Happy Valentine's Day

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION OF AMERICA / ALL FOR ONE...ONE FOR ALL

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Croatian Homeland Foundation Celebrates

75th Anniversary of Uniting Croatians

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA - We in the National Administration of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America are pleased to recognize and congratulate Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika (Croatian Homeland Foundation) upon reaching the Diamond Jubilee of the organization's existence. Founded on February 12, 1951, with the purpose of forging cooperation with Croats living abroad, the Foundation has an illustrious record of achievement in creating longstanding bonds with Croatian emigrant organizations and preserving Croatian Culture.

Our society has been a natural partner for the Foundation to work with as we too are very much interested in preserving and promoting our Croatian Heritage and Culture in the diaspora. With our own roots established in North America on September 2, 1894 through the National Croatian Society, Croatian Fraternal Union of America has been pleased to work hand-in-hand with all representatives of Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika since those early days of initial cooperation in the 1950's. The areas of mutual interest have included, but are not limited to, Croatian Folklore, Tamburitza music, art and history, with cultural exchanges occurring as a result. Through the leadership of our late National President Emeritus Bernard M. Luketich, Croatian Fraternal Union fully embraced the mission of building bridges of cooperation and ensuring the preservation of Croatian Folklore and Heritage.

CFU has been able to present to our members numerous Croatian Folklore Ensembles, musicians and artists through this "cultural bridge" that has been established. With the expert assistance of key representatives of HMI, the Croatian Fraternal Union has successfully hosted eight CFU Junior Cultural Federation Festivals in the capital city of Zagreb. The most recent event was a combined festival featuring Junior and Adult CFU Tamburitza Ensembles who participated in the spectacular "TAMBURE KROZ GENERACIJE" tamburitza music festival at Lisinski Hall over a two-day concert series held June 29-30, 2024.

We thank each of the Directors of HMI who worked closely with our society and were very pleased to meet the most r ecent individual appointed to this very important post, Mr. Zdeslav Milas. We met with Director Milas during our most recent visit to Croatia in September of 2025 and were pleased to exchange information on programs of interest to CFU and HMI. Additional gratitude is extended to all employees of Matica who have worked very hard to make our programs successful over the past decades including Ms. Mirjana Piskulić who for many years worked very closely with CFU National Officers including this writer.

Matica has very ably assisted countless CFU tamburitza ensembles in their tours of Croatia and areas where Croatians lived in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary and Austria. Through this partnership, CFU has been pleased to welcome well-known naïve artists such as the late Ivan Lacković "Croata", Josip and Ivan Generalić, and Josip Cugovčan to our home office where their works of art join many others on display for our members and guests to see. The CFUCultural Tour which was held annually for a number of years provided an audience in the US and Canada for established Croatian vocalists/tamburitza bands such as the late Krunoslav "Kićo" Slabinac and Slavonski Bečari, Stjepan Jersek, Šima Jovanovac, Vice Vukov, Marijana Primorac and Marta Nikolin. Other musicians and singers gained exposure and popularity outside of Croatia through our tour. Our very good friends Damir Bačić and Mia Dimšić are past participants as well as bands such as GAZDE, KAS, Dženteimeni, Šarmeri, Berde Band, Vranac, Ravnica, Patria, Đjakovačka Zvona and so many more!

During the Homeland War, cooperation with Matica deepened as CFU partnered with organizers to participate in aiding orphaned children through the DORA Foundation established to assist in these critical times. Responding to this humanitarian project, CFU sponsorships generously totaled $1,305,770.13 to provide financial support to 676 orphaned children.

We have touched upon a small portion of the work and accomplishments of the Croatian Homeland Foundation over its seventy-five (75) year existence and acknowledge that their efforts have been wider-ranging through partnerships and cooperation with many other Croatian organizations throughout the diaspora. Following our introduction, we are pleased to present a shortened history of the Croatian Homeland Foundation as found on its website.

Once again, we congratulate the present and past individuals who comprise the Croatian Homeland Foundation and extend our best wishes and prayers for their continued success. A success that will benefit our Croatian people in untold ways while serving a very important purpose of uniting our Croatian people throughout the diaspora.

HISTORY OF THE CROATIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Croatian Heritage Foundation was founded in 1951. The founding assembly of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia, which today bears the name Croatian Heritage Foundation, was held in Zagreb on February 12, 1951.

The attempt to encourage the mass return of emigrants after the war failed infamously in the late 1940s. Abandoning the policy of mass return, the government turned towards an institutional form of cooperation with emigrants, which was conceived to take place through organizations from the different republics, the so-called "matica iseljenika" (heritage foundation) organizations. During the 1950s, in addition to Zagreb, these organizations were established in other republican centers of the SFRY, so that, along with the Heritage Foundation of Croatia, also in existence were the Heritage Foundation of Slovenia,

(Continued on page 12)

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By Edward W. Pazo/National President

Oftentimes we are asked, "How is our society doing?" Our answer is a very quick one, "Just fine" and, in fact, a more correct answer is, "Very good!"

The success that the Croatian Fraternal Union of America achieves may be considered on two fronts. The financial realm and the fraternal realm.

First, let us consider the fraternal side of our society. Structured as a fraternal benefit society, CFU is lodge based with policyholders who are considered members of our organization. These members may be drawn to Croatian Fraternal Union due to their desire to assimilate with an organization of a shared ethnic heritage, namely Croatian. Or our members may find our financial product offerings and/or fraternal benefits desirable.

Our national administration takes pride in the knowledge that we have, for the most part, remained true to our fraternal origins and have honorably worked toward the preservation and perpetuation of our Croatian Heritage through an array of cultural activities. We believe that CFU is second to none in this regard as we count over fifty (50) junior and adult tamburitza ensembles who are affiliated with our society's annual Croatian tamburitza festivals. Additionally, our large network of Lodges and Nests extends across the United States, Canada and back to Croatia. Each of these affiliated local organizations provide the members and participants at Croatian Cultural and Sports events held throughout the year.

As we write this President's column, we recognize that the CFU SkiFest is now concluded as our members and friends descended upon Holiday Valley in Western New York over the February 6-8 weekend. This gathering of CFU members is normally the leadoff event in our CFU Calendar of Events and has proven over the years to have staying power as the faces of some attendees have changed due to "Father Time"; however, the energy and enthusiasm remain for those in attendance in terms of celebrating our Croatian heritage.

The ensuing months of March through July contain a host of additional activities for our membership to partake, sponsored by both local lodges or tamburitza ensembles, or our National Administration. A review of the **Zajedničar** reveals our Calendar of Events as well as multiple articles entitled "Save the Date" in order to better inform our members so that they can make plans to attend these events.

On the national level, we look forward to the upcoming CFU National Basketball Tournament sponsored by CFU Lodge 320 of Duquesne, Pennsylvania as well as the CFU National Bowling Tournament which will be held under the sponsorship of CFU Lodge 136, Lorain, Ohio. CFU Director of Fraternal Programs Brother Derek Hohn has worked diligently with these two lodges to ensure a successful tournament. Additionally, we recognize Brother Hohn for his determination and work in establishing the Croatian Heritage Night at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which will highlight our society and help promote our Croatian Heritage to our neighbors on May 30, 2026.

We conclude the first seven months of the New Year 2026 by hosting the 58th Annual CFU Junior Cultural Federation Tamburitza Festival in Cleveland, Ohio, at the downtown Hilton Hotel. Dates for this Croatian Cultural Spectacular are July 3-5, 2026.

This short list of key fraternal, cultural and sports activities reveals the "secret to our success", namely an interested and engaged membership that enjoys the fellowship made possible through Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

A future President's Column will contain information on the financial prowess of our society; however, in short, we are pleased to say that Croatian Fraternal Union concluded the year 2025 with approximately $514 Million Dollars of Assets under Management and a growing wealth of safety for our membership comprised of surplus and additional reserve funds that have reached in excess of $87 Million Dollars in value.

In our estimation, these facts are proof positive that members and prospective members may take comfort in knowing that their life insurance and retirement savings are being cared for by the Croatian Fraternal Union, ***the Society that Cares!***

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

In Pursuit of Excellence

From battling social injustices and political unrest to surviving the perils of severe weather, widespread illnesses and other serious issues, the scope of what people are faced with each day is unsettling. For just a brief time, it is uplifting to step away from the daily hardships and tragedies to witness the excitement of the XXV Winter Olympic Games known as Milano Cortina 2026 currently taking place February 6-22. The pageantry of the Opening Ceremonies, along with the symbolism of the Olympic Torch, provide a feeling of pride in one's nation and in the young athletes who seek to bring honor to their homeland in these Olympic games.

It is incredible to recognize that there are 2,871 athletes from 92 nations participating in the 2026 Winter Olympic games, including an impressive 232 young representatives from the United States alone. The spirit of competition in the 16 days of Olympic games makes one's blood flow just realizing what each athlete has accomplished simply to qualify to take part in these events. The rigorous training, the repetitive schedules to perfect their skills, the enormous strain on their muscles and minds, and the will and stamina to seek excellence from within themselves are admirable attributes which all helped them reach the level of Olympic competition. Admittedly, not all of the athletes are amateurs, but those who perform professionally in their respective sports also share a similar motivation.

The Olympic values of "aiming to promote sport, culture, and education to build a better, more peaceful world" bring into focus what each athlete must consider when training to participate on the world stage in their respective fields of competition. Each athlete challenges one's inner self to succeed, yet has respect for his or her fellow competitors fully realizing that they too seek to bring honor to their countries, cultures and sport. A passion for excellence burns within each athlete, yet each has respect for others in the field of competition which fosters friendship and unity among nations.

The message of the Olympic Creed captures the full essence of the games, stating, "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

It would serve many people well to consider these words in their own lives, since the pursuit of excellence often clouds the judgement of individuals in their personal quests for success. Just as Olympic athletes exhibit a sense of honor and mutual respect when they meet and compete, there is an achievable balance which is attainable for all individuals who seek success in their endeavors.

The Olympic spirit of honor provides a valuable guide to all who seek to excel in their field of work, study, skill or interest. The important factor to remember is honor in one's efforts. It is surely a monumental achievement to succeed, yet even to simply persevere through the personal challenge. Considering each Olympian, medal winner or not, the personal joy in the spirit of competition is truly worthy of celebration.

Valentine's Day Buffet in Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - St. George Lodge 66, located at 3200 Vestal Rd., Youngstown Ohio (Westside), will host a St. Valentine's Day buffet on Saturday February 14th, between the hours of 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Our buffet will consist of breaded pork chops, chicken Francaise, parsley potatoes, haluski, green beans almondine, cucumber salad and dessert, all available for $20 per person.

We will be offering eat in or to go dinners that day. Please RSVP by February 10th by calling 330-519-9036, our buffet is open to the public and payment is by cash or check only.

Bring your sweetie out to the Croatian Club for a great Valentine's Day Dinner. The buffet is open to the general public, so tell your friends and neighbors.

Tim Komara/Lodge 66

Four Counties United CFU Lodges' Annual Conference

FOUR COUNTIES, PA - The United CFU Lodges of Fayette, Greene, Washington & Westmoreland Counties is announcing its 2026 Annual Conference which will be held on **Sunday, March 1, 2026.** The host Lodge for this year's conference is "Bratstvo" CFU Lodge 194. The meeting will be held in the Boulevard Event Hall, 221 Parente Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

The Board of Trustees will meet at 1 p.m. to review all financial records followed by the general meeting which will begin at 2 p.m. All interested members of Lodges affiliated with our organization are welcomed; however, only four (4) Delegates per Lodge are eligible to vote.

Items for consideration for this meeting include: consideration and approval of the 2025 Annual Conference Minutes; financial reports; the 2026 Annual Fraternal Day picnic; selection of the Fraternalist(s) of the Year/50-Year Member celebration; and election of officers. Following the meeting, a meal will be served by the members of Lodge 194.

We hope that each of our member Lodges will send a delegation to this important meeting and hope that our Lodges will encourage their members to take an active role in our United Lodges.

We want to also thank all of our CFU members and friends who attended our Fraternalist of the Year and 50-Year Member celebration which was held on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at the Croatian Home of Lodge 354 in Cokeburg, PA. We honored a hard-working group of fraternalists hailing from Lodge 354 and recognized the 2025 50-year members from throughout the United Lodges. A lovely meal was served and entertainment was by Orkestar Radost. It was a fitting and memorable event.

We again congratulate honorees Marylou Pohlot, Dave Jones, Dan Flint, Marko Kochis and Derek Hohn.

We look forward to seeing many of our Lodge representatives at the Annual Conference and remind you to tune in to our weekly "Croatian Hour" radio program every Sunday on WEDO 810 AM from 11am - 12:30 pm, which our United Lodges support.

Svi nam dobro došli!

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
President

CFU Lodge 530 Elects Officers

ST. THOMAS, ON - Ogulin CFU Lodge 530 held its Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026. The year 2025 was a busy one and very successful which was indicated in the officers' reports. We are very proud to have a significant number of active members who participate in activities keeping our lodge active and sound in the Croatian Communities of St. Thomas and London.

We are pleased to report that the most of the Lodge officers are serving the Lodge in their respectful offices continually for over 35 years. However, we are always encouraging younger members to get involved.

Lodge 530 plan of Activities: Our Skiers will participate at SkiFest at the Holiday Valley Resort (Ellicottville, NY) on February 6-8; St. George Day celebration on April 25 and 26 (Cokeburg, PA); Complimentary Picnic (June 7th) and Memorial Drago Magdic Bocce Tournament; Summer Picnic (August 30); and Christmas Dinner/St. Nicholas Day celebration (November 30th). All members are encouraged to attend these activities.

Elected officers for the year 2026 are: Franjo Bertovic, President; Jessie Sergeant, Vice President; Darinka Cindric, Secretary; Franjo Rupcic, Treasurer; Mirjana Bertovic, Recording Secretary; Tonika Salopek, President of Board of Trustees; along with members Ankica Rupcic, Ljubica Cox and Gordana Pejcinovic; Fraternal Program Committee: Mike Lukicek Fraternal Activities Director, with members Anto Pejcinovic, Carl Sergeant and Ann Marie Silva. Nest 530 Manager is Ljubica Cox.

Our monthly meetings will be held every third Friday, at 8 p.m., at 9 Farmington Drive, St. Thomas, ON N5R 5W8.

Franjo Bertović/President

St. Lawrence Lodge Ready For 2026

STEELTON, PA - CFU Lodge 13 has an exciting 2026 in store! Mark your calendars for the following events and keep watching our Facebook page "St. Lawrence Club, CFU Lodge 13" for updates.

February 20-March 27: Lenten Fish Fry dinners, Fridays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with live entertainment

April 19: Sv. Lovro Junior Tamburitzans Purse and Cash Bingo.

June-July: Stop by the club to watch Croatia play in the FIFA World Cup!

August 8: St. Lawrence Day Celebration at the Lodge Home.

September 20: St. Lawrence Adult Tamburitzans ALL CASH bingo.

October 17: "The Tambur itzans" performance at Bishop McDevitt and reception to follow at Lodge Home. Come support "The Tamburitzans" and applaud our hometown Tamburitzan Natasha Milanovich. Hosted by St. Lawrence Adult Tamburitzans. Details to follow in future editions of the **Zajedničar**.

December 5: Breakfast with Santa and Lodge Christmas Party. Lodge Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month beginning at 7 p.m. All active members are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Tina Simpson/Lodge 13

CFU Lodge 6 February Meeting Notice

RANKIN, PA - The next regular monthly meeting of St. Nicholas CFU Lodge 6 is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Rankin Croatian Home in the lower level All Purpose Room.

We hope to see many of our members at this meeting.

Janet Craig/President

Lodge 136 Plans February Meeting

LORAIN, OH - "Jesus of the Last Supper" CFU Lodge 136 will hold our first meeting of 2026, on Sunday, February 15th, at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the American Croatian Club Hall, 4846 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH, 44053.

Please plan on attending this important meeting. We plan to address events for 2026, and review 501c3 local charitable organizations to fund. We look forward to seeing all of you. Refreshments will be served.

Hvala!

Donna Perichak Katrincsak
Secretary

SPOTLIGHT ON CFU PROGRAMS

A Message from the Executive Vice President
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

10 PAY LIFE

Making sure that your loved ones are looked after is one of the most important things you will do in life. Act immediately! Your age at the time of application plays a factor in the cost.

The 10 Pay Life is a permanent life insurance plan with projected dividends and cash value growth. Fixed premium payments are for 10 years.

CFU Special Offer on 10 Pay Life:

- $25,000 face amount for the first year premium of $250, ages 0 to 25.
- Or, $5,000 to $10,000 face amount for the first year premium of $100, for ages 0 to 50.
- And, $5,000 face amount with the first year premium of $100 for ages 51 to 70.
- Next or second year standard rates are applicable.
- Please note that standard underwriting guidelines are applicable.

The CFU Special Offer on 10 Pay life is extended until April. This is a great opportunity to protect yourself or your family members. If a current CFU member, take the opportunity and purchase an additional amount of life insurance.

Gross Annual Premiums Per $1,000 Male

MALE NON-TOBACCO					MALE TOBACCO				
Issue Age	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000	Issue Age	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000
0	24.63	18.19	15.44	14.39	0				
1	25.01	18.55	15.85	14.79	1				
2	25.40	18.93	16.28	15.21	2				
3	25.79	19.31	16.71	15.64	3				
4	26.18	19.70	17.15	16.08	4				
5	26.58	20.10	17.61	16.54	5				
6	27.08	20.57	18.12	17.04	6				
7	27.58	21.06	18.65	17.57	7				
8	28.09	21.55	19.19	18.11	8				
9	28.61	22.06	19.75	18.67	9				
10	29.14	22.58	20.32	19.24	10				
11	29.73	23.14	20.92	19.83	11				
12	30.32	23.72	21.53	20.44	12				
13	30.92	24.31	22.15	21.07	13				
14	31.54	24.91	22.80	21.71	14				
15	32.16	25.53	23.46	22.38	15				
16	32.94	25.86	24.08	22.74	16	33.79	26.81	24.83	23.71
17	33.74	26.20	24.71	23.11	17	35.49	28.17	26.28	25.12
18	34.55	26.54	25.36	23.48	18	37.28	29.59	27.82	26.62
19	35.38	26.88	26.03	23.87	19	39.16	31.09	29.44	28.21
20	36.23	27.23	26.71	24.25	20	41.14	32.66	31.15	29.89
21	36.77	27.80	27.07	24.84	21	41.89	33.44	31.90	30.66
22	37.32	28.38	27.42	25.44	22	42.65	34.25	32.66	31.44
23	37.88	28.97	27.78	26.05	23	43.43	35.07	33.43	32.25
24	38.44	29.57	28.15	26.67	24	44.23	35.92	34.23	33.07
25	39.01	30.19	28.52	27.31	25	45.03	36.78	35.05	33.91
26	39.79	30.98	29.43	28.07	26	46.00	37.78	36.16	34.70
27	40.58	31.79	30.38	28.85	27	46.98	38.80	37.31	35.51
28	41.39	32.63	31.35	29.65	28	47.98	39.84	38.49	36.33
29	42.21	33.49	32.36	30.47	29	49.00	40.92	39.71	37.17
30	43.05	34.37	33.39	31.31	30	50.05	42.03	40.98	38.03
31	43.95	35.29	34.25	32.18	31	51.17	43.18	41.88	38.73
32	44.88	36.24	35.13	33.06	32	52.31	44.37	42.80	39.43
33	45.83	37.21	36.03	33.98	33	53.48	45.59	43.75	40.14
34	46.80	38.22	36.96	34.91	34	54.68	46.85	44.71	40.87
35	47.78	39.25	37.91	35.87	35	55.91	48.14	45.69	41.62
36	48.89	40.37	38.95	36.91	36	57.21	49.48	46.78	42.47
37	50.02	41.53	40.02	37.97	37	58.54	50.86	47.88	43.35
38	51.17	42.73	41.12	39.07	38	59.90	52.28	49.02	44.25
39	52.36	43.95	42.25	40.20	39	61.30	53.74	50.18	45.16
40	53.57	45.21	43.41	41.35	40	62.73	55.25	51.37	46.10
41	54.87	46.19	44.64	42.18	41	64.30	56.43	52.88	47.55
42	56.20	47.19	45.90	43.02	42	65.91	57.64	54.43	49.05
43	57.56	48.20	47.19	43.88	43	67.56	58.88	56.03	50.61
44	58.96	49.24	48.53	44.75	44	69.25	60.14	57.68	52.20
45	60.39	50.30	49.89	45.64	45	70.99	61.44	59.37	53.85

(Continued on page 13)

CFU Advantage

- **The CFU** offers a complete portfolio of quality, affordable life insurance plans to meet your financial needs.
- **The CFU** consistently demonstrates financial stability and responsibility through prudent and experienced management of assets.
- **Profits are** returned to members through dividends and through access to a full array of fraternal programs.
- **Rates are** affordable and compare favorably with commercial insurance companies.
- **The CFU** has no stockholders - It is owned and operated for the benefit of members and their families.
- **Members receive** courteous and efficient service and are never subjected to administrative loads or fees.

