



2016-2017 REPORT

Overview of Elin Pelin Foundation
activities and finances between
June 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017.

1900 Kane St., Houston, TX 77009

Tel: (832) 928-5328

E-mail: elinpelin@elinpelin-houston.org

Web: www.elinpelin-houston.org

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends of Elin Pelin Foundation:

I'm pleased to report that 2016 was a year of great accomplishments for Elin Pelin Foundation!

We kicked off Summer 2016 with two new initiatives for children: Summer Camp "Smehuranci", which directly resulted in a significant increase in new student-enrolment in the Fall; and Summer Online School for children that helped current students maintain their knowledge and improve their fluency in Bulgarian Language.



Also in the summer we secured a new home for Elin Pelin Bulgarian School at Multi-cultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA), a community-based nonprofit organization. MECA and now our school are nestled in the heart of Houston at the historic Dow School building. The multiple sunny classrooms, performance auditorium and outside playground, among other positives, are providing the perfect setting for our classes and activities.



A book signing and meeting with the author, organized by Elin Pelin Library marked the end of summer break and the beginning of the new school year.

Our school's fifth consecutive school-year was a great success with thirty enrolled students, divided into five separate classes. Two new talented and energetic teachers joined Elin Pelin's School faculty.

Numerous events throughout the school year helped popularize our foundation and school, and raise funds to continue our mission. At the first of its kind Social Mixer in the Fall of 2016 dozens of our members and friends had a grand time sharing business stories, enjoying fine wine and appetizers, and meeting new people.

Other events like Breakfast with Santa and "Martenitza" Workshop received media coverage, for which we are exclusively grateful to BG Voice.

I am most grateful to the many volunteers who helped make this year's events especially successful. Moreover, the Foundation was thrilled to receive substantially higher contributions both from corporate sponsors and individual donors last year. Their generous support will help ensure that our main initiatives Elin Pelin Bulgarian School, Library, and Social Events, will continue to go forward.



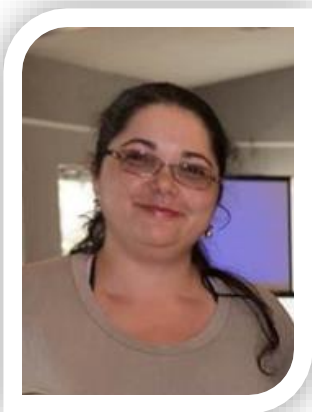
Of course, people are at the core of any organization such as ours, and we were pleased to honor Mihaela Araktchieva who is stepping down as a director after 5 years of dedicated service. Mihaela has been an invaluable asset to the Foundation, especially with her organizational skills and contribution to the projects of Elin Pelin Library. We wish Mihaela all the best in the coming years.

At our last annual meeting we increased the number of board directors from three to five and welcomed two new members - Mrs. Ekaterina Atanassov and Ms. Darina Koleva.



Mrs. Atanassov has Master's Degree of Business Administration at California State University. Ms. Koleva has a Juris Doctor Master's degree from the University of Houston. With their broad range of experience in investment management and legal industries they have already made valuable contributions to our organization and its mission.

We are all thrilled to see the continued organizational and financial growth of our foundation and remain forever grateful to our donors and friends for their wonderful support.



Sincerely,

Gergana Araktchiev

President of Elin Pelin Foundation

29 May 2017

Extra-Curricular Activities for Kids

Camp “Smehuranci” – Summer 2016

On June 4th 2016, Elin Pelin Foundation initiated Free Summer Camp Smehuranci for kids from 5 through 14 years of age. Every Saturday the young Bulgarian-American campers were engaged in fun activities such as listening to fairy



