

Zajedničar

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Catherine Parac Endowment Leaves Lasting Legacy

CFU Scholarship Endowment Reflects Family Values

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA – Throughout the history of the Croatian Fraternal Union, countless acts of kindness, generosity and philanthropy have furthered our fraternal goals and have been instrumental in helping our Society to grow and prosper. Yet perhaps the pinnacle of magnanimity for one's fellow CFU sisters and brothers is best recorded in the historical growth of the Croatian Fraternal Union Scholarship Foundation, Inc. With more than 100 individual endowments established through the CFU Scholarship Foundation, the spectacular growth of this educational program captures the essence of fraternalism at its finest.

One of the largest bequeaths to the CFU Scholarship Foundation, totaling \$124,495.69, recently was bestowed upon the passing of sister Catherine Parac. Sister Parac, a longtime member of Yerba Buena CFU Lodge 900 of San Francisco, California, graciously endowed this educational program to benefit future scholars in their quest for knowledge and personal educational achievement. Recognizing the value of this fraternal benefit available to CFU members through the scholarship program, sister Catherine Parac left a remarkable legacy to assist eager young fraternalists in attaining their educational goals.



Catherine Judith Parac

Since first established in 1958, the CFU Scholarship Foundation has literally provided a beacon of sunshine to thousands of young CFU members seeking to build their futures through educational pursuits. Dollar by dollar, year after year, donations poured in from across the continent to build the coffers of the CFU Scholarship Foundation, as financial awards were annually distributed to deserving student applicants seeking to earn college degrees to reach their career paths.

A lifelong fraternalist, Catherine Parac may well have been applauded as a trailblazer in recognizing the importance of education and maintaining a successful career. She herself upheld the values of hard work and self-sufficiency while also embracing the importance of

family and heritage, devoting much of her time to her own dear family and respecting her Croatian ancestry.

Sister Catherine Judith Parac was born on January 7, 1924 to loving parents, John and Anna Parac. She shared a wonderful life with her dear sister, Eleanor Parac, as well as with her treasured extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends.

Catherine worked for the Social Security Administration for many years and was an astute business woman ahead of her time.

Catherine, also known as



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS of the ski and snowboard races at the 2026 Annual CFU SkiFest held on Saturday, February 7 at Holiday Valley Ski Resort in Ellicottville, New York. Braving the bitter temperatures and biting winds, the brave competitors competed in the races and enjoyed the thrill of this annual sports event. Appreciation is extended to all participants and to all who attended the CFU ski weekend held for the second year at this picturesque western New York all-seasons resort.

"Kay" to her many friends, was a member of the Croatian Cultural Center of San Francisco and the Croatian Fraternal Union of America Yerba Buena Lodge 900, of which her father was among the founding members, in San Francisco in 1939.

Predeceased by her loving parents and sister Eleanor, Catherine died peacefully at home on November 9, 2018 at the age of 94, leaving behind many loving cousins and other beloved family and friends both here in the United States and in Croatia.

Catherine also leaves behind a powerful legacy of educational opportunity for numerous young CFU students who will benefit from her foresight and philanthropy. What she gleaned from her life enjoyed with loving family and bountiful friendships, and enhanced by her faith, fraternalism, cultural appreciation, education and life experiences, have become the gifts she shares with those who follow in her fraternal footsteps.

Among the many ways Catherine Parac will forever be remembered is through new paths of discovery and growth created by those who will benefit from her fraternal legacy. Her impactful decision to establish a financial designation to the CFU Scholarship Foundation preserves her forward thinking and generosity for the next generation, for which we are all enormously grateful.

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 Pohlott, 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

Zajedničar

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

Fraternalism and Faith

The American Fraternal Alliance, formed in 1886, unites not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Alliance member societies, of which the Croatian Fraternal Union is a participating member, represent more than 7 million individuals. The American Fraternal Alliance espouses that, "Fraternalists enable members to carry out charitable, educational, social and other volunteer community initiatives." With

a proven track record since our Society was established in 1894, CFU members have exemplified this fraternal doctrine of involvement and participation.

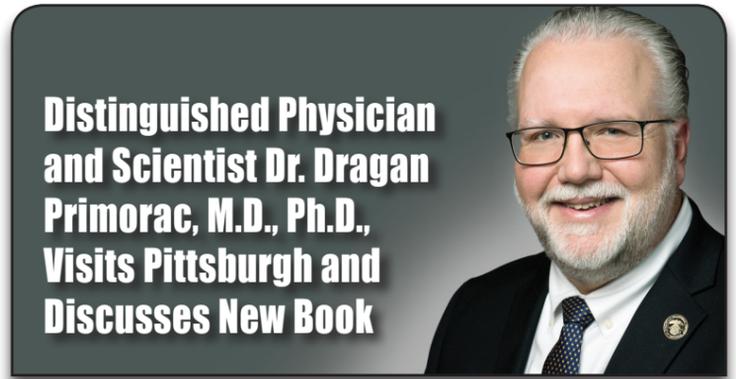
Championing the core values of family, faith, education and a strong work ethic, CFU members have succeeded in their efforts to build our Society to become a leading fraternal organization and have consistently responded to charitable and volunteer programs designed to help

others in times of need. With an abiding love and respect for their ancestors and families, members have embraced what the Croatian Fraternal Union represents and have tenaciously endeavored to promote the mission of our Society within the fraternal benefit system.

Working to provide our members and families with a variety of life insurance and investment products to ensure their financial security, CFU continues to offer members suitable products to meet their individual needs. The fraternal business model which CFU follows, just as other fraternal organizations associated with the American Fraternal Alliance, has succeeded in bringing people together through social, educational and charitable programs. Operating as a cohesive family-oriented organization, the Croatian Fraternal Union offers financial protection and membership involvement for the benefit of all.

As we look forward to the days of springtime after the harsh winter weather, there is a positive sense of future growth for our Society and renewed interaction among CFU members. For the great majority of our CFU Membership, the season of Lent is now piously being observed in keeping with the tenets of our Catholic faith and upbringing. It is a time of prayer, fasting, self-discipline and reflection. Searching within ourselves for inner strength becomes especially significant throughout the forty days of Lent. The sacrifices and efforts made during the Lenten season strengthen our faith and create a sense of peace in our hearts and minds. As we offer our prayers to do our best, we are mindful that a caring word and well-intended actions go a long way in touching lives.

Just as CFU members have, for the past many years, welcomed the days of Lent leading up to Holy Week and the celebration of Easter Sunday, let us strive to greet each day of Lent with the promise of tomorrow. And, as ever, our faith and our fraternalism will prevail.



Distinguished Physician and Scientist Dr. Dragan Primorac, M.D., Ph.D., Visits Pittsburgh and Discusses New Book

By Edward W. Pazo/National President

We were very pleased to meet with our good friend Dr. Dragan Primorac during his recent visit to Pittsburgh. Dr. Primorac, driven by an unwavering commitment to elevate the standards of science and medical care in Croatia, initiated the strategic collaboration between the Zabok General Hospital and Croatian Veterans Hospital and UPMC in Pittsburgh. Through years of dedicated work, this partnership resulted in the establishment of the UPMC Cancer Center Croatia at the Zabok General Hospital and Croatian Veterans Hospital near Zagreb. The mission is singular and clear: to ensure that Croatian cancer patients receive the highest-quality care based on personalized and evidence-based medicine, equal to the world's leading oncology centers. From the very beginning, the project received strong support from the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, members of the U.S. Congress, and even the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra, who personally visited the facility—underscoring the international importance of this initiative. To bring this vision to life, UPMC invested \$25,000,000, marking one of the most significant U.S. healthcare investments in Croatia and setting a new benchmark for oncology services in the region. While in Pittsburgh, we had the opportunity to visit St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church in Millvale, Pennsylvania, home of the famous murals painted by Croatian artist Maxo Vanka and to also discuss some upcoming projects in which he is actively involved. We discussed some areas of mutual cooperation planned for the future between Croatian Fraternal Union, UPMC and Dr. Primorac and look forward to informing our members of the details in the near future.



Dr. Dragan Primorac is a professor and faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh, the Eberly College of Science at The Pennsylvania State University, and at the University of New Haven in the United States. He has been ranked among the top 2% of scientists globally for both career-long and single-year scientific impact for the past years. He also holds professorships at the Medical Schools in Split, Rijeka, and Osijek in Croatia. In October 2016, he was appointed a Visiting Professor at the College of Medicine and Forensics, Xi'an Jiaotong University in the People's Republic of China. In March 2021, he became the first European to be honored with the "Professor Emeritus" title at the National Forensic Science University of India.

As one of the pioneers in the field, Professor Dragan Primorac actively applies the personalized medicine paradigm—including pharmacogenomics, predictive genetic testing, and mesenchymal stem cell therapies—in routine clinical practice. He is the founder of St. Catherine's Specialty Hospital in Zagreb, a European Center of Excellence and the only Joint Commission International-accredited hospital in Croatia, recognized for its cutting-edge medical technology and advanced treatment approaches. In recognition of his highly-acclaimed expertise, Dr. Primorac has been honored with three honorary doctorates and by numerous professional societies and medical journals citing his pioneering accomplishments in the fields of medicine, genetics, and forensics.

One of the more interesting and notable areas of Dr. Primorac's professional career includes pioneering the DNA identification of skeletal remains from mass graves, which documented atrocities of the Croatian War of Independence and provided closure for the families of the victims. Additionally, this work led to the publication of a book entitled, "**Pucanj u Hrvatskoj**", or "Gunshot in Croatia". We congratulate Dr. Primorac on the ground-breaking work that he has accomplished thus far in his profession and

(Continued on page 3)

SPOTLIGHT ON CFU PROGRAMS

A Message from the Executive Vice President
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

20 YEAR LEVEL TERM

Term life insurance provides affordable financial protection for the insured for a specific period of time. CFU currently offers the following term plans: 20 Year Level Term (Ages 24-50); 10 Year Level Term (Ages 24-50); and Juvenile Term to Age 25.

20 Year Level Term premiums are level and payable for twenty years or until the death of the insured. The death benefit is payable immediately upon death in a lump-sum payout and is tax free to the beneficiary.

Benefits may be converted to any permanent plan of life insurance for equal or lesser face value, without evidence of insurability, before the end of twenty years. At the end of twenty years, if no other coverage option is selected, benefits expire without value.

Gross Annual Premiums Per \$1,000 Female

Issue Age	FEMALE NON-TOBACCO			FEMALE TOBACCO			
	\$25,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000	Issue Age	\$25,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000
24	1.93	1.33	0.88	24	2.92	1.96	1.83
25	1.95	1.35	0.91	25	2.92	1.96	1.86
26	1.95	1.37	0.92	26	3.00	2.05	1.90
27	1.95	1.39	0.94	27	3.08	2.15	1.95
28	1.95	1.41	0.96	28	3.17	2.26	2.00
29	1.95	1.43	0.98	29	3.26	2.37	2.05
30	1.96	1.45	1.00	30	3.35	2.49	2.10
31	2.09	1.48	1.03	31	3.53	2.62	2.21
32	2.23	1.50	1.06	32	3.71	2.77	2.33
33	2.39	1.53	1.09	33	3.90	2.93	2.45
34	2.55	1.56	1.12	34	4.10	3.09	2.57
35	2.73	1.59	1.15	35	4.30	3.26	2.71
36	2.88	1.66	1.24	36	4.65	3.50	2.92
37	3.04	1.73	1.34	37	5.03	3.75	3.16
38	3.21	1.80	1.44	38	5.44	4.02	3.41
39	3.39	1.88	1.55	39	5.88	4.31	3.68
40	3.57	1.96	1.67	40	6.35	4.62	3.98
41	3.71	2.14	1.78	41	6.78	4.99	4.35
42	3.85	2.34	1.88	42	7.24	5.38	4.76
43	3.99	2.56	2.00	43	7.73	5.79	5.20
44	4.14	2.79	2.12	44	8.25	6.25	5.69
45	4.29	3.05	2.25	45	8.81	6.74	6.22
46	4.52	3.19	2.43	46	9.46	7.28	6.79
47	4.75	3.32	2.64	47	10.16	7.87	7.41
48	5.00	3.46	2.86	48	10.92	8.51	8.09
49	5.25	3.61	3.10	49	11.73	9.21	8.82
50	5.52	3.77	3.35	50	12.61	9.95	9.62

If you have any further question(s) on the 20 Year Level Term or any other products CFU offers, please feel free to contact the Home Office at 412.843.0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org

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 – 566th 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

1 – Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra's Bob Novosel Memorial Jamboree - American Croatian Club - 32851 Ryan Rd. - Warren, MI
2 – St. George Junior Tamburitza's Annual Golf Outing - Nemačin Country Club - Beallsville, PA

SEPTEMBER

6 – Annual Croatian Day Celebration - Rankin Croatian Home - Rankin, PA
12 – St. George Tamburitza's Annual Picnic - Cokeburg Community Park - Cokeburg, PA

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

13 – St. George CFU Lodge 354/Nest 122 Annual Christmas Party - Croatian Home - Cokeburg, PA
13 – Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32's Christmas Luncheon - Place to be determined.
19 – Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra's Christmas in Croatia - American Croatian Club - 32851 Ryan Rd. - Warren, MI

By Edward W. Pazo/National President

(Continued from page 2)

are confident that his contributions to medicine and humanity are far from finished. The review that follows describes the book which was written with consultation of his colleague, the world-renowned Dr. Henry C. Lee, eminent forensic expert and founder of the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science.

REVIEW: AFTER SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHES IN CHINA AND CROATIA, THE BOOK "GUNSHOT IN CROATIA" HAS NOW BEEN RELEASED IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE IT HAS ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS.

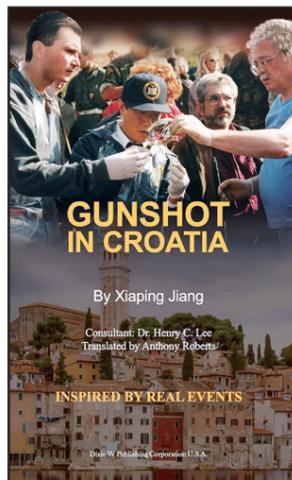
The book examines the work of Croatian and American forensic experts — among them Dr. Dragan Primorac and Dr. Henry C. Lee — in the identification of victims from mass graves, offering an authentic testimony to the truth about the Croatian War of Independence.

