

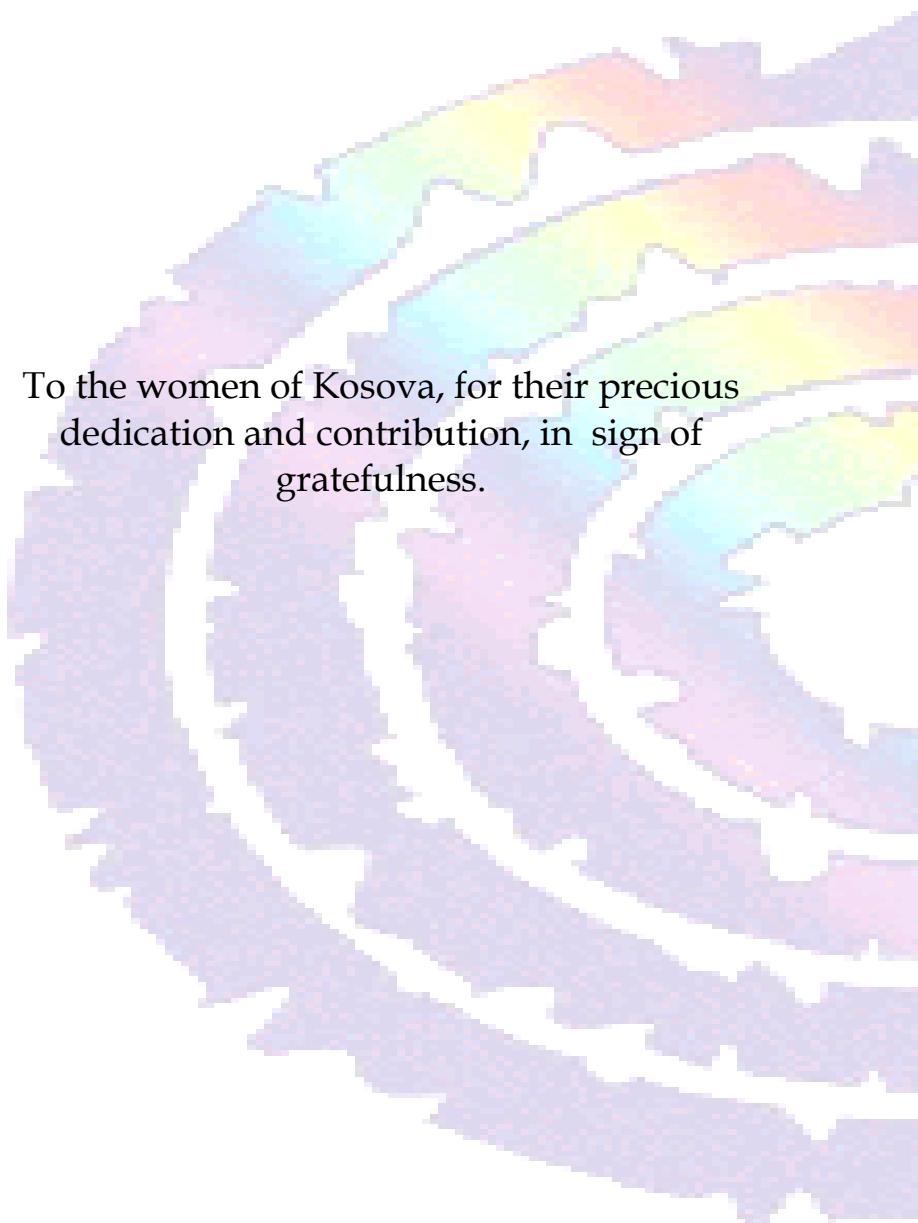




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To the women of Kosova, for their precious  
dedication and contribution, in sign of  
gratefulness.



QENDRA PER TRAJNIME  
DHE STUDIME GJINORE  
GENDER TRAINING AND  
RESEARCH CENTER

## About GTRC

Gender Training and Research Center (Qendra për Trajnine dhe Studime Gjinore) (QTSGJ) is Non-governmental Organization established in Prishtina in January 2000.

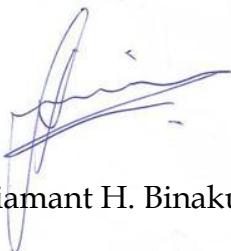
In 2010, Gender Training and Research Center actually celebrates 10th anniversary of its operations. Gender Training and Research Center through its missions, activities, projects, but also through its renowned name, continues with its efforts to achieve gender equality and justice as well as to empower women in politics and in all spheres of life.

All abovementioned, GTRC provides through trainings, researches, campaigns, debates, round tables, conferences etc, focusing its activities on increasing capabilities and institutional capacities of women NGO, youth groups, public servants, political parties, media etc.

Gender Training and Research Center is member of Kosovo Women's Network, Kosovo Women's Lobby, as well as many local, regional and international networks, which are engaged in lobbying for improvement of position of women in all spheres of life, in order to enable that their voice is

heard in decision-making structures, regardless their race, religion, ethnicity and age.

Gender Training and Research Center within its own women studies elucidated one part of history of women in Kosovo, and our aim is to continue further in this direction. In this endeavour, Gender Training and Research Center came to the conclusion that Kosovo society succeeded to create models of women for next generations and succeeded to promote existence of authentic values of Kosovo women.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diamant H. Binaku".

Diamant H. Binaku  
Executive Director

## FOREWORD

The book you have at hand brings the biographies of women who contributed for positive developments in Kosova during the period of 1910-2010, unfolding at the same time the long and difficult journey for freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights. Many personalities coming from the numerous women, who endured and acted even under inhuman conditions in 1910-2010, exceeded, through their actions, gender borders. Distinguished women leaders who created the history of Kosova in critical periods for the country, emerged from the women's world. Edita Tahiri is a dignified personality in the new history of Kosova, who by means of her leadership became an emblematic figure of the movement for independence, and a famous and respected leader in the world. The women's movement recognizes women leaders and intellectuals such as Edi Shukri, and other eminent personalities. But, the inexhaustible resources of women's potential of the twentieth century revealed world-famous personalities such as Mother Theresa, who was born in the Vilayet of Kosova and its capital, Shkupi.

A question that may arise is: Why Kosova and why a book for Kosova? The answer is more simplified than it seems, given that the life and activity of women are rather complicated in the surrounding environment and its developments. Kosova is a country with natural beauties and a favorable and desirous geo-strategic position, with immemorial cultural heritage and sensational history through its centuries, with diversified and attractive cultures. Many women lived and acted in this country, with different ethnic backgrounds.

E century long life of Kosova up to date carries in itself progress and happiness, but rather more sadness and horrible human experiences. Therefore, the activity of the Kosovar women should be viewed closely linked with the circumstances through which Kosova went through during 1910-2010, inheriting the turbulent events of previous periods. As of ancient times, when the state of Dardania ceased to exist (end of the 1st century before Christ), Kosova was subject to the Roman, Byzantine, Bulgarian, the Medieval Serb country, and the Ottoman invasion, up to Socialist Yugoslavia. Claiming for freedom and democracy made Kosovar women become part of the movement 1989-1999.

The contribution of women in strengthening the movement of Kosova was multidimensional. Women contributed in all aspects. In this movement were involved both, man and women, having in mind the fact that diplomacy was entrusted to a women, but this also applies with regard to other ponderous responsibilities undertaken by women. Women were also engaged in establishing democracy, empowerment of women and their inclusion in high level decision-making bodies, strengthening of civil society, increasing awareness on the role of women, changing patriarchal mentality, and at the same for the promotion of the Kosovar women on international level, and global reinforcement of women. The women of Kosova found the energy to become part of global events, although the phases they went through were extremely disfavorable. They were included in global and regional agendas for the reinforcement of women, as part of the establishment of the new world order, alongside with globalization and development of information technology. Women of Kosova participated in the Women's World Conference in Beijing (1995) and gave their contribution in the drafting of the Action Platform of Beijing. Today, they are vigorously engaged to implement Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council and other resolutions calling for reinforcement of women, particularly in decision-making, and establishment of peaceful and security processes.

Women were the ones who at the beginning of the peaceful resistance recommended, through the Women's Forum of DLK: "Make efforts to raise your children without hatred"!, although the regime of that time had closed all the schools, had dismissed their parents from their jobs, and institutional violence was exercised on the Albanian population. They were the ones who drafted reports on violence against women and children, organized lectures on health and educational care, not leaving aside the organization of children's manifestations as of 1991, in particular on the International Children's Day (1 June) and Peace Day (2 October), where amongst other activities, children conveyed messages on peace. Support women so they can support themselves were the motto of equal importance, accomplished through the various courses of women in politics and the NGO's. Women prepared their homes to serve as assembly rooms and opened their doors so their homes be transferred into classrooms for pupils and students.

Women intellectuals of Kosova established the first democratic organization of women in former Yugoslavia, the Women's Association, and afterwards the Women's Forum of the DLK (1990), which was the largest and most powerful in the region. Women were the first ones to create non-governmental organizations, and they established the foundation for the creation of the civil society. They created the network of women's non-governmental organizations, who together with women politicians, contributed for the inclusion of all communities in the new life being established in the Republic of Kosova. Women worked and continue to work for a conciliatory and tolerant spirit in the multi-ethnic society of Kosova, contributing in overcoming the separations created by the tragic past.

In post-war Kosova, women were engaged to make Kosova a model of gender equality, since it had 1) gender quality, the experience and the will, and 2) it had international presence, starting from the UNO, which promotes gender balanced governance. Although progress has been achieved, a lot remains to be done.

Currently, Kosova has 30% women in the Assembly of Kosova, an achievement accomplished in close co-operation of women in politics and the civil society. Such percentage should be transferred to other decision-making structures, whereas the set percentage should increase, always giving priority to quality. Kosova also has the Law on Gender Equality in place and the Action Plan which have to be implemented.

The women of Kosova are on the right path to reinforce themselves, which is a necessity for the democratic development of the country. Their democratic movement is being realized through the combination of gender energies and co-ordination of activities carried out by women politicians and women of the civil society. Further reinforcement of women should firstly consider democracy within political parties, creation of practical infrastructure, budget for women's agenda, and an effective educational and training system. This, amongst others, is achieved by recognizing and supporting values, which this book, I believe offers.

Women of Kosova and Kosova in general, with all the events and experiences, especially at the end of the 20 th Century, provide one other opportunity not emphasized thus far, which is the essential understanding of the value of life itself.

We wish the reader obtains a clearer picture on Kosova and its journeys during a century, through the compilation of biographies of Kosova's women. The book, we believe, succeeds to reveal the strength of the Kosovar women and women in general, an energy which emerges especially when considering the creation of the future.

*Gender Training and Research Center*



### EDITA TAHIRI



Edita Tahiri is a prominent leader, politician, diplomat and negotiator of international reputation. She was one of main actors of great political changes in Kosova and in the region of South-eastern Europe since the end of Cold War. Edita Tahiri was one of the founders and main leaders of the movement for independence (1991-1999), the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosova (1991-2000) and a member of Kosova Delegation at the Conference of Rambouillet (1999). Currently, she is the Minister of Public administration in the Government of Republic of Kosova, the Member of Parliament in four terms and the President of the Party Democratic Alternative of Kosova (ADK).

Her academic profile reflects her education at most prestigious universities, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University- SAIS and University of Essex. She holds the Master Degree in Public Administration from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. This December she will defend her doctoral

thesis in international relations on the topic “international statebuilding under uncertain sovereignty” having Kosova as a case study.

In the world of women, Edita Tahiri is regarded as the spiritual leader of women in the period of two difficult and complex decades for Kosova. She is also the Chair of Regional Women’s Lobby of the Southeastern Europe (RWLSEE) which gathers women leaders in politics and civil society from seven countries of the region, with mission for empowerment of women conducive to the Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council.

Her philosophy for empowerment of women is based on the model of direct engagement of women for positive changes in the society; the model which she followed in her own long work in politics, in the period of liberation, democratization and statebuilding of Kosova. Her unique value is that she always combines the political activity with women agenda, in efforts to increase the participation of women in decision making levels and peace processes. She says that women must built their strong identity in the society, by taking part in decision making, in order to integrate the vision of women for better world and wellbeing of citizens.

She was the only women in the leadership of the Democratic League of Kosova (LDK), the peaceful movement for independence led by Ibrahim Rugova, in times of hardships for her country. She brought to this movement her reformatory vision for freedom and self-determination and her values as powerful women.

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Edita Tahiri is particularly noted for her extensive work on internationalization of the question of Kosova and the Albanians as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosova for ten years. She was the only women in peace process for Kosova until the end of conflict in 1999 and gave an extraordinary contribution for achieving the Rambouillet Peace Agreement, which brought the intervention of NATO in Kosova in 1999, that ended the conflict and opened the road to peace and independence of Kosova

Although she was the only woman in the leadership at that times, she became an emblematic figure of the movement for independence of Kosova and the well-known and respected leader in the world.

Edita Tahiri today is the model of excellence as how women should pursue their own identity, by fighting for the ideals of freedom, democracy and self-determination and by demonstrating that women are power for positive changes in the world.

### *In mission for empowerment of women*

Edita Tahiri has pursued the fight for empowerment of women in both national and international level. She was one of the main pillars of the Women's Forum of LDK for ten years, in her capacity as coordinator for Women's Forum (WF) from Presidency of LDK. She worked for establishment and development of WF and for empowerment of its role within the Movement for Independence. She started the activity in Prizren, as an organizer and leader of the massive protest of over five thousand women in Prizren in 1990 and as the first President of WF in Prizren. Edita Tahiri played the leadership role in ideological and strategic terms for WF and particularly in managing crisis within the organization. The power of her ideas and her charisma made her the

inspirational leader among the membership of WF, of the biggest women organization at that time with hundreds of thousands members. Being the part of LDK Presidency she never accepted to become the leader of WF, following the principle of creating space for other women. Her special contribution is noted for revival and consolidation of WF and she was very skillful for managing the difficult situations. Edita Tahiri has played the crucial role in consolidation of WF after the fall apart of Women's Society several months after its formation and she was successful in bringing back to activity some of the founders of te Women'S Society. Edita Tahiri's strategic intervention blocked the tendencies of separation of the WF from LDK, in the First Electoral Convention of WF in 1991. In the period 1992-93, when the then President of WF runaway from Kosova, she managed the vacuum by encouraging the Deputy/president Naxhije Buqinca to take the lead; with main purpose to prevent the spreading of phenomena of runaways in hard times. In 1995, she defended the unity in Women's Forum Second Electoral Convention in Samadrexhë, by neutralizing different clans and also defended the system of values of WF by supporting a prominent intellectual and a founder of WF for the new President of WF. As the result, WF progressed as stable and successful organization taking its important place in Kosova's political scene and beyond.

In international level, Edita Tahiri as Foreign Minister in continuity devoted the space for women's voice in diplomacy; in most of the Kosova delegations she included representation of Women's Forum and one of her closest aides was Edi Shukriu.

In 1995, Edita Tahiri thanks to her diplomatic connections found the way for the participation of Kosova at the UN Fourth

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Conference on Women in Beijing 1995. She was the head of the delegation of Kosova women in Beijing Conference. As Minister she steered the team in preparations for successful presentation in this Conference, with bulk of factual documents including The Kosova National Report, the Documentary Film on Kosova that called for prevention of war and other relevant leaflets. She co-authored The Kosova National Report for Beijing Conference and was the keynote speaker at the Panel for Kosova.

In her diplomatic journey for internationalization of the question of Kosova, she found the energy to also open the doors for international cooperation of Women's Forum and assured its participation in many international conferences.

After the war, disagreeing with the marginalization of women in politics, especially because women gave extraordinary contribution for freedom, democracy and peace, she stood up strongly in support of women empowerment particularly in decision making. As a result of her engagement and other co-thinkers they built the grand coalition of women in politics and civil society (Kosova Women Lobby) and advanced significantly the process of empowerment of women. Indicators of this progress can be measured in different areas. Kosova became the first country in the region with highest representation of women in Parliament, quota of 30%; gender equality legislation was approved and action plan, the electoral system changed to open lists, and the implementation of the Resolution 1325 is progressing.

Since 2005, her efforts for women empowerment took the regional dimension as she joined the foundation of Regional Women's Lobby of Southeastern Europe (RWLSEE) in a spirit of Resolution 1325, supported by UNIFEM. In 2007 she was elected

the Chair of the RWL committed to move forward its philosophy for sustainable peace and stability, for increasing women participation in decision making, peace and security processes, and European integrations. Under her leadership, RWL has developed to a credible women force for positive changes and nowadays enjoys increasing international support. In capacity as RWL Chair, Edita Tahiri participated in marking the tenth anniversary of the Resolution 1325 in New, in October 2010, invited by UNDP.

Edita Tahiri writes on the issues and challenges of women and has published numerous essays and publications. She lunched the idea for publishing the book on “The Prominent Albanian” authored by Edi Shukriu and, designed the strategy of empowerment of women in post-conflict Kosova titled “ A Vision for Kosova Women in the New Millennium” published by OSCE in 2000.

### *Developing a leadership identity*

The identity of Edita Tahiri as a prominent leader has been developed through a long journey full of hard political challenges and severe threats for life.

The reformatory vision and resolve featured her leadership. Her exceptional leadership is accomplished through many political and state responsibilities in difficult times of Kosova when Albanians were experiencing most brutal forms of suppression.

Based on her political philosophy for freedom and self-determination she committed herself to the goal of assuring that

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brutal forms of oppression never again happens against her people.

Besides the post of the Minister of Foreign affairs, she also held following posts: Presidency Member of Democratic League of Kosova (LDK) from 1991-1998; Secretary of Foreign Affairs of LDK (1991-1998), Member for parliament of Kosova (1992-2000; 2001-2004); Special Envoy of President Rugova; Chairperson of Parliamentarian Committee on Foreign Affairs (1998-2000); and many other responsibilities.

Edita Tahiri in her capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the country which was occupied and hardly known to the world, such as Kosova, in ten years of hard work succeeded to make highest international policy-makers and decision makers understand the unresolved question of Kosova and the Albanians and support the right to self-determination and independence of Kosova. She was the architect of foreign policy and Ministry of Foreign affairs in the period 1991-2000. In 1996, she founded the Kosova Centre for International Studies, 1994-1999, which supported the work of Ministry.

She met with highest ranking officials and statesman including American state secretary Madeleine Albright, First Lady Hillary Clinton, NATO leader General Wesley Clark, British Prime minister Tony Blair, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, French foreign minister Hubert Vedrine and many others; and was very successful in presenting the just cause of its nation before the world diplomacy.

She is a prominent negotiator taking part in all negotiation phases in Kosova from Rambouillet Conference (1999) and back to London Conference (1992) including also G15 and G5

negotiating teams of pre-Rambouillet negotiation process. Educated and trained in negotiations from many relevant institutions including USIP and dealing with complicated process of disintegration of former Yugoslavia, her expertise is a valuable resource in conflict resolution field. She is well acquainted with security issues and is a Graduate of the College of International and Security Studies from George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies, Germany, 2003.

She participated in many world meetings including The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995; The World Food Summit, Rome 1996; The World Conference on Habitat, Istanbul 1996; The World Conference on Globalization, Santiago de Compostella, Spain, 1997; Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly Sessions, 1996, 1997 and 1998; NATO, Parliamentary Assembly Sessions, 1998; OSCE Ambassadorial Meeting, Vienna, 1998; Lansdowne Conference, 1999; Airlie Conference, 2000 and 2002; International Conference on Population Transfer, Tallinn, Estonia, January 2001, etc.

After the end of the conflict in Kosova, she focused on democracy, statebuilding and affirming Kosova in the international arena. After obstacles she faced in implementing democratic reforms in her party the Democratic League of Kosova she left and founded the first reformist party, the Democratic alternative of Kosova (ADK) in May 1994, together with her co-thinkers. She was among the first politicians who stand bravely against corruption and antidemocratic phenomena.

The Party that she leads, ADK became a parliamentarian and ruling party in coalition with Democratic Party of Kosova, since

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the national elections 2007. Edita Tahiri gained the strong support in the elections of 2007, being one of the tenth most voted politicians in the country.

Together with successes in political carrier she was also successful in academic life. She cooperates with prominent world scholars among them Joseph S. Nye and William Zartman. She received many awards of excellence for her studies. In 2002 she was awarded the title of "Stellar student of 2002" of John Kennedy School of Government Public Service Fellowship as well as received the Edward S. Mason's Certificate in Recognition of Extraordinary Contribution. In 2006/2007 she was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Johns Hopkins University-SAIS where she conduct research on state building as part of her PHD work in the Conflict Resolution Program.

Prior to moving to politics and political sciences she was a scholar in electronics and telecommunication field. In 1980 she received a bachelor degree in engineering from University of Prishtina and carried postgraduate studies on digital telecommunication at University of Essex, United Kingdom in 1983. She taught electronic courses and is the author of textbook on electronics.

She writes on politics, international relations and particularly for Balkans and Kosova question. Books and publications include: Conference of Rambouillet: Negotiation Process and Documents, Dukagjini Publishing House, Peja, 2001; Kosova and Other Albanians Outside Albania, Aspen Institute Berlin, 1997; Kosova National Report for the Beijing Conference on Women 1995; Kosova: The Hungry Future, presented in World Food Summit in Rome in 1997; Independence of Kosova - The Contribution for

Regional Stability, Multiethnic States or Ethnic Homogeneity: the Case of Southeast Europe, National Defence Academy, Vienna, April, 2002; Independence of Kosova - The Stability Factor for South-eastern Europe, Albanians in the Balkans, Albanian Institute for International Studies, Tirana, 2001 and large number of essays and articles.

For her outstanding work she received many awards and international affiliations among others Honorary Citizen of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S., 1993; Honorary Shelby County Commissioner, Tennessee, U.S., 1993; Member of Policy Commission, Transatlantic Institute, Brussels, 2005; Member of Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, 2001; Co-founder and Member of Executive board of the Unrepresented nations and peoples Organizations (UNPO), The Hague, 1992.

She is currently lecturer in the Department of Political sciences, on the area of foreign policy and diplomacy. She has given lectures in many world universities and is a frequent presenter at international conferences and meetings, and has been interviewed by prominent world media including CNN, BBC, Euro news, etc.

She is born on July 29, 1956 in Prizren. Lives and works in Prishtina, the capital of Republic of Kosova. Speaks several foreign languages: English, Turkish, Serbian, and Croatian.

### EDI SHUKRIU



Edi Shukriu is a scientist, writer and full - time professor at the Prishtina University (courses: Archeology, Ancient East, History of Greece and Rome, master studies: Management of Cultural Heritage). She was one

of the leaders for liberty and democracy of Kosova. She contributed for the establishment of 30% quota for women in the Assembly of Kosova and for election open lists. In 1985 she established the Group of Young Archeologists in the Prishtina University (first "NGO" in former Yugoslavia) and was co-founder of the Kosova Women Lobby (2004). She is represented in the Albanian Encyclopedia (AAS).

She was born on 22.10.1950 in Prizren. Her parents, Margarita Mjeda, an activist of the Albanian National Democratic Movement (ANDM), and Muhamed, engaged in activities for the protection of human and national rights and for the protection of cultural heritage. She completed studies in Archeology in the University of Belgrade, and also her master studies (1977), and obtained a PhD in the University of Prishtina (1991). She worked in the Museum of Kosova (1974-1979), and currently heads the Kosova Council on

Cultural Heritage (2009). She was concentrated in archeological research, ancient history and conservation of cultural heritage, as well as national and universal values.

Her life changed fundamentally from 1981, when the regime of that time directed ill-founded accusations against Albanian researchers, and when her husband, Ukshin Hoti, was imprisoned, for whom she showed great care and visited him in all Yugoslav prisons. With a group of Albanian intellectuals she established the Women's Association, the first democratic organization of women in former Yugoslavia (7.3.1990), and continued with the foundation of the Women's Forum of the DLK. Such Forum mobilized almost all women of Kosova in the war for freedom and democracy, by being active in all fields through voluntary work. She was active in the Presidency of the Association for Eradication of Illiteracy Motrat Qiriazi (1989), in the Charity Association Mother Theresa, the Association on Cultural Heritage, etc.

In 1989 she joined DLK, contributing to its internal organization, especially with women. She was a member the Committee on Education and Culture. She was particularly engaged in the Committee on Foreign Policy, giving her contribution to the internationalization of the Kosova and Albanian issue, including the Çame issue (1991-1999). She was an adviser from Kosova in the negotiating process in Rambouillet. She was an MP of the Kosova Assembly (1992-1998, 2002-2004), President of the Women's Forum in DLK (1995-2000); a diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1991-1998). She came up with the idea and organized the action Two hours of classes – every day, after the closure of schools in Albanian language, an initiative for the organization of education in private houses; she initiated

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and established the Group of Women Writers and Veterans of Education (1993), upon suggestions of Edita Tahiri, who gave an enormous contribution for the orientation, organization and activities of the Women's Forum; she was the leader of the women's demonstrations, such as the one organized after the murder of student Armend Daci (1995); March in Drenica with a loaf of bread (inventor of this idea, 1999) etc. She drafted and transmitted reports abroad on the violence of the regime against women and children. She entered the siege Drenica, to provide coffins for Adem Jashari's family. She was the one who secretly carried two films from which photos were developed and transmitted worldwide.