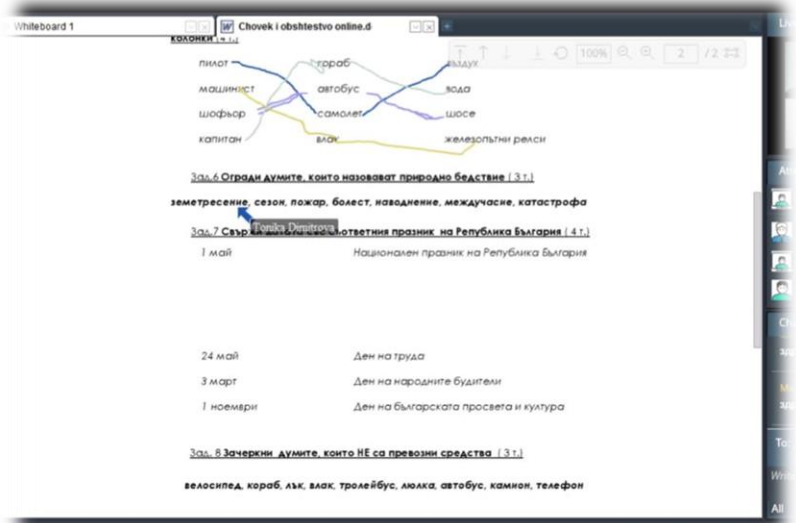
tales, rehearsing a play “Grandfather’s Glove”, which they performed at the beginning of the next school year, watching a video related to the play, playing games, creating the props for the play, and singing children’s songs.

Ms. Mariya Kostova – coordinator, instructor-volunteer

Ms. Velina Karamuncheva – instructor-volunteer

Online Class for Kids – Summer 2016

In the middle of June 2016 Elin Pelin Foundation is initiated a Summer Online Course for students from 9 to 14 years or have completed 2nd grade.



Children who could not go to Bulgaria for the summer attended the course two times per week, and it helped them maintain their current level of comprehension. To attend the course a student needed a computer with fast internet, camera, microphone and speakers. That way the kids could practice reading, writing and speaking in Bulgarian, while doing what they like to do most- spend time on the computer.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Ms. Rayna Levakova – instructor

Camp “Smehuranci” – Summer 2017

This Summer Elin Pelin Foundation is organizing a Free Summer Camp Smehuranci every Saturday from 1PM through 4PM at Spring Branch Memorial Library which will give the opportunity to current and future students to refresh their knowledge of Bulgarian grammar and vocabulary. The curriculum will include children’s songs, games, crafts and other fun activities.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Galina Stamenova – instructor



Bulgarian School

New School Year Fall 2016 enrolled 30 Students



For the first time since the creation of Elin Pelin School and Foundation, the school opened doors with thirty (30) enrolled students. The largest class of ten (10) was consisted of newly enrolled students who had yet to learn their first word in Bulgarian.

Mr. Georgi Tarpomanov – Principal
Mr. Gamolov, Mrs. Gogova, Mrs. Bazelkova, Ms. Stamenova, Mrs. Espey – Instructors

New building for the school and collaboration with Bulgarian Rose – Fall 2016

In the Summer of 2016 Elin Pelin Foundation secured a new building location for the School at the historic Dow School, which is used by MECA (Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts) for education and performing arts. The new building has plenty of room for the Bulgarian School's growing classes as well as a park, playground, and a stage for future events and performances by Elin Pelin

Foundation and BCC Bulgarian Rose. One of the rooms dedicated for the use of Elin Pelin Foundation is being sublet by the Bulgarian Cultural Center for the use of Folk Dance Group Bulgarian Rose and Children's Folk Ensemble Hopa-Tropa. This makes it convenient for the young students to learn Bulgarian Folk Dances before class, as well as for parents to dance while waiting for their children.