Written by the American Chinese author **Xiaping Jiang**, "Gunshot in Croatia" explores the joint efforts of Croatian and American forensic scientists, including **Dr. Dragan Primorac** and **Dr. Henry Lee**, during the identification of victims discovered in mass graves. Following its launch events in China, Croatia, and now the United States, the book has gained remarkable popularity. In the U.S., it is available through numerous online distributors and retail platforms, including Amazon, Better World Books, ThriftBooks, Target, and others.

The work is inspired by true events recounted to the author by Prof. Dr. Henry Lee, one of America's leading forensic experts, who has worked on more than 8,000 cases across some 50 countries worldwide. Among the most well known are the O.J. Simpson case, the JonBenét Ramsey investigation, the reconstruction of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, as well as the identification of war victims in Croatia. While deeply rooted in factual events, the author has taken creative liberty to blend fact and fiction. Central to the narrative is the professional and personal friendship between Henry Lee and Dragan Primorac — their collaboration in the United States and their work on victim identification in Croatia in the early 1990s.

The American edition of the book generated exceptional public interest, while the Chinese edition became a bestseller and is currently being adapted for the screen. In China, the book was presented during the official opening of the forensic museum dedicated to Henry Lee in the city of Nantong. The Croatian edition, published in cooperation with *Večernji list*, sold out completely in a very short time, with its launch held at the Library of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Author Xiaping Jiang has emphasized that the book carries profound emotional weight for her. She was deeply moved by the tragic destinies of innocent people and believes that scientific breakthroughs — such as DNA technology — when placed in the hands of dedicated experts, can serve humanity by establishing truth and restoring dignity to victims. She underscores that evil does not choose its victims and that, in the hands of the unscrupulous, it can unleash tremendous suffering — yet ultimately truth and goodness prevail.

Inspired by the close relationship between Henry Lee and Dragan Primorac, the author depicts not only their scientific collaboration but also introduces fictional characters, such as Ivanica Vatić, a journalist and fiancée of Dragan Primorac, who is determined to reveal to the world the truth about the massacre of civilians committed by Serbian forces. Tragically, her pursuit of truth leads to her death at the hands of those determined to suppress it. One of the most moving sections of the book describes the identification of Ivanica's remains — made even more poignant by the fact that Dragan Primorac himself was among the forensic experts working on the identifications. The author notes that many of the



Prof. Dr. Dragan Primorac M.D., Xiaping Jiang, Prof. Dr. Henry Lee M.D., and Dr. Šimun Anđelinović M.D.

stories shared with her by her husband, Henry Lee, left her sleepless for nights. Yet, ultimately, the book turns toward the future, highlighting the power of science in uncovering truth — especially in identifying victims and perpetrators — and stressing that those responsible must be brought before the International Court of Justice.

During the book's launch events, Henry Lee emphasized that in the early 1990s he arrived in Croatia with a team of leading American forensic scientists at the invitation of Dragan Primorac, and that the pioneering DNA identification results of mass grave victims achieved at that time marked a new era in modern forensic science.

From a scientific perspective, this book is far more than another publication — it documents the historical truth about the Croatian War of Independence and a landmark scientific achievement: the world's first DNA based identification of victims from mass graves. These breakthroughs positioned Croatia among the global leaders in forensic science. The results achieved by Croatian forensic experts, in collaboration with international colleagues, significantly advanced the global adoption of DNA analysis in routine forensic practice. Their work was published in the world's most prestigious scientific journals, including *JAMA*, *Science*, and *The Lancet*, as well as major international newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Newsweek*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Los Angeles Times*.

Of particular importance is the scientific article co authored in the early 1990s by Prof. Dr. Primorac, Prof. Dr. Lee, Prof. Dr. Michael Baden — one of America's leading forensic pathologists — Prof. Dr. Anđelinović, Prof. Dr. Definis Gojanović, and others, published in the prestigious *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. It is considered the first scientific paper documenting the crucial role of DNA technology in identifying victims from mass graves.

Statements from the Croatian book launch:

Željko Reiner, Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament: "Collaboration between Croatian and American scientists resulted in major breakthroughs in the introduction of new technologies, such as DNA analysis, aimed at identifying victims from mass graves. I extend my deep gratitude to Prof. Dr. Lee, whose contribution was invaluable in establishing the truth about the Croatian War of Independence."

Henry Lee: "Today we gather at the promotion of 'Gunshot in Croatia', a book inspired by real events that accompanied the achievements of our joint work and cooperation with Croatian forensic scientists Dr. Dragan Primorac and Dr. Šimun Anđelinović. I speak of the successful application of skeletal remains identification methods in mass graves. This book, founded on true events, carries a special significance, as it underscores the power of science in uncovering truth — especially in identifying victims and perpetrators. Through our collective efforts, we developed and implemented a method of identifying skeletal remains from mass graves that has become a standard in forensic practice."

Dragan Primorac: "I am deeply grateful to the author Xiaping Jiang and Prof. Dr. Henry Lee for creating a book that captures a vital part of Croatian history and powerfully affirms the truth about the Croatian War of Independence. The collaboration of Croatian and American scientists led to monumental scientific advancements in forensic genetics, and I am proud that these pioneering achievements took place in Croatia. Science is strength, and our responsibility is to do everything in our power to identify all those who are still missing."

Šimun Anđelinović: "This book is deeply emotional for me, as it brings me back to the painful early days of the aggression against Croatia. At the same time, I am proud that, together with Dr. Primorac, we established the Laboratory for Clinical and Forensic Genetics and introduced DNA analysis for skeletal remains identification. The challenges were immense — lack of equipment, lack of trained specialists, lack of knowledge — yet through enormous effort and collaboration with American scientists, we achieved historic results."

Zajedničar Publication Dates

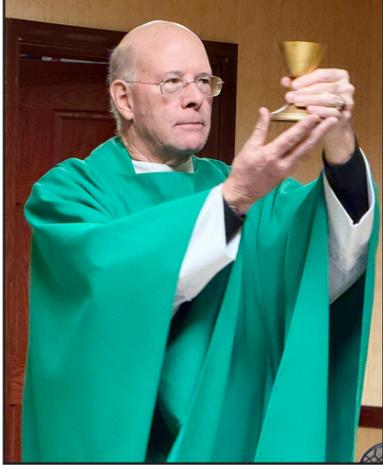
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○-All Material Deadline dates are circles

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FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL										
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Scenes from CFU SkiFest at Holiday Valley — Feb. 6-7



Prijatelji Orchestra's 31st Annual Concert

CHICAGO, IL - Get ready for an unforgettable event! The Prijatelji Orchestra of Chicago is thrilled to host its 31st annual concert on Saturday, March 21, and we can't wait to share this experience with you. Tickets are available now: <https://PRIJATELJI.ticketspice.com/2026concert>

This year, doors open at 3 p.m., and the concert begins promptly at 4 p.m. We're excited to welcome you again to our venue, the beautiful Lithuanian World Center at 14911 127th St., Lemont, IL 60439. After the concert, enjoy a delicious buffet-style dinner catered by the outstanding Grand Dukes Eastern European Restaurant of Downers Grove.

And that's just the beginning. We are absolutely delighted to announce that The Tamburitzans (formerly "The Duquesne University Tamburitzans") will once again join us as our special guests! Their presence means so much to our group. One of Prijatelji's members, Roman Vucinic, is now part of the Tamburitzans! We are extremely proud of his decision to develop as an artist and person with this organization. His father and uncle, Bob and Phil Vucinic, are alumni, as are our current director, Joe Gornick, and his wife Diane. And another Prijatelji performer, John Pruzin, also has a daughter currently performing with the ensemble—making this appearance even more meaningful.

The Tamburitzans are also close to our heart because our beloved former director, John Gornick, was their biggest fan and championed the Tamburitzans' mission to share tamburitza music across the country.

The Tamburitzans will present a captivating, abbreviated performance from their full show. If you'd like to experience the complete production, they'll be performing the next day—Sunday, March 22, at Munster High at 2 p.m. Learn more or purchase tickets at: www.thetamburitzans.org.

After dinner, the celebration continues with the always fantastic SINOVI Orchestra of Chicago. Their energy, talent, and crowd pleasing repertoire guarantee a dance floor that stays full all night. We're grateful to have them as a cherished part of our Croatian community.

Ticket Information (cash bar will be available): Adults-\$75;

Kids-ages 6-16: \$20;

Kids-ages 5 & under: Free (seat reservation still required).

When ordering online, you'll be able to choose your own seats and table. If you need help with your order, call Chris Gornick, 630-962 9906. Please note: No tickets will be sold at the door, so be sure to get yours early.

Join us for a joyful evening filled with music, dancing, community, and tradition. We can't wait to welcome our longtime supporters—and we encourage you to bring friends who may be discovering the beauty of tamburitza music and kolo dancing for the first time.

Let's make this event one to remember!

Chris Gornick/Lodge 32



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 Sunrise 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

Od Srca Announces First Educational Open House

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - The Od Srca Adult Tamburitzans will host a free Educational Open House on tamburitza music on Sunday, March 22, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees will experience demonstrations of various music styles from different regions of Croatia, be able to touch the instruments, and learn a few songs with both Croatian and English lyrics. To prepare for the upcoming festival season, an introductory kolo dance lesson will conclude this afternoon event.

The open house will be at CFU Lodge 66 located at 3200 Vestal Road in Youngstown 44509. There is free and abundant parking on site. The Croatian Kitchen will be open, serving the club's special schnitzel sandwiches and čevapi plates with Slavic sides. To assist with food planning, please place food orders in advance to Tim at 330-519-9036 by March 18.

This event is open to the public.

John Slanina/Lodge 66

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

The Tamburitzans Back in Munster

MUNSTER, IN - The Tamburitzans of Pittsburgh will be performing on Sunday, March 22, at 2 P.M., at Munster High School's Auditorium. Lodge 170's very own, Sarah Pruzin, is back for her third year. Sarah grew up playing with the Hoosier Strings Junior Group and now performs with Hoosier Hrvati Adult Orchestra.

We are extremely proud of our hometown girl and encourage our Northwest Indiana Family and Friends alike, to attend this phenomenal performance. Let's cheer Sarah on as we welcome this renowned ensemble for a memorable afternoon.

Reception to follow in the Munster High School Cafeteria.

Online tickets now available at TheTamburitzans.org.

Any questions, please call John Pruzin at 219-616-2828.

John Pruzin/Lodge 170



On The Road With The Tamburitzans

PITTSBURGH, PA - The Tamburitzans turn up the heat in Florida when they land in Leesburg, FL, on Saturday, March 7, bringing a kaleidoscope of color, world music, song and dance entertaining our friends from The Villages and Orlando area with a show time at 5 p.m. at Leesburg High School. The latest 90-minute Tamburitzans production, "The Shared Song" features an ensemble of 24 wildly talented full-time college students celebrating the Tamburitzans' 89th year of performing cultural family heritage music, song and dance that may feel wonderfully familiar, bring a smile and warm your heart.

Stop 2 is in the greater Sarasota area in Osprey, FL on Sunday, March 8, near Palmer Ranch, and we'd love to see all our snowbirds hiding out in Venice, North Port, Ft. Myers, Sarasota, Bonita Springs and Naples, too! Show time at Pine Hill School is at 2 p.m. and is the home stomping ground for a local talent powerhouse Serbian accordion artist Alexei Blagonadzhdin who wows audiences across the US. Yup, incredible young man!

Stop 3 later in March takes us to Munster, IN on Sunday, March 22, with curtain up at Munster High School at 2 p.m. This is a home show for fabulously talented Sarah Pruzin. The Pruzins are part of the Tamburitzans family as dad John, an alumnus, helps to bring the show to Indiana for all to enjoy and keep the legacy alive. It's all in the family!

Won't you bring your family and friends along and join us in Florida and Indiana to see this wonderful ensemble and support the cultural arts? You won't be disappointed! Tickets ranging in price from \$10-\$45 are available online, or at the door. Discounts and group rates are available for veterans and groups of 10 or more. And, a portion of every dollar spent on a ticket goes directly to scholarships for these fine student performers helping the next generation of artists continue this rich cultural tradition.

Don't wait! Get your tickets today for all 3 of these March shows at <https://www.thetamburitzans.org/events/tickets> and click on your venue for pricing levels. For group rates, call The Tamburitzans at 412-224-2071.

Joyce Crumbo/Lodge 2019

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

100th Anniversary of Croatian Radio

PITTSBURGH, PA - On March 26, 1926 a broadcasting license was issued to the Radio Club Zagreb and Croatian Radio was born. The State authorities approved the establishment and proposed rules of the Joint-Stock company Radio Zagreb. However, the meeting of the newly established company was held in May, at which thirteen Board of Directors were elected and led by President Šandor A. Alesander and Deputy Vladimir Stasni. The first Executive Board members were Dr. Ivo Ražem, Dr. Ivo Stern, Dr. Rudolf Rodanić and Eng. Dragutin Joachimsthal.

This year in May Croatian Radio will celebrate its 100th Anniversary as one of the oldest electronic media outlets in Southeast Europe.

The first Radio broadcast began with the Croatian anthem and an announcement by Director Ivo Stern and announcer Bozana Begovic at 8:30 am from St. Mark's Square. In the beginning there was only one program broadcasted which could be heard in Zagreb and northwest Croatia. That was the beginning of a long and successful journey. The broadcast began with music of famous performers and news.

A live broadcast began in the fall, on November 7th, during the unveiling of the monument to Josip Juraj Strossmayer. Broadcasts of holy masses began and in the afternoon the bell ringing from the tower of St. Marko's Church in Zagreb was aired. On December 4, 1926, a public competition for original manuscripts for radio drama plays was announced.

Over the years the Radio broadcast slightly changed its name and paved the way for modern and all day broadcasting. Major program reconstruction was carried out in 1964, and since then Programs 1, 2 and 3 have been broadcasting regularly.

