurial training to develop a successful business.

On March 6, Yvette Dobromirova joined us as Director of Communications. We are delighted to have Yvette part of our team as she shares the values we stand for and has strong media expertise to help accelerate the implementation of the ABF communications strategy.

"In one way or another, my professional career has been devoted to one cause – better future for Bulgaria. I have always been an optimist. That is why I stayed when many left. This position gives me an opportunity to re-think the effort of making Bulgaria a better place to live through sustainability. Sustainability, which yields better education, culture, strong civil society and stable institutions based on the rule of law, and free entrepreneurial spirit - causes, in which the Foundation believes and has supported throughout its whole genesis in the last nearly 30 years.

"'American Optimism Meets Bulgarian Potential' is the motto with which America for Bulgaria Foundation signs off. I share this optimism in the name of Bulgaria's potential."

Yvette Dobromirova, ABF Director of Communications

Let's stay in touch...



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