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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ABOUT US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2018 BY THE NUMBERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WE ARE MACEDONIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>UMD DETROIT GALA &amp; VISIT OF PRESIDENT IVANOV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MACEDONIA OPERATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>CHARITABLE EFFORTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>CULTURAL PRESERVATION &amp; PROMOTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>COMMUNITY OUTREACH &amp; GROWING UMD’S MEMBERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>UMD’S 40 UNDER 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>UMD GLOBAL LEADERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>UMD FUNDING THE FUTURE ENDOWMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>LETTER FROM UMD TREASURER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>2018 FINANCIAL REPORT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT US

Founded in 2004, UMD is a leading Macedonian advocacy organization promoting the interests and needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities worldwide.

WHAT WE STRIVE TO DO

• Safeguard Macedonia’s name and human rights of all Macedonians
• Unify the Macedonian diaspora
• Promote universal ideals of peace, freedom, self-determination, equality, and justice
• Advance ethnic Macedonian heritage, language, and identity
• Preserve Macedonian traditions via charitable, educational, and social programs

HOW WE DO IT

ADVOCACY
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
EDUCATION
CULTURAL PROMOTION
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

WHY WE DO IT

We envision an influential, respected, and united Macedonian diaspora committed to building and sustaining the global Macedonian community.

There has never been an organization like UMD in the global Macedonian community. UMD’s founders have broken down the old barriers by speaking about one cause, with one voice - Macedonia.

The late John L. N. Bitove, C.M

We appreciate the good work that the United Macedonian Diaspora is doing to preserve and promote the Macedonian heritage and identity worldwide.

Marian Ilitch and the late Michael Ilitch
2018 BY THE NUMBERS

Founded the global We Are Macedonia movement that sparked 40 rallies with 150k participants

156k monthly Facebook reach

55k average daily reach

4 Honorees at UMD’s Detroit MakBall

58k+ Views on UMD Voice

1 New UMD office located in Skopje, Macedonia

$13,000 For children with Down syndrome and autism

$6,500 For Macedonian festival in Albania

...and the continued promotion of the Global Macedonian community.

Support UMD by joining or donating today!
In January, UMD launched the We Are Macedonia global movement by presenting a declaration to the Macedonian Ambassador Vasko Naumovski in Washington, D.C., following a peaceful rally in front of the Embassy. We Are Macedonia’s sole purpose is preserve the individuality of the Macedonian people as an equal and respected member of the world family of nations, without hindrance upon our Macedonian name, identity, language, culture, and unitary territorial integrity of Macedonia.

The declaration turned into a petition on the same day, concluding a few weeks later, collecting 29,215 signatures. It was delivered to Macedonia’s President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, as well as global leaders, members of NATO and the EU.
The petition:

- strongly condemned the ongoing talks with Greece over the name of the Republic of Macedonia.
- strongly condemned the irresponsible and unlawful act of the MPs in the Macedonian Assembly by passing the unconstitutional law on languages.
- strongly condemned the constant attacks upon the unitary territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Macedonia.
- strongly condemned the redefining of Macedonia's history by signing the so-called “good-neighborly relations” agreement with Bulgaria.

What started as a small peaceful rally in Washington, D.C. sparked 40 rallies in just a two month period gathering over 150,000 people, with the largest crowds in Melbourne, and Sydney, Australia in the upwards of 60,000, and in Skopje, Macedonia with 20,000. Macedonians in places like Canada, Israel, Italy, Malta, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, among others joined in. Whether in person or on social media, members of Congress and members of the European Parliament issued statements that no country should be denied its rightful name. The rallies drew media attention from the local and national TV and newspaper outlets. Generation M’s Kristina Dimitrievski was featured in a report by CP24 TV Breaking News in Toronto about the rally there.

The We Are Macedonia global movement sparked up 200 public opinion markers in Macedonia and the Diaspora to send a letter to the government urging withdrawal from the name negotiations. UMD’s Chairman Stojan Nikolov, UMD’s President Metodija A. Koloski, UMD’s New York City Chair Vera Arsova were among the signatories. UMD assisted in developing an online signature tool, which then garnered over 7,000 online signatures.

Never before have we seen the global Macedonian community unite under one banner joined by scores of Macedonian organizations - together. While UMD played a significant role in driving the movement, huge gratitude goes to everyone who joined the rallies, donated, spread the word to their family and friends, on social media, and spent countless volunteer hours.

MOMENTUM OF A MOVEMENT

Top left: A woman protests in Skopje against the then-proposed name change of Macedonia. Top right: Protesters gather in Skopje’s Macedonia Square as part of the “We Are Macedonia” global movement. Bottom right: Members of the Macedonian diaspora bring the movement to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.
1: Macedonians gather in Los Angeles to express opposition to name change.

