

Final Nominations for Bulgarian Fulbright Grantees in AY 2015-2016

This year the Commission received 61 applications for Fulbright senior scholar and graduate study grants, Hubert Humphrey fellowships, Civil Society scholarships and non-degree grants for doctoral students.

The binational reviewing committees recommended 32 students and 17 scholars for interview. The interviews were conducted from June 16 to June 18, 2014. The applicants represented a wide variety of fields and were well qualified and motivated.

The following candidates for Fulbright scholarships, Hubert Humphrey fellowships and Civil Society scholarship in AY 2015-16 were nominated by the Commission Board:

Senior Scholars

Principal candidates:

1. Iliya Denev – *plant physiology*
2. Dimiter Valchev – *computer science*
3. Stanislav Panev – *computer science*
4. Gergana Tekath – *ethnomusicology*
5. Paskal Zhelev – *economics*

Alternate candidates:

1. Kiril Avramov – *political science*
2. Lyubima Despotova – *e-medicine*

Hubert Humphrey Fellowships

Principal candidates:

1. Maria Sharkova – *public health*

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Interview for Bulgarian Fulbright grantees in AY 2015-2016, June 17, 2014
Members of the nomination committee (from left to right): Angela Rodel, Board Member; Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director; Richard Damstra, Commission Treasurer

Research Scholarship for the Study of Civil Society

Principal candidates:

1. Dimiter Ruev – *regional development*
2. Todor Galev – *sociology*

Graduate Students – Degree Programs

Principal candidates:

1. Boris Kunchev – *law*
2. Magdalena Stefanova – *business administration*
3. Nelly Gospodinova – *education*
4. Milena Berbenkova – *art management*
5. Teodor Stanilov – *technology management*

Alternate candidates:

1. Peter Penev – *molecular biology*
2. Boryana Christova – *law*
3. Lena Borislavova – *law*

Non-Degree Grants for Doctoral Students

Principal candidate:

1. Medea Yankova – *textile design*

One Hundred Days in Bulgaria



Official Opening: Dr. Julia Stefanova, Executive Director of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission



Official Opening: Natalia Miteva, Director, Programs for Education at the America for Bulgaria Foundation

The annual mid-term conference for U.S. Fulbright grantees, "One Hundred Days in Bulgaria", was held on December 5, 2014 at the Best Western Premier Thracia Hotel in Sofia.

Dr. Julia Stefanova, Director of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and Natalia Miteva, Director, Programs for Education at the America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF) greeted all guests and participants and reflected on the importance and successful collaboration between the two organizations. Special guests to the event were Ana Todorcheva, Cultural Affairs Assistant at the U.S. Embassy, Mila Boyanova, Impact Assessment and Evaluation Officer at ABF and Stanislava Staneva, Program Assistant, Education and Libraries at ABF. Fulbright alumni Eric Halsey and Scott Bleiweis also attended the meeting and were available to answer questions and offer their support to current grantees.

The day continued with project presentations by Fulbright lecturers, researchers and English Teaching Assistants who shared their academic and personal experiences in Bulgaria. The projects ranged from the fields of American studies and economics to musicology, creative writing, history and architecture. Thirty Fulbright ETAs talked about all the highs and lows in their work as assistant-teachers in Bulgarian schools and many shared exciting extracurricular projects they have started in addition to teaching, such as various clubs or sports activities - speech and debate, English language test preparation, drama, women studies, creative writing, lacrosse, Frisbee, basketball, baseball and more. Many ETAs are also pioneering fundraising activities such as bake sales to support the participation of their teams in national and international competitions.

Bulgarian and American Fulbright alumni joined the conference participants for the Fulbright Christmas Party, which took place at JJ Murphy's Irish Pub. An improvised Fulbright talent show won the ovations of both Fulbrighters and regular pub patrons.

On the following day all U.S. Fulbright grantees had the opportunity to partake in a trip to the National History Museum, organized by the Fulbright Commission.

