

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST

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

VOL. 121 / NO.8

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA / WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

SIXTEEN PAGES

ALL PUBLICATIONS RIGHTS RESERVED UPS 698 • 800/PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT PITTSBURGH

Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan Scholarship Endowment Established

JOHN ROSAN AND HIS UNCLE, THE LATE STEPHEN MARKULIN, JR., shared a great bond of understanding within their family and with their fellow CFU members. The new scholarship endowment created in the name of the Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan Families is representative of their interest and compassion for the education of our CFU youth and the perpetuation of our Croatian cultural heritage.

Family Acknowledges Generations of Members

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA – The impact of unsolicited philanthropic contributions to charitable causes can be far-reaching and, quite often, responsible for amazing results. In numerous instances, financial aid made available at a critical juncture in the lives of young people striving to achieve their educational and career dreams can be transformative. Throughout the history of the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc., charitable endowments established through the compassion and generosity of individuals and CFU lodges have provided the resources and facilitated the process for thousands of young CFU members to reach their educational goals.

We are honored to announce the establishment of yet another CFU Scholarship Endowment, to be known as the “Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan Scholarship Fund” recently created through the generous philanthropic donation of \$25,000 to the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

John Rosan, a CFU member for more than 50 years, was pleased to help establish the “Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan Scholarship Fund” in tribute to the collective family’s contributions to Croatian heritage and the joy of camaraderie. The family has taken great interest in advancing the education of the many wonderful young people of Croatian heritage. John and Kristin Rosan, the principal sponsors of the scholarship, established the fund with a lifetime of memories in mind. John Rosan is the grandson of the late Steve “Beau” and Mildred (Marmilich) Markulin and John and Katherine (Vukovich) Rosan. The unexpected passing

of John’s uncle, Steve Markulin, Jr., was a catalyst for establishing the fund.

“My childhood is filled with memories of people being gathered together, sharing great food and the best tamburitza music the area had to offer,” said John Rosan. “My Grandpa and Grandma Rosan were enthusiastic fans of tamburitza and Croatian food and celebrated that with all of us. My grandpa, Beau “Deda” and his brothers Tony and Lou were great musicians, and it brought our whole family together, literally, as Deda met my grandma Millie while she was playing tamburitza with her father John, brother Joe,

and sisters Louise (“Tootsie”) and Kay. He went on to make instruments, and as a young boy, I would help him in his shop, sanding boards, vacuuming sawdust – whatever I could do to find a way to be there with him. I remember making several for one family, and more than 30 years later, that family demonstrated extraordinary grace by returning one of them to our family. That is the kind of brotherhood and values demonstrated within our heritage.

“When my mom and I attended a 50-year member celebration at St. George’s Lodge 66, I stood there where my sister Cheryl and I, as young kids, would eat candy bars and drink soda pop, listening to the Balkan Serenaders play “Majko Majko” – my all-time favorite. The funny thing is, as a young boy, it was my favorite, and they would play it repeatedly for me, but I didn’t understand the song’s meaning. There I was, some 50 years later, with my mom at the Lodge where it all began.”

The passing of John’s Uncle, Steve Markulin Jr., spurred Brother John to start the scholarship fund named in honor of his family. John was the first of his family to graduate from college, and the CFU scholarship he received was a significant source of financial support. Things have come full circle with his son, now a first-year college student at Virginia Military Institute, who also received a CFU scholarship. His daughter Erin, an avid lacrosse player, is also a high school junior with an interest in Croatian heritage.

“Our son Stephen has a great interest in Croatian history. He

(Continued on page 15)



Attention CFU Lodge 170 Members

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Please join us for our future meeting dates.

Meetings take place at 8550 Taft St., Merrillville IN. Please use the north doors. Meeting time is 11:30 a.m.

Future meeting dates are: May 17; July 19; August 16; September 20; October 18; November 15; and December 20.

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

Cindy Mayer
Recording Secretary

Lodge 235 May Meeting Notice

CLEVELAND, OH - Lodge 235 will hold our next meeting on May 17th. The meeting will be called to order at 1 PM in the library at Croatian Home in Eastlake. If the main entrance is locked, use the side door by the meeting rooms.

We encourage all members of the lodge to attend these important meetings. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Agatha Luketic
Secretary/Treasurer

Official Notice

In accord with the Society’s By-Laws and in agreement with the President and Secretary of the CFU National Board of Trustees, all Members of the Board are hereby notified that the Annual Board of Trustees Meeting will commence at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026 in the CFU Home Office Facility in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

All Members of the CFU National Board of Directors are hereby, officially, notified that the Annual Spring Meeting of the National Board will commence upon the conclusion of the Board of Trustees’ Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 in the Home Office Facility in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Edward W. Pazo, National President
Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, National Secretary/Treas.
Daniel Kochis, President, Board of Trustees
Ruth Sepich, Secretary, Board of Trustees



Celebrate with St. George on April 25-26 in Cokeburg

COKEBURG, PA - The traditional annual “St. George’s Day” celebration, sponsored by the St. George Junior Tamburitza and St. George CFU Lodge 354, will be held on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26.

This spectacular weekend celebration in Cokeburg begins

on Saturday, April 25th, with the annual concert featuring our junior and adult tamburitza. The performance will take place at the Bentworth Senior High School Auditorium located at 75 Bearcat Drive in Bentleyville, PA, starting at 4 p.m.

This year’s concert promises a diverse and engaging program. The concert will open with our St. George Junior Tamburitza, who have been working diligently

(Continued on page 4)

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST
(ISSN 1087-7460)

Established November 6, 1929 - Published Bi-Weekly
CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION OF AMERICA
 LORRAINE TURKALL / IVAN BEGG - ASSOCIATE EDITORS
 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
 Phone: 412-843-0380 Fax: 412-823-1594
 e-mail: editor@cfu.org
 Website: www.cfu.org



Croatian Fraternal Union of America
 Founded in 1894
 Periodicals Postage Paid at Pittsburgh, PA

Unsolicited articles, manuscripts, letters, photos, etc., submitted to **THE ZAJEDNIČAR** are forwarded at the owner's risk and **THE ZAJEDNIČAR** expressly denies any responsibility for their safe-keeping or return. **THE ZAJEDNIČAR** reserves the right to edit, revise or reject articles submitted for publication.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Zajedničar**, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

National Board in Session

Members of the Croatian Fraternal Union National Board of Directors will convene at the CFU Home Office in Pittsburgh beginning on Monday, May 4, for the 2026 Annual Meeting. Current Members of the National Board of Directors are: National President Edward W. Pazo, National Secretary Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, Executive Vice President Franjo Bertović, National Second Vice President Michael Ricci, Board of Trustees President Daniel Kochis, Board Secretary Ruth Sepich, and Members Wayne Vlastic, John Staresinic, Edward Sambol, John Miksich and Robert Luketic.

During their deliberations, Board Members will discuss the reports prepared by

the three Members of the CFU Executive Board and the National Second Vice President which were provided to the Members of the Board of Trustees in advance of their arrival at the Home Office. Discussions will evaluate the overall status of the Society and the current financial strength of the organization. Board Members will also review the product portfolio of life insurance and annuity plans currently available to members and prospective members, the enrichment programs to attract the interest and involvement of members and the measures being implemented to ensure membership retention and continued growth.

Additionally, the annual Report of the Actuary will be provided, with a member

of the Actuarial Firm of Bruce and Bruce Consulting Actuaries on hand to formally present the report and respond to any questions from Board Members.

Emphasis at this spring session will include a comprehensive update on the progress of the new IT System Upgrade which is currently being implemented to replace the Policy Administration System which serviced our Society for many years. An in-depth discussion of the progress being made with the system upgrade and the required expenditures to complete the project will be presented.

Meeting annually at the CFU Home Office in the spring, and teleconferencing at interim meetings as necessary, provides all Board Members with ample opportunity to voice their ideas for the forward progress of the Society. Prudent decisions made at the spring session of the National Board meeting will focus upon products and programs that will positively impact our Society's future as we continue to service the needs of all members who depend upon the Croatian Fraternal Union for their financial security and fraternal involvement.

A warm welcome is extended to all Members of the National Board of Directors as they meet in valuable in-person sessions to ensure the growth and progress of our Fraternal Society.

Consular Days in Pittsburgh and Cleveland

WASHINGTON, DC - Due to official obligations, the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will be unable to hold previously scheduled Consular Days on June 11, 2026, in Pittsburgh, PA, and on June 12, 2026, in Eastlake, OH.

Thank you for your understanding.

Mihovil Pažin
 Embassy of Croatia
 Washington, DC

GOOD NEWS!

The Current Interest Rate on the CFU CHOICE TWO Annuity Program has been **EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026!**

The CHOICE TWO Program's current interest rate of 4.5% has just been extended and is guaranteed for an initial Two-Year Term, with a 30-Day Window for Penalty-free Withdrawals beginning at the 2nd Anniversary of contract.

Minimum Deposit is \$3,000. Available as non-qualified Annuity; Traditional or Roth IRA.

Act now to secure the favorable rate on this excellent Savings Opportunity currently available through the Croatian Fraternal Union!

Call the CFU Home Office today at 412-843-0380 to lock in this great rate on a valuable CFU Annuity while it lasts!

Lorain Lodge 136 Meeting Calendar and Events

LORAIN, OH - Lorain Lodge 136 is pleased to announce its 2026 quarterly meeting schedule and encourages all members to mark their calendars and plan to attend.

The upcoming meeting dates are as follows: Saturday, June 20th at 2 p.m.; Sunday, September 20th at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, December 23rd at 2 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the American Croatian Club Hall, located at 4846 Oberlin Avenue in Lorain, Ohio.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, members and friends are invited to save the date for these special upcoming events:

Saturday/Sunday, May 16/17: 90th Annual CFU Bowling Tournament

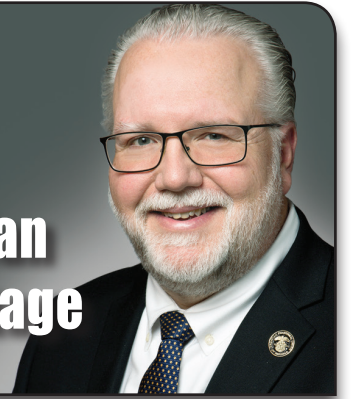
Saturday, June 27: Celebration of America's 250th Birthday

Saturday, July 18: Croatian Festival

Lorain Lodge 136 looks forward to another year of fellowship, tradition and community involvement. Be sure to stay connected and participate in these important meetings and exciting events.

Donna Perichak Katrincsak
 Secretary

CFU Honors and Preserves Croatian Culture and Heritage



By Edward W. Pazo/National President

Our past two President's Columns have discussed our society's financial experience for year ending December 31, 2025 in great detail. The articles provided a transparent view of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America in terms of its current method of operation as a fraternal benefit society that provides excellent financial products for individual members and their respective families. Our goal was to demonstrate that prudent decision making by management, an unwavering desire to provide a fair return on retirement savings, and solid life insurance protection for those in need, are all part of the financial success that the society has experienced.

This success makes possible the many and varied cultural programs propagated by the society which honor and preserve our Croatian Heritage for the generations that will follow.

Society Maintains Croatian Cultural Museum as Centerpiece

The Bernard M. Luketich Croatian Cultural Museum, located on all three floors of the CFU Home Office, is a prime example of the love and respect that the Croatian Fraternal Union and its membership have for our Croatian Culture and Heritage. Dedicated to National President Emeritus Bernard M. Luketich, the museum has on display a wide breadth of cultural artifacts, including: Croatian Folklore costumes from numerous regions throughout Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina; naïve art from Croatian master artists, Ivan Lacković-Croata, Josip and Ivan Generalić, Ivica Fišter, Josip Cugovčan, and others; watercolor paintings and line art from the renowned Mladen Veža; and, works of art by the highly acclaimed sculptor Ivan Mestrovich.

Frequently we receive members and guests who then tour our home office and remark in wonder at the museum quality pieces which are on display throughout the building. We often hear their impressions, such as, "I didn't know how large an organization CFU actually is..." and "the breadth and quality of the displays are magnificent, more than what can be found under one roof anywhere in the world!" These were actual thoughts said to me personally during a tour that I provided to an invited guest from Croatia. This reaction says everything about the effective role that Croatian Fraternal Union of America has played throughout its history, but mainly over the past sixty years or so, in which cultural and fraternal bridges of cooperation have been built and nurtured with our brother and sister Croatians in the homeland.

Junior and Adult Tamburitza Festivals Set to Entertain Members and Guests

This year we are pleased to state that the CFU Junior Cultural Federation will host its annual festival in the City of Cleveland, Ohio with the Hilton Downtown Cleveland Hotel serving as headquarters for the weekend festival of Croatian songs and dances. We most recently hosted a festival in Cleveland, coincidentally at this hotel, in July of 2017, to the agreement of all who planned, participated and administered to the needs of everyone in attendance.

Therefore, the directors of the CFU Junior Cultural Federation were very comfortable in choosing this location and property as it meets all of the needs of the participating ensembles. Dates for the festival have been set as Friday, July 3 through Sunday, July 5, 2026. Booking information including discounted room rates of \$169.00 + tax (\$198.58 single thru quad per night) has been distributed to all participating junior tamburitza ensembles. Members interested in attending and who have not booked their reservation may utilize the following link: <https://book.passkey.com/event/51129459/owner/14238363/home>

We fully expect another CFU tamburitza festival that preserves and reveres our Croatian heritage while at the same time enables children to learn about our rich Croatian Culture which is so wonderfully presented to audiences each year.

Columbus, OH: Site of the 39th Annual CFU Adult Tamburitza Festival

Following the conclusion of the Junior Tamburitza Festival, our attention will then focus on other cultural and social activities of the society and its lodges. (Continued on page 15)

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 Lodge 351 Needs Your Photos

DETROIT, MI - We are looking for our members' help.

Zora Lodge 351 is honoring past presidents of not only Lodge 351, but also presidents of all Detroit area lodges that have merged with, or into, Detroit Lodge 351. These include CFU Lodges 54 and Dearborn 643 and CCU Lodges 32, 49 and 518. We are hanging photographs of all past presidents on our walls in recognition of their service to our Detroit Croatian community.

If any of you are related to, or recognize any of the names below and may have a photo, or know someone who might, please reach out. We will be framing in 5x7" or 8x10" format and will enlarge the photo if necessary. Originals will be returned upon request. Send photo via email to katthiel@gmail.com or mail to K. Thiel C/O Zora Lodge 351, 32851 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI 48092.

Zora Lodge 54 and Zvezda and Zora 351: Yzidor Mance, Pavao Mrazovac, Izabran Miroslavljevic, Alois Samer, Max Donner, Mijo Vrevic, Josif Matomichen, Milan Kirin, M. Vukelich, Josip Buzvik, Joseph Kljucka, Josip Milakovich, Juraj Kastric, ___ Jankovic, Juraj Prpic, Matt Goretta, Anton Narich, Steve Tijan, Tomo Filipovic, Janko Orlic, Franjo Vlastic, Cita Malhenic, Janko Cvetnic, Dolbar Bolesti, Pavao Vidusic, Nikola Kirincic, Josip Cicic, Anton Krzmanic, George Mokrovic, J. Kraina and Michael Matkovich.

George Washington Lodge 518: ___Yaksic and Joseph Kalmeta.

St. Joseph Lodge 32: Charles Rozman, Steve Yukovic, John Rozman, Ignac Kosutic, Ivan Paksich., Frank Ott, John Morse, Martha Kekic, Joseph Cerjanec, Kuzma Kardum, Marko Bobaljik, John Bacic, John Ivanovic, Mirko Kovac, John Pendelj and Ivan Ivanovic, Sr.