Zajedničar Publication Dates

■-*Publication dates are highlighted in black*

❍-*All Material Deadline dates are circles*

■-*Office Closure*

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	(5)	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	(19)	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	(2)	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	(16)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	(30)		

Submissions may be mailed to "Zajedničar", 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235; faxed to 412-823-1594. If you are e-mailing material for publication, please direct them to editor@cfu.org. E-mailed articles should be sent in the body of your e-mail and not as an attachment. Only photographs should be sent as an attachment. All material must be received at least one week prior to the issue date. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Hvala! —Editors

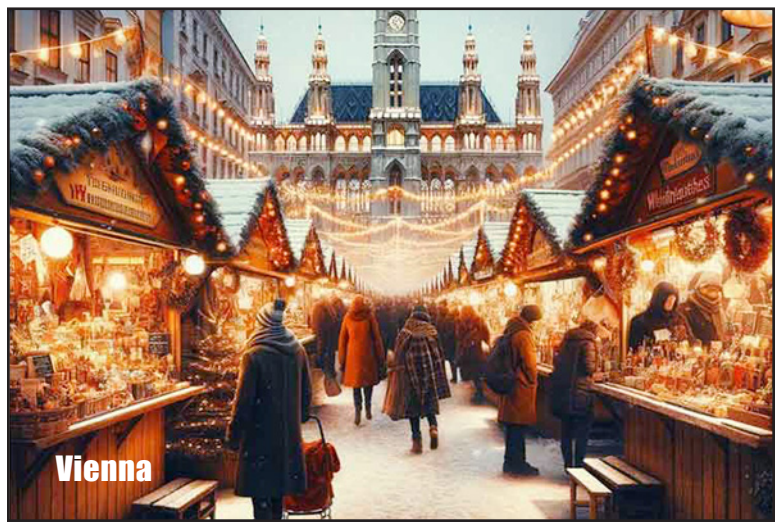
Christmas Markets Magical Advent Tour in December

COLUMBUS, OH - Heart of Croatia offers MAGICAL ADVENT TOUR To ZAGREB, Croatia, VIENNA & SALZBURG, Austria, & LJUBLJANA, Slovenia in December, 2026!

December 4 - 14, 2026

Come along with us to the celebrated and fairy-tale CHRISTMAS MARKETS in ZAGREB, Croatia, VIENNA and SALZBURG, Austria, and LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, where you will have plenty of time to soak up the ambiance, food, drink, and shopping experiences! You will also enjoy city tours in all of these cities as well as tours of famous landmarks and visits to museums.

In addition, you will stay in luxurious, city-centre hotels; travel by deluxe, private coaches to all locations; and enjoy delicious, regional foods throughout! And of course, as is the case with ALL of our tours, we will present beautiful music, a wonderful tamburitza orchestra, and spectacular entertainment for our guests! The tour begins and ends in ZAGREB.



A day-to-day ITINERARY can be found at our website: **https://stores.croatiagifts.com/2026-christmas-advent-tour/**

Please contact Melissa at melissa.obenauf12@gmail.com for more information. You can also contact us at melissa@heartofcroatia.com or by calling us at 614.230.2634. Spaces are limited, so contact us soon!

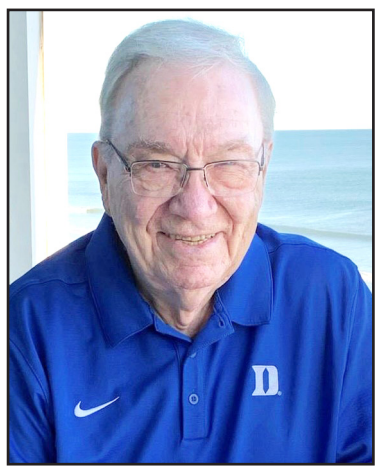
Melissa Pintar Obenauf/ Lodge 310

Happy Birthday

Tony Dren!

Cheers to 90 Years!

-The **Drens** and all extended **family & friends**
Lodge 75



Croatian Mass Schedule for February

WASHINGTON, DC - I hope that you are all safe after the big snow and ice storm.

In February, our Holy Mass schedule will be as follows:

February 15th in Washington, D.C. at 12:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Victory, 4835 MacArthur Blvd NW, Washington, DC 20007.

February 22nd at 11 a.m., at the Church of St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh, PA), 24 Maryland Ave., Millvale, PA 15209. Confessions before Mass.

Blessing of the families continues. Mir i Dobro! Peace and Goodness!

Father Maurus Dolčić

5 Reasons Why You Should Consider Life Insurance:

1. Protects your family financially
2. Helps pay for funeral expenses
3. Can cover your children's education
4. Helps with retirement
5. Sets an example of financial responsibility

LH.

How to Email Your Materials to the "Z"

PITTSBURGH, PA – If ou are e-mailing material for publication in the **Zajednicar,** please direct them to: **editor@cfu.org.**

Information should be included in the body of the e-mail, not in attachments. We cannot provide individual confirmation of receipt for each e-mail. Sender must rely on automatic verification of "message sent."

Deadline for submission of articles is the Thursday prior to the publication date and submissions should include sender's name, lodge affiliation and telephone number. Deadline for e-mail submissions is the same as that for submissions by mail or fax.

Photographs may be sent via e-mail but due to incompatability of some systems, photos will be considered on a case-by-case basis and we may ask that you send hard copies.

Editors

Surprise your Valentine with...A Trip of a Lifetime to Croatia and Slovenia

PHOENIX, AZ - Croatian Cultures, Slovenian Alps and Islands of the Adriatic with Sonja and Steven Schroder from June 19th to July 4th, 2026.

It is our pleasure to invite you to join us for a unique and private tour through Croatia, Slovenia and the Islands of the Adriatic. We will begin our adventure in Zagreb, the Capital of Croatia, where we will spend the night near a historic old Palace; stroll along an old cobblestone street to admire historic sites such as the Zagreb Cathedral, King Tomislav Square, St. Mark's Square and Dolac, the largest and most famous open market in Europe. We will stop at St. Theresa's Orphanage to visit with the children and Carmelite Sisters and prior to departure travel north to Kezele Vineyard where we will sample some of the award- winning wines of Croatia.

Aboard our private coach, we will continue our journey to the mesmerizing sites of the Julian Alps in Slovenia, Lake Bled and Mt. Vogel; travel to the Gorski Kotar region for a traditional picnic; and stroll the seaside promenade in Split. Manja Lilek, our amazing friend and partner, will surely work her "magic" to find relatives along the way, for anyone who has ties to the region.

The second part of our voyage will have us boarding our New Chartered Yacht, where will set sail island hopping in the beautiful blue Adriatic. As we cruise along the coast, we will visit island towns with thousands of years of history; stop at ports that pre-date the Roman years and taste many of the local delicacies. Just imagine… relaxing on the Sun Deck sipping on a glass of your favorite Croatian wine, while our vessel drops anchor in a secluded cove inviting you for a swim in the crystal blue water of the Adriatic Sea.

What makes our tours extra special are the friends and families that join us; sharing laughs, making special memories and forming relationships that will last a lifetime.

ONLY 10 spots remaining! Request a brochure and RSVP to SonjaSchroder1@gmail or call 602-405-2059.

Sonja Schroder/Lodge 978

Svi Sveti Lodge 1 Plans Meetings

PITTSBURGH, PA - Svi Sveti CFU Lodge 1 of Pittsburgh, will hold both its annual and regular monthly meetings on Sunday, February 15, beginning at 1:30 p.m., at Croatian National Hall Javor, 805 East Street, NS, Pittsburgh.

At this meeting, our new officers will be ratified and sworn in at this meeting. We also will set our calendar for the year and make plans for 2026 activities.

We look forward to seeing many members at this important meeting Hvala!

Don Langenfeld/Secretary

Junior Combos Sought for Festival

PITTSBURGH, PA - The CFU Junior Cultural Federation is excited to announce the upcoming 58th Annual Junior Festival, taking place July 3-4-5 in Cleveland, Ohio. As part of the festivities, we will once again be hosting a Friday Night Social and are seeking talented Junior Group Combos to provide entertainment for all in attendance.

If your Junior Group has a combo and would like to share its musical talent with fellow Tamburitzans, we want to hear from you! This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your skills and join in the celebration of our cultural heritage. Any Junior Group combo that is interested is asked to contact Mike Ricci at 412-821-5753 or E-mail michaelricci18@verizon.net.

Combo groups playing for the Friday night social will receive a donation of $50. Don't delay, contact brother Ricci as soon as possible to sign up and join us for an unforgettable evening of music, camaraderie, and culture!

Robert Keber/Secretary/Treasurer

Rankin Junior Tams Welcome Members

RANKIN, PA - Is your child ready to get involved with a local junior tamburitza group or curious what it's about?

Drop in to observe the rehearsal sessions of our Rankin Junior Tamburitzans, meet our instructors, take a walk through the building and chat with the parents of RJT at the Rankin Croatian Home, 236 4th Ave., Rankin, PA 15104, during our weekly Monday night rehearsal, from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., on February 23 and March 2.

Students, ages 4 to 18 years old, are welcome, no experience necessary! See you then!

Questions? Please call 724-809-6758.

Terra Nonack/Lodge 6

Detroit Celebrates CroFest

DETROIT, MI - Detroit's Croatian community and friends gather to celebrate CroFest once again on March 14, 2026. This year, the American Polish Cultural Center will be buzzing with excitement for all. Enjoying the music, indulging in some delicious dinners, as well as Croatian drinks, and of course many performers excited to once again do what we love to do. Eat, drink, sing, dance and be merry! Until one is deprived of live Croatian gatherings full of culture, does one realize just how much it means to us all!

Croatian Folklore Ensemble "Nova Nada" is the host group for the evening. We are very excited to be celebrating our 31st year! This incredibly active group has kept going strong with folklore preservation. "Nova Nada" opens and closes this year's exciting program. Guest groups this year include The Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra, from Detroit, MI; Zumberčani Tamburitzans from Cleveland, OH; Kolo Club Marian from Steelton, PA; Kardinal Stepinac from Windsor, Ontario and others. After the concert, Zadnja Stanica from Steelton, PA promises to fill the dance floor again with their lively music old and new.

Homemade cookies will be available for purchase until they run out – and they will! Our Croatian marketplace will be available for shopping fun. The very popular huge prize raffle will be held at 10:30 p.m.

An evening of great Croatian music, food, dancing, costumes, performers and many, many friends promise to lift your hearts! A Cash Bar will be serving your favorite Šlivo and Kruskovac. A Cash Kitchen will be serving traditional dinners.

Tickets for adults are $30 if purchased by March 1st. Tickets for children 12 and under are $10. Cash, checks or payments via Zelle and Venmo are accepted. Please contact Anna Talan by phone or text at 586-214-4647 or email atalan@sbcglobal.net.

Bring your favorite dancing shoes and join us on Saturday, March 14th!

Anna Talan/Lodge 351

Roll and Kolo Night

CHICAGO, IL – The Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans invite you to Roll and Kolo Night on Saturday, February 21, 2026.

The event will be held at Fleetwood Roller Rink, 7231 W. Archer Ave., Summit, IL 60501. Skate: 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:15 p.m.

Then join us at the Croatian American Radio Club, 7036 West Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Cash Bar.

Donations benefit the Sloboda Junior Tammies. Cash or Zelle to: slobodajunio@gmail.com.

Emily Kazak/Lodge 18

Save the Date: Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitzans April Concert

MILWAUKEE, WI - We are thrilled to invite you to the Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitzans' 41st anniversary concert on Saturday, April 25th, at 3 p.m.

The orchestra members are excited to showcase Croatian folk dances, songs, and tamburitza playing. This year's 41st celebration will also feature a special performance by our talented alumni.

Tickets are $15 for attendees 13 years of age and older. We are offering free entrance to children ages 12 and under, so bring the whole family to enjoy this vibrant cultural celebration.

We can't wait to see you there as we commemorate 41 wonderful years of preserving and sharing Croatian heritage through music and dance.

The Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitzans

Tammies Called to Design Logo for Junior Festival

PITTSBURGH, PA - Calling all creative members of CFU Junior Cultural Federation groups! We invite you to submit your designs for this year's Junior Festival Logo Contest. The winning logo will represent the 2026 CFU Junior Festival, which will be held July 3-4-5 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Logo must contain the following requirements. Must include the words, "CFU Junior Cultural Federation Tamburitza Festival" plus the city, country, and year of the festival. The design must use only three colors: red, black, and blue on a white background. Incorporate something about the host city and a Croatian aspect of the festival. Entrant's name must appear on the back of the entry or in the body of the email. If flags are used, the U.S. flag must be above or to the left of the Canadian and Croatian flags. Computer-generated logos are also accepted.

Prizes:

- **1st Place:** $100 and your logo featured on official festival T-shirts.
- **2nd Place:** $50
- **3rd Place:** $25

Submission must be received by Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Please mail or email entries to: Robert T. Keber, 110 Sunridge Dr., Freedom, PA 15042 or Email: kebe18@comcast.net. Show off your creativity and help make the 2026 Junior Festival unforgettable.

Robert Keber
Secretary/Treasurer

Lodge 354 Save the Dates

COKEBURG, PA - At the Annual Meeting held by St. George Lodge 354 of Cokeburg, PA, the officers and members determined the dates of their most popular annual events for 2026.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining them this year:

- **March 22 –** Spring Vendor Show
- **March 28 –** Annual Fešta Tamburaša
- **April 4 –** Easter Egg Hunt
- **April 12 –** Jr. Tamburitzans' Cash Bash
- **April 25 & 26 –** Annual St. George Celebration
- **August 2 –** Jr. Tamburitzans' Annual Golf Outing
- **September 12 –** Annual Picnic
- **December 13 –** Christmas Party

Watch the **Zajedničar** and listen to the Croatian Hour every Sunday afternoon between 11 am – 12:30 pm on WEDO 810 am for details as these dates near. We hope to welcome you at one or many of these events during the year.

The officers and members of Lodge 354 extend their wishes to all CFU members for a happy and healthy New Year!

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
President

Detroit Hosts Croatian Genealogy Seminar

DETROIT, MI - Have you ever wanted to learn about your family history, how your family came to America or Canada, or where they were born? Does Croatian dual-citizenship sound like an interesting option to you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, discover your Croatian ancestral roots at our Detroit area Genealogy Seminar on Saturday, February 21, 11 AM - 5 PM, or Sunday, February 22, 12 Noon – 6 PM. Our central location makes it convenient for Michiganders or nearby Canadians, as well as residents of Western Ohio, Indiana or Chicago, to take advantage of this educational and worthwhile event.

Zora Lodge 351 welcomes Mr. Robert Jerin, whose research has helped people learn about their ancestors and connect US families with their relatives in Croatia and other countries. He has done seminars all over the US, as well as to the Croatian Genealogy Society in Zagreb, Croatia.

You will learn:

- Where and how to find documents on your ancestors.
- History of Croatia and origins of Croatians.
- The journey of Croatian immigration to America and Canada.
- How to get started with your family tree.
- The do's and don'ts of genealogy.
- How to locate birth, marriage, death and census records.
- How to translate Croatian records.
- Translation of given names (with Croatian, English, Italian and Latin.)
- Meaning of surnames and categories of surnames.
- Figuring family relationships.

As part of this seminar, we will be searching for and locating original records from Croatia.

Cost for this event is $65 per person, which includes a copy of Mr. Jerin's self-published handbook, "Searching for Your Croatian Roots".

Food will be available for purchase, throughout the day, from Lodge 351's kitchen, as well as beverages served from our bar.

Space is limited, so pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Refunds will be allowed, but only if we have a waiting list.

Please contact Kathy by phone at 248-477-7621, email katthiel@gmail.com or text 248-933-7621 by February 13 to secure your reservation on your day of preference.

We hope you can join us!

Kathy Perpich-Thiel/Lodge 351

Lent Begins | Wed, Feb 18, 2026
Ends - Apr 2, 2026

When is the last time you evaluated your insurance needs?

Check your CFU policy now to make sure you have adequate coverage.
Call the Home Office at **412-843-0380** and make sure your loved ones have the security and protection they deserve.

CFU Lodge 126 Update

FARRELL, PA – We wish all members of CFU Lodge 126 a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

As we begin 2026, we would like to share an updated list of our Lodge officers and trustees and thank them for their service and dedication.

2026 Lodge Officers are: President, Tom Yazvac; Vice President, George Vranich; Secretary/Nest Manager, Monica Savchuk; Recording Secretary, Suzy Taylor; Treasurer, Charlotte Vranich Russo; Trustees: Tanya Husnick Mills, Rosemarie Desput, Janice Golub Coyne.

We would also like to remind members that our regular monthly Lodge meeting is held on the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. followed by the Croatian Home meeting at 2 p.m. Dinner is available for purchase afterward, and we encourage everyone to stay and enjoy the fellowship.

Please note that the February meeting has been postponed to Sunday, February 22nd.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year and appreciate your continued support of Lodge 126.

Tom Yazvac/President

Frank M Jerbich Memorial 67th Annual Midwest Bowling Classic

MILWAUKEE, WI - This year's Frank M. Jerbich Memorial Bowling Classic is hosted by CFU/Sloga Milwaukee Lodge 1994 on Feb 21- 22, 2026. The event will be held at the Bowlero Bowl located at 11737 W Burleigh St., Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Singles and Doubles will take place on Saturday, February 21st, at 12 p.m., with the Team event on Sunday, February 22nd, at 10 a.m. Registration forms were in the previous publication of the "Z' and in this issue and also were sent to the various Lodges Sports Directors.

Following the Singles and Doubles event, we will have a Banquet Night at Alioto's Restaurant, only a short drive from the Bowling Alley at 3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa WI.