U.S. grantees' presentations and discussions



Dr. Barbara Hussey, Fulbright Senior Scholar, "SS Cyril and Methodius" University, Veliko Turnovo



From left to right: Fulbright ETAs Sarah Craycraft, "Dr. Ivan Bogorov" FLS, Dimitrovgrad; Tzvetelina Nikolova, "Bertolt Brecht" FLS, Pazardzhik, and Alex Kieselstein, 2 ELS "Thomas Jefferson", Sofia

Jason Syphrett, Fulbright ETA, "Ekzarh Yosif I" FLS, Lovech



Barbara Arduini, Fulbright ETA, "Plovdiv" FLS, performing at the Fulbright Christmas Party

Visit to the National Museum of History in Sofia



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International Education Week in Bulgaria November 17-21, 2014

During and around the 15th annual International Education Week in Bulgaria (November 17–21, 2014) a number of useful activities were carried out attracting the attention of students, professors, high-school teachers, educators, professionals and parents. The Executive Director Dr. Julia Stefanova, the educational adviser Snezhana Teneva and other staff members visited the American Spaces in the cities of Sofia, Montana, Vidin, Gabrovo, Tryavna, Razgrad, Silistra, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Yambol, Haskovo, Dimitrovgrad and 30 high schools hosting ETAs, giving presentations and engaging in productive discussions about educational opportunities in the US with over 500 high school students, including teachers, administrators, and librarians.

Over 1200 students and professionals visited the Fulbright stand at the Student Recruitment Tours at the Anglo-American School of Sofia, the JobTiger 2014 Career Days in the IT Sector, the Career Days at the Technical University and the University of National and World Economy in Sofia.

During and around the IEW, the Fulbright advising center in Sofia was visited by representatives of eight US institutions of higher education: Wellesley College, MA; Ramapo College, NJ; Yale-NUS College, Singapore; Stanford University, CA; University of Pennsylvania, PA; Colorado State University, CO; Barry University, FL, and Webster Vienna Private University, Austria. They presented their institutions, the undergraduate application process and the opportunities for international students at American liberal arts & sciences colleges at the Fulbright Advising Center; English Language School “Plovdiv”, Plovdiv; Sofia High School of Mathematics, Sofia; and the National High School of Mathematics and Science, Sofia.

As part of 2014 International Education Week, students interested in educational opportunities in the US and their parents, teachers and administrators celebrated the benefits of international education and exchange by attending the International Students Day webinar and the information sessions delivered by educational adviser Snezhana Teneva at Romain Rolland Foreign Language School, Stara Zagora; ARCUS American College, Veliko Turnovo; English Language School “Plovdiv”, Plovdiv; Sofia High School of Mathematics, Sofia; the Anglo-American School, Sofia; the National High School of Mathematics and Science, Sofia, and the Technical University of Sofia.

To sum up, over 2000 individuals and representatives of institutions interested in international education and exchange activities attended 2014 IEW events and learned about study opportunities in the United States.



Visit to the English Language School “Plovdiv”, Plovdiv: Rhoda Leshowitz, Assistant Director, Admissions, Ramapo College, NJ



Visit to ELS “Plovdiv”, Plovdiv: (from left to right) ED Dr. Julia Stefanova; Nikolay Radev, principal; ETA Barbara Arduini; Dimitria Kiryakova, mentor teacher





Visit to "Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov" Foreign Language High School, Haskovo: (from left to right) ED Dr. Julia Stefanova; Penka Delieva, principal; Tihomir Prakov, mentor teacher; ETA Veronica Lalov



Visit to Foreign Language School "Hristo Botev", Kardzhali: (from right to left) ED Dr. Julia Stefanova; ETA Nicole Pilar; teacher; Yordanka Chavdarova, principal; Tanya Marovska, mentor teacher



Visit to the National High School of Mathematics and Science, Sofia: (from left to right) Ms. Maxine Y. Mendoza, Admissions Counselor, University of Pennsylvania, PA; M. Kiyoe Hashimoto, Assistant Dean, Stanford University, CA; Milena Mareva, Associate Director, Office of Admissions, Wellesley College