We have no names for CFU Dearborn Lodge or CCU 49 and just two for 518 (included above). We have photos for John Bobinac, Tomislav Cicek, Julius Majetic, Steve Lipak, Thomas Chulig, Rudy Perpich, John Kosovec, John Belavich, Mark Mavretich and Robert Novosel.

The above names were all taken from Lodge minutes or program books. If anyone believes we missed someone, please reach out to the undersigned. They may have been Corporation, Board or Church Presidents, and would not be included in this project.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give us.

Kathy Perpich Thiel
Lodge 351

SPOTLIGHT ON CFU PROGRAMS

A Message from the Executive Vice President
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

BENEFITS AT THE LOCAL LODGE LEVEL

CFU offers many benefits at the local lodge level for its members. Under the CFU umbrella, there are 169 lodges and 147 nests. Our lodges and nests are instrumental in providing services to members in their local communities.

Each member of CFU is a vital individual of the society - not just a policy or certificate owner. One may purchase a policy elsewhere without member benefits. CFU offers member benefits including scholarship opportunities, cultural and sports programs, humanitarian aid, etc.

As a member owned company, we keep our operating costs low and offer competitively priced life insurance and generous annuity rates. This sets us apart from commercial insurance companies.

Croatian Fraternal Union is exclusively a beneficial fraternal organization. Its purpose is to practice mutual assistance among its members through life insurance and annuity saving opportunities, and to promote, preserve and perpetuate Croatian language, culture and identity. The Society has no stock owners and is owned by members.

Our local lodges are a constituent part of our society. They are our representatives in their local communities in promoting unity, fraternalism and cultural activities.

Every lodge which actively promotes our values and recruits new members is supported financially by the Society. Lodge dues of \$2.22 per member and 4% of the annual premium paid by the lodge's members are returned back to the lodge to support their local activities. Also, there are secretary and nest manager bonuses to encourage their activities for the benefit of the lodge and nest members.

Active local lodges also provide many benefits to their local communities. Lodges connect people and urge members to participate in local humanitarian undertakings. It does not stop there. Members are encouraged to make a difference in their local communities through volunteer work, financial donations and fundraising resources.

As a fraternal society we are member driven and must remain dedicated to our commitment of fostering social bonds and performing charitable community service.

With all of this said, it is in the best interest of each lodge and all of us to grow the membership for all of these values CFU stands for.

If you have any further question(s) on any life insurance or annuity products CFU offers, please let us know at 412.843.0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org, We'll help you to choose the right product that meets your needs.

Lodge 270 News

CALUMET, MI - Calling all Croatian Yoopers after a very long winter! It's time for our Lodge 270 meeting on Monday, May 18th. This will be held in our usual location at the Merchants and Miners Building at 200 Fifth Street in Calumet. The social hour will start at 6 p.m., with dinner and dessert. Our business meeting will follow.

Items on the agenda include a discussion of charitable donations and the Croatian Fest. Bring your ideas with you.

Mark your calendars for Monday, May 18th, and enjoy an evening with fellow lodge members.

Vidimo se!

Donna Preston/Secretary



Life Happens in a heartbeat.

In one moment, one Heartbeat—your life changes.

You start a family...and learn what it really means to love. But, have you considered what would happen if you were no longer there to take care of your loved ones?

While nothing can replace you, having life insurance means that if something happened to you, your loved ones would be OK financially. Life insurance is a gift of love.

Learn more at www.cfu.org.

LIFE HAPPENS This piece has been reproduced with the permission of Life Happens, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping consumers make smart insurance decisions to safeguard their families' financial futures. Life Happens does not endorse any insurance company, product or advisor. © Life Happens 2015. All rights reserved.



CFU LODGE 126 AND THE VESELJACI TAMBURITZANS

of the Croatian American Civic Center (CACC) in Farrell, PA proudly promoted Croatian culture and heritage at the 39th Annual Ukrainian Egg Festival, held on March 29, at the HopeCAT Center for Arts & Technology in Sharon, PA. Representing the organizations were, from left, Suzanne Taylor, Janet Buzzeo, Charlotte Vranich Russo, Vicki Koss, and Cindy Allshouse, who enthusiastically shared the rich traditions of Croatian culture with festival attendees. Their efforts highlighted opportunities for involvement through CFU membership and the Veseljaci Tamburitans orchestra, helping to preserve and pass on cultural traditions to future generations. Guests also enjoyed a delicious taste of Croatia, as the group offered a variety of home-made specialties, including their well-known burek, flavorful čevap sandwiches, and an assortment of strudels and other pastries, all of which were warmly received. Through their participation, CFU Lodge 126 and the Veseljaci Tamburitans once again demonstrated their commitment to celebrating and sharing Croatian heritage within the local community. **Charlotte Russo/Lodge 126**

Zajedničar Publication Dates

- -Publication dates are highlighted in black
- -All Material Deadline dates are circles
- -Office Closure

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3 4						1 2			1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8 9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15 16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22 23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
26	27	28	29	30			24/31	25	26	27	28	29 30	28	29	30					

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

Celebrate with St. George...

(Continued from page 1)

ly preparing a special performance. We will also feature our St. George Adult Tamburitians, who will present a very entertaining and lively presentation.

We are especially pleased to welcome for the first time, the Junior Tamburitians of Duquesne as our guest ensemble. This will be the first time that this talented group of young performers will be taking the stage for our St. George celebration weekend. The ensemble is under the Direction of Brother Nikola Vranesevic, who will also serve as the 2026 Guest Conductor of the CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, taking place July 3-5. Choreography for the group is provided by Sister Daniella Vranesevic.

Returning this year are our friends from the Detroit area, the Nova Nada Folklore Ensemble, under the direction of Brother Steve Talan. Known for their energetic performances, the group presents a vibrant program of Croatian songs and dances, often enhanced with lighthearted comedic elements. Their appearance is sure to delight audiences once again.

During the performance, St. George will honor their graduating seniors - Brady Robaugh and Alan Stefansky - whose biographies also appear in this edition of the Zajedničar. St. George is very proud of the accomplishments of these members and their talents and dedication to the ensemble. We extend our wishes to both Brady and Alan for a successful and happy future.

As always, this weekend

reflects the spirit of a traditional old-country village celebration. We proudly invite everyone to join us for the St. George Day festivities and warmly welcome all who appreciate tamburitza music and Croatian culture to take part in this cherished annual event.

The St. George Ensemble of Cokeburg, primarily comprised of descendants of the village of Zagorje in the Ogulin area of Croatia, takes its name from the St. George Church in Zagorje. Over the years, the annual St. George's Day celebration has grown into a meaningful reunion for those with roots in the Ogulin area, while continuing to preserve the customs and traditions of a Croatian feast day.

Tickets for the Saturday evening concert will be available for purchase at the door on the evening of the performance.

Following the concert, guests are warmly invited to continue the evening at the Croatian Home for a social gathering featuring music by the Jerry Grcevic Orchestra. The kitchen will be open, offering a variety of delicious foods and snacks, along with a bake sale showcasing homemade treats prepared by the parents and friends of our tamburitians. Donations of desserts, breads, and cakes are greatly appreciated to help ensure the success of this fundraiser.

After an enjoyable evening of music and fellowship, attendees are encouraged to rest in preparation for a full day of activities on Sunday, April 26. Beginning at 9 a.m., the fathers of our junior tamburitians will host a complimentary hot breakfast at the Croatian Home for all guests before departing for church.

A highlight of the St. George's

Day celebration is the annual Tamburitza Mass, along with a traditional procession to the church in national costume. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Bentleyville, Pennsylvania, with Rev. Fr. Pierre "Bud" Falkenhan, a proud member of Lodge 354, serving as celebrant. The procession will begin at the Knights of Columbus Hall and proceed to the church, featuring members of the St. George Ensemble of Cokeburg and all guests in attendance.

During the Mass, the Slavski kolač, along with fruit and salt, will be blessed and presented by members of the St. George Junior Tamburitians of Cokeburg, dressed in traditional Croatian attire. Musical accompaniment will be provided by the St. George Adult Tamburitza Ensemble.

Following the Mass, all are invited to return to the Cokeburg Croatian Home for a festive afternoon honoring our patron saint. Guests can enjoy traditional Croatian cuisine from the kitchen, a variety of refreshments, and a bake sale featuring an assortment of homemade desserts and strudels.

The celebration will continue with live musical entertainment provided by a talented group of tamburaši—who are also fathers of our St. George Junior Tamburitians—offering music for listening and kolo dancing throughout the day.

This year's St. George celebration promises a vibrant, music-filled experience. We especially look forward to welcoming our Ogulinci, as well as all CFU members and friends, to join us in this special celebration. Svi nam dobro došli!

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
President/Lodge 354



Jadran Junior Tamburitians Spring Concert and Social

ALIQUIPPA, PA - The Jadran Junior Tamburitians are proud to announce their Annual Spring Concert which will be held this year on Saturday, May 2. The curtain will rise on the 68th annual concert at 3 PM at the Ambridge Area High School, 909 Duss Ave., Ambridge PA, 15003. Our talented group of young performers have been working long and hard all year to present an amazing show full of energy! This year we welcome the Junior Tamburitians of Duquesne as our featured guests.

Ticket prices for this year's show are as follows: Adult Tickets, \$25 for the concert and social, \$10 for the concert only, and \$15 for the social (dinner included) only. Children (under 12) Tickets, \$15 for the concert and social, \$5 for the concert only, and \$10 for the social only. Children under 2 years of age are free for both the concert and the social.

The Jadran Junior Tamburitians are under the capable direction of Choreographer, Alex Hersh, Music Director, Ashley Ellis Spencer, Musical Director and Assistant, Louisa Hersh. The group will perform songs and dances from Croatia and many other selections from the Baltic region.

Immediately following the concert, please join us for our social at the Aliquippa Croatian Center located at 2365 Concord St., Aliquippa, PA 15001. The staff at the Croatian Center will have a delicious meal prepared and fully stocked refreshments ready for all attendees. The very talented "Duquesne Dads" will provide a wide selection of music for your dancing and listening pleasure throughout the evening.

A warm invitation is extended for all to attend this annual concert and evening of wonderful music and fellowship. We look forward to seeing all our family, friends and longtime supporters of our group and hope they will invite many of their friends to experience the joy of watching the children perform our beautiful songs and dances. For additional information on the concert and to reserve tickets, please e-mail jadranbv@gmail.com.

Rob Keber/Lodge 304



Alan Stefansky

Alan Stefansky was born on June 1, 2007 to Marion (Moncilovich) Stefansky and Peter Stefansky Jr. Alan's maternal grandparents are Jill Moncilovich, the late Alan Moncilovich and Jim Roberts.

Alan's paternal grandparents are Pete and Jan Stefansky.

Alan started attending practices with the St. George Adult Tamburitians with his mom and grandmother at a very young age. Alan's interest and love of music grew, especially through the teaching from his grandmother.

Alan joined the St. George Juniors in 2014, following the footsteps of his mom and aunt who are alumni. Alan started out on the prim and then progressed to playing the brac, which became his primary instrument. Alan attended his first CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival in 2015. Alan has since participated in multiple festivals, including Croatia in 2024. Alan has fond memories of the trip to Croatia, including the friendships he made there. In 2025, Alan participated in the

St. George Juniors' Combo.

In addition to his love of music, Alan has had a love of history. He has participated in many living history events. Alan enjoys sharing his knowledge of history with others.

Alan has attended high school through PA Cyber. As Alan graduates from high school, he is exploring options for his future.

Alan would like to thank Marlene, Danny, Bernadette, Derek and Marko for all of the support and guidance over the years. Alan would also like to thank his grandmother, Jill, for all of the early instruction that helped him become the musician he is today.

Alan, you have come a long way, from calling the Croatian Home Marlene's house, to the man you have become.



Brady Robaugh

Brady Robaugh, son of Eric and Nancy (Brigich) Robaugh, is graduating from Chartiers-Houston High School. He has been enrolled in Canonsburg Lodge 567 since birth. Brady

has been a member of the St. George Jr. Tamburitians since 2013 when he joined at the age of five. As a member of the CFU, Brady has participated in CFU National Golf Tournaments, Annual SkiFests, and Softball Tournaments. He has also had the opportunity to travel to Croatia three times.

While in high school, Brady has been a member of the baseball and golf teams for four years, the track team for three years, the cross-country team for one year, and the basketball team for two years. He is a member of the Leo Club, Dreamer's Club, Treasurer of the Char-Hou Zoo, and is Varsity Club vice president. He is also President of the National Honor Society. Brady co-founded the Adventure Club his senior year and planned their

first ever excursion.

In 2025, Brady had the opportunity to work as the bat boy for the Wild Things baseball team and is also a part time employee of Lazerd Works. While active in his activities, Brady has maintained a 4.3 GPA.

Brady will attend the University of Pittsburgh Main Campus in the fall to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Brady wants to thank his parents for driving him to practices, his grandfather for giving him his dancing talent, and the Directors and Parents' Organization for supporting him over the years. His favorite memory through the years is hearing Marlene say, "One more time," and then doing it several more times after that.

Take the First Steps in Securing
YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE

SAVE UP TO \$1,000

SINGLE PREMIUM ORDINARY LIFE SPECIAL

A permanent life insurance plan with only one premium payable and CFU Membership for LIFE!

15% Discount Ages 0-40; 10% Discount 41+

10 PAY LIFE SPECIAL

A permanent life insurance plan with premiums payable for 10 years.

\$25,000 Face Value - \$250 first year - Ages 0-25
\$5-10,000 Face Value - \$100 first year - Ages 0-50
\$5,000 Face Value - \$100 First Year - Ages 51-70

INVEST WITH CFU TODAY

- 4.5% Choice Two Program
- 4% 9 Year Surrender Charge
- 3.25% 5 Year Surrender Charge

Join
THE TRADITION

www.cfu.org

ON AIR 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 Milijan – 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



Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitzans Spring Concert

MILWAUKEE, WI – Join us for our annual Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitzans Concert, proudly celebrating more than four decades of music, dance, and cultural pride!

Our 2026 Concert will be held on Saturday, April 25th, at 3 PM, at the Saber Performing Arts Center, located inside Franklin High School, 8222 S. 51st St., Franklin, WI. This year, we are pleased to welcome the talented American Zagreb Jr. Tamburitzans from Cleveland, Ohio, for a special guest performance.

The concert will be led by Musical Director Kristin Aasen, along with Assistant Directors Molly Krejcarek, Heidi Spellman, Angie Dougherty, and Mara Braovac. John Tate will serve as this year's emcee. We will proudly honor our graduating senior, Adrijana Stelzer.

The post-concert celebration is at St. Augustine Hall, 2025 S. 67th Place, West Allis, WI. There, you will find a combination of great food, a fully stocked bar, and tambura music/dancing

provided by the incredibly talented T.S. Hrvatski Sokolii!

The menu will feature a buffet with chicken, sausage, and all your favorite sides. The bar will be stocked with your favorite Miller products, Croatian pivo, vino, and all of your favorite Croatian cordials. Živil! And of course, indulge in our wide variety of homemade desserts for purchase, including some of the Croatian favorites like strudel, which sells out fast!

In addition, we will be featuring a variety of themed raffle baskets. There is something for everyone, so be sure to get your tickets and take a chance at winning some fantastic prizes.

Concert tickets can be purchased in advance by visiting our website at www.milwaukeecroatiantamburitzans.org. General admission is \$15 for adults, and children 10 and under are free.