There will be a Youth Bowling event on Sunday at 11 a.m., with free bowling and food including pizza, chicken tenders, fries and soda or juice for the youth bowlers. This youth event is no cost for two games of bowling and the complimentary food which is a courtesy of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

To register for the Youth event, please contact Patrick Carroll at 414-708-2461 or carrollp67@gmail.com by February 14th with the youth bowler's name and age.

The Lodge will be doing raffles both days including a 50/50 raffle each day.

We are excited to hold this year's event and look forward to seeing all our Midwest Brothers and Sisters in the Fraternal Organization.

There is still time to get teams registered and get them in by February 14th.

There are various Hotels within the area. Homewood Suites is the closest located at 11320 W. Burleigh St., Wauwatosa, WI 53222, phone: 414-444-2844, which is just a short distance across the road from the bowling lanes.

The area offers plenty of places for dining and shopping options. Let's pack the Lanes! Get your teams together and Get Registered!

To our Lodge Members that haven't been at the past meetings, you can help out even if you can't bowl. Please contact Patrick Carroll or myself, 414-793-8048.

Colleen Simonis
Recording Secretary

Save the Date:

Croatian Heritage Night at PNC Park - May 30

PITTSBURGH, PA - Mark your calendars for one of the most anticipated community events of the year—Croatian Heritage Night at PNC Park on Friday, May 30, when the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Minnesota Twins.

This year's celebration promises to be bigger and better than ever. We are excited to once again have the opportunity to **sing the National Anthem,** making this a truly special night of pride and tradition for our Croatian community.

Fans who purchase tickets through our **official Croatian Heritage Night booking link** will receive an **incredible exclusive giveaway**—and this year, it's not a hat.

In addition, several new **in-game features and special activities** are planned, including first-time experiences that will make this year's event truly unique.

While the official booking link has not yet been released by the Pirates, it will be shared as soon as it becomes available. The link will be published in the **Zajedničar,** as well as on our **social media platforms and website.**

For now, we encourage everyone to save the date and plan to join us for a night of baseball, culture and Croatian pride at one of Pittsburgh's premier venues.

We look forward to seeing everyone at PNC Park on May 30!

Derek Hohn
Fraternal Programs Director

There's Much To Do With 32

CHICAGO, IL - Saturday, Feb. 14: Happy Valentine's Day! Be sure to make your romantic dinner reservations early. It's on a Saturday this year! Or, come and spend it will us on Sunday, February 15th!

Sunday, Feb. 15: Sloboda's SAC has planned a Valentine Luncheon Party at the fabulous Bella Mia Fine Dining Restaurant, 4648 W. 147th St., Midlothian, IL from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost to Members & Guests, $50 per person which entitles you to a delicious luncheon from soup to entrée to dessert with a cash bar. Bella Mia is the essence of "Fine Dining". You won't be disappointed! For questions or to make a reservation, call or email Sharon by Sunday, February 1st at 708.369.7818 or sharonsmetko@gmail.com.

Monday, Feb. 16: Presidents' Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February, officially known as Washington's Birthday for federal purposes but commonly honoring all U.S. Presidents, providing a three-day weekend for many.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday. Ashes are a symbol of penitence and penance, and a reminder of our mortality. The day itself is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat; it marks the beginning of our primary penitential season of Lent. Catholics and non-Catholics alike are welcome to receive ashes.

Saturday, Feb. 21: Roll & Kolo Night sponsored by our Sloboda Jr. Tamburitzans starts with a roller skating party from 4:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Don't skate? Come for the dinner and dancing! This is a fundraiser for our Tammies. Please support them!

Sat., Feb. 21/Sun., Feb. 22: Frank M. Jerbich Midwest Classic Bowling Tournament. This tourney will be held at the Bowlero Wauwatosa, 11737 West Burleigh St., Wauwatosa, WI. Singles & Doubles start at 12 noon on Saturday and at 10 a.m. on Sunday for 5-Man/Women/Mixed Teams.

Friday, Feb. 27: "5 Hot Guys" will be making an appearance at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St., Joliet, from 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. following the Club's Award-Winning Fish Fry from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. If you're lookin' to hear some great music from some really "hot guys", this is the place!

Friday, March 13: OMG! It's Friday the 13th! Some look at it as being unlucky, we look at it as being a Lucky Two-Fold Day. First, with the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club's Fish Fry which is being served every Friday through April from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. And second, is the entertainment this evening by the fabulous "Sinovi of Chicago", following that Fish Fry! Prices for the Fish Fry and at the bar are extremely reasonable. Come on out and judge for yourself. You won't be disappointed.

Saturday, March 7: We're planning a theater outing at the Theatre of Western Springs, 4384 Hampton Ave. in Western Springs to sing loudly and dance freely to the music of "Dancing Queen: An Abba Salute" at 7:30 p.m. This is a high-energy concert and is always a sell-out. To make your reservations, call Pat at 708.447.2736 ASAP!

Sunday, March 8: So many things happening this day! Daylight Saving Time returns. Don't forget to spring ahead 1 hour or you'll be 1 hour late to Sloboda's General Meeting at the Linda Sokol Francis Brookfield Library, 3541 Park Avenue in Brookfield at 11 a.m., when the library doors open. Meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m. The facility is handicapped accessible with an elevator to take you down to the lower level. A continental breakfast of coffee and…will be served. Hope to see y'all there! Following our Lodge Meeting, the SAC will be meeting so don't forget to stick around!

Saturday, March 21: Our Prijatelji in Concert with The (Duquesne) Tamburitzans as their guest performers. You won't want to miss this!

■ ■ ■

Our condolences go out to the family of Emil Riccio, on his passing January 26th. May his soul and the souls of our recently passed rest in peace.

"We will be known forever by the tracks we leave." - Lakota Proverb

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

CFU Lodge 146 Meeting and Job Opportunities

VERSAILLES, PA - Lodge 146 of Versailles will be holding a meeting on Sunday, February 15, at 11 a.m. Lodge members are encouraged to attend.

Additionally, the lodge is looking to hire a skilled bartender and part-time janitor. Interested applicants for either of these positions may reach out to Beth Steele at 412-496-5512 or fill out an application at the club bar. We are looking for applicants that are reliable, hardworking, and take pride in their work.

Rachel Poturich
Recording Secretary

SINGLES and DOUBLES
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
12:00 p.m.

TEAM EVENT
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22
10:00 a.m.

Frank M. Jerbich Memorial
67th ANNUAL MIDWEST BOWLING CLASSIC

Hosted by CFU/SLOGA Milwaukee #1994

February 21 - 22, 2026

Bowlero Bowl

11737 W Burleigh St, Wauwatosa, WI 53222

TEAM EVENT

TEAM NAME:	TEAM CAPTAIN:
EMAIL:	PHONE:

Name (Last, First) Please Type or Print in the order they will bowl	CFU Lodge # Or "Guest"	AVERAGE 2024-2025	Name of League
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

SINGLES & DOUBLES

Two Person and Individual Contest Registry (In the order they will bowl)	AVERAGE
1a.	
1b.	
2a.	
2b.	
3a.	
3b.	

PAYMENT/ENTRY FEE

Fees $20 Per Person Per Event		Event Total
TEAM	$100 ($20 Each Bowler)	$
DOUBLES	$40 ($20 Each Bowler)	$
SINGLES	$20 ($20 Each Bowler)	$
BOWLING BANQUET	$38 (Each Attendee)	$
	Total	

MINIMUM 3 Bowlers must be CFU members in good standing attested by Lodge Secretary's Signature.

_____
Lodge Number

_____
Financial Secretary

Email or mail all entries to:
Patrick Carroll
3743 S. Griffin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207
Email: carrollp67@gmail.com

Make Checks Payable to: CFU/SLOGA Lodge 1994 Entry Deadline: Friday, February 14, 2026

Saturday Bowling Banquet Saturday
February 21nd @ 6:00 PM
Alioto's
3041 N Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa, WI 53222
Dinner cost is $38
Please indicate number of people attending. Must reserve by Feb 14th!

Sretno Valentinovo

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST

U RADU JE SPAS! U SLOZI JE MOĆ!

GLASILO HRVATSKE BRATSKE ZAJEDNICE U AMERICI / SVI ZA JEDNOG — JEDAN ZA SVE

GODINA 121. PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA / SRIJEDA 11. VELJAČE 2026. SEDMA STRANA

Hrvatska matica iseljenika slavi 75. godišnjicu ujedinjenja Hrvata

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA - Mi u Nacionalnoj upravi Hrvatske bratske zajednice Amerike s veseljem prepoznajemo i čestitamo Hrvatskoj matici iseljenika na postizanju Dijamantnog jubileja postojanja organizacije. Osnovana 12. veljače 1951. godine s ciljem uspostavljanja suradnje s Hrvatima koji žive u inozemstvu, Matica ima izuzetan uspjeh u stvaranju dugotrajnih veza s organizacijama hrvatskih iseljenika i očuvanju hrvatske kulture.

Naša Zajednica bila je prirodan partner za suradnju s Maticom jer smo i mi, jednako kao i oni, vrlo zainteresirani z a očuvanje i promoviranje naše hrvatske baštine i kulture u iseljeništvu. S našim vlastitim korijenima u Sjevernoj Americi, koji su uspostavljeni 2. rujna 1894. putem Nacionalne hrvatske zajednice, Hrvatska bratska zajednica Amerike s veseljem je surađivala sa svim predstavnicima Hrvatske matice iseljenika od samih početaka suradnje 1950-ih. Područja zajedničkog interesa uključivala su, ali nisu bila ograničena na, hrvatski folklor, tamburašku glazbu, umjetnost i povijest, pri čemu su se odvijale i kulturne razmjene. Kroz vodstvo našeg preminulog nacionalnog predsjednika emeritusa Bernarda M. Luketicha, Hrvatska bratska zajednica u potpunosti je prihvatila misiju izgradnje mostova suradnje i osiguravanja očuvanja hrvatskog folklora i baštine.

HBZ je uspjela predstaviti našim članovima brojne hrvatske folklorne ansamble, glazbenike i umjetnike kroz ovaj „kulturni most" koji je uspostavljen. Uz stručnu pomoć ključnih predstavnika HMI, Hrvatska bratska zajednica uspješno je organizirala osam omladinskih kulturnih festivala u glavnom gradu Zagrebu. Najnoviji događaj bio je kombinirani festival na kojem su sudjelovali mladi i odrasli tamburaški ansambli u spektakularnom festivalu tamburaške glazbe „TAMBURE KROZ GENERACIJE" u dvorani Lisinski, kroz dvodnevni koncert 29. i 30. lipnja 2024.

Zahvaljujemo svakom od direktora HMI-a koji je blisko surađivao s našom Zajednicom i bili smo vrlo zadovoljni što smo upoznali najnoviju osobu imenovanu na ovu vrlo važnu poziciju, gospodina Zdeslava Milasa. S direktorom Milasom sastali smo se tijekom naše posljednje posjete Hrvatskoj u rujnu 2025. godine i bili smo zadovoljni što smo mogli razmijeniti informacije o programima od interesa za HBZ i HMI. Dodatna zahvalnost upućuje se svim zaposlenicima Matice koji su vrijedno radili na tome da naši programi budu uspješni tijekom proteklih nekoliko desetljeća, uključujući gospođu Mirjanu Piskulić koja je dugi niz godina vrlo blisko surađivala s nacionalnim dužnosnicima HBZ-a, uključujući i autora ovih redaka.

Matica je vrlo uspješno pomagala bezbrojnim tamburaškim ansamblima tijekom njihovih turneja po Hrvatskoj i područjima u kojima su Hrvati živjeli u Bosni i Hercegovini, Mađarskoj i Austriji. Kroz ovo partnerstvo, HBZ je sa zadovoljstvom dočekivala dobro poznate umjetnike poput pokojnog Ivana Lackovića „Croate", Josipa i Ivana Generalića te Josipa Cugovčana u našoj matičnoj ustanovi, gdje njihova umjetnička djela zajedno s mnogima drugima ostaju izložena kako bi ih naši članovi i gosti mogli razgledati.

Kulturna turneja, koja se održavala godišnje niz godina, pružala je publiku u SAD-u i Kanadi za etablirane hrvatske vokalne soliste/tamburaške orkestre poput pokojnog Krunoslava „Kiće" Slabinca i Slavonskih Bećara, Stjepana Jeršeka, Šime Jovanovca, Vice Vukova, Mirjane Primorac, Marije Pavković i Marte Nikolin. Drugi glazbenici i pjevači stekli su izloženost i popularnost izvan Hrvatske putem naše turneje. Naši vrlo dobri prijatelji Damir Bačić i Mia Dimšić su također bili sudionici, kao i bendovi poput Gazde, Kas, Džentelmeni, Šarmeri, Berde Band, Vranac, Ravnica, Patria, Đjakovačka Zvona i mnogo drugih!

Tijekom Domovinskog rata suradnja s Maticom se produbila budući da je HBZ u partnerstvu s organizatorima sudjelovala u pružanju pomoći siročadi putem DORA Zaklade osnovane za pružanje pomoći u tim kritičnim vremenima. Odgovarajući na ovaj humanitarni projekt, sponzorstva HBZ iznosila su ukupno 1,305.77,13 USD kako bi pružila financijsku podršku za 676 siročadi.

Dotaknuli smo se ovdje malog dijela rada i postignuća Hrvatske matice iseljenika tijekom njenih sedamdeset i pet (75) godina postojanja te priznajemo da su

(Nastavak na 10. strani)

Hrvatska dobiva direktnu liniju za New York

Najpovoljnije povratne karte sada se mogu pronaći za let u svibnju - nešto više od 700 eura, s tim da u srcu sezone cijene idu gore.

Američki avioprijevoznik United Airlines najavio je prvu direktnu liniju između Splita i New Yorka, koja će prometovati od proljeća do početka rujna ove godine. Leti se tri puta tjedno, a budući da je let bez presjedanja, traje otprilike 10 sati, što značajno umanjuje uobičajen put do Amerike koji zna trajati i čitav dan.

Na ovoj će ruti letjeti Boeing 767-300ER, koji je prvi redovan širokotrupni zrakoplov koji prometuje iz Splita prema nekoj prekooceanskoj destinaciji.

Uz klasičnu ekonomsku klasu putnici mogu odabrati poslovnu, premium plus i economy plus kartu.

Najpovoljnije povratne karte sada se mogu pronaći za let u svibnju, i to za nešto više od 700 eura, s tim da u srcu sezone cijene značajno idu gore.

Osim do Splita, UA uvodi i direktne letove za Bari, Glasgow, te Santiago de Compostelu, što je značajan iskorak za povezanost SAD-a s Europom, a cijelu su vijest objavili na svojim društvenim mrežama.

Via Portugal

Za one koji se ovog ljeta ipak ne planiraju uputiti preko oceana, stiže još jedna zračna novost. Britanski niskotarifni prijevoznik EasyJet uvodi sezonsku direktnu liniju između Splita i Porta, grada smještenog na krajnjem zapadu Europe, obali Atlantskog oceana. Letovi su dvaput tjedno i traju oko tri sata. Cijene karata kreću se od 149 eura, a linija je aktivna do kraja kolovoza ove godine.

Porto je grad bogate kulturne i gastronomske ponude, a posjetitelji mogu uživati u autentičnoj portugalskoj kuhinji

Njihovo najpoznatije jelo je ono što se kod nas jede kao bianco ili brudet, a najčešće ga sprema baba na Badnjak - naravno, bakalar, portugalski bachalau.

Uvođenje ovakvih zračnih linija predstavlja značajan iskorak za međunarodnu povezanost Splita i čitave Dalmacije te snažan poticaj razvoju turizma i gospodarstva, piše Slobodna Dalmacija.

Zajedničar
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GLAVNI URED
Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice
u Americi
Organizirane 1894. godine

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA...LORRAINE TURKALL

U potrazi za izvrsnošću

Od borbe protiv društvenih nepravdi i političkih nemira do preživljavanja opasnosti od teških vremenskih uvjeta, raširenih bolesti i drugih ozbiljnih problema, opseg onoga s čime se ljudi suočavaju svaki dan je uznemirujući. Za samo kratko vrijeme, ohrabruje osjetiti radost udaljivši se od svakodnevnih teškoća i tragedija te svjedočiti uzbuđenju XXV Zimskih olimpijskih igara poznatih kao Milano Cortina 2026, koje se trenutno održavaju do 22. veljače. Sam spektakl otvorenih ceremonija, zajedno sa simbolikom Olimpijskog plamena, pruža osjećaj ponosa za svoju naciju i za mlade sportaše koji nastoje donijeti čast svojoj domovini na ovim Olimpijskim igrama.

Nevjerojatno je prepoznati da 2.871 sportaš iz 92 zemlje sudjeluje na Zimskim olimpijskim igrama 2026., uključujući impresivnih 232 mlada predstavnika samo iz Sjedinjenih Američkih Država. Duh natjecanja tijekom 16 dana olimpijskih igara čini da ti krv prostruji samo pri pomisli na to što je svaki sportaš postigao samo da bi se kvalificirao za sudjelovanje u ovim događanjima. Strogi treninzi, ponavljajući rasporedi za usavršavanje svojih vještina, ogroman napor na njihovim mišićima i umu te volja i izdržljivost da traže izvrsnost unutar sebe sami, sve su to zadivljujuće osobine koje su im pomogle da dosegnu razinu olimpijskog natjecanja.

Olimpijske vrijednosti „cilj promoviranja sporta, kulture i obrazovanja kako bi se izgradio bolji, mirniji svijet“ stavlja u fokus ono što svaki sportaš mora uzeti u obzir kada trenira za nastup na svjetskoj sceni u svojim respektivnim disciplinama. Svaki sportaš izaziva svoj unutarnji svijet da uspije, ali istovremeno poštuje svoje konkurente, potpuno svjestan da i oni također žele donijeti čast svojim zemljama, kulturama i sportu. Strast za izvrsnošću gori u svakom sportašu, ali svaki istovremeno poštuje druge na natjecanju, što potiče prijateljstvo i jedinstvo među nacijama.

Poruka Olimpijskog kreda prenosi punu bit igara, navodeći: „Najvažnija stvar na Olimpijskim igrama nije pobjeda, već sudjelovanje, baš kao što najvažnija stvar u životu nije trijumf, već borba. Bitno je ne to što smo pobijedili, već da smo se dobro borili.“ Mnogima bi dobro došlo da razmisle o ovim riječima u vlastitim životima, budući da težnja za izvrsnošću često zaslijepi prosudbu pojedinaca u njihovoj osobnoj potrazi za uspjehom. Baš kao što olimpijski sportaši pokazuju osjećaj časti i međusobnog poštovanja kada se susretnu i natječu, postoji ostvariva ravnoteža koja je moguća za sve pojedince koji teže uspjehu u svojim nastojanjima.

Olimpijski duh časti pruža vrijedan vodič svima koji žele ostvariti izvrsnost u svom području rada, studija, vještina ili interesa. Važan čimbenik koji treba zapamtiti je čast u vlastitim nastojanjima. Sigurno je monumentalno postignuće uspjeti, pa čak i samo ustrajati kroz osobni izazov. Ako se uzme u obzir svaki olimpijac, osvajač medalje ili ne, osobna radost u duhu natjecanja zaista je vrijedna slavlja.