Visit to the Sofia High School of Mathematics, Sofia; John Richards, Admissions Counselor, Admissions and Financial Aid, Yale-NUS College, Singapore



EducationUSA Adviser Snezhana Teneva presenting at ARCUS American College in Veliko Turnovo



EducationUSA Adviser Snezhana Teneva presenting at the American Shelf in Tryavna



Visit of EducationUSA Adviser Snezhana Teneva to the American Shelf in Vidin



Visit of EducationUSA Adviser Snezhana Teneva to the American Shelf in Razgrad



Visit of EducationUSA Adviser Snezhana Teneva to the American Shelf in Dimitrograd



Visit of EducationUSA Adviser Snezhana Teneva to the American Shelf in Haskovo



One-on-one advising at the American Shelf in Ruse



EducationUSA Adviser Snezhana Teneva presenting at the American Shelf in Yambol

Fulbright Office News

Fulbright Program Presentation

December 4th, 2014



Program Officer Maria Kostova (right) and Lilyana Marinova, Fulbright alumna, AY 2013-14, presenting on the Fulbright Program at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia

Fulbright Accomplishments

Book Launch

Distinguished FISI lecturer and Fulbright alum, Professor George Siedel from the University of Michigan, published an essential book on developing negotiation skills and strategies entitled "Negotiating for Success: Essential Strategies and Skills".

The book is unique in two ways. First, the book not only covers negotiation concepts, but also provides practical actions one can take in future negotiations. This includes a Negotiation Planning Checklist and a completed example of the checklist for use in future negotiations.

Second, the book is unique in its holistic approach to the negotiation process. Other books often focus narrowly either on negotiation or on contract law. This book covers the entire negotiation process in chronological order beginning with one's decision to negotiate and continuing through the evaluation of negotiator's performance.



Prof. George Siedel teaches his 2014 FISI class on "Negotiation and Conflict Resolution"

To Chicago and Back

To Little Rock and Back

Agata Manolova is associate professor of Programming in C/C++ and Java at the Faculty of Telecommunications at the Technical University of Sofia. As a Fulbright visiting scholar in AY2013-14, Dr. Manolova conducted research at the Computer Science Department at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.



It is difficult to find words and describe the journey and the experience during the Fulbright program for a person who only writes scientific papers filled with formulas and codes and I could not begin to explain my dislike to taking pictures or being photographed. But there is a first time for everything and I really hope that my experience will inspire others.....

During my very first day in Little Rock, USA I participated in the Unmanned Aerial Systems Forum, organized by the Arkansas Aerospace Alliance, Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). So I was very lucky to have met an U.S. Senator (John Boozman) and a Congressman (Tim Griffin) during my first hours in U.S.A. All this happened during my first 12 hours in US soil. This can happen only here I believe.

I was welcomed at the Computer Science Department by its chair Dr. Kenji Yoshigoe who had arranged for me to have an office and everything that I needed to work. I was feeling really honored that day and I understood what a privilege is to be a Fulbright grantee. It was my first time having a