2: UMD President and Macedonia Director meet with Macedonia 2025 team in Skopje.

3: Young Macedonians on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

4: Young Macedonians in Toronto.

5: Kristina Dimitrievski interviewed on Toronto CP24 TV during We Are Macedonia Rally.

6: The website of Congressman Jim Banks announces the House letter to NATO supporting Macedonian NATO membership.
Regrettably, the Macedonian government did not heed the advice of the diaspora and pursued signing of the Prespa Agreement, which changed Macedonia’s name. In a statement to media, UMD stressed that the “Prespa Agreement” whitewashes a century of genocide, discrimination and assimilation against the Macedonian people committed by the Greek state.

UMD, as a non-partisan organization, and being independent of political party-control making it a trusted leader to Macedonians and friends of Macedonia, continued its educational campaigns throughout 2018.

In February, Greek journalist Thanasis Tsitsas interviewed UMD President Koloski for ANT1 TV from Greece on UMD’s position on Macedonia’s government name negotiations.

In March, during an official visit to Macedonia, UMD President Koloski participated on Kanal 5’s Samo Vis Tina, the top TV debate in Macedonia, watched by over 170,000 people; participated in a debate on 60 minutes for Alfa TV, and an afternoon show Aflaskop. He was also interviewed for 2 top blogs in the country Express and Macedonia 365, and Kanal 77 radio. Koloski conducted over 40 meetings in Macedonia. He represented UMD at an academic conference on the name issue, an academic conference on the 70th anniversary of the children refugees from Aegean Macedonia, and numerous other cultural festivities. He also gave a talk on UMD’s work at the Mother Teresa School of Public Policy in Skopje before a class of around thirty students.

Between March 12-22, 2018, UMD conducted a scientific poll, in which 1,429 participants took part. Over 90% indicated that they are against a Macedonia name change, especially in order to join NATO and the EU. This poll contradicted polling done in the Republic.

On March 26, UMD started an Action Alert to combat the highly offensive H. Res. 804 introduced by the well-funded and well-organized Greek-American lobby, which states numerous misrepresentations on Macedonia, and undermines U.S. policy of recognizing Macedonia.

The sponsor of H. Res. 804 is none other than Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who delivered a speech last weekend in front of the United Nations declaring that all Macedonian history was Hellenic, and “that Macedonia is and always has been in Greece.”

On April 23, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski gave opening remarks at Columbia University on the question “Is there a role for the Diaspora in Macedonia’s integrative process in Euro-Atlantic integration?” He
used the opportunity to present UMD’s positions on not just the name, among other pressing matters, but also the real need for Macedonia’s government, opposition, and society to understand they cannot divide the Diaspora among political ideology but rather focus on concrete steps to bring the Diaspora to get involved. Brain drain is a serious problem for Macedonia, and UMD is looking for ways to develop brain gain for the country, despite who is in power.

On April 27, 11 Members of Congress, spearheaded by Congressman Jim Banks of Indiana sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State urging a NATO Membership Invitation for Macedonia:

“Along with our partners in the Executive Branch, we in the Congress have been closely watching the political and diplomatic situation surrounding Macedonia. As Macedonia continues on a path toward a stronger future, we see a tremendous opportunity to further promote our strong relationship with this key Balkan ally.”

“The United States has demonstrated the value of its partnership with Macedonia. We see that as its key institutions grow in capability and capacity, Macedonia is increasingly prepared to be a full partner in NATO.”

In June, UMD announced that Congressman Matt Cartwright of Pennsylvania joined the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, bringing the number to 26 members.

In July, UMD reiterated its long-standing position opposing any kind of referendum on Macedonia’s name. We Are Macedonia conducted a strong educational campaign by publishing videos, and using social media to call for a boycott of the referendum.

In August, UMD reacted strongly to S. Res. 602. Over 2,000 letters were sent to Senators urging them to withhold support. UMD held around 30 educational advocacy meetings in the Senate, including with Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff. A two-page document was distributed to all 100 Senate offices.

On August 11, UMD organized vigils around the world for the victims of Greek state brutality since the division of historical Macedonia in 1912-1913. The vigil was held in several locations around the world, such as Melbourne, London, Houston, Washington, D.C., Toronto and Skopje. In a modest number, participants, protected by ample police security, peacefully lit candles in front of each Greek diplomatic consular mission. In Skopje, 90 police officers surrounded the embassy, blocked the access roads to it and did not allow the participants to light candles, explaining that if the images are visible on social networks, the fine would be 5,000 euros.

