



Dear Friends,

Developing a business, improving a village or town, providing better education for children, or speaking truth to power can be challenging, lonely undertakings. Yet you — this extraordinary community of NGO professionals, museum directors, educators, journalists, entrepreneurs — carry on without complaint.

On June 14, 2022, this community finally gathered physically again after two and a half years of Zoom meetings, telephone calls, and countless emails.

And although, due to the ever-present Covid risk, the fourth ABF community forum only featured a fraction of our growing community, we made new friends and reconnected with old ones. Most importantly, we reminded each other that we are not alone. We are all working toward the same goal — making our communities better places to live, work, and raise a family. Only united can we hope to build a more prosperous and just Bulgaria for all. Together we do shine brighter.

For those wishing to catch up, [our Facebook page](#) features video recordings and a [photo gallery](#) from the June 14 event.

This newsletter is your guide to the goings-on in the America for Bulgaria Foundation community, so make sure you [subscribe to stay in the know](#).

Honoring Marshall Lee Miller



ABF's Marshall Lee Miller Receives Sofia University Badge of Honor

ABF's longest-serving director and a lifelong friend to Bulgaria, Marshall Lee Miller was awarded the Badge of Honor St. Kliment of Ohrid by Sofia University.

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ABF Forum Highlights



US Ambassador Herro Mustafa on Hope & Furthering US-Bulgaria Relations

"Advancing our bilateral relationship and building a more prosperous, just, and secure future requires more than government-to-government diplomacy. It requires a whole-of-society effort," Ambassador Mustafa said.

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ABF President Nancy Schiller Draws Her Inspiration from Community Resilience

"Your actions matter. Your voices matter. This community matters. Only with a strong, engaged, connected, and vocal community can your dreams for a better Bulgaria become a reality," Ms. Schiller said.

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Desislava Taliokova: Light Should Not Blind us for a Coming Storm

ABF Executive Director Desislava Taliokova closed the forum with poet Blaga Dimitrova's words: "There is light above the clouds. The most direct path to the light, the only one, is through the clouds." Overcoming the storm requires confronting it.

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We Shine Brighter Thanks to Them



You Can't Fix the World by Writing, but It's Worth Trying

After four decades at *Starshel*, Bulgaria's oldest and best-loved newspaper, and twenty at its helm, Mihail Veshim truly is an institution.

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"How Is This Possible? Why Aren't People Angry?" Diyana Responds

It's anger at the state of affairs in her corner of Bulgaria that has kept Diyana Zhelyazkova in an increasingly unpopular profession for more than 30 years.

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Are Moon Walks with a Pet in Our Future? Students Seek Answers

According to Milena Leneva, active inquiry rather than rote learning will improve student motivation and advance science and technology learning in Bulgarian schools.

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Exploring the Bulgarian Northwest through Yana Rupeva's Eyes

In 2018, Yana Rupeva made an unusual career move: she packed up her life in Sofia and moved to Lyutibrod, a small village in the region of Mezdra, in northwestern Bulgaria.

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Stay safe,

Your friends at the America for Bulgaria Foundation

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