

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Zajednička

FRATERNALIST

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

VOL. 121 / NO.12

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA / WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026

SIXTEEN PAGES

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UPS 698 • 800/PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT PITTSBURGH

Illustrations by Mladen Veža.

Welcome to 58th CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival

Thirteen Junior Ensembles To Meet at Cleveland Fest

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA – Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026, the annual CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival will resound with patriotism and joyous fanfare. Participants and guests will unite in tribute to our nation's semiquincentennial year and will mark the grand occasion with wonderful performances reflecting the contributions of our Croatian heritage to America's evolution in its 250-year development as a sovereign nation.

Returning to Cleveland, Ohio for the sixth time in the history of the CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival performance venues, the 2026 CFU Junior Cultural Federation's annual Show of Shows will take place July 3-4-5 at the Cleveland Hilton Downtown. The 2026 Festival will welcome thirteen CFU junior tamburitza ensembles from across the United States and Canada. In joyful celebration of our CFU youth joining together to share their musical talents, we salute America's 250th Anniversary Year and proudly present the music and dance of our Croatian ancestry performed by our young members.

Previous Junior Festivals held in Cleveland took place in 1971, 1979, 1983 and 1989 at the Cleveland Music Hall and, more recently, in 2017 at the Cleveland Hilton. This year, beginning on Friday, July 3, Festival attendees will arrive at the Cleveland Hilton Downtown Hotel where CFU junior tamburitza and their families will greet fellow musicians and friends from numerous cities across the US and Canada for the start of a festive weekend.

The Friday evening social will get underway in the ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton, with music for your listening and dancing pleasure provided throughout the evening by several talented CFU junior tamburitza combos.

Thirteen participating ensembles will entertain during the two-day afternoon concert series for the 58th Annual CFU Junior Cultural Federation Tamburitza Festival.

Opening the 2026 Festival program on Saturday afternoon will be the President of the CFU Junior Cultural Federation Michael Ricci who will greet the assembled audience and extend his good wishes to all participants on behalf of the CFU Ju-

nior Cultural Federation Board. Brother Ricci extends a warm invitation to all to attend the Festival shows, expressing that, "It is absolutely incredible to watch the performances of the children and young adults who have practiced tirelessly to present their programs. Their love for our Croatian culture as well as their talents on stage are well worth your attention and applause."

We encourage all CFU members to refer to the Festival Program included elsewhere in this

(Continued on page 4)



IT'S WORLD CUP EXCITEMENT AS CFU EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME to the Croatian National Football Team! Currently in the United States, the Croatian team entourage has established a base camp at Alexandria, Virginia, in preparation for the games. Scheduled to take on opponents from England, Panama and Ghana in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Games, they will travel to stadiums in Dallas, Toronto and Philadelphia. Whether you plan to attend the games, gather at watch parties or just enjoy the action from your living room, join the Croatian Community in cheering on our Vatreini as they seek their path to glory! **GOOD LUCK, VATRENI!**



National Board of Directors Conclude Meeting - Part 3 Chart Plans for Continued Success in Future

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA - The annual meeting of the National Board of Directors continued with the review and acceptance of the Report of the National Board of Trustees. The Trustees' report included the areas of their review which included documents and information requested of the Executive Board prior to the commencement of the Annual Meeting proceedings. As per the report, the areas covered by the Board of Trustees includ-

ed but were not limited to: Vehicles/ Travel; Credit Cards; Inventory; Fraternal Events; Board Training; General Ledger, Insurance Coverage for the Home Office; and, Board per diems for quarterly meetings.

The Trustees reported that any questions that they had were satisfactorily answered by the Executive Board. Concerning Board of Trustees' training, the Board members were provided access to module train-

ing developed by the American Fraternal Alliance, the industry trade association with which the society maintains membership.

The report was accepted upon a motion by Second National Vice President Brother Michael Ricci, seconded by Executive Vice President Brother Franjo Bertovic, and a call for the question.

Under Good & Welfare, the Board of Directors were apprised by the Executive Board of the society's monetary support offered to the program developed by the Croatian Embassy in Washington, DC honoring the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. Activities are scheduled for Washington, DC and include a tamburitza concert which honors the contributions of Croatian Americans toward the preservation of Croatian Culture within the fabric of the whole of the United States of America.

(Continued on page 12)

Guest Conductor Nikola Vranešević to Lead 2026 Festival

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA – Presiding as the Guest Conductor for the 58th CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival will be Nikola Vranešević, Music Director for the Junior Tamburitza of Duquesne, Pennsylvania.

