

To: Dr. Anne Valk
From: Tina M. Young
Date: 06 Dec 01
Subject: Biographical essay of Marvin Moehle; Lincoln Place

Marvin Moehle is a second generation born of Macedonian heritage. He was born on 03 June 1958 in Granite City, Il, and was raised in the Lincoln Place neighborhood on Maple Street. His grandfather, Luka Lovacheff, immigrated to the United States in 1916, and his grandmother, Vasilka, immigrated in 1921. His family owned and operated a local grocery store called Louie's Market.

Although Marvin's mother Evelyn married an 'outsider,' a German by the name Marvin Moehle, the younger Marvin's identity has always centered around his Macedonian heritage. He speaks, reads and writes in fluent Macedonian, and has visited the Macedonian homeland on seven different occasions throughout the years. Marvin's first trip to Macedonia occurred as a teenager, shortly after his grandmother's death, when he accompanied his grandfather. His interest in a Macedonian girl inspired him to learn how to read and write the language.

This first trip to Macedonia increased an already present interest in his cultural heritage, and he has spent his life preserving and reconnecting with this heritage. Over the years, Marvin has collected numerous hand-made Macedonian folk costumes, as well as costumes from various regions around the world. He credited his exposure to the ethnic diversity within Lincoln Place for his respect and interest in folk traditions outside of his own Macedonian heritage. Marvin has also worked as a translator for newly arrived immigrants.