We look forward to welcoming you for an afternoon of wonderful music and celebration!

Tracy Farrell/Lodge 993

Hoosier Hrvati To Host Spring Concert in April

MERRILLVILLE, IN – We are pleased to announce that the Hoosier Hrvati Tamburitzna 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 Tamburitzna 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

Gypsy Fantasy 3 in Cleveland

PITTSBURGH, PA - The Gypsy Stringz of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with the Harmonia ensemble of Cleveland and popular cymbalom player Alex Udvardy of Chicago, are excited to announce their upcoming concert and dance, "Gypsy Fantasy 3", to be held on Saturday May 2nd, starting at 7:30 p.m., at the Slovenian National Home, located at 6417 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland OH 44103.

Tickets are \$35 for the concert and dance (\$30 advance purchase) and can be purchased by calling 216-288-8727 or online at harmoniaensemble.com/events.

The first two "Gypsy Fantasy" concerts were very successful events held in Pittsburgh, so this first-time event in Cleveland should be an epic experience to be cherished and remembered by all in attendance.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Duwayne Dorich/Lodge 146

Spring Kolo Party in Versailles

VERSAILLES, PA - It is that time of the year when we celebrate the close of another successful kolo season. Donna's Kolo Class will have their annual "Spring Kolo Party" on Tuesday, May 12th.

Get out your dancing shoes and plan to attend the party at the Versailles Croatian Club, 4400 Third St., Versailles, PA. Doors open at 5:30 PM. The party begins at 6 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, and kolo dancing will begin immediately after dinner.

Everyone is welcome! We would love it if former members, family, and friends join us for our fun evening. Admission is only \$10. We ask that you bring your favorite "covered dish" for all to enjoy. The variety of food is always wonderful, plentiful and delicious.

Music will be provided by the very popular Pobjeda Orchestra. For more information, please call Eileen Novobilsky at 412-855-5610.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 12th, and help us celebrate another successful year.

Dobro Nam Došli!

Steve Komazec
Lodge 146



Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans In Concert on May 16

CHICAGO, IL - The Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans of Chicago, IL, are proud to announce their annual Spring Concert to be held on Saturday, May 16.

In addition to performances by the Sloboda Jr. Tammies, we are thrilled to welcome our special guest performers, the talented Detroit Star Junior Tamburitzans of Detroit, MI.

The event will take place at the Slovenian Catholic Center, 14252 Main St., Lemont, IL. Doors open at 4 PM, with the concert beginning promptly at 5 PM.

This year's event will feature

a concert, dinner and dance. Guests will enjoy a delicious family-style meal including baked chicken, roast pork loin, sausage with sauerkraut, potatoes, pasta, soup, salad, vegetables and dessert. A cash bar will also be available.

Tickets are \$55 for adults and \$20 for children ages 6-15. Children 5 and under are free (a seat must still be reserved). Tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets are available online at: <https://sloboda.ticketspice.com/sjt26concert>

Guests may select their own table and seating when purchasing tickets. For assistance with orders, please contact Emily Kazak at 815-557-6920.

Join us for an evening of music, dance and fellowship as we celebrate our rich cultural traditions. We look forward to welcoming both longtime supporters and new guests—whether you are interested in learning more about the Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans or simply enjoying an unforgettable night of tamburitzna music and dance.

For families interested in joining the Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans, please contact us at slobodajunior@gmail.com. We would love to welcome you!

Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans
Lodge 32

The Tamburitzans 89th Season Finale

PITTSBURGH, PA - As The Tamburitzans complete their 2025-2026 season during the month of May, we want to thank our audiences across the country for supporting this amazing group throughout our incredible 89 years. Where does the time go? We look forward to our 90th anniversary season this fall bringing even more great music, song, dance and smiles to our family, alumni, friends and fans with some surprises along the way!

Celebrate the grand finale of the 89th season with The Tamburitzans, America's longest-running multicultural song and dance ensemble. For nearly nine decades, this internationally acclaimed group has thrilled audiences with an electrifying blend of music, dance, and storytelling drawn from cultures across the globe. In one unforgettable evening, more than two dozen talented student performers transport audiences through the rhythms, costumes, and traditions of Eastern and Western Europe and beyond.

With dazzling choreography, live music, and breathtaking costumes, the show delivers the energy of a concert, the spectacle of a dance production, and the beauty of world cultures—making it a perfect night out whether you're a longtime fan or discovering The Tamburitzans for the first time. Even more inspiring, every performer you see on stage is a full-time college student receiving scholarship support while carrying forward a cultural tradition that has captivated audiences for generations. Join this vibrant celebration of music, movement, and global heritage at these venues:

Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m., at The Pittsburgh Playhouse in the Pittsburgh Cultural District for our famous local end of year celebration.

Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m., at Mother McAuley High School in Chicago, presented by the Vucinic family. This will be a homecoming roadshow for Roman Vucinic, a freshman dancer and musician with the Tammies this year.

Mark your calendar for an evening of great entertainment and get your tickets today for these performances at thetamburitzans.org/ events. Click on your show venue to purchase tickets online and pricing levels. Day of tickets available at the venue. If planning a group, give The Tamburitzans a call at 412-224-2071. They'll be happy to help you with group rates.

Enjoy your summer and SAVE THE DATE-Monday, Sept. 21, 2026 for the always fun 16th Annual Tamburitzans Swing 'fore' Scholarships golf fundraiser at our exciting new venue, 1781 Club in Peters Township, PA. You won't want to miss it. See you there!

Joyce Crumbo/Lodge 2019





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 Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park on Saturday, May 30, as the Pirates take on the Minnesota Twins.

Tickets can be secured through the CFU website at www.cfu.org

This year's celebration is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever. Highlighting the evening, the Junior

Tamburitzans of Duquesne—under the direction of 2026 CFU Junior Festival Guest Conductor, Nikola Vranesevic, will perform the National Anthem, setting the stage for a memorable and meaningful start to the game.

In addition, we are proud to recognize CFU Four Counties 2026 Man of the Year, Daniel Turkall, who will have the honor of throwing out the honorary first pitch.

And we're not done yet, there may even be a surprise or two

in store to make this night truly one of a kind.

Groups of 10 or more are encouraged to contact Derek Hohn at the CFU Home Office for assistance with coordinated seating. Derek can be reached at dhohn@cfu.org or by calling 412-843-0380.

Make plans now to join us for an unforgettable evening of baseball, culture, and Croatian pride at one of Pittsburgh's premier venues.

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

Derek Hohn
Fraternal Programs Director

SAVE THE DATE: Joe Rady Golf Tournament set for July 18

CANTON, IL- CFU Sacred Heart Lodge 367 is happy to announce they will host the 2026 Joe Rady Midwest golf tournament on Saturday, July 18. The Joe Rady will be held at the beautiful Kellogg Golf Course, 7716 N Radnor Rd., Peoria, IL 61615.



Details will follow as the tourney weekend gets closer. For now, we hope you will mark your calendars and tell your friends to reserve the dates for this fun-filled CFU event. We welcome everyone and look forward to catching up with our CFU friends and guests over a great tournament weekend. Hvala!

Ruth Sepich/Recording Secretary

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

Lorain Lodge 136 Welcomes 90th CFU Bowling Tournament

PITTSBURGH, PA - The Croatian Fraternal Union proudly invites members and friends from across the country to gather for a truly special milestone—the 90th Annual CFU National Bowling Tournament. This year's event will be hosted by Lodge 136 in the welcoming lakeside community of Lorain, Ohio on May 16th and 17th, promising a weekend that blends

competition, camaraderie and rich Croatian tradition.

With its scenic waterfront, historic neighborhoods and strong Croatian-American roots, the city provides the perfect setting for bowlers and families alike to reconnect, celebrate and create lasting memories. Lodge 136 has long been recognized for its hospitality. Lodge members there are preparing a weekend that reflects the very

best of CFU fellowship.

All tournament bowling will take place at Rebman Recreation, where competition will follow the familiar format. Singles and doubles events will begin on Saturday, May 16, at 12:30 p.m. The team event will commence on Sunday, May 17, at 11 a.m. Whether you are competing for titles or simply enjoying the spirit of the game, the lanes will once again bring together generations of CFU bowlers.

Throughout the weekend, the heart of the celebration

will be the American Croatian Club, located at 4846 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH 44053, where a full schedule of social events will keep the energy going well beyond the bowling alley.

Festivities begin Friday evening with a relaxed social gathering, featuring freshly prepared čevapi sandwiches-\$8 and paprikash-\$7, offering a taste of tradition that sets the tone for the weekend. Saturday morning continues with a casual breakfast from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., offering sausage and gravy-\$5; donuts-\$2; and

free coffee, giving attendees a chance to fuel up and connect before heading to the lanes.

As the day transitions into evening, the Club will host a Tournament Banquet from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., where guests can enjoy a choice of baked half-chicken or steak, served with salad and a baked potato (\$18/dinner). The evening will be complemented by live music from Mikey Dee and the Tamburica Stars, ensuring the dance floor stays lively and the atmosphere unmistakably Croatian. Adding to the weekend's ambiance, music at the bowling alley on both Saturday and Sunday will be provided by Šarena, creating an upbeat environment for competitors and spectators alike.

For those traveling in, Lodge 136 has secured a convenient and comfortable host hotel at Ariel on Broadway. Bowlers can take advantage of a discounted weekend rate of \$139.99 plus tax by calling 440-246-6669 and mentioning the tournament, making it easy to stay close to all the action while enjoying the charm of downtown Lorain. All locations for the weekend (Club, Bowling Alley and Hotel) are within 3.6 miles of each other to make transportation easy and convenient.

As we celebrate ninety years of CFU bowling tradition, this tournament represents more than just competition. It is a testament to the enduring bonds of our organization and the communities that continue to support it. Lodge 136 is ready to welcome you with open arms for this sports event this promises to be a weekend filled with laughter, music and the unmistakable spirit of the CFU.

All participants are reminded that the deadline to register is May 8, so be sure to secure your spot and join us in Lorain for this historic occasion.

Derek Hohn
Fraternal Programs Director

<p>DOUBLES AND SINGLES 12:30 PM SATURDAY, MAY 16</p> <p>TEAM EVENT 11:00 AM SUNDAY, MAY 17</p> <p>TEAM EVENT</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>TEAM NAME:</td> <td>TEAM CAPTAIN:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EMAIL:</td> <td>PHONE:</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name (Last, First) Please Type or Print in the order they will bowl</th> <th>CFU Lodge # Or "Guest"</th> <th>AVERAGE 2023-2024</th> <th>Name of League</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	TEAM NAME:	TEAM CAPTAIN:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	Name (Last, First) Please Type or Print in the order they will bowl	CFU Lodge # Or "Guest"	AVERAGE 2023-2024	Name of League	1.				2.				3.				4.				5.				<p>90th ANNUAL TENPIN TOURNAMENT Hosted by Lodge CFU Lodge 136 "Jesus of the Last Supper" May 16 - 17, 2026 Rebman Recreation 5300 Oberlin Ave. Lorain, OH 44053</p>  <p>Visit www.CFU.org/events for updated hotel information.</p>	<p>SINGLES & DOUBLES</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Two Person and Individual Contest Registry (In the order they will bowl)</th> <th>AVERAGE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1a.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1b.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2a.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2b.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3a.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3b.</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*ALL MEMBERS MUST BE CFU MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ATTESTED BY LODGE SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE.*</p> <p>Lodge Number _____</p> <p>Financial Secretary _____</p>	Two Person and Individual Contest Registry (In the order they will bowl)	AVERAGE	1a.		1b.		2a.		2b.		3a.		3b.	
TEAM NAME:	TEAM CAPTAIN:																																											
EMAIL:	PHONE:																																											
Name (Last, First) Please Type or Print in the order they will bowl	CFU Lodge # Or "Guest"	AVERAGE 2023-2024	Name of League																																									
1.																																												
2.																																												
3.																																												
4.																																												
5.																																												
Two Person and Individual Contest Registry (In the order they will bowl)	AVERAGE																																											
1a.																																												
1b.																																												
2a.																																												
2b.																																												
3a.																																												
3b.																																												

PAYMENT/ENTRY FEE		
Fees \$20 Per Person Per Event		Event Total
TEAM	\$100 (\$20 Each Bowler)	\$
DOUBLES	\$40 (\$20 Each Bowler)	\$
SINGLES	\$20 (\$20 Each Bowler)	\$
DINNERS	\$18 Each	\$
Total		\$

Saturday Night Banquet

Lodge 136 would like to invite all bowlers and their guests to a wonderful bowling banquet on Saturday, May 16th from 7pm-11pm. Please indicate number of dinners below for bowlers and guests.

Dinner is \$18 each, with your choice of Baked ½ Chicken or Steak (includes salad and baked potato).

Baked ½ Chicken _____ Steak _____



Uspostavljen stipendijski fond obitelji Markulin/Marmilich i Rosan

Obitelj odaje priznanje generacijama svojih članova

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA – Utjecaj nenajavljenih filantropskih doprinosa humanitarnim ciljevima može biti dalekosežan i, vrlo često, odgovoran za zapanjujuće rezultate. U brojnim slučajevima, financijska pomoć dostupna u kritičnom trenutku u životima mladih ljudi koji nastoje ostvariti svoje obrazovne i karijerne snove može biti transformativna. Kroz povijest Školarinske zaklade HBZ, dobrotorne ustanove osnovane kroz suosjećanje i velikodušnost pojedinaca i odsjeka HBZ pružale su resurse i olakšavale proces tisućama mladih članova naše Zajednice da postignu svoje obrazovne ciljeve. Ponosni smo što možemo najaviti osnivanje još jednog Školarinskog fonda, koji će biti poznat kao „Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan stipendijski fond“, nedavno stvoren kroz velikodušni filantropski doprinos od 25.000 USD.

John Rosan, član HBZ-a više od 50 godina, bio je zadovoljan što je mogao pomoći u osnivanju Školarinske zaklade pod imenom "Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan u znak priznanja doprinosima cijele obitelji hrvatskoj baštini i radosti zajedništva. Obitelj je pokazala veliki interes za unapređivanje obrazovanja mnogih divnih mladih ljudi hrvatskog podrijetla. John i Kristin Rosan, glavni sponzori stipendije, ustanovili su zakladu imajući na umu cijeli život uspomena. John Rosan je unuk pokojnih Stevea „Bea“ i Mildred (Marmilich) Markulin te Johna i Katherine (Vukovich) Rosan. Neočekivana smrt Johnovog ujca, Stevea Markulina Jr., bila je poticaj za osnivanje zaklade.



„Moje djetinjstvo je ispunjeno uspomenama na okupljanje ljudi, dijeljenje izvrsne hrane i najbolje tamburaške glazbe koju je ovo područje nudilo,“ rekao je John Rosan. „Moj djed i baka Rosan bili su entuzijastični ljubitelji tamburice i hrvatske hrane te su to slavili sa svima nama. Moj djed, Beau „Deda“ i njegova braća Tony i Lou bili su sjajni glazbenici, a to je doslovno povezaloo cijelu našu obitelj, jer se Deda upoznao s bakom Millie dok je svirala tamburicu sa svojim ocem Johnom, bratom Joeom i sestrama Louisom („Tootsie“) i Kay.

Počeo je izrađivati instrumente, a kao dječak sam mu pomagao u radionici, brušenjem dasaka, usisavanjem piljevine – što god bih mogao učiniti da nađem način biti s njim. Sjećam se da smo napravili nekoliko za jednu obitelj, a više od 30 godina kasnije, ta je obitelj pokazala izvanrednu dobrotu vraćajući jedan od njih našoj obitelji. To je vrsta bratstva i vrijednosti koju pokazujemo unutar naše baštine.