With two days of Festival performances taking place July 4-5 at the Hilton Cleveland

Downtown, Vranešević will lead the Grand Performance of all members of the participating ensembles at the start of the Sunday program, a pinnacle highlight of the annual festivals which is always anticipated and enjoyed by all in attendance.

We congratulate Nikola Vranešević upon being selected

for this prestigious honor and extend our appreciation to him for his dedicated commitment to perpetuating our Croatian musical culture. Through his teaching and passionate involvement in educating our youth, Nikola has encouraged many children to become active in celebrating our musical heritage.

2026 Guest Conductor Nikola Vranešević maintains an active career as a music

(Continued on page 5)



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

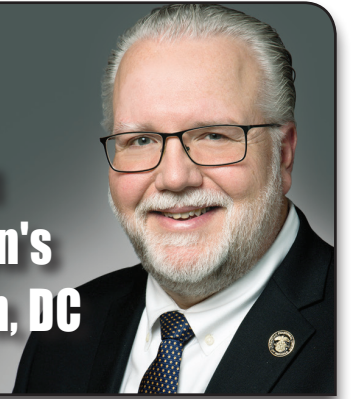
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Zajedničar**, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235



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

Croatian Culture on Display in our Nation's Capital, Washington, DC



By Edward W. Pazo/National President

On Tuesday, June 9th, my colleague Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, CFU National Secretary/Treasurer, her husband, John Sikaras, and I were pleased to attend a very special evening of tamburitza entertainment in our Nation's Capital. The evening was organized by the Croatian Ambassador the United States, His Excellency Pjer Šimunović, and his staff as part of the Republic of Croatia's acknowledgement of our country's soon to be observed 250th Anniversary of Independence and the establishment of the United States of America!

When we first learned of the planned activity, aptly titled, "Tamburitza Across America: Celebrating Croatian-American Heritage Through Music," our Executive Board was supportive of the event which we believed not only honored our country but also affirmed the contributions of countless Croatian Americans who arrived on the shores of the United States in search of a better life. However, these Croatian pioneers still maintained a love and respect for their Croatian Heritage. This has been a hallmark belief of our society over its 132 years of existence. Namely, we Croatian Americans are proud to be citizens of the greatest country on God's earth; however, at the same time we draw strength from our roots which extend back to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. We revere the history of our ancestors struggling to survive difficult economic circumstances, foreign oppression and the ultimate achievement of modern day Croatian heroes in the hard fought victory which established the sovereign and Independent Republic of Croatia.



With these thoughts in our mind, we entered the Hall of Nations of the Kennedy Center and were soon greeted by many familiar faces from Pittsburgh and Washington, DC. As we arrived at our seats in the Terrace Theater, Ambassador Šimunović promptly welcomed the large number of guests in attendance and explained the purpose of the evening. For the next two and one-half hours, we were entertained by virtuoso primaš and world renowned musician and composer Jerry Grcevič and a small group of assembled musicians including: Cathy and Angela White, Ivan Grgurevič (Grga), and Ivan Draženović of Valpovo, Croatia, who in his own right is an accomplished musical director, composer and musician. In addition to these fine musicians, our friend and member, Brother Mark Milovats, a Croatian-American vocalist, was featured in both the first and second sets performed by the group.

As we sat and listened to our Croatian brothers and sisters entertaining everyone with their tambura instruments, our thoughts drifted to the remembrance of a multitude of Croatians, immigrants and those born here in the United States who learned to play and sing Croatian folk songs. Songs which tended to connect both the musician and the audience to the homeland. We thought of our own maternal grandfather Josip Ferenčić, who played a „turtleback prim“ in a tamburitza band soon after his arrival to the United States of America in 1912. We also thought of the large number of tamburitza bands and orchestras throughout our great country that were formed and entertained Croatians and non-Croatians alike at celebrations and other events where people of good will gathered.

We congratulate our friend Ambassador Šimunović for his foresight in honoring the contributions of Croatian Americans throughout the history of our storied country (Continued on page 13)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

Flags, Fathers and Festivals

Patriotism and Patriarchs are being celebrated in full glory! Starting with Flag Day which we observed on June 14, followed by Father's Day being remembered on June 21, we are officially welcoming the summer season. We are enjoying the opportunities to honor "Old Glory", our national symbol, and are honored to pay deserving tribute to our own fathers, with love and gratitude, for their guidance, sacrifices and valuable presence in our lives. In this historic year, we not only thank the Founding Fathers of our Country, but our own fathers and grandfathers who have loved, cared and provided for us.