Today, Croatian Radio is available worldwide with modern distribution channels. It is under the umbrella of the media house of the Croatian Radio Television (HRT).

Through a network of regional radio stations - Sljeme, Osijek, Pula, Rijeka, Knin, Zadar, Split and Dubrovnik, listeners can be informed about local, regional and national events. Many follow and listen to radio programs, watch many sports, cultural and social events and news on TV screens. One of the more popular programs is "Dnevnik" HRT which provides a summary of the day's events and airs each evening.

The International program, Glas Hrvatske (Voice of Croatia), is broadcast via the Internet and is a great link between Croats in their homeland and the world. News and other informative programs are presented in Croatian, English, Spanish and German. Our life in the diaspora would be far poorer if we did not have such a large and diverse Croatian Radio Television and its programs.

On behalf of our CFU members and Executive Officers, National President Edward W. Pazo, National Secretary-Treasurer Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras and myself, we extend sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success of the Croatian Radio and Croatian Radio Television.

Franjo Bertović
CFU Executive Vice President



COMMUNITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE with the winners of the women's category at this year's 54th Ski Trip held at Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, New York. Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who attended this popular winter event of the Croatian Fraternal Community.

SkiFEST 2026 – Another Memorable Weekend at Holiday Valley

ELLCOTTVILLE, NY – First and foremost, a sincere thank you to everyone who joined us for SkiFEST 2026. Once again, our members and friends proved that this event is about much more than skiing—it's about fellowship, tradition and making memories together. Holiday Valley continues to be a fantastic home for SkiFEST, giving us the space, amenities, and atmosphere we need as the event continues to grow.

This marked our second year at the beautiful Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY, and it was great to see so many familiar faces, along with friends we hadn't seen in quite some time. The energy and excitement throughout the weekend reminded us exactly why SkiFEST remains one of our most anticipated annual gatherings.

There's no way around it—SkiFEST 2026 was cold. Between the winter storms that made travel a bit challenging on Friday and the bitter wind chills on the mountain, Mother Nature

definitely made her presence known. Still, if there's one thing CFU members know how to do, it's how to warm things up with good company and great events.

We kicked off the weekend Friday evening on the top floor of the main ski lodge, surrounded by incredible mountain views. It was the perfect setting for our first social, and our friends from Sedma Brzina kept the dance floor full from start to finish. With great music, good drinks, and excellent service from the Holiday Valley staff, it was an ideal way to begin the weekend.

Saturday started early as our office staff set up in the lodge vestibule to register participants for the 2026 SkiFEST race. Out on the deck, the Cabana Bar quickly became the hub of activity. Despite the cold temperatures, music, games and drinks kept everyone gathered together while skiers cycled in and out to warm up. We owe a huge thank-you to the Holiday Valley staff who stuck it out with us outside—they were the real heroes of the afternoon. The festivities continued until late afternoon, when we shifted gears to prepare for Mass in the Tamarack Club.

At 6 PM, we were honored to once again have Fr. Bud Falkenhan celebrate a Croatian tambura Mass, beautifully

accompanied by T.S. Skijaši. Our sincere thanks go to Father Bud for being with us again, and to Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras for stepping in on short notice to direct the orchestra.

Following Mass, everyone returned to the ski lodge for our final night together. Sedma Brzina once again delivered a high-energy performance that kept the crowd on the dance floor well into the evening. During the program, we were pleased to hear welcome remarks from CFU National President Edward W. Pazo, and were especially honored to be joined by the Croatian Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Pjer Šimunović, along with members of his staff from the Croatian Embassy in Washington, DC. We truly appreciated their taking the time to celebrate with us.

Of course, one of the highlights of the evening was the announcement of the race results which appear below this article. A special nod goes to our longtime friend John Nakich of Berlin, PA, who continues to show that experience still counts, even against a field of younger competitors. I would also like to offer a sincere apology to our only snowboarding competitor this year, Brother Adam Bertovic, whose name I unfortunately missed during the awards announcements at the social. Adam and his family joined us all the way from Canada, and we truly appreciate the effort they made to be part of SkiFEST this year. Due to an error on my part, his name was not included on the list I had at the podium. We will, of course, be sending him his award and want to extend our congratulations to Adam on his performance and thank him for being part of the event.

The excitement continued with our Fastest on the Mountain competition. Once again, many took their shot at the title, but it was David Jones of Lodge 354 who claimed the championship and is heading back to Cokeburg with the SkiFEST Champ Medallion. His name will be added once again,

and the distinctive award will remain on display at the CFU Home Office until next year's champion is crowned.

The rest of the night was filled with laughter, dancing and the kind of camaraderie that defines our organization. We extend our sincere thanks to the management and staff at Holiday Valley for their outstanding hospitality and for helping make our move to this venue such a success. Many of them even stayed late to enjoy the celebration with us, which we truly appreciated.

Most of all, thank you to our members and friends for continuing to support SkiFEST and for making the trip to Ellicottville. Your enthusiasm is what keeps this event thriving. The future of SkiFEST is bright, and we're already looking forward to what's next.

Be sure to watch upcoming editions of the **Zajedničar** for the official dates of SkiFEST 2027 at Holiday Valley.

We hope to see you there!
Derek Hohn
Director of Fraternal Programs

Race Results

Boys 10 and Under

Klement Susnjara 41.25

Teen Boys

Brady Robaugh 28.32

Men's 30 Something

David Jones 24.74

Josh Jones 25.15

Ivan Katic 37.65

Men's 40 Something

Mike Rakowski 26.62

Men's 50 Something

Joseph Obenour 35.89

Men's 60 Something

Frank Kocevar 34.94

Doug Verlich 39.76

The Wise Division

John Nakich 44.43

Teen Snowboarder Division

Adam Bertovic 30.59

Women 30+

Jenny Nakich 35.62

Amy Verhaeghe 36.26

Veronika Susnjara 40.84

The Aged Like Fine Wine Division

Martina Kondas 44.59

81st CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION ANNUAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

April 18th – 19th 2026



PLEASE CHECK PROPER TEAM:

- GIRL'S JUNIOR "C" (10-12)
- GIRL'S JUNIOR "B" (13-15)
- GIRL'S JUNIOR "A" (16-18)
- WOMEN'S OPEN
- BOY'S JUNIOR "C" (10-12)
- BOY'S JUNIOR "B" (13-15)
- BOY'S JUNIOR "A" (16-18)
- MEN'S +35
- MEN'S OPEN

Lodge Info:

Lodge No. _____
Nest No. _____
Lodge Name _____

Coach Info:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone _____
Email _____

ENTRIES DUE BY:
March 31st 2026

PLAYERS REGISTRATION: The members whose names are listed below hereby make entry in the Annual CFU Basketball Tournament and agree to abide by the rules and regulations which govern it. Each TEAM is limited to a maximum of twelve (12) players.

	NAME	CERTIFICATE #	DOB
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____

TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY:
"Holy Cross" CFU LODGE 320
DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 18-19, 2026

E-MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Derek Hohn
dhohn@cfu.org
412-843-0380

Signatures Required:

Lodge President

Lodge Sports Director

Lodge Secretary

A downloadable version of this form can be found on our website www.CFU.org/events

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE CFU MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.

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 Saturday, 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

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



Zaklada Catherine Parač ostavlja trajno nasljeđe

Ovaj školarinski fond HBZ odražava obiteljske vrijednosti

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA – Kroz dugu povijest Hrvatske bratske zajednice, bezbrojne dobrote, velikodušnosti i filantropije dodatno su unaprijedili naše zajedničarstvo i bili su ključni za rast i prosperitet naše Zajednice. Ipak, možda je vrhunac velikodušnosti prema svojoj braći i sestrama HBZ najbolje zabilježen u povijesnom rastu Školarinske zaklade Hrvatske bratske zajednice. S više od 100 pojedinačnih zaklada ili fondova uspostavljenih putem Zaklade za školovanje, spektakularan rast ovog obrazovnog programa uistinu odražava suštinu bratstva u najboljem obliku.

Jedan od najvećih donacija Zakladi za stipendije HBZ, u ukupnom iznosu od 124.495,69 USD, nedavno je dodijeljen povodom smrti sestre Catherine Parač. Sestra Parač, dugogodišnja članica društva Yerba Buena odsjek 900 u San Franciscu, Kalifornija, velikodušno je utemeljila ovaj obrazovni program kako bi koristio budućim učenicima u njihovoj potrazi za znanjem i osobnim obrazovnim postignućima. Prepoznajući vrijednost ove bratske koristi koja je dostupna članovima HBZ putem stipendijskog programa, sestra Catherine Parač ostavila je izvanredno nasljeđe koje pomaže mladim entuzijastičnim članovima u ostvarivanju njihovih obrazovnih ciljeva.

Od svog osnutka 1958. godine, Zaklada HBZ za stipendije doslovno je pružila zraku sunca tisućama mladih članova koji su željeli graditi svoju budućnost kroz obrazovanje. Dolar po dolar, godine za godinom, donacije su pristizale sa cijelog kontinenta kako bi se povećala sredstva Zaklade HBZ za stipendije, dok su financijske nagrade svake godine dodjeljivane zaslužnim studentima koji su težili stjecanju sveučilišnih diploma kako bi ostvarili svoje karijerne puteve.

Doživotnu fraternalistkinju, Catherine Parač možemo pohvaliti kao pionirku u prepoznavanju važnosti obrazovanja i održavanju uspješne karijere. Sama je njegovala vrijednosti napornog rada i samodostatnosti, istovremeno prihvaćajući važnost obitelji i naslijeđa, posvećujući mnogo svog vremena svojoj dragoj obitelji i poštujući svoje hrvatsko podrijetlo.

Sestra Catherine Judith Parač rođena je 7. siječnja 1924. godine od ljubaznih roditelja, Johna i Anne Parač. Dijelila je prekrasan život sa svojom dragom sestrom, Eleanor Parač, kao



Catherine Judith Parač

i sa svojom cijenjenom proširenom obitelji: tetama, ujcima, rođacima i dragim prijateljima.

Catherine je godinama radila za Upravni odbor za socijalnu sigurnost i bila je oštromna poslovna žena ispred svog vremena.

Također poznata kao "Kay" među svojim mnogim prijateljima, bila je članica Hrvatskog kulturnog centra u San Franciscu i Hrvatske bratske zajednice Amerike, društva Yerba Buena odsjek 900, kojeg je osnovao njezin otac u San Franciscu 1939. godine.

Prethodili su joj voljeni roditelji i sestra Eleanor, a Catherine je mirno preminula kod kuće 9. studenog 2018. u dobi od 94 godine, ostavivši iza sebe mnoge (Nastavak na 10. strani)



Veliki jubilej Hrvatske matice iseljenika

ZAGREB HR - Hrvatska matrica iseljenika svečano je obilježila 75 godina djelovanja, potvrdivši svoju ulogu jedne od ključnih institucija u očuvanju hrvatskog identiteta i jačanju veza između domovine i Hrvata diljem svijeta.

Svečana akademija održana je u dvorani Matis u Zagrebu, uz nazočnost više od 250 uzvanika iz političkog, kulturnog, znanstvenog i društvenog života. Događaj je okupio predstavnike državnih institucija, diplomatskog zbora, hrvatske nacionalne manjine te brojne prijatelje i suradnike Matice. Obljetnica je obilježena upravo na datum osnutka Matice iseljenika Hrvatske - 12. veljače 1951. godine - čime je dodatno naglašena povijesna trajnost i važnost njezina djelovanja.

U uvodnom obraćanju zamjenik državnog tajnika Središnjega državnog ureda za Hrvate izvan

Republike Hrvatske, Dario Magdić, istaknuo je kako je Hrvatska matrica iseljenika kroz desetljeća ostala temeljna poveznica između Hrvatske i njezinih zajednica u svijetu. Naglasio je da je Matica, unatoč povijesnim promjenama i brojnim izazovima, zadržala svoju prepoznatljivu ulogu izvorišta hrvatskog kulturnog i jezičnog identiteta među Hrvatima izvan domovine. U ime predsjednika Hrvatskoga sabora Gordana Jandrokovića, uzvanicima se obratila predsjednica saborskog Odbora za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske mr. sc. Zdravka Bušić, uputivši čestitku povodom obljetnice te naglasivši važnost kontinuiranih programa koje provodi Hrvatska matrica iseljenika čime učvršćuje osjećaj pripadnosti Hrvatima izvan domovine.

Izaslanik predsjednika Vlade Republike Hrvatske Andreja

MIRJANA ANA MARIA PISKULIĆ (bivša v. d. ravnateljica HMI) uručila je čestitku Hrvatske bratske zajednice Amerike ravnatelju Hrvatske matice iseljenika mr. sc. Zdeslavu Milasu za 75. obljetnicu utemeljenja Hrvatske matice iseljenika, koja svjedoči o uspješnoj i kontinuiranoj suradnji naše najuglednije i najmnogoljudnije iseljeničke organizacije u svijetu Hrvatske bratske zajednice Amerike. S lijeva su: Mirjana Piskulić, ravnatelj HMI mr. sc. Zdeslav Milas, Vesna Kukavica, veleposlanik Mladen Andrić, Katarina Milković, Lada Kanajet Šimić i Don Markešić (ACAP).

Plenkovića i ministar vanjskih i europskih poslova dr. sc. Gorđan Grlić Radman podsjetio je na povijesni značaj Matice od (Nastavak na 10. strani)

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 1 sat 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 poslužit 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. studenog 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



Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST
(ISSN 1087-7460)

ALL FOR ONE – ONE FOR ALL SVI ZA JEDNOG – JEDAN ZA SVE
Official Organ Of The Službeno Glasilo
Croatian Fraternal Union Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice
of America u Americi

Izlazi svaki drugi tjedan u mjesecu
Izdaje ga:

HRVATSKA BRATSKA ZAJEDNICA
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e-mail: editor@cfu.org
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GLAVNI URED
Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice
u Americi
Organizirane 1894. godine

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA...LORRAINE TURKALL

Zajedničarstvo i vjera

Američk bratski savez, osnovan 1886. godine, okuplja neprofitne bratske organizacije koje djeluju u 50 saveznih država, Distriktu Columbia i Kanadi. Članice saveza, među kojima je sudjelujući član i Hrvatska bratska zajednica, predstavljaju više od 7 milijuna pojedinaca ili članova. Američki bratski savez zagovara kako „bratstva omogućuju članovima provođenje humanitarnih, obrazovnih, društvenih i drugih volonterskih inicijativa u zajednici.“ S dokazanim rezultatima od osnivanja naše Zajednice 1894. godine, članovi HBZ-a su primjerom pokazali ovu bratstvenu doktrinu uključivanja i sudjelovanja.