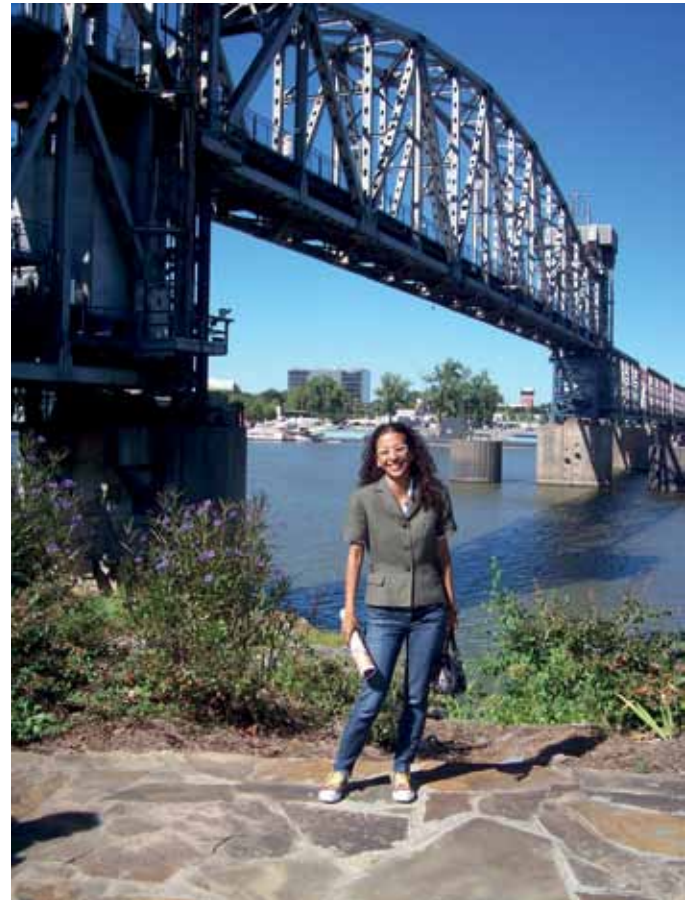
personal working space; I am used to sharing my place with two other colleagues and a big number of students at the Technical University of Sofia. I did miss at the beginning the commotion but quickly got used to the peace and quiet of the American academic life and definitely this will be one of the things that I will miss a lot when I go back.

I was included immediately in the team of professors and started working on different projects and with students. My official introduction at the UALR came on the 09/29 when I gave a lecture with subject "Dissimilarity based classification" in front graduate and undergraduate students, professors and staff. From what I understood there was interest in my lecture from people who could not come and Dr. Ningning Wu organized a streamed online podcast so everyone can watch.

During my first two months of great weather and fabulous nature landscape around me I had the opportunity to teach several lectures on subjects that I am particularly interested in such as Machine Learning and Computer graphics



The EIT building at UALR where my working place is situated (George W. Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology)



Great view from the Arkansas River

for graduate and undergraduate students thanks to Dr. Mariofanna Milanova, who immediately took me under her wing and introduced me to everybody at UALR.

I was invited by several professors to participate in their lectures and share my experience with the students something that I love doing. I am not a writer I am a talker. So I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Yupo Chan, Dr. Coskun Bayrak and Dr. Steven Minsker.

I was awarded by the Graduate Council an Affiliate Faculty status and now I am part on the PhD committee of Salim Al-Ali, a PhD student with whom I started working on a project for human motion recognition in video sequences.

I visited the Emerging Analytics Center at UALR or in another words the virtual reality center and I met Dr. Mary L. Good, a person who really inspired me. She is around 70 years old but still very actively involved in all the new technologies, passionate about the future of data visualization and data analysis. This center features "first of its kind in the world" data

visualization equipment which gave me the idea to try and incorporate augmented reality in my classes and I prepared a lecture with examples for the students.



Dr. Milanova and me

Than the invitation came to participate in an Enrichment Seminar organized for the Fulbright grantees in New Orleans. Even though the subject “The rule of law” was far from my expertise I was really excited to participate.

This was by far is the best experience during my Fulbright program. I encourage everyone to participate at these seminars.

New Orleans is a beautiful city, full with culture and history. The weather was fantastic and the experience of the city is unforgettable. But what I will remember was the sense of friendship and closeness, even though I met all these Fulbright grantees for the first time, we were from different countries, continents, we had different backgrounds, age, skin color, if you think about it we were just a group of people but I was amazed at how quickly we became friends, how quickly we started discussing different subjects, how many common things we found between us. I cannot express my gratitude to all those people who organized this seminar. The presentations and the subjects were very interesting; the lecturers were incredible people with so much experience and knowledge. It was an unforgettable experience. I would really like to have had more time to spend together. I hope that we will meet again sometime in the future.