Kako napraviti najbolji restani krumpir

Restani krumpir jedno je od jela koja izgledaju jednostavno, ali traže malo pažnje da bi savršeno uspjela. Mnogi misle da znaju napraviti savršen restani krumpir, ali većina griješi u istom detalju. Ako želite napraviti restani krumpir koji će viti hrskav i sočan, uz onaj okus dobro restanog krumpira kakav priželjkujete, potrudite se izbjeći tu čestu pogrešku i obratite pažnju na pravilan odabir krumpira.

Koji krumpir koristiti za restanje?

Za najbolji restani krumpir odaberite stari, brašnasti krumpir, jer on bolje drži formu i neće se raspasti tijekom kuhanja i pirjanja s lukom. Uzmete li mladi krumpir, brzo će se raskuhati, dok takozvane "voštane" sorte nakon kuhanja mogu ostati previše tvrde pa se jelo neće spojiti nego će ostavljati dojam salate od krumpira.

Kako skuhati krumpir za restanje?

Krumpir skuhajte u kori, jer na taj način neće upiti previše vode. Mnogi se odlučuju za prečicu pa krumpir kuhaju oguljen i narezan na ploške, ali premda na taj način skraćuju vrijeme kuhanja, produžuju vrijeme pirjanja, jer će krumpir biti previše vlažan kad se doda luku.

Ako ga unatoč našem upozorenju odlučite oguliti i narezati prije kuhanja, potrudite se odraditi jedan dodatn i korak, jer jako utječe na rezultat. Kad je krumpir kuhan, ocijedite ga i vratite u još vrući lonac u kojem se kuhao. Ostavite ga nekoliko minuta da stoji nepokriven, kako bi ispario višak vlage.

Kako pravilno restati krumpir?

U idućem koraku pripreme

zagrijte svinjsku mast ili ulje, dodajte nasjeckani luk i pirjajte ga dok ne dobije zlatnu boju i lijepo zamiriše. Zatim ubacite kuhani krumpir i lagano protresite teću ili tavu da se sastojci povežu. Nemojte ga previše miješati kuhačom, jer će se previše raspasti.

Završna faza pripreme restanog krumpira odnosi se na začine, obično slatku mljevenu papriku i sjeckani svježi peršin.

krumpir bit će savršena pratnja odrescima, pečenju ili kobasicama, a svaka porcija imat će puni okus i lagano rastresitu teksturu koju tražite.
Slobodna Dalmacija

Aktivnost je jedan od ključnih uspjeha

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

Često nam se postavljaju pitanja: „Kako naša Zajednica funkcionira?“ Naš odgovor je vrlo brz: „Sasvim dobro“, a zapravo je točniji odgovor „Vrlo dobro!“

Uspjeh koji postiže ili ostvaruje Hrvatska bratska zajednica Amerike može se promatrati na dva područja. Financijsko područje i fraternalističko područje.

Prvo razmotrimo bratsku stranu naše Zajednice. Strukturirana kao organizacija za bratske koristi, HBZ je bazirana na odsjecima s osiguranicima koji se smatraju članovima naše organizacije. Ti se članovi mogu pridružiti Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednicii zbog svoje želje za povezivanjem s organizacijom zajedničkog etničkog nasljeđa, naime hrvatskog nasljeđa. Ili naši članovi mogu smatrati da su naši financijski proizvodi i/ili bratske pogodnosti veoma poželjni.

Naša nacionalna uprava ponosi se spoznajom da smo u većini ostali vjerni našim bratstvenim korijenima i časno radili na očuvanju i prenošenju naše hrvatske baštine kroz niz kulturnih aktivnosti. Vjerujemo da je HBZ u tom pogledu bez premca, budući da imamo preko pedeset (50) omladinskih i odraslih tamburaških ansambala koji su povezani s godišnjim hrvatskim tamburaškim festivalima naše Zajednice. Osim toga, naša velika mreža odsjeka i gnijezda proteže se širom Sjedinjenih Američkih Država, Kanade i Hrvatske. Svaka od ovih pridruženih lokalnih organizacija pruža članovima i sudionicima događaja hrvatske kulture i sporta koji se održavaju tijekom godine.

Dok pišemo ovaj predsjednički članak, svjesni smo da je Skifest HBZ sada završen jer su naši članovi i prijatelji stigli u Holliday Valley u Zapadnom New Yorku tijekom vikenda od 6. do 8. veljače. Ovo okupljanje članova HBZ obično je početni događaj u našem Kalendaru događanja i tijekom godina se pokazalo kao dugovječno, jer su se lica nekih sudionika promijenila zbog 'vremena', no energija i entuzijazam ostaju prisutni za one koji sudjeluju u slavljenju naše hrvatske baštine.

Sljedeći mjeseci od ožujka do srpnja sadrže mnoštvo dodatnih aktivnosti u kojima naši članovi mogu sudjelovati, a koje organiziraju lokalni Hrvatski domovi ili tamburaški sastavi, ili naša Nacionalna uprava. Pregled **Zajedničara** otkriva više članaka pod naslovom „Rezervirajte datum“ kako bi se naši članovi bolje informirali i mogli planirati sudjelovanje na tim događanjima.

Na nacionalnoj razini radujemo se predstojećem Nacionalnom košarkaškom turniru koji sponzorira odsjek 320 iz Duquesnea, Pennsylvania, kao i Nacionalnom turniru u kuglanju koji će se održati pod sponzorstvom odsjeka 136, Lorain, Ohio. Direktor bratskih programa, brat Derek Hohn, marljivo je radio s ovim dvjema odsjeka kako bi osigurao uspješan turnir. Također, priznanje upućujemo bratu Hohnu za njegovu odlučnost i rad u uspostavljanju Noći hrvatske baštine u PNC Parku u Pittsburghu, Pennsylvania, koja će istaknuti našu Zajednicu i pomoći u promicanju naše hrvatske baštine na 30. svibnja 2026.

Ovaj kratki popis ključnih bratskih, kulturnih i sportskih aktivnosti otkriva „tajnu našeg uspjeha“, naime zainteresirano i angažirano članstvo koje uživa u druženju koje im omogućuje Hrvatska bratska zajednica Amerike.

Ova kolumna budućeg predsjedničkog izvješća sadržavat će informacije o financijskoj moći naše Zajednice; međutim, ukratko, zadovoljstvo nam je reći da je Hrvatska bratska zajednica završila 2025. godinu s približno 514 milijuna dolara imovine pod upravljanjem i rastućim bogatstvom sigurnosti za naše članstvo, koje se sastoji od viška i dodatnih rezervnih fondova koji su dosegnuli gotovo 87 milijuna dolara vrijednosti.

Po našem mišljenju, ove činjenice su jasan dokaz da članovi i potencijalni članovi mogu biti utješni znajući da se o njihovom životnom osiguranju i mirovinskim ušteđevinama brine Hrvatska bratska zajednica, zajednica koja mari!

Zašto slavimo Valentinovo

Bilo da ga smatrate komercijalnim praznikom ili iskrenom proslavom ljubavi, Valentinovo je dan kada se sjetimo svih koje volimo. Dan je posvećen ljubavi i romantici, slavi se svake godine 14. veljače diljem svijeta. Iako ga mnogi doživljavaju kao komercijalizirani praznik, Valentinovo ima bogatu povijest, isprepletenu s drevnim običajima, kršćanskim legendama i modernim tradicijama.

Što je Valentinovo?

Valentinovo je dan kada slavimo ljubav u svim oblicima - romantičnu ljubav, prijateljstvo, obiteljsku ljubav. To je prilika da voljenim osobama pokažemo da nam je stalo do njih, bilo kroz male znakove pažnje, darove, romantične geste ili jednostavno provođenje kvalitetnog vremena zajedno. Simboli Valentinova su: srce, Kupid, crvene ruže, čokolade i ljubavne poruke.

Kako je nastalo Valentinovo?

Iako danas povezujemo ovaj dan s ljubavlju i romantikom, njegovo podrijetlo nije tako jednostavno. Povjesničari su istraživali različite teorije o njegovim korijenima, a najpoznatije su povezane s drevnim običajima i kršćanskim legendama. Iako su korijeni Valentinova u drevnom Rimu (Luperkalija i legende o svetom Valentinu), tradicija slavljenja Valentinova kakvu danas poznajemo razvila se u Europi tijekom srednjeg vijeka, posebno u Engleskoj i Francuskoj. Luperkalija: Drevni rimski festival

Jedna teorija povezuje Valentinovo s drevnim rimskim festivalom Luperkalija, koji se održavao sredinom veljače. Luperkalija je bila svetkovina plodnosti i pročišćenja, posvećena bogu Faunu i osnivačima Rima, Romulu i Remu. Tijekom festivala, svećenici su žrtvovali životinje, a mladići su, navodno, birali imena djevojaka iz kutije, nakon čega bi postali parovi tijekom trajanja festivala. Britannica navodi da je papa Gelazije I. krajem 5. stoljeća zabranio Luperkaliju, a neki povjesničari smatraju da ju je zamijenio Valentinovom, iako izravna veza nije čvrsto dokazana. Sveti Valentin: Zaštitnik zaljubljenih

Druga, popularnija teorija, veže Valentinovo uz kršćanskog svećenika Valentina, koji je živio u Rimu u 3. stoljeću. Postoji nekoliko legendi o svetom Valentinu, a najčešća kaže da je potajno vjenčavao parove unatoč zabrani cara Klaudija II., koji je smatrao da su neoženjeni muškarci bolji vojnici. Zbog toga je Valentin bio zatvoren i pogubljen 14. veljače.

Druga legenda kaže da je Valentin, dok je bio u zatvoru, vratio vid slijepoj kćeri svog tamničara i prije pogubljenja joj poslao pismo potpisano "Tvoj Valentin". Bez obzira na to jesu li ovo legende točne ili nisu, sveti Valentin postao je simbol ljubavi i zaštitnik zaljubljenih.

Srednjovjekovna tradicija i Geoffrey Chaucer

Valentinovo se kao dan romantične ljubavi počelo povezivati tek u srednjem vijeku. Engleski pjesnik Geoffrey Chaucer u svom djelu "Parliament of Fowls" (1382.) prvi put spominje Valentinovo kao dan kada ptice biraju svoje partnere, što se poklapalo s vjerovanjem da sezona parenja ptica počinje sredinom veljače.

Kako je nastalo Valentinovo u Hrvatskoj?

Valentinovo se u Hrvatskoj počelo šire slaviti tek u novije vrijeme, tijekom 1990-ih godina, pod utjecajem zapadne, posebice američke, kulture. Iako nije dio tradicionalne hrvatske baštine, Valentinovo je brzo steklo popularnost, prvenstveno među mlađom populacijom. Danas se Valentinovo u Hrvatskoj obilježava na sličan način kao i u drugim zemljama: razmjenom darova (cvijeća, čokolade, nakita), romantičnim večerama, izlascima i drugim izrazima ljubavi.

Postoje i neki stari hrvatski običaji vezani uz Svetog Valentina, ali se ne odnose na romantiku.

Na primjer, u Međimurju je postojala tradicija da se na dan Svetog Valentina djeci ostavljaju peciva u obliku ptica u dvorištu, uz objašnjenje da je to dan kada ptice imaju svadbu, odnosno da se "ftičeki ženiju". Također, na istarskom i kvarnerskom području postoji poslovica: "Sveti Valentin, na svakom trnu je pir." Ova izreka sugerira da se na Svetog Valentina ptice počinju pariti, što je povezano s vjerovanjima o početku sezone parenja ptica.

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Garantira vašu zaštitu.
Pruža svojim članovima konkurentne proizvode životnog osiguranja i anuiteta te bratske pogodnosti.
STALNI PLANOVI ŽIVOTNOG OSIGURANJA
Plan životnog osiguranja s jednom premijom.
Obični plan životnog osiguranja.
Plan životnog osiguranja na 10 godina uplaćivanja.
Plan životnog osiguranja na 20 godina uplaćivanja.
PLANOVI PRIVREMENOG ŽIVOTNOG OSIGURANJA
Plan na 10 godina s fiksnom premijom.
Plan na 20 godina.
Plan dječjeg osiguranja do navršene 25. godine.
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BRATSKE POGODNOSTI KOJE NUDI HBZ
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Godišnja konferencija organizacije Četiri kotara

FOUR COUNTIES, PA – Organizacija Ujedinjenih odsjeka HBZ u kotarima Fayette, Greene, Washington i Westmoreland održava svoju godišnju konferenciju u nedjelju, 1. ožujka ove godine. Domaćin konferencije je društvo „Bratstvo“ odsjek 194. u Monessenu. Sastanak će se održati u dvorani Boulevard Event Hall, 221 Parente Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062.

Nadzorni odbor sastat će se u 1sat poslije podne kako bi pregledao sve financijske račune, nakon čega slijedi opći sastanak koji počinje u 2 sata poslije podne. Svi zainteresirani članovi povezani s našom organizacijom su dobrodošli; međutim, pravo glasa imaju samo četiri (4) delegata naših sjedinjenih odsjeka.

Razmatranje na ovom sastanku uključuju: razmatranje i odobrenje Zapisnika s godišnje konferencije 2025.; financijska izvješća; Piknik Zajedničarskog dana dana 2026.; odabir Fraternalista godine / proslava 50-godišnjih članova; i izbor odbornika. Nakon sastanka, članovi odsjeka 194 posluživat će obrok.

Nadamo se da će svaki od naših odsjeka poslati delegaciju na ovaj važan sastanak i da će naše odsječne članove poticati da aktivno sudjeluju u radu naših Ujedinjenih odsjeka.

Također želimo zahvaliti svim članovima i prijateljima HBZ-a koji su prisustvovali proslavi Fraternalista godine i proslavi 50-godišnjih članova, koja je održana u nedjelju, 2. studenoga 2025. u Hrvatskom domu odsjeka 354 u Cokeburgu, PA. Tu smo odali počast vrijednoj skupini fraternalista iz odsjeka 354 i prepoznali članove s 50 godina članstva iz svih Ujedinjenih odsjeka u Četiri kotara. Poslužena je prekrasna hrana, a zabavu je osigurao Orkestar Radost. Bilo je to prikladno i nezaboravno događanje.

Još jednom čestitamo Fraternalistima godine 2025. Marylou Pohlot, Daveu Jonesu, Danu Flintu, Marku Kochisu i Dereku Hohnu. Veselimo se što ćemo vidjeti mnoge predstavnike naših odsjeka na Godišnjoj konferenciji i podsjećamo vas da se uključite u naš tjedni radijski program „Hrvatski sat“ svake nedjelje na WEDO 810 AM od 11 ujutro do 12:30 poslije podne, kojeg podržavaju naši Ujedinjeni odsjeci. Svi ste nam dobrodošli!

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
Predsjednica

PROGRAMI HBZ-A POD POVEĆALOM

Poruka iz ureda izvršnog potpredsjednika
FRANJE BERTOVIĆA

OSIGURANJE OTPLAĆENO U 10 GODINA

Pazeći da su vaši najmiliji dobro zaštićeni je najvažnija stvar u vašem životu koju činite. Zato učinite to odmah! Što je osoba mlađa to su cijene niže. Vaša životna dob je jedan od faktora koji utječe na cijenu.

Životno osiguranje Otplaćeno u 10 godina je stalni plan životnog osiguranja s predviđenim dividendama i rastom gotovinske vrijednosti. Premijske uplate traju 10 godina.

Specijalna ponuda HBZ-a na Osiguranje otplaćeno u 10 g.

- $25,000 životnog osiguranja, u prvoj godini premija je $250, za starosnu dob od 0 do 25.
- Ili, za $5,000 do $10,000 osiguranja, u prvoj godini premija je $100, za životnu dob od 0 do 50.
- I, za $5,000 životnog osiguranja, u prvoj godini premija je također $100 za osobe od 51 do 70 godina.
- Druge, ili slijedeće godine standardne premije se primjenjuju.
- Standardne odredbe će se primjenjivati kod razmatranja i odobrenja police osiguranja.

Akcijska ponuda HBZ-a vrijedi do travnja ove godine. Ovo je doista pogodna prilika da se osobno osigurate i osigurate članove svoje obitelji. Ako ste već član Zajednice razmotrite

Niže objavljena tablica cijena je za muškarac, nepušače na $1,000.

	MUŠKARAC NEPUŠAČ				MUŠKARAC PUŠAČ			
God. izdanja	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000
0	23.18	16.71	13.81	12.73				
1	23.50	17.03	14.17	13.09				
2	23.83	17.35	14.54	13.46				
3	24.17	17.67	14.92	13.84				
4	24.51	18.01	15.31	14.23				
5	24.86	18.35	15.70	14.62				
6	25.28	18.75	16.15	15.07				
7	25.71	19.17	16.61	15.52				
8	26.15	19.59	17.08	15.99				
9	26.60	20.02	17.56	16.48				
10	27.05	20.46	18.05	16.97				
11	27.55	20.94	18.57	17.49				
12	28.06	21.43	19.10	18.01				
13	28.58	21.94	19.65	18.56				
14	29.11	22.45	20.21	19.12				
15	29.64	22.97	20.79	19.70				
16	30.33	23.23	21.44	20.09	31.19	24.18	22.27	21.00
17	31.03	23.49	22.12	20.49	32.81	25.45	23.87	22.40
18	31.75	23.76	22.82	20.89	34.52	26.79	25.57	23.89
19	32.48	24.03	23.54	21.31	36.32	28.19	27.40	25.48
20	33.23	24.30	24.29	21.73	38.21	29.68	29.37	27.18
21	33.81	24.89	24.63	22.32	39.01	30.49	30.14	27.96
22	34.39	25.49	24.99	22.93	39.82	31.34	30.93	28.77
23	34.99	26.11	25.35	23.55	40.64	32.20	31.74	29.60
24	35.59	26.74	25.71	24.19	41.48	33.09	32.57	30.45
25	36.21	27.39	26.08	24.85	42.35	34.00	33.42	31.33
26	36.92	28.13	26.77	25.55	43.28	34.97	33.78	31.92
27	37.66	28.88	27.47	26.28	44.24	35.97	34.13	32.52
28	38.40	29.66	28.19	27.03	45.23	36.99	34.49	33.13
29	39.17	30.45	28.94	27.80	46.23	38.04	34.86	33.75
30	39.94	31.27	29.70	28.60	47.25	39.12	35.23	34.39
31	40.80	32.14	30.69	29.42	48.34	40.25	36.79	35.22
32	41.68	33.04	31.71	30.27	49.45	41.40	38.42	36.07
33	42.57	33.97	32.77	31.14	50.59	42.58	40.13	36.95
34	43.48	34.92	33.86	32.04	51.75	43.80	41.91	37.85
35	44.41	35.89	35.00	32.96	52.94	45.05	43.76	38.76
36	45.42	36.93	35.96	33.92	54.21	46.36	44.45	39.59
37	46.44	37.99	36.95	34.91	55.51	47.71	45.14	40.44
38	47.49	39.08	37.97	35.93	56.84	49.10	45.84	41.30
39	48.57	40.21	39.02	36.97	58.20	50.53	46.55	42.18
40	49.66	41.37	40.10	38.05	59.60	52.00	47.28	43.09

(Nastavak na 11. strani)

Konzularni dani u Pitttsburghu i Clevelandu

WASHINGTON, DC - Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske iz Washingtona održat će konzularne dane u Pittsburgh-u u prostorijama Hrvatske bratske zajednice, na adresi 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, u vremenu od 10 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (uz prethodni dogovor termina) na sljedeće datume: **12. ožujka; 9. travnja; 14. svibnja; 11. lipnja.**

Konzularni dani u Eastlake-u, Ohio održat će se u prostorijama hrvatskog doma "Kardinal Alojzije Stepinac" na adresi 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095, u vremenu od 9 sati ujtro do 4 sata poslije podne (uz prethodni dogovor termina) na sljedeće datume: **; 13. ožujka; 10. travnja; 15. svibnja; 12. Lipnja.**

VAŽNA OBAVIJEST: Potrebno je unaprijed zakazati termin i to putem adrese elektroničke pošte: crocons.washington@mvep.hr ili nazvati na +1-202-588-5899, kućni 2. Uz zahtjev za sastanak, potrebno je navesti vrstu usluge koja se zahtjeva i kontakt podatke (ime i prezime, broj telefona). Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske u Washingtonu određuje vrijeme termina po redu zaprimanja zahtjeva i prema dostupnosti istih.