1: One of the several vigils organized by UMD.
2: A vigil is held outside of the Greek embassy in Washington, D.C. to protest the proposed Macedonian name change.
3: Protesters gather in the street to speak against the referendum.
Earlier in the year, on March 14, for the first time ever the Macedonian Genocide was brought up at the UN Human Rights Council. Zlatko Nikolovski spoke at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland on the positions of the Macedonian Diaspora regarding the name and Greece’s genocide against the Macedonian people.

UMD conducted a public opinion poll from September 6-18, consisting of five questions related to the “Prespa Agreement” and September 30th referendum. The results of the UMD poll showed an unwavering support of the boycott movement at 84.6%. Our results showed that a clear majority (86.3%) believes that the agreement threatens the existence of Macedonia as a sovereign nation and damages the distinctiveness of the Macedonian culture, identity, and language.

At the end of September, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, UMD met with various officials, including deputy Permanent Representative of Tuvalu to the UN, Fakasoa Tealei, the permanent representative of Paraguay to the UN, Julio Cesar Arriola Ramirez, an advisor to the Nigerian President, as well as hear speeches by leaders of the African Union.

Turkish public broadcaster TRT World interviewed UMD President Metodija A. Koloski, during the UNGA, on the then impending referendum. Asked by the host for his thoughts on the proposed compromise with Greece, Koloski replied:

“Macedonia is recognized by 137 countries worldwide. Macedonia signed up to this Interim Accord back in 1995 to negotiate – full stop – only the use of a name for the UN and International organizations. What this government did, was they negotiated everything down, meaning a new name for the country, the constitutional name, domestically… We are changing the very fabric of Macedonian society.”

The September 30th referendum only secured 36% turnout, below the required 50%.

1: UMD President Metodija Koloski visits the United Nations General Assembly, where he met with various officials.

2: UMD President Meto Koloski is interviewed by Turkish TV station TRT-World regarding the Macedonian referendum.
Over 300 Macedonians and friends of all generations gathered at the UMD Macedonian Tribute Ball at Detroit’s beautiful Westin Book Cadillac on September 22, 2018.

“A resounding success – bringing the community together again and stronger than ever before,” said UMD Michigan Chair and Ball Co-Chair Deana Janceski about UMD’s first-ever Tribute Ball in Detroit.

“Tonight is about standing up for our identity, respect for the individual, and for fundamental human rights. For me, it is very personal and one of those things in life that help to define who I am. My aunt (may she rest in peace) used to refer to me as “Koren”... or “Root”...She saw in me how much I valued my family roots and heritage. Roots are what give strength to a tree and prevents it from blowing over in a storm,” said UMD Board Secretary and Ball Co-Chair George Peters.

During the Ball, His Excellency Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of Macedonia, received the UMD Global Statesman Award for his outstanding accomplishments during his near-decade in office. Evelyn Dinu received the UMD Macedonian Heritage Public Service Award for her lifelong dedication to Macedonian causes, and Congressman Paul Mitchell and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell received the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award for their unwavering support of the Republic of Macedonia.

During his remarks at the Ball,
President Ivanov made an eagerly anticipated announcement that he will boycott the September 30th referendum. Recalling the high ideals underlying the history of the formation of the Republic, President Ivanov articulated his stance: “I was one of those who cast their vote in favor of constituting the Republic of Macedonia as a sovereign and independent state, with its own name and dignity. Therefore, I will not go out and vote on September 30.” The President’s announcement was met with a standing ovation.

“I spoke about Macedonia and any nation’s right to self-determination – they get to choose – Macedonia gets to decide how it joins NATO and the EU,” said Congressman Paul Mitchell.

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell: “Mr. President, welcome to Michigan. This is the real world. You are very lucky to have the Illitch family a proud Macedonian family. I am very proud to co-chair this Caucus and all the work that UMD does. We need to continue to build bridges between our two countries. We need to be building bridges in many places. Thank you Thank you – it is a great honor!”

A day before the Ball, UMD arranged for Macedonia’s First Lady Maja Ivanova to pay a visit to the Children’s Hospital of Michigan. The visit led by the Children’s Hospital of Michigan’s Chief Executive Officer, Luanne Thomas Ewald, allowed for an exchange of best practices between medical workers from Michigan and Macedonia, focusing on the treatment of children. These valuable exchanges also led to a discussion about potential medical tourism between the two sectors, making use of telemedicine, second-opinion expertise, virtual and field visits of the medical cadre. In the future, UMD plans to jumpstart a new project concentrated on facilitating such exchanges.

On the same day, Wayne State University Law School, in collaboration with the Macedonian American Student Association, hosted a special presentation with President Ivanov. He addressed 150 students and faculty on the topic “Birth of a New World: Challenges and Opportunities for Generations Y, Z, and Alpha.”