After the Enrichment Seminar I was invited by friends to visit Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Mellon University. It was a great change from the warm climate of the South to the bitter cold of the North. But the temptation of going in the Center of BioImage Informatics was very big.

Thanks to Dr. Jelena Kovacevic, head of the department I had the opportunity to meet Mike McCann and Siheng Chen,



This is the Court Room photo of all the Fulbright grantees during the Enrichment Seminar.

two truly very intelligent PhD students with whom I spent a great time discussing research subjects connected to medical image processing. It was an enriching experience for which I am grateful. I found Pittsburgh to be beautiful city but very cold, the culture very different from that of the southern states.

From Pittsburgh to New York is one night journey so I could not miss visiting the Great Apple. After all going to USA and not visiting New York is visiting the Louvre Museum and missing the Mona Lisa. New York is incredible and crazy city, I don't know if I could image myself living there every day but definitely worth visiting if only for the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building.

During my stay I received an invitation form Dr. Dan Simovici from the Computer Science Department at University of Massachusetts Boston to give a lecture. Thanks to the Outreach Lecturing Fund I travelled to what is known to be “the most European” US city.

I was truly impressed at the very high level of research and dedicated work of prof. Simovici. His hospitality was amazing. I was little bit worried at how I would present my lecture in an engaging way but he put me at easy and on the 12/18 during my lecture I had great discussion with many researchers with whom I found surprisingly many research topics in common that we plan to pursue in the future. I was so proud being able to present my work and my university in front such an esteemed public.

During my stay in Boston I tried my first and hopefully last lobster, I don't like eating wild caught animals or fish but I could not deny my host it would be impolite and I can frankly



This is outdoor group picture.



The not so great view in the fog of the Statue of Liberty

admit that it was delicious. But what I will truly miss is ginger ale, the one that I tasted was incredible, I would recommend to anyone to try. For me it was difficult to find something to drink when going out because I don't drink beer or wine but now I am hooked to ginger ale.



Ginger Ale and Jasmin tee, who knew such a combination could work? The result – Delicious!!! And I love tee!!!

After my visit to Boston, I had the opportunity to visit the Grand Canyon.

I cannot express my awe; it was grandiose, one of the best views probably in my life. I think anyone visiting USA should go and see the Grand Canyon. I wish I had more time to spend there and during warmer weather. But I need reasons to return so I think it is a good thing to have a plan for the next time.



I was so inspired by all the people that I've met during my brief stay. I saw so many new things and ideas being developed that can result in so many applications in real life. When I came back to Little Rock I started developing an idea for touchless visualization for medical purposes such as laparoscopic surgery and we teamed up with Dr. Milanova and her graduate student Austin Willis to create an application using motion sensors. Together with Austin we made a presentation in front of the board of Museum of Discovery for the possible application of these motion sensors for the education of future engineers and computer scientist.

In few words, my experience in the Fulbright program will leave a lasting mark in my research and in my personal life. It brought me fresh ideas; it gave me the opportunity to meet so many truly fantastic people from all over the world in just 5 months. I think this a defining experience in a person's life.

Disclaimer:

The text is published in its original and unedited version.

Out of America

Yellow Leaves

Eireene Nealand

U.S. Fulbright graduate student, Creative Writing
Ph.D., Literature, UC Santa Cruz, 2013

Host institutions in Bulgaria: Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and Elizabeth Kostova
Foundation
AY 2014-2015



Outside, on the balcony: this is us, two socks hanging from a skinny clothesline. It’s getting colder outside. The wind makes us flap, and there’s nothing but little wooden pins to hold us up by our toes.

Two friends have already fallen this year. Suicides.

One, because of a car.
“Not worth fixing,” the mechanic said.

