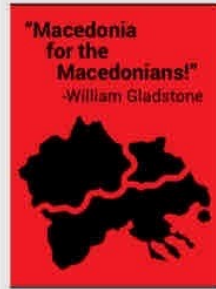


The mission of the Macedonian Patriotic Organization is to

- Continue to work for human, civil and economic rights for all Macedonians of the world
- Promote and preserve the ethnic traditions, customs and history of our people
- Promote and develop the cultural and social growth of our youth
- Promote and strengthen our organization

The MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE is our primary voice in achieving this mission.



MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE the oldest Macedonian newspaper in the world; published continuously since February 10, 1927, by the Central Committee of the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada, founded in 1922, stands for a free and independent Macedonia, a Switzerland of the Balkans.

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Macedonian Patriotic Organization

Editorial:

The Re-Publication of the MPO's 1940 Almanac, More Commonly Known as The Red Book

By Nicholas M. Stefanoff, MPO President

“The Red Book” was the brainchild of the legendary MPO leader, Peter Atzeff, who for almost half a century strove in the face insurmountable obstacles to perpetuate the ideals and spirit of a free and independent Macedonia for all patriotic Macedonians regardless of their ethnicities. The MPO's 1940 Almanac or Red Book was designed to enhance the patriotic Macedonian consciousness of our people. Not only did Peter Atzeff edit the book but he also worked tirelessly on it day and night over a period of two years. He envisioned the Almanac as a “Patriotic Bible” for the Macedonian diaspora in North America and beyond and a living reminder of our Macedonian heritage. The Almanac was also seen as a means to further enhance our patriotic Macedonian consciousness and a method to keep the Macedonian Question alive by promoting the legal struggle for the liberation of our homeland. Published in Ilinden-era Bulgarian, the Almanac is a priceless treasure—part history, part geography and part encyclopedia. It chronicles the Macedonian freedom movement, tracing its evolution and honoring the first patriots who gave it life. It includes the biographical sketches of many participants in the struggle and describes in vivid detail the great Ilinden Uprising, focusing on districts that played the most active roles and consequently suffered the harshest reprisals from the Ottoman Empire. The book also catalogs towns, villages, rivers, lakes and the mountains of Macedonia. It includes photographs of MPO conventions and gatherings, alongside short biographies and portraits of many Macedonian families in the United States and Canada. In summary, the 1940 Macedonian Almanac sacralizes Macedonia and honors the martyrs who gave their lives for our cause. Much like the Torah sustained the early Jewish diaspora, this book provided spiritual and cultural sustenance for our own scattered community. Together,

with the **MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE** and our annual MPO conventions, the Macedonian Almanac became one of the primary pillars that preserved our spirit, our identity as Macedonians and our unity as a people. It also illustrates the fact that the overwhelming majority of Macedonians believed that they were Macedonians with Bulgarian roots which further strengthened our unification.

The 1940 publication served to remind our people about our history and culture and enhance our consciousness as patriotic Macedonians at a time when we were a truly united Macedonian diaspora, fighting for a free and independent Macedonia that would accept all peoples with a patriotic Macedonian consciousness.

Now due to circumstances in our more recent past, we became a divided diaspora in terms of our respective Macedonian identities. Instead of accepting the newer identity as part of the evolution to a strengthening Macedonian consciousness which was clearly apparent in our diaspora, the MPO chose to ignore and deny this natural evolution. This evolution was becoming apparent within our diaspora, where generations of Macedono-Bulgarian immigrants started out with a Macedono-Bulgarian identity, which after a few generations became a Macedonian with Bulgarian roots identity and eventually after one or two more generations became a strictly Macedonian identity. Moreover, the MPO in its attempt to preserve the Macedono-Bulgarian identity of its founders, claimed that the newer identity was imposed on the Macedonians in Vardar Macedonia without their will to accept it. This was true in part for many Macedono-Bulgarians but many others accepted it as a means of escaping Serbian persecution: Tito's offer to create a separate Macedonian state in Yugoslavia and to accept a strictly Macedonian identity guaranteed freedom from Serbian ethnic cleansing practices which occurred for many years when Macedonia was



Peter Atzeff



Book from the Red Book



Red Book Cover

MPO 104th Convention

Order by August 19th and Save \$20 on Adult and \$10 on Teen Weekend Packages!