That night, UMD Lifetime Visionary and Macedonian Companion Mrs. Marian Illitch welcomed the President and First Lady of Macedonia, Dr. Gjorge Ivanov and Mrs. Maja Ivanov, and their delegation to Comerica Park for the Detroit Tigers vs. Kansas City Royals Game. The delegation joined by Macedonia’s Ambassador Dr. Vasko Naumovski, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski, UMD Macedonian Companions Dr. Mike Simoff and Mrs. Evonne Rocoff Simoff, as well as St. Clement Orthodox Church’s Father Antonije and the Popadia proudly wore their Tigers hats for a night out at the ballgame.

Top: Macedonia’s First Lady Maja Ivanova is interviewed as she pays a visit to the Children’s Hospital of Michigan.
Middle left: First Lady Ivanova tours the Children’s Hospital of Michigan.
Middle right: President Ivanov delivers an address at Wayne State University.
Below: Mrs. Marian Illitch welcomes the president and first lady to a Detroit Tigers game.
In the first quarter of 2018, UMD named its first Macedonia Director, Veronika Tomova.

“UMD’s decision to expand to Macedonia is very important not only organizationally, but also symbolically,” said UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov. “It proves that UMD is investing in the future of our homeland, as well as seeking to improve cooperation and ties with governments, civil society, and local communities in a region rich in Macedonian heritage, while safeguarding Macedonian values and ideals for future generations.”

“With the establishment of a base in Skopje, UMD makes a clear statement that the Diaspora is a partner that stands behind the future of Macedonia. There are real opportunities for engaging various stakeholders and fostering a greater understanding of the role the Diaspora plays in the democratic development of Macedonia and Southeast Europe,” said Tomova, a native of Macedonia, who joined UMD during a critical time for the Macedonian people.

In May, Tomova joined over 200 participants to discuss accountability, transparency, technology and activism at the POINT Conference on Political Accountability and New Technologies in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The POINT Conference was an excellent opportunity to voice UMD’s stance for greater accountability by Macedonian institutions, as well as expressing UMD’s mission in acting as a monitoring and advocating mechanism in Macedonia, with purpose to keep the Macedonian policymakers in check for their actions.

Tomova was recognized as one of the Young Global Changers – the next generation of global problem solvers – at the Global Solutions Summit held in Berlin, Germany on May 28-29, 2018. She was the only representative from the Republic of Macedonia to attend, and her policy recommendation entitled “Infrastructure for Development” was published in the Global Solutions Summit Journal.

“It is of great need for UMD and Macedonians to be present in such forums – ensuring our people have a voice to influence strategic change and impact not only for Macedonia but for the world,” said Tomova.

During the Summit sessions, Tomova raised the importance of national identity and the right to self-determination, as well as call upon policymakers and leaders to strengthen advocacy efforts for greater representation of women and gender balance in decision making processes on a local, national, regional, and global level.

As the only Macedonian present, Tomova attended the European Forum Alpbach, which took place over the course of three weeks in August in Alpbach, Austria. The Forum was dedicated to “Diversity and Resilience.” Tomova represented UMD in discussions on some of the most pressing challenges for the Europe’s democracy and founding principles. Inaugurated in 1945, the Forum has been one of the first gatherings to address the postwar challenges of rebuilding, renewing, and peacefully integrating Europe with an emphasis on humanitarian, scientific, and cultural approaches. Some 70 years on, the forum continues to deal with urgent contemporary issues like populism, economic stagnation, migration, and EU integration of the Western Balkan region, among the many others.
UMD’s signature charity event of the year, Ajvar 5K raised $13,000 for VERA, a non-profit organization based out of Strumica, Macedonia that provides support for children and adults with Down syndrome and Autism. The grant was hand-delivered on August 12, by UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov and UMD’s Macedonia-based Director Veronika Tomova.

Between January and May, UMD hosted a weekly Macedonian Language Children’s School, which brought around 16 children to learn the Macedonian language and folk dancing.

MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

ILINDEN PICNIC AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN AUGUST

ILINDEN PICNIC IN SEATTLE IN AUGUST
The 13th Annual Macedonian Old New Year’s Masquerade Ball, hosted at the Manor House - Ingleside at Rock Creek on January 13th, was a great success thanks to all of those who attended! The venue, the rakija, the Macedonian wine, and the delicious Macedonian food made it an amazing night of culture and entertainment.