As we round out the June calendar, we welcome the first week of July to begin our celebration of the Fourth of July and the 250th Anniversary of our nation, acknowledging the historic signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Spectacular fireworks displays will fill the skies across America on the Fourth of July this year, as American citizens unite in tribute to our rich history.

Along with the celebratory blaring of bugles and the resounding beat of drums, the powerful strumming of tamburas will also take center stage as the Croatian Fraternal Union Junior Cultural Federation hosts the 58th CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival on July 3-4-5 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Commemorating this milestone event in our nation's history and celebrating the national jubilation of America's freedom, we also revel in the impact our Croatian people and Croatian heritage have had in establishing America's cultural mosaic. At this momentous time in our country, it is natural for us to reflect upon the past and to take this opportune moment to honor the sacrifices and efforts of all Americans, including everyone of Croatian heritage, who contributed to our nation's growth and success. Members of generations of Croatian families worked tirelessly in the mills, mines, fields, railroads and fisheries from coast to coast to help build our country. Educators, construction workers, doctors, electricians, factory workers, and people from all backgrounds, careers and interests are responsible for the freedoms we share, the comforts we enjoy and the blessings we acknowledge in our daily lives on American soil.

While celebrating the beauty of America's landscape, the excitement of its big cities, the treasures of its small towns, and the innovations born here that have shaped our lives, we recognize how fortunate we are to share in the bounties of this land and the limitless possibilities for our children to grow and succeed here. Many of our CFU families share the commonality of having great-grandparents and grandparents making their way to the shores of America, with the quest of building a solid foundation for their children. Sharing that "American Dream" is part of the ancestral legacy for countless individuals who now call America "home" and is just the beginning of what generations of CFU families today are building upon, as they share greater hopes and dreams for the years ahead. Today, we salute America 250 and the promise of tomorrow!

Come To Versailles For Father's Day Celebration

VERSAILLES, PA – Do you have plans for Father's Day? You do now!

Croatian Club of CFU Lodge 146 is proud to welcome back Orkestar Radost on Sunday, June 21st, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This will be a non-smoking, family friendly event.

There will be traditional food in the kitchen and Cindy will be behind the bar.

Let's all celebrate Father's Day at our Croatian Club in Versailles on Sunday, June 21!

Everyone is invited - svi ste dobro došli!

Beth Cindric Steele/President

Lodge 270 News

CALUMET, MI - The next meeting of Lodge 270 will be on Monday, June 15th. 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. Grab your fellow lodge members and come with new ideas and suggestions! Vidimo se!

Donna Preston/Secretary

GOOD NEWS!

The Current Interest Rate on the CFU CHOICE TWO Annuity Program has been **EXTENDED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 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

Schedule for the 58th Annual CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival Cleveland, Ohio



July 3-4-5, 2026 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026

8:30 P.M. **WELCOME DANCE** in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown with music provided by combos from participating Junior Tamburitza Ensembles.

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

8:00 A.M. **REGISTRATION** of Participating Ensembles in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown.

9:00 A.M. **JOINT REHEARSAL OF ALL PARTICIPATING ENSEMBLES** in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown.

10:00 A.M. **REHEARSAL** for Music Directors in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown.

12:00 P.M. Doors Open for General Audience to enter the Superior Ballroom.

1:00 P.M. **OPENING** of the 58th Annual CFU Junior Cultural Federation Tamburitza Festival in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown.

NATIONAL ANTHEMS — Junior Tamburitza of Duquesne of Duquesne, Pennsylvania.

INVOCATION — Fr. Nikola Pašalić, OFM, Custos Superior of the Croatian Franciscan Fathers Custody of the Holy Family, Chicago, IL

GREETINGS — Michael Ricci, President CFU Junior Cultural Federation; Zdeslav Milas, Director, Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika; Franjo Bertović, Executive Vice President, Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES — Edward W. Pazo, National President, Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

EACH ENSEMBLE WILL PERFORM FOR 12 MINUTES

1. **JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS OF DUQUESNE**, Duquesne, Pennsylvania
2. **QUEEN HELENA CCC & CS**, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
3. **RANKIN JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Rankin, Pennsylvania
4. **SLOBODA JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Chicago, Illinois
5. **MILWAUKEE CROATIAN JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
6. **SVETI LOVRO JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Steelton, Pennsylvania
7. **AMERICAN-CROATIAN WAUKEGAN JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Waukegan, Illinois
8. **CROATIAN JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, St. Louis, Missouri

5:00 P.M. **TAMBURITZA CATHOLIC MASS** celebrated in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown by Fr. Nikola Pašalić, OFM, Custos Superior of the Croatian Franciscan Fathers Custody of the Holy Family, Chicago, IL and Fr. William Hritsko, Chaplain, Columbus Catholic Cemeteries, Columbus, Ohio. Music will be provided by directors of the ensembles.