After the war she gave special contribution for the inclusion of women in the Transitional Council. Such Council, however, rather than including political voices, it included women from NGO's. She was Co-Head of the Department on Culture (2000-2001), and being in such post she contradicted the stance that Kosova should start from scratch, opposed the insistence to forget the history, objected the partition of cultural heritage on ethnic grounds, as well as the tendencies to close the Kosova Academy of Science and Arts, the Albanological Institute and the History Institute. She was engaged for the institutional reinforcement of culture and its legal infrastructure, and contributed in the drafting of the Law on Cultural Heritage, Libraries and Copyright. She organized trainings and provided equipment for the cultural heritage institutions. She (re)established the Philharmonia of Kosova (2000) and supported ballet, aiming to create the foundation for the Opera and Ballet of Kosova. Thus, she was engaged to include in it Collegium Cantorum. She supported the recovery of the Shota Ensemble, the Art Gallery of Kosova, and established the Culture

Gallery (Gallery of the MCYS), where she displayed the exposition on the cultural heritage of Kosova.

She was amongst the first ones, in concert with Edita Tahiri, who publicly contradicted the increasing corruption and other negative phenomena (2004). Although being in a leading position, and upon refusal of the post in the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports, she co-founded, with Edita Tahiri, the first reformatory party, Kosova Democratic Alternative (KDA, 2004).

She supported human capacity building, organized archeological research with students (Ulpiana, Veletin, Vlashnjë) and send students for excavation abroad, and for master studies in archeology in France. She is conducting research in Ulpiana as of 2006, as practice courses of the Prishtina Summer University. She participated in the World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), UN Habitat II (Istanbul, 1996), UN Food Summit (Rome, 1996), Conference on Globalization (Santiago de Compostela, 1997), Reconfiguring Prehistoric Figurines (Norwich, 2006); Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (Lisbon, 2006) etc. She was a Visiting Scholar in the Harvard University (2003), International Writing Program (Iowa, USA, 2005), International Vilenica Festival (2007), International Festival Poeteka (2009), Voix Vive (2010) etc. She is a member of the Kosova PEN Center (2004) and Deputy-President (2009), member of the Association of Kosova Writers (1973). She is represented in the Anthology of Albanian and Foreign Writers. She won the Annual Prize of the Association of Kosova Writers (1990) and the prize Gani Bobi (1996). The book on Dardania is included in The History of the Albanian Nation (Albanian Academy of Science). Upon her insistence, and in co-

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operation with Drita Bakija Gunga, she drafted the curricula on gender studies in the Faculties of the Prishtina University (2000).

She published the following books: Kosova antike (2004), Ancient Kosova (2004), Gra të shquara shqiptare (2000, 2003), Distinguished Albanian Women, Dardania protourbane (1996), Protourban Dardania, Historia e Lindjes së Lashtë (1995), History of Ancient East. She published the following poetry books: Sonte zemra ime feston (1972), My Heart Celebrates Tonight, Legjenda e Hasit (1980), Legend of Hasi, Gjakim (1978), Bleeding, Syri i Natës (1985), Night's Eye, Nënqielli (1990), Under sky, Përjetësi (2001), Immortality, and dramas: Kthimi i Euridikës (1986), The Return of Euridika, Kësulëkuqja e rrokaqellit (1998), Skyscraper's Red Cap, L'keni i Hasit (1992), Lake of Hasi. She realized the following documentaries: Ulpiana antike (2010), Ancient Ulpiana, Prevent the War in Kosova (1995). She is co-author of the National Report on Kosova - Beijing Conference on Women (1995), Kosova: The Hungry Future, World Food Summit (1997), Kosova and Albanians outside Albania (1997), Kosova - milli rapor (Istanbul, 1998).

## NEKIBE KELMENDI

Nekibe Kelmendi acted in the field of judiciary system and she also was engaged in respecting liberties and human rights, gender equality as well as with regard to the question of Kosova. She exercised her activity in the capacity of an intellectual, judge, lawyer and member of the assembly.

Nekibe was born on 11 May 1944, in Peja. She graduated in 1968 the Faculty of Law of the Prishtina University and she worked as a judge up to 1987. In 1987, following the appearance of Slobodan Milosheviq in the political scene of ex-Yugoslavia, she was deposed from the position of a judge and then she worked as a General Secretary of Kosova Pharmacies up to 1991. She was appointed as a judge at the Municipal Court when she was 24 years old, actually after the fall of notorious repressive regime of Rankovic, when certain paths were opened that Albanian human resources, especially women, be included in the judiciary system of Kosova. She was a judge of the District Courte in Prishtina, where she worked up to the March of the year 1974. During the



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years 1974-1976 she practiced the profession of a lawyer, thus becoming the first Albanian lawyer in the history of the Albanian women. In the year 1974 she registered in the Kosova Lawyers Chamber and she worked as a lawyer together with her husband, the prominent lawyer Bajram Kelmendi. Her husband and her two sons, Kastriot and Kushtrim, were killed by the regime between the night of 24 and 25 March 1999.

She was the first woman who for the first time in the history of Albanian women practiced the independent activity as a lawyer. She returned back to the Kosova Lawyers Chamber and she pursued the activity of a lawyer up to January 2000. In 2000 she was appointed as co-head of the Department of Justice (1 January 2000 up to November 2001), where she gave her contribution in rebuilding the judiciary system, which was during '90-es of the past century almost completely ruined.

In the capacity of a Member of the Kosova Parliament, she was Head of the Committee for Public Services during its first mandate and she also was a member of the Committee for Legislation Constitutional Framework and Juridical Issues, whilst during her second mandate she was the Chairwomen of the Committee for Media, Local Governance and Public Services.

Nekibe was the Secretary of the Kosova Lawyers Chamber (1974-1976); Co-founder of the Council for Defense of the Liberties and Human Rights of Prishtina (1989); Co-founder of the Democratic League of Kosova and a member of its Presidency (1989); Secretary-General of Democratic League of Kosova (1998-2003); Deputy-president of the Democratic League of Kosova; a member of the Committee for drafting the new legislation for Kosova (from 1999 up to 2004); a member of the Team of Experts

within the Political and Strategic Group of the Unity Team for Negotiations for Kosova; co-founder of the Women's Lobby of South-Eastern Europe.

She participated in various international forums, such as the Congress of Criminologists and penologists in Oher (Macedonia, 1972); European Congress of Lawyers in Istanbul (1974); Congress of Lawyers of ex-Yugoslavia in Zagreb (1975); Congress Against Corruption, (2000); Symposium for Prevention of the Crime of Money Laundering and Drafting of the Law Against Money Laundering (Bulgary, 2000); The Conference of American Institute for Peace in Earle House (2000, 2002); World Conference for Human Rights of UN in Wien and UN Conference for Women's Rights, New York (2004).

She participated, in the capacity of an observer, in Parliamentary Elections held in the Republic of Albania (1992). She also was a member of the delegation of the Women's Forum of the Democratic League of Kosova to a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Holland (March, 1994) and also she had a working visit to the American State Department and the High Courte of Louisiana State, USA, (2000).

She is an author of many professional writings pertaining to the field of human rights and legal topics. It is worthy mentioning the study paper Kosova under the Burden of Discriminating and Contra-Constitutional Laws of Serbia – Facts and Testimonies, a paper that was included in the text of UN Resolution on Kosova of the year 1992.

## MARIE SHLLAKU



Marie Shllaku was an educated and courageous women, who studied philosophy in the University of Roma. As a polyglot, besides Albanian language, she commanded with Italian, French, German, Latin and old Greek language and she also commanded with Serbian language. Her short life and her execution in Prizren show the whole tragic reality of the Albanian intellectuals under

the regime of the time.

Maria was born on 22 October 1922 in Shkodër (Albania), a daughter of Dile and Mark Simon Shllaku. Quite as a young person, she was deputy secretary of the Department of The Roads of the Ministry of Transport of Albania (20.11.1942) and, later on, in charge of the Ministry of Finances in Prizren. (25.2-15 11.1943).

Maria commenced her overall activity against communists when it became clear that the rights of Albanians in Kosova to self-determination were not respected, although this was stipulated by the Bujan Agreement, singed between Albanian and Yugoslav Communists. In the spring of the year 1944 she was the leading personality of the Second League of Prizren and in the same year she went to mountains to fight for the liberty of Kosova.

Maria was one of the leaders of Albanian democratic movement in Kosova (Albanian National Democratic Organization ANDO- Organizata Nacional Demokrate Shqiptare - NDSH), which also included within its structure Woman's Organization. Based upon principle of the rights of the People and Human Rights, in general, Maria settled in Drenicë (Central Kosova, 1945), in order to reinforce the resistance of Albanians. She participated in Drenica Assembly together with distinguished leaders such as Shaban Polluzha, Ymer Berisha, Mehmet Gradica as well as in the Assembly of Dobërdol (August 1945), where Ymer Berisha was elected as a political leader, whereas Ukë Sadiku was elected as a military leader of the resistance in Kosova. Maria also took part in fighting against Yugoslav military units and she was heavily wounded in the battle of Siçeva (September 1945).

The activity of Maria was not intercepted until the time when she was jailed. The torturing acts that Yugoslav regime committed against her while she was jailed were dreadful. She was the first personality prosecuted in the list of 27 personalities of Albanian National Democratic Organization, who acted against communist regime. Among the prosecuted people were also two other woman, Margarita Mjeda (Shukriu) and Luçie Leka (Vuçaj). The trial went on for 13 days in Prizren (29.06-11.07.1946). On 15 July she was sentenced with death penalty. She was only 24 years old. She was executed by shooting on 25 November 1946 in Prizren together with Father Bernard Llupi, Kolë Parubin and Gjergj Martinin. Her grave is not known nowadays.

I am a humanist and this credo I do not change at any cost, is the stance of this lady, that was found in her diary.

### HYRIE HANA

Hyrije Hana is a big name in a small space of Kosovo with regard to various fields. She was among the first actors in the Kosovo theater, who, with her acting and erudition, opened the avenues to emancipation of women and national emancipation in Kosovo. With her artistic talent, expressed as an actress and, in particular, with dolls that she made with folk costumes, she quickly embezzled the audience.



With her determined and uncompromising personality, she became a leader fighting for the freedom and, above all, she stood like a shadow in relation to historical actors consciousness and conscience of the nation. The prices she paid in her life were high, especially from the time of the murder of her brother, Xheladin Hana, active in anti-fascist War.

She was born on March 10, 1929, in Gjakova, by mother Xhylie and father Shyqri. Her father, Shyqri, was active in the movement of kacaks and a warrior of the year 1912. He sent his son Xheladin illegally in Albania for education, where, like many other young people, he believed the ideal of equality, a propaganda which was made by communists. Hyria believed the same.

Hyrie's attitudes could be even more thoroughly apprehensible when it is taken into consideration that her brother, Xheladini, was participant of the Bujan Conference and one of the drafters of the Bujan Resolution, in which the right to self-

determination was legitimated to the people of Kosovo. Xheladini, dedicated to have the Bujan Resolution respected as well as the freedom of the homeland, was killed by UDB (Secret Yugoslav Service), while Hyrie, continuing her resistance, was constantly persecuted, until the year 1999 when Kosovo was liberated and began to come into expression democratic processes.

Hyria is the author of the book "Memoirs" (*Kujtime*), published by the Publishing House *Anton Pashku*, 2008). The book is an autobiographical monograph, which belongs to the epistolary genre of the diary. In this book she deals directly with life and treats, in particular, social, moral and political aspects. Through her life, she also shows the development of time in the past, within which she was formed. Indeed, she was one of the most valuable actor of that time.

Her big picture is in the commemorative memorial in the heart of Pristina, *Let's not forget our artists*, which contains photos of individuals who have contributed to the development of culture in Kosovo. Post-mortum appreciation was awarded by the Municipality of Gjakova (2010).

**MOTHER THERESA**  
**Anjeza Gonxhe Bojaxhiu**



Mother Theresa is the greatest humanist of the XX century. She became a world symbol of goodness and love. She offered the world a moral model for cultural, class, ethnic, and religious understanding. She was awarded the Nobel Price for Peace (1979).

Anjeza Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, later known as Mother Teresa, was born on 27 August 1910 in Shkup, the capital of Kosova Vilayet, in a famous merchant family, originating from Kosova. Her parents, Dranja and Kola, were distinguished as humanists and, therefore, Gonxhe, during her early childhood grew up and was molded with national and humanistic upbringing, always based on the traditional credo that one should not take a piece of bread without sharing it with other people. Gonxhe was very much active in the Catholic Church in the center of Shkup and she was the spirit of Albanian female catholic activities and the chorus of the church. Her first four years of education she attended in Albanian language, whereas after the ban of Albanian school she was forced to attend her education in Serbian language.

The decision to become a missionary she took in Letnicë of Kosova, the saint place of the centuriel pilgrimage descending from Illyrian-Albanian antiquity, also inspired by the hardships through which Albanian people was going. She, as a child, was faced with injustice against Albanians living in their ethnic territories and with the assassination of her father when she was nine years old, with the oppression exercised upon her and her family to deny her ethnic background and the ban of education in Albanian language and Albanian school.

Gonxhe became a missionary when she was attending the Gymnasium, when she opted for the Order of Loreto Sisters in Dublin. With her departure from Dublin to Calcutta (1.12.1928), started the humanistic journey of the young Albanian female. She worked as a nurse in the hospital, whereas after she graduated her studies in the department of History-Geography of the University of Calcutta, she became a professor with the School of the Young

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Girls in Calcutta and later on the Director of the School. In 1964 she completely devoted herself to poor people, from the moment when she saw a women laying in the street, whose body was eaten by rats and who received no admission in any hospital.

In 1950 The Saint Residency sanctioned its order, The Order of Missionaries of Love, which are spread now a day every where in the world. In Calcutta, Mother Theresa established The Home of Pure Heart for people who were at death's door (Nirmal Hriday, 1952) and The Shelter for Unwanted Children (1955). Since 1957 she took care for people with leper and later she established The Shelter for People Suffering from SIDA. She also established Missionary Brothers of Love (1963), International Association Associates of Mother Theresa (1969), Missionaries of the Love - Contemplative Branch (1976) and Brothers of the word (1977). She served in Calcutta, India, in Australy, Pakistan, Jordan, Jemen, England, Ireland, Tanzania, Island Mauritinia near Madagascar, in the United States of America, in Roma and Zagreb (Croatia). She also established her mission in Kosova.

In many countries she was awarded the title of Honoris Causa and almost all the national and international Prices. She encouraged decision-making world circles in respecting the human rights and eradication of the poverty, as a goal of the third millennium. She also demonstrated the female's energy to make positive changes, which is her contribution to carrying out the gender equality, as one of the main objectives of the world politics, alongside the eradication of the poverty and respect to human rights.

She died on 5 September 1997 in Calcutta, whereas on 19 October 2003 she was beatified. She is soon expected to be

declared a saint.

Gonxhe Bojaxhiu - Mother Theresa, descending from an Albanian family and a world citizen, began her mission of human love with great persistence, a kind of persistence characterizing only personalities with clear vision. Through her force of mind and her heart, always finding paths to approach people in need and through the creation of mechanisms for helping people and humanity, she affected positive changes throughout the world.

Works on Mother Theresa: D. Peter, Apostle of the unwanted - Mother Teresa, Melbourne, Australia, 1969; Th. M. Muggeridge, Something Beautiful for God - Mother Teresa of Kalkuta, London, 1971; M.V. Pucci, Madre Teresa di Calcutta, Padova, 1971; Th. M. Muggeridge, A gift for God. Players and Meditations. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, San Francisco - Cambridge-London etc..1975; B. Teresio, Madre Teresa di Calcutta, Torino, 1978; L. Gjergji, Our Mother Theresa (Nëna jonë Terezë), Zagreb, 1980; D. Rae, Low Untis it Hurts, London, 1981; E. Egan, Such a Vision of the Street, Mother Teresa - The Spirit and the Work, New York, 1985; L. Gjergji, The Love through deeds - Mother Theresa (Dashuria në vepër - Nëna Tereze), Ferizaj, 1992; Gonxhe Bojaxhiu-Mother Theresa, Poems and Benediction, The writers Association of Kosova, Prishtina 1998 (Gonxhe Bojaxhiu-Nënë Tereza, Poezi dhe Uratë, Shoqata e Shkrimtarëve të Kosovës, Prishtinë 1998); A. Chatterjee, Mother Teresa, The final Verdict. Meteor Books, Calcutta, 2003; G. Alpion, Mother Teresa: Saint or Celebrity? Routledge, London, 2006;

G. Alpion, **Encounters with Civilizations: From Alexander the Great to Mother Teresa**, Meteor Books, Calcutta, 2008 etc.

## QERIME SHOTE GALICA



Qerime Shote Galica is known for her strong will and courage in her fight for the liberty and democracy of Kosova and for the formation of democratic Albania in the early decades of 20th century.

She was born in 1895, the village of Radisheva, Drenica, the central region of Kosova. She never consented with the rule of the regime of that time in Kosova. This was the reason

why she joined to the Units of Azem Galica and, at the same time, why she organized the participation of the women in their fight for liberty as well as their participation in decision-making processes and various delegations. As a result, during the talks developed by Azerm Galica in the village Polac, there took part several women. She cooperated with Igballe Prishtina, wife of the well-known Kosova leader and intellectual Hasan Prishtina, especially with regard to promoting ties between Drenica and Mitrovica. Igballe Prishtina was the one who organized first demonstrations of Albanian women in front of foreign missions in Tirana against the oppression exercised in Kosova.

Shota was distinguished in the uprising in the Dukagjini Valley (1919), for her attacks to the gendarmes stations (1919-1927) and for the military actions in protection of the Neutral Zone in Junik as the basis for the rebellion of the Kosova and Malësia

region (1921-1923). She did not surrender after the murder of Azem Galica (1924). On the contrary, she continued to be active with the Albanian leader Bajram Curri in Has region, Kukës and region of Luma (1925). She did fight together with Azem Galica's mother when their house was under the siege. (July, 1920). She also called upon the government of Albania to express herself against anti-Albanian policy in Kosova.

She enlightened the population, especially women, with regard to societal and political processes of the time, among other forms, also through the dissemination of the daily *The Folk* and by the means of reading and commenting its articles. She did this after she herself was taught to read and write in the mountain conditions, together with many compatriots, during the winter season of the years 1922-1923 in the school of Golaj of Hasi region.

Her last years of her life she was forced to spend in Fushë Krujë (Albania), since Kosova continued to be ruled by the regime. There she lived together with some orphaned children from Drenica. She died in 1927, without being able to see again Kosova and leaving as a heritage her life experience through her saying: The life without knowledge is like the war without weapons.

### KATARINA JOSIPI

Katarina Josipi, known by the audience as Kati, was a firm pillar and an inspiration for the professional theater in Kosova. As an actress she began her road on June 1949, when she was engaged in People's Theater of Kosova. She was the first actress in theater and continued to perform for two decades with distinguished professionalism. At the same she was time magnificent as an actress when she performed in theater, film or radio.



Katarina was born on 19 November 1923, in the village Zym of the Hasi region (Kosova). She was one out of four children of Gjyste, her mother, and Gjin Dulaj, the father. In its search for better life and living conditions, Katarina's family was forced to leave her birthplace and settle in Nish (Central Serbia), where her father worked as a baker. It is this the town where Kati grew up, where she finished her Elementary School in Serbian language and also where she did attend the night course of tailoring. After many years, the family returned to Kosova and settled in Ferizaj, living there in very hard living conditions accompanied by the burden of the repression exercised upon Albanian population and denial of their national rights. It was this the reason why Kati became a member of the National Democratic Albanian Organization

(Organizata Nacional Demokrate Shqiptare, NDSH), where she acted under clandestine conditions until she was imprisoned by the Yugoslav regime of the time. Kati went through a turmoil, caused, among other factors, by the death of her two young children and she was also harshly stricken by the violent separation from her husband Hil Pjetri, a forest engineer from Kavaja (Albania), who was deported to Albania by Yugoslav regime.

Life experience made Kati as a person both quite sensitive and firm and this experience contributed to her qualities as a great artist and woman. She understood political processes and she made her best efforts to resist such processes while identifying with various roles and bringing in the stage authentic characters coming from different historical and geographic contexts. Thus, after her release from the jail due to the lack of the evidence, she began to be engaged as an amateur actress in the Fereizaj Theatre and quite quickly, with her fascinating talent, she embezzled the audience of the professional theater of Prishtina. She performed very complex characters in a great variety of theatrical performances: "Suspicious person" (Personi i dyshimitë); "The ragged" (Zhelanët); "Marriage" (Martesa), "People's Member of Assembly" (Deputeti i popullit); "Zamafir's Zone" (Zona e Zamfiri); "If I Was a Boy" (Sikur t'isha djalë); "The garlic head" (Kryet e hudhrës); "Hanka" (Hanka); "The Fire and the Grace" (Zjarri dhe hiri), "Dosshouse in the Main Road" (Hani në rrugën kryesore); "For a Mouthful Piece of Bread" (Për kafshatën e bukës); "Leaden Shadows" (Hijet e rënda); "The Three Worlds" (Tri botëra); "Ruj Blaz" (Ruj Blaz); "George Danden" (Zhorzh Dandeni); "The World" (Bota); "Protection" (Proteksioni), "The Given Word" (Besa); "The two Sergeants" (Dy rreshterë);

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“Mirandolina” (Mirandolina); “It is a Matter of a Flat” (Fjala është për banesë); “I do Not Sell Myself for Money” (Nuk martohem me pare); “The Servant of Two Gentlemen” (Shërbëtori i dy zotërinjëve), “Nita” (Nita); “Mr. Fedori (Z. Fedori); “The Lost Paradise” (Parajsa e humbur); “People” (Njerëzit); “Cyclones” (Ciklonët); “A Cousin from America’ (Kushëriri prej Amerike); “The Darkened Room” (Oda e errët); “The Wife of a Minister” (Zoja ministreshë); “Two penny” (Dy metelikë); “The Fool” (I sëmuri për mend); “The Wife of Hasan aga” (E shoqja e Hasan Agës); “The Diary of Ana Frank” (Ditari i Ana Frank) and many other plays.

For her contribution given to the development of the culture in Kosova, especially regarding her contribution to the theater, she was awarded with Price of December of the Assembly of Kosova, Association of Artists of Drama of the Republic of Serbia, the Festival of Radio Drama in Novi Sad etc. She died when she was 46 years old, on 29 April, 1969.

The name Katarina Josipi is the name of the highest competition for original drama of the National Theatre in Prishtina as well as the name of the Cultural and Artistic Association of Zym, her birthplace, established in the first anniversary of her death (1970). Also her name stands for the most successful role of a woman as an actress in the genre of comedy, a competition held in Preshevë, while in Zym is awarded the Price Kati’s Ring (Unaza e Katit).

## SEHADETE DOKO MEKULI



Sehadete Doko Mekuli, a gynecologist and professor lecturing with The Medicine Faculty of Prishtina University, was one of the personalities who established the science of medicine in Kosova.

Sehadete was born in 1928 in Ohër, West Macedonia. She graduated the Faculty of Medicine in 1954 in Shkup and worked as a medical doctor at the General Hospital of Prishtina, whereas she specialized gynecology and obstetrics in 1960 in Beograd. She received the title Primarius in 1970. In 1973 she defended her doctoral thesis "Toxoplasmosis of the Fertile period in Kosova" (Toksoplazmoza e periudhës fertile te gratë e KSA të Kosovës). During her professional carrier she lead the Department of

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Gynecology and Obstetrics of the General Hospital in Prishtina as well as the Cathedra of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the Faculty of Medicine in Prishtina.

She published over 31 studies and paper research, among them in the field of epidemiology of the cancer of uterus (1965) as well as the multiple pregnancy (1980). She did research the cervical carcinoma, primary korionepiteliomin in young girls, early birth, pathology of the pregnancy, cervical pregnancy, rupture of the uterus, causes of the mortality in pregnant women and women after childbirth and other research.

Since the year 1981, namely since the time when again was launched a campaign of the repression towards Albanians in Kosova, Sehadete Mekuli became a shield of Kosovar medicine. Initially, she was banned to perform her activity as an ordinary professor and later on she was forcefully retired (1988). The removal of Sehadete was just an prelude of a campaign of the removal of Albanian doctors from the clinics. Because Albanian pregnant women started to give birth in home conditions, after the expulsion of Albanian doctors from the hospitals, Sehadetja engaged in organizing and establishing nativity centers within the Association Mother Theresa and she herself was in charge and assisted the delivery for a long time.