Weekend packages include tickets for Friday, Saturday and Sunday Night dances and the Sunday Grand Banquet. Packages will only be available through August 19th. Sunday Grand Banquet/Dance packages are now available! Children 11 and under attend dances for free.

ALL SALES ARE IN U.S. DOLLARS ONLY
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WWW.MACEDONIAN.ORG

Mail payment to MPO, 124 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or Phone our office at 260-422-5900

Early Bird Prices

Quantity	Packages/Tickets	Price - USD	Total
	Adult Weekend Packages	\$130	
	Teen (12-19) Weekend Packages	\$105	
	Adult Sunday Grand Banquet/Dance Packages	\$95	
	Teen (12-19) Sunday Grand Banquet/Dance Packages	\$75	
	Adult Sunday Grand Banquet Tickets	\$80	
	Teen (12-19) Sunday Grand Banquet Tickets	\$70	
	Child (4-11) Sunday Grand Banquet Tickets	\$30	
	Toddlers may eat from a parent's plate, or you may purchase a child ticket. If you are not purchasing a child ticket, please indicate if a booster or highchair is needed	\$0	Booster High-chair
	Adult Friday Night Dance Tickets	\$20	
	Adult Saturday Night Dance Tickets	\$25	
	Adult Sunday Night Dance Tickets	\$25	
	Teen Friday Night Dance Tickets	\$15	
	Teen Saturday Night Dance Tickets	\$15	
	Teen Sunday Night Dance Tickets	\$15	
	Convention Donation		
	GRAND TOTAL		

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Starting June 21st - Adult & Teen Weekend Packages go up \$10.00 | Pick up all tickets in the salesroom at the 104th Annual MPO Convention

considered to be part of the Serbian section of Yugoslavia. Moreover, many in Vardar Macedonia saw the creation of a separate Macedonian state within the confines of Yugoslavia as a possible first step to creating a truly independent Macedonian nation.

The MPO has now moved away from the denial of a strictly ethnic Macedonian identity with its reconciliation efforts and its view that Slavic Macedonians are one people with two identities—those who identify as Macedonians with Bulgarian roots and those who identify as strictly Macedonians. We promote the idea that we all have a common patriotic Macedonian con-

sciousness—a consciousness that unites us as one people.

The next step in our reconciliation efforts is to convince our ethnic Macedonian brothers and sisters that, even before World War Two, our ancestors had exactly the same patriotic Macedonian consciousness that we all have today. The Red Book reminds us all that we were a truly united diaspora. It is important to remember these pre-World War Two times and preserve the common identity of our MPO founders and supporters and remind all other Macedonians of our history as Macedono-Bulgarians and that our ancestors always displayed a very strong Macedonian con-

sciousness with the very same passion of any Macedonian who claims an ethnic Macedonian identity. The MPO is currently collaborating with the “Ilia Todorov Gadjev Institute”, a museum located in the town of Gotse Delchev in Pirin Macedonia, Bulgaria, giving the institute permission to republish this monumental work in a facsimile reproduction of its original Bulgarian text. This republication is both a revival and a tribute—a way to honor the remarkable individuals of the MPO’s golden years, with special recognition owed to Peter Atzeff and his generation of courageous and dedicated men and women. Of course,

many in our diaspora do not read or speak in Bulgarian and thereby have limited exposure to this treasure. Fortunately, there is now a solution to this dilemma. The MPO has also given the “Ilia Todorov Gadjev Institute” permission to publish a new English version of our beloved Red Book. The availability of the book in English will allow us to reach out to multiple generations in the MPO, who are unable to read Cyrillic, as well as the global academic community. The republication and the newer English publication of the Red Book will be a joint venture between the institute and Tangra Publishing. Moreover, the financing for

this project will be handled by Tangra.

I look forward to the publication of the Red Book in English and its republication in Bulgarian which will be an effective tool in preserving our pre-World War Two past as a united diaspora and helping to reconcile our differences in the present with a clear explanation of our common patriotic ideals that have always been promoted by the MPO, ideals that are related to a truly independent and inclusive Macedonia for all Macedonians. It will reinforce the fact that the MPO has always been a Macedonian organization even though it was founded by Macedono-Bulgarians! ■