9:00 P.M. **SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL AND DANCE** will be held in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown. Music will be provided by Zadrnja Stanica of Steelton, Pennsylvania.

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

11:00 A.M. Children begin assembling on stage in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown for Grand Performance of all members of the participating ensembles. Doors to Ballroom remain closed to the general public.

11:45 A.M. Doors to the Superior Ballroom open to general public.

12:00 P.M. Festival Program begins in the Superior Ballroom of the Cleveland Hilton Downtown.

NATIONAL ANTHEMS — Croatian National Home Tamburitza of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

INVOCATION — Fr. William Hritsko, Chaplain, Columbus Catholic Cemeteries, Columbus, Ohio

PRESENTATION of Guest Conductor Nikola Vranešević, by Derek Hohn, CFU Director of Fraternal Programs, Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

COMBINED PERFORMANCE of participating ensembles under the direction of Guest Conductor Nikola Vranešević.

1. **Ja Se Konja Bojim** – Hrašćanski Čestitari, Arr: N. Vranešević
2. **Lička Kapo** – Ivo Žagar, Arr: N. Vranešević
3. **Svirajte Noćas Za Moju Dušu** – Glazba: Z. Runjić, Tekst: N. Ninčević, Arr: N. Vranešević

GREETINGS — Nikica Kopačević, General Consul New York, Republic of Croatia; Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, National Secretary/Treasurer, Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES — Edward W. Pazo, National President, Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

EACH ENSEMBLE WILL PERFORM FOR 12 MINUTES

1. **CROATIAN NATIONAL HOME TAMBURITZANS**, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
2. **ST. GEORGE JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Cokeburg, Pennsylvania
3. **JADRAN BEAVER VALLEY JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania
4. **CLEVELAND JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Cleveland, Ohio
5. **AMERICAN-CROATIAN ZAGREB JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS**, Cleveland, Ohio

GRAND FINALE – Music Directors, Choreographers and Assistant Directors of participating ensembles perform under the direction of Guest Conductor Nikola Vranešević.

1. **Stani Malo Mladosti** - Glazba: Peter Kosovec, Tekst: Damir Bačić, Arr: P. Kosovec, Transkripcija: N. Vranešević
2. **Imam Kuma** - Glazba i Tekst: G. Ivanović, Arr: N. Vranešević
3. **Malo Je Malo Dana** - S. Lošić, Arr: N. Vranešević

Welcome...

(Continued from page 1)

issue of the *Zajedničar* for a full listing of the schedule of events for this 2026 Festival weekend celebration. The program includes the start times for the two days of afternoon concert performances of the 13 participating ensembles.

On Saturday evening, Holy Mass will be celebrated Father Nikola Pašalić, OFM, Custos Superior of the Croatian Franciscan Custody of the Holy Family in the United States and Canada, assisted by Fr. William Hritsko, Chaplain, Columbus Catholic Cemeteries, Columbus, OH. We thank Father Pašalić and Father Hritsko for honoring our members by celebrating this traditional Tamburitza Mass that is always well-attended and appreciated by festival participants and guests.

After Mass, all in attendance will want to enjoy dinner or take a short rest before it is time for more socializing and kolo dancing. Fantastic music for the evening will be provided by the energetic and highly entertaining Zadrnja Stanica of Steelton, PA, who will surely have many people making their way onto the dance floor.

Mukwonago Lodge Plans Important June Meeting

MUKWONAGO, WI - John Movrich CFU Lodge 993 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, June 20, at the home of Laura and Larry Ellis. We will have a potluck meal at 5:30 p.m., and start the meeting right after that. Some of us are meeting at 3 p.m. to decorate our float for the annual Mukwonago Lions Fest Father's Day Parade, which will be the next day. We need some new ideas for our float so come and help plan it, or e-mail me with ideas. If the weather cooperates, bring a swimsuit and towel and enjoy the Ellis's amazing pool after the meeting.

This is a very important meeting as it is the final one before our 66th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Fest on July 11th. Many plans are well underway, but there is much more to do. Though our event is one day, it is really a four-day effort for some of us.