Mrs. Ekaterian Atanassov – coordinator



Breakfast with Santa – Winter 2016



“Martenitza” Workshop 1st of March – Spring 2017

To mark the end of the winter and beginning of spring, Elin Pelin Foundation organized “Martenitza” Workshop where the kids learned the importance of March 1st how to make “Martenitza” crafts using white and red yarn. The event received media attention and was covered in an article by Sibila Patsi, reporter for BG Voice (www.bg-voice.com) – an Illinois Bulgarian-American Newspaper.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Mrs. Gogova, Mrs. Bazelkova, Mrs. Espey – Instructors



Recognizing 3rd of March – Spring 2017

To mark the Bulgarian Independence Day, Mr. Gamolov – 6th grade instructor in Elin Pelin Bulgarian School had a History lecture for the children and adults on March 4th 2017 1900 Kane St Houston, TX

Mr. Georgi Tarpomanov – coordinator

Mr. Yancho Gamolov – instructor



Library

Antonina Kardasheva – Book Signing – Fall 2016

In the fall of 2016 Elin Pelin Library and Foundation organized book signing with Antonina Kardasheva, author of “Psychology for parents”. The meeting was held at Spring Branch Memorial Branch Library Meeting Room 930 Corbindale Houston, TX 77024 at 3PM on September 3, 2016 Current and future parents had the opportunity to receive answers to many of their questions related to child nurture and discipline depending on the child’s age group, school environment and family model.

Mrs. Mihaela Araktchieva – coordinator

Dr. Antonina Kardasheva, PhD – author



School for Parents – Speaker Antonina Kardasheva – Spring 2017

On 25th of February 2017 Elin Pelin Foundation organized an event “School For Parents” - a meeting with Bulgarian author, psychologist and life & business coach Antonina Kardasheva, PhD. The lecture “The invisible chaos in child’s mind” covered issues with self-esteem and emotional Intelligence in today’s youth.

While the meeting was in progress, the children of guest were welcome to participate in “**Martenitza**” Workshop – (see under Bulgarian School).

Mrs. Mihaela Araktchieva – coordinator

Dr. Antonina Kardasheva, PhD – speaker

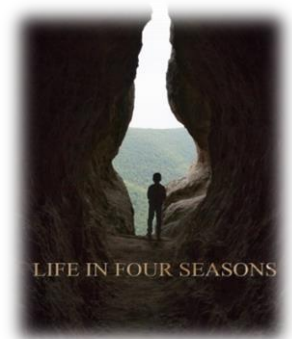


Bulgarian film *Life in Four Seasons* – Spring 2017

In the beginning of 2017 Elin Pelin Foundation contacted Wake Up Foundation in relation to the film LIFE IN FOUR SEASONS and WAKE UP campaign. In attempt to support the film and help inspire young children to be action-takers and follow their dreams, Elin Pelin Foundation is currently working on reaching out to potential sponsors.

The Wake Up Foundation has a mission to produce an inspirational short film about the Bulgarian history, nature, culture, and spirit.

Ms. Darina Koleva - coordinator



Online Classes for Adults

Bulgarian Online Classes for Adults – Fall 2016

In the Fall of 2016 Elin Pelin Foundation continued offering Bulgarian Online Classes for Adults. This Course help people who are planning a trip to Bulgaria, who are married to a Bulgarian-American or are interested in learning Bulgarian as a second language to take classes at their own convenience and in the comfort of their home.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Ms. Rayna Levakova - instructor



Bulgarian Online Classes for Adults – Spring 2017

For a third semester in a roll, Elin Pelin Foundation continuous to offer Bulgarian Online classes for Adults. Our intention is to continue offering the course as long as there is public interest.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator

Ms. Rayna Levakova - instructor

Social Events and Fundraisers

Social Mixer – Fall 2016

On September 23, 2016 at 5:30 PM Elin Pelin Foundation organized for the first time a Social Mixer event at The Tasting Room located in 1101 Uptown Park Blvd, Houston, Texas 77056 This evening of Drinks, Appetizers, & Networking was a fun, exciting and effective way to make new personal and professional connections in the vibrant, yet cozy atmosphere of one of the largest wine bars in



the nation. Bulgarians and friends of Bulgaria were welcome to bring their business or personal cards and be ready to meet new people, share ideas, and enjoy the company of people with similar cultural background.