Mihovil Pažin/VRH

DEATHS REPORTED

FROM JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 2, 2026

1	Jan M. Comport, II	Pittsburgh, PA
13	Vilma L. Belsak	Steelton, PA
13	Helen G. Lescanec	Steelton, PA
13	Maryann Seiders	Steelton, PA
32	Joseph Rihtar	Chicago, IL
32	Walter Zelenika	Chicago, IL
66	Carol A. Kopsic	Youngstown, OH
66	Michael A. Svitesic	Yongstown, OH
84	Mary M. Yelich	Anaconda, MT
126	Violet Kusich	Farrell, PA
126	Sally L. Schrauder	Farrell, PA
170	Linda D. Price	Merrillville, IN
248	Carolyn Burke	Clairton, PA
351	Agnes Ivanovic	Detroit, MI
530	Darinka Lucic	St. Thomas, ON, CAN
570	Patricia A. Lanzalotta	Brewster, OH
776	Elsie F. Vular	Canfield, OH
995	Ivanka J. Brekalo	Cleveland, OH
1959	Robert Bezjak	Greenfield, WI
1994	Joseph R. Jaklich	Milwaukee, WI

Hrvatska matica...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

njezini napori bili širi kroz partnerstva i suradnju s mnogim drugim hrvatskim organizacijama diljem dijaspore. Nakon našeg uvoda, ovdje sa zadovoljstvom predstavljamo skraćenu povijest Hrvatske matice iseljenika kako je pronađena na njihovoj internetskoj stranici.

Još jednom čestitamo sadašnjim i bivšim pojedincima koji čine Hrvatsku maticu iseljenika te im upućujemo najbolje želje i molitve za njihov daljnji uspjeh. Uspjeh koji će koristiti našem hrvatskom narodu na nebrojene načine dok služi vrlo važnoj svrsi ujedinjenja našeg hrvatskog naroda širom dijaspore.

POVIJEST

Hrvatska matica iseljenika utemeljena je 1951. godine. Osnivačka skupština Matice iseljenika Hrvatske, koja danas nosi ime Hrvatska matica iseljenika, održana je u Zagrebu 12. veljače 1951. godine.

Pokušaj da se poslije rata potakne iseljeništvo na masovni povratak neslavno je propao potkraj 1940-ih. Napuštanjem politike masovnoga povratka, vlast se okreće institucionalnome obliku suradnje s iseljeništvom koji je zamišljen s pomoću republičkih organizacija, tzv. matica iseljenika, koje se osim u Zagrebu tijekom 1950-ih osnivaju i u drugim republičkim središtima SFRJ tako da uz MIH imamo Maticu iseljenika Slovenije, Makedonije, Srbije te Bosne i Hercegovine.

PODJELA ISELJENIŠTVA

Prema načelima jugoslavenskoga režima i Matica iseljenika Hrvatske trebala je uspostaviti suradnju na kulturno-prosvjetnom polju s udrugama iseljenika s prostora Hrvatske sklonih novoj Jugoslaviji i komunističkome režimu. Time je začeta podjela hrvatskog iseljeništva na podobno/prijateljsko i nepodobno/neprijateljsko, koja je pratila politiku i djelokrug MIH-a, uz blaga odstupanja, sve do pada komunističkoga režima.

Za prvog predsjednika MIH-a izabran je dr. Zlatan Sremec iz Gradišta pokraj Županje. Prvih nekoliko godina ova institucija, koja je osnovana kao „kulturno-prosvjetno društvo s namjerom održavanja kulturnih i prijateljskih veza između iseljeništva i domovine“, bavila se uglavnom organiziranjem pojedinih gostovanja kulturnih društava iz Hrvatske i gostovanja iseljeničkih skupina, a određenu pozornost posvećivala je i skrbi o povratku iseljenika. Matica iseljenika Hrvatske razvila je izdavačku djelatnost i već potkraj 1951. pokrenut je časopis Matica, koji se ustalio kao mjesečnik, a 1955. pokrenuta je godišnja publikacija Iseljenički kalendar.

SURADNJA S HBZ-om

Matica je najlakše uspostavljala suradnju s organizacijama starijeg iseljeništva, tj. drugim i trećim naraštajem hrvatskih useljenika, u državama pobjednicama u Drugome svjetskom ratu koje su podupirale partizanski pokret. Tu se Hrvatska bratska zajednica (HBZ) u Americi, hrvatska iseljenička organizacija s najbrojnijim članstvom, nametnula kao glavni partner Matici u radu s iseljeništvom. Njihovi članovi, američki državljani rođeni u SAD-u, koji tada već slabo govore hrvatski, tražili su suradnju sa zemljom svojih predaka zbog nostalgije za „starim krajem“, ponajprije uz folklor, tamburašku glazbu te turističke posjete i koncertne turneje, izbjegavajući pritom vješto ideološko-političke teme. Ta suradnja se intenzivirala jer je bila obostrano korisna.

HBZ, ali i niz drugih iseljeničkih organizacija, uglavnom s jugoslavenskim ili regionalnim (dalmatinskim, istarskim…) predznakom, iz obiju Amerika, Australije, Novoga Zelanda…, predstavljale su bazu s kojom je tadašnja Matica razvijala svoje djelovanje. Jezični, tamburaški i folklorni tečajevi u organizaciji MIH-a, proslave Iseljeničkoga tjedna svake godine i mjesečnik Matica tijekom 1950-ih godina značajno su pridonijeli popularizaciji rada MIH-a u zemlji i inozemstvu. „Turneje Matice iseljenika postale su novi oblik jugoslavenskog turizma”, izjavio je 1962. na tiskovnoj konferenci-

(Nastavak na 11. strani)

Što je fašnik?

Fašnik, mesopust ili poklade vrijeme je prije korizme u kojem se organiziraju karnevali, kostimski plesovi i plesovi pod maskama. U 2026. godini, fašnik će se održati u utorak 17. veljače.

Međutim, karnevali obično počinju od 10 do 40 dana ranije, ovisno o tome gdje se održavaju. Nakon fašnika, dolazi doba korizme, koja je razdoblje od četrdeset dana prije Uskrsa u kojem se vjernici pripreme za Uskrs uz odricanje od nekih stvari ili aktivnosti. Korizma je period molitve, pokore i duhovnog obnove, a obično se počinje s pokorenom Nedjeljom i traje do Uskrsa.

Fašnik običaji

Tradicionalni karnevalski rituali i običaji nastavili su postojati u ruralnim područjima. U gradovima se organiziraju kostimirane zabave prije pokladnog utorka, maštovitih događaja u kojima se odrasli i djeca oblače u najrazličitije kostime za maškare.

Fašnik je jedna od veselijih fešta u godini, ona nas potiče da smo za vrijeme slavlja netko drugi a svi znamo da je kao netko drugi najlakše raditi vragolarije. Tih dana djeca se kostimiraju u razne heroje, likove iz bajki te pjevaju pred kućama drugih ljudi razne prigodne pjesme i traže nešto zauzvrat.

Na pokladni utorak glavni lik tradicionalnih događaja je umjetna lutka izrađena od slame i stare odjeće. U Hrvatskoj se ova lutka zove Fašnik, Krnjo, Pust...

Fašnik simbolizira sve ružno, negativno i neugodno što se dogodilo ljudima u posljednjih godinu dana. Uobičajeno je spaljivanje Fašnika i simbolično uništavanje zla.

Pokladni utorak je posljednji dan prije Pepelnice, odnosno Čiste srijede, koja označava kraj fašista i početak korizme.

Fašnik je idealno vrijeme za razgovor sa svojom djecom o njihovim strahovima. Imat ćete taj razgovor u sigurnom okruženju u vašem domu, u vrijeme kada možete liječiti dijete bez prepreka, žurbe ili nepredviđenih događaja. Neka razgovor traje sve dok dijete treba, a tijekom razgovora pitajte ga kako se zove njegova tjeskoba, neka ga opiše i kaže što je tako strašno o njemu.

Svojim ponašanjem i porukama pomozite mu da se ojača u odnosu na ono što ga plaši i da smanji i nadvlada svoju tjeskobu snagom vašeg znanja i podrške. U vrtiću, tijekom fašista, formiraju se kutije za oblikovanje, djeca donose razne maske za maskenbal i kostime za maškare, koje zatim stavljaju i postaju druga osoba.

Različite maske proizvode se različitim tehnikama i materijalima. Predstavljeni su umjetnički tekstovi o maškarama, u kojima ljudi pjevaju i plešu na temu plesa maškarada. Razvija se znanje o popularnim običajima i značenju Fašnika. To je vrijeme između šala, zabave i sreće.

Što se jede za fašnik?

U Hrvatskoj, neka od narodnih jela koja se obično jedu tijekom fašnika su:

Faširana govedina: slično kao i janjetina, govedina se prži u tavi i zatim se nasjecka i pomiješa s jajima, gljivama, lukom i začinima. Ovo jelo se obično jede s krumpirom i kupusom.

Faširana janjetina: janjetina se prži u tavi i zatim se sitno nasjecka i pomiješa s jajima, gljivama, lukom i začinima. Ovo jelo se obično jede s krumpirom i kupusom.

Fritaja: ovo je slatka pita koja se priprema od tijesta i nadjeva od jabuka, šljiva ili drugog voća.

Pernice: ovo su slatke kolačiće koji se obično peku u obliku srca ili drugih simbola ljubavi i dobrote. Pernice se obično ukrašavaju šećernim posipom ili čokoladnim glazurom.

Fritule: ovo su slatke krofne koje se obično peku u obliku krugova i ukrašavaju šećernim posipom ili čokoladnom glazurom.

Knedle sa šljivama: ovo su kuglice od tijesta koje se ispunjavaju šljivama i kuhaju u vodi. Knedle se obično jedu s mlijekom ili šećerom.

Krafne: Krafne se pripremaju od tijesta koje se mijesi s kvascem, mlijekom i žumanjcima te se uvalja u kolačiće i prži u tavi s uljem ili maslacem. Tijekom pečenja, krafne se mogu nadopuniti različitim nadjevima, poput marmelade, čokolade ili čokoladnog nugata.

Krafne se obično jedu s mlijekom ili kavom i mogu se pripremiti u različitim okusima, poput vanilije, čokolade ili limuna.

Ovi su samo neki primjeri narodnih jela koja se obično jedu tijekom fašnika u Hrvatskoj. Postoji mnogo različitih jela koja se pripremaju tijekom ovog slavlja, a mnoga od njih se razlikuju ovisno o regiji i obiteljskim tradicijama.

Dobra hrana

Darinka Lucić

ST. THOMAS, ON - Odsjek 530 „Ogulin“ Hrvatske bratske zajednice s dubokom žalošću objavljuje smrt višegodišnjeg člana, sestre Darinke Lucić iz Mississauge, u Ontariju. Pokojnica je zatvorila svoje umorne oči 8. siječnja 2026. u 93. godini života. Nakon mise zadušnice, služene u Crkvi hrvatskih mučenika u Mississaugi, pokopana je u mjesnom gradskom groblju The Assumption Catholic Cemetary (6933 Tomken Rd.,) 15. siječnja 2026.

Rodila se je u Šipovači, u Hercegovini a kao dijete doselila se u Babinu Gredu, u Slavoniji s roditeljima Anicom i Nikolom Vukojević. Tako je na iseljenički put zakoračila još u vrlo ranoj mladosti. U Babinoj Gredi upoznala je Marka Lucića s kojim je stupila u brak te porodila troje djece: Marijana, Anu i Ružicu. S njima se je doselila u Kanadu, listopada 1974. radi boljeg života i obiteljskog okupa. To obiteljsko okupljanje i ozračje bilo joj je životna vodilja, radost i draga briga do konca života. Rado je okupljala i posjećivala obiteljske članove i rodbinu. Uživala je u pripremi hrvatskih specijaliteta a palačinke i pogača bile su vrhunske. Znala je to sva rodbina i prijatelji s kojima ih je rado častila.

Na vječni počinak prije nje preselili su se roditelji Nikola i Anica, suprug Marko, braća Antun (Tunja), Mirko (Mirka) i Ivan (Ića) Vukojević. Iza sebe ostavlja sestre: Katicu, Dragicu, i Ružicu u Kanadi te Veroniku u Hrvatskoj. Ostavlja 5. unučadi: Michelle, Mark, Marijan, Melissa i Mirella te 5. praunučadi – Lucas, Liam, Jacob, Sierra i Nikolas. Sve ih je neizmjerno voljela.

U ime članova i odbornika odsjeka 530 HBZ-a upućujemo duboku sućut Marijanu, Ani i Ružici te rodbini i prijateljima. Pokojnici Darinki Lucić zahvaljujemo za sva dobročinstva! Uvijek je na odsječne aktivnosti dolazila s darom u ruci! Neka joj je vječna slava i mir Božji!

Franjo Bertović/predsjednik

NAD KANADOM BIJELI GOLUBOVI LETE

Pahuljice snijega, nježno svake zime
Lepršaju s vjetrom, koji čipku plete
Priroda ljepotom piše Božje ime
I srcu mi šapće; TI SI BOŽJE DJETE!
Kanada se uvijek za MIR zauzima
I čuvare šalje, gdje god to zatreba
Blagoslov Božji, zaziva nad svima
Spasitelj, PRINC MIRA,
Prosiplje ga s NEBA
A kad zima mine
I kada zazvone
Ispod hladog snijega
Prve visibabe
Srca zbog miline
Slušajuć tišine
Prisjete se svega
Stide se Barabe
Neka našim nebom
Golubovi lete
Svijet neka primi
Mir, ljubav, dobrotu
Da smo DJECA BOŽJA
Svi neka se sjete
Boga neka slave u svakom životu!

Darinka D.H. Šmintić
Odsjek 515, Toronto

Hrvatska matica...

(Nastavak sa 10. strane)

ji u povodu Iseljeničkoga tjedna Vicko Krstulović, tadašnji predsjednik Matice.

Matica se počela ustrojavati i regionalno – imala je svoje kotarske odbore, od kojih su najaktivniji bili u Puli, Splitu, Rijeci i Makarskoj. Od 1961. prelazi se na organiziranje općinskih odbora kao pogodnije forme rada.

GRADIŠĆANSKI HRVATI

Osim s klasičnim prekomorskim iseljeništvom, Matica je uspostavila sredinom 1950-ih i suradnju s prvom hrvatskom manjinom. Riječ je o gradišćanskim Hrvatima u Austriji. To je bilo moguće nakon donošenja Austrijskoga državnog ugovora 1955. koji jamči manjinska prava gradišćanskim Hrvatima (i koruškim Slovencima) i nakon povlačenja Sovjetske vojske iz istočne Austrije i Gradišća, koje je tada uslijedilo. MIH u Hrvatsku dovodi skupine gradišćanskohrvatskih učitelja, kulturnih djelatnika i studenata na usavršavanje jezika.

Početkom 1960-ih godina MIH djelomično liberalizira svoju politiku u namjeri da djelovanje proširi na što veći broj naših iseljenika, da potakne interes za posjet „starome kraju“, a ujedno oslabi negativnu propagandu političke emigracije jer „kad iseljenici vide kako sve ovdje izgleda, oni su najbolji propagatori istine i po povratku kući najbolji tumači jugoslavenske stvarnosti”. Nova proširena koncepcija rada MIH-a obuhvatila je, kako se u programu izričito navodi, i „amnestiranu emigraciju“.

Kruna dotadašnjeg djelovanja MIH-a bila je otvorenje novog Doma iseljenika u Zagrebu, atraktivne i prostrane zgrade koju su dijelom financirali iseljenici, u ožujku 1964. godine. Istodobno je za novog predsjednika izabran bivši omiljeni zagrebački gradonačelnik Većeslav Holjevac. „Dom iseljenika u Zagrebu izraz je naše ljubavi, osjećaja i zahvalnosti onima koji su u tuđem svijetu pokazali i dokazali, a i danas to potvrđuju, da su pripadnici jednoga hrabrog i čestitog naroda”, pisao je časopis Matica u povodu otvorenja Doma iseljenika. Izgradnjom novog sjedišta MIH-a, gdje se i danas nalaze Matičini uredi, ostvareni su tehnički i prostorni preduvjeti za proširenje i poboljšanje djelatnosti. Tada je Matica i kadrovski ojačala te imala 25 zaposlenika.

HOLJEVAC I TUĐMAN U MATICI

U predsjedništvu MIH-a djeluju istaknuti intelektualci, među kojima je bio i povjesničar dr. Franjo Tuđman, koji je prvi put boravio među našim iseljeništvom u SAD-u 1966. godine. S druge strane, mjesečnik Matica, pod uredništvom novinara Danila Čovića doživljava, izgledom i sadržajem, svoje najplodnije razdoblje dotad. Zatim, Povijesni odjel MIH-a prerasta u Zavod za migracije i narodnosti. Većeslav Holjevac objavio je 1967. knjigu Hrvati izvan domovine, kojom je kao predsjednik MIH-a položio temelj Matičinu djelovanju na promicanju znanstvenoga pristupa problematici hrvatskog iseljeništva i hrvatskih manjina.

U drugoj polovici 1960-ih komunistički režim sve oštrije kritizira određene „nacionalističke pojave” u MIH-u. Zbog svoga plodonosnog i „prekomjerno“ domoljubnog rada Većeslav Holjevac morao je otići 1968. iz MIH-a. Nakon sloma Hrvatskog proljeća 1971. i represije protiv nositelja hrvatskoga nacionalnog pokreta zavladala je u Hrvatskoj, pa tako i u MIH-u, apatija, strah i već znakovita „hrvatska šutnja“. Mnogi proljećari traže spas u emigraciji.

Tijekom 1970-ih i 80-ih godina, kad se na čelu MIH-a izredalo nekoliko predsjednika: dr. Oleg Mandić (1970. – 1978.), Vanja Vranjican (1978. – 1985.) i Stjepan Blažeković (1985. – 1990.), Matica iseljenika Hrvatske nastavlja plodnu suradnju s HBZ-om i njenim legendarnim predsjednikom Bernardom Luketichem. Kruna suradnje su Tamburaški festivali HBZ-a u Zagrebu 1976., 1981. i 1986. uz sudjelovanje tisuća članova HBZ-a iz SAD-a i Kanade. Tada se i sa svim hrvatskim manjinama uspostavljaju prvi kontakti i suradnja, s moliškim Hrvatima u Italiji ali i sa ostalim hrvatskim manjinama u Istočnom bloku, u Mađarskoj, Čehoslovačkoj i Rumunjskoj.