On Thursday morning (around 8 a.m.) the guys meet at the storage unit to load up and transport all the things we need and to set up the bar. The gals meet at 1 p.m. to clean up and organize the kitchen, wash roasters and counters, and put up some signs. Ladies meet again on Friday around 2 p.m. to finish setting up the kitchen and bakery and prepare some of the food. We will also set up the "Croatian Corner". Guys come on Friday by 2 p.m. to start spicing and tying on animals. On Saturday, there are plenty of time slots to work. We need more guys to cook čevaps, clean spits, and work in the pits. Sunday morning is clean up...we usually start by 7 a.m.

I don't know everyone's phone number or e-mail, so please contact me at: croatian993@gmail.com to let us know when you can help us out. We always have fun working together, so please join us.

Carol Movrich Gedde
Secretary

The Sunday program will begin with the featured Combined Performance presented by the members of all participating ensembles appearing on stage and performing under the direction of the 2026 Guest Conductor Nikola Vranešević. This musical production is always a show-stopper, with everyone excited to witness the large and impressive gathering of Festival performers.

Following the individual performances of the junior tamburitza ensembles scheduled for Sunday afternoon, the program will conclude with the traditional Directors' Performance Finale, a brief musical presentation by the music directors, choreographers and assistant directors of all participating ensembles, with Guest Conductor Nikola Vranešević once again at the helm.

We take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all of our junior tamburitza, instructors, parents, and supporters for working together to ensure that our Croatian musical culture is enjoyed, perpetuated and shared with one another. Thanks to the avid involvement of hundreds of young CFU members taking part in these annual festivals, our Croatian heritage remains a valuable part of America's performing arts and repertoire and will continue to be enjoyed by future generations living on this continent.

Anxious to join with everyone at the 58th Annual Festival in Cleveland, the members of all participating ensembles are ready to entertain. We take immeasurable pride in our young CFU musicians, singers and dancers and are certain their performances will bring joy to our festival audiences.

Celebrate with us at Festival 2026 as we observe this "quarter-millennium" in America's history of independence, while also honoring the identity, history and legacy of our Croatian ancestors perpetuated through music and dance by our children on American soil.

Simply Slavic Festival Expands to Three Days

YOUNGSTOWN, OH – Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the Simply Slavic Festival will take place at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre from Friday, June 26, to Sunday, June 28. The event promotes broader Slavic culture and specific opportunities to connect to Croatian heritage. All sixteen food booths, fifteen vendors, and multiple beverage stations feature a connection to Slavic countries.

CFU members will recognize such performers as Radost, Harmonia, Mikey Dee, Selo, Noćne Sove, Veseljaci, and Od Srca, among other bands and dance groups spread across the weekend. Saturday night will feature ceremonies and performances around the "vatra" bonfire.

A Catholic Mass with Slavic music will be celebrated at 11 a.m., on Sunday morning. An expanded children's area will welcome families, complete with education, art, and exploration activities.

There is free and abundant parking at the adjacent Covelli Centre parking lot. Admission is \$5 each day, children 12 and under are free. For a full schedule of stage performers, strolling musicians, and hours of operation, please visit our new website at www.SimplySlavic.org.

John Slanina/Lodge 66

Guest Conductor...

(Continued from page 1)

educator, performer, arranger, and conductor. He currently serves as Orchestra Director for grades 6-12 in the North Hills School District (Pittsburgh, PA). Prior to this position, he taught in the Plum Borough, Mt. Lebanon, and North Allegheny School Districts, where his teaching responsibilities included orchestra, beginning band, general music, and music technology/composition.

In addition to his work in public education, Nikola serves as Music Director for the Junior Tamburitza of Duquesne (JTD). He became

a member of JTD at age of 8, and continued to perform with the group until graduation (2009). Nikola was strongly influenced by his parents David Vranešević who plays with Orchestra Radost, and his mother Donna who was the choreographer for JTD. Nikola studied the tambura instruments under Tom Manfredi, Jerry Grcevič, and his father David, and accordion under Justin Greenwald. He began teaching with JTD in 2012 as an assistant to Tom Manfredi and assumed the role of Music Director in 2013. Throughout his time with the ensemble, he

has had the privilege of working alongside Donna Vranesevic, JT Kordesich, Brock Belich, Tom Manfredi, and his wife, Daniella. Prior to his work with JTD, Nikola served as an assistant music instructor for Ansambli Hrvatski Tanac, working with Susan Stafura and Željko Jergan.

