

# NEWSLETTER



FONDACIJA  
HASTOR

MARCH 2020.

## ERASMUS EXPERIENCES OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

### NARCISA HADŽAJLIĆ:

#### ALHAMBRA

Some say that visiting Granada, primarily the Alhambra, is like visiting half of Andalusia. That is why Granada's main attraction is Alhambra, a set of palaces, courtyards and gardens, which to this day leave breathless every one of the 8.500 visitors who visit it daily. When it comes to distance and the city size, difference between Jaen and Granada is similar to that of Zenica and Sarajevo. Because of this, travelling to Granada was very simple for me.

My colleagues and I had to buy tickets to the Alhambra more than a month prior to visiting in order to make a reservation.

Granada is the capital of the Andalusian province of the same name, located in the south of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and at an average altitude of 730 m. Interestingly, during the winter snowy months, you can go skiing to Nevada and drop by the beach on the same day for sunbathing, since it is only 70 kilometers away! The temperature in Granada goes up to 40 degrees in summer, but since the climate is dry, it is easier to handle than humid or tropical heat. Nevada supplies water, so even in extremely dry days, Granada has no problem with water shortages.

This beautiful city with a population of 400.000 people and a large student population was inhabited 7.500 years ago and, like other areas of Andalusia, it was influenced by the Romans and the Visigoths. After the Umayyad Caliphate conquered the Iberian Peninsula (Hispania) and founded Al'Andalus (Andalusia), Islamic Spain, the capital was moved to Granada because it was easy to defend due to the altitude and the surrounding mountains. At the beginning of the 11th century, the barbarian Ziridi came to power, founding the Taif de Granada, which was entirely a Jewish state, except for its Arab name. It was the golden age of Jewish culture in Spain, which lasted until the end of the 11th century, when Granada was the centre of Sephardic culture. Some writers even called Granada at that time Garnat al-Yahud or Granada of the Jewish.

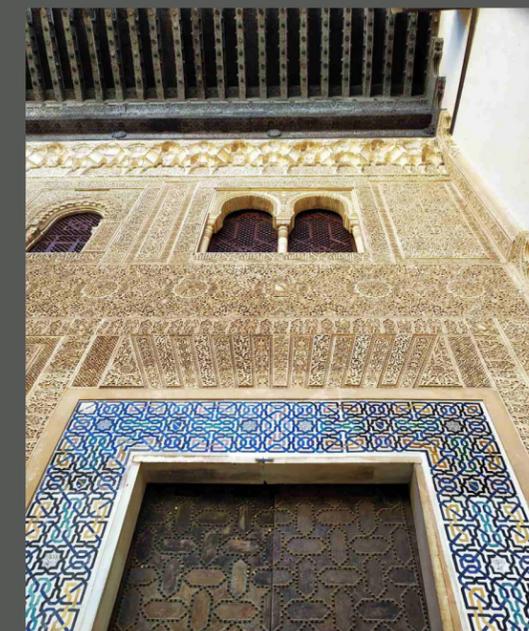


However, this golden age of the Jewish did not last more than a century, and other barbaric dynasties from northern Africa, Almoravid and Almohad, came to power after Zirid. The last Islamic rule in Iberia is the longest-lasting Nasrid Dynasty, established by King Ibn al-Ahmar at the beginning of the 13th century. It lasted about 300 years. Ibn Battuta, a famous historian, visited Granada in 1350, describing it as a powerful and self-sufficient kingdom, and in his journal he referred to it as "the metropolis of Andalusia and the bride of her cities."

After 800 years of Muslim rule, Christians conquered Spain again and began colonization in South America. The Spanish Empire was established, which lasted from the 16th to the beginning of the 19th century.

Granada possesses the complex of Alhambra and Generalife, and some consider it and its Spanish-Islamic art, especially Generalife, one of the 10 wonders of the world. Generalife is a palace with romantic gardens, remarkable both for its location and appearance, and for the variety of its flowers, plants and fountains. The Alhambra is the pinnacle of Nasrid artwork dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. To visit this massive castle, you can reach it by city bus, but you can also take a walk from the centre.

These sumptuous gardens were homes to the Arab sultans and have for centuries been improved in landscaping and architecture. As the Holy Quran repeatedly describes paradise or Jannat as rich gardens with running water, some consider the Alhambra to be an Arab attempt to create paradise on earth. The word la granada in Spanish means pomegranate, which is a symbol of Granada, and it is interesting that the view of the city with the great Alhambra in its slightly redish color and its architecture is reminiscent of that fruit of paradise.



## NEJLA KOMAR: BAIONA



On the first day of March, by coincidence on my birthday, a celebration was organized to mark the 527th anniversary of the arrival of a famous ship by the name of Baion in this town near the one I am currently in. I visited a friend there who, after a traditional Galician lunch (mostly seafood), took me for a town visit and told me why this place is so familiar.

Baiona was the first port in Europe to learn about America's discovery. On March 1, 1493, the La Pinta Caravel arrived at this port, commanded by Martín Alonso Pinzón. A caravel is a small, highly mobile sailboat developed in Portugal in the 15th century for research purposes along the west coast of Africa and the Atlantic Ocean. For the 500th anniversary of the discovery, a replica of the ship was unveiled in Baiona. The replica is located at the dock and can be visited.

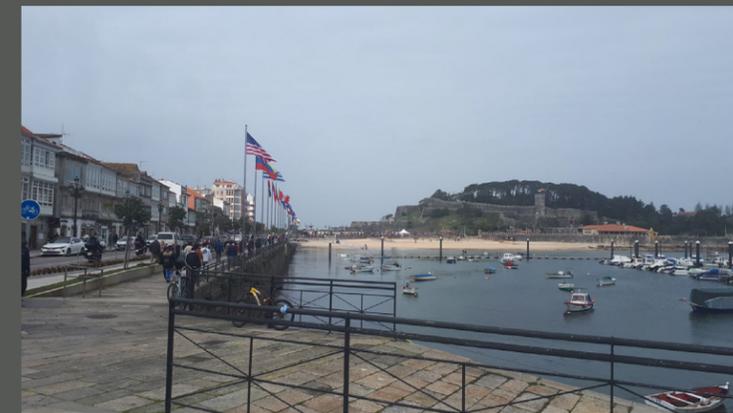
In 1999, a small caravel museum was reorganized and enriched with objects from the Colombia time - from Christian to taino cultures. In this way, visitors get to see the caravel as it arrived in Baion in 1493: dolls that look like crew and natives, along with reproductions of metals, plants, food and exotic animals found in the New World.

One of the events that took place at the same time as the celebration in Baiona is the Entroido (Carnival). In Vigo, the carnival is one of Galicia's favorite traditions, an event associated with fertility rites and crop protection. It was later converted to a Christian ritual to celebrate the abundance and "say goodbye to good food and good wine" for a certain period of time.



There are as many carnivals in Galicia as there are cities, and in Vigo it is celebrated with the enthronement of Mecca or - the god of the Entroid. During the reign of this permissive ("tolerant") God, everything is possible and fun: parades make the streets more vivid every day, but at night, with carnival dances, the festival reaches its peak.

One of the highlights of Vigo's carnival is the sarcastic burial of Sardine on Ash Wednesday (Miércoles de ceniza): once Mecó is dead, he is buried and a parody of the funeral procession is carried through the city center. Attending an event like this for the first time was very interesting, but with mixed feelings. My impressions were such that at times I thought they were going to one extreme of pagan customs, but at other times I would be surprised by the shiny and beautiful costumes overflowing the streets.



## LEJLA'S CAMBRIDGE EXPERIENCE: MARCH AND SPORTS



Every year, during the month of March, Cambridge students substitute their togas and libraries with jerseys and cheering. Considering that it is filled with numerous sports events, this month is quite interesting even for us who are not as good in this field and who observe these competitions from the stands or the river banks. Most competitions are the so-called varsity competitions between the eternal rivals, Oxford and Cambridge.



