

## **Vahid Bečić - Folklore as my life**

My name is Vahid Bečić, the son of Rifat and Hatidža. I was born in 1958. I finished primary school in Zavidovici, in the old building of the school called "Sutjeska" and Technical High School. I studied in Novi Sad as a part-time student, but because of my undisciplined behavior and because I was employed, I did not finish my university study.

During my employment in the industrial conglomerate "Krivaja" (Furniture I), there has been formed the folklore group in the 1983. We were thriving plant, development of industries affected advanced manufacturers and we were rewarded with dollars, because our plant exported products to America. These funds have provided us a pleasant and good work in the final wood processing. Young people from the Krivaja's "Furniture I" department had some time for leisure, fun and relaxation after working hours.

Through this additional work, we provided a conference room, table tennis, showers, public phone. So we have therefore started to deal with the culture. The lecturer was our professor Svetozar Markovic from Gymnasium "Rizah Odžečkić", who worked with the choreography. My work then begins, since 1983. We worked until 1989, where we have made countless trips. Our group provided services and content for cultural activities to the cultural and artistic society "RAD" from Zavidovici.

At that time, in Yugoslav state, all production facilities and cultural groups were awarded. That year came to Zavidovici the Federal Relay of youth for Marshal Tito and we had honor to bring it Krivaja's Furniture I. As I was a progressive youngster and president of the union I had the duty to accept it and bring it in the premises of the "Furniture I". All employees had that honor to pass the "Relay of youth" from hand to hand so afterwards it can move on towards other cities.

The period of 1992 was calm in cultural activities until the constitution of the authorities and schools. In September 1992, the first director of the gymnasium during the war, Mr. Hamid Suljic learned that I played folklore and had knowledge of the cultural content as regards Bosniak culture, so he invited me and Mr. Dzevad Neimarliju to try to do something during the war for the public to encourage young people to create culture. Our work began at a meeting in the Gymnasium, after the gathering of young people, who answered in large numbers on the advertisement for the creation of the branch of the Cultural community of Bosniak "KZB Preporod".

My work in the KZB "Preporod" lasts until 1996, when the interest in folklore ends. Inactivity lasts until 2000 when I re-started my work in the Cultural and Artistic Society KUD "Krivaja", until 2004. In February 2005, the assembly established a new Cultural Bosnian Society KBD "Zavidovici", and this work continues today.

Until today, KBD Zavidovici, through its work, schooled numerous generations, who are now successful teachers, doctors, engineers. Many of them are professors who teach in schools now.

All these years, the association affirmed itself, we were on tour through many cities in Turkey, as well as in Europe, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and often in Croatia. We work with the population and we are hosting cultural events as "Summer in the City".

KBD Zavidovići pays attention to preserving the traditions of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to pass customs and knowledge, and to keep everything that makes beauty in our environment. KBD Zavidovići participate in all cultural and religious events in Zavidovici municipality. We promote town Zavidovici wherever we travel both in Turkey and in the countries of the European Union. We represent the municipality in cultural festivals because we are cultural ambassadors.

I would note that I can't make a big parallel regarding my work before and after the war. I can't say when it was better as it's a different context. Before as employees of "Furniture I", we were providing services to cultural society "Rad", I was a performer, I had another inspiration in my dancing and choreography. However, now it is a different attitude, my second love is to transfer knowledge to children.

This love that is transferred to young people and work to preserve traditions is different in this atmosphere and our present environment. I would recommend to all young people to stay away from evil actions, to engage in education through school and culture, and to promote what is good, culture and traditions.