Nikola has also contributed numerous musical arrangements for various ensembles across North America, including The Duquesne University Tamburitza, The Tamburitza (formerly the Duquesne University Tamburitza), Ansambli Hrvatski Tanac, Junior Tamburitza of Duquesne, American Zagreb Junior Tamburitza, St. Anthony's Kolo Club, Golden Triangle Tamburitza, South Hills Tamburitza, Milwaukee Junior Tamburitza, St. Nicholas Tamburitza, Ansambli Ljeljo, Javor Tamburaši, The North Hills Orchestra, and vocal arrangements for Biljana Jeremić Vokal Ensemble (Novi Sad).

As a performer, Nikola is an active member of T.S. Ponoć and Orkestar Pobjeda. With these bands, he has performed throughout North America at a variety of events including ethnic and social dances, folk festivals, weddings, and concerts. In addition, he has also performed or appeared as a guest musician with numerous ensembles including TS Tržalica, Orkestar Tsare, Orchestra Radost, Jerry Grcevič, Gypsy Strings, Mikey Dee Tamburitza Stars, Lira, TS Barabe, Naši Tamburaši, Osveženje Bend, 412 Bend, Orkestar Junaci, The Continental Dukes, Javor Tamburaši, and Ansambli Ljeljo.

Nikola is also active in the Tamburitza Association of America, where he serves on the national board. He is on the Awards Committee, which oversees the organization's Hall of Fame and Founders Award. In 2014, he received the Lou Cavic Founders Award, which recognizes young individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the preservation of tambura music and Slavic cultural heritage. In 2025, he was also honored with the President's Award in recognition of his contributions to the Tamburitza Association of America. Nikola has served on the local planning committees for the Tamburitza Extravaganza held in Washington, DC (2019), Pittsburgh (2024), and St. Louis (2025).

Nikola earned both his Bachelor of Science in Music Education and his Master of Music Education degrees from Duquesne University. While at Duquesne, he was a member of the Duquesne University Tamburitza, performing primarily as an instrumentalist on a variety of instruments. In the Mary Pappert School of Music, he studied double bass with Jeffrey Mangone and performed with the symphony orchestra and the jazz guitar ensemble.

Nikola resides in Allison Park, PA with his wife Daniella who is the choreographer for the Junior Tamburitza of Duquesne, and their two lovely children Dejan and Nikolija. Nikola has been a member of the CFU since birth. His wife and children are members also, making them a CFU family.

4th Annual Bob Novosel Memorial Tamburitza Jamboree

DETROIT, MI - Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra Presents: **The 4th Annual Bob Novosel Memorial Tamburitza Jamboree on Saturday, August 1st, at the Croatian American Club, 32851 Ryan Road, Warren, MI, from 5 p.m. until midnight.**



Join us for a summer night of wonderful music and dancing as tamburaši from near and far find their way to the Motor City to honor our brother and dear friend, Bob Novosel. Over the past few years, we have had as many as 20 musicians and singers travel from six states and Canada to honor Bob at this event. We miss Bob's leadership, we miss his humor, we miss the steady rhythm of his bugarija, but most of all we just miss HIM.

Please come celebrate the man and the legend at Detroit Lodge 351. We are again extending an open invitation for all musicians and singers to join us. If you bring an instrument and you plan to "JAM," your entry is free of charge. There will be a modest entry fee of \$10 at the door for all other adult guests. Children seventeen and under are free of charge. There will be continuous music all night for your enjoyment, and lyrics will be projected for a karaoke style sing-along.

We will enjoy: Delicious Food Available for Purchase; Bake Sale; 50/50 Raffle; Basket Raffle; Croatian Market Souvenirs; Great Friends; Wonderful Musicians!

A block of rooms has been reserved for our out-of-town guests: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Detroit North - Troy; 400 Stephenson Highway, Troy, Michigan 48083; Phone: 248-583-1900. Rate: \$129 plus tax per night. Group Name for discounted room rate: Memorial Jamboree 2026 Cutoff date for room discount: July 18, 2026.

Contact Debbie Babich, 586-918-5442, or Joe Novosel (novoselnorth@aol.com) for more information. We hope to see you at the Tam Jam!

Vicky Fulks/DTO Secretary



"Acustica Duo" of Zovne and Marko



Tommi Mischell

Croatian World Cup Celebration in Philadelphia on June 26

PHILADELPHIA, PA - The National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation is proud to announce the Friday, June 26th, Croatian Cultural Heritage-World Cup Soccer Celebration in Philadelphia at: The Liberty Point Restaurant at Penns Landing on the Delaware River at 211 South Columbus Boulevard.

The evening reception with wonderful Croatian entertainment will allow Croatian soccer fans from near and far to gather in Philadelphia to celebrate together the night before the all-important match for "Vatreni" against Ghana at the Philadelphia Stadium at 5 p.m.