„NA PRIVREMENOM RADU“

Činjenica da je od sredine 1960-ih zemlju napustilo na stotine tisuća Hrvata u potrazi za poslom, koji se tada prema službenoj terminologiji nalaze „na privremenom radu u inozemstvu“, nije ni MIH mogao ostaviti ravnodušnim. Za njih MIH organizira, zajedno s jugoslavenskim diplomatsko-konzularnim predstavništvima i „jugo-klubovima“, koncertne turneje popularnih pjevača narodne i zabavne glazbe. No, to novo hrvatsko iseljeništvo, popularne gastarbajtere, okupljaju ponajviše hrvatske katoličke misije, koje u organizaciji Hrvatske inozemne pastve niču posvuda gdje se nalaze veće hrvatske zajednice.

Izbijanje dugotrajne gospodarske krize poslije Titove smrti i popuštanje političke stege u drugoj polovici 1980-ih godina najavili su nove perspektive i za MIH. Sve više se javno govorilo i pisalo o tome da iseljeništvo i domovina imaju zajednički znanstveni i umjetnički interes, da postoji pisana riječ i izvan kruga domovinske književnosti i slično. Posljednjih godina socijalističke Hrvatske došlo je i do integracije Centra za istraživanje migracija i narodnosti iz 1984. i Zavoda za migracije i narodnosti pri MIH-u u Institutu za migracije i narodnosti, koji pod tim imenom postoji od 1987. godine.

POLITIČKI EMIGRANTI NA ČELU HMI

Pobjedom HDZ-a na prvim višestranačkim izborima u Hrvatskoj 1990. dotadašnji predsjednik Matice Blažeković dao je ostavku i povukao se s funkcije. Prvi ravnatelj u demokratskoj Hrvatskoj postaje Boris Maruna pjesnik i dugogodišnji politički emigrant iz SAD-a koji je omogućio svim dotadašnjim djelatnicima da nastave raditi i u novoj Matici. Državno osamostaljenje Republike Hrvatske nije samo omogućilo promjenu imena Matice iseljenika Hrvatske u sadašnju Hrvatsku maticu iseljenika (HMI), nego joj otvorilo put prema svim aspektima suradnje s cjelokupnim hrvatskim iseljeništvom u svijetu, hrvatskim manjinama u Europi i Hrvatima u BiH. Vrijeme je to Domovinskog rata, dotad neviđenog vala iseljeničke aktivnosti i zajedništva – političkih akcija za prekid agresije na Hrvatsku, za međunarodno priznanje Hrvatske, humanitarnih i volonterskih akcija prikupljanja i slanja pomoći za našu zemlju, kad su se mnogi mladi Hrvati rođeni u tuđini uključili izravno u borbu za oslobođenje domovine od agresora.

Godine 1993. Maruna prijevremeno napušta ravnateljsko mjesto zbog neslaganja s politikom HDZ-a. Maticu zatim vodi nakratko Vinko Nikolić, istaknuti hrvatski emigrantski pisac i publicist iz Argentine. Sredinom 1993. ravnateljsku funkciju preuzima Ante Beljo, bivši emigrantski aktivist iz Kanade i ravnatelj Hrvatskog informativnog centra (HIC), organizacije za informiranje inozemne javnosti i iseljeništva o ratu u RH i BiH. Njegov sedmogodišnji mandat obilježilo je, između ostalog, i nastojanje da uskladi i integrira djelovanje obiju ustanova HMI-ja i HIC-a, koji je tada imao svoje urede u matičinoj zgradi. Nakon pobjede koalicije predvođene SDP-om na parlamentarnim izborima 2000. Belju je zamijenio Maruna koji ponovno dolazi na čelo HMI-ja.

RAVNATELJ Hrvatske matice iseljenika mr. sc. Zdeslav Milas i Nacionalni predsjednik HBZ Edward W. Pazo.

U NOVOM TISUĆLJEĆU

U novom tisućljeću HMI vode slijedeći ravnatelji: Nikola Jelinčić (2003. – 2006.), Katarina Fuček (2006. – 2008. i 2009. – 2012.), Danira Bilić (2008. – 2009.), Marin Knezović (2012. – 2016.), v.d. Mirjana Ana-Maria Piskulić (2016. – 2017.) i Mijo Marić od 2017. godine. Ravnatelje na prijedlog Vlade RH imenuje i razrješava Upravni odbor HMI-ja. On vrši nadzor nad radom HMI-ja a sastoji se od pet članova koje imenuje i razrješava Vlada RH.

Poslovi HMI-ja danas su sistematizirani po svojoj funkcionalnosti i sličnostima u dvije službe i područnice: Služba za kulturu, obrazovanje, znanost i nakladništvo i Služba pravnih, kadrovskih, općih, tehničkih i računovodstvenih poslova. HMI ima područnice u Puli, Rijeci, Splitu, Dubrovniku i Vukovaru.

Od programa i manifestacija koje tradicionalno HMI organizira ističu se Sveučilišna škola hrvatskoga jezika i kulture (od 1991.), Mala škola hrvatskoga jezika i kulture (od 1993.), obnoviteljski i ekološki projekt Eco-Heritage Task Force (od 1993.), Ljetna i zimska škola hrvatskoga folklora (od 1994.), Forum hrvatskih manjina (od 1994.), Dani hrvatskoga pučkog teatra (od 1995.), Dani hrvatskoga filma (od 1995.), Hrvatska etnoriznica – radionica za izradu i rekonstrukciju hrvatskih narodnih nošnji i tradicijskih tekstilnih vještina (od 2002.), Natječaj za literarne i novinarske radove učenika hrvatske nastave u inozemstvu Zlatna ribica (od 2003.), Festival klapa iz hrvatskog iseljeništva (od 2006.), Izložba iseljeničke nakladničke djelatnosti na Interliberu (od 2006.), Izbor najljepše Hrvatice u narodnoj nošnji izvan RH (od 2014.), organizacija turneja iseljeničkih grupa po Hrvatskoj, i dr. Uz periodiku i knjige, objavljuje različite serijske publikacije koje prate njezine tradicionalne programe i manifestacije. Od 1998. dostupna je internetska stranica www.matis.hr. Od 2005. internetska stranica prerasta u elektronički dnevnik, informativno povezavši hrvatske zajednice u tridesetak zemalja svijeta. Ukorak s trendovima ima i svoju stranicu na društvenoj mreži Facebook.

HRVATSKA MATICA ISELJENIKA I HRVATI IZVAN REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE

Republika Hrvatska svoje odnose s hrvatskim izvandomovinstvom uredila je 2012. Zakonom o odnosima Republike Hrvatske s Hrvatima izvan Republike Hrvatske, kojim je definirana i uloga HMI-ja u tim odnosima. Iste godine osnovan je Državni (kasnije Središnji državni) ured za Hrvate izvan RH kao središnje tijelo državne uprave nadležno za odnose RH i Hrvata izvan RH. U odnosima s izvandomovinstvom država otad, kako vidimo, koristi pojam „Hrvati izvan Republike Hrvatske“, a u Zakonu se objašnjava da se taj pojam odnosi na tri kategorije: Hrvate u BiH, hrvatske manjine i hrvatsko iseljeništvo/dijasporu. Zakon definira HMI kao jednog od nositelja suradnje s izvandomovinstvom i nadalje da je HMI „svojim djelovanjem usmjerena na očuvanje i razvoj hrvatskoga nacionalnog, jezičnog i kulturnog identiteta Hrvata izvan Republike Hrvatske“.

U praksi, slijedom iskustava u proteklom razdoblju, a prateći promjene u zemlji, neposrednoj okolini i u svijetu, te prilagođujući svoje djelovanje procesima u iseljeničkim zajednicama, HMI priređuje specifične kulturne, prosvjetne, sportske, nakladničke i informativne programe namijenjene svekolikomu hrvatskom iseljeništvu. HMI se tako s jednakom pažnjom obraća svim hrvatskim zajednicama izvan domovine, neovisno o vremenu i razlozima iseljenja, socijalnim, kulturološkim ili drugim kriterijima. Naime, iseljenike hrvatskih etničko-kulturnih korijena – kojih, kako se procjenjuje, u pedesetak država ima više od 3,5 milijuna – HMI ne doživljava kao jedinstvenu skupinu s kojom bi se moglo komunicirati jednim načinom; svjesni smo da se radi o mozaiku raznolikih zajednica koje žive u skladu s uvjetima svoje nove domovine, ali nastojeći sačuvati i dio svoga baštinjenog identiteta.

Zato HMI, ispunjavajući misiju susretišta hrvatskoga raseljenog bića, nastoji razvijati i poticati snažan, višeslojan i trajan dijalog s Hrvatima u iseljeništvu i njihovim potomcima kako bi posredovala činjenice koje govore o sastavnicama naše samobitnosti: povijesnim događajima i ličnostima, prirodnim ljepotama i spomeničkoj baštini, suvremenim zbivanjima i ljudima koji ih pokreću i ostvaruju… o svemu što čini hrvatsku domovinu i narod, kao središnje oslonce našeg identiteta. Istodobno, HMI djeluje i u svrhu očuvanja baštine i etničko-kulturnog lika pripadnika hrvatskih manjinskih zajednica u drugim zemljama, te nastoji na najbolji način odgovoriti posebnim zahtjevima hrvatskih udruga ili pojedinaca izvan Republike Hrvatske, kako bi se rad te ustanove što bolje uskladio s potrebama i željama naših ljudi u svijetu.

Također, slijedeći suvremene izazove, HMI sudjeluje i u humanitarnim, ekološkim, obnoviteljskim i razvojnim programima građanskih inicijativa, državne uprave i regionalne/lokalne samouprave, pridonoseći raznovrsnosti i dinamici društvenog dijaloga u Republici Hrvatskoj, te između domovine i iseljeništva.

PROGRAMI CIJENE JEDNOPREMIJSKOG...

(Nastavak sa 9. strane)

MUŠKARAC NEPUŠAČ					MUŠKARAC PUŠAČ				
God. izdanja	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000	God. izdanja	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000
41	50.86	42.26	40.87	38.99	41	61.06	53.10	48.32	44.45
42	52.08	43.18	41.66	39.95	42	62.56	54.23	49.39	45.85
43	53.33	44.12	42.46	40.94	43	64.09	55.38	50.48	47.30
44	54.61	45.08	43.28	41.95	44	65.66	56.55	51.60	48.79
45	55.91	46.07	44.12	42.98	45	67.27	57.75	52.75	50.34
46	57.37	47.26	44.88	43.51	46	69.01	59.18	54.32	51.86
47	58.87	48.48	45.65	44.04	47	70.80	60.64	55.94	53.42
48	60.41	49.74	46.44	44.58	48	72.62	62.13	57.61	55.04
49	61.99	51.02	47.24	45.12	49	74.50	63.67	59.33	56.70
50	63.60	52.35	48.05	45.67	50	76.42	65.24	61.10	58.41
51	64.47	53.75	49.21	46.85	51	77.77	67.02	62.64	59.93
52	65.35	55.20	50.40	48.06	52	79.13	68.85	64.21	61.48
53	66.23	56.69	51.62	49.29	53	80.52	70.73	65.82	63.08
54	67.13	58.22	52.86	50.56	54	81.93	72.67	67.47	64.72
55	68.05	59.78	54.14	51.87	55	83.37	74.66	69.17	66.39
56	70.35	61.58	56.14	53.77	56	86.09	76.89	71.60	68.71
57	72.74	63.43	58.21	55.74	57	88.91	79.19	74.11	71.10
58	75.21	65.33	60.37	57.79	58	91.82	81.55	76.72	73.57
59	77.77	67.29	62.60	59.91	59	94.82	83.99	79.41	76.13
60	80.41	69.31	64.92	62.10	60	97.92	86.50	82.20	78.78
61	82.47	71.30	66.87	64.00	61	100.56	88.97	84.60	81.07
62	84.59	73.35	68.88	65.95	62	103.27	91.51	87.07	83.41
63	86.77	75.47	70.96	67.95	63	106.05	94.13	89.61	85.83
64	89.00	77.64	73.09	70.02	64	108.91	96.81	92.22	88.32
65	91.28	79.88	75.30	72.16	65	111.84	99.57	94.92	90.88
66	93.50	82.11	77.52	74.32	66	114.96	102.55	97.82	93.63
67	95.78	84.42	79.81	76.55	67	118.17	105.62	100.82	96.46
68	98.11	86.78	82.17	78.84	68	121.46	108.78	103.91	99.38
69	100.49	89.21	84.60	81.21	69	124.85	112.03	107.09	102.39
70	102.94	91.71	87.10	83.64	70	128.33	115.38	110.38	105.49

Ako imate bilo koje pitanje(a) na ovu ponudu ili vam je potrebno pojašnjenje drugih programa i koristi koje iz toga proizlaze, nazovite Glavni ured na tel. 412-843-0380 ili pogledajte web stranice www.cfu.org.

Croatian Homeland Foundation Celebrates...

(Continued from page 1)

Macedonia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

DIVISION OF EMIGRATION

Pursuant to the principles of the Yugoslav regime, the Heritage Foundation of Croatia was tasked with establishing cultural and educational cooperation with organizations of emigrants deriving from the territory of Croatia inclined towards the new Yugoslavia and the communist regime. This position initiated a division of the Croatian diaspora into suitable/friendly and unfit/hostile, which characterized the policies and scope of activities of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia, with slight deviations, until the fall of the communist regime.

Appointed as the first president of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia was Dr. Zlatan Sremec from Gradište near Županja. For the first few years, this institution, which was founded as a "cultural and educational association with the intention of maintaining cultural and friendly ties between emigrants and the homeland", was mainly engaged in organizing individual visits of cultural organizations from Croatia and visits of emigrant groups, and a certain share of its efforts was dedicated to assisting the return of emigrants. The Heritage Foundation of Croatia developed its publishing activity, and as early as the end of 1951, Matica magazine was launched, which developed into a monthly magazine, and in 1955, it began publishing its annual publication, the Emigrant Calendar.

COOPERATION WITH THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION

Establishing cooperation was easiest for the Heritage Foundation of Croatia with organizations of the older diaspora, i.e., the second and third generation of Croatian immigrants, in the victorious countries of the Second World War that supported the Partisan movement. This included the Croatian Fraternal Union (CFU) in the USA, the Croatian diaspora organization with the largest membership, positioning itself as the Matica's main partner in its efforts with the diaspora. Their members, American citizens born in the USA, who at that time already spoke Croatian poorly, sought cooperation with the country of their ancestors due to nostalgia for the "Old Country", primarily through folklore, tamburitza music, tourist visits and concert tours, while skillfully avoiding topics related to ideology and politics. This cooperation intensified as it was mutually beneficial.

The CFU, as well as a number of other diaspora organizations that mostly characterized themselves as Yugoslav or regional (Dalmatian, Istrian…), from both Americas, Australia, New Zealand…represented the base on which Matica developed its activities at the time. Language, tamburitza and folklore seminars and workshops organized by the Heritage Foundation of Croatia, Emigrant Week celebrations every year and the monthly magazine Matica during the 1950s significantly contributed to the popularization of the Heritage Foundation's work at home and abroad. "The tours of the Heritage Foundation have become a new form of Yugoslav tourism," said Vicko Krstulović, President of the Heritage Foundation at the time at a press conference on the occasion of the Emigrant Week in 1962.

The Heritage Foundation also began to establish regional organizations – it had its own district committees, the most active of which were in Pula, Split, Rijeka and Makarska. Starting in 1961, it shifted towards the organization of municipal committees as a more suitable form of work.

THROUGH THE YEARS

In the early 1960s, the Heritage Foundation of Croatia partially liberalized its policy in order to expand its activities to as many Croatian emigrants as possible, to stimulate interest in visiting the "Old Country", and at the same time, to weaken the negative propaganda among the political emigration because "when emigrants see the true state of things here for themselves, they are the best propagators of the truth and, upon returning home, the best interpreters of the Yugoslav reality." The new extended concept of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia's work also encompassed, as explicitly stated in the program, the "amnestied emigration".

The crown of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia's activities up to that point was the opening of the new Home of Emigrants in Zagreb, an attractive and spacious building partly financed by emigrants, in March 1964. At the same time, the beloved former mayor of Zagreb, Većeslav Holjevac, was appointed as the new President. "The Home of Emigrants in Zagreb is an expression of our love, feelings and gratitude to those who have shown and proven in a foreign world, confirming even today, that they are members of a brave and honorable people", wrote Matica magazine on the occasion of the opening of the Home of Emigrants. With the construction of the new headquarters of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia, where its offices are located to this day, the technical and spatial prerequisites for the expansion and improvement of activities were satisfied. At that time, the Heritage Foundation of Croatia also strengthened its staff, which then numbered 25.

HOLJEVAC AND TUĐMAN IN THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF CROATIA

The Presidency of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia included prominent intellectuals, among whom was the historian Dr. Franjo Tuđman, who first visited our emigrants in the USA in 1966. On the other hand, the monthly magazine Matica, under the editorship of journalist Danilo Čović, experienced its most fruitful period up to that point in terms of design and content. Then, the History Department of the Croatian Heritage Foundation became the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies. In 1967, Većeslav Holjevac published the book Hrvati izvan domovine (Croats Abroad), which, as president of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia, laid the foundation for Matica's work on promoting a scientific approach to the issue of Croatian emigration and Croatian minorities.

In the second half of the 1960s, the communist regime increasingly criticized certain "nationalist phenomena" in the Heritage Foundation of Croatia. As a result of his fruitful and "excessively" patriotic efforts, Većeslav Holjevac had to leave the Heritage Foundation of Croatia in 1968. After the collapse of the Croatian Spring in 1971 and the repression against the leaders of the Croatian national movement, apathy, fear and the already characteristic "Croatian silence" prevailed in Croatia, including in the Heritage Foundation of Croatia. Numerous participants of the "Croatian Spring" sought refuge abroad.

During the 1970s and 80s, when several presidents were appointed to lead the Heritage Foundation of Croatia: Oleg Mandić (1970-1978), Vanja Vranjican (1978-1985) and Stjepan Blažeković (19851990), the Heritage Foundation of Croatia continued its fruitful cooperation with the CFU and its legendary president Bernard Luketich. The crown of the cooperation was the CFU Tamburitza Festivals held in Zagreb in 1976, 1981 and 1986 with the participation of thousands of members of the CFU from the USA and Canada. At that time, the first contacts and cooperation were established with all Croatian minorities, with Molise Croats in Italy, as well as with other Croatian minorities in the Eastern Bloc, in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania.