Mrs. Sehadete, who was called by her colleagues "mother old lady", was the one who helped the initiation of the life during her all life, at the same time as a professional, as a scientist and as a pedagogue.

## NEXHMIJE PAGARUSHA



Nexhmije Pagarusha, with her blissful interpretation in national and international scenes, long time ago has become a symbol of Kosova. Through her unique voice and scenic presentation, she has become an ambassador of the culture of Kosova. She overcame ethnic, religious and time-related barriers. Therefore she was called "the nightingale of Kosova", as well as various precious attributes were given to her, such as "the crystal throat", "Madam Butterfly", "Albanian Ima Sumak" etc.

Nexhmija was born on May 7 1933 in Pagarushë (Central Kosova) and she was daughter of mother Sahide and father Veseli, lamplighter of education in Kosova. She finished her Elementary School in Prizren, where her family settled in 1940 and they

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continued to settle in Prishtina in 1947. She attended for a certain period of time the School of Music, the Section of Solo Canto, in Belgrade and it was this town where she performed on the scene for the first time. In 948 she was hired as a singer with Radio Kosova..

Meeting and then living with Rexho Mulliqi, one of the best composers of the region, was a good luck for me, an opportunity that enabled her to manifest her artistic potential. She interpreted at a culminating level all the genres of the music. She sang operatic aria of Beethoven, Verdi, Puccini and other world composers where she performed for the first time in a concert of such a type. At a high level she also interpreted a great number of songs that gave her the opportunity to manifest her overall vocal qualities. She reached her artistic peak with Shepherdess (Baresha), composed by Rexho Mulliqi, while the following song became classical in their value: A Flower (Një lule), "Don't Give Up, my dear Rexho" (Çou more Rexho), The Field Blossomed (Lulëzoi fusha) etc.

Since 1967 she was also distinguished as an actress in the movie The Macedonian Bloody Wedding (Dasma e përgjakur maqedonase), than with television drama Killers celebrate their marriage during the nighttime (Vrasësit bëjnë dasmë natën (1997); I did snap at the darkness". (E kafshoja terrin, Ekrem Kryeziu, 1977), Runaway (I ikuri), Sadedin Prekazi, 1980), Three persons crossed the mountain (Tre persona kapërcejnë malin) 1981, Besim Sahatçiu; Five legged Rabbit (Lepuri me pesë këmbë), Ismail Ymeri, 1982; The Fly of Micak (Fluturimi i Micakut) and Drums of crackbrained (Daullet e të çmendurve), Isa Qosja).

"I could not compare Nexhmije with other singers, because I

am afraid I would insult her", said about her the celebrated French singer Zhyliet Greko, while the worldwide known opera songstress, Inva Mula, stated: She was a marvelous cantatrice and we all can be proud of her". Nexhmije Pagarusha was an inspiration to a great number of poets and they created verses devoted to her. She received the Price "A Meritorious Artist" in 2010, awarded by the President of the Republic of Kosova.

## MELIHATE AJETI



Melihate Ajeti was an unique artist and neither the history of the National Theater of Kosova nor the history of theater of Kosova could be written without her name. Since 1951, she interpreted e wide range of theatrical roles in the National Theater of Kosova.

Melihate was born in Prishtinë on 9 October 1935, where she did attend the School of Acting, National Theatre of Kosova (1952-1954). She specialized Acting in Comedie Francaise, Paris (1974).

She performed over 180 theatrical roles, chiefly main characters, and she also interpreted cinematographic and television

drama roles. She revealed in front of the audience various characters of women and their destiny. She successfully incarnated Margaret Gotje, the main character of The "Lady with Flowers" (Zonja me kamelie) of Alexander Dumas, the Son; Desdemona of Shakespeare's Othello, the Queen Gertrude, Hamlet, Mirusha of the play "The given word" (Besa) written by distinguished Albanian author; character of Dije of the play "If I was a boy" (Sikur të isha djalë), written by Haki Sterfmilli; the role of Hajrije in Kolë Jakova's historical play "Halili and Hajrija" (Halili dhe Hajrija), the role of Erveheja in; the role Ana Karenina of Tolstoy's dramatized novel "Ana Karenina"; she also performed the character of Undina of the play "The living Sphinx" by contemporary author Rexhep Qosja; the role of Lady Macbeth, Shakespeare's Macbeth; the role of Jocasta of "Oedipus, the King", Sophocles (Edipi Mbret), the role of Antigona of the antique play written by Sophocles; the old lady Nice of the dramatized novel "The General of the Dead Army" (Gjenerali i ushtrisë së vdekur), written by worldwide known Albanian author, Ismail Kadare; main women character of the play "The spouse" (Bashkëshortët) written by author and director Muharrem Qena etc. In the Kosovar cinematographic world she is known with her characters interpreted in the following movies: Uka from Cursed Mountains" (Uka i Bjeshkëve të Nemuna), 1967); Five legged rabbit (Lepuri me 5 këmbë), 1982; The Wind and Oak (Era e Lisi) 1979; When the Spring is Late (Kur Pranvera vonohet), 1980; The Detained (Të ngujuarit) 1971; The overflowing Stream (Përroi vëershues), 1981 and White traces (Gjurmë të bardha), 1980 etc.

Melihate Ajeti also witnessed her great artistic potential in the ex-Yugoslav speaking area and she, although speaking in Albanian language, embezzled the audience. She did this with the role of Lady Macbeth in the Castle Revelin of Dubrovnik (1978) or when performing in the Theatrical Festivals of ex Yugoslavian artistic activities, such as Dubrovnik's Summer Plays, Split's Festival, The Festival of Sarajevo, and the Festival of Novi Sad. She

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was awarded with the December's Price (1963), The Price of the Association of Yugoslav Artists (1971); she received several times the Price Joakim Vujiq (1972, 1975, 1985), as well as the Working Price of the Assembly of Kosova (1976). She died on 26 March 2005 in Prishtina..

## DRITA BAKIJA GUNGA



Drita Bakija Gunga acted in three directions, the scientific work, the pedagogical and as participant in the movement for the liberation of Kosova. She is the first woman in Kosova who received the title of Doctor of Science at the Department of History at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina (1982). She is the first and the only until recently, that dealt with scientific studies regarding the issue of women, which she started from 1975. As a young woman she was involved in the Amateur

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Theatre of Gjakova in numerous roles for youth and children, affecting in this way in the emancipation of women in Gjakova, too.

As an Associate, she lectures subjects such as Gender Studies, Methodology of History and Contemporary Methodology of history at the Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy. In the year 2000, together with Edi Shukriu, she compiled program for gender studies for the faculties of the University of Prishtina.

Drita was born on 31.12.1943 in Gjakova. She finished her Elementary and Secondary Education Gjakova. She graduated her first step of studies from history at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo and she graduated from history at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Prishtina. In this faculty she completed her master studies and defended her master thesis on the topic Women movement between the Two World Wars (1977) and defended her doctoral thesis also in the field of women, titled Women of Kosovo in the period of construction of socialism from 1945 to 1978 (1982). She worked in high school Hajdar Dushi in Gjakova and Elena Gjika School in Prishtina, to continue her work at the Institute of History of Kosovo (1975-2009), where she was selected Scientific Associate (1978), Senior Research Associate (1989) and Scientific Advisor (2003).

Her scientific work was hindered by the closure of the Institute of History. She continued to work, with Albanian colleagues, in a private house, until 1999 and also after the conflict in Kosova she continued her activity.

She was one of the intellectuals who founded Women's Association, the first democratic organization of women in the former Yugoslavia (March 1990), followed by the Women's

Forum of LDK, and was a member of its Presidium (1995-2000). As chairman of the Committee on Science of this Forum, she offered contribution to scientific analysis of the inhuman circumstances under which was found people of Kosova and devoted herself towards finding practical forms to alleviate the situation, particularly acting concerning women and children. After the closure of schools, she worked with the head of the commission for Education, Sultane Uka, and others, on issues of education of women throughout Kosovo, with a particular concentration on Shala of Bajgora.

She was a member of organizational councils regarding various scientific events. After the conflict, she was a member of the Board of Gender Training and Research Centre. She took part in scientific conferences and symposiums in the country and abroad. She published works in various scientific journals and in the field of journalism she published articles on the issues of women's awareness, especially in magazines for women, such as Kosovarja and Teuta.

Her scientific activity resulted with compiling of two monographs, Women of Kosovo in the Period of Construction of Socialism 1945-1978 and Women in Albanian Resistance in Kosova 1944-1948.

## SANIJE GASHI



Sanije Gashi is a journalist, publicist, editor, and fighter for the emancipation of women. She is amongst the first Albanian woman journalists and the most famous one, dealing actively with journalism for 45 years. She managed to become a person of consideration through her writings which aimed to advance the position of Albanian women in all aspects. She is the co-founder and founder of two magazines, Kosovarja and Teuta.

She was born in Prishtina, on 20 February 1944. She completed all levels of education in Prishtina, Primary, Pedagogical School and Higher Pedagogical School, and studied at the Faculty of Philology in the University of Prishtina. She commenced the profession of a journalist in September 1965, in the magazine *Zëri i Rinisë*. In November 1971 she was assigned editor of the magazine *Kosovarja*, which came into being the same year, whereas in 1975 she was appointed editor-in-chief of the same magazine. She directed this magazine for 18 years. In May 1994, already an experienced journalist, she established the first independent magazine for women and family, *Teuta*, the only one of its kind not only in Kosova.

Sanije, who committed all her life to journalism with high zeal, was engaged during the whole time for the benefit of women, by supporting their education, contemporaneous and free thinking, fight for human rights, raising awareness to open the paths for the lives of women, always for the benefit of creating a better future. She raised and handled topics of interest, interviewed distinguished personalities, wrote about grievous evocations of Albanian women during the conflict in Kosova.

She is the co-founder of the Women's Forum in LDK, and an activist from the very first hours of its foundation. She was engaged in two primary directions, in the media and the Presidency of the Forum. In spring 1990 she was elected in the Presidency of the Association for the Eradication of Illiteracy in Kosova, Motrat Qiriazi.

Engaged at a risky time, with the three-member Kosovar delegation, in Paris she met with the President on Human Rights, Daniel Miteran, concerning the violation of human rights in Kosova, in particular children's' rights (1.10.1990). She took part in the foundation of the first Branch of LDK in Germany, in Babenhausen, and in the Political Tribune organized by the compatriots, on the occasion of 2 July, proclaiming of the Constitutional Declaration, together with Prof. Fehmi Agani (July 1990) and in the Joint Seminar on Human Rights and Democracy in Kosova, in Brussels, with topic Prevention of Wars in the Balkans (10.2.1993). As an activist of the Women's Forum in LDK, on July 1991, she submitted to the President of the Yugoslav Government, Stipe Mesiq, and to the President of the PR of Albania, Ramiz Alija, the petition signed by 220 thousand Albanian mothers, upon murder of the 11 years-old child, Afrim

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Prebreza. On this occasion, the first meeting of the Kosovar women with the Albanian women took place, after being parted for almost half a century.

By qualifying the articles in the magazine she was directing to be *hostile*, the Belgrade Serbian newspapers (*Borba*, *Politika*, *Politika Ekspres*), *Jedinstvo* of Prishtina and Prishtina Radio and Television – the program in Serbian language, proclaimed her to be *unsuitable* for the region, especially at the time when Albanian soldiers were returning in coffins from the Yugoslav army. Because of her writings in the magazine, especially those on its cover page, she was arrested two times and imprisoned in January 1992. She was the only woman journalist arrested and convicted with imprisonment during this grievous period of Kosova.

After the war in Kosova, apart of publishing the magazine Teuta, she realized additional publications within such magazine: Rehabilitation of Families after the War (1999), Recovery of Stressed Children and Return to Normal Life (1999), Gender Equality and Establishment of Peace (2006) Pregnancy and Maternity (third edition, 2004), Cooking (1982, 1989). She also published the book Distinguished Albanian Women, by author Edi Shukriu (2000, 2003).

She is the author of two publishing books: History of horror 1998-1999, war crimes' records, women's stories (2009) and Walking through Memory, Life Stories of Careered Women (2010). While working in journalism, she was awarded with the Work Medal; the prize Kosova Journalist; Public Appreciation (1980, 1985) and was nominated for the November Award (Prishtina Day) two times

## LULJETA BAJRI

She was born on 27.10 1943 in Peja, where she completed Primary school and Gymnasium, and undergraduate studies in the Faculty of Law in the University of Prishtina. She worked, until her retirement, in Primary school Tetë Marsi in Peja (1967-2007). Many political, cultural and sports activities were held in this school due to the leadership and compactness of the colleagues.



At the beginning of the 90's, when the position of the nation was very difficult and tragic, she did not remain passive and a passive follower of the events. She performed her activities for many years as President of the Women's Forum in DLK - Branch in Peja and as Vice-President of the Women's Forum in DLK. She lead the Comission for the Protection of Women at the central level. She worked for the realization of the activity Two hours of classes - every dayy, initiated by the Women's Forum after the closure of Albanian schools. Among other activities, she was active in organizing a month long field trip of 100 Albanian children in Austria.

Being President of the Women's Forum - Branch in Peja, jointly with other members, she worked with the women of the city and the villages around to overcome the difficult situation, and discuss the necessary measures to be undertaken. She organized meetings to eleminate the phenomena of abandoning school, in particular in

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villages. She also organized various cultural activities, including expositions of creators of figurative art and craftsmanship, and a big manifestation for Teacher's Day, inviting veterans from all over Kosova.

Lulja was the one who together with other activists, from the initial intensification of the violence in kosova, collected data on 92 poisoned pupils, data on the dismissal from work of women, and other worthy data to document the experiences of the past. With the outbreak of the conflict in villages in 1998, the Women's Forum took care of the displaced persons by providing shelter, food articles and clothing. In concert with other members, especially with the Presidency member, Gjylfidane Mala, she registered all cases in Peja, providing voluminous material for the period of 1998-1999.

After the end of the conflict and the transformation of DLK from a nationwide movement to a party, she established and led the first NGO in Peja, named Women's Democratic Forum, the main focus of it being cultural activities.

## EMINE ARIFI BAKALLI



Emine Arif Bakalli is an ordinary professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Pristina.

Emine was born in Babush of Muhamaxhiriëve on 16.10.1951. She completed Elementary and Secondary school in Prishtina, whilst studies of history in the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina in the year 1974. She became master of historical sciences in the year 1977 and in the year 1984 she defended her doctoral thesis at the same faculty. From November of the year 1974 she works at the University of Pristina, Faculty of Philosophy - Department of History. She is engaged in all levels of studies. At the Bachelor level, she teaches subject of Contemporary Albanian History and History of European Integration, while at master level she teaches subjects Albanian historiography of the XIX-XX century., History of Kosova 1912-2008 and the Albanian Constitutional and Economic History of the XX century.

She is actively engaged in the advancement of teaching process in the Faculty of Philosophy and in the period when she was the under pressure of anti-Albanian regime during the years 1981-1991, being actively engaged in protecting the autonomy of the University; she contributed with regard to the quality of curricula; adequate representation of history of the Albanians in the curricula of the time; then, she was also engaged in promoting a

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policy based on criterion of the intellectual and professional preparation. She opposed violent measures in the University of Pristina (1991) and consequently, the installed administration of the time removed her from the work. During the nineties of the past century, she has given her contribution by her commitment in promotion of the Peace Movement for the realization of liberty of Kosovo. She was the head of the Association for evidencing and return of displaced Albanians of the Pristina branch etc.

Upon resumption of the work at the University of Pristina, in December 1991, she has contributed on the organization and functioning of the university as chairman of the board of the Faculty of Philosophy. She has contributed to advancement of the reform process at the university, being dedicated especially in the elaboration and approval of the Curricula for History in the spirit of the Bologna Declaration. She has contributed towards the advancement and modernization of curricula for all these levels of education in Kosovo, being a member of the Group of Experts for the Development of the Curricula for primary school system, lower secondary and upper secondary education (the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosova). She has also contributed towards the formation of new scientific personnel, leading the post-graduate at the Department of History (1997-2002). She also gave her contribution as a mentor to a number of aspirants for scientific.

Besides her involvement in academic level, she has conducted scientific activities and was a member of a number of organizational councils of important scientific events, where she has presented the scientific works, too. She was a member of the editorial offices of a number of publications with scientific interest, a member of the Publishing Council of the University of Prishtina

(an editor), a member of the Publisher Council of the Open Society Fund, etc.. She is a member of the Council for History in the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova.

She developed the advanced scientific activities, which she interconnected with new feeds of theoretical social sciences. She published the monograph Albanian-Yugoslav relations 1929-1939, in Prishtina in the year 1997 and she has prepared the monograph Issues from modern Albanian history. She has a number of scientific projects as authorized scripts. As co-author, she published the following works: "History" (Historia), Prishtina 1989; "History" (Historia), 2004 Pristina; "History" (Historia), 2009, Tirana; "Genocide and Genocidal Acts of the Serbian Regime Against Albanians from East Crisis and on" (Gjenocidi dhe aktet gjenocidale të pushtetit serb ndaj shqiptarëve nga Kriza lindore e këtej), ASHAK, Prishtina 1995; "Albanians in the Balkan developments", (Shqiptarët në rrjedhat ballkanike) Prishtina 1996; "Isa Boletini and his time", (Isa Boletini dhe koha e tij) Prishtina 1998; "The Nation (National Union Avenues), "Kombi" Rrugët e bashkimit kombëtar, (New York 1997; "The Committee "National Protection of Kosova", (Komiteti "Mbrojtja kombëtare e Kosovës"), ASHSH, Tirana 2004; "Kosovo an independent and sovereign state", (Kosova shtet i pavarur dhe sovran) ASHAK, Prishtina 2006; "Academic Ali Hadri, his life and work", Prishtina 2008; etc.

## FLORA BROVINA



Flora Brovina is an activist for the women rights, poetess, doctor of pediatrics and a politician. She is both a member of PEN Center and Association of Kosova Writers as well as a member of other PEN Centers.

She was born on 30 September 1949 in Skenderaj. She finished her Elementary School, Secondary School and graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Prishtina, in Prishtina. She worked as a journalist for nine years with the daily Rilindja. She finished the specialization in Pediatric Clinic in Zagreb, where she finished her post-graduated studies.

The life activity of Flora was focused on protection of the human rights and realization of gender equality. She was one among other intellectuals who established the Women's Society, later called Women's Forum of Democratic League of Kosova, which was the first democratic women's organization in ex-Yugoslavia. (7 March 1990). She was Acting President of this Forum up to 1991, when she resigned from Democratic League of Kosova (LDK). In 1992 she established the League of Albanian women and its branches in Macedonia and Presheva Valley.

Flora Brovina established in 1998 the Center for Rehabilitation of Mother and Child in Prishtina. She was an organizer of women's protests and people's protests against the violence in Kosova in the years 1990, 1995, 1997, 1998. She was a co-founder of the Emergent Council of Kosova (1998) and organizer of activities in the field of healthcare activities.

She was jailed on 20 April 1999 and was sentenced by 12 years imprisonment. Due to the firm international pressure, organizations for protection of human rights and Women's Forum of Democratic League of Kosova and other actors, she was released from the jail in November 2000.

In the first Centrral Election she was a candidate for President of Kosova proposed by Democratic Party of Kosova (Partia Demokratike e Kosovës - PDK). As a member of the Parliament, during her first mandate, she lead the Commision on Missing People, whereas during her second mandate she was a member of the Commission for Healthcare, Labor and Social Politics. She is a member of the Presidency of the Democratic Party of Kosova.

She was awarded the Price of Dutch PEN for the Civil Courage, Henri Boell, Tucholski - Sweden, La Ferte - France, Price of Helsinki Committee, American Academy of Science and Arts - San Francisco, Doctors Without Borders - Washington, Millennium for Peace - UNIFEM. She also was granted Gratitude by General Headcounter of Kosova Liberation Army, Zahir Pajaziti - Fifth Zone of Kosova Protection Corpse, The Most Influential Woman in Balkans - Athena, International Alert. She was given the plaque (Mother Theresa (Nëna Tereze) by the President of Albania,

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whereas the National Institute for Integration of Orphans in Albania gave her the Appreciation A Symbol of Human Values. Flora is included in the Albanian Encyclopedia, published by the Academy of Science and Arts of Albania.

## DRITA HALIMI-STATOVCI



ethnological values of Kosova, of the region and wider as well as for the examination and research of the knowledge from the cultural anthropology.

Drita was born in Gjilan, on 14 April 1945. She started to attend her Elementary School in Belgrade and she finished it in Prishtina. She did attend the Gymnasium and basic studies in Prishtina, where she graduated the Department of Geography, Faculty of Philosophy of the Prishtina University (1969). She defended her PhD. thesis in the University of Zagreb, the Department of Geography (1981), where she received the title of Master of Sciences (1973).

Drita dedicated herself to the research of ethnology since 1975, inspired and nourished at a scientific level by her father, Kadri

Drita Halimi-Statovci, an ethnologist, paved the road for the creation of new human resources in a deficit area of ethnology, especially with regard to women. She established the Department of Ethnology (2001) within the Prishtina University (2001) in the post-war period. Therefore, she created preconditions for the research, preservation and presentation of

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Halimi, the first ethnologist in Kosova. She is an Ordinary Professor working with the Faculty of Philosophy, Prishtina University. She also worked with Economic Chamber of Kosova and former Executive Council of the Province of Kosova as a Professional Associate, with the Institute of History and Albanological Institute (Institute for Albanian Studies) - Department of Ethnology, in the capacity of Associate, Chief of the Department of Ethnology and as a Scientific Adviser.

Alongside with her contribution as a professor, Mrs. Drita Halimi-Statovci continued to be active and contribute as a scientific staff and as a promoter of ethnological values through her research on the ground, participation in scientific conferences organized at a national and international level as well as through the publication of the scientific study papers with monographic character and scientific research in the field of ethnology. The field that she treated in her work is a wide one, starting with rituals and songs of in birth tradition (The rite and song in birth tradition, Makedonski Folklor, Shkup, 2001). She also examined changes in folk costumes seen from the perspective of global generalization (Changes in Albanian Folk Clothing from the Perspective of Global Generalisation, Budapest, 2004) as well as the mentality and beliefs on the home (Mentality and Folk Beliefs on the Home, Prishtina, 2003).

She published the monograph "The Historical Development of the Craftsmanship and its Contemporary Importance for Economic and Societal Structure of the Socialistic Autonomous Province of Kosova" (Zhvillimi historik i zejtari së dhe rëndësia e saj bashkëkohore për strukturën ekonomiko-shoqërore të KSA të Kosovës, 1982); "Ethnographic Research" (Kërkime etnografike, 1988); Ethnology Speaks (Etnologjia flet, 1988); "Albanian

Costume of Kosova" (Veshjet shqiptare të Kosovës, 2009). The former work inspired her to organize and lecture the academic research in a form of learning as an performing activity, "An Ethnological Libretto on Costumes (Libretto etnologjik për veshjen) 2010. She also compiled the Album "Let us know - preserve the cultural heritage" (Ta njohim - ta ruajmë trashëgiminë kulturore) 2009. Drita is a co-author in publications in foreign languages that included Albanians, such as the part of research on the "Life and Folk Costumes of Albanians" (Zivljenje Albancev i Albanske narodne noše, Cankarjeva Založba, Ljubljana, 1984) apo Albanien Zwischen Kruz und Halbmond të Statliches Museum fur Volkerkunde (Munchen 1998). Drita also contributed with her portion Folk dress in Kosova (*Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion, Vol. 9, East Europe, Russia, and the Caucas, Part 5: Southeast Europe*, Oxford University Press, 2009). She was a part of the editorial group on the University of Prishtina: "A Life dedicated to a University", Volume I, 2000, Volume II, 2009 (Një jetë për një universitet (vëllimi I: (2000), vëllimi II: 2009).

Together with her students, Drita organized several ethnographic exhibitions in Kosova. She was a Member of Assembly of Kosova during two mandates. (2001-2007).

## NAXHIE ALIBEGU BUÇINCA



Naxhije Alibegu Buçinca was born on 15 April 1935 in Ulqin, Montenegro. She finished the Elementary School in Tirana, progymnasium in Ulqin, whereas the School for Teachers in Prishtina as well as her studies, Albanian Literature and Language, at the University of Prishtina. She worked for a period of four years in the Primary School of Ostros (Montenegro) and for a year in Pistull of Ulqin. She was a teacher of Albanian language in the Primary School "Boris Kidriq" in Vushtrri (Kosova) (1959-1974) and later a deputy-director of the school (1974-1981). She was the Chair of the Cultural Artistic Association Rashid Deda in Vushtrri. She was removed from her work in 1981, because she defended the student's demonstrations and later, in 1985, she was included as a teacher in the Primary School Dardania, Prishtina. She was again removed from her working position following her

removal from the Communist Party (24.7.1989), because she organized staff of the school for the solidarity with Trepça miners.