Mrs. Katia Atanassov – coordinator

Halloween – Fall 2016

On Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 8 PM 1607 Tucumcari Dr., Houston, TX 77090 Volunteers from Elin Pelin Foundation invited the foundation's members, parents of students and their friends to a terrifying night at a grave yard, dungeon tunnels filled with scary creatures, flashing lights, and flying ghosts. The brave guests could enjoy spaghetti with spider meat sauce, fettuccini Alfredo with chicken and beetles, and soul calming Sangrias around the blood filled pool. Costumes were required. All proceeds were designated to go to the Elin Pelin Foundation.

Ms. Mariya Kostova - coordinator



Breakfast with Santa – Winter 2016



For a second year Elin Pelin foundation organized Breakfast with Santa. There were games with prizes sponsored by

a volunteer. The children made traditional Bulgarian crafts. Provided by our numerous volunteers, there were continental breakfast and several different Bulgarian traditional breakfast dishes. Santa Claus sat down to enjoy a short concert performed by the students of Bulgarian School Elin Pelin. In the end, the sixth-grade students performed a musical-theatrical piece of traditional Bulgarian Christmas Caroling. The event was free for all children, regardless of whether or not they were students in the Bulgarian school. More than 45 Bulgarian-American children attended Breakfast with Santa. Santa Claus gave LEGO presents and treats to each child before hurrying back to the North Pole.

The event received media coverage and was one of the most successful events organized by Elin Pelin Foundation.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev - coordinator



New Year Bulgarian-American Social Gathering – 2017

For the first time Elin Pelin Foundation organized a New Year's Potluck Party for all Bulgarian Families in Houston and their friends at the Rose Party Hall - 11268 Beechnut St, Houston, TX 77072 on Saturday December 31st from 8PM. The guests celebrated the New 2017 with Bulgarian music and dances. The cost of space, DJ, tableware and decorations was split evenly between the participants.



Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator
Mrs. Tonika Dimitrova – coordinator

Social Mixer – Spring 2017 – Guest Speaker Antonina Kardasheva



Mrs. Katia Atanassov – coordinator
Dr. Antonina Kardasheva, PhD – speaker

On February 10, 2017 at the Tasting Room in Uptown Park Elin Pelin Foundation organized a second Social Mixer.

At the event the Bulgarian author, psychologist and life & business coach Antonina Kardasheva, PhD was a guest-speaker. The guests had the opportunity to hear her valuable perspective on leadership and personal growth, among other topics.



Gergiovden – Spring 2017

For a second year volunteers organized a celebration to mark this Bulgarian Holiday in hope to raise funds for underfunded projects such as Summer Camp and Online Classes. The event lasted two days. The celebration began with afternoon filled with games for children and delicious food, and continued with a day at Burroughs Park where children went to play on the playground, fish, and race toy-boats in the pond.

Mrs. Gergana Araktchiev – coordinator



A Shout Out to Our Biggest Supporters:



- **Chevron** – Donation in the amount of \$2000 or more – Chevron Volunteer Grant Program and Humankind supports employees, retirees and corporate directors in their commitment to build better communities.
- **Walmart** – Donation in the amount of \$2000 Through the Community Grant Program, Walmart is proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations.
- **Kroger** – Donation in the amount of \$200 in form of gift cards and cakes. Recurring Donations in the amount of \$50 or less - Kroger is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year Kroger supports local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations through Kroger Community Rewards Program.
- **Peter Atanassov** – Individual Donations of \$1000 or more
- **BBVA Compass** – Corporate Donations of \$200 or more
- **Mintcho Araktchiev** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more in form of gift cards
- **Nikolaj Gergov** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more
- **Dessi Mathew** – Individual Donations of \$200 or more
- **Amazon** – Recurring Donations in the amount of \$50 or less - AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to a charitable organization of the buyer's choice.