POLITICAL EMIGRANTS AT THE HELM OF THE CROATIAN HERITAGE INSTITUTE

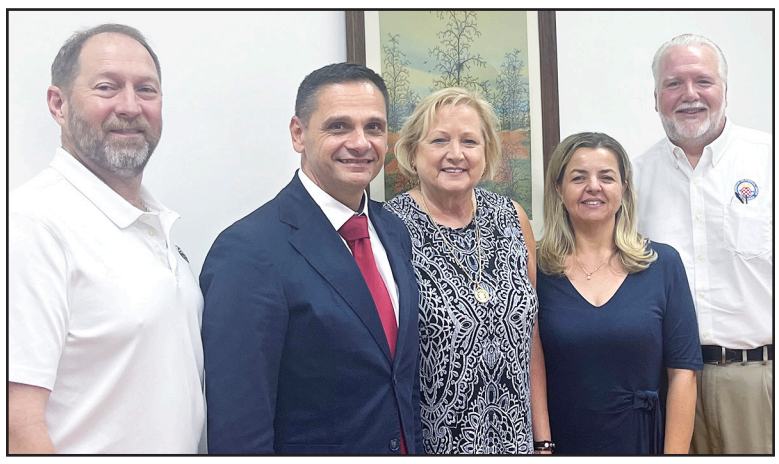
With the victory of the HDZ in the first multi-party elections in Croatia in 1990, the former President of Matica, Blažeković, resigned and retired from his position. Boris Maruna, a poet and long-time political emigrant from the United States, became the first Director in democratic Croatia, allowing all employees at the time to continue working in the new Matica. The independence of the Republic of Croatia not only enabled a change of the name of the Heritage Foundation of Croatia to its current name, Croatian Heritage Foundation (CHF), but also opened the way to all aspects of cooperation with the entire Croatian diaspora throughout the world, Croatian minorities in Europe and Croats in BiH.

During the time of the Homeland War, an unprecedented wave of diaspora activity and togetherness – political campaigns to end the aggression against Croatia, campaigns for the international recognition of Croatia, humanitarian and volunteer drives to collect and send aid to our country, when many young Croats born abroad became directly involved in the fight for the liberation of their homeland from the aggressor.

In 1993, Maruna left the director's position prematurely due to disagreements with HDZ policy. Matica was then briefly headed by Vinko Nikolić, a prominent Croatian emigrant writer and publicist from Argentina. In mid-1993, Ante Beljo, a former emigrant activist from Canada and director of the Croatian Information Center (HIC), an organization for informing the foreign public and emigrants about the war in the Republic of Croatia and BiH, assumed the position of director. His seven-year term in office was marked, among other things, by an effort to harmonize and integrate the activities of both institutions, the CHF and HIC, which, at the time, had its offices in Matica's premises. After the victory of the SDP-led coalition in the 2000 parliamentary elections, Beljo was replaced by Maruna, who returned to the helm of the CHF.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Leading the CHF in the new millennium are the following directors: Nikola Jelinčić (2003-2006), Katarina Fuček (2006-2008 and 2009-2012), Danira Bilić (2008-2009), Marin Knezović (2012-2016), acting director Mirjana Ana-Maria Piskulić (2016-2017), and Mijo Marić (2017-2025) and Zdeslav Milas since 2025. Directors are appointed and dismissed by the CHF's Management Board at the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The Board supervises the work of the CHF and consists of five members appointed and dismissed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.



MEETING AT THE MATICA OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER 2025 IN ZAGREB, from left, CFU National Board of Trustees President Daniel Kochis, New Director of Matica Zdeslav Milas, CFU National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, Ivana Dvornekovic and CFU National President Edward W. Pazo.

Today, the CHF's operations are systematized according to functionality and similarities within two departments and subsidiaries: Department for Culture, Education, Science and Publishing, and Department for Legal, Personnel, General, Technical and Accounting Affairs. HMI has branches in Pula, Rijeka, Split, Dubrovnik and Vukovar.

Among the programs and events traditionally organized by the CHF, standing out are the University School of Croatian Language and Culture (since 1991), the Little School of Croatian Language and Culture (since 1993), the restoration and environmental project Eco-Heritage Task Force (since 1993), the Summer and Winter School of Croatian Folklore (since 1994), the Forum of Croatian Minorities (since 1994), the Days of Croatian Folk Theater (since 1995), the Days of Croatian Film (since 1995), the Croatian Ethno Treasury – a workshop for the production and reconstruction of Croatian folk costumes and traditional textile skills (since 2002), the Goldfish Competition for Literary and Journalistic Works of Croatian Learners from Abroad (since 2003), the Festival of Klapa Groups from the Croatian Diaspora (since 2006), the Exhibition of Diaspora Publishing Activities at the Interliber Fair (since 2006), the Most Beautiful Croatian Woman in Folk Costume Outside the Republic of Croatia (since 2014), organization of tours of diaspora groups throughout Croatia, etc. In addition to periodicals and books, the CHF publishes various serial publications that accompany its traditional programs and events. The website www.matis.hr has been available since 1998. Since 2005, the website has grown into an electronic journal, informatively connecting Croatian communities in about thirty countries worldwide. Keeping up with the times, the CHF also has its own Facebook profile.

CROATIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION AND CROATS LIVING ABROAD

The Republic of Croatia regulated its relations with Croats abroad in 2012 with its Act on Relations of the Republic of Croatia with Croats Abroad, which also defines the role of the CHF in these relations. In the same year, the State (later Central State) Office for Croats Abroad was established as the central state administration body responsible for relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croats Abroad. In relations with Croats outside of the Republic of Croatia, the state has been using the term "Croats abroad" since that time, and the Act explains that this term refers to three categories: Croats in BiH, Croatian minorities and the Croatian diaspora. The Act defines the CHF as one of the pillars of cooperation with Croats abroad; furthermore, that the CHF "is focused, through its activities, on the preservation and development of the Croatian national, linguistic and cultural identity of Croats abroad."

In practice, based on experience in the past period and on changes that have occurred in the country, the immediate surroundings and the world, as well as adapting its activities to processes in diaspora communities, the CHF prepares specific cultural, educational, sporting, publishing and informative programs intended for all Croats abroad. The CHF focuses particular attention on each and every Croatian community outside the homeland, regardless of the period or reason for emigrating; social, cultural or other criteria. Namely, the CHF does not consider emigrants with Croatian ethnic and cultural roots – estimated to number about 3.5 million in some fifty countries – as a single, unique group that can be approached and communicated with in the same manner. We are aware that this corpus consists of a mosaic of diverse communities living in harmony with the conditions of their new homeland while, at the same time, striving to preserve a part of their inherited identity.

That is why the CHF, by fulfilling its mission of being a gathering point for Croatia's diaspora, strives to develop and motivate a strong, multi-levelled and consistent dialogue with Croats abroad and their descendants in an attempt to deliver facts that speak about the elements of our identity: historical events and figures, natural beauties and monumental heritage; contemporary events and the people that drive and achieve them… everything that occurs or is done that constitutes the Croatian homeland and people as the focal support of our identity. At the same time, the CHF acts to preserve our national heritage and the ethnic and cultural identity of Croatian minority communities in other countries. It strives to respond to specific requests and demands by Croatian organizations and individuals outside Croatia, adapting to the needs and wishes of our people throughout the world.

Furthermore, based on contemporary, current challenges, the CHF partakes in humanitarian, environmental, reconstruction and development programs initiated through civil society, state administration and regional/local self-government units, contributing to the diversity and dynamics of social dialogue in Croatia and between the homeland and Croatian diaspora communities.

OBITUARIES

Robert Pavich

CHICAGO, IL - Robert Matthew Pavich, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away at the age of 90. He was born in 1935.

He was the devoted husband of Dolores Pavich (née Borosic) and a loving father of Jim (Kim) Pavich and Tom (Lisa) Pavich.

Robert was a cherished grandfather to Meagan (Kevin) Jacobsen, Kater (Nick) Anderson, Lindsay (Adam) Nolte, Lauren (Steven) Laduzinsky, Brittany Pavich, and Alyssa Pavich (fiancé Ryan De La Mater), and a proud great-grandfather to Owen, Gary, Chloe, Ava, Millie, and Kennedy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Louise Pavich, and his siblings: John (Mary) Pavich, Steve (Florence) Pavish, Mike (Catherine) Pavich, Joe (Amanda) Pavich, Peter (Joanne) Pavich, Nick (Rosemary) Pavich, Louise (Frank) Sterioti, Rose (Chuck) Lorenz, Mary (Marian) Dorich, Eve (Stan) Natonek, Ann (Ray) Christensen, and Kata Strilic.

He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Robert proudly served his country in the United States Army. He retired from UOP after 25 years of dedicated service and was a longtime member of Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 32, as well as the Prijatelji Orchestra.

Bob was a true family man who loved golf, travel, and a good lamb roast. He will be remembered for his warmth, loyalty and deep devotion to his family.

A visitation was held January 16, 2026 at Adolf and Powell Funeral Home in Willowbrook, IL. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church, Hinsdale, IL and interment followed at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials appreciated to the CFU Scholarship Foundation in memory of Robert Pavich. Mail donations to Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

May he rest in Eternal Peace.

The **Family** of **Robert Pavich**

Joseph Tkalec

TORONTO, ON - On Saturday, December 27, 2025, Joža Tkalec passed away, at the age of 99, at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby, ON, Canada.

He was born in Zagorje, Croatia, November 26, 1926, to Ivan and Elizabeta Tkalec. They preceded him in death, along with all of his brothers and sisters: Edo, Max, Mirko, Stanko, Ferdo, Ana and Kate.

Joža was the beloved husband of the late Katica (née Paulić); the adored father to Nely Urac (Josip) and to the late Stanley. Grandfather to Nelly Edgson (Steve); and great-grandfather to Emily and Cody. Uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Around the age of 14, he became a tailor's apprentice in Zagreb and went on to be a professional tailor. In Canada, he had his own business in Toronto and Barrie.

He was a longtime member of CFU Lodge 975 in Toronto and attended many of the meetings.

He will truly be missed by all. Počivao u miru Božjem!

The **Family** of **Joseph Tkalec**

Donald A. Kolar

CONWAY, PA - Donald A. "Kody" Kolar, 78, of Baden, PA, passed away on November 1, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer and is now in the arms of his Heavenly Father.

He was the son of the late Joseph Sr. and Elizabeth Kolar. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Ronald T. Kolar, nephew, Jason J. Kolar, and sister-in-law, Mary Anne Kolar.

Surviving is his brother, Joseph J. Kolar, nephew Jeffery (Shannon) Kolar, sister-in-law, Darlene Kolar, niece-in-law, Kari Kolar, great nephew, Jake Kolar, great nieces, Avery and Willow Kolar, very special cousins, David Kolar, Marlene Gerace, and many friends.

Donald was a graduate of Freedom High School class of 1965. He went on to serve our country proudly in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Upon leaving the military, he attended the Community College of Beaver County. He worked and retired from Eaton Electric, formerly Westinghouse.

He was a proud member of the Baden American Legion and a devoted member of Conway Croatian Club and CFU Lodge 540 where he held the position of vice president.

Donald enjoyed playing bingo, dancing, and listening to Croatian music. He also absolutely loved and adored his family.

Amy Nicely/Lodge 540 Trustee

Protect your family with insurance from the Croatian Fraternal Union - The Society That Cares!

412-843-0380

Ohio Fraternal Alliance 2026 Scholarship Program

LOWELLVILLE, OH - The Ohio Fraternal Alliance annually awards a college scholarship to a graduating high school senior up to $500.

Scholarship applications may be obtained from any Ohio Fraternal Alliance member fraternal home office or contact: Laurie Fox, lfox@nsslife.org or call 330-717-4705.

Scholarship Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicant must be an Ohio resident. Applicant must be a current youth policy member of a fraternal society, or included in a family member policy that does not have youth policies belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Alliance, and be in good standing.

2. Applicant must be a 2026 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade or technical school, or school of nursing as a full-time student in the Fall.

3. Applicant must submit a minimum 150-word essay entitled: How I have been personally involved in my Fraternal Society and how I plan to be involved in the Future.

4. Applicant must submit a separate list for each of the following categories:
   a.) Church related activities
   b.) Local community and volunteer activities
   c.) School activities/clubs

5. Applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from your local Fraternal Society officer explaining your involvement in your Fraternal Society.

6. Essay, all activities, and letter will be judged. Completed application must be dated and submitted by April 1, 2026, and sent to: OFA Scholarship Committee, Attn: Laurie Fox, 6656 Lowellville Rd., Lowellville, OH 44436. lfox@nsslife.org (Email submissions preferred)

Judging will be done by the Ohio Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Committee. Scholarship grants will be announced and awarded following the Spring OFA Board of Directors meeting. If for any reason the recipient does not attend the school after receiving the grant, it must be returned to the Ohio Fraternal Alliance.

Laurie Fox/OFA

Single Premium Made Easy

PITTSBURGH, PA - Don't forget, the CFU's single premium insurance package can now be paid for in three convenient installments, so affordable quality protection from the CFU is even more affordable.

For more details on the single premium insurance and how you can make it work for your family, call the CFU at **412-843-0380** and ask for CFU Sales Department.

SPOTLIGHT 10 PAY LIFE PLAN...

(Continued from page 3)

MALE NON-TOBACCO					MALE TOBACCO				
Issue Age	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000	Issue Age	$5,000-$9,999	$10,000-$24,999	$25,000-$99,999	$100,000-$125,000
46	61.96	51.57	50.35	46.43	46	72.94	63.05	60.61	55.56
47	63.57	52.87	50.81	47.23	47	74.94	64.70	61.87	57.31
48	65.21	54.21	51.28	48.05	48	77.00	66.40	63.15	59.13
49	66.90	55.57	51.75	48.87	49	79.12	68.14	64.47	61.00
50	68.63	56.98	52.23	49.71	50	81.30	69.92	65.81	62.92
51	69.66	58.51	53.50	51.01	51	83.05	72.05	67.71	64.73
52	70.71	60.08	54.81	52.33	52	84.83	74.23	69.68	66.58
53	71.77	61.70	56.15	53.70	53	86.66	76.48	71.70	68.49
54	72.84	63.36	57.53	55.09	54	88.53	78.80	73.78	70.46
55	73.94	65.06	58.94	56.53	55	90.44	81.20	75.92	72.48
56	76.46	67.05	61.09	58.57	56	93.46	83.70	78.55	75.01
57	79.06	69.10	63.33	60.69	57	96.59	86.29	81.28	77.64
58	81.76	71.22	65.65	62.89	58	99.83	88.95	84.11	80.36
59	84.54	73.39	68.06	65.17	59	103.17	91.69	87.03	83.18
60	87.42	75.63	70.56	67.52	60	106.63	94.52	90.06	86.09
61	89.53	77.63	72.49	69.39	61	109.24	96.93	92.38	88.30
62	91.70	79.68	74.47	71.32	62	111.91	99.39	94.76	90.56
63	93.91	81.79	76.51	73.29	63	114.66	101.92	97.21	92.88
64	96.17	83.95	78.60	75.32	64	117.47	104.51	99.71	95.26
65	98.49	86.17	80.75	77.41	65	120.34	107.17	102.28	97.70
66	100.95	88.56	83.08	79.65	66	123.50	110.11	105.14	100.37
67	103.47	91.02	85.48	81.97	67	126.74	113.13	108.08	103.12
68	106.05	93.55	87.95	84.35	68	130.06	116.24	111.09	105.94
69	108.69	96.14	90.48	86.79	69	133.47	119.43	114.20	108.84
70	111.41	98.81	93.09	89.31	70	136.98	122.71	117.38	111.82

If you have any further question(s) on this CFU Special Offer or wish to review any specific CFU products, please feel free to contact the Home Office at 412.843.0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org

★ GUIDELINES ★ for Submission of Obituaries ★

The **Zajednicar** understands that the death of a loved one is a difficult time for family members. Obituaries are among the most important items we publish in the **Zajednicar** since we are respectful of all CFU members and are grateful for their contributions to our Fraternal Family.

In light of the increasing number of lengthy obituaries which have been submitted in recent years, we ask all members submitting obituaries to please limit an obituary to two typed pages, double spaced (approximately 250 words). Be sure to include all basic obituary information include the CFU lodge affiliation of the deceased. Please note that eulogies, in most instances, will not be published. A photo may accompany the obituary, provided the photo submitted is of printable quality. Obituaries are published in the order they are received. We request that obituaries be submitted in typewritten copy by mail or by e-mail: editor@cfu.org. We reserve the right to edit information provided in all obituaries in order to maintain the style adopted for the obituary pages.

Thank you for your cooperation! **—Editors**

CFU 2026 Calendar of Coming Events

MARCH

28 St. George Velika Fešta Tamburaša - Croatian Home - Cokeburg, PA

APRIL

18-19 CFU National Basketball Tournament - Hosted by Lodge 320, Duquesne, PA

25-26 76th Annual St. George's Day Celebration - Croatian Home - Cokeburg, PA

MAY

16-17 CFU National Bowling Tournament - Hosted by Lodge 136, Lorain, OH

30 Croatian Heritage Night at PNC Park - Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game - Pittsburgh, PA

JULY

3-5 58th Annual CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival - Hilton Cleveland Downtown - Cleveland, OH

11 66th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Festival - Field Park - Mukwonago, WI

12 Midwest Croatian Fraternal Union Day Picnic & Raffle - Hosted by Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32 - Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St., Joliet

19 St. George CFU Lodge 66 Annual Picnic - Croatian Home - Youngstown, OH

AUGUST

2 St. George Junior Tamburitzans' Annual Golf Outing - Nemacolin Country Club - Beallsville, PA

SEPTEMBER

6 Annual Croatian Day Celebration - Rankin Croatian Home - Rankin, PA

12 St. George Tamburitzans' Annual Picnic - Cokeburg Community Park - Cokeburg, PA

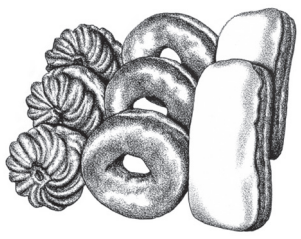
NOVEMBER

6-8 Annual CFU Adult TamFEST - Renaissance Columbus Downtown - Columbus, OH

Cooking Corner

Shrove Tuesday Recipes:

Wednesday, February 18, starts the Catholic Lenten season and we are pleased to offer several recipes traditionally enjoyed on Shrove Tuesday, or Fat Tuesday, by Croatian bakers and families as they prepare for the Lenten fasting. These Croatian fritters or doughnuts are sometimes called "krafne" or "krofli" or, in Dalmatia, "ustipci", and are best eaten fresh at the time they are made. There's no reason you can't clip and save the recipes to prepare following Lent or at any time of the year you're in the mood for these mouth-watering fritters, true comfort food for any season!



Doughnuts

1/4 c. butter, melted
2 Tbsp. oil
1/3 c. sugar
2 1/2 c. all purpose flour
2 Tbsp. rum
6 egg yolks
lemon peel, grated
salt
3 c. cake flour, sifted
1 c. milk
3 Tbsp. compressed yeast
pinch of sugar

Mix cake flour, milk, sugar and yeast and let rise. Meanwhile make a dough from the all purpose flour, butter and oil, rum and lemon peel; gradually add egg yolks. Add the yeast mixture and beat until bubbles appear in the dough.

Let the dough rest for about half an hour in a warm place and then roll it out carefully to 1/4 inch thickness on a floured board. Cut out rounds with a glass and arrange them on a dish towel dusted with flour; let rise for 1 hour. The temperature in the room where the doughnuts are rising must always stay the same. When the doughnuts rise, fry over low heat in a mixture of oil and the juice of one lemon so that the oil won't darken.

First fry the doughnuts on one side, in a covered pan, and when turned over, continue to fry them uncovered, so that they brown. Remove the doughnuts from the oil with a slotted spoon and let stand on a dish towel or paper towel to absorb excess oil. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar while still hot and serve with a tasty jam.

(From Croatian Cookery by Stevo Karapandza, previously sold through the CFU Gift Shop.)

Easy Donuts

1 8-ounce pkg. cream cheese, softened
3 eggs
2 tsp. vinegar
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
1-1/2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder

Beat cream cheese, eggs, vinegar and powdered sugar. Then add dry ingredients. Mix well.