The first March competition was the popular Varsity Rugby Match that brings together several thousand students every year. Men's and women's teams from both universities strive to achieve victory at the Twickenham Stadium in London. The Cambridge team never lacks support, considering that the stands are overcrowded with loud fans dressed in their blue university sweatshirts and jerseys. It was really interesting to be a Cambridge fan this year because the team achieved a record-breaking victory.



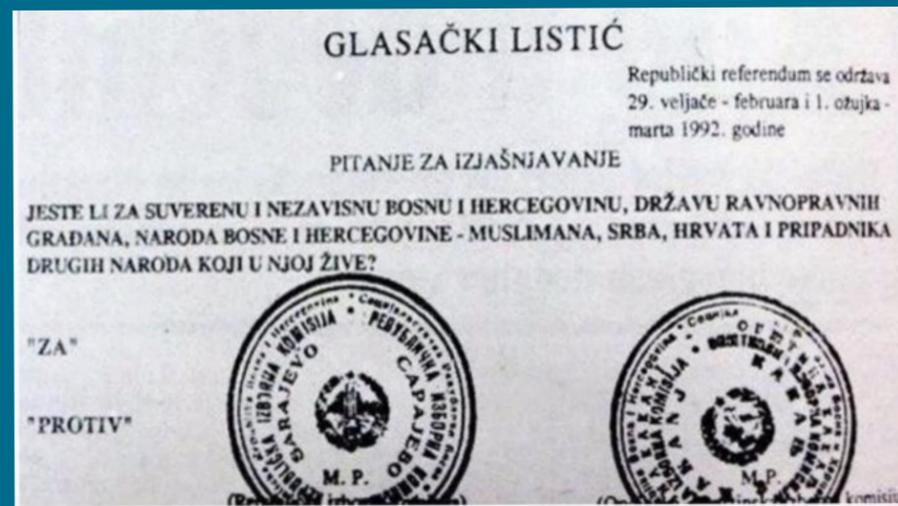
A set of other, equally important, matches followed after this one. Most of these were varsity matches. American football, volleyball and tennis are some of the sports my college and faculty friends competed in, with us cheering for them tirelessly every week. It was wonderful to experience the team spirit, despite the fact that in all three categories the home teams were, sadly, less successful than away teams.

It is, however, the boat races that Cambridge is particularly recognizable for. One of the most important events on the university calendar are the Lent races, organized annually at the beginning of March. These rowing races are held at the Cam River in Cambridge. This tradition began in 1887 and every year it brings together many students, but also the university staff and tourists who observe the races curiously and cheer from the bridges or the river banks. The races are open to teams from all colleges at the university. They are held in the period of five days (from Tuesday to Saturday) during the first week of March. Being able to cheer for my Queens College, which achieved a great result this year and was third at the university ranking, and to experience the Cambridge competitive spirit is something that I will definitely remember for a long time. These events served as a lovely end of the second semester and a perfect opportunity to spend time with my colleagues and friends, before we all head back to numerous academic tasks and preparations for the final semester.



## MARCH 1ST.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: HISTORICAL FACTS TO REMEMBER



March 1st holds a special place in the heart of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is the day when our homeland gained independence. The referendum on the independence of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the SFRY was held on February 29 and March 1, 1992. Most Bosnians and Herzegovinians voted for a democratic and independent BiH, a country of equal citizens. The total turnout of voters was 64.31%, with 99.44% voting for BiH sovereignty.

After Slovenia and Croatia declared independence from the SFRY in 1991, an Act on the Reaffirmation of the Sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted at the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on October 15, 1991. With that act, the parliamentary majority in the BiH Parliament decided to withdraw the representatives of the FR BiH from the work of the federal bodies of Yugoslavia until agreement was reached between all the republics constituting the SFRY. In 1992, on January 15, a report was issued to the Banditur Arbitration Commission, in which the constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sovereign and independent state was conditioned only by the referendum of its citizens, in accordance with the fact that the other conditions of the December Declaration of the European Community were fulfilled.

The referendum question was: “Are you in favor of a sovereign and independent Bosnia-Herzegovina, a state of equal citizens and nations of Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats and others who live in it?”

The countries of the European Community recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina on April 6, 1992, when the siege of Sarajevo began; this was one of the longest sieges in the history of modern warfare and the longest siege of a capital city ever. It lasted for 44 months.

**Abdulah Sidran**, contemporary academic, poet, writer, and screenwriter born in Sarajevo, wrote about his city as follows:

“ONE CAN-  
NOT LIVE IN  
SARAJEVO.

A LIT-  
TLE HERE,  
A LITTLE  
THERE – THE  
MORNING’S

WHEN YOU  
LIVE IN SA-  
RAJEVO, YOU  
SPEND TOO  
MUCH TIME.

A LITTLE OF  
THIS, A LITTLE  
OF THAT – THE  
DAY GOES BY.

IT IS, ADMIT-  
TEDLY, TRUE  
THAT IT ALL  
HAPPENS  
AMONG PEOPLE.

LIFE IS  
SHORT FOR  
SARAJEVO.”

AND IT HAP-  
PENS TO BE,  
MAINLY, A  
SWEET  
STORY.



**Mirza Humić** comes from Živinice and he is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Tuzla, Department of Electrical Energy Conversion Systems. Besides studying electrical engineering at his faculty, he says that he likes to explore it outside of the classroom, particularly in the fields of machines, electronics, and electrical cars. In his leisure time he likes to hang out with his friends and colleagues, and he often takes long mountain walks. He has been doing kick box for a longer period of time and he is member of his city's club, and he is also into fitness. In addition to everything mentioned, Mirza says that he really loves cooking and trying out new recipes.

He says that he expects a lot from the Hastor Foundation, considering that he is in his final year of studies and realizes that, besides vocational knowledge, numerous social skills are needed to achieve success professionally; he maintains that this can be achieved by being part of a great project as is this way of providing scholarships for young people:

*"I think that being part of the Hastor Foundation, which has numerous students, offers at the very beginning a great possibility to develop social skills, and that through organizing workshops and taking care of pupils one can acquire the necessary skills in terms of organization, leadership and resourcefulness. In this short period of time that I have been a scholarship holder, I can say that I have managed to learn much of the aforementioned."*



**Merjam Hadžifejzović** is a second-year student at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Sarajevo. She says that ever since she was a child, she has devoted her time to creative activities, such as painting, and making unique gifts for those she cares about. She loves to travel and explore new cultures and she likes to spend time in the nature with her friends.

She says that it is a great honor for her to have become a member of the Hastor Foundation:

*"Working with young, ambitious people is a great motivation and a proof that we can always do more and better for our communities. In this manner we will also help ourselves, by acquiring new experiences, skills and friendships. I have been part of this great family for only a short period of time, but I must say that so far I have had the chance to work with wonderful and imaginative children. I sincerely hope that I will justify the trust placed in me by the Foundation and that my activities will contribute to making this great family of ours even more successful and a true example of how diligent young people are a guarantee that we are on the right path for a better future for us all."*



**Dinko Omeragić** is a student at the International Burch University, Department of Information Technologies. Besides his studies and volunteer activities in the Hastor Foundation, Dinko also likes basketball and this is one of his favorite hobbies.

When it comes to the Hastor Foundation, he says that ever since he was in secondary school he has heard only words of praise from his peers, along with the fact that this is a family that always stays together and its members help one another in all situations:

*"That was when I decided that I wanted to apply to the Call and several months later I am proud to say that I have become a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation. My expectations have been exceeded the moment when I attended one of the monthly volunteer meetings and it became clear to me that, even though there is a huge group of people supporting me, I will also be able to help others, those younger than me. It was in this moment that I knew that I have made the right choice and that the Hastor Foundation really changes lives and makes them better."*



**Jelena Filipović** comes from East Sarajevo and she is a second-year student at the Sarajevo Music Academy, Department of Flute. When it comes to her hobbies and leisure time, Jelena mentions film photography and collecting unusable, but to her pretty and valuable vintage objects. The first hobby is a result of the second one, given that she bought her first film camera to hang it in her room because it looked pretty, but then she thought about it and realized that it would be a shame not to try and use it for its real purpose.

