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Chief Editor

THE TRUE HEROES OF OUR TIME

During the 30 years of existence of the magazine CURIERUL ROMÂNESC (THE ROMANIAN COURIER), I have been interested to meet and to have interviews with personalities, "people with power", people who through their actions have changed, or have influenced the destiny of a collectivity, or of a nation. I was not interested in first place if they had the same political or social views as I had, but what made possible that they arrived to decide over others' life. Do they have inborn qualities which raise them over the "common people", or are they just the result of some circumstances? What in the way to behave of these "people with power" – presidents of states, prime-ministers, leader of political parties, leaders of international organizations - fills with enthusiasm other people, who follow them, and who, by that, invest them with power, and consolidate their power? In a kind of journalistic blindness, I avoided to introduce to our readers "the common people" I met every day.

However, the experience from the last years made me to understand that, in fact, there are not the presidents of states, the prime-ministers, the leaders of political parties, or the leaders of international organizations who influence our everyday life, that not the "people with power" are they who make our life more pleasant, or a nightmare. During the last years, since I am traveling between two worlds – Stockholm, Sweden, and Houston, Texas – I have realized, once more, that our everyday life is influenced,

is marked by the officers we meet every day in different governmental or local institutions, by the people working in hospitals, or in banks, by people we meet when shopping, in stores, etc. I did understand, once more, that the intelligence, the professionalism, the self-abnegation, the honesty, the skill, the kindness, the consideration given to our fellow men, as well as the stupidity, the badness, the lack of honesty and consideration to them around us, are not the monopoly neither of one nation, nor of one particular skin color, nor of one particular religion.

I have decided to introduce to you people I have met, who have impressed me by their professionalism, honesty, and self-abnegation with which they accomplish their everyday work, without magniloquence, with respect for them self, and consequently for people around them. Them I wish to bring my appreciation, and my gratitude, because they are the true heroes of our time, they are them who make our life to be happy, or a nightmare.

Silvia Constantinescu.



Erik Konar,
mortgage banker at Bank of Texas in Houston, TX.
Photo: Silvia Constantinescu / © CR.

ERIK KONAR:

"I SHALL ACCOMPLISH MY JOB DUTY
WITH YOU, AS I DO WITH OTHER
CUSTOMERS TOO!"

We have met Erik Konar first time in May 12, 2009, when, without great expectations, we run from a bank to an other to get credit to buy a home in Houston, Texas, credit we did not get from nowhere, because we did not have "credit score" here, in the U.S.A. One day we had seen a beautiful building, with the touch of a Greek temple, and we have told to ourselves: "We have not been here. Let us try!" I can not say that we were in despair by the denial of credit from other four banks, but mostly mystified and furious of the absurdity of this "credit score" that, as I said, I considered and I still consider, from some points of view, as immoral. We went into that big building, and in the entrance we have asked the person who met us: "Where is the mortgage department?"

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Dan Öhman,
surgeon, Eye Clinic, University Hospital,
Örebro, Sweden.
Photo: Octavian Ciupitu / © CR.

DAN ÖHMAN:

"SPACE-RELATED RESEARCH HAS PROBABLY
INFLUENCED MEDICINE AND
OPHTHALMOLOGY IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.
TWO THINGS THAT COME TO MIND IS
ADAPTIVE OPTICS AND LASER
INTERFEROMETRY".

Young or old, all of you who have ever had an operation, you remember, for sure, the emotions you went through before that, and the hope you put in the magic hands of the surgeon who will perform the operation! In December 2009, I had to be operated for the first time, and I had to let, not the life, but something very important for somebody with my profession, the eyes, in the hands of a surgeon. This surgeon was doctor Dan Öhman, whom I met at the Eye Clinic of the University Hospital in Örebro, Sweden, where I should get a cataract operation.

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Roberto Parlati,
Fiat automotive specialist, Stockholm, Sweden.
Photo: Silvia Constantinescu / © CR.

ROBERTO PARLATI:

"THE WORK WITH FIAT TAKES ME MUCH TIME,
BECAUSE IT IS A COMPLICATED WORK, EVEN
WHEN YOU HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE!"

Octavian Ciupitu has met Roberto Parlati for about 10 years ago, in 2000, when we have purchased that small automotive jewel, made by the FIAT plants, called Fiat Punto. Octavian's meetings with Roberto became more than once a year, because once a year, according to the FIAT Service Plan, our small Fiat Punto had to be controlled, but adjusted as well, if necessary. After each meeting with Roberto, Octavian came home very amused, because "our Italian" was not only an extraordinary mechanic, but he had much humor too. In course of time, I have started to follow to some car control and I have met Roberto, who welcomed me with Italian magniloquence: "Come sta, Signora?" (How is the Lady doing?) And that was all.

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