Naxhia gave a precious contribute as a deputy-president of the Women's Forum of Democratic League of Kosova (LDK, 1991-1995) and as a member of the Presidency (up to the year 1997). She was especially active in the Committee for Education, which was engaged towards the attendance of the school of young girls following the closure of the schools in Albanian language. The above-mentioned Committee was also engaged in the field of eradication of illiteracy, provision of conditions to the girls regarding their way to school free of charge, provision of textbooks and clothing, provision of shelter for students in Prishtina, organizing the Tailoring Courses etc. She continued her engagement later with the Group of Developers and Veterans of the Education (GDVE). GDVE commenced its work with the promotion of the activity of Albanian women and at a later stage it focused against the disintegration of pupils from all education levels as well as with regard to their inclusion in such levels.

She worked to a great extant, especially with Fakete Kusari, towards raising the awareness of young girls regarding their schooling, thus working with over 1.751 young girls during the years 1996-2005. By means of the Women's Forum of Democratic League of Kosova and later by the assistance of Dr. Zylfije Gjoni-Duraku, she organized 10 days vacation in Ulqin for five groups of children with teachers. As a representative of Women's Forum of Democratic League of Kosova she participated in demonstrations in Hague and Brussels against Slobodan Miloshevic's regime (1991). She also participated in the Conference of European and African women in Wien (1984), the World Women's Conference in

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Beijing (1995), and than as an NGO she participated in exchanging experiences between Kosova and USA NGOs (2005) etc.

As a coordinator of GDVE, she organized education activities as well as activities regarding the emancipation of women in rural areas of Kosova. Naxhie was committed to health education of women and in that direction she worked with over 2.330 women in the Municipality of Vushtrri and Mitrovica. She exercised her activity with women living in Ana Morava region – East Kosova, Macedonia and Ulqin. Together with Dr. Zylfije Gjoni-Duraku and Mejreme Maraj, she assisted the shelter and medical care to women and children in 1998, following the expulsion of Albanians from Kosova by Milosevic's regime. After the war, by means of local donators, she helped financially 75 families with women households. Two mandates she was the President of the Board of NGWK, namely up to 2007.

Another merit of Naxhie is that of launching of the Meetings of Albanian poetess (1979), where participate poetess from all Albanian regions and Diaspora. She received an Appreciation from the Gymnasium Eqrem Çabej in Vushtrri as the Parent of Honor, issued by the Assembly of the Municipality of Vushtrri; she was also given the Appreciation from the Directorate for Education of the Assembly of Municipality of Vushtrri; NGWK (2008) and Prime-ministers Office for Special Contribution to the Advancement of the Women's Position in the Society (2008) etc.

## IGBALLE ROGOVA

Igballe Rogova, also known as Igo, is well-known Kosovar activist for the women's rights, who was recognized even at an international level as an advocate for women's rights.

In 1989, along with her sister, Safete Rogova and some intellectuals, founded Sisters Qiriazi association (Motrat Qiriazi). The years of the large national collective resistance were enriched with an farsighted activity of Sisters Qiriazi association, which focused on the awareness raising regarding the rights of women to be equal, to have creative initiatives toward her future, to be more persistent in organizing the family, in affirmation of her values, even on the international relations.

During the years 1994-1995, the association's activity was concentrated in the region of Has, by holding ceaseless meetings with women and girls from Has for their emancipation and awareness of their rights. Many projects were completed for building new schools, opening of high schools, enrichment of schools with libraries. At the same time, were launched courses for



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English learning, and for household, hairdressing, tailoring, driving, etc.

Sisters Qiriazi association sensitized the problem of infrastructure, water, paving of the roads and also worked on the supply with drinking water, the opening of some ambulances in collaboration with association Mother Teresa. The association performed quietly, but each day more and more convincingly. The association published the magazine Being a Woman, made documentary films about the problems of women, took part in protests against massacres throughout Kosova, such as Protests 98, Kosovo is my cradle, In Reqak a voice is calling. It also helped on publishing books, such as a valuable monograph of Demetrius Dishnica Sisters Qiriazi, Shqipe Malushi's poems titled For you and Flora Brovina's poems Call of Kosovo, The activity did not remain only in these directions. Meanwhile audio tapes were made, which were delivered from village to village, library to library, such as Children's tale, Inextinguishable candle, Poetry and benediction (in commemoration of the first anniversary of Mother Teresa's passing to eternity), Arches of the bridges, The verses of poetess, The Screaming of Kosovo, Our Stories and Let's recognize our rights.

A major contribution for the implementation of activities offered the experience of the actress Safete Rogova as well as and her unique voice of an enviable artistic pronunciation. From this association, only in two seasonal quarters, Autumn 1999 - Spring 2000, were made efforts to realize the dramatic text for Mother Theresa, Mother pray for us, of Abdullah Zeneli as well as the TV movie Revival, based on the novel of Margita Markaj.

Naturally that all activists of the association before and following the conflict had been focused on those who were mostly in need of assistance and support, of courage and comfort, aiming to the reduction of the pain. The focus was also enlightening of the lives of such people by course attendance, by reading books and other accompanying activities such as the work with children, gifts that would produce release and hope, ranging from toys to notebooks and drawing blocks, children's work exhibitions, etc. Never can be forgotten the climate created regarding the displaced women in Shipol, and in the camps of Blace and, later, in Cegrane, Neproshten and Tetova, Macedonia.

After-war period was a different chapter. Igballe found support from fellow associations all over Europe and the United States of America in helping the revival of the spirit of traumatized Albanian women. In this regard, the contact of international relations belonged to indefatigable Igballe who, with her culture, her courage to protest at every wild police checkpoint on daily basis during the 90-s, never did stop, showing this way that much remains to be done. In every segment of her work and performance was manifested the most essential aspect of her personality: the commitment of women to further advance her situation in particular, but also to the people in general, the part most affected part of the people - women.

During a 20 years period of the existence of the Association Sisters Qiriazi, the association succeeded to restore with dignity the elevated personality of two sisters Sevasti and Parashqevi Qiriazi, who established the first Albanian School of maidens in

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Korqë (1892) and who were the pioneers of many developments of nationwide interest.

In the year 2000, she co-founded the Women's Network, where even today she is director. The Network comprises 87 women organizations of all ethnicities and regions of Kosovo and advocates the rights of women, supporting, promoting and protecting them.

Igballe contributed concerning the networking of other organizations in the region. In the year 2006 she was the initiators for the establishment of the Coalition of Women for Peace. She also gave great contribution on the establishment of Regional Lobby for Peace, Justice and Security in Southeastern Europe.

Igballe was twice internationally rewarded for her work. In the year 1997 she received the award Woman of the Year in San Francisco, while in Amsterdam, in 1998, she took the prize among the ten most successful female activists in the world.

## SEVDIJE AHMETI



Sevdie was born on 5 November 1944 in Gjakova, where she completed primary and secondary school. She was graduated in English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Pristina. Meanwhile, she studied at the College Hitchin, Hertfordshire, in the branch for the English for the Overseas Proficiency (UK). She studied the bibliography, as a new area of scientific research in Kosova, at the Institute of bibliography in

Belgrade, where she received the title of the bibliographer. She finished the Sub-specialization of the bibliography at the State Library of Romania.

Sevdia worked as a teacher of English language at Secondary school Hajdar Dushi in Gjakova and then she began to work at the National and University Library of Kosova (BPUK, 1968-1990), where she established the Department of Bibliography and the Library The Prizren League at the Complex of Albanian League of Prizren in Prizren (1978). While she was working as a leader and editor of the Division of Bibliographic Research, she was expelled upon the decision of the Parliament of Serbia (1990) and the introduction of emergency measures.

In the year 1987 she organized various events throughout Kosova and the former Yugoslavia against marches in support of Slobodan Milosevic against Albanians. The first written protests on behalf of the imaginary groups Women of the VII Local Community, mothers... or sisters of... she published in the daily Rilindja (February 1989) and TV Pristina. She drafted the letter of BPUK workers in support to miners during the strikes in the galleries of mine Trepca and to students in Hall 1 October in Prishtina. She is one of three women victims of political differentiations, from the list of 83 names of eminent personalities of Kosovo who came out against the regime (1989). In September 1989, following the discussions with colleagues in BPUK to create an independent organization of Albanian women, she drafted the Declaration of the Independent Association of Women in Kosovo. In order to register, together with her colleagues, she managed to obtain over 1200 signatures of women. In October of the same year, women from the Institute of Albanology and editor of Kosovarja, Sanije Gashi, joined the Declaration. The initiative became the women's movement, which included a large number of intellectuals. On 5.3.1990, at the headquarters of the LDK she delivered opening remarks, she read the statement and proposed the Presidency of 9 members when the Independent Association of Women of Kosovo became part of the LDK (later Women's Forum of LDK).

Sevdie published influential political comments in the magazine Kosovarja and other newspapers in and outside Kosova, and she also collaborated with the Council for the Defence of the Human Rights and Freedoms, and by September 1993 she co-founded with Vjosa Dobruna Center for the Protection of Women and Children (CPWC) with its headquarters in Prishtina, where

women and children received health and psychological counseling services for free. CPWC became the voice and refuge for women and children victims of violence throughout the '90s of the past century. The Center was visited by many political, diplomatic and human rights international delegations.

Sevdie proposed the resolution The apartheid in Kosova to the Assembly of Citizens of Europe in Ankara (December 1993). She was invited by the foreign ministries of the Netherlands (February 1994) and Denmark (October 1994) to discuss about apartheid in Kosova in the meetings with politicians and civil society. Together with Edita Tahiri and Edi Shukriu, she drafted the resolution on woman situation in Kosova for the International Women's Conference in Beijing (1995), which then, as coordinator of Women in Conflict, she distributed to 150 governmental delegations in the conference, taking place following the meeting with Benazir Bhutto, Pakistani Prime. In July 1997, in Vienna she drafted resolution on violation of children rights in Kosova, which she handed to Elizabeth Rehn, UN Special Reporter for Human Rights in former Yugoslavia and Swanee Hunt, U.S. Ambassador in Vienna. In November 1997 the UN Assembly adopted the resolution.

After having over 400 daily reports delivered in English on the war in Kosova, distributed through the website and to over 1200 addresses of world personalities, in Paris was published her book *Journal d'une Femme du Kosovo...* including a preface written by Bernard Kouchner, UN SRSG in Kosova. Sevdie continued to monitor the situation of women and girls and of the victims of the rape. During the year 1999 she joined with international organizations and launched the campaign The Rape, a weapon of

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the war, which included rape against women and girls as a crime against humanity in the indictment against Slobodan Milosheviq, set up in The Tribunal of Hague, chaired by international prosecutors Louize Arbour, whom Sevdie offered evidences and which in 2001 were included in the count. She cooperated with the Tribunal providing witnesses and took care to protect witnesses, alive victims of the war, whose life was threatened after the trial. Meantime she contributed the accommodation of some witnesses in third countries.

She received awards from Human Rights Watch: Monitor of the Year 1999, Oak Institute: Oak Fellow 2001, Amnesty International found her among 12 best activists in the world in 2005 etc. DNJ. She lectured the Human Rights at Colby College (USA, 2001 / 2) and was member of the international jury for documentary films on DNJ One World in Prague. CNN and the BBC made documentary about her, The Forgotten Faces of War or I Femme d'Journal du Kosovo (Brussels) as the performances of her biography during the war, etc.).

## AFËRDITA SARAÇINI KELMENDI



Afërdita Saracini Kelmendi was born in Ferizaj on August 27, 1955. Her father Eshrefi and mother Neirja, both veterans of the Albanian education in Kosova, contributed to her education, in particular. She completed the Primary School and Secondary education in Shkup, while the faculty - Albanian Language and Literature at the University of Shkup. In 1976 she began working as teacher in a Primary School in Shkup, being the younger

teacher in Macedonia. In the year 1981, she began to work with Radio Prishtina as a journalist in the editorial board of education, to continue as an editor in the editorial board of the culture.

Month July of the year 1990 found Afërdita along with her colleagues out of jobs when violently banned from working in the Radio Television of Prishtina (RTP). That did not stop her to continue to fight in order to keep journalism alive. Along with her husband Florin Kelmendi, also a journalist, she began working as a correspondent for an Albanian radio based in New York. Later, she became the first female correspondent for a foreign media in Kosova. For a year she worked with Radio France International

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and later she was engaged as a correspondent for the Voice of America. While reporting for several years successively from Kosova, she made her authentic style in journalists, which listeners of the VOA do not forget.

Afërdita's occupation was not only journalism, but also her continued support for women's organizations, with the aim to strengthen the role of women in society. She was founder of the League of Albanian Women and in 1995 with Geraldine Vula she founded the Media Project, a training project for young women in journalism and communication. Women trained in that project were later engaged in journalism, and some of them became leaders of other projects and some are engaged in politics. Media project published for a consecutive year, every month, the social magazine ERITREA. Afërdita was part of an international project and part of Living Waters, where for four years was trained in managing and conflict resolution. She also holds the title of a Trainer in management and conflict resolution.

Afërdita's vision that one day she would establish an independent electronic media became reality. Her faith that this can be done, even in an inopportune time, when providing broadcasting frequencies was not possible, will be achieved with several colleagues, by applying the technology of 21st century at the end of the 20th century. In 1998, Radio 21 commenced to work, thus being the first Albanian Radio broadcasted on the Internet, while production TV 21 also began to work. Reports and films were broadcasted in international media, including CCN World Report, whilst Radio 21 broadcasted through BBC World as well. She managed to Implement new program and technological enterprises, with a high degree of technological and television programming in the region and beyond, with her colleagues who

believed in and stood near to her, as Florin Kelmendi, Gjeraldina Vula, Eugjen Saraqini, Ekrem Kelmendi, as well as supported by other friends from Kosova and international context. When it seemed impossible, RTV 21 managed to send the signal to the U.S.A. RTV21 today has five television channels and its IPTV platform that allows it to be seen worldwide. Platform with 11 TV channels are likely to be seen today in IPHONE and IPAD.

The year 1999 found Afërdita with family in the war between physical and professional existence. She was deported violently to Macedonia and then she was waiting for colleagues at Blace to get together and start the work of Radio 21, already opened in Shkup. Radio 21 was a restored and its work proved to be one of the reliable media, which helped to inform the displaced population in camps in Macedonia and within Kosova. Radio 21 from Shkup, in addition to the Internet, was broadcasted through Radio Netherlands on short wave.

Dedication and courage of Afërdita in journalism was estimated by the International Women Media Foundation, which awarded her with the annual award for Courage in journalism (Courage in Journalizm Awards, 1999). The Award Wardolf Astoria she received in New York and in Beverly Hills of Los Angeles. She won the Judy Woodruff Fellowship. She became a strong voice in the U.S.A., giving testimony on April 1999 in the U.S. Senate and Congress regarding the events that took place in Kosova. She was present in the largest electronic media, including and Lary King Live, and in print media, too. She spoke in the meeting with First Lady Hillary Clinton in the White House and with Secretary of State, Madelen Albright.

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In June of the year 1999, after NATO troops entered Kosova, she worked on establishment of Radio 21 and TV 21. Afërdita brought around herself people who believe in her vision and became part of this vision, according to her also being this the key to the success of the company. In her opinion, women are very important in the process of social development because, according to her, they are more sensitive, are good organizers, focused and persistent and give more importance to details that are important for any enterprise. To her, also, women are very important even for decision-making processes within a society, and she stresses that the media as promoter are important for the promotion of women. She also states that the development heavily depends on the sense of media promoted in supporting women in the society and also this development depends very much upon the presentation of women to the public. Given the fact that language as a communication tool attracts or refuses, Afërdita feels that women politicians have to use special nuances of language that affect most of the public, not the language of male politicians.

Afërdita is concerned with the issue of qualitative and quantitative presentation of women in parliament and in decision-making positions and she is also aware that in the context of societies in transition the model of quota is chosen, as was done in Kosova. In this regard, she said: *But whether the number of quota is met or not does not matter, since quality is important, because of the people who run this place! Who are those who lead - they are men, because they are the majority in decision-making processes within institutions! In this regard, we imposed quantity and quality but not always. In elections, it is important that women come to bring quality, not number. But with time this will change. And as we are both patient and persistent, we will take advantage of the time. It comes. Because we work to come.*

## ARJETA REXHAJ



Arjeta Rexhaj was born on August 19, 1972 in Peja, in a family with patriotic and intellectual traditions. She completed primary and secondary school in Peja, studied the Medicine Faculty in University of Prishtina, and graduated from for Political Sciences and Public Administration -in Prishtina. At present, she is a candidate for Master Studies in Political Sciences – Section of Diplomacy at the University of Southeast Europe, Tetova, Macedonia.

Being a member of the Presidency of ADK (Democratic Alternative of Kosova) and the Head of Department for Gender Equality of the Party, in spring 2010 Arjeta was appointed as a Political Adviser to the Minister of Public Administration.

She was among the first one who worked in the field of gender equality, not because there were no other priorities, but because in the post-war period in Kosovo it was a priority the struggle for existence, recovery from trauma and suffering. Upon the establishment of the Gender Training and Research Centre in Pristina in January 2000, Arjeta Rexhaj broke this taboo. With her

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vision, and first of all with her dedication, continuous education and training, she achieved to be a model of success in liberated and, then, independent Kosovo.

During the last eleven years she has worked at local, regional and international level with NGOs, companies, academic institutions and intergovernmental agencies in the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe and the USA. In collaboration with the Women's Center in Tirana and the support of donors, which were sensitive towards women issues, she selected and assisted the establishment of the first group of women trainers on gender issues, management, organizational, and strategic development.

Arijeta started the path of changes since 1998 in the Mother Teresa Association in Peja, afterward as a Coordinator of Trainings in Regional Centre in Tirana (a project of Women Centre , Tirana, 1999), and reached the managerial position in 2000 where up to 2010 she was the Executive Director of the Gender Training and Research Centre. During this period, she was a project manager of 'Capacity building for NGOs with Gender component', project manager of 'Promotion of political and social rights of women', "Election System Reform/ seen from the women perspective", "The vote of women is the voice of women". Arijeta also was an adviser on gender policies and social development at local, regional and international level. She is known as an experienced manager experienced in the area of civil society with expertise on issues of advocacy, gender, and development of institutional and individual capacities, strategic development, public education and fundraising.

Arjeta has attended many training courses, which contributed to the enrichment of her profile and her activities in performed in

the field of education and capacity building, thus becoming one of the most professional staff, most competent and with widened perspective in the area of gender equality/fairness. Arjeta is certified in the program for empowerment of women "Hope Fellowship" organized by the Albanian-American Council and supported by State Department of the USA, during which program she has accumulated a lot of skills, professionalism and ability related to advocacy and lobbying for the position of women, a knowledge that has been successfully transferred and used in Kosovo. She is also certified by the Council of Europe School for Political Program, organized by the Institute for Political Studies - Prishtina and supported by the Council of Europe. Her lobbying skills for the issues and position of women in our society, fight against marginalization of women in decision making/political positions were strengthened during one year program "Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project' USAID - Training of Trainers Program in Advocacy, organized by the Advocacy Training and Resource Center, Prishtina and Shevolution, UK.

Arjeta is full of energy, enthusiasm and convinced that only with hard work the changes regarding best representation of women in their deserved place can be achieved. She was involved in many projects since 1999 up to present, with regional and international organizations, various agencies, and she is the initiator and participant in creation of many groups of women and youth for empowering women/youth in politics and decision-making in Kosovo.

A great part of her motivation is deposited by being involved in many projects/strategies, national action plans, draft laws, regulations, laws on gender policies and social projects since 2000

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in Kosovo. She is quite active in the field of advocacy and lobbying for the inclusion of gender perspective in public policies. She was a part of many working groups from the initiation to preparation of many documents and laws, such as the Law on Gender Equality, National Action Plan for implementing the UN Resolution 1325, etc.

Arijeta is qualified as an expert in the area of gender equality, trainer at local, regional and international level licensed by several international and local agencies (USAID, ATRC, PIPS, NPA, Center for Women War Victims in Croatia, DeMeTra and Women's Center of Tirana, SEESAC, UNDP ) in the areas of Advocacy and Lobbying, Communication Skills, Gender, Empowerment of Women in Politics and Decision-Making, Managerial Skills, Public Speech, Human Rights (violence, trafficking, security, health), etc.

She also participated in many trainings and workshops, summer schools inside the country and abroad. Arjeta is the co-author of the study "The vote of woman is the voice of woman", a publication of the Gender Training and Research Centre, co-author of the survey "Towards Gender Equality with Information and Communication Technology" and the author of various articles on gender and development of civil society, such as "Women and political decision making in Kosovo, challenges and perspectives' etc.

Arijeta organized many national conferences / roundtables for women in the media in order to address the concerns about the image and position of women journalists in the media, the position of women in politics / decision making etc. Arjeta Rexhaj achieved her success step by step and this proves the motivation,

enthusiasm for work and the idea that the goal she wants to achieve can be achieved by showing skill, professionalism, and efficiency in the teamwork, especially in managerial tasks. During her career she received a number of awards and praises.

### ATIFETE (IBRAHIM) JAHJAGA

Atifete Jahjaga is known in post-war Kosova as a commander who radiated confidence understanding. She completed a number of courses and vocational trainings, that enriched her scope of schooling and professional upgrading. She became one of the most professional, apt and prospective human resources of the Police of Kosova.

She was born in 20 April 1975 in Gjakova, descending from a progressive family, which was isolated and persecuted during the Communist regime. She finished the Elementary and Secondary School in Prishtina, and graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Prishtina University. She finished the Post-Graduate Certification in police Management and the Penal Code at the Leicester University in England (2006-2007) and Post-Graduate Certification in Criminology Sciences at the University of Virginia, USA, whereas at present she is pursuing her Master studies in the field of Civil Issues at the Prishtina University.



There were not many woman working with police and military and there were less cases when such woman build a carrier in such professions, which were considered "tough" and almost exclusively dedicated to the man. Atifete Jahjaga is the one who broke the rule. Based on her continual schooling and, above all, based on her courage and dedication, she managed that in the liberated and independent Kosova become an example of the

success in the professional field. She started her carrier as a simple woman-police and she succeeded in becoming a Commander of the Police of Kosova. She started as a patrolling police and she received all the grades, reaching to the grade of the General, as the highest grade in the Police of Kosova.

Atifete is the sole woman in Kosova, in the region and wider, who performed all the leading positions of a police, being in almost all guiding positions. During her activity within the Police of Kosova, she got engaged in all the issues of police and worked in all profiles: patrolling, investigation, border police, training and administration issues. She worked as an investigator with the Unit of Professional Standards of the Police of Kosova; she was an assistant of the Director of the Police of Kosova; Deputy-Chief of the Office of Human Resources; Special Assistant of the Deputy-Commissioner of the Administration of the Policy of Kosova; Deputy-Commander for the Border Police, Head of the Department of Trainings, Assistant and Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources (Personnel) and Trainings; Deputy of the General Director of the Police of Kosova and for a certain period of time she worked as Acting of the General Director of the Police of Kosova.

As a member of the Police of Kosova she is the only person who was two times a part of strategic groups within the UN in the capacity of a local expert regarding the establishment of a framework of the strategy of peace-keeping missions in gender representation concerning the peace-keeping missions. She is one of the initiators and drafters of all organizational strategies and reforms of the Kosova Police Service and later of the Police of

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Kosova and also carried out projects for promotion of the role of Police.

In a great number of courses and trainings, successfully finished, she gained a comprehensive knowledge and experience, thus becoming qualified in management, professional standards, investigation, decision-making issues and problems of democratic governance, in evaluation courses of higher commanding, in the courses of law enforcement and law implementation, in the war against terrorism and challenges in intergovernmental and international cooperation and collaboration. She went through certain trainings in the European Center for Security Studies George C. Marshall in Germany and in the National Academy of FBI and Department of the Justice in the USA.

The general became an example of a success based on her dedication, skills and professional development, correct conduct in the office and her support to rule of law and implementation of professional procedures. Thanking to her activity, she contributed towards upgrading the standards of the Police of Kosova to the level of Euro-Atlantic countries aiming, thus, to become a real and skilled partner in cooperation and partnership with international missions.

Her carrier in Police of Kosova was qualified as professional, conscientious and successful. Her example served as an incentive to other women in Kosova, wherever they were engaged and she demonstrated that the success in carrier can be reached and based on schooling, professional development and dedication to work.

She made her progress gradually and this is an evidence of a persistence towards the goals, showing, thus, distinguished skills in the team work, especially in leading tasks and duties. This is

why she received a number of awards and appreciations regarding her work and commitment as well as for her cooperation with police international forces and KFOR forces in Kosova. A part of appreciations and awards were given due to her cooperation with the State Department of the USA, FBI, DEA etc. She was nominated as an Ambassador of Peace by the Universal Peace Federation of UN.