Vasilica is a centuries-old Macedonian holiday that commemorates both, the feast day of St. Basil the Great and the New Year's Day according to the Julian calendar. For the past 1,400 years, during this holiday, the village of Vevcani, in Macedonia holds the vibrant Vevcani Carnival - the most famous village festivals in the Balkans. People from all over Macedonia and the region come to Vevcani wearing festive costumes and masks and dance throughout the two-day event. Our Masquerade Ball enabled Macedonians from the D.C. area to unite and celebrate this holiday and the long-lasting traditions that accompany it.
MACEDONIAN FESTIVAL IN ALBANIA

In July, UMD awarded a $6,500 grant to the only Macedonian Festival in Albania, which draws hundreds of guests, with over a dozen of musical artists. The festival also drives significant tourism, which the local Macedonian minority relies on to make ends-meet. UMD Macedonia Director Veronika Tomova and UMD Generation M Global Co-Chair Kristina Dimitrievski attended the festival.

ANNUAL ROCKIN’ PARTY

In June, the 4th Annual Rockin’ Party was held at the Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club in Toronto, hosted by UMD Advisory Council member Elizabeth Naumovska and Natasha Denkovski benefiting the Macedonian Film Festival.

HOLOCAUST MEMORY INITIATIVE

In August, UMD and the Holocaust Fund of Macedonia launched a strategic partnership and joint Holocaust Memory Initiative. The goal is to further strengthen the fight against anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination while promoting democracy, human rights, and tolerance among all Macedonians.

MACEDONIAN FILM FESTIVAL

In October, UMD continued supporting the Macedonian Film Festival, which was well attended and featured films such as Macedonia’s 2019 Oscars submission, Secret Ingredient, and the controversial Mocking of Christ.

MACEDONIA REPRESENTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL IN SEATTLE IN APRIL
D.C. PAJDUSKO ORO PERFORMANCE

In November, the Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble performed the famous Macedonian dance Pajdusko Oro during the Halftime Show of the Washington Wizards vs. Cleveland Cavaliers game at the Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C. Thousands watched in the audience. All the dancers were dressed in traditional Turkish costumes, except UMD member Katerina Trajkova who was dressed in a traditional Macedonian folk costume from the Skopje region on loan from Larry Weiner. Over 150 came out to support the Turkish and Macedonian Heritage Night in honor of Macedonia-born Cavs player Cedi Osman of Turkish-Bosnian heritage co-organized by American Turkish Association of Washington DC - ATADC and UMD.

D.C. SECRET INGREDIENT FILM SCREENING

In December, UMD hosted the Washington, D.C. premiere of Macedonia’s 2019 Oscars submission, Secret Ingredient, at the renowned E Street Cinema.
AEGEAN MACEDONIA VISIT

In March, Koloski paid his first visit to the Macedonian Orthodox Church in Aegean Macedonia to meet with Archimandrite Nikodim Tsarknias and former UMD representative Eugenia Natsoulidou. In an interview for YouTube, Archimandrite Nikodim Tsarknias – religious leader of Macedonian Orthodox followers in Greece, spoke to UMD about the challenges the community faces and the church St. Zlata Meglienska in S’botsko, Aegean Macedonia (Aridia, Greece today).

FOREIGN POLICY ROUNDTABLE

In March, Macedonian Businessman’s Club President and UMD member James Petroff and UMD Cleveland, Ohio Representative and Macedonian Businessman’s Club Member Konstantin Nakovski attended a roundtable discussion on foreign policy hosted by Senator Rob Portman of Ohio. Petroff and Nakovski informed Senator Portman of latest developments on Macedonia and its NATO membership.
In November, UMD appointed Alastair Stewart as its new Communications Director. Hailing from Edinburgh, Scotland, Alastair has close ties to Macedonia through his fiancée, whose family is from Gevgelija. Alastair has a keen interest in comparative nationalism and enjoys exploring Macedonian politics in parallel to his native Scotland. He is committed to raising awareness about Macedonian culture, and he regularly writes about his travels there and has been published in The Scotsman and Kurir.

UMD APPOINTS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Following Election Day in the U.S., UMD warmly congratulated Macedonian-American Phil Naumoff on winning his election to become Richland County Common Pleas Court Judge. While being recorded live on Facebook during the election results, Naumoff thanked his family, friends, and supporters, and reflected on his grandfather, Naum, who emigrated to the U.S. from Macedonia in 1921.

NAUMOFF ELECTED JUDGE

In February, UMD bestowed the UMD Macedonia Public Service Award to the former First Lady of the Republic of Macedonia, Vilma Trajkovska, and the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Marijana Petir from Croatia – the first Member of the European Parliament to receive such recognition from UMD. Trajkovska was appointed to serve as the first Honorary Advisory Council Member of UMD’s Women in Leadership Program.

Petir stated, “Macedonia and Macedonian people are fighters – you have proven that so many times. Let’s not look back, but towards and turn to the future. Let’s do everything possible in the present moment to ensure the European future of our beloved Macedonia.”