She has always loved volunteering, so the Hastor Foundation is for her a priceless value:

*"It is a wonderful feeling to share good energy with someone and make someone's day, and ultimately life, better with little things, and I was convinced of this through volunteer activities with my dear pupils! (I am grateful to them as well for making my days and life better!) I look forward to everything that is to come and I hope that we will soon meet again. I also must mention the financial significance of this scholarship, because I am finally able to improve in my profession in those areas where financial means are needed. However, it goes without saying that this has secondary significance, because the most important improvement, the opportunity for which I have gained by being given this scholarship, is improving as a human being and this is what should be the main task for all of us on this planet!"*



**Mirsad Hasić** comes from Gradačac and he is a student at the Department of Software Engineering at the Faculty of Information Technologies in Mostar. In his leisure time he plays the guitar, makes music, does programming and plays video games.

He says that in this short period of volunteerism he has gained many wonderful experiences with primary school pupils, as well as with colleague mentors. Sharing school and faculty worries, those at home and outside of it, analyzing and solving them, as well as other experiences such as going out together, are a nice example of this.

He heard about the Hastor Foundation's Call from a good friend who was already a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation at the time:

*"I became interested for several reasons. One of the main reasons was that the scholarship provided me with an opportunity to engage more in my hobbies and to make things easier for my parents. It was later that I found out more about the family principle that the Hastor Foundation works by and which I really liked. The Foundation is a fertile ground for smart young people where they can work together for a better tomorrow. I expected something like this when I applied for the scholarship, but the Foundation has in many aspects exceeded my expectations - in terms of structure, stability, self-confidence and the high level on which this family of young scholars is functioning."*



**Fatima Gazić** comes from Žepče and she is in her third year of studies at the Faculty of Islamic Pedagogy in Zenica, Department of Arab Language and Literature.

She says that she applied to the Foundation's Call because she likes how this community functions, particularly in terms of the volunteer activities of college student scholarship holders of the Foundation. Though she has been in the Foundation only shortly, she says that she has met many new people and colleagues, which makes her really happy:

*"I sincerely hope that I will be able to contribute to the work of the Hastor Foundation and that our foundation will achieve even greater successes in the future."*



**Alek Isaković** is a fourth-year student at the Sarajevo Music Academy, Department of Conducting, orchestra conducting. Besides being devoted to his studies, Alek also play the cello, leads an amateur choir and teaches children to play different instruments. He says that he also likes to write poetry, take walks in the nature and play different games. While he was still in secondary school, he learned more about the work of the Hastor Foundation, the manner of providing scholarships to pupils and students, and the active participation of young people through volunteer activities in the Foundation:

*"I found out about the Call via the stipendije.ba web page, and afterwards via the official page of the Hastor Foundation. My ideas in terms of contributing to the work of the Foundation are with regard to educational and fun workshops, music and art quizzes, creating sound animations for the Foundation, group performing and signing etc. My experiences with the Foundation so far have been quite positive; I am proud to be one of its scholarship holders and I am content with how my team and I have managed to cooperate. The way volunteer activities are envisioned also deserves every praise."*



**Farah Dolić** comes from Sarajevo and she is a second-year student at the International Burch University, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Department of Management.

She says that during this rather short period of time that she has been part of the Hastor Foundation, everything that was mentioned in the Call for Scholarship Applications for college student as a potential experience was confirmed to be true:

*"Becoming part of the Hastor Foundation was primarily an honor and reward for me, but also a great motivation for my future education and progress. I have gained many new acquaintances and established significant connections; I have the opportunity to improve my communication, leadership, teaching and volunteer skills through working with younger, and still equally successful, people, from whom I manage to learn something as well. I have no doubts that my fellow scholarship holders have the same experience and that we will built upon this experience through all the journeys that we will partake in as members of the Foundation."*

## HOW TO EFFECTIVELY APPROACH FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING?



It is a well-known fact that learning words of a particular foreign language, as well as their grammatical and orthographic features, is a very time-consuming, demanding and complex process. However, research conducted in this domain implies showed that the duration of the process is largely influenced by the approach and mode of learning, which is often not chosen right by students, and so it does not produce the expected results even after years of learning. Therefore, the optimal way to improve your language skills and take the most from the foreign language learning process is to identify your own mistakes, learn from them, and accordingly implement the procedures that studies have shown to be most effective in this long-term process. In this regard, the crucial goal would be to transform common mistakes into productive foreign language acquisition strategies. It is also a fact that learning styles are very different, learning techniques are constantly being developed and upgraded, there is a distinction between learning from home and during a course, but all of us share the ultimate aspiration to master the language we are learning. Despite these differences in methods and techniques, the fundamental mistakes that are made throughout the learning process are common to almost everyone, and are often very subtle and, as such, seem insignificant in terms of their long-term impact on the final learning outcome.

A fundamental, but at the same time, initial mistake in the approach to learning a foreign language is reflected primarily in translating words from our mother tongue into a foreign language in our cognitive system. This is completely wrong since the basic premise of successfully adopting words and concepts in a foreign language is actually “thinking in that language”, i.e. picturing images, concepts and creating ideas, not words in our own language and then translating them. In the process of continuous translation of words, and especially of sentences or larger meaningful units, it is almost impossible to achieve fluency in pronunciation, given the fact that a two-stage process takes place in our cognition. In addition, there is a natural tendency for people to think in their own language, but there is also an acquired habit of translating their thoughts when speaking, which makes it more difficult to eliminate this learning and pronunciation mistake, and therefore it takes longer to work on it.

Another very common learning error is the effort to remember a large number of foreign words as quickly as possible. It should be realized that this is completely unnecessary since even native speakers of a given language do not use all of its words, and the average usage varies from 2.000 to 3.000 words. For example, while an adult native speaker of English may have tens of thousands of words stored in their brain, you only need about 3.000 words to read most modern English texts that exist. The above rule applies to most other languages: to understand and speak a language, a few thousand words will be sufficient to speak and to read contemporary texts. You will only need to know more words if you want to do specialized or academic writing or if you want to become a translator. However, everyone has to start somewhere, and it is therefore recommended to start learning words that are predominantly used in everyday speech and communication within a specific speech area. It is also of utmost importance to point out that learning words outside their context is a completely faulty teaching technique! Every new word/phrase we want to adopt in order to move it into our long-term memory needs to be remembered in a specific context so that our cognitive system is in a position to make as many meaningful connections as possible so that a particular word is permanently remembered.



Not paying enough attention to listening, as an extremely important segment in the process of learning a foreign language, is also one of the mistakes that we often make. When learning a foreign language, we usually pay a lot of attention to vocabulary and grammar. Our crucial goal is to learn how to read, write and speak, which is why our focus mainly lies there. However, in doing so, we often forget to listen to the target language, despite the fact that it is crucial for understanding and communication. Students often choose the more difficult path in the learning process to learn that being able to speak a language and understand it are not one and the same thing. In order to develop and enhance your listening ability in an optimal and fun way, you can watch movies or TV shows with subtitles in the target language, listen to a radio show, play games, and try to understand all the words from your favorite songs and the like. If you are a fan of reading and books, the internet has brought with it many innovations, including audio books that are nowadays widely available online and that will help improve your language skills.