## SHYHRETE TAHIRI - BESIMI



Shyhrete Tahiri - Besimi is the founder and president of the NGO Gruaja Sot (Women Today) in Prizren. She is a teacher of mathematics and an activist for human and national rights. She served as model for the engagement of women in the Municipality of Prizren and broader.

She was born in 1947 in Prizren, from father Veli (Asllan) Tahiri and mother Fadile Elezi. She completed her Primary School, Gymnasium and Higher Pedagogical School - Branch of Mathematics in Prizren, where she started working as a teacher of mathematics in Primary School Emin Duraku (1968), and afterwards passed to another school, Matej Logoreci (1975), where she continues to work. Very early she experienced the repressions of the communist Yugoslav regime and the consequences of the partition of the ethnic Albanian territories. The fixing of borders between Albanians, Yugoslavia - Albania, made her mother part from her family in Kukës to never see them again. Her father, an activist of the Albanian National Democratic Movement (ANDM), was arrested in 1957 and imprisoned for many years. Although they were a target of the regime, the patriotic tradition was carried on by the children of the Tahiri family. Sister, Edita Tahiri, became one of the most important

leaders of the movement for liberty; she was a Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosova (1991 – 1999), a negotiator in the Rambouillet Conference and other conferences, always in the function of her ideals for self-determination and the building of the state of Kosova. The other sister, Myfide Tahiri-Cecelia, transmitted the patriotic spirit of the family in various manifestations, having an active role in the Movement for liberty in the Democratic League of Kosovo, and later on in the Democratic Alternative of Kosova.

Very early she got engaged in the fight for freedom and the right for self determination of the Albanians in Kosova and former Yugoslavia. She was amongst the first organizers of the first demonstrations after the Second World War in Prizren (6.10.1968). During the period (1989-1999), she particularly contributed to the movement for liberty, becoming one of the founders and part of the leadership in the Women's Forum of DLK in Prizren, and an active member of LDK's Branch in Prizren. She was member of the Presidency of the Association for Eradication of Illiteracy Motrat Qiriazi, delegate of the Assembly of the Women's Forum of the Democratic League of Kosovo, President of the Commission on Women's Rights, member of the Presidency of the Women's Forum of DLK – Prizren Branch, President of the Women's Forum of DLK in sub-branch 2 Korriku in Prizren, member of the Presidency of the DLK in sub-branch 2 Korriku in Prizren, co-founder of the reformatory party branch Democratic Alternative of Kosovo, and member of the branch presidency in Prizren. She participated in various organization of manifestations in Kosova: national elections in DLK's sub-branch 2 Korriku in Prizren (1992), collecting and distributing humanitarian assistance to the miners of Trepça and to the impoverished families in the region of

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Prizren, collecting assistance for the Gynecological Department in Prizren hospital (1991-1993), organizing the 100th Anniversary of the Albanian School for Girls in Prizren (1992), etc.

For a long time, Shyhyrete's house served, as a center for various meetings and gatherings, including issues related to women. The same house served as a school for the students of the Medical High School and the Higher Pedagogical School in Prizren, during the time when the Albanian pupils and students were evicted from their educational facilities. She accomplished all this together with her family, at a time when such actions were risky. With the support of her family, she backed such actions which were harshly punished. She was a delegate in the Second International Conference Women in the XXI st Century, held in Ohër (Macedonia, 2002), the first Forum of NGO's in Kosova, Prishtina, the Second Congress of the Albanian League in the World in Tirana (Albania, 2007), as well as other gatherings (round-tables, seminars).

The Directorate of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Issues of the Municipality of Prizren, School Matej Logoreci (ex - 17 Nëntori, 1986), Directorate on Education of the Municipality of Prizren (2008) and the Presidency of the Women's Forum of DLK, Prizren Branch (2002), awarded her with appreciations for her contribution in the educational process, for public issues and for her work and sacrifice for a democratic Kosova.

## FLORA MACULA

Flora Macula, UNIFEM Central and Eastern Europe Programme Peace and Governance Adviser

Over 17 years involved in women's human rights activities, Flora Macula is known as a supporter of the women's organizations, women in politics and women in general not only in Kosovo but in entire western Balkan's countries. She contributed on strengthening cooperation among women's NGOs, networks, and women in different sectors (political, public, civil society, media, business, etc.) and facilitated strategic partnerships between experts, gender equality advocates and public and governmental institutions in all SEE countries. From 1992 she was engaged in different activities with civil society. In 1998- till 21 March 1999 worked with women and youth as an International Rescue Committee (IRC) Outreach Programme Manager in Kosovo, as a Refugee Camp Co-supervisor in Macedonia (Neproshteno) and as a Field Coordinator for a community building initiative in Gostivar municipality (Macedonia 1999). Upon return to Kosovo in July 1999, developed the IRCs Capacity - Building Programme for the benefit of local communities, and managed three programme components; Community building programme, Women's groups, and NGO sector.



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From June 2000 worked for UNIFEM as a Project Manager of the Kosovo Project Office. Supported women's efforts on institutionalization of Gender mechanisms within governmental institutions, and on developing the National Action Plans for Gender Equality (NAP) and Gender Equality Laws in Kosovo, Albania, Monte Negro, and Serbia. Particularly in 2002 in Kosova she coordinated the development of the NAP by bringing together women activist, women in politics, in media, business and government. It was the first strategy developed in Kosovo which was endorsed by government, thanks to advocacy of women from all sectors. In close collaboration with national partners initiated the creation of pool of trainers on Gender equality in different areas and supported capacity development of more than 70 lawyers on gender and legislation.

She trained more than 2500 women and men in Kosova and the region on Gender mainstreaming, Human Rights Protection Systems, strategy development, security and gender, and governance systems.

In 2000–2003 initiated and developed the training programme and conducted the trainings on Integration of gender issues into the Municipality structures and practices which resulted with the establishment of the Gender Equality Committees in 14 Municipality Assemblies. She was awarded by UN HQ and presented by Flora as one of the best practices in the world forum of municipalities in Belgium, 2002. From 2003 till present particularly supported the actions on gender mainstreaming within Security sectors such as: Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), Kosovo Police, and Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development (Police Academy). From 2004 she supported the national and regional activities on women, peace and security such

as; inclusion of women from Serbia and Kosovo in the negotiations over the future status of Kosovo as well sub-regional (Western Balkans) advocacy for advancing the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. In BiH facilitated the collaboration of women's organizations with UN and European Civilian Missions (EUPM, EUFOR) and governmental security actors and their joint actions in the field, in Kosovo through establishment of the Security and Gender Coordination Group composed by Governmental Institutions, Women's Organizations, 9 UN agencies, EULEX, EUSR, OSCE and NATO. She initiated regional activities by organizing the consultation meetings between the Security sectors and Police units from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo.

In the period of 2005-2007 provided technical assistance to the governmental and nongovernmental institutions and international organizations on gender equality in Albania.

Since 2005 supported the establishment of and coordinate the activities of the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice composed by prominent women in politics and women human rights activists from Albania, BiH, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia, and support inter-ethnic dialogue activities in Kosovo and BiH.

Flora Macula is a Human Rights Expert and Trainer, expert on regional governance systems and gender machineries

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Flora Macula has a MA degree on European Integration and Law<sup>1</sup>, CIFE - Centre International de Formation Européenne in Nice, France with Master thesis on Coherence and implementation of the International (UN) and European Union instruments on human rights/ women human rights in post conflict situations - Kosovo case study.

She is certified Human Rights Based Approach trainer- by United Nations System Staff College in Turin. The certified Social-Economy and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) Trainer- by FAO - Gender Division in Rome, Italy.

She participated at UNIFEM's and UN's global strategic planning events in New York , Almaty, Vienna, Brindisi, and in global conferences all over the world.

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<sup>1</sup> MA Programme on European Integration and Law CIFE - Centre International de Formation Européenne in Nice

## AJSHE BASHIQI



Ajshe Bashiqi was born on 2.8.1937 in Plava of Montenegro. Her father was a tailor of Albanian national dressing and her mother was dealing with handiwork, especially knitting the carpets. Her parents tried to provide the education to all their children. Her mother became the family-keeper during the World War II and after. At school she went with her brother, barefooted and wearing dresses embroidered from

her mother, from the blanket of humanitarian aid. She had only a pencil and this she shared with her brother. She was exemplary and, in the environment where she was, it was considered not acceptable to allow the continuation of education of the girl who left behind her classmates. Thus, her father was invited to the school and was advised to withdraw Ajshe from school. Her father did what patriarchal society asked him, but that did not prevent Ajshe to continue her education elsewhere.

She finished the Evening School for Women in 1957 in Belgrade, in the branch of Steno-typing. She waited three years for employment in her home country and in the year 1961 she

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competed in the Municipal Court in Suha Rekë (Kosova) for a job place as minute taker, translator Albanian-Serbian and general clerk. From her wage she supported her family in Plava and studies of her brothers. Thus, from 8 children of the family, 7 of them completed the superior education. In the year 1972, as part time student, she enrolled in the Faculty of Laws in Prishtina. She managed to graduate in this faculty in 1976, despite her obligations at work and care for her two children. From the year 1977 to 1980 she worked as a Lawyer of the Legal Aid in Suha Rekë. In the year 1980 she was appointed as Chair of the Minor Offences Court in Suha Rekë, and in 1987 was entrusted with the position of Municipal Public Lawyer. In difficult economic and political circumstances, she worked in favor of the population and not politics.

In the year 1990, the government of the time dismissed her from office and banished from work. In the beginning of the same year 1990, she joined LDK. In March of the year 1990, with Edita Tahiri, she became one of the leaders of the movement of women in Prizren. Along with Edita, they managed to gather over 5000 women activists during a day. The meeting was held at the Sports Center of Prizren, which was surrounded by Yugoslavian police troops. In that meeting, the branch of Women's Forum of LDK was formed and the independence of Kosova was voted. Nothing could stop them to further develop their activity, quite the contrary. With much enthusiasm and in extremely difficult security and financial conditions, they worked to further mobilize and organize women in Prizren, Suha Reka and surrounding villages. In the years 90's she took part in the reconciliation and blood-forgiveness, going even to far away mountain villages, along with Anton Qeta.

Despite the risks, she found strength to help refugees that were expelled from villages and passed through Prizren to flee to Albania.

## SALA AHMETAJ

Sala Ahmetaj was born in Radishevë of Skënderaj, on 12 July 1950. She completed the Primary School in Runik, while the High School in Mitrovica. She finished her studies in Albanian Language and Literature, Department of Albanian Language and Literature, Faculty of Philosophy in Prishtina, where she received her Master Degree (1988). She defended her doctoral thesis "The theory and practice of articulation of the sentence in the field of syntax studies of Albanian Language" at the Faculty of Philology.



Since the year 1978 she works with the Faculty of Philology at the University of Prishtina, where since 1998 she is lecturing the subject of Albanian Syntax and Culture. She was active on the work and scientific discussions in the framework of activities organized in the Faculty of Philology. For many years she is participant in the instruction at the International Seminar for Language, Literature and Albanian Culture. She is a member of the Steering Council of this seminar, the supervisor of references in the field of linguistics and in charge of the language courses. She took part in scientific conferences with commentaries, organized by the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova, the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Albania, by Institute of Albanology of Prishtina, the State University of Tetova, the University of Shkodra etc.

She published professional and scientific paper studies in the field of syntax, the culture of language, the stylistic language etc. Such were: The rate and development of Language (Academy of Sciences of Albania, Institute of Language and Literature; The national literary language and Albanian world today, (Scientific Conference 20-21.11.1992 Tirana; The copular Verbs and their Syntax function (Dardania Sacra 2, Prishtinë 2000); Standard Language in Literature (SNGJLKSH, Prishtina 2002); Standard Language and the National Strategy (Institute of Albanology of Prishtina, 50 years of Albanological Studies, Prishtinë 2004); Aspects of culture of the Language in the work of Academic Idriz Ajeti ( ASHAK, Albanian Philosophical Studies, Prishtina 2007); The Copular Verbs and Functional Verbs in Albanian language (ASHAK-The Academy of Sciences of Albania, Albanian Philosophical Studies, The Conference of Science, November 2007, Prishtina; Standard language and its implementation, the International Seminar of Albanology (Tetova 2007); The contribution of Eqrem Çabej for Standard Albanian (SNGJLKSH, Prishtina 2007); The National aspect of the solution given by the Congress of Manastir (Academy of Sciences of Albania, The Conference of Science: 100th anniversary of the Congress of Manastir, Tirana 2008), etc.. She also published articles for the gender equality affairs and other affairs, too, such as Women and the effort for prestige (Koha Ditore, 10.22.2003), Shotë Galica, the nation hero (Institute of History, Prishtinë 2003); Feminism as confrontation of creative world, commentary in the scientific session on Meetings of poets, Vushtrri 2010.

For two mandates she was deputy of the Assembly of Kosova and she also contributed with regard to the drafting of laws in the field of education and culture. She took part in debates organized

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by media and by non-governmental organizations, with the purpose of promoting gender equality. She is one of drafter of the National Plan for Achieving Gender Equality, sponsored by UNIFEM and of the Law on Gender Equality, too.

Sala is convinced that the gender equality is the value that is to be achieved by promoting strategies and ideas on women awareness.

## SAFETE ROGOVA



Safete Rogova is one of the prominent personalities coming from the field of cultural and artistic life, who is admired for her dedication during her life devoted to the art and theatrical scene, to her family and humanity. She is a symbol of a life devoted to the art, scenic interpretation, goodness, the pleasure coming from a successfully realized role, a successful staging as a result of the performance as a whole. She played over 100 theatrical roles.

Safete was born in Gjakova, on 1 March 1946. She finished her Elementary and Secondary School in her birthplace, whilst she graduated from the Albanian Language and Literature in the Faculty of Philosophy. She also graduated the High School for Acting in 1968. Since 1969 she works as an actress with the National Theatre of Kosova.

The last decade of the past century was a decade of resistance, a decade of struggling for the survival and fighting the evil. While refusing the contaminated political regime, in 1989, together with Nuredin Loxha, her partner in life and in the theatrical scene, and with her sister Igballe Rogova, she established the Association for women's education "Sisters Qiriazi" (Motrat Qiriazi).

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This was a new mission and an opportunity more for the spirit of a humanist. The association had undertaken a task, initiated a program and specified within its status likewise similar Associations throughout the world to reach there when the momentum called for, to help Albanian mothers and sisters, to offer assistance to those women who were experiencing the collective abandonment.

Association "Motrat Qiriazi" enriched the years of great collective and national resistance with a visionary activity, which, among other things, contributed to the awareness raising of the women regarding her gender equality, creative initiatives towards their future, their insistence and firmness in organizing and creating their families as well as concerning the affirmation of their values. The Association began its work silently, but every day in and out it presented itself with convincing results. The Magazine "To be a woman", documentary films about the women problems, various protests, various publications and presentations had a strong impact.

By the passage of time, the association more and more enlarged. All the Association's activists, prior and after the war in Kosova, were close to the people most in need of assistance and support, encouragement and relief, by enriching their life by offering courses, reading of books, activities with children, promissory gifts ranging from toys to copybooks. Special attention was given to the reading of books, thus establishing dozens of libraries in Has and Mitrovica region, prior and after the war. Activities were focused in Has region, Viti, Mitrovicë, Shipol, especillay during the period of displacement and when the war took the dimensions of a general popular resistance.

The courage of sisters Rogova to protest against any police station of the time, which became their everyday style of life, made them ceaseless in their activity.

Post-war period of Safete was a different chapter. The Association received the support by other fellow associations worldwide in helping the regeneration of traumatized soul of Albanian women.

Safete never took a rest, not even when she was faced with barriers during her work and life. She did not neglect the art, even though she was to a great extant engaged with her activities within the association. The Association Motrat Qiriazi created and articulated various messages through theatrical presentations and documentary films in its struggle to be as close as possible to the women.

Some of the theatrical presentations dedicated to the woman are the following: "Our confessions" (Rrëfimet tona); "Let us Know our rights" (Ti njohim të drejtat tona); "I, the Woman" (Unë gruaja); "The Wraith of Teuta" (Faničja e Teutës); "Mother prays for you us" (Nëna lutet për ne); "Arches of the Bridges" (Harqet e urave); "An Appeal to Kosova" Thirrje Kosovës; "To You, My Sister" (Për ty motër); "This is my home" (Kjo është shtëpia ime); "The Congress of Manastir / 100 Anniversary (Kongresi Manastirit / 100 vjetori); "Never more" (Confessions of women during the war). Kurrë më (rrëfime të grave gjatë luftës).

## SUADË DOKO-MEKULI

Suadë Doko-Mekuli was the first Albanian woman architect in Kosova and a professor at the Technical Faculty of the Prishtina University.

She was born in 1931 in Ohër. She finished her Elementary and Secondary School in Ohër, whereas she completed her studies in the field of architecture at the Technical Faculty of Shkup University (1958). When she graduated, she worked with

Prishtina Construction Company Ramiz Sadiku and after the establishment of the Sector of Projecting she became Chief of this Sector. During 1962-1967 she worked with Projecting Office Kosmetprojekt as the designer in charge and chief of projecting group.

She commenced her job as a teacher at the Secondary Technical School in Prishtina (1967), whereas in 1968 she was selected as an Assistant ad later Lecturer (1970) at the Technical Faculty of Prishtina University for subjects Architectonic Constructions I and II at the Department of Construction and Architectonic Constructions III at the Department of Architecture. She devoted herself to human resources production and, in general, to the elevation of educational level in Kosova, giving her contribution to the qualification of Albanian experts of higher level. She offered a special contribution to the establishment of the Department of



Architecture, where she was appointed as a Chief in 1978. She was the President of the Provincial Committee for Education, Science and Culture of Kosova, Member of Education Committee of Kosova, Member of Steering Committee of the Office for Urbanism and Municipal Habituating Issues of the Prishtina Assembly and Deputy-Dean at the Technical Faculty of the Prishtina University.

In 1991, following the introduction of emergency measures to the Prishtina University when education was facing a ponderous challenge, she, like many other Albanians, was expelled from her position. She continued her lecturing within extremely hard working conditions in Private premises, in moister environment, without heating and teaching means and, above all, under the permanent pressure of regime of the time.

During her carrier, both as a engineer in charge and collaborator, she carried out a great number of projects, such as the premises of the Faculty of Philosophy in Prishtina, Main Post Office in Prishtina, Center for Dumb and Dull Children in Prishtina, Factory of Furniture in Ferizaj, Pharmaceutical Factory Farmakos in Prizren, Specialist Ambulance in Prizren, the premises of the Court in Viti, Center for Mother and Child in Vushtri, Daycare Center in Vushtri, Tobbaco Store in Mitrovica, Huntsman Center in Sharr, the Post in Deçan etc. A result of her activity is a great number of the projects of the premises of collective housing such as these in Prishtina, Peja, Gjakova, Rahovec, Malishtgan or Shtërpca.

## LEJLA HAXHIU PULA



Lejla Haxhiu Pula, a pianist and a pedagogue, was engaged in upgrading the level and the professional quality of the musical life, especially with regard to piano, as well as in discovering and promoting piano young talents always keeping in mind that the music be at its descent place in Kosovar society. Lejla is an Ordinary Professor of the subject Piano, which is the main subject in the Department of the Music of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prishtina.

In 2006 she established the Piano-players Association Bell'Arte Kosova, whereas since 2009 she is the President of The Kosovar Association Chopin, which is a member of International Federation of the Associations of Chopin, with its main quarter in Wien, and a member of UNESCO. This Association organized in 2010, Prishtinë, the first Festival Chopin-Pianofest in the 200th anniversary of the birth of Chopin.

Lejla was born on 8 July 1959. She started to learn piano when

she was eight years old in the Low Music School in Prishtina, where she also finished the Secondary School of Music, the Direction of Piano, alongside with the Gymnasium. She studied in the Faculty of Arts - Department of Piano, Prishtina University, (1977-1981) during the time where there were lecturing and working worldwide distinguished professors coming from Moscow, Evgenij Koroljov and Ivetta Cekullaeva Dimcevska. Thus, together with her colleagues, she was offered the opportunity to make an utmost professional use from pedagogues of one of the most well-known piano schools of the world.

After her graduation in the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina, she continued post-graduate studies at the University of Music, Belgrade, the class of well-known Russian piano-player and pedagogue, Igor Lasko. She successfully defended her Master Thesis in 1986 and she was awarded a special recognition in a form of artistic review. In 1982 she was hired as an Assistant with the Piano Department of the Faculty of Art, Prishtina University. There, up to 1988, she had the opportunity to cooperate with distinguished piano professors such as Igor Lasko, Arbo Valdma, Liza Shuica Babic, Nada Kecman etc., that enabled her to gain an extraordinary experience and precious enrichment of professional knowledge, of the methods and pedagogical practices of piano teaching. She was the President of the Music Youth of Kosova ((1975-1981)) and the President of Association of Music Artists of Kosova (1988-1999).

During her piano education, she had a lot of piano presentations, such the one in the town of Krime, Soviet Union (1973); then in World Camp of Children; The Congress of Youth Music in Paris (1976); Shkup, Novi Sad, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Tirana,

## THE VALUES OF KOSOVA WOMEN

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Dubrovnik, Opati, Zagreb, Rovinj, Lubjana etc. She performed at the soloist formation in the Summer Games of Dubrovnik, which was a celebrated Festival at the international level (Croatia, 1981), where she was concerting with Symphonic Orchestra of the Radio-Television of Prishtina the opus Concert for Piano and Orchestra No. 4 of Beethoven. Lejla developed her concert activity as a soloist and a member of various chamber ensembles, such as Trio Kosova (piano, flute, clarinet), as well as in duo formation with her colleagues Hanelore Prante Dervishi, Sihana Badivuku etc.

During eighties of the past century, Mrs. Lejla participated in important Festivals, such as Music Scene of Prishtina, The Days of Kosovar Music, or the Forum of Musical Compositionin Opati, Croatia. In 1994 she was a participant in The Days of Kosovar Culture held in Germany, together with clarinetist Q. Bobaj and flute player V. Mehmetagaj and she concerted in Bon, Bernhajn and Bingen. She continued with piano presentations with the Orchestra of Radio and Television during the years 1985-1987, when she played The Concert for Piano and Orchestra No. 2 of S. Rachmaninov and Concert for Piano and Orchestra op. 20 of Alexabder Skrjabinit. For her performance in the concert of Skrjabini she was awarded with the Annual Price of Kosova Self-Government Community for Culture. In 1986 Mrs. Lejla played in the Rachmaninov Concert with Philharmonic of Macedonia, in its Universal Hall in Shkup. She performed in other soloist concert during this period of time in Kosova and out of it, such as concerting in the Kollarac University of Belgrade, the Hall C. Zuzoriq as well as in the Hall of Students Cultural Centre of this University (1985-1986). She played in the soloist recital in Zagreb as well as the concerting in Duo with H. Prante Dervishin ( flute) in 1987. Her presentations with Haneloren continued in Lubjana and The Days of Music in Herceg - Novi (1987- 1988).

During the grave period of the repression in Kosova (1991-1999) and the work performed by Albanian parallel institutions, she intensely cooperated in performing concerts with violinist, Sihana Badivuku when they organized recitals in Prishtina (Shën Ndou Church), Peja, Mitrovica, Prizren, and Tetova. This activity was developed under extremely harsh conditions, because doors of the Concert Halls were closed to Albanian artists living in Kosova. Her participation, during this period, in Shtutgart, Germany (1997), when presenting in sign of the Days of Kosova Culture, was also a remarkable success.

After the 1999 War, she was living with her family for a time in Graz of Austria, where she continued with her concerting activities and pedagogic engagement. From this period of her activity, it is marked the philanthropic Recital-Concert held at the University of Graz (1999). She continued her concerting activity in Wien where she performed a Soloist Recital in the Hall of the Society for Music and Theater (2000), than in Graz City Museum (2002, 2003), Music Saloon Erfurt (2004, 2005) etc. Her concerting activity in Kosova is marked by her participation in the Festival of Chamber Music -Kamerfest (2000, 2004), Re-Musica Festival (2005, 2007) etc. She played as a soloist in the Philharmonics of Kosova when she, together with S. Badivuku and A. Gashi, performed Beethoven's Triple Concert for Piano, Violin and Cello, conducted by the conductor Pavle Deshpali (2002). She also performed piano soloist recitals throughout Kosova cities (2003) as well as No. 4 Concert of Beethoven with Japan conductor Toshio Janagisawa (2007). She played piano in a soloist concert with soprano Mariana Leka from Tirana (2006, 2010), as well as the Piano Recital for Diplomatic Chorus in Tirana, organized by German Embassy in Albania (2009).

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She was both a member and a forewoman of national and international piano juries, such as various competition of young pianists in Dubrovnik (1984), Shkup (1985), Belgrade (1986), Vlora (2006, 2008), Tirana (2009, 2010), Prishtina (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006), as well as in the pianistic competition The New Pianist ( 2008, 2009, 2010) in Prishtina and Mitrovica.