„Kada smo moja mama i ja prisustvovali proslavi 50 godina članstva u društvu Svetog Jurja odsjek 66, bio sam tu gdje smo moja sestra Cheryl i ja, kao mala djeca, jeli čokoladne pločice i pili gazirano piće, slušajući Balkan Serenadere kako sviraju 'Majko Majko' – moju omiljenu pjesmu svih vremena. Smiješna stvar je što je, kao dječaku, to bila moja omiljena pjesma, i oni bi je ponavljano svirali za mene, iako nisam razumio značenje pjesme. Tamo sam bio, otprilike 50 godina kasnije, s mamom u Hrvatskom domu gdje je sve počelo.“

Smrt Johnovog ujaka, Stevea Markulina Jr., potaknula je Brata Johna da pokrene stipendijski fond nazvan u čast njegove obitelji. John je bio prvi u svojoj obitelji koji je diplomirao na fakultetu, a stipendija koju je primio od HBZ bila je značajan izvor financijske potpore. Sve je došlo u pun krug s njegovim sinom, koji je sada student prve godine na Virginia Military Instituteu, i koji je također dobio stipendiju od HBZ. Njegova (Nastavak na 10. strani)



Tradicionalno Jurjevo ove godine slavimo 25-26. travnja

COKEBURG, PA – Naše tradicionalno Jurjevo koje već godinama održava naš omladinski tamburaški zbor Sv. Juraj od odsjeka 354 Hrvatske bratske zajednice, ove će se godine održati u subotu 25. i nedjelju 26. travnja.

Ovogodišnja dvodnevna proslava počinje s koncertom koji će se u subotu 25. travnja u 4 sata poslije podne održati u Bentworth školi u obližnjem gradu Bentleyvillu, PA.

Dvosatni kulturno-umjetnički program otvoriti će naš omladinski tamburaški zbor Sv. Juraj pod vodstvom Marlene i Dan Kochis, Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras, Marko Kochis i Derek Hohn.

Radujemo se što nam ove godine na ovoj 76toj obljetnici ansambla nastupa KUD Nova Nada pod vodstvom Steve Talan iz Detroita, Michigan zatim Junior Tamburica iz Duquesne pod vodstvom Nikole Vraneševića koji će kao Gost dirigent predvoditi naše mlade tamburaše u Clevelandu mjeseca srpnja na godišnjem festivalu Omladinske kulturne federacije Hrvatske bratske zajednice. Koreograf ovog ansambla je njegova supruga Danijela. Na koncertu također nastupa i naš odrasli ansambl Sv. Juraj.

Za vrijeme koncerta biti će predstavljeni ovogodišnji maturanti zbora Brady Robaugh i Alan Stefansy, kojima čestitamo i želimo svako dobro u njihovim budućim nastojanjima.

Kao obično, biti će to jedna vrlo tipična starokrajska seljačka

proslava koja će za sigurno ostati u trajnom sjećanju, kako našim gostima iz ove okolice tako i svima ostalima koji dolaze iz udaljenih mjesta i gradova naših dviju država.

Omladinski tamburaški zbor Sv. Juraj u kojem članuju mnoga djeca naših potomaka iz Ogulinskog Zagorja, dobio je ime po crkvi Sv. Juraj u tom mjestu, a Jurjevo se kod nas smatra najvećom godišnjom svetkovinom i susretom Ogulinaca iz SAD-a i Kanade, koji na ovoj našoj proslavi promiču i obilježavaju svoje starinske običaje.

Ulaznice za koncert mogu se kupiti od bilo kojeg člana Roditeljske organizacije našeg zbora ili na ulazu na dan koncerta.

Poslije koncerta svi se vraćamo u Hrvatski dom u Cokeburg na večeru i zabavu. U gornjoj dvorani doma svirati će popularni sastav Jerry Grčevića.

Naša kuhinja u Hrvatskom domu će također biti otvorena čitavog vikenda što znači da ćemo obadva dana imati na izboru raznih jela i domaćih kulinarskih specijaliteta.

U nedjelju od 9 sati servirati ćemo doručak svim našim gostima i prijateljima i to sve besplatno. Glavni kuhari će biti očevi naših mladih tamburaša.

Vrhunac proslave svakako će biti u nedjelju 26. travnja kada ćemo održati procesiju i Tamburašku misu točno u podne u crkvi St. Katharine Drexel u Bentleyvillu. Procesija do crkve po svim učesnicima proslave počinje kod Knights of Columbus dvorane a svi

NA OVOGODIŠNJOJ PROSLAVI JURJEVE u Cokeburgu gostovati će proslavljen i nadaleko poznat ansambl Nova nada iz okolice Detroita pod vodstvom brata Steve Talan. Želimo im toplu dobrodošlicu i ugodan boravak na našoj godišnjoj proslavi.

tamburaši će biti obučeni u narodnim nošnjama.

Misu će služiti naš dugogodišnji član i prijatelj velečasni Pierre Falkenhan. Slavski kolač, voće i sol za blagoslov u crkvi, u narodnim nošnjama nositi će mladi članovi zbora Sv. Juraj dok će preko mise svirati i pjevati naši odrasli sv. Jurajši.

Poslije mise svi se vraćamo u naš Hrvatski dom u Cokeburgu gdje ćemo dalje nastaviti sa proslavom. U kuhinji će cijelo vrijeme biti ukusne hrane, peciva i drugih specijaliteta.

Molimo naše vrijedne članice i prijateljice da nam po mogućnosti poklone domaćeg peciva na čemu vam se unaprijed zahvaljujemo.

U nedjelju poslije podne u gornjoj dvorani kluba svirati će tamburaški sastav kojeg sačinjavaju očevi naših mladih tamburaša. Kako vidite, biti će odlične tamburaške glazbe, sviranja, zajedničkog pjevanja, radosti i veselja do kasno u noć.

Biti će to dakle vrlo zabavna i interesantna dvodnevna proslava naše 76te godišnjice na koju ste svi pozvani a pogotovo naši zemljaci Ogulinci te svi naši članovi HBZ i prijatelji.

Svi ste nam dobro došli!
Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
predsj. odsjeka 354





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
POSTAGE PAID AT PITTSBURGH, PA
Dopisi se ne vraćaju, a šalju se na adresu:

IVAN BEGG/LORRAINE TURKALL, UREDNICI
100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Telefon: 412-843-0380 Fax: 412-823-1594
e-mail: editor@cfu.org
Website: www.cfu.org



GLAVNI URED
Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice
u Americi
Organizirane 1894. godine

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA...LORRAINE TURKALL

Zasjedanje Nacionalnog odbora

Članovi Nacionalnog odbora Hrvatske bratske zajednice sastati će se u glavnom uredu u Pittsburgu počevši od ponedjeljka, 4. svibnja, 2026. Trenutni članovi Nacionalnog odbora su: Nacionalni predsjednik Edward W. Pazo, Nacionalna tajnica/blagajnica Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras, Izvršni potpredsjednik Franjo Bertović, Nacionalni drugi potpredsjednik Michael Ricci, Predsjednik nadzornog odbora Daniel Kochis, Tajnica odbora Ruth Sepich, te članovi Wayne Vlašić, John Starešinić, Edward Sambol, John Miksich i Robert Luketić.

Tijekom svojih razmatranja, članovi Nadzornog odbora raspravljat će o izvještajima koje su pripremili tri člana Izvršnog odbora HBZ-a i Nacionalni drugi potpredsjednik, a koji su prethodno dostavljeni članovima Nadzornog odbora prije njihovog dolaska u Glavni ured Zajednice. Rasprave će procijeniti ukupno stanje HBZ i trenutačnu financijsku snagu organizacije. Članovi Nadzornog odbora također će pregledati

portfelj proizvoda životnog osiguranja i anuiteta koji su trenutno dostupni članovima i potencijalnim članovima, programe obogaćivanja za privlačenje interesa i uključivanja članova te mjere koje se provode kako bi se osiguralo zadržavanje članstva i kontinuirani rast.

Pored toga, bit će dostavljen godišnji Izvještaj aktuaara, a član aktuarske tvrtke Bruce and Bruce Consulting Actuaries bit će prisutan kako bi službeno predstavio izvještaj i odgovorio na sva pitanja članova Nacionalnog odbora.

Naglasak na ovoj proljetnoj sjednici uključivat će sveobuhvatnu nadopunu o napretku nove nadogradnje IT sustava koja se trenutno provodi kako bi se zamijenio Sustav za upravljanje policama koji je našoj Zajednici služio dugi niz godina. Bit će predstavljena detaljna rasprava o napretku nadogradnje sustava i potrebnim izdacima za dovršetak spomenutog projekta.

Sastajanje jednom godišnje u proljeće u sjedištu HBZ-a, te održavanje telekonferencija na sastancima prema potrebi,

pruža svim članovima odbora dovoljno prilike da iznesu svoje ideje za napredak Zajednice. Razborite odluke donesene na proljetnoj sjednici Nacionalnog odbora usmjerene su na proizvode i programe koji će pozitivno utjecati na budućnost naše bratske organizacije dok nastavljamo zadovoljavati potrebe svih članova koji se oslanjaju na Hrvatsku bratsku zajednicu za svoju financijsku sigurnost i bratsku uključenost. Topla dobrodošlica upućuje se svim članovima Nacionalnog odbora kada se okupljaju na vrijednim osobnim sjednicama kako bi osigurali rast i napredak naše Hrvatske bratske zajednice.

HRVATSKA BRATSKA ZAJEDNICA

Garantira vašu zaštitu. Pruža svojim članovima konkurentne proizvode životnog osiguranja i anuiteta te bratske pogodnosti. STALNI PLANOVİ 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.
PLANOVİ 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 Pittsburgu 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 sljedeći datum: **14. svibnja.**

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 sljedeći datum: **15. svibnja.**

VAŽNA OBAVIJEST: Potrebno je unaprijed zakazati termin i to putem adrese elektroničke pošte: crocons.washington@mvp.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

HBZ časti i čuva hrvatsku kulturnu baštinu



Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

Naša posljednja dva predsjednička izvješća detaljno su raspravljala o financijskom iskustvu naše bratske ustanove za godinu završenu 31. prosinca 2025. Ta izvješća su pružila transparentan uvid u Hrvatsku bratsku zajednicu u smislu njenog aktualnog načina rada kao bratske društvene organizacije koja pruža izvrsne financijske proizvode za pojedinačne članove i njihove obitelji. Naš cilj bio je pokazati da promišljeno odlučivanje uprave, nepokolebljiva želja za pružanjem poštene dobiti na mirovinske uštede i solidna zaštita životnog osiguranja za one kojima je potrebna, čine sastavni dio financijskog uspjeha kojeg je Zajednica postigla.

Ovaj uspjeh omogućuje brojne i raznolike kulturne programe koje HBZ promiče, a koji časte i očuvaju naše hrvatsko nasljeđe za buduće generacije.

Zajednica održava Hrvatski kulturni muzej kao središnji dio

Hrvatski kulturni muzej Bernard M. Luketić, smješten na sva tri kata sjedišta glavnog ureda HBZ-a, izvrstan je primjer ljubavi i poštovanja koje Hrvatska bratska zajednica i njezini članovi imaju prema našoj hrvatskoj kulturi i baštini. Posvećen nacionalnom predsjedniku emeritusu Bernardu M. Luketiću, muzej izlaže širok spektar kulturnih artefakata, uključujući: hrvatske narodne nošnje iz brojnih regija u Hrvatskoj i Bosni i Hercegovini; naive umjetnosti hrvatskih majstora, Ivana Lackovića Croate, Josipa i Ivana Generalića, Ivica Fištera, Josipa Cugovčana i drugih; akvarele i crteže poznatog Mladena Veže; te umjetnička djela poznatog kipara Ivana Meštrovića.

Često primamo članove i goste koji obilaze našu zgradu i sa čuđenjem primjećuju muzejske stvari koje su izložene u cijeloj zgradi. Često čujemo njihov dojam kao: „Nisam znao(la) koliko je zapravo velika HBZ ...“, i, „opseg i kvaliteta izložaka su veličanstveni, više nego što se može pronaći pod jednim krovom bilo gdje u svijetu!“ Ovo su stvarne misli koje su mi osobno izrečene tijekom obilaska naših članova i gostiju iz Hrvatske. Ova reakcija govori sve o učinkovitosti i ulozi koju je Hrvatska bratska zajednica Amerike imala tijekom svoje povijesti, ali prvenstveno tijekom zadnjih šezdesetak godina u kojima su kulturni i bratski mostovi suradnje izgrađeni i njegovani s našom hrvatskom braćom i sestrama u domovini.

Mladi i odrasli tamburaši spremni zabavljati članove i goste

Ove smo godine zadovoljni što možemo reći da će Omladinska kulturna federacija održati svoj godišnji festival u gradu Clevelandu, Ohio, s Hilton Downtown Cleveland hotelom kao sjedištem za vikend hrvatskih pjesama i plesova. Ranije smo festival održali u Clevelandu, slučajno u ovom hotelu, u srpnju 2017. godine, na zadovoljstvo svih koji su planirali, sudjelovali i brinuli o potrebama svih prisutnih. Stoga su se direktori Omladinske kulturne federacije osjećali vrlo ugodno pri odabiru ovog mjesta i objekta jer zadovoljava sve potrebe sudjelujućih ansambala. Datumi festivala su od petka, 3. srpnja do nedjelje, 5. srpnja 2026. godine. Informacije o rezervaciji, uključujući snižene cijene soba od \$169.00 + porez (\$198.58 za jednu do četiri osobe po noći), distribuirane su svim sudjelujućim omladinskim ansablama.

Članovi koji su zainteresirani za sudjelovanje i koji još nisu rezervirali svoje mjesto mogu koristiti sljedeću poveznicu: <https://book.passkey.com/event/51129459/owner/14238363/home>

U potpunosti očekujemo još jedan tamburaški festival za odrasle koji čuva i poštuje naše hrvatsko nasljeđe, a istovremeno omogućuje djeci da uče o našoj bogatoj hrvatskoj kulturi koja se tako prekrasno prikazuje publici svake godine.

Columbus, OH: Mjesto 39. odraslog festivala

Nakon završetka omladinskog tamburaškog festivala, naša će se pažnja tada usmjeriti na druge kulturne i društvene aktivnosti Zajednice i njenih odsjeka. Glavni događaj tijekom druge polovice godine za Hrvatsku bratsku zajednicu bit će naš festival odraslih ansambala

(Nastavak na 10. strani)



Ovaj hrvatski grad je najsrdačnija destinacija u 2026. godini

Prema gostima Booking.com-a, Istra i Dalmacija prednjače s autentičnim doživljajem i iskrenim domaćinstvom

Gostoprimstvo je i dalje jedan od ključnih elemenata iskustva putovanja, a ovogodišnje Booking.com Traveller Review Awards nagrade stavljaju u fokus hrvatske destinacije u kojima se gosti osjećaju posebno dobrodošlo, ističući raznolikost iskustava u kojima putnici mogu uživati diljem zemlje.

Na temelju recenzija gostiju, Pazin je proglašen najsrdačnijom destinacijom u Hrvatskoj u 2026. godini, a slijedi ga Cesarica, malo slikovito mjesto u blizini Karlobaga. Na trećem mjestu nalazi se Preko na otoku Ugljanu, nakon kojeg slijedi srednjovjekovni gradić Svetvinčenat, smješten na jugu središnje Istre. Sinj, srce Dalmatinske zagore, zaokružuje popis pet najsrdačnijih destinacija u Hrvatskoj.