## SELBIR FIJULJANIN

Volunteering – the desire to help someone is an association to something positive, good and noble, and to a change of some kind. Volunteerism is one of the strongest elements which contribute to progress and encouragement of democratic changes in any society and as such it is one quite significant part of every contemporary society. Volunteering nurtures trust among people, tolerance, empathy and respect oriented towards the common good. It is through volunteering how we embody democracy on a daily basis – we make a conscious decision that we will contribute to positive changes in our society through our effort, that we will take responsibility and make out community a better place to live in. In addition, volunteerism carries with it the potential of building solidarity so that those who are in more difficult circumstances in life can become equal members of the community.



This month's scholarship holder was chosen precisely due to his devotion to volunteering, and it is Selbir Fijuljanin, a diligent student and a good friend.

Selbir Fijuljanin was born in Sarajevo, on June 14, 1998. Having graduated from the Secondary School of Dentistry, he enrolled into the Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy, and he is currently in his second year of studies. He says that ever since he was a child he was fascinated with the human organism as the perfectly functioning mechanism, which is still not explained entirely even with the modern technology and science. In his leisure time he enjoys trainings and movies.

Though he has been part of the Foundation for only four years, Selbir has stood out due to his desire to help others. During the last months, we have witnessed the immigrant crisis in the world, and our homeland is no exception. Being a socially responsible organization, we are proud that we have managed to instill a strong feeling of empathy in our scholarship holders. Precisely with regard to this issue, our Selbir helped the immigrants located at the camp near Sarajevo. Indeed, our little means a lot to someone.

*"I would like to say that I am really proud to be part of this great family because the Hastor Foundation motivates and encourages me to be better in everything I do and teaches me to be a useful member of the society."*

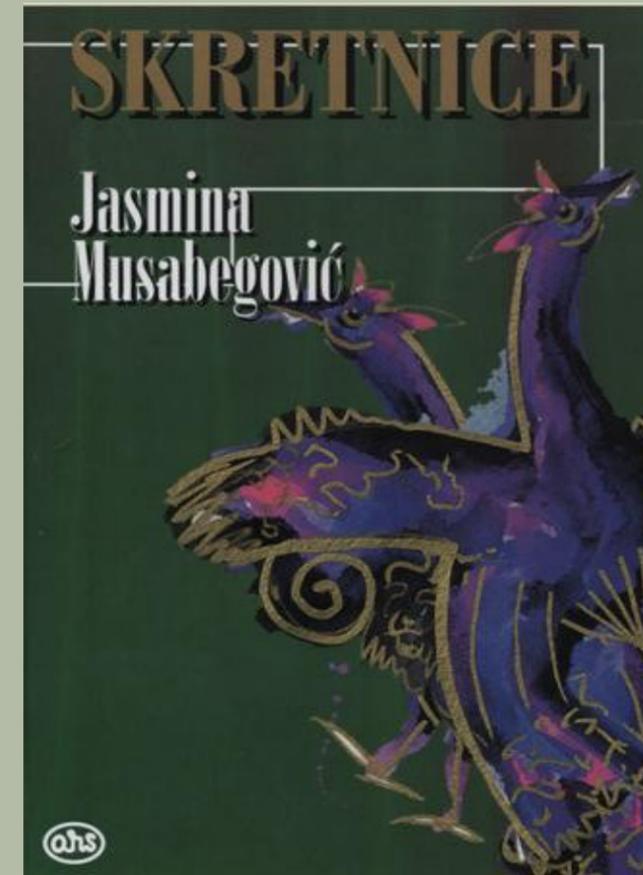
Selma Imamović

## READING RECOMMENDATION:

### NOVELS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

#### “SKRETNICE” (SWITCHES)

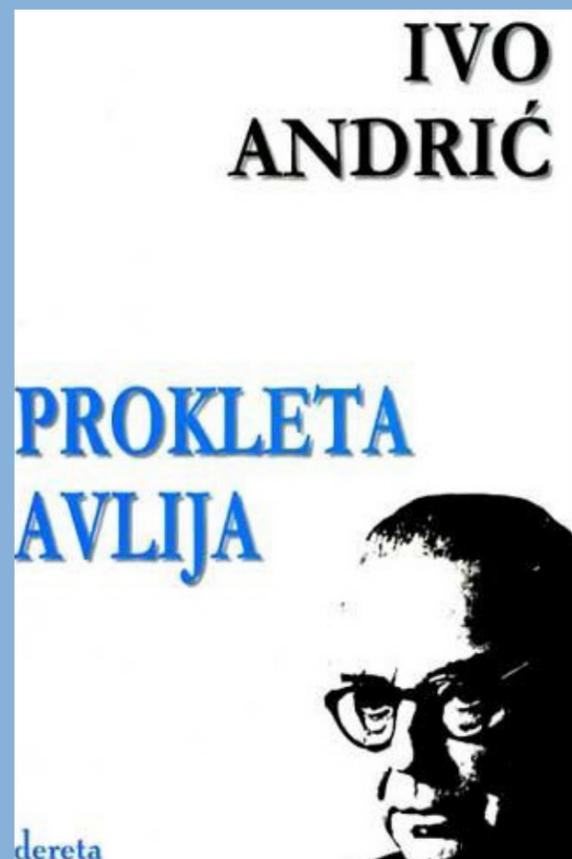
BY JASMINA MUSABEGOVIĆ



Jasmina Musabegović is a Bosnian-Herzegovinian novelist who focuses her work on the position of women in the Bosnian society. In the novel “Switches”, realism is only given to one literary figure, a woman on the ‘switch’ of history. The novel is sensible for the very actualization of the life path of a woman - Bosniak during crucial times for the individual and the collective. Musabegović deals with the life story of the protagonist Fatima, who lives a difficult, average life with her husband Nezir and their children. The narrative fabric of the novel constitutes the life of a woman in an illegal atmosphere, where all the forces of her being struggle and fight for her children and their lives.

She exhibits astonishing abilities for evaluating relationships between people. In her conceptions, she dismisses all age-old prejudices and reduces life's accounts to the solid foundations of human solidarity. That is the history of women's emancipation, women's empowerment, and it is one of the important issues of the general female position in those times. The plot of the novel takes place in the last century, so it is interesting to compare the position of the woman and her treatment of others, and vice versa, with the present day, and to notice differences and possible similarities.

**“THE SUBTLE LOVE AND SENSE OF HOUSE, FAMILY, HUSBAND, THE REALIZED HOME, KEPT HER IN THE AIR OF EXCITEMENT AND PLEASURE. SHE DID NOT LIKE THESE OVERHEATED KITCHENS, CRAMPED AND FILLED WITH COOKING SMELLS, BUT LATER, GIVING BIRTH THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, SHE WOULD LOVE THEM WITHIN HER MEMORY AS HER ONLY CORE OF LIFE WHERE ALL THE CHANGES TOOK PLACE. SHE WILL REALIZE THAT THEY WERE THE SEED OF HER LIFE.”**



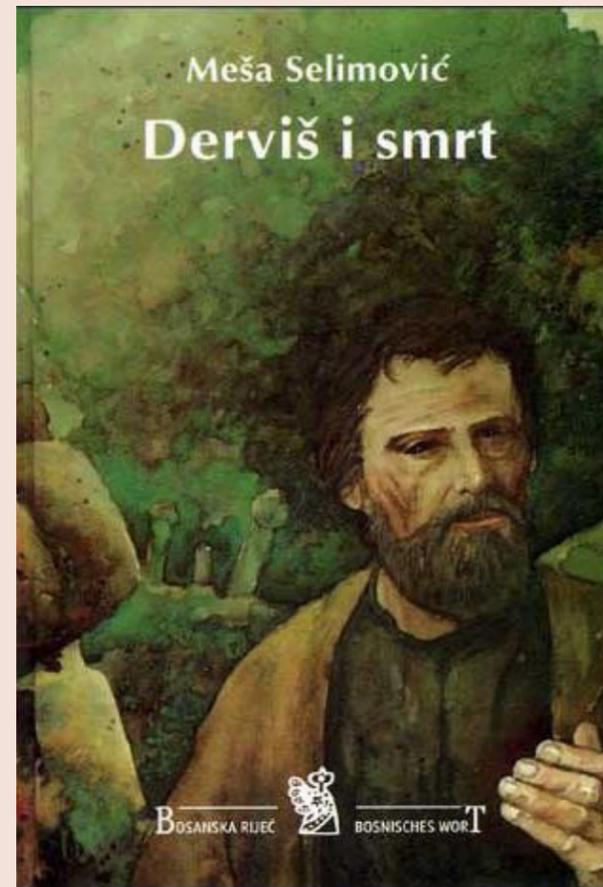
**“PROKLETA AVLIJA” (THE DAMNED YARD)  
BY IVO ANDRIĆ**

In the line above, you could read that the author of the novel “The Damned Yard” is Ivo Andrić, a Bosnian writer, winner of the Nobel Prize. Don’t you already have at least one reason to flip through the pages of this very significant novel?!