Matty, innocent as he was, took the comment as being about himself. Already he could hear the sound of the tow truck, its deafening chop calling attention to his all too obvious helplessness; already he knew how the driver would look, a taut faced man with giant pores, skin ruined by methamphetamines and prison food. Nothing Matty could do would help, and why should he help? The man had had his good times. As soon as Matt hopped into the passenger seat, he’d chatter on, hopeful but cynical about being redeemed. Then, for more money than Matty could pay, he’d let the man drag his broken down heap to a private parking lot that

he doesn't own. Safe from the police, but not from the landlord. These days, you can't even abandon your troubles on the side of the road.

Because where is she now, Nadezhda? Bulgaria, if you know where that is. She looks out the window and sees birds flocking past. The last of this summer’s swallows, she thinks, but they are not. They are grey pigeons, the same rumple-feathered ones that curl up on her windowsill, attracted to whatever heat leaks through the window panes, whatever protection from the wind her wall allows.

When she opens the window to offer bread, they flee. Why shouldn't they?

She, a former squatter with shaggy bangs and blue-bleached hair, has come to teach survival skills for a capitalist age. Yes, a bit of partying is involved. Her bangs lie flat on her forehead and, given the distance of an actor’s gaze, she’ll pose in a stance, like she’s ready to punch. No, not Karate like she taught in the old days.

"It's Capoeira!" she'll say.

Amidst the thousand points of light, there are no fighters, only this dance of adjusted desires.

"Be in the moment," she'll scream at her class.

Two young women, the two who have shyly confessed to being clever at crafts, will nod. Their thin faces have protruding bones from some more ancient time.

"The past is now!" Nadezhda will say.

Another woman, older, in a bright yellow sweater vest with daringly cropped hair will sigh as if she has just won an argument, likely with some elderly parent who told her to conform.

"What is desire in an age without plans?" Nadezhda says. But the women are no longer listening.

The hardest thing about desire in a capitalist age is making it last.

So Nadezhda shuffles through the yellow leaves, out to buy morning yogurt, out to experience the day as if it were real. Yes, somewhere, below us, she is there, mired up to her ankles in the season's discards. Her worn shoes are not quite covered by the long leather coat that hangs down to her thighs. This, she has bought from an elderly woman in a mid-sized glass kiosk, stuffed with what appears to be an infinite number of dresses and coats.

"Infinite skins," Nadezhda thought as she tried out the zippers and fit the snaps. Meanwhile the old woman stayed busy, attaching a story to the coat Nadezhda would eventually buy. Nadezhda remembers the conversation as if it was live. Out there in the leaves, she replays it in her mind:

Bulgarian Fulbright Alumni Association Membership Form



Full name

Home address

Field, Academic Rank and Degree

Present Place and Address of Employment

Phone, Fax

Type, Year and Duration of Grant

Place and Name of Host Institution

Please complete and return to the Fulbright Commission office address.

"In the early fifties," the old woman says. "That very coat was left in the cloakroom of a disco bar in Blagoevgrad. The girl who owned this coat had legs the length of tall a pine. All her life this girl was thin, but the coat kept her warm. Mainly where she took it off was the disco bar. When the lights were down and the smoke filled the air, the tall thin girl danced like a giant jellyfish, all those long angles freed by memories of swimming in the Black Sea."

Yes, this is a story from another place, from another time.

"One night, soldiers came. A war had just ended, but the tall thin girl didn't care. She undulated in the dark smoky bar, and along came a soldier, who ran his hands over her ribs. Suddenly, the girl felt curvy and svelte. Who cared what side the soldier was on! She let him wrap her, first in his green army coat, then in some old sweater left on the bar. He picked up mittens and stuffed them into her bra. When he found scarves, he wrapped those on too. Everyone laughed. The girl was puffed up like a hive of bees.

"I've never been warmer," the young lady cried."

The old woman at the kiosk had been young, too, at the time, but these were the Communist days. Her family was being re-educated through work and so the girl worked, keeping track of the coats in the coatroom, clearing away empty beer cups. When the tall thin girl left, the long leather coat remained on its hook, and the coat check girl took it home, all the while dreaming of a soldier who might whisk her away.