Heat oil in deep pan. Dip spoon in hot oil and then into batter. Drop the mounts in the oil. Fry until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towel.

While warm, dust with powdered sugar.

Cooking Corner Archives

Krafne (Croatian Doughnuts)

1 cup scalded milk
4 ounces (1 stick) butter
1/4 cup sugar
2 teaspoons salt
1 package active dry yeast
1 cup 110-degree water
3 large slightly beaten room-temperature eggs
6 cups all-purpose flour
Oil for frying
Confectioners' sugar (or granulated sugar, if you prefer)

Scald 1 cup milk and add 4 ounces butter, 1/4 cup sugar and 2 teaspoons salt, stirring to dissolve the butter. Cool to 110 degrees. Meanwhile, dissolve 1 package (2 1/4 teaspoons) active dry yeast in 1 cup warm water.

In a large bowl or stand mixer fitted with the dough hook, place milk mixture, yeast mixture and 3 large slightly beaten room-temperature eggs, mixing until smooth. Add 6 cups all-purpose flour gradually, mixing until smooth. The dough might be sticky. If so, use slightly dampened hands to transfer it to a greased bowl (don't add more flour). Cover and let rise until doubled. (For extra-light krafne, some bakers punch down the dough and let it rise a second time until doubled.)

Punch down dough and roll 1/2-inch thick on a lightly floured work surface. Cut with a 3-inch round cutter or glass and let rise, covered, about 1/2 hour.

Heat oil to 375 degrees in a heavy-bottomed pot or Dutch oven. Use a deep-frying thermometer to make sure the temperature is accurate.

Fry krafne in hot oil until lightly brown on both sides, top side down first, then turning only once. Drain on absorbent paper. While still hot roll in granulated sugar or dust with confectioners' sugar.

Note: Make sure your working area is warm and that none of your ingredients are cold, since that will prevent the doughnuts from rising properly.

Grandma's Peach Fritters

1 1/2 c. milk
2 eggs
1/2 c. sugar
1 pkg. dry yeast (dissolved in warm water)
1 pinch salt
3 c. flour (plus 1 additional cup)
1 can peaches, drained & chopped

Beat first five ingredients well with mixer. Then, by hand, stir in peaches (1 can, drained, and cut into small pieces) and one more cup of flour. Cover and let rise until double. Drop tablespoons of batter in hot oil or Crisco. Turn once. Drain on rack. Dust with sugar.

Cooking Corner Archives

Lenten Fish Fries

Youngstown Club Serves Lenten Dinners

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - The St. George Croatian Club of Youngstown, Ohio invites you to come out on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, or any Friday, to enjoy their award-winning fish or seafood dinners for Lent. Our dinners are available to the general public and are available to eat in or to-go basis, cash or check only. We offer Baked Cod or Fried Haddock dinners with a choice of (mac & cheese, fries, haluski, potato pierogi or green beans), along with a choice of cole slaw or applesauce, all for $15 per dinner. Single pieces of fish are available at $11 per piece; Shrimp dinners with the above-mentioned sides are $16 per dinner; and Potato pierogi dinners (8 pieces and a cole slaw) for $10 per dinner. To place an order, call 330-270-9056 on Fridays any time after 10 a.m., or just walk in at our club located at 3200 Vestal Rd., Youngstown Ohio (westside) and place your orders.

We honor all CFU and Croatian Club membership cards in our bar area as a courtesy to our brother and sister Croatians who would like to purchase an alcoholic beverage to accompany their dinners.

Our menu and pictures of our dinners can be seen on our Facebook page St. George Croatian Center. Please like and share. We hope to see you at "The Club" for some great fish/seafood during Lent 2026 or any Friday of the year.

If you would like to help volunteer for Lent at the club, packing dinners, helping serve, frying fish or washing dishes, please call 330-519-9036. All volunteers receive a complimentary dinner.

Tim Komara
President/Lodge 66

St. Lawrence Lodge 13 Fish Fries Return

STEELTON, PA - Once again, St. Lawrence Croatian Club in Steelton will host their delicious fish fry dinners every Friday during Lent, with the exception of Good Friday.

Dinners will be served from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lodge located at 13 Highland St., Steelton. You will be able to purchase a delicious dinner including baked or hand-breaded fried fish, shrimp fettuccine, homemade macaroni and cheese, hand-cut French fries, salad, coleslaw, stewed tomatoes. Also, beets, applesauce, and fresh baked rolls. Chicken fingers and fries are available for children.

There will be bake sales each week to benefit the St. Lawrence Adult Tamburitzans and the Sv. Lovro Junior Tamburitzans.

Starting at 7 p.m. each Friday, you can enjoy listening to some of your favorite local bands! February 20, Zadnja Stanica; February 27, Lil Brother Band; March 6, Happy Slovenes; March 13, Salt Hill; March 20, The Puskers; and March 27, Sviraj.

Bring your appetite, dancing shoes, and some friends for an enjoyable evening at St. Lawrence!

Tina Simpson/Lodge 13

Culinary Delights • Special Dinners • Bake Sales

Mezick's Lamb Available For Easter Sunday

EXPORT, PA - We are pleased to announce that we will be serving hot barbecued lamb for Easter Sunday, April 5, starting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 236 Silvis Rd., Export, PA 15632.

Please place your order, no later than March 24, by calling 724-468-6529. Don't wait, place your order as soon as possible.

God bless all CFU members, our friends and customers. Happy Easter, everyone! Stay safe and eat more lamb!

The Mezick's/Lodge 141

Mukwonago Lodge 993 Plans Soup-tacular Meeting

MUKWONAGO, WI - John Movrich Lodge 993 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, February 21st, at the Wendlandt home. We will have our popular "Soup-tacular" meal at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting right after that. Everyone should bring a pot of soup. The lodge will provide bread, dessert and beverages.

At our January yearly meeting, we held an election of officers. David Boeck, president; Laura Ellis, vice president; David Krejcarek, treasurer; Molly Krejcarek, recording secretary; Carol Movrich Gedde, secretary; Destiny Froelich, social director and event coordinator; Dustin Froelich, sergeant at arms; Bob Movrich, sports director; and Cindy Wendlandt, nest manager. We also had an amazing feast. Thanks to Chef Larry who prepared the prime rib to perfection and to all the others that brought food to pass.

We want to thank those who donated to our President's Go Fund me page after the loss of his home to fire. He is in the process of getting a company to take away the burnt mess that was his trailer home, and looking at new trailers to buy. He is grateful for being alive and so thankful for all those that have sent money and love his way!

We started planning for our 66th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Fest. Mark your "new" calendars for July 11th and plan to be there!

P.S. Visit our facebook page: CFU Lodge 993 to see pictures and stories about all of our officers.

Carol Movrich Gedde/Secretary

Raspberry Chocolate Hazelnut Tart

CRUST:
2 c. toasted hazelnuts, skins rubbed off
6 Tbsp. packed light-brown sugar
¼ tsp. cinnamon
¼ c. (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted

FILLING:
¾ c. whipping cream
6 oz. bittersweet or semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
1 pint fresh raspberries
¼ c. seedless raspberry jam

GARNISH: (optional)
Whipped cream
Shaved chocolate
Mint sprig

Preheat oven to 325º.

For the crust: In a food processor, finely grind the nuts, then add the sugar and cinnamon. Add the butter and process until moist clumps form. Press into the bottom and up the sides of an 8-inch tart pan with a removable bottom. Bake for 10-15 minutes until starting to brown. Transfer to a rack and cool completely.

For the filling: Bring the cream to a simmer in a heavy saucepan. Remove from the heat and stir in the chocolate. Continue to stir until the chocolate is melted and smooth. Pour into the cooked crust. Chill until set (about 1 hour). Arrange the berries on top. Heat the jelly in a saucepan or in the microwave until melted. Brush gently over the berries to glaze.

To serve: Garnish with a few dollops of whipped cream or some shaved chocolate and a sprig of fresh mint if you have it.

All Recipes from the Cooking Corner Archives

Attention All Cooking Corner Contributors:

All submissions for the **Zajedničar Cooking Corner** are greatly appreciated. However, since we do not operate a test kitchen to validate all recipes received, we kindly ask everyone to please review each recipe submitted to ensure its accuracy. We realize many **"Z"** readers enjoy trying the recipes and recognize the fact that cooking and baking involves considerable time, effort, and expense. Missing ingredients and incomplete details result in disappointing finished products. We appreciate your accuracy because we want all of our **Cooking Corner** readers to be happy cooks and satisfied bakers! **—Editors**

☛ **RECIPES WANTED!** If you have a Croatian or American culinary specialty of which you're quite proud, please submit it to the **"Z"** by addressing it to **Zajedničar** at 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, faxing to 412-823-1594 or e-mailing editor@cfu.org.

Want to impress your Valentine?

Why not create your own Valentine poem?

Choose words that rhyme or words that don't; simply use the words that best express a personal message to your True Love or Special Friend!

Here's a sample...

Words straight from my heart,
Tell you I miss you when we're apart,
Just the sweet sound of your voice,
Makes me want to dance and rejoice!
Although these written words are traditional,
Know my love for you is unconditional…
Just like the lyrics of our favorite song,
I will always love you my whole life long.

Happy Valentine's Day!

The **Zajedničar** welcomes children and young adults to submit articles of interest and personal artwork for the CFU Kids Page which is published monthly in the first issue of each month. Original stories and artwork by CFU Nest Members may be submitted by *e-mail to:* editor@cfu.org or by *mail to:* Editor/Junior Page, Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

CFU Junior Nest KIDS PAGE

FEBRUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

(Junior Members Transferring into the Adult Lodge)

15 **Steelton, PA**
Violet Y. Welsch
17 **Chicago, IL**
Anthony E. Zapolsky
38 **Rankin, PA**
Delaney P. Raines
39 **Clairton, PA**
Katerina A. Kavaljian
Benjamin A. Muir
86 **Cleveland, OH**
Nina Vujica
111 **Pittsburgh, PA**
Ivica Stjepan Stivoric
143 **E. Pittsburgh, PA**
Catherine W. Pribanic
167 **Columbus, OH**
Collin N. Sauer
190 **Farrell, PA**
Luke S. Bralich
196 **Canton, OH**
Conner Peloso
256 **San Pedro, CA**
Carli J. Govel
272 **Canonsburg, PA**
Alanna Elizabeth Bevan
636 **Phoenix, AZ**
Logan Klawitter

CANADA

603 **Hamilton, ON**
Elena Klemencic
Zachary J. Simone
Leona M. Zeleznak

Conversational Expressions In Croatian

RAZGLEDNICA – POSTCARD
RAT – WAR
SAKUPLJAČ – COLLECTOR
TAKOZVANO – SO-CALLED
VRUĆE – HOT
ČITAVO – WHOLE
NEKOLIKO – SEVERAL
DOSTA – ENOUGH
JEDNOSTAVNO – SIMPLE
RAZGOVOR – CONVERSATION
ČITATI – TO READ
KOPATI – TO DIG
PISATI – TO WRITE
HODATI – TO WALK
ZNATI – TO KNOW

CFU LODGE 515

"Bernard M. Luketich" in Toronto is delighted to welcome its newest member, **Sienna Brnadic.** Sienna is the daughter of Sabrina and Tony Brnadic. Tony proudly serves as the Vice President of Lodge 515. We are thrilled to have her join our community!
Antun Belan/Lodge 515

Croatian Cheese Dessert

2 eggs, separated
1/2 c. sugar
1/2 stick oleo, melted
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/4 c. flour
2 c. buttermilk
1-24 oz. creamed cottage cheese

Beat egg yolks until lemon colored. Add sugar, salt, and melted oleo, beat well. Next add flour alternately with the buttermilk; then add the cottage cheese and mix until blended.

Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into batter.

Pour mixture into greased 13x9" pan.

Topping
1/2 stick oleo, melted
1/2 c. sour cream
Cinnamon/sugar mix together

Sprinkle cinnamon/sugar as desired. Then drizzle oleo on top and finely drizzle the sour cream on top with a spoon here and there. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 50 minutes until brown around edges. (Serve warm or cold).

Cherry Chip Scones

3 c. all purpose flour
1/2 c. sugar
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
6 Tbsp. cold butter
1 c. vanilla yogurt
1/4 c. plus 2 Tbsp. milk, divided
1 1/3 c. dried cherries
2/3 c. vanilla or white chips

Combine flour, sugar, baking powder and baking soda. Cut in the butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Combine the yogurt and 1/4 c. milk and stir into the crumb mixture just until moistened. Knead in the dried cherries and vanilla chips.

On a greased baking sheet, pat the dough into a 9 inch circle. Cut into 8 wedges, separate wedges. Brush with remaining milk. Bake 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.

Cooking Corner Archives

SENDING A WARM CFU WELCOME

to the newest Member of Nest 36, **JULIA JADE SPATOLA,** who was born November 3, 2025. Julia is the daughter of Natalie (Scarpino) and Joseph Spatola of Columbia, TN. Submitted by proud Great-Grandma and retired employee of CFU Home Office, **Dorothy Scarpino** Lodge 304.

LUKAS RONALD LANDES

was happy to celebrate his new membership into Nest 576, Aliquippa, PA, by attending the CFU Adult TamFEST in Atlantic City. He enjoyed the music and festivities with his parents, Allison (Aliquippa Lodge 720) and Ian Landes, along with his big brother, Louie, also of Nest 576. Proud grandparents are Susan and Nick Katich (Aliquippa Lodge 720).

WORD SEARCH Winter Olympics 2026

D N L C S G N I R E V I F N A S T D
L R S E I K C A R T T R O H S H P E
O C U R L I N G H N O L H T A I B N
G S N O U T A I N E E R I N G T D I
A E P O I C E H O C K E Y V G A L B
Y G S E S E I R T N U O C E N N U M
I R N E E A L P I N E S K I I N G O
T G T I I D R E V L I S T A D F E C
A N I N T N S E Z N O R B F R T T C
L I O B U A O K H T O S I R A R M I
Y P T S O O K M A C E D O E O D E D
O M V O C B C S E T U S S E B M D R
S U R E R I S S E R I S R S W I A O
I J R E N C P L S R E N G T O L L N
E I C N O U H M E O U C G Y N A S E
D K M T N T E D Y I R G W L S N E J
E S A O A A O S U L G C I E W L I I
N O T E L E K S A R O H P F L O E B

ALPINE SKIING
ATHLETES
BIATHLON
BOBSLEIGH
BRONZE
CEREMONIES
CORTINA
COUNTRIES
CROSS COUNTRY
CURLING
FIGURE SKATING
FIVE RINGS
FREESTYLE
GOLD
ICE HOCKEY
ITALY
LUGE
MEDALS
MILAN
NORDICCOMBINED
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Make Your IRA Contribution Today

Any time is a good time to invest, but investing earlier can maximize the compounding effect on your money. Consider making your 2026 IRA contribution as early as possible.

IRA CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Tax Year	Under Age 50	Age 50 or Older
2025	$7,000	$8,000
2026	$7,500	$8,600

Note: You may not contribute more than your taxable compensation for the year.

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
National Secretary/Treasurer

IRA CONTRIBUTION COUPON

If you wish to make a deposit into an existing account with the Croatian Fraternal Union, simply complete this coupon and return it to our Home Office.

Name _____

Certificate No. _____

Deposit Amount _____

❍ Traditional IRA for Year 2026 _____

❍ Roth IRA for Year 2026 _____

Consular Days in Pittsburgh and Cleveland

WASHINGTON, DC - The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold Consular Days in **Pittsburgh, PA** in 2026 at the premises of the Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (**by appointment only**) on the following dates: **March 12; April 9; May 14; and June 11.**

The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold consular days in Eastlake, OH at the premises of the American-Croatian Lodge Cardinal Stepinac, 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., (**by appointment only**) on the following dates: **March 13; April 10; May 15; and June 12.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Appointments can be scheduled via e-mail: crocons.washington@mvep.hr or by phone: +1 202-588-5899 ext. 2. Please include the type of a request and your contact details.

Mihovil Pazin
Embassy of Croatia
Washington, DC

Croatian Fraternal Union's Spirit of Christmas

JEFFERSON HILLS, PA - National President Edward W. Pazo & wife Beth Pazo, along with children Alexandra and Edward III, cherishing the memory and life of our mothers and grandmothers Catherine A. Pazo on the one-year Anniversary (January 26, 2025) and Dorothy E. Rodgers on the two-year anniversary (February 1, 2024), respectively, of their passing $1,500.00
Towards the Edward and Catherine Pazo Scholarship Fund

JEFFERSON HILLS, PA - National President Edward W. Pazo & wife Beth Pazo, along with children Alexandra and Edward III, in memory of deceased friends who have recently passed away: Marko Konjevod, Anna Mae Kavaljian, Loretta Lucas, Marko Brigich, Branko Luketich, Mary Mavretich and Emil Riccio $200.00
Towards the Edward and Catherine Pazo Scholarship Fund

CLAIRTON, PA – Kathy and Roger Tachoir 100.00
Towards the Edward and Catherine Pazo Scholarship Fund

SHARON, PA – "St. Anthony of Padua" Lodge 3029 ..... 100.00

MONESSEN, PA – "Bratstvo" Lodge 194 ..... 50.00
Towards the "Sloga" Lodge 194 Scholarship Fund

MONESSEN, PA – "Bratstvo" Lodge 194 ..... 50.00
Towards the Martha and Bernard M. Luketich Scholarship Fund

PLAINFIELD, IL – Jim and Pat Shohet, in memory of Robert Pavich 25.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

PORT WING, WI – Ken and Terri Zivic, in memory of Loretta Lucas 100.00
Towards the Jennifer Lucas Scholarship Fund

JOLIET, IL – Prijatelji Orchestra, in memory of our longtime member Robert Pavich 100.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

JOLIET, IL – Joe and Laurie Jelinek, in memory of Robert Pavich 100.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

OAK FOREST, IL – Marie Looney, in memory of Robert Pavich 50.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

UNIONTOWN, PA – "Ss. Peter and Paul" Lodge 72, in memory of our deceased members as well as the deceased members of former "Sv. Vid" Lodge 307 and "Sv. Nikola Brodar" Lodge 423 ..... 200.00
Towards the Lodge 72 Scholarship Fund

NAPERVILLE, IL – Bernie Saban, in memory of Robert Pavich 25.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

HANNA CITY, IL – Richard Baylor, in memory of Robert Pavich 100.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

JOHNSTOWN, PA – "St. Rochus" Lodge 5, in memory of our deceased members, Thelma Keller, Keri Ann Kolbay, Lawrence Lugar, Rosemarie Mikesic and Anna Marie Ondick 250.00
Towards the Lodge 5 Scholarship Fund

HIGGINSVILLE, MO – Robert and Cheryl Nolte, in memory of Robert Pavich 100.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

BROADVIEW, IL – Tom and Bob Rubinic and Diane Moore, in memory of Robert Pavich 75.00
Towards the "Sloboda Lodge" 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund

TOTAL THIS REPORT $3,125.00
TOTAL SPRIT OF CHRISTMAS $17,985.00
TOTAL COLLECTED $47,226.79

DONATION CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Yes! I want to CONTRIBUTE $_____ to the CFU Scholarship Fund in order to aid CFU students seeking a higher education. Please include the following message or memorial with my contribution.

_____

_____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make all checks payable to CFU Scholarship Foundation and mail to:
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