“The Damned Yard” was written between The First World War and The Second World War, and it was published in 1954. In this novel, Andrić is occupied with topics such as the Bosnian past and the issue of human loss. We can say that this novel has no definite beginning or end, but it is rather a story that revolves in a circle, which is reflected through the ring composition of the work.

At first glance, it is the story of the hardship of a Catholic friar Peter, who found himself innocent in a dungeon in Constantinople (the damned yard), on the unjustified suspicion that he had acted against the Ottoman Empire. However, as we read the novel further, we realize that the story is constantly expanding, with the story of Friar Peter’s hardship gradually evolving into an artistic mosaic of the Ottoman prison environment with different people and their destinies, and eventually rising to symbolic telling of the meaning of human existence.

**“THOSE WE WANT TO SEE DO NOT COME AT TIMES WHEN WE THINK OF THEM AND WHEN WE MOST EXPECT THEM BUT APPEAR AT THE PRECISE MOMENT WHEN OUR THOUGHTS ARE THE FURTHEST AWAY FROM THEM. AND OUR JOY FOR SEEING THEM AGAIN MUST BE LIFTED FROM THE GROUND WHERE IT WAS ONCE BURIED, TAKING ITS TIME TO APPEAR ON THE SURFACE.”**



**“DERVIŠ I SMRT” (DEATH AND THE DERVISH”)**

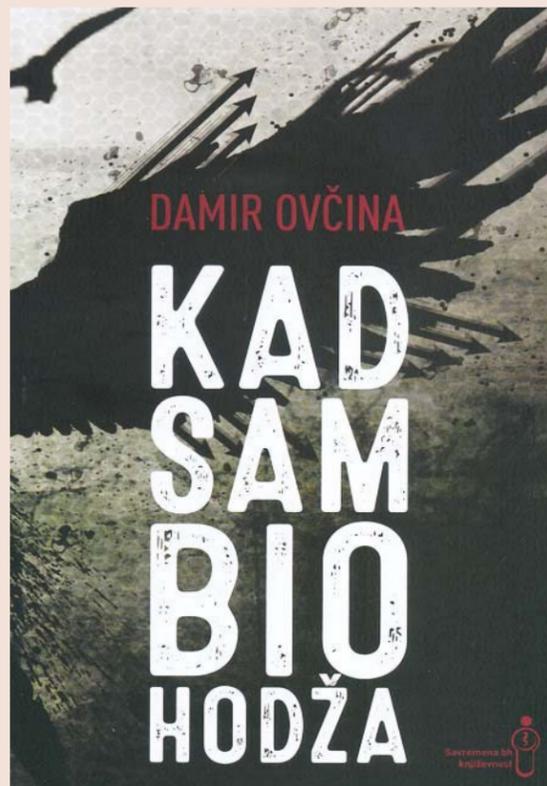
**BY MEŠA SELIMOVIĆ**

The novel “Death and the Dervish” is the central work of Meša Selimović, but also one of the most significant works of all Bosnian literature. It was published in 1966, which is in many ways significant for the literature and language of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to the novel Death and the Dervish, that year saw the publishing of poetry collection “Stone Sleeper” by Mak Dizdar, as well as a collection of stories “Rebellions” by Derviš Sušić. These publications serve as the indicator of nurturing Bosnian language and Bosnian literature.

The central character of the novel is Ahmed Nurudin, a Sheikh of the Mevlevi order who is throughout the entire novel preoccupied by the guilt caused by his brother’s death. At the same time, he seeks to understand his own position in the world and its general meaning. One of the significant themes that permeate the work is the issue of the conflict of the individual with the time in which they live, as well as the question of the relationship between government and the individual, pondering over life and death in general, as shown by the psychological insight and depiction of the inner world of the main character. The theme of love also permeates these topics.

The work is distinguished by a specific language and style, which are in function of reflecting the inner states of the character through philosophical and psychological parts. The author himself described the novel as “a book about love and hate, dogma and life, personal and non-personal, separate and general”. To isolate a specific passage from this novel is a great challenge, given that the novel is full of meaningful thoughts, messages, dialogues, etc. We nevertheless single out two specific passages:

**“A MAN ISN’T A TREE, AND BEING SETTLED IN ONE PLACE IS HIS MISFORTUNE. IT SAPS HIS COURAGE, BREAKS HIS CONFIDENCE. WHEN A MAN SETTLES DOWN SOMEWHERE, HE AGREES TO ANY AND ALL OF ITS CONDITIONS, EVEN THE DISAGREEABLE ONES, AND FRIGHTENS HIMSELF WITH THE UNCERTAINTY THAT AWAITS HIM. CHANGE TO HIM SEEMS LIKE ABANDONMENT, LIKE A LOSS OF AN INVESTMENT: SOMEONE ELSE WILL OCCUPY HIS DOMAIN, AND HE’LL HAVE TO BEGIN AGAIN. DIGGING ONESELF IN MARKS THE REAL BEGINNING OF OLD AGE, BECAUSE A MAN IS YOUNG AS LONG AS HE ISN’T AFRAID TO MAKE NEW BEGINNINGS. IF HE STAYS IN THE SAME PLACE, HE HAS TO PUT UP WITH THINGS, OR TAKE ACTION. IF HE MOVES ON, HE KEEPS HIS FREEDOM; HE’S READY TO CHANGE PLACES AND THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON HIM. WHERE AND HOW SHOULD HE GO?”**



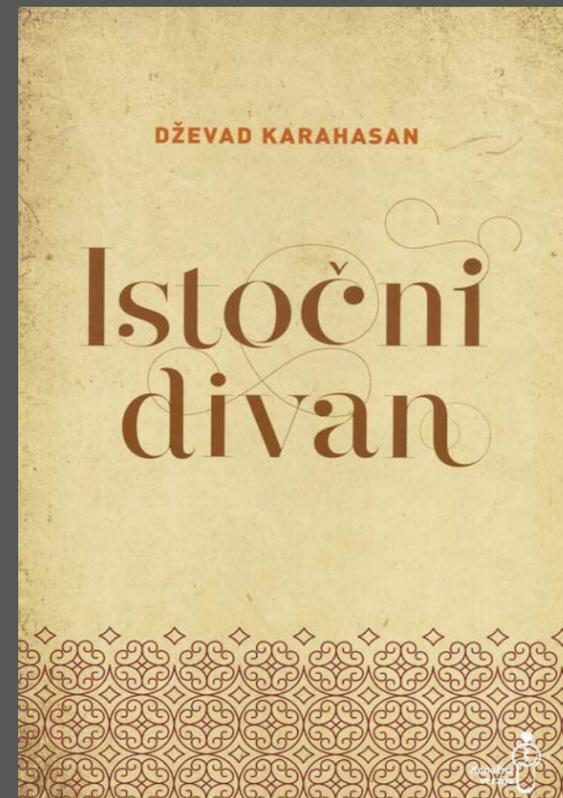
## “KAD SAM BIO HODŽA” (WHEN I WAS A HODJA)

BY DAMIR OVČINA

On the shelves of our libraries, a relatively new novel by Damir Ovčina has found its place. The novel “When I was a Hodja” was published in 2016, and it tells the story of a young man living in Grbavica, who was cut off from the rest of Sarajevo during the war. The young man is captured by the opposing army and forced to do manual labor, which, among other things, involves burying the dead. Each time he would bury the dead, he would tell the Islamic prayers he knew, which is closely related to the title of the novel.