All Croatians in attendance that night will be thoroughly entertained and singing along with the "Acustica Duo" of Zovne and Marko, the sensational Croatian American Band from New York City, playing today's and yesterday's Croatian hits. Tommi Mischell, Croatian American singer and songwriter, will be a featured special guest performer.

Dinner selections will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and appetizers for 2.5 hours and with a cash bar. All attendees must RSVP and pay ahead the \$45 to get on the registered invite list and one can buy tickets at: www.nfcacf.org

Please contact Mark Plavetic at: mplav96@gmail.com for any immediate questions.

The NFCACF World Cup Soccer Advisory Committee, led by Co-Chairs: Daniel Pedisich, Mark Plavetic and Steve Rukavina.

This event is planned in close collaboration with Željko Bulic and the "Mi Hrvati" Croatian Soccer Fan Club from Zagreb.

Steve Rukavina/Lodge 760 /President, NFCACF

CFU TamFEST to be Held in Columbus, Ohio

PITTSBURGH, PA - We are pleased to announce that the 39th Annual CFU Adult Tamburitza Festival will be held on November 6-8, 2026 in Columbus, Ohio.

The headquarters hotel will be the Renaissance Columbus Downtown for the CFU TamFEST weekend of fraternal and cultural activities.

Concerts and Socials will be held in the Superior Ballroom of the hotel.

Reduced room rates have been established with the hotel as follows: \$139.00 per night single thru quad for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Applicable room taxes of \$25.02 per night are in addition to the rate shown, for a total of \$164.02 per night.

Rooms may be reserved through the Renaissance's online reservation link, PASSKEY, by accessing the following URL <https://book.passkey.com/event/51175757/owner/14056/home>.

We urge all members to utilize the Passkey option.

Also, anyone interested in reserving multiple rooms as a group, please contact CFU Fraternal Programs Director Derek Hohn at the CFU Home Office, phone 412.843.0380 or email: dhohn@cfu.org.

Make your plans now to attend another thrilling CFU Croatian cultural experience in the fantastic city of Columbus, Ohio!

Edward W. Pazo/National President
Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
National Secretary/Treasurer

Hoosier Hrvati To Perform in July

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Please mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, July 12, for SLOVAK DAY. We'll perform from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Our Lady of Czestochowa Salvatorian Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville, IN 46410. The food is always outstanding and the music will have you tapping your toes. Come enjoy with us!

Also on our schedule is our yearly performance at PIEROGI FEST on Saturday, July 25. You'll find us on the Sheridan Avenue Stage ready to play, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., for your listening pleasure. Where, you ask? Sheridan Avenue and 119th Street in Whiting, IN 46394. Bring a chair; bring a friend. A good time will be had by all!

Summer Fun with Hoosier Hrvati!

Sally Kegley/Lodge 170

Lodge 993 Plans 65th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Fest

MUKWONAGO, WI - John Movrich CFU Lodge 993 will hold its 66th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Fest on Saturday, July 11th, from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. As always, it will be held at Mukwonago Field Park on the corner of 83 & NN.

Come hungry as we will have all of your favorite Croatian foods such as barbecued lamb, pork, and chicken; as well as cevapci and smoked sausage sandwiches. We will have plenty of Croatian and American homemade bakery to purchase. Reminder to members to please bring two bakery items, preferably in individual bags ready to sell (if possible). Come thirsty too, as we will have plenty of beverages to serve including Croatian beer.

Our favorite band, Sinovi from Chicago, will perform from noon until 7 p.m. They have been entertaining us at our picnic for many decades now and we always enjoy their wonderful music.

We will also be entertained by the Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitza at 4 p.m., followed by a performance by Graničari. All three groups (beginners, intermediates, and performers) will provide songs for your enjoyment. Bring your children and grandchildren to hear them and encourage them to join this wonderful group in the fall. It is a life changing experience for the whole family.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction again this year, so please be sure to buy raffle tickets and check out our beautiful selection of baskets and gifts in the silent auction at the south end of the pavilion. Near that is our Croatian Culture Corner where you can see pictures, maps and folklore items.

Members and friends, please help us out by putting in a few hours of work. Many workers lighten the load. We need help Thursday and Friday too in setting up. Contact me at croatian993@gmail.com to find out when and where you can help and with any questions you might have.

Check us out on our website at www.cfulodge993.org, or our Facebook page: CFU Lodge 993.

Come and enjoy our Croatian hospitality for the day, and of course, pray for good weather in Mukwonago on July 11th.