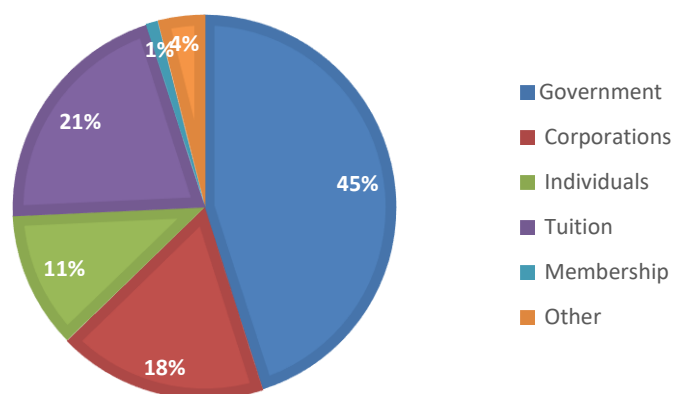
The recognition of our generous community is important to us, and we have worked hard to ensure that all information is included and accurate. If you find any errors or omissions, please contact us at 925-588-4918.

Finance

Unaudited Financial Data Summary for 2016-2017

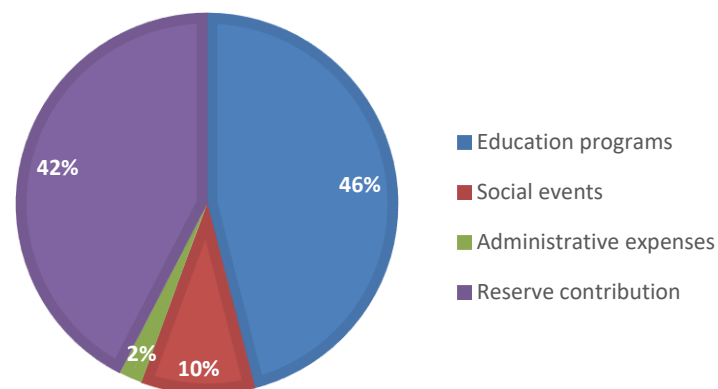
Inflow

<i>Government</i>	\$ 15,237	45%
<i>Corporations</i>	\$ 5,981	18%
<i>Individuals</i>	\$ 3,891	12%
<i>Tuition</i>	\$ 7,037	21%
<i>Membership</i>	\$ 346	1%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 1,320	4%
Total	\$ 33,812	100%



Expenses

<i>Education programs</i>	\$ 15,556	46%
<i>Social events</i>	\$ 3,235	10%
<i>Administrative expenses</i>	\$ 672	2%
<i>Reserve contribution</i>	\$ 14,348	42%
Total	\$ 33,812	100%



The financial summary includes gifts and activities between June 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017 and is produced internally by Elin Pelin Foundation. The recognition of our generous community is important to us, and we have worked hard to ensure that all information is included and accurate. If you find any errors or omissions, please contact us at 925-588-4918.

Elin Pelin Foundation Staff and Board

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Ekaterina Atanasov.....	Director
Darina Koleva.....	Director
Mariya Kostova.....	Director
Mihaela Araktchieva.....	Director
Anna Tarpomanova.....	Director

Officers

Gergana Araktchiev.....	President
Nevena Nikolova.....	Treasurer
Mintcho Araktchiev.....	Secretary
Lachezar Velez.....	Controller
Mihaela Araktchieva.....	Librarian

Faculty

Georgi Tarpomanov.....	Principal
Yancho Gamolov.....	Teacher
Galia Stamenova.....	Teacher
Natalia Espey.....	Teacher
Ada Gogova.....	Teacher
Zhulieta Bazelkova.....	Teacher
Rayna Levakova.....	Online Instructor

Staff

Mariyana Marinova.....	Webmaster
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