Promovirajući temeljne vrijednosti obitelji, vjere, obrazovanja i snažne radne etike, članovi HBZ-a uspjeli su u svojim nastojanjima da našu Zajednicu izgrade u vodeću bratsku organizaciju i dosljedno su odgovarali na humanitarne i volonterske programe osmišljene kako bi pomogli drugima u vremenima potrebe. S trajnom ljubavlju

i poštovanjem prema svojim precima i obiteljima, članovi su prihvatili što Hrvatska bratska zajednica predstavlja i uporno su se trudili promovirati misiju naše bratske organizacije unutar sustava bratskih pogodnosti.

Radeći na pružanju različitih proizvoda osiguranja života i ulaganja našim članovima i njihovim obiteljima kako bi osigurali njihovu financijsku sigurnost, HBZ nastavlja nuditi članovima prikladne proizvode koji zadovoljavaju njihove individualne potrebe. Bratski poslovni model koji HBZ slijedi, baš kao i druge bratske organizacije povezane s Američkim bratskim savezom, uspio je okupljati ljude kroz društvene, obrazovne i dobrotvorne programe. Djelujući kao kohezivna, obiteljski orijentirana organizacija, Hrvatska bratska zajednica nudi financijsku zaštitu i uključivanje članova na dobrobit svih.

Dok iščekujemo dane proljeća nakon oštre zimske vremenske nepogode, osjeća se pozitivan osjećaj budućeg rasta

naše Zajednice i obnove interakcije među članovima HBZ-a. Za veliku većinu naših članova, korizmno vrijeme sada se pobožno provodi u skladu s načelima naše katoličke vjere i odgoja. To je vrijeme molitve, posta, samodiscipline i razmišljanja. Traženje unutarnje snage u sebi postaje posebno značajno tijekom četrdeset dana Korizme. Žrtve i naponi poduzeti tijekom korizmenog razdoblja jačaju našu vjeru i stvaraju osjećaj mira u našim srcima i umovima. Dok upućujemo svoje molitve dajući najbolje od sebe, svjesni smo da brižna riječ i dobronamjerne radnje mnogo znače u dodirivanju života drugih.

Baš kao što su članovi HBZ-a godinama dočekivali dane Korizme koji vode do Svete sedmice i proslave Uskrsa, nastojmo svaki dan Korizme dočekati s obećanjem sutrašnjice. I, kao uvijek, naša vjera i naše zajedničarstvo će prevladati.

HRVATSKA BRATSKA ZAJEDNICA

Garantira vašu zaštitu. Pruža svojim članovima konkurentne proizvode životnog osiguranja i anuiteta te bratske pogodnosti.

STALNI PLAN OVI 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.

Proizvode Anuiteta/IRA.

BRATSKE POGODNOSTI KOJE NUDI HBZ

- Zaklada za stipendije, Inc.
- Kulturne aktivnosti.
- Sportski programi.
- Besplatne publikacije.

Konzularni dani u Pittsburghu i Clevelandu

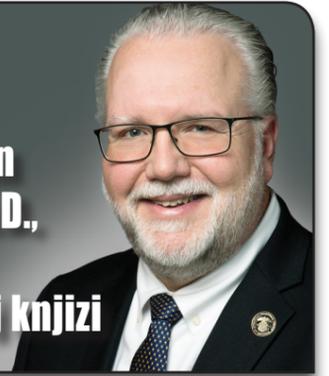
WASHINGTON, DC - Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske iz Washingtona održat će konzularne dane u Pittsburgh-u u prostorijama Hrvatske bratske zajednice, na adresi 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, u vremenu od 10 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (uz prethodni dogovor termina) na sljedeće datume: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

Ugledni forenzički znanstvenik dr. Dragan Primorac, dr. med., Ph.D., posjetio Pittsburgh i govorio o svojoj novoj knjizi



Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

Bilo nam je izuzetno drago susresti se s našim dobrim prijateljem dr. Draganom Primorcem tijekom njegove nedavne posjete Pittsburghu. Dr. Primorac, vođen nepokolebljivom predanošću podizanju standarda znanosti i medicinske skrbi u Hrvatskoj, pokrenuo je stratešku suradnju između Opće bolnice Zabok i Hrvatskog veteranskog doma te UPMC-a u Pittsburghu. Kroz godine predanog rada, ovo partnerstvo rezultiralo je osnivanjem UPMC Centra za rak Hrvatska u Općoj bolnici Zabok i Hrvatskom veteranskom domu u blizini Zagreba. Misija je jednostavna i jasna: osigurati da hrvatski pacijenti oboljeli od raka primaju skrb najviše kvalitete, temeljenu na personaliziranoj i medicini utemeljenoj na dokazima, jednaku onoj u vodećim onkološkim centrima svijeta. Od samog početka, projekt je dobio snažnu podršku od Američke ambasade u Zagrebu, članova Kongresa SAD-a, pa čak i od američkog ministra zdravlja i socijalnih usluga, Xaviera Becerre, koji je osobno posjetio ustanovu—naglašavajući međunarodni značaj ove inicijative. Kako bi ovu viziju pretvorili u stvarnost, UPMC je uložio 25.000.000 USD, što predstavlja jedno od najznačajnijih ulaganja američkog zdravstvenog sektora u Hrvatskoj i postavlja novi standard za onkološke usluge u regiji. Dok smo bili u Pittsburghu, imali smo priliku posjetiti Hrvatsku katoličku crkvu Sv. Nikole u Millvaleu, Pennsylvania, crkva poznatih murala koje je naslikao hrvatski umjetnik Maxo Vanka, te razgovarati o nekim nadolazećim projektima u kojima je aktivno uključen. Raspravljali smo o nekim područjima buduće suradnje između Hrvatske bratske zajednice, UPMC-a i dr. Primorca te se veselimo što ćemo uskoro našim članovima prenijeti pojedine detalje.

Dr. Dragan Primorac je profesor i član fakulteta na Sveučilištu u Pittsburghu, Eberly College of Science na Sveučilištu Pennsylvanije te na Sveučilištu New Haven u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama. Tijekom posljednjih godina svrstavan je među 2% najistaknutijih znanstvenika u svijetu, i po dugogodišnjem i po jednokratnom znanstvenom doprinosu. Također obnaša profesorska zvanja na Medicinskim fakultetima u Splitu, Rijeci i Osijeku u Hrvatskoj. U listopadu 2016. godine imenovan je gostujućim profesorom na College of Medicine and Forensics, Xi'an Jiaotong University u Narodnoj Republici Kini. U ožujku 2021. postao je prvi Europljanin kojem je dodijeljena titula „Professor Emeritus“ na Nacionalnom sveučilištu za forenzičke znanosti Indije.

Kao jedan od pionira u svom području, profesor Dragan Primorac aktivno primjenjuje paradigmu personalizirane medicine - uključujući farmakogenomiku, prediktivno genetsko testiranje i terapije mezenhimskim matičnim stanicama - u rutinskoj kliničkoj praksi. Osnivač je Specijalne bolnice Sv. Katarina u Zagrebu, Europskog centra izvrsnosti i jedine bolnice u Hrvatskoj akreditirane od strane Joint Commission International, prepoznate po najmodernijoj medicinskoj tehnologiji i naprednim pristupima liječenju. U znak priznanja za svoj visoko cijenjeni stručni doprinos, dr. Primorac je odlikovan s tri počasna doktorata te od strane brojnih profesionalnih društava i medicinskih časopisa koji ističu njegova pionirska postignuća u područjima medicine, genetike i forenzike.

Jedno od zanimljivijih i značajnijih područja profesionalne karijere dr. Primorca uključuje pionirski rad na DNA identifikaciji skeletnih ostataka iz masovnih grobnica, koji je dokumentirao zvjerstva iz Domovinskog rata u Hrvatskoj i pružio zatvaranje za obitelji žrtava. Osim toga, ovaj rad doveo je do objavljivanja knjige pod naslovom „Pucanj u Hrvatskoj“. Čestitamo dr. Primorcu na revolucionarnom radu koji je do sada postigao u svojoj profesiji i

(Nastavak na 9. strani)

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik
(Nastavak sa 8. strane)

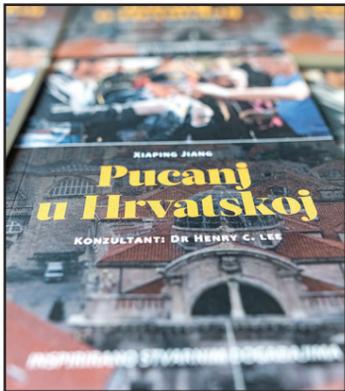
uvjereni smo da njegovi doprinosi medicini i čovječanstvu nisu završeni. Sljedeća recenzija opisuje knjigu koja je napisana u konzultaciji s njegovim kolegom, svjetski poznatim dr. Henryjem C. Leejem, MD, uglednim forenzičkim stručnjakom i osnivačem Instituta za forenzičku znanost Henryja C. Leea.

RECENZIJA:

NAKON PROMOCIJA U KINI I HRVATSKOJ, KNJIGA "PUCANJ U HRVATSKOJ" PUŠTENA JE NA TRŽIŠTE I U SAD-U TE DOŽIVJELA VELIKI USPJEH

Knjiga govori o radu hrvatskih i američkih forenzičara — među kojima su prof. dr. Dragan Primorac i prof. dr. Henry C. Lee — na identifikacijama žrtava masovnih grobnica te donosi autentično svjedočanstvo istine o Domovinskom ratu.

Knjiga "Pucanj u Hrvatskoj" američko-kineske autorice **Xiaping Jiang**, koja govori o radu hrvatskih i američkih forenzičara - među kojima su **prof. dr. Dragan Primorac** i **prof. dr. Henry Lee** - tijekom identifikacija žrtava masovnih grobnica, nakon promocija u Kini, i Hrvatskoj i u SAD-u doživjela veliku popularnost. Knjiga se u SAD-u može nabaviti putem online prodaje preko niza distributera i prodajnih platformi, uključujući Amazon, Better World Books, ThriftBooks, Target, itd.



Djelo je inspirirano stvarnim događajima koje je autorici prenio prof. dr. Henry Lee, vodeći američki forenzičar, koji je tijekom svoje karijere radio na više od 8 000 slučajeva u 50-ak država svijeta, a najpoznatiji među njima su O.J. Simpson, JonBenet Ramsey, rekonstrukciju ubojstva JFK-a, ali i identifikacija žrtava Domovinskog rata u Hrvatskoj. Autorica je pritom uzela autorsku slobodu kombiniranja činjenica i fikcije, a središnju nit knjige čini profesionalno i osobno prijateljstvo Henryja Leeja i Dragana Primorca - njihova suradnja u SAD-u te rad na identifikacijama žrtava Domovinskog rata početkom 1990-ih.

Američko izdanje knjige izazvalo je izniman interes javnosti, dok je kinesko izdanje postalo bestseller prema kojem se već priprema ekranizacija. U Kini je knjiga predstavljena tijekom svečanog otvaranja forenzičkog muzeja posvećenog Henryju Leeju u kineskom gradu Nantongu. Hrvatsko izdanje, objavljeno u suradnji s Večernjim listom, u kratkom je roku u potpunosti rasprodano, a njegova je promocija održana u Knjižnici Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti.

Autorica knjige, **Xiaping Jiang** je istaknula da knjigu doživljava duboko emotivno, te da su je iznimno potresle sudbine nevinih ljudi i da ako su znanstveni izumi (poput DNA tehnologije) u rukama vrhunskih znanstvenika oni se mogu itekako koristiti na dobrobit čovječanstva, prvenstveno zbog utvrđivanja istine.

Xiaping Jiang, duboko proživljava sudbine nestalih i ubijenih, daje snažan naglasak na važnosti znanosti u otkrivanju počinitelja kaznenog djela, no šalje poruku da zlo ne bira žrtve te da u rukama beskrupuloznih ljudi ono doživljava svu silinu, koju ipak na kraju istina i dobro pobjeđuju. Inspirirana bliskim odnosom **Henryja Leeja** i **Dragana Primorca**, autorica opisuje njihovu znanstvenu suradnju, ali njena kreativnost obrađuje i izmišljene likove poput novinarkice Ivanice Vatić, zaručnice Dragana Primorca, koja po svaku cijenu želi svijetu poslati istinu o pokolju civila koja je počinila srpska vojska. Na žalost njeno traganje za istinom rezultiralo je i njenom smrću od onih koji su po svaku cijenu željeli zakočiti izlazak istine na svjetlo dana. Duboko je potresan dio knjige koji opisuje identifikaciju ubijene Ivanice, posebice, jer je među forenzičarima koji su radili na identifikacijama bio i Dragan Primorac. No, nakon opisa brojnih tužnih ljudskih sudbina, autorica ističe da često ne bi noćima mogla zaspati zbog priča koje joj je ispričao njen suprug Henry Lee. No, na kraju autorica se okreće budućnosti, i poseban naglasak stavlja na snagu znanosti u utvrđivanju istine, posebice utvrđivanju identiteta žrtava, no i počinitelja kaznenih djela za koje ističe da se moraju privesti Međunarodnom sudu pravde.

Tijekom promocija knjige Henry Lee je istaknuo da je ranih 90-tih godina u Hrvatsku zajedno s vodećim američkim forenzičarima došao na poziv Dragana Primorca, a pionirski rezultati DNA identifikacija žrtava masovnih grobnica koje su tada napravili da su obilježili novu etapu modernih forenzičkih znanosti.