The specificity of the novel is also reflected in the fact that the author avoids the use of verbs. Namely, Ovčina tries to write so that the reader stops noticing the sentences, his story flows over them, like a river, without explanation. There are only things that are happening. And what they feel like.

“SUNNY BUT COLD. PEOPLE SPREADING AROUND THE STREETS FROM POFALIĆI TO GRBAVICA. TWO OF THEM ARE SINGING “MY LOVELY, SWEET BOSNIA” WHILE WALKING EMBRACED. I GO THROUGH THE MASS OVER THE BRIDGE TO THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS. THE RIVER HAS RISEN. TWO WOMEN ARE CRYING. ACROSS THE STREET CARS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. FROM THE CITY TRAM, VEHICLES ONE BEHIND ANOTHER. I’M WALKING. I’M BREATHING. I TURN AND CONTINUE TO BLAGOJA PAROVIĆ STREET. MOVED CONTAINERS PROTECTING FROM THE SNIPERS AT GRBAVICA. THE SKYSCRAPER BURNED. THE MAN GOES DOWNSTAIRS. I ASK HIM ABOUT THE FAMILY - THOSE AND THOSE PEOPLE. DOESN’T KNOW. THERE’S BEEN NO ONE UP THERE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED.”



## “ISTOČNI DIWAN” (THE EASTERN DIWAN)

BY DŽEVAD KARAHASAN

“The Eastern Diwan” is placed on the edge of communication, that is, dialogue between East and West cultures, going back to the distant past – to the very emergence of the Persian – Arabic model of literature, in order to bring this cultural model together with the spiritual patterns of contemporary Western civilization.

The word diwan has multiple meanings: it represents one type of conversation between two parties, two cultures. Also, diwan is an oriental word for assembly, council, house and sofa, but also for conversation. Diwan carries the breath of the East, just as the East understands diwan as a form of speech and life.

The novel includes elements of philosophy, history, culture, as well as elements of other works, such as Goethe’s, or Dante’s “Divine Comedy”. In this novel, Karahasan shows how familiar he is with the issues of Sufi mysticism, and he introduces elements of the crime novel, political and love novel, as well as cultural new-historicism novel into the background, since the novel discusses the mystical dimension of Persian and Arab - Islamic culture.

“PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY GRASS AND TREES, RAIN AND MOONLIGHT, THIS OFTEN INFLUENCES THEM MORE STRONGLY THAN OTHER PEOPLE DO, AND THESE PHENOMENA ARE OF A LITTLE CONCERN TO YOU. MAYBE SAGES LIKE YOU WILL ONE DAY DO SOMETHING SO THAT I AM MUCH MORE CONCERNED WITH PEOPLE I DON’T KNOW THAN THE ROCK ABOVE MY HOUSE AND THE BUSHES IN MY GARDEN, BUT I PRAY TO GOD NOT TO LIVE TO SEE THOSE HAPPY TIMES. ONE DAY THE HUMAN WORLD MAY BE ORDERED ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDS OF REASON, BUT IT WILL BE A BORING AND DRY WORLD, WITH PEOPLE HAVING NOTHING WORTH LIVING FOR AND NOTHING TO SPEND THEIR LIVES ON.”

## “KONAK” BY ĆAMIL SIJARIĆ

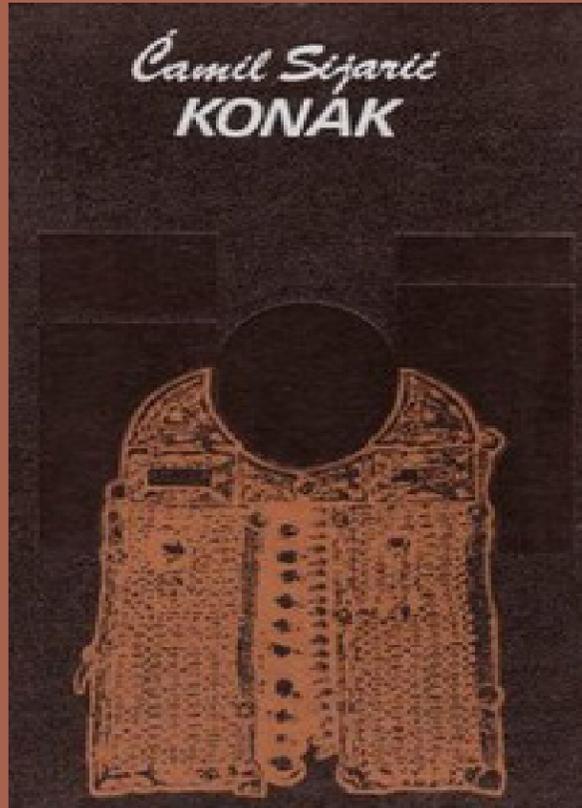
Just five short years after the publication of “Death and the Dervish”, another novel significant for Bosnian literature was published. In 1971, Ćamil Sijarić published the novel “Konak”. It is clear from the novel that feelings, thoughts, and experiences prevail over the plot, as it is expressed by lyricism, numerous descriptions, and psychological characterization. The core of the novel lies precisely in one’s inner world.

As an accomplished writer, Sijarić favors the small, ordinary people. Their insides are marked by numerous sufferings, traumas, fears and hopes, and human happiness represents an unattainable star.

The author writes in a specific style so that the novel “Konak” seems like a pleasant story told by someone close to us, someone whose stories we wholeheartedly believe. The novel is told from the perspective of Hadim Aliyah, who is also one of the characters. The plot of the novel is placed in the space of konak, which is completely separated from the outside world. The novel portrays a formal world with orthodox social relations between the ruling and the subordinate, where we revisit the issue of the relationship between the little people and those who rule, a topic that is pervasive and always current.

**“IF ONLY DREAMS WOULD HAVE ME, SO THAT I COULD ESCAPE FROM THIS REALITY WHERE I CAN’T WRITE; BECAUSE EVERYTHING I WRITE - I ERASE. THERE WERE OFTEN NIGHTS LIKE THIS WHEN A CANDLE BURNED IN VAIN, SO I DID MORE HARM THAN GOOD.”**

Maida Husnić



## APRIL 2ND

### INTERNATIONAL WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Becoming an adult is usually equated with full and equal participation in the social, economic and political life of one’s community. However, the transition to adulthood remains a significant challenge for people with autism because of the lack of opportunities and the necessary support dedicated to this phase of their lives.

Consequently, graduating from secondary school, when educational and other supported services that certain governments provide to people with autism usually cease, is often characterized as a “cliff drop” for these people.

In this regard, the celebration of the United Nations Day 2020, among other things, draws attention to issues of concern regarding the transition to adulthood, such as the importance of participation in cultural life and self-determination, community decision-making, access to post-secondary education and employment, as well as opportunities to live independently.



In view of the seriousness of the problem faced by people with autism, the 2008 United Nations General Assembly unanimously proclaimed April 2 as the World Autism Awareness Day. Celebrating this day at UN headquarters is organized by the UN Global Communications Division and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in close collaboration with people with autism and their representative organizations, and with the support of member states.