Komentirajući ovo priznanje, Darko Žiković, direktor Turističke zajednice Pazina, rekao je: „Biti prepoznat kao najsrdačnija destinacija u Hrvatskoj značajno je priznanje

za Pazin i cijelu našu zajednicu. Ono što Pazin čini posebnim jest autentičnost iskustva koje nudimo – od naše kulturne baštine do svakodnevnih interakcija s posjetiteljima. Ovo priznanje motivira nas da nastavimo razvijati naš grad kao mjesto gdje se gosti osjećaju istinski dobrodošlo i povezano s destinacijom.”

Jedinstveni šarm središnje Istre

Pazin se ističe kao destinacija koja spaja bogatu povijest, dojmive prirodne krajolike i snažan osjećaj lokalnog identiteta. Smješten u srcu Istre, najpoznatiji je po impresivnoj Pazinskoj jami i srednjovjekovnom kaštelu koji je poslužio kao inspiracija za književna djela, pružajući posjetiteljima jedinstven uvid u prošlost regije.

Osim svojih povijesnih znamenitosti, grad poziva putnike da istraže njegov slikovit okoliš, od pješačkih i biciklističkih staza do autentične lokalne gastronomije ukorijenjene u istarskoj tradiciji.



Njegova središnja lokacija čini ga i idealnom bazom za otkrivanje šire regije, a obalni gradovi poput Pule, Umaga i Poreča udaljeni su tek nešto više od 30 minuta vožnje.

Posjetitelji mogu jednostavno uživati u nizu nezaboravnih iskustava, uključujući promatranje dupina uz vožnju brodom po porečkoj rivijeri ili panoramski obilazak Brijunskog arhipelaga i otoka Sveti Jerolim, gdje se gosti mogu opustiti, plivati i roniti u kristalno čistom moru, što ovaj izlet čini savršenim izborom za one koji žele spojiti prirodu i avanturu.

Gdje boraviti?

Apartment Nina Pazin****, dobitnik nagrade Traveller Review Awards 2026, nalazi se u srcu Pazina, na samo nekoliko minuta hoda od kulturnog Pazinskog kaštela. Ovaj udoban jednosobni apartman nudi pažljivo osmišljen boravak s odvojenim dnevnim dijelom, što ga čini prikladnim za parove i za manje grupe. Gostima su na raspolaganju moderni sadržaji, potpuno opremljena kuhinja, kao i balkon i vanjski prostor za sjedenje. Uz sunčanu terasu, vrt i besplatno privatno parkiralište, objekt pruža opuštajuću bazu za istraživanje okolice, uključujući obližnji Dvigrad i aquapark Istralandia.

Apartment Pisino****, pak, dobitnik je nagrade Traveller Review Awards 2026, nalazi se u srcu Pazina, na svega nekoliko koraka od kulturnog Pazinskog kaštela. Ovaj prostrani jednosobni apartman nudi udoban i dobro osmišljen boravak, s odvojenim dnevnim dijelom koji uključuje kauč na razvlačenje i blagovaonicu, što ga čini prikladnim i za parove i za manje grupe. Njegova središnja lokacija omogućuje jednostavan pristup nekim od ključnih atrakcija regije, a istovremeno služi i kao praktična baza za jednodnevne izlete diljem Istre. Posjetitelji posebno cijene blizinu povijesnih znamenitosti, dobro opremljenu kuhinju i ukupnu udobnost prostora.

Dom i Dizajn

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!

Nina Novak/odsjeck 515

BENEFICIJE NA LOKALNOJ ODSJEČNOJ RAZINI

HBZ pruža mnogobrojne beneficije odsječnim članovima na lokalnoj razini. Pod okriljem HBZ-a posluje 169 odsjeka i 147 gnijezda (podmlatka). Naši odsjeci i gnijezda ključni su u pružanju usluga članovima u svojim mjesnim zajednicama.

Svaki član je od izuzetne važnosti za Zajednicu, ne samo kao vlasnik police životnog osiguranja ili certifikata anuiteta. Ugovor o osiguranju može se sklopiti negdje drugdje ali to je sve što osiguranik dobije. Nedostajale bi druge koristi, kao što su stipendije, učešće u kulturnim i sportskim aktivnostima, humanitarnim pothvatima i t.d.

Zajednica kao kompanija je u vlasništvu svojih članova. Drži troškove poslovanja niskim, s konkurentnim cijenama životnog osiguranja i daje velikodušne kamatne stope u anuitetima. Tu je uočljiva razlika u usporedbi s komercijalnim društvima.

Hrvatska bratska zajednica je isključivo dobrotvorna bratska organizacija. Njena svrha je pružanje međusobne pomoći svojim članovima kroz životno osiguranje, mogućnosti ulaganja u umirovljeničke ili anuitetske račune te promicanja, čuvanje hrvatske kulturne baštine, jezika i identiteta. Zajednica nije dioničarsko društvo već je u vlasništvu svojih članova.

Naši odsjeci su sastavni dio Zajednice. Oni su naši zastupnici u svojim lokanim zajednicama u promicanju zajedništva, bratskih i kulturnih aktivnosti.

Svaki odsjek koji promiče naše vrijednosti, upisuje nove članove i prima financijsku potporu Zajednice. Odsječna članarina po članu je \$2.22 i 4% godišnje premije šalje se odsjeku za njegove aktivnosti. Također, daje se bonus za tajnika i voditelja gnijezda radi poticanja njihovih aktivnosti.

Aktivan odsjek pruža mnoge pogodnosti svojoj područnoj zajednici gdje djeluje. Odsjek zbližava i povezuje ljude te sudjeluju u humanitarnim pothvatima. I to nije sve. Članovi se potiču da teže boljitku u mjesnim zajednicama kroz dobrovoljni rad, financijske potpore kod prikupljanja sredstava za određene potrebe.

Kao dio potpornog društva, vođeni članskim dobrotvornim aktivnostima predani smo društvenim vezama i dobrovoljnom radu u mjesnim zajednicama.

Uz sve izrečeno, u najboljem interesu odsjeka i svih nas je u rastu našeg članstva i vrijednosti iza kojih stojimo.

Ako imate bilo koje pitanje(a) o programima životnog osiguranja ili o anuitetskim ulaganjima kod HBZ-a nazovite nas na tel. 412-843-0380 ili pogledajte naše web stranice www.cfu.org

Kako skuhati dobar gulaš



Gulaš je jedno od najomiljenijih jela na svijetu, ali mnogi priznaju da ga nikada ne uspiju skuhati baš onako kako bi htjeli. Ponekad ispadne previše rijedak, ponekad bez dovoljno okusa, a često je problem i meso koje ne omekša kako treba. Dobra vijest je da se sve to može izbjeći ako se obrati pažnja na nekoliko jednostavnih pravila te tako nauči izbjeći uobičajene greške zbog kojih gulaš ne uspije kako treba.

Želite li uživati u jelu sa sočnim mesom koje se topi u ustima od mekoće i umakom tako gustim i aromatičnim da ga poželite počistiti s tanjura komadićem kruha, trebat ćete obratiti pažnju na nekoliko bitnih stavki. Evo što je ključno kod pripreme gulaša.

Koje meso odabrati za gulaš

Najčešće se priprema od junetine ili govedine, jer upravo te vrste mesa daju najbolju teksturu i okus. Plečka i vrat su najbolji izbor, dok se but ne preporučuje jer je meso krto pa ostaje vlaknasto i manje mekano. Tajna najukusnijeg gulaša

Luk je temelj svakog gulaša, a mnogi baš tu naprave nepopravljivu pogrešku. Ako se predugo pirja, luk gubi teksturu i okus, a ako ostane presvijetao, jelo neće imati potrebnu dubinu okusa. Važno je pronaći ravnotežu, jer pravilno dinstan luk igra jako bitnu ulogu u ukusnom profilu ovog jela.

Kako narezati meso za gulaš

Meso za gulaš se reže na veće kocke, do pet centimetara. Na taj način gulaš dobiva punoću i sočnost, iako meso možda ne izgleda „uredno“ na tanjuru. S mesa je potrebno ukloniti samo opne i tetive, dok masnoću treba ostaviti. Ona se prilikom kuhanja otapa i jelu daje aromu i bogatiji okus.

Koje vino staviti u gulaš

Ne štedite na vinu niti na njegovoj kvaliteti. Najbolje je koristiti crno vino koje i inače volite piti, jer će upravo ono oblikovati konačan okus jela. Ako je vino dobro u čaši, bit će izvrsno i u gulašu.

Najbolji začini za gulaš

Postoje brojne varijante ovog jela, za koje se koriste različiti začini pa je tako, primjerice, gulaš u Mađarskoj jušan i ljut, dok je austrijski poznat po izraženoj aromi, ali bez jače ljutine. Kod nas je gulaš uvijek začinjjen paprikom, pri čemu je dopušteno igranje količinom i izborom između slatke i ljute, a mnogi mu, po uzoru na Mađare, dodaju kumin, dok je drugima gulaš nezamisliv bez lista lovora.

Slobodna Dalmacija

PRECI I POTOMCI

...Amo, Braćo, amo... amo...
da svi skupa zaigramo...
Branko Radičević, Kolo

POTOMCI sadašnjeg ljudskog roda prije će se zbog svojih PREDAKA sramiti nego ponositi. Bit će im apsurdna i neobjašnjiva ovolika mržnja, ratovi, paljevine, ruševine, krvoprolića... ubojstva...

Uistinu, naši POTOMCI će nas prezirati i zaniijekati. Bit će im drago da smo mrtvi, naše grobove zasigurno neće ni obilaziti ni blagoslivljati.

Iz stoljeća u stoljeće, od našeg postanka ljudski rod nije iz svog života uspio iskorijeniti mržnju i zvjerske nagone za otimanjem, zlostavljanjem, ubijanjem... Umjesto MIRA i SLOGE naši PRECI su oduvijek birali RAT i NESLOGU!

U nekoj, možda dalekoj, budućnosti POTOMCI ovog danas razljuđenog, razglavljenog, izopačenog, digitalnog i umjetnointeligenatnog kaosa, da, naši osviješteni i izliječeni POTOMCI će biti ogorčeni i ojađeni zbog spoznaje da su njihovi PRECI bili uglubljeni u mržnju... kao u živo blato i opsjednuti RATOM s ciljem da sa Zemaljske Kugle protjeraju, istrijebe, poubijaju, SVE... ONE DRUGE koji ne pripadaju u njihov čopor... Tako bi zadovoljili svoju pohlepu i vladali čoporom, bezakonjem i tiranijom.

POTOMCI naši će biti drugačiji ... POTOMCI naši će se odreći PREDAKA kojih se stide! ... nada je besmrtna...POTOMCI naši će čuvati svoja bogatstva, duhovna i svjetovna, svoje velebne gradove u kojima se čuju zvona sa crkava uzdižu tornjevi damija, zadivljuje skladnost sinagoga, hramova i bezbrojnih svetišta...

POTOMCI naši će znati bolje od naših PREDAKA. Stvarat će bolji, humaniji Svijet, Svijet bratske sloge i međusobnog poštovanja i dijaloga.

Uistinu, sinovi i kćeri, unuci i praunuci svi budući ljudi i narodi znat će bolje...Bit će bolji u boljem Svijetu od Svijeta naših PREDAKA...

Jednog dana, desit će se ČUDO!
... neka se nada nikada ne ugasi...
Zaigrat ćemo uz Petra Preradovića, uz Josipa Reihl Kira, uz Lester Pearsona, uz Nelson Mandelu, uz M.L. Kinga. Uz Branka Radičevića, zaigrat ćemo ... Kolo, kolo, naokolo i šapnuti PRECIMA... Počivajte u miru sa svojim zabludama...

Nina Novak/odsjeck 515



DEATHS REPORTED

FROM MARCH 31 TO APRIL 13, 2026

3	Charles T. Milcic.....	McKeesport, PA
35	Thomas W. Krasick.....	Kansas City, KS
75	Richard L. Mathis.....	Waukegan, IL
80	Joseph M. Crook.....	Smoke Run, PA
170	Bernice M. Gasper.....	Merrillville, IN
185	John A. Tomich.....	Campbell, OH
217	Marguerite Tilashalski.....	Benld, IL
229	Kimiko Sambol.....	S. Chicago, IL
235	Kay Doughty.....	Cleveland, OH
248	Patricia A. Karpac.....	Clairton, PA
248	Pamela Y. Yaksick.....	Clairton, PA
352	Marie Maglich.....	Watsonville, CA
354	Francis J. Madera.....	Cokeburg, PA
439	Mary A. Bishop.....	Seattle, WA
561	Agnes Longaker.....	Flint, MI
563	Michael R. Veg.....	Dayton, OH
595	Pauline Petrovich.....	Weirton, WV
612	Veronica L. Devlin.....	San Jose, CA
720	Jean A. Grdasich.....	Aliquippa, PA
848	Josephine P. Bobusch.....	N.Chicago, IL
859	George C. Popovic.....	Cleveland, OH
982	Ann Furlan.....	Miami, FL

Prosječna plaća u Zagrebu

Prosječna mjesečna isplaćena neto plaća po zaposlenome u pravnim osobama u Gradu Zagrebu za prosinac 2025. iznosila je 1693 eura, što je nominalno pad za 0,3 posto u odnosu na studeni 2025. i porast za 9,4 posto u odnosu na prosinac 2024., pokazuju podaci gradskog statističkog ureda.

Medijalna neto plaća za prosinac 2025. iznosila je 1447 eura, što znači da je polovica zaposlenih Zagrepčana imala manje, a polovica više od toga iznosa.

Prema podacima Gradskog ureda za gospodarstvo, ekološku održivost i strategijsko planiranje, najviša prosječna mjesečna neto plaća u pravnim osobama za prosinac 2025. isplaćena je u djelatnosti vađenje sirove nafte i prirodnog plina, u iznosu od 3301 euro.

Najniža prosječna neto plaća isplaćena je u proizvodnji odjeće, u iznosu od 979 eura.

U odnosu na prosječnu mjesečnu plaću za lanjski prosinac na razini Hrvatske koja je iznosila 1494 eura, prosječna zagrebačka neto plaća isplaćena za taj mjesec bila je veća za 199 eura.

Prosječna mjesečna bruto plaća po zaposlenome u pravnim osobama u Gradu Zagrebu za prosinac 2025. iznosila je 2428 eura, što je pad za 0,2 posto u odnosu na studeni 2025. i porast za 10,6 posto u odnosu na prosinac 2024. godine.

Hina

Starinsko bosansko jelo koje tek rijetki još znaju pripremiti



Riječ je o jelu koje se pokušava sačuvati od zaborava, pa se danas u BiH nerijetko priprema i na većim okupljanjima.

Znate li što je potkriža? Nikad niste čuli? To što odmahujete glavom i nije tako strašno, jer mlađe generacije u Bosni i Hercegovini, domovini ovog jela, također žive u neznanju. Riječ je o jednom od najstarijih tradicionalnih bosanskih jela koje se, osim potkriža, naziva još i bosanski čevap.

Zanimljivo je dodati kako se ovo jelo, premda se jednostavno i brzo priprema, zapravo treba sačuvati od zaborava. Utjecaj drugih kultura i kuhinja, ubrzan životni ritam i neke nove namirnice, učinile su da se i potkriža danas spominje u kontekstu zaboravljenih jela. A to je baš šteta, jer je riječ o jelu kojim iskorištavate hranu koja vam je ostala od jučer, a dobit ćete slastan obrok koji ćete rado pojesti i ponoviti.