No, her dream didn't come true but the woman, night by night, collected sometimes a sweater, sometimes a scarf. She, before anyone, understood that Communism was on its way out and when...

Nadezhda isn't really listening. She didn't believe the first story, and the second doesn't promise to be any truer. You never are when it concerns yourself.

But why rely on truth when money's at stake? You've got to make the commodity dance, attach a significance to each worn scrap of skin, especially if it's been ripped from a bleeding cow that someone has boiled to expunge a live smell.

Nadezhda knows this, and she likes the heavy solidity of wearing what had once been alive.

Now that she is under it she'll teach it to spin.

She begins by inviting everyone in her class sit on the floor with yoga mats.

"All your monuments are hollow," she says "You can't want any more of them."

Build you new buildings light! Flexible, adaptable, ready for change.

This week's students only stare. Their silence resists every new thing she is trying to say.

"We are a people with dark eyes," one tall girl says. "We came on a horse 600 years before Christ."

Then they tell about the ruins, the old stones upon which their city was built.

"We know who we are," says a thin young man with a jutting chin. "Have you heard the story of the two French operatives our villagers beat up in a barn?"

Nadezhda hasn't heard, but she joins the students when they roll up the mats and head to the bar.

"You have arrived in the saddest country in the world," says a man she'd imagined was the silent type.

"But how can you be sad when you have so much leisure time?" Nadezhda wonders.

All she wants to do is sit and stare at the sky.

Back home, in Oakland, they address capitalism's centrifugal tendencies with a spaghetti dinner they held every Tuesday night at the lake near Matty's house. Not that it's really about him or his death. Where they gather is a picnic table on a vast ratty lawn that, as locals like to explain with pride, has been organically overfertilized by the hard poops of geese. There, on old wooden benches Nadezhda and the rest of the millennials squeeze as close as they can. Before them is a giant shiny pot. One after another they heap

their plates with gooey stuff that looks like intestines and guts.

"I am Matty," they say, then they go through their own names, so that everyone is them; they are the whole of experience. All for one, and one for all, except no really is. When it comes to the bottom of it, all there is in the pot is starch, overcooked starch, with a little bit of tomato plopped on.

And what is that, really?

Here, at the bar, hours before noon, two old drunks leaning against an ancient wall. Together they joke about the divorce rate of socks.

"We use the buddy system when it comes time to dry," says a broad faced man who knows how to swirl what's left in his glass. "But the socks always forget."

Nadezhda joins in when they laugh.
"Decoupling," she calls it in her seminars.

But all that week she feels cynicism drifting in like winter snow. By spring it'll melt into a sappy religious sentiment, making regret as important to abolish as the old Russian monument that stands in the square.

"Stay on the move" she tells the next class.
"Here the sky is bright enough for National Television," she says.

Then, they take her there.

The squat white building, built in Soviet times is nothing other than stasis and change, its boxy air conditioners a feeble reminder of the day the channels flickered and the screen went white.

First, dissidents controlled the station.

Then the capitalists arrived.

Quickly the station adopted the same slogan as everyone had.

"News you can use," where the 'you' is a shifting signifier that refers to whomever best surfed the financial trends.

"We must learn to be weather vanes," she reminds herself to say in the very next class. "You never know which way events will turn."

But this is a skill the Bulgarians have been developing for two thousand years. The next time she returns to her storefront, a tall young man with shaggy hair presents her with a bright knitted hat.

"Keep warm," he says. "Submerge your cabbage in a huge jar of salt. This must be shaken daily. You don't want your salt to be wasted in clumps."

Nadezhda listens hard. She puts on the hat, shuffles through the streets to a newly opened Zen Center, where a muscular bald-headed man kneels before a series of golden icons each of which does something slightly different with its hands.

She straightens her coat and goes up to this man, kisses him, right on his bare shiny head.

SMACK, BOOM.

Dialogue!

That's all they've got to leave by the side of the road.

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