## APRIL 4TH - INTERNATIONAL MINE AWARENESS DAY

On December 8, 2005, the UN General Assembly proclaimed April 4th the International Day for Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Accordingly, the continuous celebration of the Fourth of April has contributed to the consistent efforts of states and relevant organizations to foster the establishment and development of national mine clearance capabilities in countries where mines and explosive remnants of war pose a serious threat to the safety, health and life of civilians. At the same time, it is a significant obstacle to social and economic development, both at the national and local level.

The United Nations is committed to making the existing legal frameworks universal and encouraging member states to extend those regimes and develop new international instruments to protect civilians from the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war. This work is carried out in cooperation with interested countries, civil society, and international organizations.





**APRIL 6TH - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

Sport has always played an important role in all societies, be it in the form of competitive sports, physical activity or even play. The right to access and participate in sport and play has been recognized in many international conventions.

In 1978, UNESCO described sports and physical education as a “fundamental right for all.” However, to this day, the right to play and sport is too often ignored or disrespected.

Sport is a very powerful tool for strengthening social ties and networks, but also for promoting the ideals of peace, brotherhood, solidarity, nonviolence, tolerance and justice.

As a universal language, sport can be a powerful tool for promoting peace, tolerance and understanding by bringing people across borders, cultures and religions. Its core values such as teamwork,

honesty, discipline, respect for the opponent and the rules of the game are understood throughout the world and can be implemented in the direction of strengthening solidarity, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Sports programs allow encounters in neutral territory and in an environment where aggression can be controlled, regulated and transformed, facilitating rapprochement and reconciliation between opposing parties.

Although sport alone cannot stop or resolve an ongoing conflict, it is a flexible and cost-effective medium for acting on post-conflict aiding and peace building as well as preventing potential conflict.

**APRIL 7TH - WORLD HEALTH DAY**

World Health Day is marked each year on the 7th of April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The first World Health Assembly organized by the World Health Organization was held in 1948. By the Assembly’s decision, the 7th of April was selected as World Health Day and has been marked as such since 1950.

This day is marked in order to raise awareness about health-related issues, drawing attention to the priority areas that are under the care of the World Health Organization. Activities related to this particular topic, as well as the resources needed for them, should not only be observed on the 7th of April, but should be our concern throughout the year.

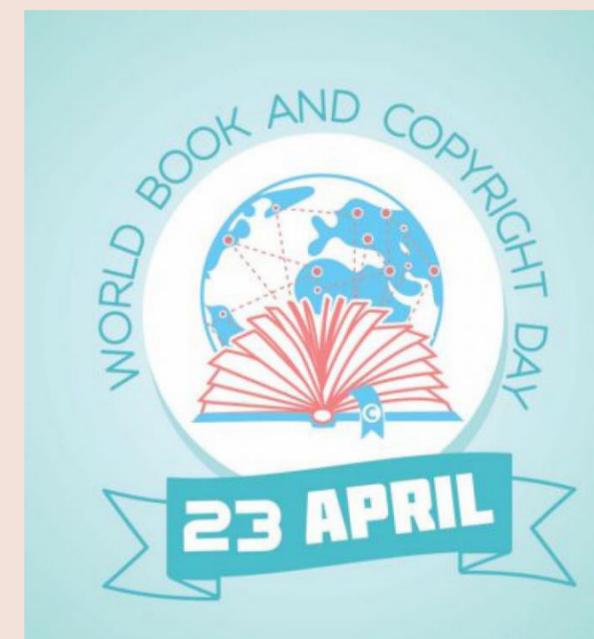


**APRIL 18TH - INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES**

The International Day for Monuments and Sites was established by the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on April 18, 1982 and later approved by UNESCO to raise public awareness about the diversity of humanity’s cultural heritage, its vulnerability and the efforts needed to protect and preserve it.

Each year, ICOMOS sets a theme for this day’s celebration to be universal around the world. This year’s theme of commemorating the International Day of Monuments and Sites is Common cultures, common heritage, common responsibility.

**APRIL 23TH - WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY**



“In these turbulent times, books embody the diversity of human ingenuity, giving shape to the richness of human experience, expressing the search for meaning and expression we all share that propels all societies forward. Books help to bring humanity together as one family, holding together a common past, history and heritage to create a common destiny in which all voices are heard in a large chorus of human aspirations. “(Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO) April 23 is a symbolic date for world literature. On this date in 1616 Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega died. It is also the date of birth or death of other distinguished authors, such as Maurice Druon, Haldor K. Laksness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejie Vallejo.

It was a natural choice for the UNESCO General Conference, held in Paris in 1995, to pay tribute to books and authors around the world on this date, encouraging everyone, especially young people, to discover the pleasure of reading and gain appreciation for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have fostered the social and cultural progress of humanity. With that in mind, UNESCO proclaimed April 23rd World Book and Copyright Day.



**APRIL 21TH -  
EARTH DAY**

“Mother Earth” is a common term for planet Earth in many countries and regions, and the phrase actually reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings and other living species across the planet on which we live. It is an indisputable fact that Earth and its ecosystems are our home. In order to achieve balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote the harmony with nature and the Earth.

International Mother Earth Day is celebrated to remind each of us that Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and its consistent maintenance.

This day also recognizes the collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature and the Earth, as well as to achieve a fair balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.

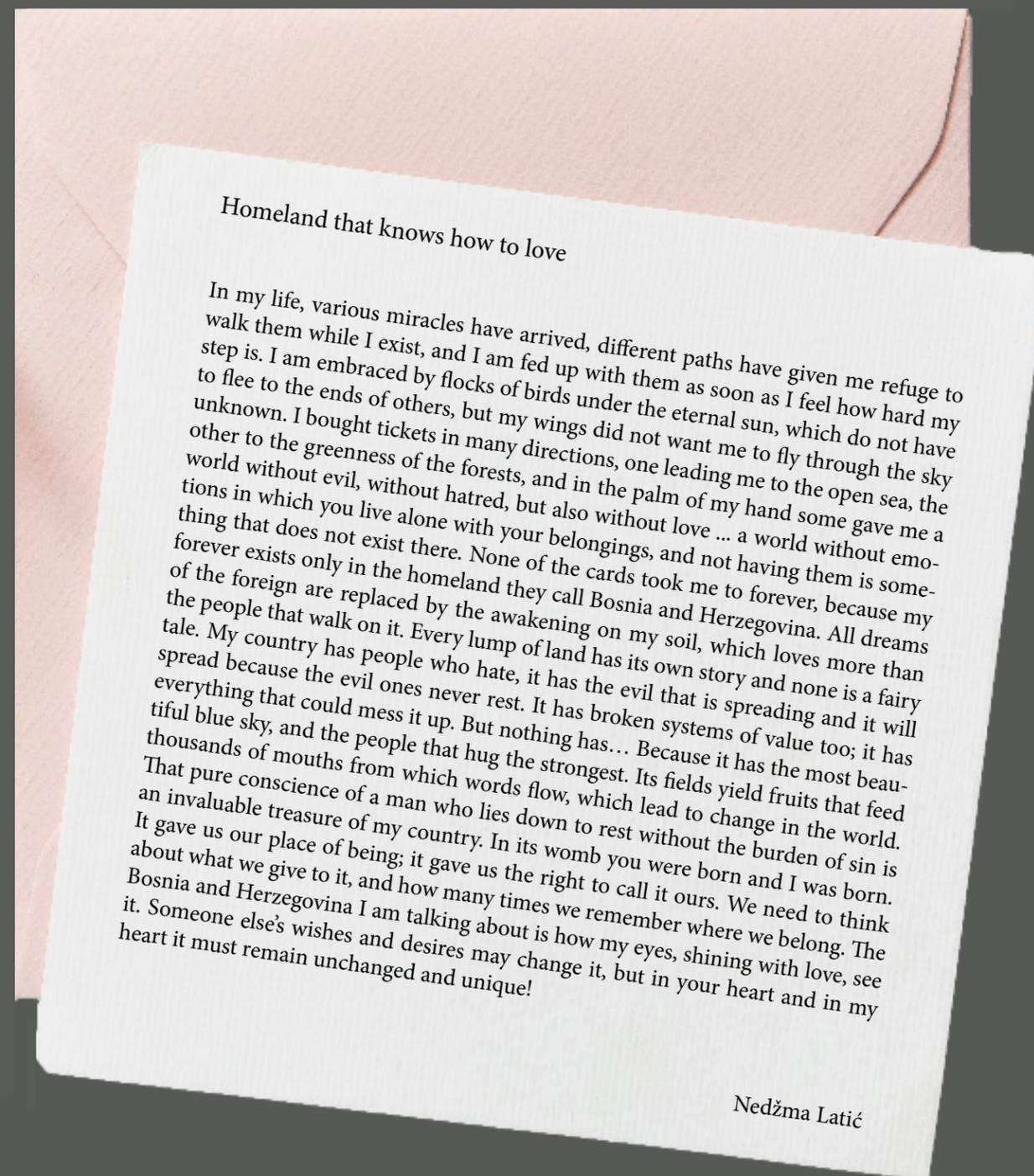
International Mother Earth Day provides an opportunity to raise public awareness around the world of the many challenges that relate to the well-being of the planet and, consequently, the overall well-being of the world’s population. Namely, the original roots of marking this day date back to the 1970s when the first American protests against air pollution occurred because of the huge amounts of lead gas generated by massive and inefficient use of cars and irresponsible industry. Until then, environmental protection was not on the political agenda’s priority list.