Za ovo je jelo potrebna domaća pogača, koju i sami možete zamijesiti.

Tradicionalno se potkriža priprema s piletinom i pogačom koja treba biti stara najmanje jedan dan, a možete je

pripremiti i sami od brašna, soli, 1 jaja, praška za pecivo i 250 ml jogurta. Kad je tijesto podatno, razvaljajte ga i pecite oko 20 minuta na 200 °C i ostavite da se ohladi do sutra.

Trebat će vam:

1 cijelo pile
4 glavice luka
250 g maslaca
sol
papar
pogača
začini po želji



Priprema:

Pile očistite, pa ga na desetak minuta stavite u komadu kuhati u vruću vodu.

Piše: **Dobra hrana**

Uspostavljen stipendijski...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

kći Erin, strastvena igrčica lacrossea, također je učenica treće godine srednje škole sa zanimanjem za hrvatsko naslijeđe.

„Naš sin Stephen ima veliki interes za hrvatsku povijest. Snimio je 45-minutni dokumentarac o Domovinskom ratu tijekom srednje škole, a kasnije je posjetio Hrvatsku. Kada se prijavio za stipendiju, podsjetilo nas je na promišljen pristup koji HBZ primjenjuje pri dodjeli stipendija. Svi kvalificirani članovi dobivaju stipendiju, ali iznos raste ovisno o zaslugama i potrebama. To je upravo način na koji smatramo da proces treba funkcionirati. Ovo pokazuje podršku svim članovima HBZ-a i prepoznaje vrijednost marljivog rada i bratstva u pomaganju onima kojima je potrebna pomoć.

„Kad je ujak Steve preminuo, a ja sam gledao sve obiteljske fotografije sa svojom suprugom Kristin i mamom (Diane Scott-Markulin), jedna stvar je posebno upala u oči - gotovo na svakoj slici ljudi su zajedno jeli, smijali se i uživali u tamburici i svojoj baštini. Bili smo odušev-

jeni što smo osnovali stipendiju koja će mladim ljudima koristiti još mnogo godina, videći kako povezanost s baštinom utječe na mlade.”

U ovom broju **Zajedničara** također smo objavili nekrolog za brata Stephena R. Markulina, Jr., koji je preminuo 12. listopada 2025. Njegovo dugogodišnje sudjelovanje u našoj organizaciji i glazbenoj kulturi dodatno naglašava bratsku povijest obitelji i vrijednost koju je obitelj Markulin pridavala očuvanju svog hrvatskog naslijeđa.

U ime Nacionalne uprave i članstva Hrvatske bratske zajednice, iskazujemo našu duboku zahvalnost i priznajemo generacije obitelji Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan čija su bratstvo i predanost pridonijeli osnivanju ovog novog fonda putem Zaklade za stipendije Hrvatske bratske zajednice, Inc. Odluka da se obiteljsko naslijeđe očuva kroz ovaj jedinstveni dobrotvorni čin služiti će izgradnji karijera, jačanju radne snage nacije i osnaživanju budućnosti bezbroj članova HBZ-a u godinama koje dolaze.

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

(Tamfest) koji je planiran za 6.-8. studenog 2026. u hotelu Renaissance smještenom u centru Columbusa, Ohio. Lokacija je odabrana zbog blizine velikog broja odraslih ansambala i zbog našeg vrlo uspješnog festivala odraslih održanog u Columbusu u studenom 2010. Sobe po sniženoj grupnoj cijeni od 139 USD + porez (164,02 USD po noći) mogu se rezervirati u hotelu Renaissance putem sljedeće poveznice koju je pružio njihov odjel za rezervacije: <https://book.passkey.com/event/51175757/owner/14056/home>

Molimo i pozivamo sve odrasle tamburaške ansamble da što prije rezerviraju svoje sobe kako bi sudjelovali u ovom godišnjem spektaklu hrvatske kulture, prikazanom zahvaljujući Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici Amerike.

Veselim se što ćemo velik broj članova HBZ-a dočekati na svakom od ovih tamburaških festivala koje naša Zajednica sponzorira za uživanje naših članova. Predanost naše Zajednice u promicanju i održavanju ovih bratskih programa u izravnoj je vezi s našim mandatom očuvanja naše dragocjene hrvatske kulture i baštine. Svi nam dobro došli!

Počeli prvi pozivi za vojsku

ZAGREB - Ministarstvo obrane Republike Hrvatske nedavno je poslalo prve pozive na obvezne zdravstvene preglede mladima rođenima 2007. godine koji imaju hrvatsko državljanstvo i prebivalište u Hrvatskoj, čime je započela provedba postupka za temeljno vojno osposobljavanje.

Za popunu prvog naraštaja ročnika upućeno je oko 1200 poziva na zdravstvene preglede.

Pregledi će se provoditi u Zavodu za zrakoplovnu medicinu u Zagrebu i Zavodu za pomorsku medicinu u Splitu te u ustanovama medicine rada u Osijeku, Požegi, Slavanskom Brodu, Dubrovniku, Pazinu, Rijeci, Gospiću i Virovitici. Troškove prijevoza snosi MORH.

Zdravstveni pregled

obuhvaća psihologijsko ispitivanje, opći liječnički pregled, određivanje indeksa tjelesne mase, laboratorijske pretrage krvi i urina, EKG, ispitivanje vidnih i slušnih sposobnosti, kao i preglede ostalih specijalista medicine te druge dijagnostičke pretrage i preglede prema indikaciji.

Od novaka se traži da na pregled donesu svu medicinsku dokumentaciju relevantnu za utvrđivanje njihova zdravstvenog stanja.

U prvom naraštaju planiran je raspored do 800 ročnika na tri vojne lokacije, navodi MORH. Oni koji to ne žele, u skladu sa Zakonom o obrani, mogu iskazati prigovor savjesti i obavljati civilnu službu.

U Hrvatskoj temeljno vojno osposobljavanje traje dva

mjeseca i obuhvaća temeljne vojničke vještine kao što su rukovanje osobnim naoružanjem i suvremenom opremom, pružanje prve pomoći, osnovne samoobrane te upoznavanje s ključnim vojnim operacijama Domovinskog rata. Ročnici će za vrijeme osposobljavanja dobivati mjesečnu naknadu od 1100 eura neto. Uz financijsku naknadu, ročnicima se priznaju dva mjeseca radnog staža te ostvaruju jednokratnu prednost pri zapošljavanju na neodređeno pod jednakim uvjetima u državnim tijelima i tijelima jedinice lokalne samouprave.

Ukoliko je zaposlen, ročnik za vrijeme služenja vojnog roka ne može dobiti otkaz. Zakon je propisao i slučajeve u kojima se može ostvariti pravo na odgodu, primjerice za studente i sportaše.

Jutarnji list



CROATIAN COMMUNITY LEADERS gather at Brauhaus Schmitz to celebrate Croatia and France and spotlight the "How Do You Phan" fan initiative ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.



Croatian Americans Join Philadelphia Soccer 2026 at World Cup Countdown Event

PHILADELPHIA, PA – On April 8, Philadelphia Soccer 2026 hosted a happy hour at Brauhaus Schmitz to mark the countdown to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which kicks off June 11. Croatian American community members attended to show support for the Croatian national team during an evening that honored both France and Croatia. German fans were also invited, as Brauhaus Schmitz owner, Doug Hager, is German. The event also spotlighted the "How Do You Phan" initiative and encouraged fans to take part in Philadelphia's World Cup experience.

The National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation (NFCACF) was represented by President Steve Rukavina (Lodge 760) and board member Vedran Nazor (Lodge 760 Vice President).

Philadelphia Soccer 2026 is the operational host committee to advance planning and executing FIFA World Cup watch parties and community events in the region. Philadelphia is the only Pennsylvania host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Philadelphia Soccer 2026 recently announced plans for three FIFA World Cup fan zones in Reading, Scranton, and Pittsburgh. The cities will host satellite events, including watch parties scheduled throughout the tournament. Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said at a March press conference, "The matches may be in Philly, but I think the heart and soul of FIFA is going to be all across Pennsylvania."

"How Do You Phan" is a campaign designed to rally soccer fans from diaspora communities with resources, downloadable fan content, and information about watch parties to support their favorite national teams. Each participating country, including Croatia, has its own page featuring basic team facts, players to watch, and social media assets.

Croatia's national team, nicknamed the "Vatreni" ("Blazers"), is scheduled to face Ghana at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on June 27 at 5 p.m. The 2026 World Cup would mark Croatia's seventh World Cup appearance and its fourth consecutive appearance (2014, 2018, 2022, and 2026). Croatia secured qualification after a 3-1 victory over the Faroe Islands on Nov. 14, 2025, topping its UEFA qualifying group.

Mark Plavetic/Lodge 1976

5 Reasons Why You Should Consider Life Insurance:

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

There's Much To Do With 32

CHICAGO, IL - Saturday, April 25: Hoosier Hrvati of Merrillville, IN will host their Spring Concert at the CFU Lodge 170 Croatian Home, 8550 Taft St., Merrillville. Doors open at 3 p.m. Concert at 4 p.m. Dinner and dance will follow. Cost- \$50 includes: concert, dinner and dance. Sounds like a good time to me! More details found elsewhere in this "Z".

Sunday, April 26: Sloboda's SAC will have their General Meeting at the Rubinic Clubhouse at 1:30 p.m. No lunch will be served, but perhaps a few sweets might show up via our "Super Baker" members.

Thursday, May 7: The National Day of Prayer, is an annual U.S. Observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. Its purpose: To turn to God in prayer and meditation, offering thanks for freedoms and seeking guidance for the nation's leaders and citizens.

Sunday, May 10: It's Mother's Day! NO LODGE MEETING. This day is set aside for all mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, aunts and any other lady who was/is significant in the life of a child. Celebrate it BIG because they/we deserve it!

Saturday, May 16: Our Sloboda Jr. Tamburitians in Concert. Details available in the coming weeks. Keep your eye on the "Z".

Sat./Sun., May 16/17: Plan now! Become part of a fun-filled weekend at the CFU National Bowling Tournament, hosted by Lodge 136 in Lorain, Ohio. Don't bowl? So what! It's not all about bowling. It's about fun and camaraderie. Don't have a full team? So what! They'll team you up with a super bunch of guys and gals who will become your friends forever. It doesn't get any better than that!

Monday, May 25: Memorial Day. This is a whole weekend to celebrate, yet mourn the lives of our brave and selfless fallen military who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. The first national observance, known as Decoration Day, occurred on May 30, 1868.

Friday, May 29: The Tamburitians will be performing at 7:30 p.m. at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School Theater, 3737 W. 99th St. in Chicago. The link for tickets plus more information will be coming. This performance is being sponsored by Robert Vucinic and Family whose son Roman is one of the performers as was his father during his college years.

Fri./Sat., June 5/6: CFU National Golf Tournament, hosted by Zora Lodge 351 in Detroit, MI.

Sunday, June 14: "Happy Anniversary Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32 on your 130th year!" We'll be celebrating it "BIG"! Join us as we celebrate this great milestone with champagne and goodies at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement Ave., Joliet, starting at 10:30 a.m. First the General Meeting, then the party. If you want to contribute to the festivities, please be my guest!

PLAN AHEAD:

Sunday, July 12: Lodge 32's Midwest CFU Day Picnic at the Croatian Cultural Club in Joliet.

Saturday, July 18: Joe Rady Golf Tournament, hosted by Lodge 367 of Canton, IL. Tournament to be played at the Kellogg Golf Course in Peoria, IL.

Tuesday, August 11: There is a Chicago White Sox game at

Rate Field at 6:40 p.m. vs. the Reds. That's not the best part - they're giving away Pope Hats for everyone! Join in the fun! Get your very own Pope Hat!

■■■
"I remember my mother's prayers . . . They have clung to me all my life." - Abraham Lincoln

More Happy News: Another addition to our Nest 17! Announcing the arrival of Robert Craig Jacobsen, 7lbs. 13oz., 20.5" tall. Baby Robert, who happens to be named after his Great-Grandpa, Bob Pavich, arrived on April 9th! Mommy Meagan and Daddy Kevin are delighted that he's finally here. Even more excited are Grandparents Jim and Kim Pavich and Great-Grandma Dolores Pavich. Congratulations to the entire Pavich family!

I am thrilled to announce that we have a chairperson for that very important position of organizing our wonderful

kitchen staff for OUR picnic. And, that special person is Julie Lozich! Now that Julie has graciously accepted this position, she now needs a staff. Don't be shy! From what we hear, Julie does not bite! So step right up and volunteer! The more volunteers, the less time spent in the kitchen. Speaking of volunteering, we also need help in the bakery department. We need strudel makers, povitica (nut roll) makers and other sweets to fill our bakery table. Here again, the more help we get, the less time spent behind the bakery table. Please, give me a call at 773.586.3025. Don't forget to leave a message along with your name and phone number and I'll get that message to the appropriate person. Thank you!

Please Remember: That there is NO MEETING IN MAY and our June General Meeting will be at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St., Joliet.

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

CFU 2026 Calendar of Coming Events

APRIL

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

JUNE

5-6 CFU National Golf Tournament - Hosted by Zora CFU Lodge 351 - Rockham Golf Course - Detroit, MI

7 Spring Picnic of Ogulin Lodge 530 - Tower Rd. - St. Thomas, ON

JULY

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

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

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

18 Joe Rady Golf Tournament - Hosted by CFU Lodge 367 - Kellogg Golf Course - Peoria, IL

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 Tamburitians' Annual Golf Outing - Nemacolin Country Club - Beallsville, PA

16 Annual Fraternal Day Picnic - United CFU Four County Lodges - Clairton Community Park - Clairton, PA

30 Summer Picnic and Bocce Tournament of Ogulin CFU Lodge 530 - Croatian R.C. Church - London, ON

30 CFU Lodge 170 Annual Picnic - Merrillville, IN

SEPTEMBER

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

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

OCTOBER

10 Lodge 126 Indoor Picnic - Farrell Croatian Home - Farrell, PA

17 100th Anniversary Banquet of the Rankin Croatian Home - Rankin, PA

NOVEMBER

6-8 39th Annual CFU Adult TamFEST - Renaissance Columbus Downtown - Columbus, OH

22 CFU Lodge 515 "Bernard M. Luketich" Toronto, Scholarship Luncheon in memory of Magdalena Mary Smintich - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 31, 1050 Weston Road, Toronto

29 Christmas Dinner and St. Nicholas Day of Ogulin CFU Lodge 530/Nest 530 - Croatian R.C. Church, London - ON

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

Bringing Croatia's 1992 Olympic Basketball Miracle to the Big Screen

LOS ANGELES, CA - Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Jack Baric is set to begin production on his latest feature, *More Than a Dream*, an inspirational sports documentary that tells the extraordinary story of the Croatian national basketball team at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Baric will direct and produce the film, which will explore the team's remarkable silver medal win in their Olympic debut as an independent nation, challenging the legendary "Dream Team" in the gold medal game. Led by four players who were among the first group of international players to enter the NBA - Drazen Petrovic, Toni Kukoc, Dino Radja, and Stojko Vrankovic - the Croatians emerged as a premier European force, defying expectations and securing a place in basketball history.

The full synopsis reads...

While the Dream Team commanded the global spotlight during the 1992 Olympics, the Croatian squad arrived in Barcelona with little fanfare. Back home, the newly independent nation was fighting the deadliest conflict on European soil since World War II - a war that claimed more than 10,000 Croatian lives and displaced over 300,000 people.