## MYZAFERE KRASNIQI-LIMANI



Myzafera Limani is the first female engineer of electronics in Kosova, and the first female doctor of Electrical Engineering science. She deals with research of scientific problems of the international topicality in the field of electro-acoustic and processing of audio signals. She has over 20 scientific works presented at conferences and published in the international and national journals, with relevant results in area of the field that she is concerned with.

She has been distinguished as a professional with projects that are exploitable in the industry of Kosova and Albania, and has experience of successful cooperation in projects in partnership with international universities. She has long experience of engagement in collective and individual bodies of management and decision making. She has made numerous visits to international universities in Europe and the USA.

Myzafera was born on 15.11.1954 in Peja. She completed Primary and Secondary School in Peja, while she graduated from the Technical Faculty of the University of Prishtina, Department of

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Electronics with Telecommunication (1973-1978). During the studies she was holder of the University of Prishtina scholarship and for achieved success in her studies she received the award Distinguished student (1978). She completed Postgraduate studies for a Master of Science degree at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Belgrade in 1988. In the year 2000 she defended her doctoral dissertation at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Prishtina.

During the year 1978 she worked in the company PTT in Peja, as technical director. During this time she took part in the development and implementation of expansion of the telecommunications and transition capacities of the local PTT exchange in the region of Peja. In the capacity of external associate, at the same time she was committed in performing the practical courses at the Technical Faculty in Prishtina.

Since March of the year 1979 she was hired as intern assistant in the Department of Electronics with Telecommunications at the Technical Faculty of Prishtina. In the year 1985 she was entrusted with conducting the lectures in this faculty the subject of Electro-acoustic and Electronics with Communications. She was elected a lecturer in the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the year 1988.

Her expressed scientific, professional and managerial skills made her perform various positions. She was Head of the Department of Electronics with Telecommunications in the period of 1991-1994 and Head of the Department of Electronics during the years 1997-2006. During the years 1994-1997 she was Deputy-Dean for financial issues in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, while in the year 2006 she was elected Dean of the Faculty of Electrical

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and Computer Engineering. This task carries even today.

Myzafera has performed and conducted a range of functions with social and academic interest at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, University of Prishtina and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering. She was a member of the Assembly of the University of Prishtina, a member of the Council of the University of Prishtina, a member of the Senate of the University of Prishtina, a member of the Council of the Technical Faculty, member of Personnel Committee of the Technical Faculty, member of the Council of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Chair of Council of this faculty, etc.. Currently she is Dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Head of the State Council for Higher Education at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

She is a member of international and national scientific and professional associations of which is worth mentioning her membership in the International Association Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers since 1985.

In 2002 she was elected member of the National Academy of Engineers of USA, at the Gallery of Women Engineer with quote Celebrated Women Engineer. In the year 2010 the municipality of Peja awarded the prize Laureates for contribution in education.

Muzafere compiled a number of authorized lectures and is the author of a university textbook.

## LUMTURIE GASHI - LUCI



Lumturije Gashi-Luci (born in Peja, 1 October 1951) is an Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Prishtina, Medical Faculty. Her career as a medical doctor and university professor, and her activism in education, human rights, and women's health carries information on the particular entanglement of personal and public engagement in Kosovo. As such, she belongs to a generation of professional women carrying some of the most relevant social transformations in Kosova during the 1980s and '90s of the past century.

Dr. Luci graduated from the Medical Faculty at the University of Belgrade in 1976. She continued her professional development at the University of Zagreb at the Residency Program in Pathology; she continued her post-graduate studies at the same university in Medical Cytology, where she became a specialist in pathology and received a M.Sc. degree in 1986. From 1986 to 1988, she was a research fellow at the Children's Hospital, Harvard

Medical School. In 2002, she received her PhD in Pathology from the University of Prishtina.

During the mid-90s, Dr. Luci was a member of the Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms, based in Prishtina. The CDHRF consisted of key political, intellectual, social and legal activists at the time, and it was the first organization monitoring and reporting on human rights in Kosovo. Her involvement in emerging civil society initiatives, and drive to provide medical services to vulnerable groups led her to one of the first non-governmental organizations in Kosova, the Center for the Protection of Women and Children. There she served as medical staff offering cytology services for women, at a time when women's access to information and reproductive health services were limited at best.

Following mass expulsion of Kosovar Albanians from educational and other institutions, she served as a pathologist at the first private clinic in Kosova, "Galaxy." Through this clinic, and later in 1992 when she opened a private practice (cytology-pathology lab and gynecology) together with Prof. Dr. Binak Kastrati, Dr. Luci organized laboratory and practical training for medical faculty and high school students due to expulsion from the University Clinical Hospital.

She remained dedicated to education and professional medical training of her students. In 1992, she was one of the organizers of student research visits to the University of Tirana Medical Faculty. She accompanied the first groups of students traveling on a research trip at a time when education in Kosova was disenfranchised.

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As President of the Faculty Council (1994 – 1996), the governing body of the Medical School, she played a key role in continuing efforts to offer university education in the parallel educational system.

After the 1999 war, together with many of her colleagues, she returned to her previous place of employment. From 1999-2002, she was elected Director of Institutes at the University Clinical Center Prishtina. A renewed development of the Pathology Institute was lead by her commitment to rebuilding health care services. She supported a number of exchange and research programs for young staff by collaborating with visiting professors and doctors and targeting the need for building and strengthening professional capacities.

She has also been a visiting professor at a number of renowned institutions, including: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (2001), Universitätsklinikum-Hamburg Eppendorf, Institute of Pathology, Germany (2003), Institute of Anatomic Pathology, Linkoping, Sweden (2005), Medizinische Universität Wien, Austria (2006). In 2005 to 2006, she served as Dean of Educational Affairs, coordinating curriculum reforms at the Medical Faculty.

In 2007 she was one of the founding members of the Balkan Breast Cancer Initiative, which each year organizes a breast cancer awareness walk in Kosova. She continues to teach and closely works with residents at the Institute of Pathology.

## LULJETA VUNIQI



Luljeta Vuniqi is founder and executive Director of Kosovar Center for Gender Studies. For a long time she worked as a manager of the women's programs as well as with programs dealing with minorities, youth and human rights within the Kosovar Foundation for

Open Society, the Soros Network Funds.

She was born on December 1957 in Gjakova. She is a sociologist and an author of several research reports, while all research projects of the Kosovar Center for Gender Studies were initiated and carried out under her guidance and supervision.

Her active and supporting personality played an important role in the women's movement in Kosova. She is one among the founders of the Network of Groups of Women of Kosova and also of the Network of the Organization of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women in Kosova.

Luljeta is a member of the Board of several local and international organizations as well as a member of the Regional Women's Lobby. She participated in many programs, conferences, trainings at the local, regional and global level. She also published a number of articles on gender issues. At present, she is a lecturer of the subject Gender Studies at AAB Riinvest University in Prishtina.

## ANAMARI REPIĆ



Anamari (Anamari Repić) was born on 18 February 1976 in Prizren. Very often she states that she is happy coming from a region which, taking into account its history, culture and geographical position, reminds her of the importance and beauty of life. Such a multiethnic and multicultural environment, with a diversified historical inheritance, had an impact on Anamaria since her early childhood, and also reflected in creating her outlook on life and the world. This is her city on the waterside of Bistrica and, due to its diversified tradition and culture, she recommends all to visit and feel the beauty of this city. This is the city where she has learned to not distinguish people on national or any other grounds. Moreover, from early childhood up to now being mature, she has friends from different nations. This is how she was even before the war, when she learned that her Albanian neighbors were not living a normal life, and this is how she is

today when she learns that the Serbs have to decide for their participation, not only in their political life but also in the social life of Kosova.

Upon completion of Gymnasium, she enrolled in the Pedagogical Faculty. She graduated after the Conflict, but thus far has not dealt with any job related with schools and teaching. She is currently attending Master classes for journalism and communications. Political developments had an impact on her when it comes to deciding in which direction one should go, and also in her life in general, starting from personal decisions up to professional ones.

Together with her family she leaves Prizreni in 1999, at the time when many other were leaving Kosova. She finds shelter at her cousins in Serbia, but Anamaria does not find peace and security. She learns about vacancy announcements from her friends, published by the various foreign organizations in Kosova. She returns to Kosova and, as a beginner, starts working in the Multiethnic Radio Blue Sky, which at that time were a donation from Switzerland.

As of 2000 she acquires the basic knowledge of journalism, very useful for her future jobs. She, in particular, was interested for the stories of people's lives and, moreover, she learns in detail how to write radio reportages. From being a journalist reporting from the field, she commenced to edit the news, and afterwards the whole program in Serbian language. She falls in love with journalism and this makes her progress quite quick. During 2002 she becomes a correspondent of Radio Free Europe, seated in Prague. The job of a correspondent becomes very important for

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her perfection in journalism. She mainly deals with political topics, interethnic relations and life of the Serbian community. The same year, Radio Blue Sky becomes part of the public service of Radio Television of Kosova (RTK), and Anamaria assumes the position of editor for the program in Serbian language.

In 2009 she commences the program “Everything is possible with Ana” (Sve je moguće sa Anom), being the director and producer of the program. Her idea for the realization of the television program in Serbian language was finally realized when she started the co-operation with the Kosova Institute on Journalism and Communication (KIJC) in 2008. Ana and the KIJC, have jointly developed the idea and collected the necessary resources. The first program was broadcasted in May 2009 in Kosova. During nine years of experience in the field of journalism, she obtained relevant knowledge on the political situation in Kosova and, in such way, she becomes mindful in what way the problems of the citizens in Kosova may be resolved.

The purpose of the TV program “Everything is possible” was to create a safe public area, where the opinions of the Kosova Serbs may be heard. The aim of the program was to identify the concerns of the minority communities, and also to build faith amongst them. An open dialogue and a debate are key instruments for the creation of an atmosphere where you can resolve problems. The program offered opportunities for discussions and public hearings, which may contribute to the reinforcement and strengthening of civil society. Along side with this, the program in question aimed to facilitate communication between the Serbs and Albanians in Kosova. The program “Everything is possible” was broadcasted by Radio Television of Kosova, in Kosova, through local Serb televisions, as well as

through TV B92, in Serbia. She is currently working in the direction of restarting with the broadcasting of such widely viewed TV program.

In the beginning of 2010, she enters into a new journalistic adventure. She applies for the position of Deputy General Director in Radio Television of Kosova, public service. Upon review of the candidates' applications, she gets the support of the Board of Directors of the Media Company. Together with her colleague, who is also e Deputy Director, her job is to assist the General Director of RTK in the management of the Company. Anamaria, in particular, is engaged in the advancement and strengthening of the program on minority communities.

As a young journalist in 2003, she won the reward "Courageous in Journalism", granted by the Kosova Union of Professional Journalists and IREX, for her important contribution in reporting from Kosova.

She is the winner of the reward for the best journalist in 2009, granted by the Association of Professional Journalists of Kosova (APJK), and she has won the first prize for minorities, which was granted for the first time that year. The justification of the Association reads: "Anamari has won this reward for her media contribution for the integration of minorities in the Kosovar society.

## JETA XHARRA



Jeta Xharra is known as the most courageous and popular television investigative journalist in Kosovo.

Jeta is a moderator, journalist and editor of current affairs show *Life in Kosova* (*Jeta in Kosovë*), show that is being broadcasted since the year 2005 on public television of Kosovo - RTK. The show is characterized by very high popularity and is aimed at advancing a culture of the open debate and raising taboo topics, which in the Kosovar society were not previously discussed publicly. *Jeta in Kosovë* is known for the incredible courage in research of dangerous topics, which often resulted even with the threat to the team of journalists, led by Jeta Xharra.

Jeta, among but other activities, has interviewed creatively and skillfully a great number of internationally known personalities such as Richard Holbrooke, Madeleine Albright, and many other regional diplomats, reaching so that her shows be sought and

broadcasted in other TV stations outside Kosovo.

Debates of the show Jeta in Kosovë became popular especially during the local elections of the year 2009, when her crew in BIRN and RTK visited 30 municipalities in Kosova, to put face to face candidates for municipal mayors with their electorate. In this case, over 15 thousand people took part directly in the debate halls and houses of culture while about half a million people watched election debates of RTK, also broadcasted in more than 10 local TV stations in Kosovo.

She began her career in journalism by working as a local producer for the BBC and Channel 4 in England in 1998 and reporting on the war in Kosovo. Later, she became manager of the bureau in the BBC's international news in Kosovo. She participated in the team of reporters who secured the only filming of the Jashari battle in the Lower Prekaz in March of the year 1998, during which police and military forces killed more than 50 members of the Jashari family, out of which the majority women and children. During the NATO bombing campaign, Jeta worked for the BBC in Albania and Macedonia.

Jeta was student of the first generation of dramatic arts at the Academy of Arts, University of Pristina. Her studies were halted because of the war in Kosovo. In September of the year 1999, she went to England for postgraduate studies, which she on her own founded, working as assistant editor on the desk of the international news planning at World Service of BBC in London. In the year 2000 she received Master Degree in the Studies of the War, at the Royal College in London, while in the year 2002 she produced her second master thesis on the film script's at the College of London for Publishing, where she graduated as a distinguished student.

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During her studies in England, she participated in the competition of young dramatists, organized by the prestigious British theater Royal Court Theatre, where that year competed 550 young writers, primarily English. Jeta's drama "No war" (Të paluftë) was selected among the best 10 plays and was put on the stage for reading during the Festival of Young dramatists in 2004, organized every second year by the Royal Court Theatre in England.

Along her career as a journalist, Jeta published articles on the front pages of English daily newspaper, such as The Independent. She also published articles in various English magazines, such The Economist, The Sunday Telegraph and Jane's Intellegence Review.

In 2003, when she got back in Kosovo, Jeta takes over leadership of the Kosovo Office of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), and in 2005 she was one of the founders of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - BIRN.

Today, Jeta leads BIRN in Kosovo, which has more than 40 workers, who work on various projects, from monitoring the Kosovo courts up to the publication of the only English newspaper in Kosovo, called Prishtina Insight. Besides producing more than 350 debates through Jeta in Kosovo show, as co-production between BIRN and RTK, BIRN now produces the show Justice in Kosovo, where Jeta is a supervisor.

Before the war, Jeta was active with various journalism initiatives and youth initiatives, as Media Project, of which later was formed TV21, as well as Post-pessimists and Hope (Postpesimistët dhe Shpresa).

## SELVETE HOXHA-KRASNIQI



Selvete Hoxha-Krasniqi is professor in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Pristina, where she teaches the subject Hygiene / Human Ecology.

Selvete was born on February 25, 1953 in Kacanik. She completed the high school in Prishtina, and in she graduated in 1978 from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Prishtina. Her specialization in the field of hygiene she did in some institutions, the School of Public Health Andrija Stampar in Zagreb (Croatia), the Institute for Health Protection in Prishtina

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and the Institute of Hygiene of the Faculty of Medicine in Nis (Serbia).

She defended her PhD thesis Examination of physical-chemical and bacteriological properties of the water in the rural areas of Kosovo and its impact on the frequency of infectious diseases (1988-1991) at the University of Pristina in 1995. She received the degree of the Master of Medical Sciences defending the thesis Correlation between the quality of drinking water and gastrointestinal diseases in Kosovo 1997-1988, at the same university in 1988.

She worked as a doctor / specialist at the Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (1978-1991), Hygiene Department, Water / Sanitation in Pristina, she was deputy-director of the National Institute of Public Health, Senior Consultant to WHO on the norms and quality of the drinking water for Kosovo (2000-2001).

She completed trainings and vocational training at the Regional Training Course in Public Health Complex EMERGENCIES by The Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University / USA (Neum / Bosnia 2000); Training for vector diseases (zoonoses) CDC environmental sampling USA / Colorado / Ft. Collins (2001), Public Health Training and Research collaboration in South Eastern Europe Inter-University Centre of Postgraduate Studies (IUC) Dubrovnik (2001). She also had working official visits to the regional office of the World Health Organization for the Middle East and the Ministry of Health and Environmental Protection in Jordan, focused on the topic: Quality control of drinking water and wastewater (2000), and in the UK in Wessex Bath (Factory for processing the wastewater, 2001).

She participated in the research on monitoring the quality of drinking water in Kosovo, then in identifying vulnerable regions and the consequences of the epidemiological situation and environmental health in Kosovo and the effects on public health. She participated in the project focused on the research of the lead in blood, in children urine and pregnant women and environmental samples in Mitrovica, supported by the Ministry of Health. She was cooperator in the project of WHO / UNDP: Water supply, elimination of sewage and pollution of rivers.

Selvete's current engagement is focused on the post graduate studies pertaining to the Preventive Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine, in the School of Public Health of Kosovo within NIPH and Health Management (EAR / Faculty of Economics / Faculty of Medicine).

Among Selvete's scientific articles, the following titles can be found: "Protection of Environment and Infrastructure" (Mbrojtja e Ambientit dhe Infrastruktura, 2010); "Quality of the drinking water from Kosovo's water supply for post-war period from 2000 to 2002" (Cilësia e ujit të pijshëm nga ujësjellësit e Kosovës për periudhën e pas luftës 2000-2002, 2002); "Current situation of the drinking water resources, their sanitary protection" (protection zones) (Gjendja aktuale e resurseve të ujërave për pijë, mbrojtja e tyre sanitare (zonat mbrojtëse, (2002); "Effects of surface contamination of the drinking water on the health of the rural population of some regions of Kosovo, the correlation between physical characteristics, chemical and bacteriological features of the drinking water and infectious diseases of the digestive tube in the rural areas of Kosovo" (Pasojat e ndotjes sipërfaqësore të ujit të pijshëm në shëndetin e popullatës rurale të disa regjioneve të

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Kosovës, korelacioni në mes të veçorive fizike, kimike dhe bakteriologjike të ujit të pijshëm dhe sëmundjeve ngjitése të tubit tretës në rajonet rurale të Kosovës, 1997); “Research Methodology of the nutrition, growth, development and health status of children of school age” (Metodologjia e hulumtimit ushqyeshmërise, rritjes, zhvillimit dhe gjendjes shëndetësore të fëmijëve të moshës shkolllore, 1987), ‘Method of supplying the inhabitants of Kosovo with drinking water’ (Mënyra e furnizimit të banorëve të Kosovës me ujë të pijshëm, 1986).

Selvete prepared the textbook Human Ecology for students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy.

## VENERA MEHMEDAGAJ KAJTAZI

Venera Mehmedagaj Kajtazi is a distinguished flautist, ordinary professor at the Faculty of Arts, University of Pristina.

She was born on 25 March 1960 in Prizren. She graduated from the Faculty of Arts of Pristina University in 1981, the class of professor N. Atanasov. She was distinguished with her extraordinary talent and, therefore, since the age of 14 years she became a member of the Symphonic Orchestra of Radio



Television of Pristina. She presented herself in many concerts, festivals and competitions and she received first prices and also she was qualified as one of the most successful flautist of the new generation. In 1981, sponsored by French government, in Paris she went through a perfection course with worldwide well-known flautists: Pierre-Yves Artaud and Alain Marion. At the Summer Academy of Nits (France) she became the demonstrator of the professor Marion for certain music opus.

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She was represented with soloist recitals throughout the whole cities of ex-Yugoslavia and she also participated in celebrated world festivals. As a soloist, she was represented with symphonic Orchestra of Radio Television of Prishtina in the Summer Games of Dubrovnik, in the Festival of Opatija, in the Festival of Hercegnovi etc. In the Music World Festival of Youth in Cuba (Havana) she represented her with a soloist concert when she presented (ex) Yugoslavia in classical music, while she was also presented with a recital in the Music World Congress of the Youth in Zagreb.

She was represented in soloist concerts in various countries, such as France, Spain, Germany, Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia, where she performed with various prominent pianists. As a soloist, she started to perform since the age of 15 years with Symphonic Orchestra of Radio and Television of Prishtina, with Orchestra of Radio and Television of Shkup, Philharmonic of Macedonian, Shkup, State Symphonic Orchestra of Turkey, Izmir, Nish and Belgrade Philharmonic, Symphonic Orchestra of Zagreb, Chamber Orchestra Amra from Tirana, Philharmonic of Kosova, Kairo Symphonic Orchestra (in Egypt she performed herself in two concerts, in Alexandria and Cairo). Venera cooperated with Kosovar conductors Bahri Çela and Arbër Dhomí, with conductors from Albania Eno Koço, Ferdinand Deda, Zhani Ciko and Jetmir Barbullushi and also with foreign conductors such as Mladen Jagust (Croatia), Igor Kuleric (Croatia), Toshio Yanagisava (Japani), Nevit Kodali (Turkey), Andreas Sporri (Egypt), Rafaelle Tisseo (Italy), Vito Pavllovski (Macedonia), Laclav Sallatsky (Poland), Zhivojin Zdravkoviq (Belgrade, Nish), Silviu Pantiru (Romania) etc.

She did many records for various needs of radio and

televisions of Kosova, Albania, Croatia etc. In 2004, when she marked her 30-eth anniversary of her artistic activity, she published the first CD of classical music (flute), never earlier published in Kosova or Albania.

She received various Appreciations and Diplomas, like Diploma for Extraordinary Achievements given to her by the Association of Kosova Artists, or diplomas given to her in various international Meetings of Music Academies, world festivals, awards for the first position in international competitions, Plaque "Boro and Ramizi" (Boro e Ramizi) for extraordinary achievements in the field of art etc.

## BURBUQE BERISHA



Burbuqe Berisha is film, theater and television director, director of the National Theatre of Kosova and Head of Production Abfilm.

“Lexi in the city” (Lexi në qytet), her TV serial, carried out in the year 2009, was the first TV serial that thoroughly treats the female world. Four women protagonists over the age of 35, with the aim of creating an intellectual independence and life, had exercised special impact to the audience with regard to the raising of the awareness about the need for women integration in Kosovar society.

Burbuqe was born in Shkup (Macedonia), and she has graduated the Faculty of Arts, Department of Film Directing at the University of Pristina. She received her MA at the same Faculty in the field of Directing and film production.

She is the first female who graduated in the field of Direction of Film and Theater from the University of Prishtina. She is the first female Director of the National Theatre of Kosovo, who created a considerable number of short footage films and documentaries, television documentaries and theatrical performances.

She is the Director of short footage movies "The Year 2000" (Viti 2000) 2000); "The Dwell" (Bunari), 2000); "The Winter of the Soul", (Dimni i shpirtit), 2001), "Mother" (Nanë (2001); "The Dream" (Ëndrra) 2002); "Kosova 9/11" (Kosova 9/11) 2003); "Hot Dog Open" (Suxhuk Open, 2006); "The Elevator", (Ashensor) 2010 and the following TV movies: "Women", (Gratë) 2002); "Lex in the City" (Lex-i në qytet), 2009). She also was Assistant Director in the movie "Resurrection" (Ringjallja) 2000).

With regard to the documentary films, Burbuqe carried out the following movies: The "Projection of the Happiness" (Projeksioni i lumtunisë) 2002; "Cinemas" (Kinematë, 2003); "Grown up in the Street" (Të rritur në rrugë) 2005 and "The Harmonic" (Harmonika) 2006.

As she gave some testimony of scenario writing, she made the scenario for the following films: "The Grave of the Cuckoo" (Varri i qyqes) 2002; "Mother" (Nanë) 2001; "The Dream" (Ëndrra) 2002; "Kosova 9/11" (Kosova 9/11) 2003; "Grown up in the Street' (Të rritur në rrugë) 2006) and "The Elevator" (Ashensori) 2006. She carried out the role of the organiser in the movie Kukumi of Kosova Film Production, Executive Producer (2004); Mirush

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(Mirush 2006) of Columbia Tristar Nordisk Film Distributors AS, Casting manager (2006) and the 10 episodes movie "Lex in the City" (Lex-i në qytet) 2009.

Her activity also is extended to the field of theater. She was the Director of the following presentations in Prishtina based Dodona Theater: "Much Ado for Nothing" (Shumë zhurmë për asgjë) 2002; "Happy Birthday to You" (Shume urime për ty) 2009; "Everey Monday" (Ç'do të hënë) 2007; "Be brave to live" (Guxo për të jetuar, 2009); "Speed the Plow" (Shkel e shko) 2010); "The Past Pertains with the Future" (E kaluara takon të ardhmen) 2010. Burbuqe is the Assistant Director of "A Monodrama for me and the God" (Monodramë për mue dhe Zotin) 1999 and "Corridors of the Dread" (Korridoret e tmerrit) 2003 of the Kosova National Theater. The following theatrical presentations of her, carried out with Dodona Theater, are worth mentioning: "Hookers not always visit us with bad intention..." (Hajnat nuk vijnë gjithmonë për të keq....) 2000, Graphite (Grafitet) 2006; "Speed the Plow" (Shkel e shko) 2010 and Black Zeka (Zeka i Zi) 2007.

