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Dear Friends,

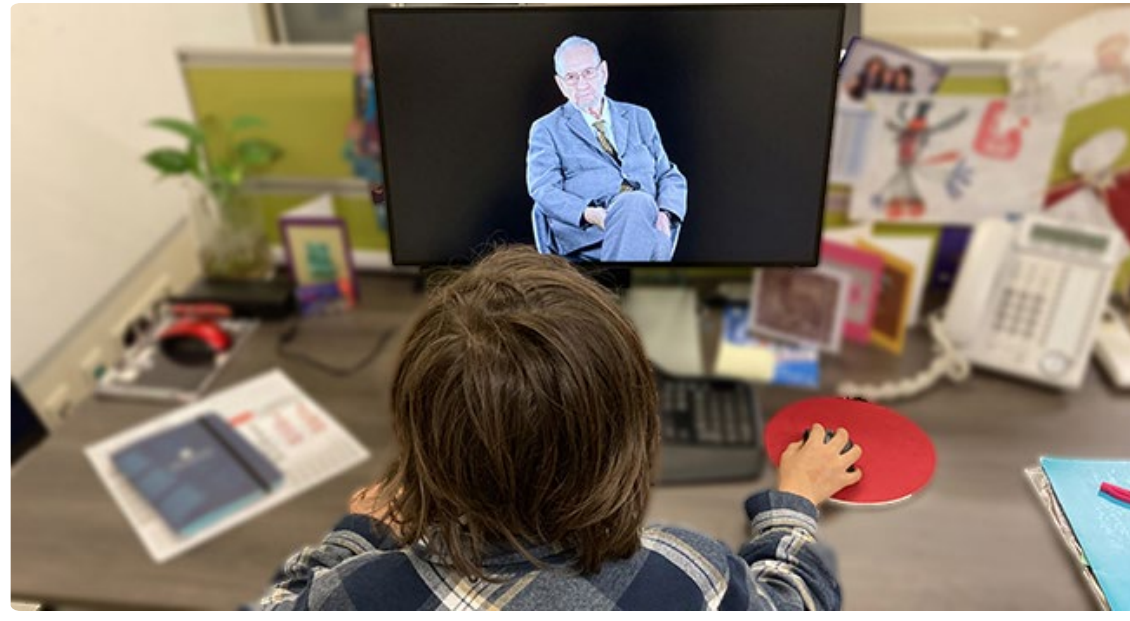
“Face-to-face conversation is the most human—and humanizing—thing we do. Fully present to one another, we learn to listen. It’s where we develop the capacity for empathy,” writes media scholar and MIT professor Sherry Turkle in her book *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*.

The projects we present in this issue of our monthly newsletter initiate various conversations—about the price of freedom, about the power of empathy and doing things for others, about the many positive uses of artificial intelligence, and about who we are as a society and how far we can go if we work together.

We also converse with renowned Bulgarian writer, basketball coach, and humanist extraordinaire Ivo Ivanov, whose inimitable pen has brought to life many an act of solidarity and cooperation.

Be the first to learn about new opportunities and ABF community news by [subscribing to this newsletter](#).

## Conversing through Time



### The Past Is Now a Video Call Away, Thanks to Belene[dot]Camp

On the Belene Camp platform, anyone with an internet connection can go back in time and speak to a survivor of a communist-era labor camp in Bulgaria. In technology-mediated conversations that roughly resemble video calls, survivors answer questions about their time in the camps, share details about their lives before and after incarceration, and engage in debate about the merits of democracy versus other forms of government.

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## Let’s Talk about Empathy



### “Care for These Spaces So Children Can Play with Smiling Faces”

The schoolyard of Ivan Vazov School in Pomorie is open to the public. The school’s openness has its downsides, as Ms. Elena Koeva’s second-grade class found out last year.

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### Author Ivo Ivanov: A Person Feels More Fulfilled Helping Others

On June 18, the renowned Bulgarian writer and basketball coach will lead fans in a charity basketball practice supporting the Festival for Arts and Rights Civic Alarm Clock.

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## Transform This!



Join the Collective Foundation, the America for Bulgaria Foundation, and partners in Stara Zagora on June 17 and in Business Park Sofia on June 24. In the tradition of the Rivers of Sofia project, we will be transforming Stara Zagora’s Bedechka Park and Sofia’s leading business district into places of leisure, learning, and creativity for all.

- [Join us in Stara Zagora on June 17](#)
- [Join us in Sofia Business Park on June 24](#)

## Wake Up with the Civic Alarm Clock



Save the date: July 1 is when we all get together for a day of civically minded fun at the Festival for Arts and Rights Civic Alarm Clock. There will be music, dancing, and workshops and games for the whole family! We will also find out the names of the winning entries in this year’s contest for socially engaged art.

- [Full festival schedule](#)
- [Support the Civic Alarm Clock](#)

## Stay in Touch

Be the first to learn about ABF anniversary events and opportunities: [subscribe to this newsletter](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Sending warm regards,

Your friends at the America for Bulgaria Foundation

### Spread the good

Please share our content with your friends if you like it. Thank you!