With a third of their country under siege and fierce fighting all around them, the Croatians risked everything just to make it to practice and games. Leading the charge were four players who were among the first wave of international stars to enter the NBA: Drazen Petrovic of the New Jersey Nets, Toni Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls, and Boston Celtics big men Dino Radja and Stojko Vrankovic.

The entire world knew the Dream Team was destined for

gold in 1992, so the real race was to see who would face them in the final. Croatia, Russia, Lithuania, Brazil, and Australia all vied for that spot—with Croatia ultimately earning the right to meet the Americans in the championship game.

Baric said: "More Than a Dream is more than a sports story—it's about a nation fighting to define itself under impossible circumstances, and the courage of athletes who carried the hopes of an entire country onto the world stage. Their journey to Barcelona, facing the greatest team ever assembled, is a testament to resilience, love, unity, and the unbreakable human spirit. I can't wait to bring their story to life on screen."

Full production on "More than a Dream" is slated to begin in May and will feature interviews with various sports, cultural, and political figures from Croatia and the United States over archival footage of the team, Olympic games, and wartime Croatia.

Kukoc, who has already sat down with Baric for an interview, said, "Representing Croatia in 1992 was one of the greatest honors of my life. Our people were going through a very hard time, and the Olympics were much more than a basketball tournament for me and my teammates. We wanted to do something for our people. I'm thankful to Jack for telling the story of what that team meant—not just for basketball, but for Croatia."

Baric plans to premiere the film at the LA28 Olympics.

Editor

Vukovar to host "SVI zaJEDNO HRVATSKO NAJ" festival showcasing Croatia's heritage

The eighth edition of the "SVI zaJEDNO HRVATSKO NAJ" festival will take place in Vukovar from 1 to 3 May, bringing together the very best of Croatia's intangible cultural heritage, tourism offerings and traditions.

Over three days, the city of Vukovar will transform into a vibrant cultural hub, hosting thousands of visitors from across Croatia and the diaspora. Events will be held at several prominent locations throughout the city, showcasing the richness and diversity of the country's heritage.

Organisers say the festival continues to position Vukovar as a place of connection, tradition and positive energy.

"We are proud that our city brings together participants from all parts of Croatia and beyond, promoting the authenticity and diversity of our heritage through a rich and varied programme," said Marina Sekulić, Director of the Vukovar Tourist Board.

Visitors can expect a wide-ranging programme. The BAŠTINA.HR segment will highlight protected cultural



heritage, while folklore performances by cultural and artistic societies and vocal groups will take centre stage throughout the festival.

Food and wine will also play a key role, with eno-gastronomic presentations offering traditional dishes from different regions of Croatia, alongside tastings of high-quality local wines. An eco-ethno fair will feature authentic domestic products.

One of this year's highlights is the first-ever majorette gathering in Vukovar, bringing together groups from across the country, including Sinj, Rijeka, Karlovac, Bjelovar and beyond. Ahead of the official opening on 1 May, majorettes will parade through the city from Eltz Castle to Republic of Croatia Square, where they will perform.

The festival also caters to families, with children's programmes, creative workshops, theatre performances and street entertainers. The popular "Vukovar Pleše" programme will once again turn the main square into a large open-air dance floor, while live music and evening concerts featuring well-known Croatian performers will take place across all three days.

A special moment of this year's festival will be the patriotic concert "Glasovi sjećanja" on 2 May, marking the 35th anniversary of the deaths of 12 Croatian police officers in Borovo Selo. The concert will feature performances of patriotic songs by finalists from The Voice Kids Croatia.

The festival is organised by the City of Vukovar and the Vukovar Tourist Board, with the creative concept led by Hrvatska kuća Materina priča. Financial support comes from national and regional tourism bodies.

Recognised internationally, the festival has received the EFFE Label, a European quality mark for outstanding cultural festivals, as well as the "Simply the Best" tourism award, further cementing its status as one of Croatia's leading cultural events.

by croatiaweek

Photos: V.Barić, V.Čuljak

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:

- **April 25 & 26** – Annual St. George Celebration
- **August 2** – Jr. Tamburitza's 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



Christmas Markets Magical Advent Tour in December

COLUMBUS, OH - Heart of Croatia offers **MAGICAL ADVENT TOUR To ZAGREB, Croatia, VIENNA & SALZBURG, Austria, & LJUBLJANA, Slovenia** in December, 2026!
December 4 - 14, 2026

Come along with us to the celebrated and fairy-tale

CHRISTMAS MARKETS in ZAGREB, Croatia, VIENNA and SALZBURG, Austria, and LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, where you will have plenty of time to soak up the ambiance, food, drink, and shopping experiences! You will also enjoy city tours in all of these

cities as well as tours of famous landmarks and visits to museums.

In addition, you will stay in luxurious, city-centre hotels; travel by deluxe, private coaches to all locations; and enjoy delicious, regional foods throughout! And of course, as is the case with ALL of our tours, we will present beautiful



music, a wonderful tamburitza orchestra, and spectacular entertainment for our guests! The tour begins and ends in ZAGREB.

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

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

Melissa Pintar Obenauf
Lodge 310

OBITUARIES



Stephen R. Markulin, Jr.



YOUNGSTOWN, OH - The gates to Heaven opened October 12, 2025 for Stephen R. Markulin, Jr., son of the late Stephen (Beau) R. and Mildred (Marmilich) Markulin.

Steve was born in Youngstown, Ohio and attended Austintown schools. Starting with little league, he excelled in sports, most notably baseball and football. He enjoyed athletics in adulthood and was an accomplished amateur golfer and thrived in CFU softball tournaments.

He loved music and played in groups both in tamburitza and rock & roll. He received his first prim at age six and wrote his first song "Karrie Ann" when he was just sixteen years old. An original member of the "Glass Harp" he shared the stage with world renowned guitarist Phil Keaggy, and later joined the "Human Beinz". He was so proud of his Croatian heritage and played in several tamburitza orchestras, including the "Nova Balkans" with Steve Brajak, "Moe" Brajak and Robert Repko.

Steve was a 50-year-plus member of CFU Lodge 66 of Youngstown, Ohio.

Steve is survived by his sister, Diane Scott; niece Cheryl Schlunt, nephew David (Kahlia) great-nephews David and Daniel; nephew Derek (Liz) Schlunt; nephew John (Kristin) Rosan, great-nephew Stephen, great-niece Erin; aunt Louise (Marmilich) Repko; sister-in-law Judy Hamrick, niece Tammy (James) Vaughn II, and several cousins. He is also survived by dear friends Bud and Debi Gilmer, their son Ron (Heaven) Cable, and their granddaughter Cierra Cable.

Steve was preceded in death by his wife of 39 years, Nancy Markulin, for whom he wrote and performed the song "Forever Love" at her graveside memorial service. Steve was also preceded in death by stepson, James "Jimi" Mayhew, and brothers-in-law Larry Scott and Howard Hamrick. He will be missed by many friends and neighbors.

Steve will be remembered for his sense of humor and gift to share a laugh, and his genuine love for people and interest in what was important in their lives. He was a giving and caring person.

Let us remember to celebrate the beautiful memories and spirit - your gift to us, Steve.

The family requests memorial donations be made to the: Croatian Fraternal Union Scholarship Foundation, Markulin-Marmilich-Rosan Scholarship Fund, 100 Delany Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

At Steve's request, there were no funeral services.

The Family of **Stephen R. Markulin, Jr.**

Frank Joseph Ocvirek



TEMPE, AZ - Frank Joseph Ocvirek, 95, passed away in Tempe, Arizona, on March 13, 2026. He was born September 22, 1930, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Frank and Elizabeth Ocvirek, who preceded him.

A beloved husband, father, grandfather, teacher, and friend, he is survived by his daughters, Denise Ball, Victoria Sterling, and Carrie Ocvirek, and granddaughters Jennifer Ball and Elizabeth Ball. He was preceded by his wife of nearly 60 years, Ida, who passed in 2013.

Growing up in Michigan, Frank developed many skills including wood carving, repairing items, hunting, fishing, cooking, and flying planes. He recalled canoeing on the Kalamazoo River with his friend Bill Rogers and hunting with his Uncle Charlie Ocvirek. He helped run the family business, Night Owl Tavern.

In 1948, Frank enlisted in the Army and served as a Sergeant during the Korean War. Stationed at General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo, he worked as a supply technician. During this time, he began corresponding with Ida, the love of his life; they married in 1954.

Frank earned his Master's degree from Western Michigan University and taught math at Comstock High School before relocating to Tempe in 1961, where he continued teaching at South Mountain High School. He and Ida raised their daughters with love and took cross-country summer trips.

Frank enjoyed woodworking, beekeeping, gardening and caring for animals. He will be remembered for his humor, wisdom, compassion and service to his country. He was laid to rest with Ida at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on April 10th.

He was a member of CFU Lodge 978 of Phoenix, AZ.

The Family of **Frank Joseph Ocvirek**

★ 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

Drago Karl Matešić



LINDEN, MI - Drago Karl Matešić, age 91, of Linden, Michigan, passed away peacefully February 25, 2026.

Drago was born on June 13, 1935, in Reštovo, near Žakanje, Croatia. He was the son of Janko and Dragica (Novosel) Matešić.

He had eight brothers and sisters. In 1960, he married Ljubica Kožar in Žakanje, Croatia, beginning a loving partnership that spanned 65 years.

Drago was a strong, intelligent and highly skilled man whose talents extended far beyond his career in skilled trade at General Motors. He built homes and was an award-winning winemaker.

Drago was active member of Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 561, Flint, Michigan, for many years, where he and Ljubica enjoyed socializing and helping at picnics. He and Ljubica found great joy in singing and dancing with "Nova Nada" Croatian Folklore Ensemble for many years.

When Drago was called to the military back in the homeland, his dream was to be a pilot but he was sent in the army instead! He never gave up that dream to fly a plane so while working for General Motors he took up flying and in three months he obtained his pilot license. He took a train to Chicago and flew his just-bought plane back to Flint. Drago had such a good mechanical mind that he took apart one of his early planes down to every nut and bolt and then reassembled it and flew it with Ljubica by his side on its maiden voyage. Both were the adventurous type and when she coaxed him into doing a loop-de-loop in the plane, he obliged.

He was also known as an exceptional barbecue chef, bringing family and friends together around his table. Drago lived by the belief that with the right mindset, determination and hard work, anything is possible, a lesson he instilled in his children and grandchildren. Drago and Ljubica were always helping either their children, friends, St. Lucy Croatian Church or Nova Nada, building portable stages, implements or whatever was needed.

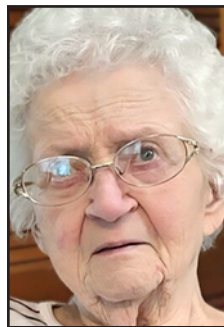
He is survived by his beloved wife, Ljubica Matešić, his daughter, Goldy (Joe) Fehir; his son, John (Holly) Matešić grandchildren, Brynn Fehir, Joseph (Kerrigan Conner) Fehir, Brandon (Elizabeth) Matesic, and Kara Matešić; great-grandchildren, Kali and Ava Taylor.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Philip, Mike, Joe, Steve and Zlatko Matešić; and his sisters, Barbara Ivanić, Vika Matešić and Dragica Jakšić. Funeral Mass was celebrated on March 7, 2026 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Fenton, MI.

Neka Počiva u Miru Božjem. May He Rest in Eternal Peace.

Mike Mijo Lukiček, Friend
Lodge 530

Barbara Marie Skubisz



SYKESVILLE, PA - Barbara Marie Skubisz, (nee Miksich), age 91, of Sykesville, PA, passed away at home on February 26, 2026. The second daughter of the late Steven Thomas and Anna Mildred (nee Susa) Miksich, Barby was born on June 18, 1934 at home in the Cascade neighborhood of Sykesville, PA.

The majority of neighbors were of Croatian descent and many people spoke both English and Croatian and observed many Croatian traditions. Barbara was a member of CFU Lodge 354, Cokeburg, PA.

Barby had an older sister, Elizabeth (Bib) Miksich-Petty and a younger brother, Steven Anthony Miksich.

Her paternal grandparents, several aunts, uncles, and cousins lived in Cascade as well.

Barbara enjoyed going to area dances and that is where she met her future husband, Joseph F. Skubisz. They were married at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC Church in Sykesville, PA on September 15, 1956.

They were the loving parents of Joseph (Cathi), of Treasure Lake, PA, Dennis J. and Donald, of Sykesville, PA.

Barby was thrilled and totally delighted with the arrival of her twin grandsons, Jacob of Treasure Lake, PA and Andrew of Asbury Park, NJ. Their visits to her house always lifted her spirits. A third grandson, Matthew (Becca) Campbell and two great-grandchildren, Clara Jean and Hudson, brought her so much happiness.

A Mass of Christian burial, followed by interment in Assumption Cemetery in Sykesville, was held on March 3, 2026.

The family suggests memorials to the ABVM Church, 20 Shaffer St., Sykesville, PA 15865 or the Sykesville Fire Department, Sykesville, PA 15865.

The Family of **Barbara Marie Skubisz**

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.

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 Tamburitans ALL CASH bingo.

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

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

Tips

From the Home Office

Addresses: Current, New and Changes

PITTSBURGH, PA - It is important to keep all addresses up-to-date on all official documents and business. Not doing so will cause delays in business transactions, mailings and notices, death benefit payments, information on life insurance and annuity policies, and the Zajednicar.

For these reasons, the Croatian Fraternal Union is asking all members to make certain their addresses are current with the Home Office. In recent months, much mail has been returned to the Home Office with the message Return to Sender, No Such Address, Forwarding Address Expired, etc. This is true for senior and junior members.

Through the years, many address changes can occur. This can be for children moving to live in college dorms; marriages and setting up housekeeping at a new location; a change in employment resulting in moving the family to another area; retiring to a smaller home; warmer climate, or to an assisted living residence; or just relocating. Whatever your situation may be, please inform lodge officers or the Home Office as to your change of address.

Addresses are also important where beneficiaries are concerned. Thus, when making application for insurance, of an annuity and in naming beneficiaries, list their relationship, social security number, and address. This greatly eases the task of locating beneficiaries when the time comes.

Remember: Keep your address current with the Home Office.

The Need For Keeping Beneficiaries Up To Date

Many of us have forgotten the last time we did anything with our beneficiary designation. Most of us probably designated a beneficiary when we applied for our original insurance. Many people never consider their beneficiary again, even though changes may have occurred in our life conditions. The goal of this article is to remind our policy-holders they may need to update that section of their insurance certificate.

It is important to know how to change the beneficiary designation. There are several points that should be addressed at the time you decide to update your designation and the Home Office staff will be more than willing to provide you with the necessary form required to change the beneficiary status. To obtain beneficiary information on a policy a request in writing is required due to the Privacy Act enacted by Congress on Nov. 13, 2000.

Please keep in mind the importance of reviewing all your insurance needs on a regular basis and if there is a need for additional insurance, the Home Office staff is always available to provide you with the necessary assistance.

Please call us at 412/843-0380.

COOKING Corner

Zagreb Style Creamed Chicken

1/4 c. butter (or margarine)
5 sprigs parsley, chopped
1/4 lb. large mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
6 eggs, slightly beaten
3/4 c. sour cream
3/4 c. grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp. Tabasco
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. paprika
1 c. diced cooked chicken
6 baked puff pastry shells

Melt butter in large skillet. Lightly sauté parsley and mushrooms, turn gently. Remove from heat.

Combine slightly beaten eggs, sour cream, grated cheese, Tabasco, salt and paprika.