UMD AWARDS FORMER MACEDONIA FIRST LADY & MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
From June 29-July 20, the 4th Annual Birthright Macedonia program brought two Americans, one Australian, and two Canadians of Macedonian heritage to Macedonia - Kristina Blazevska, Alexander Bounuff, Emilija Dimitrievski, Vanessa Owen, and Evan Simoff. The students interned for President Ivanov, the Skopje General Hospital “September 8th”, Taskforce BPO, and the renowned Zan Mitrev Clinic. In a video about the program, participants praised the trip for allowing them to accrue work experience, network with academics and businesspeople in their field, and experience the culture and everyday life of Macedonia.

In September, UMD’s Birthright Macedonia program partner in Skopje, Macedonia - the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation visited the UMD headquarters in Washington, D.C. to plan the 2019 summer session of Birthright. In addition, MCIC First Executive Director Aleksandar Krzalovski, Program Manager Jasmina Chaushoska and Birthright Macedonia internship host Ana Velichkovski joined by UMD Macedonia Director Veronika Tomova went on a special tour of the U.S. Capitol thanks to Macedonia Caucus Co-Chair Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.
On September 27-29, the 4th Canadian-Macedonian Leadership Conference (CMLC2018), organized by Generation M, was held in Ottawa. Young leaders met with several Members of Parliament to discuss strengthening Canadian-Macedonian relations. CMLC2018 addressed current issues, disabilities, women’s rights, the Macedonian minority in Romania, and the “Prespa Agreement” and referendum.

NEW GEN M BOARD ELECTED

A new Generation M Board was elected for a two year-term. They are recruiting young Macedonians all over the world to get involved. Several promising initiatives are coming out soon. Their team has taken the helm of UMD Voice magazine, publishing articles regularly on different topics affecting our youth.

UMD WASHINGTON INTERNSHIPS

In 2018, UMD’s internship program hosted 12 students. The interns are crucial to expanding UMD’s impact in Washington, D.C., and the experience they gain assists them in making personal career choices. Students get fully immersed in happenings related to Macedonia and Southeast Europe, gain firsthand advocacy, foreign affairs, and public relations experience, and learn how a non-profit operates in Washington, D.C. - it is the perfect opportunity for someone who wants to make a difference!

Spring - Melika Azadian, Nermin Hasanova, Angelina Maleska, Ryan Mellone, Frank Sacramone, Michael Turk

Summer - Thomas Chalorthon, Darjan Karanfilovski, Brianna Palmer, Olivia Peterson

Fall - Sam Gibson and Toveli Schmuland
We recognized forty young Macedonian leaders who have excelled in their respective fields and endorsed them as role models for our community. The 40 Under 40 List is chosen via nominations, with a selection committee choosing the final honorees. The UMD 40 Under 40 List was launched in 2014 to celebrate the accomplishments of proven role models in the Macedonian community. We hope that by recognizing these achievements, our honorees will be encouraged to continue impacting the world in their careers, promoting Macedonian culture, and contributing to the global Macedonian community.

Martina Grasheska-Daskaloski  
Bitola, Macedonia

Blagoj Delipetrev  
Novo Selo (Shtip), Macedonia

Deana Janceski  
Beloviste and Krusevo, Macedonia

Vladimir Kotevski  
Resen, Macedonia

George Mazevski  
Bukovo and Gorno Orehovo, Macedonia

Nino Milenkovski  
Dolcevo, Macedonia

Trajko Papuckoski  
Krivagastani, Prilepsko and Mogila, Bitolsko, Macedonia

Evan Perelekos  
Rahova, Smurdeš, Dambeni, and Cabresh, Macedonia

Cr. Emilija Lisa Sterjova  
Prilep, Macedonia

Angelique Soklev-Tasevski  
Klabučiča and Lagen, Aegean Macedonia

Allison Brager  
Prilep and Skopje, Macedonia

Juliana Koloska-Bogatinoska  
Belica, Kicevo and Bucin, Prilep, Macedonia

Dr. Dragan Gastevska  
Bistrica, Macedonia

Dr. Sandra Gjorgova-Gjorgjievska  
Skopje, Macedonia

Dr. Mihajlo Gjorgjievska  
Skopje and Bitola, Macedonia

Dr. Saška Gocevska  
Delčevo, Macedonia

Derek Ilich  
Odri and Vratnica, Macedonia

Antoaneta Ivanova  
Skopje, Macedonia

Milica Jovanova  
Kavadarci, Macedonia

Elizabeta Pankovska-Saken  
Bitola, Oreova, and Gorno Srpci, Macedonia

Mariana Bockarova  
Veles, Macedonia and Drenoveni (Kastursko), Aegean Macedonia

Elisaveta Curkoska  
Struga, Macedonia

Dalibor Dimovski  
Tetovo and Odri, Macedonia

Tanja Gerasimova  
Skopje and Kroatova, Macedonia

Alexander Matovski  
Bitola, Macedonia

Dino Gramatikov  
Skopje, Macedonia

Bozidar Janakievski  
Bitola, Macedonia

Gorjan Jovanovski  
Skopje, Macedonia

Aleksandra Trpkovska  
Bitola, Macedonia

Katherine Vrantsidis  
Krstoar, Bukovo, Bitola, Macedonia & Armenisko, Bouf, Lerin, Aegean Macedonia

