



Dear Friends,

The holiday season is upon us, and citizens of our two countries share a wonderful tradition of exchanging gifts to celebrate the occasion or just say thank-you. While a gift is a great token of friendship and appreciation among individuals, we at the America for Bulgaria Foundation firmly believe that gifts have no place in professional relations. This principle is enshrined in the [ABF Code of Ethics](#), and it ensures that all our partners, vendors, and grantees receive the impartial treatment they deserve.

If you would like to express your good wishes of the season, send us a hand-written note or card that we can share with the ABF Board of Directors and staff, but please save your hard-earned money for what truly matters—supporting charities, businesses, and initiatives that help our communities thrive. Please consider becoming a patron of one of the many social enterprises founded by members of the ABF community, or [giving volunteering a try](#). Team ABF has some ideas for you in this month's newsletter and on our Facebook page.

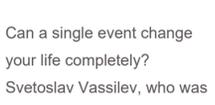
May our holidays be merry, our communities prosperous, and our world more peaceful!

**Nancy L. Schiller**  
President and CEO  
America for Bulgaria Foundation

## Many Reasons for Optimism



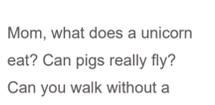
### All I Want for Christmas Is an IT Job



Can a single event change your life completely? Svetoslav Vassilev, who was a school janitor three years ago and now works as a website developer, believes that's exactly what happened to him.

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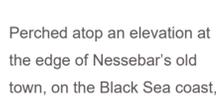
### Grandma, Can Volunteers Jump through Hoops?



Mom, what does a unicorn eat? Can pigs really fly? Can you walk without a skeleton? Dad, will you watch me jump backwards? Parents are busy nowadays, and these questions often remain...

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### Preserving History Is a Gift to Future Generations



Perched atop an elevation at the edge of Nessebar's old town, on the Black Sea coast, the Church of St. John Aliturgetos is a burst of rust-colored patterns on a white background.

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## Tell a Friend

You like our stories? Share them with your friends.



Share on Facebook



## Why the Statue of Liberty Proves Crowdfunding Works

In 1884, the organization tasked with erecting the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor ran out of money for the Statue's pedestal. Thankfully, it had powerful friends, and one of them, Joseph Pulitzer, offered a solution. He ran an article in his newspaper *New York World* calling on readers to help finish the job: "We must raise the money!"

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## Here's what we'll give for the holidays



Of Laughter It Is King, but Also Has a Sting

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A Composition for Heavy Vocals and Bagpipe?

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Buy Chocolate, Help a Good Cause

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A New Kind of Gift for a New Kind of School Leader

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The House of Bulgarian MacBooks & Wooden Bikes

[READ MORE](#)



The Muzeiko Guide to Raising a Great Inventor

[READ MORE](#)

## Corporate and Individual Philanthropy



### 6 Tips for Getting Good at Doing Good

You need not squirm about it: the best CSR programs advance your business goals. After all, when you do good, it is only fair that it should help you make money. So, in addition to support, brainstorm ideas based on your development objectives and company offerings.

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### How to Do Philanthropy Right: Oryahovo Style

In early 1936, more than half a century after Oryahovo's *chitalishte* started its activities, hopes were high that it would finally get its own building. The thriving Danubian town's population was eager to give one of its most important institutions a permanent home.



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## Save the Date

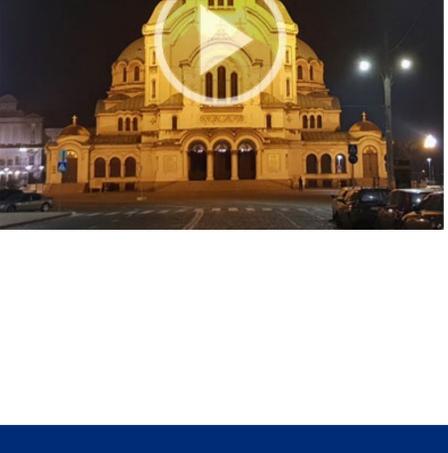
<p><b>26 NOV 15 DEC</b> Sofia</p>		<p><b>Philanthropy through a Photographer's Lens</b></p> <p> Exhibition</p> <p>This is the only competition in Bulgaria for documentary photography. Winners receive funding to create ...</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p>
<p><b>07 DEC</b> Sofia</p>		<p><b>Krastan Dyankov Translation Award Ceremony</b></p> <p> Literature</p> <p>The Krastan Dyankov Translation Award is an annual prize awarded for an outstanding translation of a work...</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p>
<p><b>21 DEC</b> Sofia</p>		<p><b>Want to Become an Entrepreneur? Apply by December 21</b></p> <p> Entrepreneurship</p> <p>ABLE Activator is an exclusive six-week entrepreneurship program. The program provides practical knowledge...</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p>

To go to the ABF event calendar, [click here](#).

## By Whom the Bell Tolls



The next time you hear festive ringing from St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Sofia, you can be certain the person pulling on the bell ropes is Maria Zabova. A composition of Maria's, the musical ringing hasn't changed in the last 35 years. Maria, now 89, has been the bell ringer at Sofia's most iconic temple since 1983. This beautiful, inspiring video was developed by B2Y Productions.



[Watch the Video](#)

Let's Stay in Touch...