Sa aspekta znanosti, ova knjiga nije samo još jedno djelo u nizu, već svjedoči istinu o Domovinskom ratu te o povijesnom događaju - prvoj identifikaciji žrtava masovnih grobnica u svijetu gdje je korištena analiza DNA, što je Hrvatsku pozicioniralo među forenzičke velesile. Rezultati hrvatskih forenzičara u suradnji s inozemnim kolegama uvelike su pomogli u nastojanjima da se DNA analiza počne primjenjivati u rutinskoj forenzičkoj praksi. Napredak tada postignut, objavljen je u najuglednijim znanstvenim časopisima poput JAMA-e, Science, The Lancet, ali i drugim tiskovinama poput New York Times-u, The USA Today, Newsweek-u, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, itd.

Posebno značajan je znanstveni članak koji je u suradnji prof.dr. Primorca, Prof.dr. Leeja, Prof.dr. Badena, vodećeg američkog forenzičkog patologa, prof.dr. Anđelinovića, prof.dr. Definis-Gojanović, i drugih objavljen ranih 90-ih u najprestižnijem američkom forenzičkom časopisu Journal of Forensic Sciences, smatra se prvim znanstvenim radom koji svjedoči ključnu ulogu DNA tehnologija u svrhu identifikacija žrtava masovnih grobnica.

Izjave tijekom promocije knjige u Hrvatskoj:

Željko Reiner, potpredsjednik Hrvatskoga sabora: "Suradnja hrvatskih i američkih znanstvenika rezultirala je velikim pomacima uvođenjem novih tehnologija poput DNA analize s ciljem utvrđivanja žrtava masovnih grobnica. Posebno zahvaljujem prof.dr. Leeju koji je iznimno pomogao kako bi se utvrdila istina o Domovinskom ratu."

Henry Lee: „Danas smo se okupili na promociji knjige "Gunshot in Croatia", a koja je inspirirana istinitim događajima koji su pratili naše rezultate zajedničkog rada i suradnje s hrvatskim forenzičarima prof. dr. sc. Draganom Primorcem i prof. dr. sc. Šimunom Anđelinovićem. Govorim o uspješnoj primjeni metode identifikacije skeletnih ostataka iz masovnih grobnica. Ova knjiga, inspirirana stvarnim događajima sa sobom nosi posebnu vrijednost, jer naglasak stavlja na snagu znanosti u utvrđivanju istine, posebice utvrđivanju identiteta žrtava, no i počinitelja kaznenih djela. Kroz naše zajedničke napore, uspjeli smo razviti i implementirati metodu identifikacije skeletnih ostataka iz masovnih grobnica koja je postala standard u forenzičkoj praksi.“

Dragan Primorac: "Du-

PROGRAMI HBZ-A POD POVEĆALOM

Poruka iz ureda izvršnog potpredsjednika
FRANJE BERTOVIĆA

OSIGURANJE NA ROK OD 20 GODINA

Jednoročno životno osiguranje pruža zaštitu osiguraniku na određeno vrijeme. Trenutno HBZ nudi ove planove životnog osiguranja na rok od: 20 godina (god. starosti 24-50), 10 godina (god. starosti 24-50) i Jednoročno osiguranje za mladež (god. starosti 0-25).

U planu Osiguranja na rok od 20 godina premije su nepromjenjivog iznosa kroz vremenski period od dvadeset godina ili do smrti osiguranika. Osigurnina se isplaćuje baštiniku odmah u jednokratnoj isplati i ne podliježe oporezivanju.

Osiguranje se može pretvoriti u bilo koji plan stalnog životnog osiguranja za isti ili niži iznos bez upita o zdravstvenom stanju ali prije isteka vremenskog razdoblja od dvadeset godina. Nakon isteka vremena od dvadeset godina ne može se produžiti. Na koncu dvadesete godine, ako nije napravljen ponudeni odabir osiguranje prestaje i gubi vrijednost.

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

ŽENA PUŠAČ				ŽENA NEPUŠAČ			
God. izdanja	\$25,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000	God. izdanja	\$25,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000
24	1.93	1.33	0.88	24	2.92	1.96	1.83
25	1.95	1.35	0.91	25	2.92	1.96	1.86
26	1.95	1.37	0.92	26	3.00	2.05	1.90
27	1.95	1.39	0.94	27	3.08	2.15	1.95
28	1.95	1.41	0.96	28	3.17	2.26	2.00
29	1.95	1.43	0.98	29	3.26	2.37	2.05
30	1.96	1.45	1.00	30	3.35	2.49	2.10
31	2.09	1.48	1.03	31	3.53	2.62	2.21
32	2.23	1.50	1.06	32	3.71	2.77	2.33
33	2.39	1.53	1.09	33	3.90	2.93	2.45
34	2.55	1.56	1.12	34	4.10	3.09	2.57
35	2.73	1.59	1.15	35	4.30	3.26	2.71
36	2.88	1.66	1.24	36	4.65	3.50	2.92
37	3.04	1.73	1.34	37	5.03	3.75	3.16
38	3.21	1.80	1.44	38	5.44	4.02	3.41
39	3.39	1.88	1.55	39	5.88	4.31	3.68
40	3.57	1.96	1.67	40	6.35	4.62	3.98
41	3.71	2.14	1.78	41	6.78	4.99	4.35
42	3.85	2.34	1.88	42	7.24	5.38	4.76
43	3.99	2.56	2.00	43	7.73	5.79	5.20
44	4.14	2.79	2.12	44	8.25	6.25	5.69
45	4.29	3.05	2.25	45	8.81	6.74	6.22
46	4.52	3.19	2.43	46	9.46	7.28	6.79
47	4.75	3.32	2.64	47	10.16	7.87	7.41
48	5.00	3.46	2.86	48	10.92	8.51	8.09
49	5.25	3.61	3.10	49	11.73	9.21	8.82
50	5.52	3.77	3.35	50	12.61	9.95	9.62

Ako imate bilo koje pitanje(a) o ovoj vrsti životnog osiguranja ili o bilo kojem proizvodu kod HBZ-a slobodno nazovite Glavni ured na tel. 412-843-0380 ili pogledajte web stranice www.cfu.org.

boko sam zahvalan autorici Xiaping Jiang i prof.dr. Henry Leeju na knjizi koja je obilježila dio hrvatske povijesti i snažno svjedoči istinu o Domovinskom ratu. Suradnja hrvatskih i američkih znanstvenika rezultirala je golemim znanstvenim iskoracima u području forenzičke genetike i ponosan sam što su ti pionirski pomaci napravljeni upravo u Hrvatskoj. Znanost je snaga, a naša obveza je da učinimo sve što je u našoj moći kako bi se utvrdio identitet svih onih koji se još uvijek vode kao nestali.

Šimun Anđelinović: Ova knjiga za mene je vrlo emo-

tivna i vraća me u vrlo teške trenutke početka agresije na Hrvatsku. S druge strane, ponosan sam na činjenicu da sam u tim trenucima zajedno s prof.dr. Primorcem pokrenuo Laboratorij za kliničku i sudsku genetiku te započeo s analizom DNA u svrhu identifikacije skeletnih ostataka. Izazova je bilo bezbroj, od nedostataka opreme i uređaja, nedostatka educiranih i obučanih djelatnika za analizu humane DNA, nedostatka znanja itd., no golemim trudom i suradnjom s američkim znanstvenicima postigli smo povijesne rezultate.



Istražite mogućnosti! Učlanite se u HBZ još DANAS! Za potankosti nazovite na 412-843-0380



DEATHS REPORTED

FROM FEBRUARY 3 TO FEBRUARY 16, 2026

1	John Gasparovich	Pittsburgh, PA
1	Carol A. Mertz.....	Pittsburgh, PA
1	George R. Noe	Pittsburgh, PA
2	Henry J. Pinter.....	Benwood, WV
13	Joanne E. Sosnowski	Steelton, PA
13	Nancy A. Spizzirri	Steelton, PA
32	Robert M. Pavich.....	Chicago, IL
32	Frank Wuich, Jr.	Chicago, IL
126	Kevin P. Frankovich.....	Farrell, PA
154	Joan A. Kulesa	E. Chicago, IN
170	Rudolph J. Ramusack.....	Merrillville, IN
194	Douglas P. Pushnack	Monessen, PA
217	James R. Jones.....	Benld, IL
229	Stana J. Bentz	S. Chicago, IL
248	Joan M. Zaar	Clairton, PA
310	Martha D. Bonar	Columbus, OH
351	Dragica Brkljacic	Detroit, MI
354	Barbara A. Stewart	Cokeburg, PA
515	Kresimir Mayer	Toronto, ON, CAN
535	Francis Kern	Midland, PA
540	George H. Dyminski	Conway, PA
567	Adolph Schilinski	Canonsburg, PA
612	Mary A. Headley	San Jose, CA
644	Carol Radocaj	Hamilton, ON, CAN
730	David M. Evans	Tehachapi, CA
930	Frank Boljkovac	Schumacher, ON, CAN
1959	Fr Paul Maslach.....	Greenfield, WI
1983	Dragica Dugorepec.....	Sunnyvale, CA
2000	Xenia Caldarevic.....	Zagreb, HR

Sto godina Hrvatskog radija

PITTSBURGH, PA - Daleke 1926. na 26. ožujka izdana je koncesija članovima „Radio kluba Zagreb“ i ubilježen dan rođenja Hrvatskog radija.

Državne vlasti odobrile su osnivanje i prijedlog pravila dioničarskog društva Radio Zagreb. Međutim, sastanak novoosnovanog društva održan je u svibnju na kojem je izabrana uprava od 13 članova na čelu s predsjednikom Šandorom A. Alesanderom i zamjenikom Vladimirom Stasnijem. Prvi upravni odbor sačinjavali su dr. Ivo Ražem, dr. Ivo Stern, dr Rudolf Rodanić i ing. Dragutin Joachimsthal.

Ove 2026., u svibnju pblježit će se sto godina postojanja i emitiranja Hrvatskog radija i jednog od najstarijih elektroničkih medija u jugoistočnoj Europi.

Početak emitiranja započeo je s hrvatskom himnom i najavom ravnatelja Ive Sterna i spikerice Božane Begović na srednjem valu od 350 m u 8:30 p.m. s Trga sv. Marka. Emitiranja je bilo samo na jednom programu koji se mogao slušati u Zagrebu i sjeverozapadnoj Hrvatskoj. Bio je to početak radijskog dugogodišnjeg i uspješnog puta. Počelo se je s glazbom čuvenih izvođača i vijestima.

Redali su se mnogi važni datumi i uspjesi. Prijenosi uživo počeli su u jesen, 7. studenog prilikom otkrivanja spomenika Josipu Juraj Strossmayeru. Započeli su i prijenosi svetih misa te popodnevna zvonjava s tornja crkve sv. Marka u Zagrebu. Na 4. prosinca 1926. raspisan je javni natječaj za izvorne radio dramske tekstove.

Na svom stogodišnjem putu radio je uz male preinake mijenjao ime i krčio put suvremenosti i cjelodnevnom emitiranju. Veće programske rekonstrukcije provedene su 1964. pa se od tada redovito emitira 1., 2., i 3. program.

Danas je Hrvatski radio dostupan diljem svijeta sa suvremenim distribucijskim kanalima. Nalazi se pod krovnom medijskom kućom Hrvatske Radio Televizije (HRT).

Kroz mrežu regionalnih radio postaja - Sljeme, Osijek, Pula, Rijeka, Knin, Zadar, Split i Dubrovnik slušatelji se informiraju o nacionalnim, područnim i lokalnim zbivanjima, posebnostima i događanjima.

Mnogi slijede i slušaju radio emisije, prate i gledaju sportske, kulturne i društvene priredbe te gledaju sva ta događanja na televizijskim ekranima. Posebno u naše domove dolazi zbir vijesti tijekom dana kroz Dnevnik HRT koji se emitira u večernjim satima.

Međunarodni program, Glas Hrvatske emitira se putem interneta i velika je poveznica Hrvata u domovini i svijetu. Vijesti i druge sadržajne emisije donose se na hrvatskom, engleskom, španjolskom i njemačkom jeziku.

Naš život u dijaspori, diljem svih sedam kontinenata, bio bi daleko oskudniji da nemamo ovako veliku i razgranatu mrežu Hrvatskog radija i televizije, i njihovih programa.

U ime članova i Izvršnih odbornika HBZ-a - nacionalnog predsjednika Edwarda W. Pazo, nacionalne tajnice/blagajnice Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras i svoje osobno - upućujemo iskrene čestitke i najbolje želje za uspješan nastavak rada Hrvatskog radija i Hrvatske radio televizije.

Franjo Bertović/izvršni potpredsjednik

Veliki jubilej Hrvatske...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

osnutka, istaknuvši doprinos generacija njezinih djelatnika koji su, često u složenim političkim okolnostima, djelovali kao tihi hrvatski patrioti i čuvari nacionalnog zajedništva.

Ravnatelj Hrvatske matice iseljenika, mr. sc. Zdeslav Milas, u svom je govoru posebno naglasio suvremenu ulogu Matice kao institucije koja povezuje ljude, iskustva i identitet kroz generacije. „Naša je zadaća biti trajni most između domovinske i iseljene Hrvatske, čuvati hrvatski jezik, kulturu i osjećaj pripadnosti jedinstvenom narodu, osobito među mladima, jer upravo oni predstavljaju jamstvo budućnosti hrvatskoga identiteta u svijetu“, poručio je Milas.

Izlaganje o bogatoj i slojevitoj povijesti Matice održao je dr. sc. Ivan Tepeš iz Instituta za istraživanje migracija, osvrnuvši se na razdoblje od 1951. godine do danas. Istaknuo je kako je institucija kroz različita društveno-politička razdoblja ostala trajna kulturna i identitetska poveznica hrvatskog naroda izvan granica Republike Hrvatske.

Od osnutka kao kulturno-prosvjetnog društva, Matica je razvila niz prepoznatljivih programa - od škola hrvatskog jezika i folklor, preko kulturnih manifestacija i suradnje s hrvatskim zajednicama u svijetu, do snažne izdavačke djelatnosti i digitalne prisutnosti prilagođene novim generacijama.