She is the winner of many Prices in film and theater festivals at international level. She received the Special Award of the Jury in Film Festival 9/11, Prishtina, 2003; Grand Prix Media Price in Tirana International Film Festival, 2003; the Audience Price in DokuFest, Prizren, 2004, 2007; The Price for Young Hopes in Zagreb Dox (2006), Award of provicia de Brindizi in Tirana International Film Festival, 2006, and The Award Momakt for Monodrama 2009.

Burbuqe, thanks to her fruitful activity, was a member of professional juries in many film festivals at an international level.

## JËLLDËZE GJERGJIZI GORANI



Jëlldëze Gjergjizi Gorani is a gynecologist, who took care for decades on the welfare of pregnant women and births in the town of Prizren and in the wider area, of Rahovec, Theranda and Sharr.

She was recognized as a dedicated activist on the issue of women, respect for human rights, women's participation in decision making processes, and for the establishment of democracy in Kosova and the region. She was a member of the Presidency of the LDK branch in Prizren, which was influential branch of the first democratic party in Kosovo. She was one of the organizers of the movement of women in Prizren and at a large part of Dukagjini area.

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She was born on 07 March 1944 in Prizren, by parents Saibe and Nuri Gjergizi. She attended in Prizren her Primary school and Secondary school. In 1964 she commenced studies at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Zagreb, where she graduated in 1969. She began to work at the Medical Centre in Prizren in 1969, while in 1976 she specialized in the field of Gynecology- Obstetrics in Skopje. During 1980-1991 she was Chief of Gynecologic-Obstetrics Department in Prizren, and meantime she was exercising the duty of the Director of Hospital of Prizren (1984).

In 1991 she was expelled from the work forcefully. From 1991 to 1999, along with political commitments, she gave valuable contribution in voluntary humanitarian and health activities. She was involved in the Maternity Hospital, Mother Teresa in Prishtina, Mother Theresa ambulance in Arbana and Red Cross, Branch of Kosovo in Prizren, where for eight years she was also a member of its Presidency. She performed such activities along with her private work.

In 1999, after the Conflict in Kosova, she continued the work in Prizren Hospital, as Chief of Gynecologic - Obstetrics Department and in December of the same year she was appointed as Director of the Directorate for Health in the Municipal Assembly of Prizren. Since that time and until May 2002, she dealt with social and gender issues, too.

Jelldëzja continued its commitment for health education of the people through non-governmental associations, such as Sisters Qiriazi, Teuta, Woman Today and Kevser. She nowadays is continuing to perform her activities through electronic and print media, and in the form of lectures and discussions on topics.

## MARTE PREKPALAJ



Marte Prekpalaj was born on 10.05.1967 in the village of Bregdri in Zym, from parents Maria and Gjeka. Her father worked as a baker in Ferizaj, Pejë and other cities in ex-Yugoslavia. Since first grade, she traveled 8 km every day for 10 years from Bregdrini to Zym. She completed Secondary School of Medicine and started to work as a

nurse. Later on she completed Higher Pedagogical School – branch of Biology-Chemistry, in Gjakova (1989) and found employed in Kushnin in Hasi. She was the first female director in the region of Hasi, and on the verge of the war she managed to open two high schools there. She often emphasizes that the success of her work was due to the cooperation with men from Hasi, who were willing to support the education of girls.

With the intensification of institutional violence, she undertook actions to ease the severe conditions of the population. She was active in the Association for eradication of illiteracy “Motrat Qiriazi”, in the reconciliation of blood feud cases, in the activity “Familja Ndihmon Familjen” (Family supports the family), as well as the publishing of the newspaper of Hasi “Etja”. In 1993, together with other colleagues, she realized the drama “Lkeni i Hasit” on Father Shtjefen Gjeçovi”, with author Edi Shukriu, where she played a major role. The drama had a great impact on

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the awareness of the population in Hasi, especially on the education of children.

The war finds her in her village in the river-line of Drini, and she experienced the consequences of the Krusha e Vogël massacre, where 120 men were massacred on 26 March 1999, and the women and children were left nearby Drini River. Marta and her brother picked them up with a tractor and provided them with shelter for 5 days. Even as a refugee in Durrës, she was active in offering shelter for the people. After the war and her immediate return to Kosova, she continued with her activities, especially in Krushë e Vogël, by supporting widows and orphans through various projects, particularly those supported by the Swedish Kvina till Kvina.

Marta was amongst the ten most distinguished women activists in the word, for her accomplishments and changes in rural life, selected by the Peace Foundation in Geneva, and proposed by Kosova Women's Network (2006). She was a member of the Network's Board for two mandates, and she was engaged in advocating and lobbying on gender issues at local level.

## MIRLINDA KUSARI PURRINI

Mirlinda Kusari Purrini is the President of Kosova Women Business Association She - Era. The empowerment of women in the society is the prerequisite for achieving gender equality, political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security, said she.

She holds a BA Degree in Economy from Prishtina University and has 15 years of economic experience in a Small and Medium Enterprises development. Before the conflict she exercised the work of an accountant. After the war 1999, she established a local NGO She - Era, which promotes the economic empowerment of women in Kosova. She was one of the first to organize the work in the field being focused in analyzing the situation of women and marginalized communities and implementing projects that would empower women through education and employment. The NGO is responsible for the Gjakova, Prizren and Prishtina field offices, including Business Services, Consulting and Mentoring (Start your Business, Management, Marketing, Finance, Accounting in ISO standard, Business Planning, etc.)

Mirlinda contributes to her community also being experienced in commercial and private sector, ensuring that her communities'



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voice is heard and their needs are met, encouraging women in the area of business sector. She has extensive experience traveling overseas to economic forums becoming an ambassador and focal reference for international potential donors and consultant for governmental and non-governmental agencies.

She was involved with She - Era in implementation of many projects, studies and research and she has developed linkages with consultancies and international organizations, providing for them a local base in Kosova, facilities management, local backstopping and support, project administration and accounting services, and local consulting staff. She also established linkages with business development organizations in Europe, USA and Canada. As a result of her rich experience she is well placed to assist in the development of international linkages for local businesses and the development of inward investment.

Mirlinda is co-founder of a Balkan Coalition of Women's Business Associations and she initiated a successful program, which guaranteed that at least 80% of women trained on how to start a business, would apply for a credit that will permit them to start a business. Her work includes also the following: market research studies for SME (including textiles, wine & food and crafts), Director of a major study into activities of women entrepreneurs in Kosova (2006), business Advisory Services, consulting, mentoring, training to 5000 people across Kosovo, responsible for a project to integrate Kosovo Business Women in a modern economy, advocacy to integrate women in economic, social and political life.

## SYHEDA LATIFI-HOXHA



Syheda Latifi-Hoxha is the Chief of the Natal Department within the Clinics of Gynecology and Obstetrics and an associated professor at the Cathedra of Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Prishtina, as well as the Director of the Course of Lectures "International Alarm" (Alarm International, 2003), whose intentions is reduction of maternal and prenatal death.

She was born in Gjilan on 24 July 1953. She finished her Elementary and Secondary School in Gjilan, whereas she graduated the Faculty of Medicine at the Prishtina University (1979), where she commenced her work with Clinics of Gynecology and Obstetrics. There she started her work in the field of gynecology and obstetrics, which she finished at the University Clinic for Women Diseases and Birth of the University of Zagreb, where she received the title of the Specialist in Gynecology and Obstetrics (1987). She was engaged in teaching process with the Cathedra of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Prishtina University since she was selected as an Assistant (1987) up to 1990, where violent measures expelled her from her working position. She started her work at the Health Station in Kaçanik, where by that time did not yet reach violent measures. There she activated the new Natal Unit, worked with dedication for woman,

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newborn and she was again excluded from her working position by the regime.

While working in non-institutional circumstances, when Albanians were expelled from their working places, she worked for nine years in improvised medical institutions, such as Mother Teresa Health Care Institution (Nëna Terezë) and other institutions where she performed various actions, ranging from simple gynecological examination to complicated surgical interventions. At the same, she continued her work as an assistant at the Cathedra of Gynecology, where she gave her contribution to the health of woman, child and she also worked with students. She was the first one who, together with her colleagues, entered the Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Prishtina (20 June 1999) and continued to work with a greater passion at the Natal Department as well as with the most dramatic cases medically treated in the Clinic. Together with her colleagues, she examined prenatal mortality throughout Kosova.

Syhedra defended her master thesis entitled Fetal Conditions in Co-relation with Morphological and Histological Changes in Placenta (1997), as well as her PHD thesis entitled Vaginal Infections in Pregnancy and its Implications in Syndrome Intra-Amniotic Infections.

After the War (1999) she worked with many international associations, such as World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA, UNICEF, with the Association of Canadian Gynecologists and Obstetrics, Dartmouth Hitchkok Medical Centre and University. She finished a series of international trainings with regard to increasing the quality of work in favor of women and newborn. She lectured and monitored the work in the clinic and in all

regional hospitals in association with relevant world associations. She was for a period of time of two mandates Chief of Cathedra for Gynecology and Obstetrics, President of the Committee for Specialization in Gynecology and Obstetrics, where she drafted the specialization curriculum for Kosova. She is known for a great number of study papers, both in the capacity of an author and co-author

## BESA SHEMA LUZHA



Besa was born in Prishtina, on 05 May 1972, in an intellectual family dedicated to education and schooling of new generations. Her father Isak, professor and researcher of Albanian literature, devoted nearly 50 years of his life to education in Albanian, and also her mother Mejreme, from eighties of the past century worked in education and is still a prominent union activist.

Besa Luzha completed in parallel Mathematical Gymnasium and High School of music. In the year 1994 she graduated in studies of music - piano and reached the last year at the Faculty of Economics, University of Prishtina. The Concert recital for piano, held in 1996, which was an attempt to reactivate the musical life of the time, was banished and efforts to reopen the Red Hall of the Palace of Youth were frustrated during the nineties of the past century. In 1998 she was hired as an assistant at the University of Prishtina for the subject Methods of Teaching of the Music. In 2005 she graduated at master studies for Music Science - Music Pedagogy, becoming the first master of Music Pedagogy graduated at the University of Prishtina. She has completed doctoral studies at the University of London-Institute of Education, becoming the first candidate from Kosova holding

the title of the Doctor of Education. She is a Professor Assistant at the Faculty of Music at the University of Prishtina.

After the war, on November of the year 1999, she committed herself to reactivate the musical life, organizing the first concert of classical music in postwar Kosova. These concerts were echoed before the international presence in Kosova, for presenting the true spirit of art loving public of Kosova and true values of the nation.

Besa was one of the artists who contributed on the establishment of the Kosova Philharmonic Orchestra (2000) and was the organizer of the first edition of the Festival of Chamber Music KamerFEST (2000). For several years after the war, she undertook the commitment for the introduction of Kosova as a normal country in which art and culture are an important part of identity.

Since 2000, Besa Luzha actively participates in the work and presentations at international music conferences and symposiums in different countries, such as the International Conference on Music Education (ISMET) in Edmonton (Canada, 2000), in Tenerife (2004), Spain, Bologna (Italy, 2008). Since 2004 she is the individual member and contact person for the University of Prishtina with the European Association of Universities of Music (AEC) and the European Association for Music in Schools (EAS). As a member of these international organizations she is constantly engaged in presenting the achievements in the field of research in music and the advancement of music education at all levels in both directions, introduction of the European standards and presentation of Kosova's progress towards these standards.

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Since the year 2000 she is foreign associate of the Ministry of Education (MEST) for the coordination of the educational reform of Music Education Curriculum in all directions and levels and she is a member of the National Curriculum Council of Kosova. Her permanent commitment and interest in the problems of education and musical culture brought that these subjects find a place in her presentations at home and abroad. In the last conference in Bologna (2008) she introduced the highly rated study Music, Identity and Politics.

Commitment towards advancing the teaching of music and musical life since 2000 is just a sphere of her activity. Since the year 2000, leading the Program for Kosova from Friedrich Ebert Foundation, she was extraordinarily committed to political life in Kosova. Having developed, organized and managed a number of important activities in cooperation with institutions of Kosova, civil society and media, Besa was present and personally engaged for 10 years successively in raising voice for the rights of women, persons with limited abilities, democracy and advanced political culture, the most advanced laws for workers, higher quality education and other important policies for the development of Kosova into a prosperous and democratic state.

Besa's multidimensional commitment in the public, cultural and political sphere. Along with her active teaching and being her a mother of three children (16, 9 and 5 years), makes her an outstanding woman of the new generation, which offers possible contribution to the long string of prominent women in Kosova.

## SIHANA BADIVUKU - HOXHA



Sihana Badivuku - Hoxha is a distinguished violinist, pedagogue and organizer. She is a professor at the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina, master concert in the String Orchestra of the philharmonic of Kosova, a violinist of the ensemble Vivendi and both member and founder of Trio String Kosova. Since 2000 she was engaged in co-organizing various music events: The Week of Bach, International Festival of Chamber Music KosovaKamerFest, Competition of Young Musicians ArsKosova, Concerts of Young Talents (Foundation ArsKosova).

Sihana was born in 1967 in Prishtina, in a family of musicians. She finished the Low and Middle School of Music in Prishtina, the class supervised by professors B. Dimchevski and P. Vernikov. She studied in Moscow State Conservatorium, where she finished her post-graduate studies, the class supervised by professor E. Chugajeva (1983-1991). During the years 1993/94 she studied in Hochshule fur Musik in Detmold (Germany), the class supervised

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by professor Young Uck Kim, sponsored by GFF - Detmold. In 1994 she finished the Perfection Course in Siena (Italy), in Academia Chigiana, the class supervised by professor Uto Ughi.

Sihana Badivuku participated in international competition for violin (Leipzig, Gorizia, Budapest), as well as in International Festivals, such as Summer of Oher, InterFest, (Manastir) the Festival Days of Macedonian Music, The Festival of Contemporary Music ISCM (Tirana), Gubbio-Festival in Italy, the festival The Scene of New Music in Prishtina, the festival of Classical Music in Varna (Bulgari), the festival Muzina in Slovenia, the Week of Bach, International Festival of Chamber Music in Prishtina.

She was presented as a soloist in the solemn opening of the Festival the Summer of Oher 98, with Philharmonic Orchestra of the Radio and Television of Wien (ORF). She cooperated with pianists of Kosova such as Lejla Pula, Misbah Kaçamaku, Zana Badivuku, Lule Elezi, Valton Beqiri, then with Teuta Pllana (USA), as well as with worldwide known pianists such as B. Rakova (Russian), Jouni Somero (Finland), Marco Grisandi (Italy), Koji Okamoto (Japan), Derek Han (USA), Daniela Dikova (Bulgaria) etc. She also performed as a soloist with prominent conductors Silviu Pantiru (Rumani), Leclav Salacki (Poland), Bajar Berisha (Kosova), Imre Toplak (Vojvodina), Lygia O'Riordan (Ireland) etc.

She presented herself with concerts in Kosova, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Russian, Finland, Ireland, Spain, Slovenia and USA. In the Festival the Summer of Oher 2003 together with B.Grubi, A.Gashi, L. Dobrevska, M. Kastratovich, A. Paco and A. Prosi they were presented in the ensemble Musica Balkanica. She played in chamber concerts with prominent artists, such as P. Vernikov, D. Han, M. Barley, D. Mastroyiannis, B.

Previsich, L. Pejsahov, P. Meighann, J. Moore.

Together with prominent Kosova artists, leaders of the Philharmonic of Kosova, Blerim Grubi (viola), Antonio Gashi (cello) and herself (violin), she established in 2003 Trio String Kosova. Since 2008 a new member of the Trio is the violoncellist from Albania, Aristidh Prosi. Since their establishment up to date, they participated as an ensemble in prominent festivals, concerts and projects both in Kosova and the region. Such activities are the following: Kosova KamerFest, ReMusica, Competition of Young Musicians ArsKosova, The Summer of Oher, Multi-Kulti. In such presentations, where they performed as a Trio, quartet, pianistic quintet or string sextet, they cooperated with world artists such as Derek Han, Pavel Vernikov, Francesco De Zan, Maja Kastratovich, Stefan Wirth, Boris Previsic etc. The repertoire of Trio String Kosova includes opus of the composers since the period of Baroque up to the Contemporary music. The success of Trio String Kosova inspired many Kosova composers to dedicate especially their opus for Trio String Kosova. This was the basic idea of this trio, aiming at the promotion of Kosova composers, Albanian and Balkans in European and World Festivals.

Sihana is a member of Council of the Association of Music and Ballet of Macedonia (2000); founder and director of the Foundation ArsKosova (2003); founder and director of the Competition of Young Musicians ArsKosova (member of EMCY, 2006); member of the Artistic Council of International Festival Summer of Oher (2003-2005), member of the Albanian Foundation for Scholarship in Macedonia (2004). On March 2010, she was appointed the President of Association of European String Pedagogues, Branch of Kosova.

## VALBONA PULA PETROVCI

Valbona Pula Petrovci is the first graduated Kosovar pianist, who received diploma in the Section of Music of the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina. Since 1981, she is piano professor at the Faculty of Arts, Section of Music, Department of Piano. She educated a great number of pianists, who became prominent with their concerting and pedagogical activity. At present, Valbona is Deputy-Dean of the Section of Music at the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina. ( since 2009-).



Valbona was born on 3 July 1958 in Mitrovica. She attended and finished in parallel her Elementary School and Low Music School as well as the Gymnasium and Secondary Music School in Prishtina (1976). She Graduated at the Faculty of Arts, Department of Piano, under the supervision of Professor E. Korolov and Professor I. Dimqevska (1980). She received her Master Degree with the class of professor Jasmina Cakar in Shkup (Macedonia) in 2001. She finished piano courses in Libramont of Belgium, class of J.C.Vanden Eynden (1982) and in Nice (France), the class of Jean Marie Darre (1983).

She started her concerting activities since her Law Music School. As a Piano student, she participated as a soloist in many cities of ex Yugoslavia, such as Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Novi Sad,

Lubljana, Shkup, Belgrade and all the cities of Kosova. After she graduated her studies, she had a dense concerting activity, such as Concert for Piano and Orchestra in F-moll of J.S. Bach, presented in Prishtina; Concert for Piano and Orchestra No. 1 in C-dur of L.V. Beethoven in Budva (Montenegro); Concert for Piano and Orchestra in A-dur of F. Liszt in Prishtina; Concerting Evening with flute and piano in Novi Sad (Serbia); Concerting Evening with flute and piano in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Concerting Evening with flute and piano in the Summer Festival of Ulqin (Montenegro); Concert for Piano and Orchestra No. 2 of D. Shostakovich in Shkup (Macedonia).

As a soloist, she performed in the music manifestation Days of the Music in Gjakova, Musical Forum in Opati (Croatia), Music Meetings Abrasevic in Valeva (Serbia), in The Concert of the opus of Kosovar composers in Shkup (Macedonia), Days of the Culture of Kosova, Dubrovnik (Croatia) or in Days of the Culture of Kosova in Tirana (Albania). She held many pianistic recitals and accompanied with piano many famous soloist, such as flutist Venera Mehmetagaj-Kajtazi, clarinetist Qazim Bobaj, tenor Kastriot Tusha and Bashkim Paçku or soprano Suzana Frashëri. She cooperated with conductors Bahri Çela (Kosova), Silviu Pantiru (Romania), Bajar Berisha (Kosova), Zhivojin Zdravkoviq (Serbia), Rafaelo Tisseo (Italiy).

Valbona was President of the Association of Music Artists of Kosova for several years and she was a member of a jury in international competition of young pianists in Durrës (Albania), in international competition of the Foundation Ars Kosova, in piano competition The young pianist etc. She organized International Festival of Chamber Music in Prishtina (2001) and established the

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first private school in Kosova, today named Amadeus (2002). Pupils of this school showed to be successful in concerts organized by this school as well as in competitions at national and international level.

She is the winner of the Price of the town Novi Sad

## VEPRORE SHEHU



Shehu Veporre belongs to the new generation of women of Kosova, very active in the struggle for women's human rights in Kosovo and with regard to the improvement of living conditions, especially for women traumatized by the recent war in Kosovo.

She was born on 15 November 1959 in Peja, and lives and works in the municipality of Gjakova, as well as in the entire region of

Dukagjin. She graduated from English language and literature at the University of Pristina. She was qualified for project management at American University in Prishtina, under the PMI Institute of Pennsylvania (USA) and received certification for leadership through Hope Fellowship programs, supported by USAID and the National Albanian American Council.

Since the end of the war in Kosovo (1999) she is leading non-governmental organization Medica Kosova with its headquarter in Gjakova, which has 25 employees and committed members. Her activity was focused on supporting women traumatized by war, especially those who have experienced sexual violence during the war.

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She managed successfully over 30 projects, which aimed at the psychosocial, gynecology and legal support of traumatized women and she also implemented projects for the generation of incomes in the agricultural sector. Through her management, since 1999 the association supported over 8,000 women and girls. As a result, for 120 household women from the Municipality of Gjakova and Deçan it was made possible provision of the care for their families. The association provided women with necessary preconditions for the development of production activities. Today, through the development of agricultural, beekeeping and livestock activities, these women households generate the average monthly incomes sufficient to meet needs of their families.

Veprore's capital project and the association that she manages is the construction of the milk production plant for women farmers from the Municipality of Gjakova. The milk product plant will support women farmers and will create job places for women. Also, through profits created by the sale of the milk products, the association will invest in building the mini-farms for women-farmers with European standards.

Veprore is also active in the field of advocacy and lobbying for the inclusion of gender perspective in public policy. She was part of the working groups for preparation of the Law on Gender Equality, for the implementation of the UN Resolution 1325, in working groups for data integration on women's rights for the European Commission's report and has advocated for achievement of transitional justice for abused women during the war and women with missing persons in their families. She is a member of the board of the Women's Network Group of Kosovo (GRRGK) and participated in many advocacy campaigns for women's rights. As a member of this network she was part of the

Coalition of Women for Peace, founded by GRRGK and the network Women in Black from Serbia, which originally was meant to monitor the negotiations of the political status of Kosova and advocacy for women's participation in this process. She also advocated to the Tribunal for War Crimes in Hague for the installation of a more efficient system of protection of witnesses from Kosova during Milosevic's criminal trial. Her successful advocacy was realization of the residence permit in Sweden of one of the witnesses to the Tribunal.

With the mediation of the UNIFEM office in Kosovo, she brought the actress Nicole Kidman in Gjakova to meet with women who experienced direct violence during the recent war in Kosovo. This meeting was one of the contributions for the UN to bring the Resolution 1820, which includes women survivors of war in various parts of the world.

Veprore received recognition from various national and international organizations, such as ICMC, Institute of Peace in San Diego (California, USA), the Kosovo Women's Network, the groups benefiting from the villages of Gjakova, the Association of pensioners in Gjakova, the Non- Formal women Group in parliament etc.

## XHERALDINA VULA



Xheraldina Vula was born in Vushtrri on 1 February 1963, in a family of intellectuals. She completed her primary and secondary school in her hometown, and the Faculty - Branch of Albanian Language and Literarure, in the University of Prishtina.

Xheraldina started to write poetry since she was in primary school, and has published up to date four volumes of poetry: Megjithate, sillet (Nevertheless its moving) (1988), Cunningly (Me bisht syri) (1995), A Street Cat (1999, in English language) and Ritual me Pantallona (Ritual with trousers) (2001). She has participated in many literature events organized by the Kosova Association of Writers introducing her poetry. (e.g. Poetry Meeting in Gjakova), as well as meetings of the poetesses of Kosova. Her poems were published in many magazines and daily newspapers of Kosova such as Fjala, Shkëndija, Zëri, Rilindja, Bujku etc. During 1988-2001 she was awareded with first, second and third prizes. Xheraldina's poems were translated in many foreign languages such as: English, German, French, Polish, etc.

Xheraldina commences her activity as a volunteer in the Council for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms (CPHRF) during 1992-1995. From 1993, together with Naxhie

Buçinca and Shukrije Gashi, she continued with the activities in the Group of Authoresses and Women Veterans of Eduaction, founded with the initiative of Edi Shukriu and suggestions of Edita Tahiri. While working in the GAWVE, she initiated and supported the organization of literary events, exhibitions, meetings with authoresses of Kosova, Montenegro, Presheva and Macedonia.

In 1995, after the World Conference on Women in Beijing, where she got to know more closely Afërdita Saraçini Kelmendi, she became the sword-hand of Afërdita in the foundation of the NGO Media Project, a training center for young girls in journalism and conflcit management. They directed the center together until 1999. This center trained more than 85 young girls in printed media, radio media, television media and conflcit management. In 1997 the center started the publishing of the first magazine in Kosova Eritrea, with social, economic, political and cultural content from the angle of women. In 1998 Media Project founded TV Production 21 and Radio 21, the first Albanian radio on the Internet.