Gabriela Cvejosa  
Prilep, Macedonia

Dr. Snezana Obetkovska-Galic  
Czepan and Nospal, Macedonia

Vladimir Kolovski  
Ohrid, Macedonia

Stefan Milevski  
Prespa, Macedonia

Stojce Milosevski  
Ohrid, Skopje, and Kicevo, Macedonia

Lili Mitrovic  
Skopje and Kavadarci, Macedonia

Zorica Mitrovic  
Dernir Hisar, Macedonia

Natasha Penzo  
Skopje and Lerin, Macedonia

Dr. Aleksandar Shulevski  
Bitola and Zhivojno, Macedonia & Gorna Kotori, Aegean Macedonia

Angjelko Sokolovski  
Skopje, Macedonia
UMD recognizes the generosity of our Macedonian Companions. Alexander the Great’s Companions were the most effective military cavalry unit of the ancient world. UMD’s Macedonian Companions are the most effective supporters of the global Macedonian cause.

Macedonian Companions provide vital financial support for UMD to continue preserving, promoting, and protecting the Macedonian heritage worldwide.

As a proud Macedonian Companion, you will help UMD to:

- Preserve our Macedonian name, identity, and culture;
- Promote Macedonian interests to global policy makers;
- Aid Macedonians in need through charitable projects;
- Convey our rich historical and cultural legacies to the world and to our youth.

WHAT IS THE MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS PROGRAM?

The Macedonian Companions program will ideally constitute 300 supporters, each contributing a tax-deductible donation of $1,000 (or more) annually. These funds enable UMD to preserve Macedonia’s heritage and to champion our struggle for justice. The UMD Advisory Council provides oversight and accountability for the use of these funds on an ongoing basis.
The United Macedonian Diaspora would like to thank the following individuals who donated a total of $1,000 or more in 2018.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Aleksandar Andreski
Bill Argo
Terry Argo
Robert Arsov
Vera Arsova
Zivko Bajevski
Alexander Ballios
Argie N. Bellio
Mende Bezanovski
John Bitove
Jordan Bitove
Nick Bitove
Thomas Bitove
Vonna Bitove
Zora Bozinovski
Steve Brown
Alex Chevrevski
Boris Christoff
Peter P. Dallas
Riste Davchevski
Evelyn Dinu
Elizabeth Geleff
Boris Giourof
Katarina Giourof
Gjorgji Gjeorgjievska

Marian Ilitch
Deana Janceski
Metodija A. Koloski
Dr. Craig A. Kraffert
Kris Krstovski
Alexander Miloseski
Aleksandar Mitreski
Mark B. Mitskovski
Dimitar Nasev
Jerry Naumoff
Scott Naumoff
Christopher Necovski
Stojan Nikolov
Robert Z. Pajkovski
Chris Paliare O.Ont., LSM, LL.B., LL.M.

Trajko Papuckoski
George Peters
Slobodan Petrov
Katerina Petrovska
Gus Philippov
James Phillips
Vince Popovski
Divna Popovska
Goran Popovski
Gorgi Popstefanov

Lou Popstefanov
Donald Sazdanoff
Elica Serdenkovski
Evonne Simoff
Dr. Michael Simoff
Dean Smith
Jared Smith
Michael B. Solakov
Mary M. Spanopoulos
Dr. Leon Speroff
Michael R. Stakleff
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Dr. Chris Stefanovich
Lidija Stojkoska
Dr. Luben Todorovski
Dusanka Delovska-Trajkova
Stojan Trajkov
Marilyn Trentos
Antonijo Trpevski
Lubi Uzunovski
Meri Vasilevski
Lou Vlasho
Mike S. Zafirovski
Vera Zlidar
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Emilija Dimitrievski, Vice-Chair, Canadian Operations
Help secure UMD’s ongoing global impact and charitable efforts, while continuing to meet our core objective: Successful Macedonian Communities for future generations.

How will you be remembered?

Have you thought about what legacy you wish to convey to your loved ones?

How will you impart your Macedonian values and heritage to them?