U sklopu Svečane akademije održana je i promocija novog Matičina ljetopisa Hrvatskoga iseljeničkog zbornika čija je urednica voditeljica Odjela za nakladništvo HMI-ja, mr. sc. Vesna Kukavica. Zbornik radova kojeg su predstavili prof. dr. sc. Marina Perić Kaselj, ravnateljica Instituta za istraživanje migracija i dr. sc. Ivan Hrštić, znanstveni savjetnik Instituta društvenih znanosti Ivo Pilar. Zbornik donosi 29 raznorodnih bogato ilustriranih autorskih priloga iseljeničke tem-

PRIZORI SA SVEČANE AKADEMIJE u prigodi 75. obljetnice utemeljenja Hrvatske matice iseljenika, Zagreb, 12. veljače 2026.

atike. Posrijedi je popularno znanstveno ukoričeno djelo u kojem je skupina odabranih kroatista, etnologa te povjesničara umjetnosti, jezikoslovca, povjesničara iseljeničtva i sociologa obradila odabrano stvaralaštvo Hrvata izvan Republike Hrvatske kroz prošlost i sadašnjost, uključujući recentne interkulturalne manifestacije u kojima sudjeluju ljudi hrvatskih korijena u 25 zemalja svijeta. Građa ovogodišnjeg Matičina ljetopisa, raspoređena

na 404 stranice.

Oblježavanje 75. obljetnice još je jednom potvrdilo da Hrvatska matica iseljenika ostaje trajno mjesto susreta, suradnje i zajedništva, s jasnom vizijom budućnosti: povezivati hrvatski narod bez obzira na granice, njegovati kulturnu baštinu te pružati potporu Hrvatima diljem svijeta u očuvanju njihove povezanosti s domovinom.

Tekst: HMI Foto: Jurica Galoić, HMI, ustupljene fotografije



BIVŠI RAVNATELJI: Marin Knezović, Mirjana Piskulić, sadašnji ravnatelj Zdeslav Milas, kulturna djelatnica i novinarka Vesna Kukavica, Nikola Jelinčić, Ante Beljo i Mijo Marić.



S DESNA: RAVNATELJ HRVATSKE MATICE ISELJENIKA mr. sc. Zdeslav Milas; izaslanica predsjednika Hrvatskoga sabora Gordana Jandrokovića, saborska zastupnica mr. sc. Zdravka Bušić (predsjednica Odbora za Hrvate izvan RH Hrvatskoga Sabora); izaslanik predsjednika Vlade RH Andreja Plenkovića ministar vanjskih i europskih poslova dr. sc. Gordan Grlić Radman, rektor Sveučilišta u Zagrebu prof. dr. sc. Stjepan Lakušić, zamjenica ravnatelja HMI Ivana Rora; Predsjednika Savjeta Vlade Republike Hrvatske za Hrvate izvan domovine Ivan Gugan (u drugom redu), dr. sc. Vesna Bedeković, saborska zastupnica i predsjednica Odbora za obrazovanje, kulturu i znanosti Hrvatskog sabora.



VISOKI UZVANICI. Na svečanosti je sudjelovalo 250 uzvanika.



Službeno glasilo HBZ

Zajedničar je dostupan samo članovima HBZ a po želji može se primati u elektroničkom formatu preko računara:
e.zajednicar@cfu.org

Zaklada Catherine Parač...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

voljene rođake i druge drage članove obitelji i prijatelje kako ovdje u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama, tako i u Hrvatskoj.

Catherine također ostavlja snažno nasljeđe obrazovnih prilika za brojne mlade studente koji će imati koristi od njezinog predviđanja i filantropije. Ono što je stekla kroz život proveden s voljenom obitelji i obiljem

prijateljstava, a što je dodatno obogaćeno njezinom vjerom, bratstvom, kulturnim cijenjenjem, obrazovanjem i životnim iskustvima, postalo je dar kojeg dijeli s onima koji slijede njezine bratske korake.

Među mnogim načinima na koje će Catherine Parač zauvijek biti zapamćena je i kroz nove putove otkrića i rasta koje će stvoriti oni koji će imati koristi od njezine bratske ostavštine. Svojom odlukom uspostavila je trajno nasljeđe u Skolarinskoj zakladi HBZ za što smo joj svi neizmjerljivo zahvalni.

Šibensko-kninska županija

Prema najnovijim podacima Državnog zavoda za statistiku, Šibensko-kninska županija službeno je najstarija hrvatska županija što se tiče udjela stanovništva starijeg od 65 godina. Udio starijih od 65 godina dosegao je visokih 28,5 posto, pa je postala predvodnik nacionalnog trenda starenja, ostavljajući iza sebe tradicionalno demografski ugrožene županije Ličko-senjsku i Karlovačku.

Osim toga, županija je u posljednjih deset godina izgubila više od desetine stanovništva, što se izravno reflektira na tržište rada, zdravlje i socijalnu skrb te zdravstveni sustav i domove za starije. Poseban je problem što u Šibensko-kninskoj županiji radno sposobno stanovništvo nestaje - ili odlazi u mirovinu ili se iseljava, dok nove generacije ne popunjavaju prazninu, što stvara vakuum na tržištu rada.

Slobodna Dalmacija

Jeste li znali koji je najduži most u Hrvatskoj?

Nakon što je krajem srpnja 2022. godine svečano otvoren i pušten u promet, Pelješki most povezo je južni dio Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije s ostatkom zemlje. Njegovu gradnju cijela Hrvatska je pratila s divljenjem i velikim iščekivanjem, uzvikivalo se je kako jug i sjever više nikada neće biti razdvojeni, ponajprije granicom u Neumu koja je frustrirala brojne stanovnike u ljetnim mjesecima zbog prevelikih gužvi. Svi su tog dana bili ponosni i odmah je bilo jasno kako smo dobili prekrasno arhitektonsko zdanje o kojem su uskoro pisali gotovo svi svjetski mediji. No, jeste li znali da to nije najduži most u Hrvatskoj?

MOST 3. GARDIJSKE BRIGADE "KUNE" NADMAŠUJE PELJEŠKI MOST ZA 81 METAR

Iako je Pelješki most bio jedan od najskupljih i najvećih infrastrukturnih projekata u povijesti Hrvatske, s impresivnom duljinom od 2.404 metara, ipak nije zasjao kao najduži most u zemlji. Most koji se proteže preko rijeke Drave kod Petrijevaca, nedaleko od Osijeka, nadmašuje Pelješki most za 81 metar, što ga čini najdužim mostom u Hrvatskoj.

Most 3. gardijske brigade "Kune", kao dio međunarodnog

koridora 5C, bio je pušten u promet 2022. godine. Nekoliko godina je izazivao podsmijeh u javnosti jer je bio dovršen 2016. godine, ali je vodio doslovno "u polje". No, ta situacija se promijenila 2022. godine kada je otvorena dionica autoceste koja je povezala Osijek i Beli Manastir.

VAŽNA TOČKA U MREŽI MEĐUNARODNIH PRAVACA

Most je sastavljen od dva pristupna pilona, slavonskog te baranjskog, koji se izdižu 75 metara u visinu. Glavni je raspon preko Drave dugačak 420 metara, a ovisen je o pilone čeličnim zategama, po kojima je most i poseban.

Sklop preko korita rijeke ima središnji raspon od 220 metara kako bi se ispunili uvjeti plovidbe, odnosno osigurao plovni put širine 50 metara, a visine je 5,25 metara iznad visokog vodostaja Drave.

Most je projektirao Institut IGH, a nalazi se na autocesti A5, u mreži međunarodnih pravaca na koridoru Vc, koji spaja Mađarsku (Budimpeštu), s istočnom Hrvatskom (Osijek), Bosnu i Hercegovinu (Sarajevo, Mostar) s lukom Ploče na jugu Hrvatske te čini važnu točku u mreži međunarodnih pravaca.

Piše: **Putni Kofer**

Pozor

Molimo cijenjene dopisnike da nam sva štiva i obavijesti za uvrštenje u **Zajedničar** šalju na e-mail adresu editor@cfu.org Unaprijed zahvaljujemo!
Uredništvo!

Što znači kada je donji tlak stalno nizak, a gornji visok

Divergentni krvni tlak može biti znak skrivenih zdravstvenih problema i zahtijeva pažnju.

Pitanje: *Moj krvni tlak, kada je povišen, ima gornje vrijednosti iznad 160 mmHg, dok donji (srčani) tlak nikada nije viši od 80 mmHg, a puls je uvijek između 50 i 60 otkucaja u minuti. Kada je gornji tlak u rasponu od 130 do 135 mmHg, donji tlak iznosi između 55 i 60 mmHg. Je li u redu da je donji tlak uvijek niži, odnosno koja je donja granica donjeg tlaka?* **Odgovara dr. Damir Petrušić, internist, Zagreb.**

U pravilu porast sistoličkog krvnog tlaka (gornje vrijednosti) prati i porast dijastoličkog krvnog tlaka (donje vrijednosti). Ipak, u nekim slučajevima jedna vrijednost ne prati drugu, pa sistolički tlak može biti povišen, dok je dijastolički snižen. Takvo stanje naziva se divergentni krvni tlak.

Najizraženiji primjer divergentnog krvnog tlaka je hipertireoza (pojačana funkcija štitnjače), kod koje srce pod utjecajem povišene razine hormona štitnjače izbacuje veći volumen krvi u krvne žile, što rezultira visokim sistoličkim tlakom.

Istodobno, zbog izražene dilatacije krvnih žila pod djelovanjem istih hormona dolazi do snižavanja dijastoličkog krvnog tlaka. Arterijska hipotenzija je stanje sniženog krvnog tlaka koje je praćeno tegobama. U tom stanju sistolički tlak najčešće iznosi ispod 100 mmHg, a dijastolički ispod 60 mmHg.

Donja granica arterijskog tlaka, mjerena automatskim 24-satnim mjerama kod mlađe ženske osobe tijekom dana iznosila je 90/60 mmHg, dok se tijekom noći spuštala na 84/49 mmHg.



**PROGRAMI
USLUGA**

ZAŠTO ODABRATI HBZ?

Sada u svojih 130 godina Hrvatska bratska zajednica (HBZ) je pronalazila rješenja za financijske potrebe svojih članova. Počevši od skrbi o osnovnim potrebama i društvenim zbrinjavanjima do trenutno modernim programima o životnom osiguranju i štednim ulaganjima. HBZ nastavlja sa pružanjem bezbrižnosti o financijskom stanju svojih članova kao i sa stvaranjem prilika za učešće u raznim fraternalističkim aktivnostima.

Kupnjom životnog osiguranja ili ulogom u mirovinske fondove kod HBZ, osoba postaje članom i otvara si pristup brojnim povlasticama i aktivnostima Zajednice: područnim, regionalnim i nacionalnim. Ovi programi su namijenjeni čuvanju i promicanju hrvatske kulturne baštine i pučkih običaja, humanitarnih potpora, podupiranju više školske nabrazbe, rodoljubnih i građanskih poduhvata, i drugih bratskih djelatnosti radi međusobnih pomaganja i pomoći zajednicama u kojima živimo.

PREDNOSTI HBZ-a

- HBZ nudi kompletan paket kvalitetnih usluga kroz pristupačne programe da biste ostvarili svoje financijske ciljeve.
- HBZ neprekidno pokazuje čvrstu financijsku stabilnost kroz odgovorno i oprezno vodstvo s provjerenim iskustvom u gospodarenju s imovinom.
- Zarade se članovima vraćaju kroz dividende i kroz imovinu niza fraternalističkih programa.
- Pristojbe su pristupačne i daleko niže u usporedbi sa komercijalnim osiguravajućim poduzećima.
- HBZ nema vlasnika burzovnih papira - u vlasništvu je i upravlja njima na korist svojih članova i njihovih obitelji.
- Članovi dobivaju usluge brzo i ljubavno, i to bez bilo kakvih naplata.
- HBZ je jedina hrvatska fraternalistička ustanova u sjevernoj Americi i najveća je hrvatska organizacija izvan domovine Hrvatske.

Pozivamo vas da iskoristite sve ove prednosti koje vam pruža HBZ! Više informacija može se dobiti na telefon 412-843-0380 ili web stranici mbrsrv@cfu.org

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE WAYNE P. VLASIC

was recently sworn in for another term on the bench.

Magisterial District Judge Vlasic is shown here being sworn in at the Westmoreland County Courthouse by retired Magisterial District Judge Joseph A. Dalfonso. Also shown is Judge Vlasic's wife, Kathy, holding the bible. Judge Vlasic is a member of the CFU National Board of Trustees, a member of the CFU Four County Lodges Board of Trustees and President of CFU Lodge 194 in Monessen, PA.



Croatian Radio Programs

◆ **MCKEESPORT, PA** – The Voice of the CFU sponsored by the United CFU Lodges of Western, PA, Saturday at 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on WEDO 810 AM and 93.3 FM. Bernice Yanzetich – Program Director/Announcer.

◆ **PITTSBURGH, PA** - Croatian Program, sponsored by the United CFU Lodges of Four Counties, heard every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on WEDO 810 AM and 93.3 FM.

Please like and follow our new Facebook page by searching CFU 4 County Lodges of Western PA on Facebook. Ivan Begg – Program Director/Announcer.

◆ **YOUNGSTOWN, OH** – Voice of the CFU Radio Program, sponsored by the Greater Mahoning and Shenango Valley CFU Lodges, every Sunday at 10 a.m. over WRQX 600 AM. Timothy Komara – Program Director/ Announcer.

◆ **FAIRBANKS, AK** - All Slavs Considered Radio Program is on KSUA 91.5 FM in Fairbanks, every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Kelsey Aho – Program Director/Announcer.

◆ **MILWAUKEE, WI** - American-Croatian Radio Club, broadcast and streamed on the internet every Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time on WJYI Joy 1340 AM. Program Announcers are Karlo Milling and Sanja Jankovic.

◆ **SEATTLE, WA** – Balkan Radio Program - every Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. PST on KBCS 91.3 FM and KBCS.FM. Hosts are Vincent and Dominic Jovanovich, Here is the link to the program - <https://www.kbcs.fm/programs/balkana/>

◆ **TORONTO, ON** – Radio Program Hrvatsko Srce, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on 530 AM. Vlado Miljan – Program Director/Announcer.