During 1992-2010, she contributed in many activities organized also by other sister organizations. She was and continues to be a member and president of the boards of various civil society organizations. As of 1995 she continues to hold trainings for girls and women, as well as training for journalists and officilas for printed media, radio and TV media, with topics such as gender and the media, how to approach the media; how to present a speech and hold a press conference etc.

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Xheraldina occupies the post of Deputy Director and is a member of the Board of Directors in Company 21. She is the editor-in-chief for the program of the Cultural, Artistic and Topicality Department in RTV 21, and editor-in-chief in Radio 21. This Department prepares a weekly program on women We know, we wish and we manage, which introduces successful women in politics, economy, business, culture, art etc., as well as organizations and institutions directed by women. The weekly program, *I am Kosova too*, is prepared by such Department, rewarded with the first prize amongst the media for philanthropy of corporations in 2009, granted by FIQ and Rockefeller Foundation. As editor-in-chief of such Department, she ensures that women are adequately represented within the program of RTV 21, and she has been granted many appreciations for this. She is also the producer and moderator of the television show Something is being cooked (a recreative and educational program for food in general and for healthy food).

Xheraldina Vula is known as a woman who makes efforts to dispel the taboos which impede the development and social life of the Kosovar women. The latest example and a very sympathetic one, was the cat walk with models of size XXL, over 30 years. It was her idea to organize such a cat walk, and she participated and declared that she wants to dispel the prevailing prejudices for overweight women.

She worked as a volunteer in the CPHRF; she is co-founder of NGO Group of Authoresses and Women Veterans of Education; Co-founder of the Training Center Media Project; Co-founder of the Kosova Women's Network; TV 21 Production; Radio 21 on Internet; Co-founder and an editor of magazine Eritrea; supported the creation of magazine Sfinga; she organized the Meeting of

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Poetesses of Kosova; Adviser and/or member of the STAR Network of World Learning Board; Women Waging Peace (Hunt Alternatives Fund); Member of the Kosova Women's Network; Member of the Board of Directors of KCSF; 2001-2003 Member of the Network of East West Women Board; NGO She-Era, Kosovar Center on Gender Studies; Creator and member of the Working Group for the first Conference Women in Economy; Member of the Working Group on the National Action Plan; Member of the Kosova Women Lobby.

## NEVENKA RIKALO



Nevenka Rikalo manages successfully NGO Ruka + Ruci and carries out different activities and projects in order to achieve strategic goals and to increase participation of minority groups in the process of building the better and more transparent democratic society.

She was born on 20 February 1957 in Prishtina. She attended the primary school in Kosovo Polje, and completed the secondary technical education in the field of civil engineering in Prishtina. She got her Bachelor degree at Higher Business School - Department of Informatics and Statistics in Blace (Serbia). Currently she is employed with the Directorate for Planning, Urbanism, Cadastre and Environment Protection in Gracanica, as an officer in charge for construction permits and project manager.

She commenced her activities in the NGO sector in 1999, with the team that was formed within the women association Ruka+Ruci (21 November 1999). The idea on creation of women association Ruka+Ruci was born 10 years ago. When she, together with her colleagues, started activities they had no clear vision of their future, but currently they have good strategy and successful team. Also, they accomplished to implement significant number of projects oriented toward women and community.

Association is focused to improve and protect women minority rights in Kosovo with the support of Kvinna till Kvinna, the international Swedish organization. Human resources of organization include five full time employees, including psychology expert and six volunteers. They work in metal container provided by organization Kvinna till Kvinna that is positioned on the socially-owned land in the village of Ugljare.

Ruka+Ruci is active in the area of education and awareness raising of women and young girls on women rights, general health and reproductive health of women, as well as psycho-social assistance for abused women. They are also involved in media monitoring, monitoring the implementation of legislation on women rights and discrimination cases, informal education, agricultural development, non-violent communication, as well as in capacity and resources building of the organization itself. It was achieved through organization of seminars, round tables, lectures and surveys. Beneficiaries are women and girls 16 years of age and more.

Ruka+Ruci is member of Kosovo Women Network (KWN) and Network of Kosovo Serbian Women Groups (MZSKG).

### ILIRE ZAJMI



Ilire Zajmi is a writer and journalist, engaged as a professor of several subjects for mass communication and journalism at the private University AAB in Prishtina. She is the trainer of television journalism in the Institute of Media in Kosova.

She was born in 1971 in Prizren. She attended the Secondary School in Prizren, and was graduated from Faculty of Law at the University of Prishtina. She is a master of the science of communication. She specialized in diplomacy in the Regional Centre for Political and Diplomatic Studies at the Albanian Diplomatic Academy (Albania).

Ilire has a long experience in the field of journalism, as a journalist and editor in electronic media and printed ones. She also worked as a reporter during the war in Kosova, cooperating with many Italian newspapers and Italian public broadcaster RAI. She is currently the correspondent for the Italian news agency ANSA.

She is the first journalist of the Radio Television Kosova (RTK), where she initially worked as a reporter, author of emissions, the news editor and editor in chief. She manages the Center of education in this television.

She is the author of four books. She published two collection of

poetry, "Morning bells" (Këmbanat e mëngjesit, Prishtina, 1991); "White ballads" (Baladë e bardhë, Prishtina, 2000); novel "Fading of the rebel dreams" (Fashitja e ëndrrave rrebele, Prishtina, 1996) and the journalism book *Un treno per Blace*, published in Italy (Molfetta 1999). Ilire's poems have been translated into English, Italian, Romanian. She is co-author in anthologies "High heels" (Take të larta, Prishtina, 2002)', "Language of love poetry" (Albanian-Italian-English, Gjuha e dashurisë poetike. Tirana, 2006), "To Mother" (Nënës, Tirana, 2007), *Altri mondi* (Albanian-Romanian, Bucharest, 2008).

She writes poetry, prose, journalism and literature and she is concerned with translations from English and Italian. She also deals with media issues, addressing current topics from this field through scientific and publicist works published in newspapers of Kosova and Albania.

She is a member of PEN Center of Kosova and the International Association *Poetas Del Mundos*

### NAFIJE BERISHA-LATIFI

Nafije Berisha-Latifi, having into consideration that the spread of the disease of breast cancer is really alarming in Kosovo and that mortality from this disease ranks as second in the malignant diseases in the world, devoted to the care of women in this regard in postwar Kosovo. She established the Life / Vita Association, given the difficulties the sick women in Kosovo is facing, including those financial, as well as not having the adequate institutional and social support and environmental taboos.



Nafije was born in Dubrava, municipality of Kacanik, on 20.01.1950. She completed Primary school and high school in Ferizaj, while she graduated from Albanian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philology in Prishtina. During her first year of studies she started to work as a journalist for the student magazine New World, and after one year she worked as editor for the Voice of Youth magazine, the only one for youth issues at that time. Then, with some interruptions (1976-2006), she worked as an editor for Kosovarja, the magazine for female and family. She was secretary of the Conference on Social Activities of Women in Kosovo (1986-1989) and an editor of Shkendija, the magazine for education and culture (1986-1989). With her writings as a journalist, she urged the education and employment of the youth,

especially girls from rural areas, supported the involvement of women in social and political life and affirmed the original values of Kosovo, not just with regard to gender relevance.

In the years 2000-2004, with the help of U.S. Office, she published the magazine for young people Rreze, which helped a number of new associates to make their first steps in journalism. In the year 2005 she founded the Kosovo Centre for Combating Breast Cancer Life / Vita, with the purpose of information and awareness of women about the risk of breast cancer disease and with the idea of finding opportunities for survival of the attacked women by the disease and their families. The aim of the Centre was to sensitize the society about the situation of concern and lack of basic conditions, as should be the Oncology Institute, with qualified medical personnel and equipment needed.

Through Life / Vita, with the surviving patients, medical experts, the Network of Women, the U.S. Embassy in Pristina and with representatives of electronic and printed media, she contributed for publication of the leaflets on self-control (5 times), two bulletins with information on diagnosis, treatment, advice and authentic stories of sick women, holding of conferences, workshops in all municipalities, media campaigns with several days promo in all RTV's, debates, discussions, petitions, Walk to cure (3 times).

It was her joint struggle against this serious disease, which raised the need for drafting a national strategy for combating this disease, providing the ambulance for mobile mammography for screening program (early detection) and, in particular, for the completion and functioning of the Institute of Oncology. Nafije's activities

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significantly influenced informing and awareness raising of women about the risk of breast cancer and the need for self-control, regular medical controls and the breaking of taboos about the disease.

Nafije helped to create a powerful partnership between the sick and politics, between doctors and civil society, between the media and the public, all in service of awareness, humanizing and empowering Kosovo society for the mission of fighting breast cancer.

She is co-establisher of the Balkan Initiative for Breast Cancer, with the American Embassy, representatives of USAID, the Ministry of Health and medical experts, which aim to raise the awareness about breast cancer through outreach to women of all ethnicities in Kosovo and region.

She was part of various professional groups of study at home and abroad and she is a member of the forums and associations of journalists and civil society. She was awarded with the professional and social recognition.

## STANICA STANA KOVAČEVIĆ



Stanica Kovačević was born on 30.3.1947 in the village of Crnilo in the Municipality of Ferizaj. She graduated from the secondary school, but she never was employed. She is included in women's activities in the village of Prilužje in the Municipality of Vushtrri, where she lives together with her family.

In 2000, she established NGO Luna, named after the old Greek goddess of the Moon. After having established Luna, she expanded her activities in the Municipality of Vushtrri. Later on, this NGO became a member of the Serbian NGO networking, and eventually it joined the Kosova Women Network.

In cooperation with the organization Ruka-Ruci from Ugljare, the Municipality of Kosovo Polje/ Fushe Kosova, they have been initially rendering psycho-social assistance to women and, over time, extended their performance to organizing various other activities, from promoting and preserving women's health, protection of women in the family and other related activities that directly or indirectly affect the welfare and wellbeing of women.

Stanica, whom everyone knows as Stana, succeeded in implementing her own goals of helping other women through the organizing of round tables, workshops and conferences for women

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in the territory of Municipality of Vushtrri and beyond. Together with her peers in Luna organization, she contributed to achieving empowerment and training of some 250 women.

One of most successfully implemented project was her organizing workshop for handiwork for women from all ethnic communities in Kosovo, together with NGO Open Door. These workshops, held eight times per month, managed to empower and educate some 120 women. Women who attended these workshops very quickly managed to master to produce handicraft pursuant to the highest quality techniques and to present them in the market.

## SEHARE BRIKA



Sehare Brika, as a bank employee, developed perennial humanitarian activities and was committed to freedom, independence and democracy of Kosova, continuing the tradition of her father Ymer, a craftsman, humanist and supporter of the national movement in Prizren and beyond.

She founded the Association of Paraplegics and Paralysis of the Children, headquartered in Prizren (1994). She gave humanitarian assistance and offered special care to people with disabilities, especially women, who were out of the state care of the time. She was also involved and their re - socialization.

Seharje was born in 1950 in Prizren. She completed her Primary school, Secondary School and graduated from Pedagogical High School in Prizren. As a very young she took part in the liberation movement of Kosova and in demonstrations of the year 1968 in Prizren.

She conducted very intensive social, political and humanitarian activities, in particular during the years 1989-1999. She was the organizer of the massive women gatherings in Prizren against the regime of the time (1990), Member of the Women's

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Forum of LDK - Branch in Prizren, Chair of Women's Forum of the LDK sub-branch September 7 in Prizren and very active member of the Democratic League of Kosovo - Branch in Prizren. She attended the First Assembly Women's Forum of LDK, held in Prishtina. She was prominent on organizing the national elections of the year 1992 in LDK sub-branch September 7 in Prizren.

She was recognized as one of the main organizers in terms of accumulation and distribution of aids to the population of Prizren and wider during the time. She collected and distributed humanitarian aids to families of miners of Trepça, to necessitous in the region of Prizren, Prishtina (Kodra e Trimave). Equally she was committed to the Charitable Association Mother Teresa - Branch in Prizren.

After the liberation of Kosova, from June 1999, she was committed for the democratization of Kosova society, as a prominent activist in Prizren and wider.

Being dissatisfied with developments in the country and seeing that the welfare of the population, for which she had contributed, was not working up well, in the year 2004 she became part of the reformist party Democratic Alternative of Kosova (ADK) and became co-founder of the branch in Prizren, where she is Vice President.

## TAXHIDA ZUBÇEVIQ HAFIZ



Tadžida Zubčević Hafiz was born in Sarajevo on 11 June 1946, from mother Zuhra and father Sahzudin, academic painter. She attended the primary school in Mostar (1961), classical gymnasium in Sarajevo (1965), and graduated in the Faculty of Philosophy - Department of the Literature of Orient, University of Sarajevo (1976). She acquired the title master of science with the topic Hadzi Omer Lutfi and his role in spreading of socialistic ideas in Kosovo at the Faculty of Philology, University of Prishtina (1982), while she got her Ph.D. with the topic Turkish classical poetry in Prizren in the period of XV-XX centuries at the Faculty of Philology, University of Prishtina (1998). She was a lecturer at the Faculty of Philology, University of Prishtina since 1990, while the title of associated professor she acquired in 2004.

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She was professor of Turkish language and literature in Turkish classes in Gymnasium Ivo Lola Ribar in Prishtina (1977-1984), editor in chief for editions in Turkish language within the Provincial Institute for Schoolbooks and Teaching Materials in Prishtina (1984-1990) and lecturer of subjects Literature for Children, Theory of the Literature and Methodic of Turkish Language and Literature at the Department of Class-oriented Teaching within the Higher Pedagogic School in Prizren (1989-1996). She is a lecturer of the following subjects: Turkish Literature I (pre-Islamic period), Turkish Literature II (Turkish classical literature), Turkish Literature III (Literature of tanzimats), Turkish Literature IV (Contemporary Turkish literature), Theory of Literature for students attending the Department for Turkish Language and Literature within the Faculty of Philology, University of Prishtina (1990-), Literature for Children (2001-2003).

Tadzida was visiting professor for the subject Turkish Literature of 19 and 20 Century at the Department for Turkish Language and Literature within the Faculty of History, Geography and Turkish Language, University of Ankara (winter semester 1999). She is a member of Founding and Steering Boards of the Association of Experts for Turkish Language of Kosovo (30 June 1998) and director of the Centre for Turkish Language and Literature Researches in Balkans (BAL-TAM), that was established in Prizren (30 March 2000), where she also occupied the post of editor in chief.

She is a permanent President of the Organizational Committee of the International Symposiums of Turkish Language and Literature Experts in Balkans, being organized since 2007 as International Symposiums of Turkish Language and Literature Experts of South-East Europe. So far, four symposiums have been

organized: I International Symposiums of Turkish Language and Literature Experts in Balkans, Prizren 2001, II International Symposiums of Turkish Language and Literature Experts in Balkans, Mostar 2002, III International Symposiums of Turkish Language and Literature Experts in Balkans, Kotor 2003, IV International Symposiums of Turkish Language and Literature Experts in Balkans, Zagreb 2007.

## ZAKE PRELVUKAJ



Zake Prelvukaj is a painter and a pedagogue in the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prishtina. With her paintings she brought a more optimistic spirit in the last decade, leaving behind the painting of grave individual and national experiences of Kosova. Therefore, she produced a sort of

painting that rather smiles than it cries, a type of painting that is optimistic.

Zake was born in 1963 in Martinaj of Plave (Montenegro). She graduated with the class of Professor Nysret Salihamixhiq, the Department of Painting of the Faculty of Arts, Prishtina University (1990) and also received the title of Master of Arts at the same Faculty, the class of professor Muslim Mulliqi in 1997. Since 1993 she is a regular professor at the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina. Her paintings, although inspired by Kosova, speak with a global language and they are “readable” for the audience throughout the world. During her artistic carrier, she participated in many personal and group exhibitions. She chiefly organized her individual exhibits in Prishtina: Future X (2010), Protect the Nature, Germia Park (2004); Sexhibition, Museum of Kosova (2005), 12 ours-shopping centre-performative (2004), Getto in Balkan, in Hani i Dy Robertëve, (2003), X-es speak -The art of

Resistance, Gallery Dodona (1998) etc. In Peja she exhibited in Coffey-Gallery Evergreen (1994) and Gallery Europe (1996), whereas in Gjakova in New Vision Gallery (2001).

Out of Kosova, Zake presented herself with individual exhibitions in the gallery Velimir Lekovic in Tivar-Bar (Montenegro, 2009), Video Art in Zagreb (Croatia, 2008); in the gallery Mala Stanica in Shkup (FYROM - Macedonia, 2007); center of Culture in Plava (Montenegro, 2005), Peace for ever Museum of Peace PAX Diksmuide, (Belgium, 2004), Korper Malen Literatur House Gallery in Salzburg (Austria, 2003) and in the gallery the tower of Balshaj in Ulqin (Montenegro, 2003).

Since 1987 she was a part of many group exhibitions both in Kosova and abroad. She participated in almost all the exhibitions organized in Kosova, thus, as a painter, overcoming all gender barriers. While promoting the Kosovar art in the world, she participated, among other exhibitions, in the exhibition Italjenska Palatset 3K Art Know (Sweden, 2009), Balkandemokraci Art Museum Bergenz (Austria, 2009), Fine Arts University Gallery in Madrid (Spain, 2009), Fragile state in Stockport Manchester (Great Britain, 2007), National Gallery of Arts in Tirana (Albania, 2007), Enerus Gallery in Istanbul (Turkey, 2007), Visual Immortality in Magic Museum, Bazel (Switzerland, 2007), Gallery Altitude, Paris (France, 2003), Gallery Hibya, Tokio (Japan, 2003) etc.

Zake received the November Price in FYROM (2008); Price of the House Culture in Gostivar (FYROM, 2008); the Price of the International Gallery of Portrait in Tuzel (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006); Flowers for Aleksander Moisiu International, in Lugano (Switzerland, 2005); the Price in International Drawing Biennale of the National Gallery of Kosova (2004). She is known as

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the one who created the memorial: Let us not forget our artists, that contains photos of the individuals who contributed to the development of the culture in Kosova.

## **SHPRESA KRYEZIU AGUSHI**



Shpresa championed the rights of Roma in Kosova, at local and international level, thus supporting gender equality within Roma community and encouraged further education of Roma children. She was born on 19 December 1970 in Prizren, in a family that devoted more importance to education and where gender equality in education,

employment, family planning was existent, as well as freedom of speech when dealing with any family or personal decision. Apart from the Elementary School in Prizren, she finished the Secondary School in the department of Chemistry Laboratory Technician. After the marriage, she continued her life in Gjilan. In October of the year 1999 she was employed in the IRC, as field monitor for humanitarian and non-humanitarian aid for Roma. It was the first Roma in Kosova with such a task.

As the last war left its consequences, she began to deal with the rights of Roma in Kosova. Shpresa was committed to the protection of every innocent man, to the idea that no individual should feel guilty only because she or he belongs to a particular community. Along with her father in-law, Tefik Agushi, representative of Roma community during 1999-2001, she participated in many activities, taking part in various meetings on the issue of Roma community and cooperated with international and local institutions.

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She collaborated with local and international NGOs in Kosova and abroad. In 2000 she joined the Roman Amalipe in Gjilan, which she registered as an NGO in 2001. From October 2001-2003 she was the advisor of the Roma in the Assembly of the Municipality of Gjilan. Even during this mandate she gave priority to the education of Roma children, human rights and the rights of women in all spheres of life. She collaborated with Roma women in Europe and was participant of many conferences and training courses organized in Kosova and at an international level.

She worked in organizations and institutions that dealt with the issue of human rights, particularly rights of Roma. She worked on the projects of OSCE and ODIHR, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Care International, Kosovo Civil Society Foundation, Roma Women Can Do It project, OSI projects in JRW and, finally in Kosovar Center for Gender Studies. She did volunteer work around the issue of Roma, for which she received the award from the Foundation for Freedom and Human Rights in Bern, Switzerland (2007), awarded for the first time to a Roma activist. With this she became the first Roma activists in Kosova that took this kind of price.

In 2007 she was elected executive director of the Network of Women's Organizations of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosova (NWORAEK), established in early 2000. After a break, the network resumed work as a non-governmental and non-profit organization (December 2006), with support from UNIFEM office in Kosova and in cooperation with Luljeta Vuniqi from Kosovar Centre for Gender Studies in Prishtina and Shpresa, as the representative of Roma women Romane Romnja in Gjilan. The scope of the network is focused on education, integration-reintegration, health and women's rights of the Roma, Ashkali and

Egyptian communities.

Network held or participated in various workshops and presentations such as three days presentations in support of Kosovo Government Strategy for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, organized by the Office of the Prime Minister - the Office for Good Governance, which aim was the fulfillment of the Action Plan, in accordance with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (6/18/2009, 2 and 3/6/2010). It should be mentioned the presentation of the project Effective participation of ethnic communities attacked on racial discrimination basis in public life in the Western Balkans of Balkan's Egyptians Union (5-7.6.2009), for elaboration of the project of the Foundation for support of the Kosova Government Strategy for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (Foundation of Kosova for Open Society, 11-13.3.2010) or The challenge and the way forward for monitoring and advocacy led by civil society, advocacy Roma , Ashkali and Egyptian communities NGOs of Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (17/11/2008) etc. She did attend the conference Advancing the position of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian a must for Kosovar society (20/05/2010), aimed at resolving the issue of camps in northern Mitrovica as a highly sensitive issue, than the meeting with Rome & Regional Ashkali Documentation Center (RADC) and Sonce from Macedonia, in order to exchange experiences in the partnership of those organizations and presentation of their work (19-21.1.2010). She also participated in the training Education and Social Rights Center from Kosova Education Center (KEC), and she held meetings with representatives of Roma Initiatives from Budapest, organized by the Kosova Foundation for Open Society (13-15.10.2008).

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Staff members of NWORAEK were assisted in building their capacities in financial management, administration and web site under the supervision of the staff of the Kosovar Center for Gender Studies. It also helped that Diana Shaka be certified by Association for Finance and Accounting Service (AFAS), while Shpresa and three coordinators were certified in the field of computer from the New Age School Kosovo and Pentium Computer. The network participated in completing the documentation of applicants for the program Roma Education Fund- Scholarships.

Shpresa, together with NWORAEK, managed to prepare the TV spot To support the education of women supported by UNIFEM, Kosovar Center for Gender Studies. The spot was launched in RTK and RT21.

## OLA SYLA



Ola Syla is a woman who through creativity successfully realized around 35 projects on awareness raising and emancipation of women in rural areas. During her activities, she realized that the only way to improve women's position in the family and in society was her financial independence. She achieved this in many villages of Kosova. She enabled many women from rural areas to become financially independent and gave them the strength and security for a better life. Her activity became an example in many other places in Kosovo and broader.

Ola Syla was born in September 1995 in Istog. She completed Primary and Secondary school in Istog, whereas her studies on journalism in Prishtina, where she continued to live and work. In 1999, right after the war in Kosova, she started her activity in Krusha e Madhe village, where through research conducted, she identified 204 widowed women and 504 children without one or both parents. This was the reason why she created the Drita e Krushës Association in 1999. The initial working conditions were

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very challenging because Krusha Madhe was a living proof of the terrible consequences of the war. Cooperation with this village and its widowed women was rather hard, given that the loss of their family members was irreplaceable, and the village was left hopeless and without any will. Even though rehabilitation and efforts to live a normal life seemed impossible at the time, Ola in the meantime managed to achieve this goal.

She started to work in cooperation with many international and local organizations, starting with projects for tailoring, continued with literacy courses, health education and trainings for opening small women's businesses. She educated women to create small workshops and later joined all of them in one producers gathering point. Currently, there are 100 women employed there, who process fruits and vegetables.

Through the realizing of small projects, she identified many women from the Kosovar villages that were illiterate, and this was a tremendous social problem and an obstacle to the continuation of any other activity that would pull women out of the crisis. Ola, together with other NGO's, came up with the idea of writing a book for adults regarding women's education. The book was given the titled Life Window, and Ola was one of the authors. The main purpose of the book was: To teach them how to study.

After four years of work in educating and raising awareness, she commenced with trainings for opening of small businesses, firstly in Krusha e Madhe. After five years time, such activity was made possible almost in every family dealing with farming. She fostered the conservation of pickled vegetables, while in Agrokos 2001 fair she launched domestic products in the market with the logo It is time for domestic products, and she named the products:

From our land.

In 2008 she opened the first shop with domestic products produced by women from all over Kosovo, which was also the first shop of this kind. She cooperated with approximately 300 Kosovar women producers of all nationalities.

In 2010 she opened a workshop, a warehouse and a shop in Krusha e Madhe, for the purpose of employing and bringing together all women producers. They now have all the opportunities and conditions to create and work independently.

Ola, who also assisted in providing marketing ideas, currently cooperates with 300 Kosovar women producers. These women, apart of manufacturing, also produce the raw material necessary for the manufacturing process.

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