Add chicken to mushrooms, reheat gently. Add egg mixture, increase heat to high. With spatula, lift and turn mixture until slightly thickened and piping hot. Serve in heated puff pastry shells.

Chicken in Wine Sauce

10 chicken breasts (or legs & thighs)
salt and pepper
3 cans cream of chicken soup (undiluted)
1 can mushrooms (large), drain, and save juice
1 c. sour cream
1 c. white wine

Season chicken with salt and pepper. Put chicken in 9x13 pan skin side down, and bake for 30 minutes at 350°. Empty all liquid off chicken after 30 minutes, and turn chicken skin side up.

Wine Sauce

Mix soup, liquid from mushrooms, sour cream, and wine. Add mushrooms. Pour over chicken.

Pour sauce over top and bake about 45 minutes longer, basting several times.

*Can be held in the oven quite a while.

From the Cooking Corner Archives

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.

Cinco De Mayo Bash in Versailles

VERSAILLES, PA - Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo right with our ever-popular MEXICROS! These spicy CroClub 146 members (Mikey Dee, Joe Cindric, and Dan and Dave Vranesevic) will be at the Versailles Croatian Home, 4400 3rd St., Versailles PA 15132, on Friday, May 1st, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., ready to entertain, providing some Croatian soul with Mexican flair.

Stephanie will be behind the bar serving up all your favorites. It's definitely an event you won't want to miss!

Beth Cindric-Steele
President/Lodge 146

CFU Lodge 978 Hosts Party

PHOENIX, AZ - CFU Lodge 978 will be hosting a "Cinco de Mayo" Party on Saturday, May 9. Bring your swimsuit and favorite Mexican appetizer. The event starts at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Sonja Schroder at 602-405-2059.

Sonja Schroder/Lodge 978

Craft/Vendor Show in Versailles

VERSAILLES, PA - Sveto Trojstvo Lodge 146 in Versailles, PA will again be holding a Craft/Vendor show in their upstairs hall on Saturday, May 9, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

We will have vendors such as Mary Kay and Tupperware and many crafts just in time for the summer season and Mother's Day. There will be no charge to enter the hall.

Anyone interested in showing their wares should contact me at melanie.haudenschild@gmail.com or stop into the club for an application. The cost for an 8 ft. space is \$20 and 2 spaces are \$35. Some tables are available, first come, first served. There will be a \$5 extra charge for each space that needs electricity. A \$25 item or basket is being requested as a donation to our Chinese auction.

The kitchen will have some items available and the bar will be open. There also will be a bake sale. Please contact me as soon as possible as we will not have any duplicate vendors.

Melanie Haudenschild
Lodge 146

Saturday Night Spring Fever Cash Bash in Rankin

RANKIN, PA - Come and have a groovy time at the Rankin Croatian Home for a Saturday Night Spring Fever Cash Bash! Join us on Saturday, May 16. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. First drawing is at 4 p.m.

The event benefits the Rankin Junior Tamburitians.

Tickets are \$25 and include two bash numbers. A dinner buffet and beer are included. Participants must be 21 years and older. A winner every 15 minutes!

We will also have a 50/50 raffle, basket raffle, bake sale and games of chance.

Please contact us for tickets. Email rankinjrtammies@gmail.com or reach out to your favorite Tammie parent. For more information, visit our Rankin Junior Tamburitians Facebook page.

Winner need not be present. Plan to enjoy a fun evening with us as we support our Rankin Junior Tamburitians!

Lori Cindric/Lodge 146

Read the Zajedničar Online

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

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.

CULINARY DELIGHTS • SPECIAL DINNERS • BAKE SALES
LUNCHEONS • FUNDRAISERS • BREAKFAST MEETINGS
BREAKFAST MEETINGS • LUNCHEONS
BAKE SALES • SPECIAL DINNERS • CULINARY DELIGHTS
LUNCHEONS • FUNDRAISERS • BREAKFAST MEETINGS
BREAKFAST MEETINGS • LUNCHEONS

BAKE SALES • SPECIAL DINNERS • CULINARY DELIGHTS



Lamb An' A Band in Farrell

FARRELL, PA - Join us for Lamb An' A Band on Saturday, April 25, at the Farrell Croatian Home, 412 Staunton St., Farrell, PA. Featured musicians are the fantastic Mikey Dee Tamburica Stars.

Doors open at 4 p.m. Music starts at 5 p.m. Admission is \$7. Call/text Tom for lamb orders, 330-502-4671. Lamb will be \$24/lb., and includes bread and onions. Two lb. minimum orders.

Our kitchen also will be open from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We will have a full Croatian kitchen with all of your favorite foods available. Come for an enjoyable evening with great music, food and friends!

Justin Timko/President

Čevap Sale in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, WI - The Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitians are holding a Čevap Sale. Čevaps are available in 5-lb. boxes at \$12/lb. (fresh).

Deadline for all orders is May 4. Orders may be picked up on Sunday, May 17 at Sacred Heart Croatian Parish, 917 N. 49th St., Milwaukee, WI between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

To place an order, please call Rudy at 414-550-4620 or email: info@milwaukeeccroatiantamburitians.org

All proceeds benefit the Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitians. We appreciate your support!

Rudy Pesut/Lodge 32

PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

WHY CHOOSE CFU?



Now in our 130th years, the Croatian Fraternal Union (CFU) has provided solutions for our members' financial needs. From our original offering of basic assistance and mutual aid, to our current portfolio of modern insurance and savings products, the CFU continues to provide financial peace of mind to our members as well as the opportunity to participate in a variety of fraternal programs.

When an insurance or annuity product is purchased from the CFU, an individual becomes a member and has access to numerous benefits and activities on all levels of the Society - local, regional and national. These programs are focused on preserving and promoting Croatian heritage and culture, humanitarian and charitable giving, support of higher education, patriotic and civic undertakings, and other fraternal activities that enable our members to support each other and their communities.

THE CFU ADVANTAGE

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

We invite you to take advantage of all that the CFU has to offer!

Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan Scholarship...

(Continued from page 1)

filmed a 45-minute documentary on the War of Independence during high school and later visited Croatia. As he applied for a scholarship, we were reminded of the thoughtful approach the CFU takes in awarding scholarships. All qualifying members receive a scholarship, but the amount increases based on merit and need. That is exactly how we think the process should work. This shows support for all CFU members and recognizes the value of hard work and the brotherhood of helping those in need.

"When Uncle Steve passed, and I was looking at all the family photos with my wife Kristin and my mom (Diane Scott-Markulin), one thing stood out - nearly every picture showed people together eating, smiling, and enjoying tamburitza and their heritage. We were thrilled to establish a scholarship to benefit young people for many years to come, seeing how the connec-

tion to heritage impacts young people."

In this issue of the **Zajedničar**, we also have published the obituary for brother Stephen R. Markulin, Jr., who passed from this life on October 12, 2025. His longtime involvement with our organization and musical culture further emphasizes the family's fraternal history and the value the Markulin family placed on preserving their Croatian heritage.

On behalf of the National Administration and Membership of the Croatian Fraternal Union, we offer our profound gratitude and acknowledge the generations of the Markulin/Marmilich-Rosan Families whose fraternalism and devotion contributed to the establishment of this new endowment fund through the Croatian Fraternal Union Scholarship Foundation, Inc. The decision to perpetuate their family legacy through this singular benevolent act will serve to build careers, fortify the nation's workforce, and empower the futures of countless CFU members for years to come.

By Edward W. Pazo/National President

(Continued from page 2)

The main event during the second half of the year for Croatian Fraternal Union will be our CFU Adult TamFEST scheduled for November 6-8, 2026 at the Renaissance Hotel located in downtown Columbus, Ohio. The location was chosen due to its close proximity to a large number of Adult Tamburitza ensembles as well as our highly successful Adult TamFEST held in Columbus during November 2010. Discounted rooms at the group rate of \$139 + tax (\$164.02 per night) may be reserved at the Renaissance Hotel by utilizing the following link provided by their reservations department: <https://book.passkey.com/event/51175757/owner/14056/home>

We strongly urge all CFU Adult Tamburitza ensembles to book their rooms early in order to take part in this yearly extravaganza of Croatian Culture on display courtesy of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

We look forward to welcoming large numbers of CFU members to each of these tamburitza festivals sponsored by our society for our membership's enjoyment. The society's commitment to continuing these fraternal programs is in direct accordance with our mandate to perpetuate our treasured Croatian Culture and Heritage. Svi nam dobro došli!

Lodge 337 Scholarships Available

EUCLID, OH - CFU Lodge 337 will offer one-year scholarships up to \$500 for qualified students who have been members of Lodge 337 or Nest 373 for at least 5 years. Maximum is \$500 per year for four years.

Qualifying students include those attending an accredited two-year college/trade school or a four-year college.

Requirements: Submit in writing by October 31, 2026: Name, Address, Phone number, Birthdate, GPA and CFU policy number. For 1st year college students, please include a copy of your letter of acceptance. For 2nd-4th year college students, please send your latest transcript.

You must be a full-time student to qualify, with a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester, a minimum GPA of 2.0 and a current member of Lodge 337.

If you have any questions, please contact Lodge 337 Secretary Rita Mitch at 330-760-7468 or email mam2Ly@roadrunner.com.

Rita Mitch/Lodge 337

Sloga Lodge 1994 Offers Scholarships

MILWAUKEE, WI - Sloga Lodge 1994 in Milwaukee, WI, is again offering scholarships to our qualified lodge members. Information has been sent out to eligible members. If you need more information, or have any questions, or if you need an application form, contact President Christina Carroll at 414-708-6366 or email her at chris carr0676@gmail.com.

The deadline for completed applications is June 1, 2026.

You can honor a member or a loved one, present or past, by making a donation in their name to the Sloga Lodge 1994 scholarship fund. You will also be helping our young members, our future leaders. Thank you!

Mary Alyce Francis
Lodge 1994

Ontario Federation of CFU Lodges Awards Scholarships

TORONTO, ON - For more than 50 years, the Ontario Federation of CFU Lodges has played a leading role in promoting fraternalism amongst our members and actively sought to help the next generation of Croatian Canadians explore their heritage.

We do that through engaging performances and events, and an ongoing scholarship program that offers financial support to students seeking to pursue their education, wherever that pursuit may lead.

This year we are thrilled to share that we've awarded two scholarships in service of that mission.

One scholarship was awarded to Jasmine H., from Lodge 954 in Hamilton, and the other was awarded to Daniella L., from Lodge 975 in Toronto.

Jasmine is a first-year Kinesiology student at Brock University. She's currently considering a career as a firefighter or sports therapist, though there is still plenty of time to decide. She's been a member of the Croatian National Home folklore group since childhood and is currently a member of the adult group Ziva Grana. Jasmine aspires to a life of service, tradition and pride in her Croatian heritage on stage, service and in spirit.

Daniella is a third-year Nursing student at McMaster University. She too has been active in her local Croatian community as a member of the Hrvatsko Prelo folklore group in Oakville and at her local church. She's also a volunteer with Club Karlovac, supporting its activities through various roles, at picnics and events. Jasmine has learned a lot through her experience, and interacted with many different people, which will certainly benefit her as she begins her career as a registered nurse.

The Ontario Federation is proud to support Jasmine and Daniella as they move forward toward their bright futures; it is so meaningful for us to support



BROTHER JOE GRUBIC presenting the check to Jasmine.



ONTARIO FEDERATION PAST PRESIDENT, Brother Steve Vrkljan, presenting the check to Daniella.

them in this small way.

We hope they remain deeply connected to their Croatian heritage, as the values and ideals we hold dear, of community, and family, will only strengthen them on their life's journeys.

The Executive remains deeply grateful to our Scholarship Committee, who works so diligently to review all the received applications and invests so much time and thoughtful consideration into each one.

The Ontario Federation remains active and engaged, and we look forward to sharing more about our upcoming activities in the coming months.

Gary Milakovic
President, Ontario Federation of Croatian Fraternal Union Lodges

5 THINGS THAT CAN COST THE SAME (OR MORE) PER MONTH AS LIFE INSURANCE



A bottle of wine



A single subscription meal



A fitness class



A music streaming plan



One meal from a sit-down restaurant

LH.

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Program

WILKES-BARRE, PA - The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society belonging to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, by contacting the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Secretary-Treasurer at Theresa@lpsc.org or 888-834-6614, or by accessing the PFA Website at www.pafraternals.org.

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a current year high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).

- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "What has membership in a Fraternal insurance company meant to you".

The deadline for submitting applications is June 30, 2026, postmark. All completed applications and supporting information (essay and letter of recommendation) must be mailed to: Rebecca Kasper, PFA Scholarship Chair, LCBA, P. O. Box 13005, Erie, PA 16514-1305.

The Scholarship Committee of the PFA will make the selection of the scholarship recipients and all decisions are final. The scholarship recipients will be announced by August 1, 2026.

At least six \$500 scholarships will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

PA Fraternal Alliance

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 _____

When is the last time you evaluated your insurance needs?

Check your CFU policy now to make sure you have adequate coverage.

Call the Home Office at **412-843-0380**

and make sure your loved ones have the security and protection they deserve.



Read the ZAJEDNIČAR

for the latest on Croatian banquets, picnics, barbecues, lodge meetings, concerts and sporting events going on in your area.

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: **May 14.**

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: **May 15.**

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 Pažin

Embassy of Croatia Washington, DC

CFU

Guarantees Your Protection

The Croatian Fraternal Union provides its members with competitive life insurance and annuity products and fraternal benefits.

PERMANENT LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

- ★ Single Premium Ordinary Life Plan
- ★ Ordinary Life Plan
- ★ 10 Pay Life Plan
- ★ 20 Pay Life Plan

TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

- ★ 10 Year Level Plan
- ★ 20 Year Term Plan
- ★ Juvenile Term to Age 25 Plan

ANNUITY/IRA PRODUCTS

- ★ CFU Annuity and IRA Plans

FRATERNAL BENEFITS OFFERED BY CFU

- ★ Scholarship Foundation, Inc
- ★ Cultural Activities
- ★ Sports Programs
- ★ Complimentary Publication

BUILD YOUR WEALTH WITH US...



...Trusted for over 130 Years



SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

Choice Two

4.5%

- ✓ Current Interest Rate Guaranteed Initial 2 Year Term
- ✓ 30 Day Window for Penalty-free Withdrawals Beginning at Second Anniversary of Contract
- ✓ Minimum Deposit \$3,000 Available as non-qualified Annuity: Traditional or Roth IRA

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

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

WEST DES MOINES, IA – Cody and Nola Morris, in memory of Vincent Morris, Teresa Morris and Davis Morris	100.00
WATERFORD, CT – Nancy Schwab Olsen, in memory of Stephanie Milinovich Ranney	100.00
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI – Elizabeth Angus Bachynski, in memory of Stephanie Milinovich Ranny who treasured education and her heritage	100.00
GIBSONIA, PA – Pam and Floyd Dierker, in memory of Stephanie Milinovich Ranney who was so loved.....	50.00
MISSISSAUGA, ON – Roko and Mira Tanfara	200.00
RICHMOND, MI – Linda and Keith Biller, in memory of Stephanie Ranney	50.00
DUNLO, PA – Adam Katranča	100.00
MIDLOTHIAN, IL – Loretta Kunovic, in memory of Robert Pavich	100.00
Towards the "Sloboda" Lodge 32 Frank M. Jerbich Scholarship Fund	
GRAYSLAKE, IL – John Kovacevic, in memory of John J. Kerpan	100.00
TOTAL THIS REPORT	\$900.00
TOTAL COLLECTED	\$3,263.12

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