◆ **CALGARY, ALBERTA** – Croatian Program, CJSW-FM on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. with host Josip Skrtic.

If you know of any other Croatian radio programs, please let us know so they can be added to this list of programs. Send your information to editor@cfu.org.

Editors

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H2O TAMBURITZANS enjoying their first lesson.



Jumping into 2026 with Hrvatski Običaj

KANSAS CITY, KS - Our Christmas party on December 13, 2025 was entertaining.

Hrvatski Običaj is entering its 19th year. Hard to believe from where we started on back in 2007. We have had such a journey and have experienced many things along the way.

We never saw the opportunity to start a youth group. Then a few months ago, there was some chatter for a new adult group. I mean "really new" as many have never picked up a tambura. Others can play instruments and are willing to try the tambura. One might say we did our desire for fun as Hrvatski Običaj as we inspired this next group of interested individuals to continue the preservation of the music.

The initial meeting led by Sarah Soptic of Hrvatski Običaj was held on January 11, 2026. We had 28 people who expressed interest. Phil Ashley who is well versed in music theory and all of the tambura instruments, as well as many others, attended as well. He was impressed with the interest level and the journey has started. They are calling themselves H2O. Ultimately, as they learn, we hope to merge them into the existing Hrvatski Običaj group also known as HO.

A small committee, consisting of the original Hrvatski Običaj and leaders of H2O, Ella and Mia Tomasic, was formed to work on next steps. Phil had great ideas for a fee structure and how lessons will work. Then the biggest challenge was securing instruments. We started reaching out to those we knew might have instruments to lend or rent or whatever each person might feel comfortable doing. By the 18th of January, we had some willing to loan and share, but we were still short. God blessed us with 23 instruments.

It is a long story but through Bob Pinter and family from Sugar Creek, they wanted to donate the instruments to the cause. They had been sitting unused in his basement and he insisted he wanted nothing for them. Sarah



TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHILDREN having some fun with the Christmas carols and hanging with Santa. They joined in on some kolos as well.



and her husband went to pick them up and bring them home to our hall.

New strings were ordered. The 1st of February was slated to string all of the instruments.

During this time, all of the new interested individuals took a polaroid photo with the instrument and wrote a thank you note to give to the Pinter family. The first lesson was held February 8th, under the instruction of Phil Ashley. Much work lies ahead and where it all shakes out time will tell, but we are truly excited to share by preserving the culture. Many of these members were inspired by watching us and have decided to pick up the tambura to learn. In the short term, we hope to incorporate them into possibly some choreographed dancing or vocal/choral numbers.

For now, we have twenty-five interested young adults. As I have stated many times, don't forget Kansas City--you never know what is going on in the center of the country!

Kristina Mikesic/Lodge 35

There's Much To Do With 32

CHICAGO, IL - 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 served 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!

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 Ave., 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!

Immediately following our Lodge Meeting, the SAC will be meeting at the Rubinic Clubhouse where lunch will be served!

Friday, March 13: OMG! It's Friday the 13th! Some look at it as being unlucky, but we look at it as being a Lucky Two-Fold Day. First, the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club's Fish Fry, served every Friday through April from 4-7 p.m. And second, 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!

Tuesday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day! St. Patrick's Day celebrations have been embraced with open arms by the non-Irish and has become known as Dia de la Cerveza or "Beer Day".

Thursday, March 19: St. Joseph's Day! St. Joseph is the patron saint of Sicily, who is believed to have ended a severe drought in the Middle Ages through his intercession. In gratitude, Sicilians began the custom of wearing red on this day, similar to wearing green on St. Patrick's Day.

Friday, March 20: Welcome, Spring Equinox! Celebrated in many cultures, it is a time of joyous gatherings, feasting and outdoor activities to welcome the warmer weather and longer days. Alleluia!

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

Sunday, March 22: The Tamburitzans present "The Shared Song" uniting cultures through Music & Dance at Munster High School, 8808 Columbia Ave., Munster, IN, at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 412.224.2077. You won't want to miss this exciting performance of talented young people displaying their love of music and dance. The best part--2 local college students will be performing, Sarah Pruzin from Munster and Roman Vucinic from the Chicagoland area, both following in

the footsteps of their fathers.

Sunday, March 29: It's Palm Sunday. The Sunday before Easter is when the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is celebrated in many Christian churches by processions in which palm fronds are carried.

Sunday, April 5: It's Easter Sunday! Or Resurrection Sunday, the most significant Christian holy day, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the

dead three days after his crucifixion. Happy Easter everyone!

Sunday, April 12: It's Orthodox Easter! Christos Anesti!!!

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right thing and doing it all for love." - St. Thérèse, the Little Flower

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

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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-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 Tamburitzans" 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

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How to Email Your Materials to the "Z"

PITTSBURGH, PA - If you 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 incompatibility of some systems, photos will be considered on a case-by-case basis and we may ask that you send hard copies.

Editors

Detroit Croatian Community Remembers Mickey Lolich

DETROIT, MI – The Detroit Croatian Community mourns the passing of baseball great, Mickey Lolich. News of his passing was provided by Richard Lolich of CFU Lodge 130, Portland, OR.

Mickey Lolich, the hero of the 1968 World Series, died February 4, 2026, at the age of 85. His death, in an assisted living facility, was confirmed by his wife, Joyce Lolich.

Pitching in the major leagues for 16 seasons, mostly with the Detroit Tigers, Lolich won 217 games and struck out 2,832 batters, posting more than 200 strikeouts in a single season seven times. He hardly evoked the ideal athletic frame: He was 6-foot-1 and about 220 pounds, by his own account. But his durable left arm was of far more consequence than his paunch.

In the 1968 World Series, Lolich pitched the Tigers to an 8-1 victory in Game 2 of the Series and hit the only home run of his career, a drive down the left-field line off the St. Louis Cardinal starter, Nelson Briles. The Tigers lost the next two games at home and were facing elimination when Lolich took the mound again, once more against Briles, but this time at Tiger Stadium. Lolich yielded three runs in the first inning, but the Tigers managed to rally for a 5-3 victory.

They won again in Game 6, in St. Louis. Lolich was called on yet again for Game 7, when he faced Bob Gibson.

With the game scoreless in the seventh inning, the Tiger outfielder Jim Northrup connected on a liner over the head of Curt Flood, the Cardinals' center fielder, for a two-run, two-out triple. Detroit went on to a 4-1 victory, giving the Tigers their first World Series championship since they defeated the Chicago Cubs in seven games in 1945. Lolich was named the MVP of the Series.

Michael Stephen Lolich was born on Sept. 12, 1940, in Portland, Ore., to Steve and Margarite (Greblo) Lolich. His father worked for the city's parks department. Mickey Lolich was the grandson of Mijo and Luca Lolich, who immigrated to the United States from what was then Austria-Hungary, and now Croatia in the early 1900s. They settled in Portland and had three sons. One of their sons, Steve, was Mickey's father. They were members of CFU Lodge 130. Lolich grew up in Northwest Portland, also known as Slabtown. That neighborhood also produced another Croatian-American giant of baseball - Johnny Paveskovich (Pesky), of the Boston Red Sox. In addition, two of Mickey's cousins also played for the major leagues: Frank Lolich for the New York Mets minor league system, and Ron Lolich for the Chicago White Sox and the then Cleveland Indians.

When he was 10, Lolich's father "volunteered me to play right field to fill out a game with kids 13 to 15, and the pitcher was getting bombed," Lolich told The New York Times in December 1975, soon after the Tigers traded him to the Mets.

"I told somebody, 'I could do as good as that,'" he added, "and the coach overheard me and put me out there to shut me up. Except that I blew the ball right by them. That's when I knew I had a good arm."

Lolich was signed by the Tigers to pitch in their minor league system in 1958, having been a star for his high school team. In 1962, when the Tigers lent him to the Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast League, he was tutored by Gerry Staley, the team's pitching coach and a longtime major league pitcher. Lolich debuted for the Tigers in 1963 and established himself as a frontline starter in 1964 when he won 18 games and lost 9. In the summer of 1967, Detroit was rocked by one of the worst urban riots of the decade. Lolich, a sergeant in the Michigan Air National Guard, missed about two weeks of the season when the Guard was activated to help restore order.

He was dealt to the New York Mets after the 1975 season in a multiplayer deal that brought Rusty Staub to Detroit. He was 8-13 with the Mets in 1976 and briefly retired after that season, but he returned to pitch for the San Diego Padres in 1978 and 1979.

He finished his career with a record of 217-191 and was a three-time All-Star.

In 2023, Lolich was in the first class of Croatian-American athletes inducted into the Croatian Sports Hall of Fame.

Lolich is survived by his wife, Joyce; three daughters, Kimberly Stout, Stacy Lolich-Ellenbrook and Jody Lolich; and three grandchildren, Michael and Justin Gides, and Ryan and Danny Stout.



**Mickey Lolich
(1940-2026)**

Lodge 235 March Meeting Notice

CLEVELAND, OH - CFU Lodge 235 will have their next regular meeting on Sunday, March 15, at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held in the library of the Croatian Home in Eastlake. If the front doors are locked, use the side door by the meeting rooms.

We will discuss our agenda plans for 2026 and your input would be most appreciated. Please support our lodge by attending our monthly meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

Agatha Luketic
Secretary/Treasurer

Lodge 170 March Meeting

MERRILLVILLE IN - Attention Lodge 170 Members. Please join us for our next meeting on Sunday, March 15, at 11:30 a.m. Meetings take place at 8550 Taft St., Merrillville IN. Use north doors.

Future meeting dates are, April 19; May 17; July 19; Aug. 16; Sept. 20; Oct. 15; Dec. 20.

Please note: No meeting in June due to Father's Day.

Cindy Mayer
Recording Secretary

CFU

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Detroit Stars Celebrate Spring

DETROIT, MI - The Detroit Stars Parents group warmly invites the greater Detroit Croatian community, all Detroit Star alumni, and anyone who supports culture, to join us in celebrating the First Day of Spring with the Detroit Star Junior Tamburitzans. The Stars will celebrate their Spring Concert on Saturday March 21, at our beautiful St. Lucy's Croatian Catholic Church Hall in Troy, MI.

The Spring season of new growth and renewal symbolizes a meaningful moment to witness the creative progress of our young Detroit Stars. This event will highlight the dedication and effort these performers have devoted over the past seven months, featuring songs, instrumental pieces and dances that celebrate Croatian heritage.

Since September, the children, between the ages of 6 and 14, have gathered each week to learn and get ready for this yearly event. The commitment that the kids have made to honor their heritage, amidst their busy and competing extra-curricular and athletic schedules, is something we cannot take for granted as a community. The preservation of culture by our youth is vital to the continuity of the Detroit Croatian community and your support will encourage the children to continue in their cultural perpetuation.

The group is presently guided in musical, vocal, dance, and artistic direction by Sonya Sestili, who has assisted the children in preparing an authentic and expressive repertoire for this year's concert.

The Stars are thrilled to welcome a special guest group from nearby Windsor, ON, Canada to add to the performance. Klapa Kartolina is an cappella ensemble dedicated to promoting klapa singing—the traditional Dalmatian vocal heritage recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Founded in 2013 in Windsor, Ontario, at the Croatian Catholic Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, the group has performed throughout Canada, the United States, and Croatia, including three appearances at the prestigious Festival of Dalmatian Klapa in Omiš. The ensemble is led by Artistic Director and first soprano Prof. Višnja Tijardović, an opera singer and graduate of the Academy of Music in Zagreb and the University of Windsor.

The Detroit area is very fortunate to have such a talented and devoted group of Klapa artists right across the river in Canada, and their performance is sure to add an element of elegance to our event. Our audience in Detroit, who have a great appreciation for music, will undoubtedly enjoy their performance.

Following the program, the Stars parents have planned a very festive party to commence immediately! We will kick things off with a delicious home-cooked dinner prepared by the talented St. Lucy's Croatian catering crew, who always manage to create a meal not to be missed. The bar will be flowing with plenty of drinks for purchase.

For dinner, dancing and entertainment throughout the evening, we are blessed to have entertainment by Jasenko Ivanetić & Tamburaši. If you attended the Stars' Čevapi dinner last year, you would remember the beautiful sounds that kept dance floor filled. We plan to repeat that level of musicianship for our spring concert.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. for cocktail hour. The program will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner and dancing immediately following. Please note that there will be **NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR** for this event. Concert/Dinner Dance package tickets are available for advance purchase via check or Venmo as detailed below. Please contact Kelly Aluia at 586-703-5584 if you need help in reserving tickets or visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddfca73>.

Make it an evening of culture, fun and a delicious meal, and come out for a celebration of these talented and dedicated performers from both Detroit and Windsor! Without our youth, we have no future!

- Doors Open/Cocktail Hour: 5 pm
- Concert Begins: 6 pm
- Dinner & Music for Dancing: Immediately following concert.
- Pricing: Concert/Dinner-Dance Admission -\$45, Adults; \$10, Kids 6-12; Children 5 and Under, FREE.

Payment Options: Venmo: @Lauren-Osantowski (Last 4 digits 8034) or Check, payable to "CFU Lodge 351 Parents Club" and mailed to Lauren Osantowski, 2469 Weathervane, West Bloomfield, MI 48324.

Sonya Sestili/Lodge 351

Hoosier Hrvati To Host Spring Concert in April

MERRILLVILLE, IN – We are pleased to announce that the Hoosier Hrvati Tamburitza Orchestra will present their Spring Concert on Saturday, April 25, at the CFU Lodge 170 Croatian Home, 8550 Taft St., Merrillville, IN 46410.

Doors open at 3 p.m. and the concert begins at 4 p.m. A dinner and dance will follow the concert.

In addition to our Hoosier Hrvati ensemble, the event will feature three outstanding special guests: Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra (DTO), Hrvatski Običaj Tamburaši of Kansas City and Prijatelji Orchestra of Chicago.

Tickets are available at \$50 plus applicable fees. For tickets, go to Tix.com (click on "Buy Tickets" and enter Hoosier Hrvati).

For more information, please call 219-649-1722 or email Hoosierhrvati@gmail.com.