Help support UMD’s continual promotion and advocacy of Macedonia and Macedonian people around the world while at the same time allowing our donors to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

You have a number of options when it comes to your charitable giving.

UMD, in conjunction with The Cleveland Foundation staff, will work closely with you and your tax and estate planning professionals to identify and develop the most effective customized strategy in order to choose the type of gift that meets your needs when making your donation.

We will work closely with you to tailor solutions that meet your charitable giving needs, offer the maximum charitable tax deductions, and provide many ways to incorporate charitable giving into your estate plans.

If you would like to make a planned gift to UMD, and/or include UMD as a charitable beneficiary of your estate plans, or would like to learn more about how you can help UMD through its Endowment Fund, please contact Metodija A. Koloski at (202) 350-9804 or Donald L. Sazdanoff at (419) 884-8309 for further details.

It is Time For Macedonians to Define Their Future and Write the Legacy Our Children Will Honor!

LIFETIME VISIONARIES
The Bitove Foundation
Marian & Michael Ilitch

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF MACEDONIA
John and Elizabeth Anevski
Goran & Divna Popovski
Nicholas Thaw & Irena Gapkovska
Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

As the Treasurer of UMD, I am pleased to submit our 2018 UMD financial report.

2018 was a busy year, full of numerous educational and important UMD programs benefiting the global Macedonian community. Despite the challenging trends in our homeland, 2018 was a year that reinvigorated UMD’s paramount belief in the critical need to invest even more in education, in our community, our children, and you!

Since 2017, we tripled the volunteer hours that went into UMD’s programs thanks to our numerous volunteers and interns to 2,500 hours. We closed the year with a positive change in net assets of $27,700, nearly $50,000 more than 2017. UMD’s membership dues, donations and program revenue in 2018 amounted to $128,024 – an increase from 2017. Additionally, UMD collected $79,776 in special events revenue such as Detroit Tribute Gala, Masquerade, and Conferences etc. In 2018, UMD received $5,650 in Funding the Future Endowment gifts and reported earnings of $2,140 from endowment portfolio.

Based on member suggestions and the board’s approval, UMD used 58% of the operational budget on educational and philanthropic programs and 20% on cultural programs. Educational and philanthropic programs included: We Are Macedonia educational movement, Macedonian Genocide remembrance events, religious freedom promotion in Greece, aiding children with Down syndrome and autism in Macedonia, CMLC2018, Generation M, Birthright Macedonia, UMD’s internship program, hosting briefings, Facebook live events, and roundtables at the UMD office and in the U.S. Congress, Immigrant Heritage Month, and more. Cultural programs included: the 13th Annual Masquerade, the only Macedonian Festival in Albania, Macedonian Language Class for children in Washington, D.C., Holocaust Memory Initiative, UMD Rockin’ Party, Ilinden Picnics, and promoting Macedonia at cultural festivals, movie screenings, and many other events throughout the year that promoted our wonderful and rich language, culture, and traditions.

UMD is committed to the highest standards of good stewardship and accountability, and will continue to act in a fiscally responsible manner to safeguard UMD and its future. Once again, we thank you for your support of UMD’s critical educational programs for the Macedonian people.

Your suggestions, thoughts and contributions are imperative to our programs, and we would love to hear from you! Please e-mail me at treasurer@umdiaspora.org with any questions or suggestions.

Lidija Stojkoska
UMD Board Member and Treasurer

“For it is in giving that we receive.”
—St. Francis of Assisi

UMD is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit charitable organization, tax ID # 20-5182996.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
2018 Consolidated

REVENUE
Special Events and Programs $79,776 36%
Membership Dues and Donations $128,024 58%
Other Revenue $14,400 6%
Total Public Support and Other Revenue $222,200 100%

OPERATING EXPENSES
Educational and Philanthropic Programs $112,810 58%
Cultural and Other Programs $38,900 20%
Management and Administrative $23,340 12%
Public Relations and Special Events $19,450 10%
Total Expenses $194,500 100%
Change in Net Assets $ 27,700
## FINANCIAL REPORT

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Retrospective Consolidated

#### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events &amp; Programs</td>
<td>$79,776</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>$38,738</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Dues &amp; Donations</td>
<td>$128,024</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>$83,877</td>
<td>64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$14,400</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$8,223</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support &amp; Other Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$222,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$130,838</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational &amp; Philanthropic Programs</td>
<td>$112,810</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>$77,577</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural &amp; Other Programs</td>
<td>$38,900</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$40,626</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>$23,340</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$21,520</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations Special Events</td>
<td>$19,450</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$12,561</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$194,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$152,284</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ (21,446)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 33,893</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ (34,769)</strong></td>
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