**APRIL 26 -  
INTERNATIONAL  
CHERNOBYL  
DISASTER  
REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The Chernobyl nuclear explosion in 1986 spread radioactive clouds across large parts of the Soviet Union including the territories of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Nearly 8.4 million people in the three states were exposed to radiation. The Soviet government recognized the need for international assistance only in 1990. That same year, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/190, calling for “international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.” It was the beginning of the United Nations’ involvement in the Chernobyl disaster recovery process. In 1991, the UN created the Chernobyl Trust Fund, which is currently managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Since 1986, the United Nations and a large number of non-governmental organizations have initiated more than 230 different research and assistance projects in the fields of health, nuclear safety, rehabilitation, the environment, clean food production and information.



Amina Vatreš



*Homeland that knows how to love*

*In my life, various miracles have arrived, different paths have given me refuge to walk them while I exist, and I am fed up with them as soon as I feel how hard my step is. I am embraced by flocks of birds under the eternal sun, which do not have to flee to the ends of others, but my wings did not want me to fly through the sky unknown. I bought tickets in many directions, one leading me to the open sea, the other to the greenness of the forests, and in the palm of my hand some gave me a world without evil, without hatred, but also without love ... a world without emotions in which you live alone with your belongings, and not having them is something that does not exist there. None of the cards took me to forever, because my forever exists only in the homeland they call Bosnia and Herzegovina. All dreams of the foreign are replaced by the awakening on my soil, which loves more than the people that walk on it. Every lump of land has its own story and none is a fairy tale. My country has people who hate, it has broken systems of value too; it has spread because the evil ones never rest. It has the evil that is spreading and it will everything that could mess it up. But nothing has... Because it has the most beautiful blue sky, and the people that hug the strongest. Its fields yield fruits that feed thousands of mouths from which words flow, which lead to change in the world. That pure conscience of a man who lies down to rest without the burden of sin is an invaluable treasure of my country. In its womb you were born and I was born. It gave us our place of being; it gave us the right to call it ours. We need to think about what we give to it, and how many times we remember where we belong. The Bosnia and Herzegovina I am talking about is how my eyes, shining with love, see it. Someone else’s wishes and desires may change it, but in your heart and in my heart it must remain unchanged and unique!*

*Nedžma Latić*

IN THIS SECTION WE WILL INTRODUCE THE ACTIVE YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS OF THE HASTOR FOUNDATION, WHO, IN ADDITION TO VOLUNTEERING, DO PHENOMENAL THINGS AND THUS REPRESENT THE FOUNDATION AT ITS BEST!



**Nikolina Gagić**, a 20-year-old from Srebrenica, is a fourth-year student at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Tuzla, majoring in Acting. She has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since the last academic year. She says that she has been volunteering since she was little, when she was not even sure what this meant, and that her love for volunteering arose while growing up with people who enjoy volunteering. While in primary and secondary school, she was involved in different activities with friends at the local level, but once she enrolled into college she decided to join the Youth United in Peace Organization, which connects 5 cities in 3 countries - Srebrenica, Gornji Vakuf - Uskoplje, Tuzla, Sombor and Vukovar.

The organization is mainly focused on the interethnic relations of children, youth, and people who come, conflict resolution, and an objective account of history.

*“I met a lot of friends very quickly, became even closer to some from Srebrenica, and now I can and do say I have a family there. People within the organization help me as much as I would like to help them, along with everyone we don't know. Many of us have grown up, or at least matured in the organization, become more open and accessible.”*

Nikolina made great progress in the organization and became one of the leaders because they recognized that she had experience in this field. She points out that she is most proud of the workshop where she led a group of 40 children with a friend. The workshop was based on straight men's relationships with women and with the LGBTQ + community

*“I have repeatedly noticed that something else is a source of violence among youth, which is sometimes more important than where one was born, and that is sexual orientation. This is most related to teens and they are often prone to violence. We helped some of them open up, some who came with hatred changed their minds, but most importantly, they felt safe with each other, and with us. Over the next few days, these people thanked me often, and that is something that can fulfill me most as a person. To know that the other person can be who they are and not be afraid.”*



Nikolina points out that young people must also be active with each other, because every word can sometimes mean change, and that young people need to know what their goal is, while helping others - talk, work, spread views - things that can be done on a daily basis. She points out that she shares the same views with the Foundation, and one recent example of volunteering has particularly fulfilled her. In January, they took the students to a theater play, and one of the students told her that she liked the play and that she has since started going to the theater. This is very important to Nikolina, both as a future actress and as a human being, and she is very proud of the student, since theater is a form of cultural elevation.

*“It is really important to me that everyone grows up to be accepted in society, to live without any hindrances from other people, and my message to scholarship holders would be oriented towards that. We can really do something every day, the smallest thing in the world, that we don't even consider to be a volunteer act, but the whole world is made of little things, and that's how it gets better.”*





Dear members of the Administration Team of the Hastor Foundation,

Faced with the situation that has happened to us and being a healthy and young person, I felt a civic responsibility to help those in need. In my hometown of Čelić, I signed up for a volunteering. Today, I visited all those of age 65+ in my village to inform them that I was available for any kind of assistance. I handed them papers with the phone numbers of the volunteers at their service, since they were forbidden to move. I also gave them kind words of support and, as a medical student, shared some helpful tips on how to prevent infection. In this e-mail I send you a photo I took in front of an old lady's home, to whom I gave a paper with the phone numbers of volunteers, including myself. I share this story with you because I want to remind you that, as your scholarship holder, I have not forgotten my obligations.

In the upcoming period, I will be at the service of my local community for any type of assistance.

Thank you for your understanding and I send you warm regards.

Adisa Bajramović, Čelić

I send my greetings to the Foundation, hoping you are all well and safe. I would like to share a story about my volunteer activities during these extraordinary circumstances. Namely, I got in touch with people who needed help in the form of household goods or money. With the help of friends, we raised a certain amount of money and distributed it to those people who needed help.

We have helped other people with their purchases so they did not have to expose themselves to the risk. This is just one positive story, and I hope, I am even convinced, that I am not the only one who volunteers and helps those who are most in need. With our combined strength and commitment to respecting the rules of the authorities, we will overcome this situation together.

I send you my warmest regards and I hope to see you again soon at our monthly meetings.

Irfan Brakić, Novi Travnik

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