Sally Kegley/Lodge 170

★ 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

COOKING Corner

Crepes (Palaćinke)

4 large eggs, separated
1/4 c. sugar
1 1/2 c. milk
1 stick butter, melted
1 1/2 c. flour
1/4 tsp. baking powder

Whip egg whites and set aside in fridge. In large bowl beat yolks, sugar, milk and cooled butter. Slowly add flour and baking powder. Last fold in egg whites. If batter is a little thick, just add a Tbsp. of milk. Brush butter on 8" frying pan. Add 1/4 cup of batter and tilt pan as you would for pancakes. Cook as you would for pancakes. If they stick brush butter again - (I only butter pan one time).

Cheese Filling for Palaćinke

1 - 8 oz. cream cheese
1/2 c. sugar
2 eggs (1 yolk - 1 whole egg)
1/2 stick butter, melted and cooled
1 tsp. vanilla
16 oz. lg. curd cottage cheese (2%)
7.5 oz. farmers cheese

Beat 8 oz. cream cheese - then add sugar, eggs, butter and vanilla. Drain cottage cheese if watery. Add both cheeses by hand. Mix well. Put heaping Tbsp. down center of crepe and fold over - both ends will be opened. Put in buttered pan and spread with apricot jam. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Potato Soup (Juha od Krumpira)

2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. chopped onion
2 1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. flour
1 Tbsp. chopped parsley
1/2 c. chopped celery
2 c. diced potatoes
2 c. water
3 c. milk

Heat butter in 1-quart saucepan, until lightly browned. Add onions and fry slowly until yellow and tender. Then add salt, pepper and flour. Blend well.

Add parsley, celery, potatoes and water. Mix thoroughly, cover, place over high heat (about 3 to 5 minutes). Reduce to low and cook 15 minutes until potatoes are tender. Add milk. Heat thoroughly. Serves 6.

Spinach Casserole

1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach (thaw and drain) or 8 oz bag of fresh spinach, chopped
6 large eggs, beaten
1 pint creamed cottage cheese
1/2 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated
5 Tbsp. flour
1/2 stick butter or margarine, melted
1 large onion, grated
2 green onions, chopped, with tops included

Mix all ingredients together and place in a buttered casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

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.

Rankin Annual Indoor Picnic

RANKIN, PA - Saturday, March 7, is the date of Rankin Croatian Home's annual Indoor Picnic! We have many activities planned for the entire day for the whole family to enjoy with music, dancing and entertainment throughout the club for the duration of the day.

The doors of the club, located at 236 4th Avenue, corner of 4th and Antisburry, will open at 2 p.m., with the kitchen stocked with all of your traditional picnic foods.

We will have plenty of musical entertainment for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Our line-up on the main floor, beginning at about 3 p.m., will include Rankin Junior Tamburitians and adult groups Penn-Sembles, Veseljaci, Od Srca, Ljeljo, Slavjane, Sacred Heart, and St. George. (Program schedule to be announced that day.)

We will close out the day with Zadnja Stanica from Steelton as our featured group in the bar level.

Featured in the Rankin kitchen will be all of your favorite ethnic picnic items and, to round out your dinner plate, you can satisfy your sweet tooth by stopping at the bake sale. As usual, the bar will be stocked with a variety of liquid refreshments that will quench your thirst.

Mark your calendars to join us in Rankin for a day filled with music, dancing, friends and fun on Saturday, March 7! Dobro Došli!

Dawn Whalen/Lodge 141

LENTEN FISH FRIES

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 Tamburitians and the Sv. Lovro Junior Tamburitians.

Starting at 7 p.m. each Friday, you can enjoy listening to some of your favorite local bands! 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

Youngstown Club Serves Lenten Dinners

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - The St. George Croatian Club of Youngstown, Ohio invites you to come out on 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 apple-sauce, 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

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BREAKFAST MEETINGS • LUNCHEONS

BAKE SALES • SPECIAL DINNERS • CULINARY DELIGHTS

CFU Lodge 170 Easter Bake Sale

MERRILLVILLE, IN - The Croatian Sons Lodge 170 of Merrillville, IN will be selling apple and cheese strudels and nut rolls for the Easter Holiday.

The strudels and nut rolls are frozen for \$18 each. You will be provided with cooking instructions for the strudels.

Please call 219-765-3835 to place your orders. Orders are due by March 20th.

Order pick up will be from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 28th, at the Croatian Center, 8550 Taft St., Merrillville, IN.

Thank you for your support.

Kathy O'Neill/Vice President

Easter Strudel Sale in Farrell

FARRELL, PA - Our brothers and sisters at Farrell Lodge 126 are preparing delicious frozen strudels for the upcoming Easter holiday. Buy now and bake them fresh at home for your convenience!

You can place an order for Apple, Cheese, or Cherry Strudels at \$18 each. Simply call or text Tom at 330-502-4671 or email FarrellStrudel@yahoo.com to place your order. The deadline to place an order is March 20th.

Pick-up will be on April 3rd, from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM, at the Croatian Home, 412 Staunton St., Farrell, PA.

Don't miss out on this delicious treat! Order Now!

Charlotte Russo/Lodge 126

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

Lenten Fish Fries at Duquesne

DUQUESNE, PA - Duquesne American Croatian Club is open to the public for Fish Fries each Friday during Lent.

We offer a full menu of Lenten specialties for our members and friends, including baked and fried fish and shrimp, as well as pierogies and other delicious sides.

Dine in and take out is available between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call 412-466-9766.

We hope to see you at our Club on 1111 W. Grant Avenue in Duquesne, PA.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page at Duquesne American Croatian Club for updates and information. Everyone is welcome!

Paul Cherkes/Lodge 320

How Do I Join the CFU?

When someone asks for details about how to become associated with our Fraternal Family, if you are not familiar with the process yourself, please refer them to us here at the Home Office of the Croatian Fraternal Union, at 412-843-0380, where we stand ready and waiting to be of assistance.

CFU membership may be completed through either the purchase of a CFU insurance plan or through the purchase of a CFU annuity or IRA. Excellent dividends on insurance coverage and competitive interest rates on CFU annuities will surely provide prospective members with

many reasons to want to become a part of our Fraternal Society.

There are many extracurricular and fraternal benefits which may be derived from CFU membership. Among the most important benefits are lasting friendships, opportunities for mutual-interest companionship, and numerous chances to appreciate the simple joys of people caring about one another. Encourage your family members and friends to become a part of our CFU Family today and welcome them to find out what benefits are awaiting them to enhance the meaning and quality of their lives.

CFU Sloga Lodge 1994 March Meeting

MILWAUKEE, WI - Sloga Lodge 1994 will hold its March Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, at 1 P.M. in Greendale. Please contact Mary Alyce Francis at 414-421-3525 for the specific location address.

We will review the results of the Midwest Bowling Tournament that is being hosted by our Lodge on February 21-22. Additionally, we will discuss dates for future meetings to be held this year.

We take this time to thank all of our members who have worked diligently to prepare for the Midwest Bowling Tournament and for all of Derek's support from the home office. We look forward to seeing you there.

Colleen Simonis/Recording Secretary

DUQUESNE LODGE 320 Ski Adventure

DUQUESNE LODGE 320 WINNERS Amy Verhaeghe and Mike Rakowski.



RAKOWSKI/VERHAEGHE FAMILIES, all members of CFU Lodge 320 in Duquesne, PA, attended CFU SkiFest 2026. We weathered the cold, enjoyed all of the activities and are looking forward to next year's event! Kathy Rakowski/ Lodge 320



RAKOWSKI/VERHAEGHE FAMILY



FUTURE RACERS: Chloe Kosir, Arden Kosar, Eloise Grant, Norah Grant, Cora Rakowski, Carson Rakowski.



DUQUESNE LODGE 320 KOLO DANCERS... Cora Rakowski, Kathy Rakowski, Jenna Weber, Carson Rakowski, Amy Verhaeghe.



Nest 27 Easter Party

VERSAILLES, PA -

Let's celebrate Spring with an awesome day filled with Easter cheer, festive games, friends and fun. On Saturday March 14, Nest 27 will host our annual Nest Easter Party. We'd like to invite all Nest 27 members and all Nest members from the surrounding areas to attend.

The Easter Bunny is making his way to Sveto Trojstvo Lodge 146 Croatian Club for an afternoon of games, crafts and, of course, our Easter Egg race. Doors open at 11 a.m., with brunch around 11:30 a.m. Shortly after Brunch, our Easter eggs races will begin. Also, we have a fun spring craft planned for all attendees. Once all the eggs are collected, the Easter Bunny will make his appearance to visit with all the boys and girls.

We can't wait to have you all here so please RSVP by March 10th by calling the club or texting Sarah to get on the sign-up sheet. We just need to know how many people are coming and names and ages of each child. Cover charge for all non-CFU members will be \$10. This event is definitely something you don't want to miss!

Here are the details:

When: Saturday, March 14th

Where: Croatian Club Lodge 146, 4400 3rd St., Versailles, PA 15132

Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact: Sarah Fisher, Cell via text: 412-337-7199 or Croatian Club phone: 412-751-6261.

Sarah Fisher
Manager Nest 27

Croatian Festival Set for June 6 in Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - Fellow Croatians and friends of Croatia, Join us for an unforgettable day at the Strossmayer Croatian Festival on June 6th, at Strossmayer's Croatian Picnic Grounds, 4202 Smith Stewart Rd., Vienna, OH 44438. Come celebrate our rich Croatian heritage while helping us continue revitalizing this historic gathering place for future generations.

Doors open at 12 PM. Cash-only event: \$8 admission, children 12 and under, free.

Enjoy authentic Croatian favorites like čevapi, sarma, and štrudel, Croatian beer and refreshments, traditional folkdance performances, and live music by Noćne Sove of Youngstown, OH. Come kolo and dance the day away!

Roasted lamb and pork will be available by pre-order only beginning May 1st, 2026.

Our Mission

Strossmayer's is a 100% volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All festival proceeds support ongoing renovations of the grounds. Thanks to your generosity, we've completed much-needed roof repairs and kitchen updates in the past two years--and we have more improvements planned!

Become a Donor or Sponsor

We warmly invite individuals, families and businesses to support this event as donors or sponsors. Your contribution directly supports the restoration of the grounds and helps preserve our Croatian traditions. Sponsorship recognition opportunities are available.

Volunteers Welcome

Volunteers receive free admission and play an important role in making the day a success. To volunteer, donate, sponsor or learn more, please contact us on Facebook or call/text 330-507-6660.

Mark your calendars and celebrate Croatian culture with us on June 6th!

Marina Juratovic Saunders
Lodge 66

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 Tamburitza 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 Šljivo 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

Read the Zajedničar Online

Our official newspaper is now available on cfu.org with a new digital viewing experience.

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



Zadnja Stanica To Entertain in Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - The St. George Croatian Center, located at 3200 Vestal Rd., Youngstown, Ohio, is pleased to announce that TS Zadnja Stanica will be performing at the club on Friday, March 13th, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Tickets for the event will be \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Please call Tim at 330-519-9036 or Helena at 330-941-9363 for reservations.

We encourage you to come out early and enjoy some of our award-winning fish and seafood dinners in our kitchen (cash or checks only) starting at 4:30 p.m. Call ahead to pre-order food by Wednesday, March 11th, to ensure you get yours before we sell out! The kitchen will close at 8 p.m. Our bar will be stocked with refreshing adult beverages from both Croatia and American favorites, as well as soft drinks.

We will be accepting baked good donations for our bake sale and are in need of friends and volunteers to help with the kitchen and event that evening. For more information, call 330-519-9036. We can't wait to see you there!

Helena Ladd
Trustee/Lodge 66

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

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



Croatian Fraternal Union's Spirit of Christmas

EIGHTY-FOUR, PA – National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras, in memory of brother Emil Riccio, longtime director of the CFU Junior Cultural Federation	25.00
WESTMONT, IL – The following donations have been made in memory of Robert Pavich: Elizabeth and Michael Krotiak - 40.00 Keith and Barbara Anderson - 100.00 Robert Vucinic - 100.00 Barbara Perisin - 25.00 Sloboda Jr. Tamburitzans - 75.00 David and Laura Bernhard - 25.00	
Total Collected	365.00
Towards the "Sloboda" Lodge 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund	
PITTSBURGH, PA – CFU Junior Cultural Federation, in memory of Emil Riccio, longtime member of the CFU Junior Cultural Federation	100.00
Towards the Waukegan Jr. Tamburitzans Scholarship Fund	
PEORIA, IL – Louise Natonek, in memory of Robert Pavich	40.00
Towards the "Sloboda" Lodge 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund	
SARASOTA, FL – Anthony Bedalov, in memory of the late Robert Pavich	25.00
LOWELL, IN – Katherine O'Neill, in memory of Emil Riccio	100.00
MICHIGAN CITY, IN – D. Martin Enterprises, in memory of Emil Riccio	500.00
DOWNERS GROVE, IL – John and Marjorie Pavich, in memory of Uncle Bob Pavich	25.00
ROCHESTER, PA – "Abraham Lincoln" Lodge 85, in memory of deceased members of the lodge	100.00
Towards the Lodge 85 Scholarship Fund	
TOTAL THIS REPORT	\$1,280.00
TOTAL SPRIT OF CHRISTMAS	\$19,265.00
TOTAL COLLECTED	\$48,506.79

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- ✓ 30 Day Window for Penalty-free Withdrawals Beginning at Second Anniversary of Contract
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9 Year

Surrender Charge Contract

4.0%

- ✓ Current Interest Rate
- ✓ Minimum Deposit \$3,000 Available as non-qualified Annuity: Traditional or Roth IRA

5 Year

Surrender Charge Contract

3.25%

- ✓ Current Interest Rate
- ✓ Minimum Deposit \$3,000 Available as non-qualified Annuity: Traditional or Roth IRA

*Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate - 3.00% • Effective January 1, 2024

START SAVING TODAY

- ☎ 412.843.0380
- 📍 100 Delaney Dr., Pgh., PA 15235
- 🌐 www.cfu.org

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.

Name _____ Lodge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Make all checks payable to CFU Scholarship Foundation and mail to:
Croatian Fraternal Union
100 Delaney Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235