Carol Movrich Gedde/Secretary



Croatian American Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet

EASTLAKE, OH — Tickets are now on sale for one of the most anticipated sports events in the Croatian American community. The Croatian American Sports Hall of Fame (CAS-HOF) will host its 3rd Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the American Croatian Lodge in Eastlake, OH. The celebration runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and will feature the formal enshrinement of eight outstanding Croatian American athletes.

All former affiliates, teammates, supporters, and members of the public are warmly invited to join the celebration. Individual tickets are \$100 per person with a table of eight for \$750. Tickets are available now at croatianamericansports.com.

The evening includes a family-style dinner with three entrée choices and an open bar. The website also provides details on program book advertising and sponsorship opportunities for the 2026 ceremony.

Headlining the 2026 induction class is the greatest UFC Heavyweight World Champion Stipe Miocic, son of Croatian immigrants and widely regarded as the greatest heavyweight in mixed martial arts history. Joining him are seven additional CroatAmerican legends:

- **Meri Abbado** — Bodybuilding (Two-Time Masters World Champion)
- **Fred Arbanas** — Football (Six-time All-AFL selection & All-AFL Team Selection)
- **Gary Beban** — Football (1967 Heisman Trophy Winner)
- **Bobby Grich** — Baseball (Four Golden Glove awards & Six-Time MLB All-Star)
- **Jack Marin** — Basketball (Two-Time NBA All-Star Known as "Mr. Consistency")
- **Rob Ninkovich** — Football (Two-time Super Bowl Champion, New England Patriots)
- **Johnny Pesky** — Baseball (Boston Red Sox icon as a player, manager and announcer) Emmy Award-winning sports broadcaster Jerome Jurenovich will serve as Master

Joe Rady Midwest Golf Scramble Set For July 18

CANTON, IL - Sacred Heart CFU Lodge 367 is happy to announce they will host the 2026 Joe Rady Midwest Golf Scramble on Saturday, July 18. The Joe Rady event will be held at the beautiful Kellogg Golf Course at 7716 N. Radnor Rd., Peoria, IL 61615. Entry Deadline: July 4, 2026.

Tee times will begin at 11 a.m., with registration at the course starting at 10 a.m. Following golf, an awards banquet will be held at the Lindenhoff at 7403 N. Radnor Rd., Peoria, IL 61615. The cost is \$95 for golf and dinner, \$50 for junior golfers and \$30 for non-playing members and guests only attending the banquet.

For those interested in golfing in this fun Four-Man Scramble, golf registration can be paid by check payable to CFU Lodge 367 and mailed to Toni Dillefeld, 120 W. Cedar St., Canton, IL 61520.

We hope you mark your calendars and tell your friends to reserve the date for this fun-filled CFU event. We welcome everyone and look forward to catching up with our CFU friends and guests over a great golf weekend. Hvala!

Ruth Sepich/Secretary

of Ceremonies. Out-of-town guests are encouraged to book accommodations at the Four Points by Sheraton Eastlake, 35000 Curtis Boulevard — the official host hotel for the event. Discounted accommodations are available at a special negotiated NFCACF rate of \$139 per night (Friday and Saturday), plus applicable taxes and fees.

"This 2026 induction class is amazing group of accomplished athletes," said Steve Rukavina, CAS-HOF Co-Chairman and President of the National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation. "From world champions to Heisman Trophy winners and Hall of Famers, these Croatian American sports legends will be inducted in Cleveland that evening — a night that honors not only their extraordinary careers, but the heritage that helped shape them."

Don't miss this amazing evening celebrating Croatian American athletic excellence. Secure your seats or table today at croatianamericansports.com. For questions, contact sjukavina@gmail.com or croatianamericansports-hof@gmail.com.

Previous CAS-HOF Inductees: 2024 Class:

Tim Grgurich-Basketball; Rudy Tomjanovich-Basketball; Ferdinand "Fritzie" Zivic-Boxing; John Mayasich-Ice Hockey; Ralph Cindrich-Football; Bill Fralic-Football; Jim Laslavic-Football; Frank Sinkwich-Football; Frank Solich-Football; Paul Tomasovich-Softball; Kara Grgas-Wheeler Goucher-Track & Field.

2022 Inaugural Class:

Fred Couples-Golf; Helen Crlenkovich-Diving; John Havlicek-Basketball; Mickey Lolich-Baseball; Roger Maris-Baseball; Kevin McHale-Basketball; George Mikan-Basketball; Mark Pavelich-Ice Hockey; Joe Sakic-Ice Hockey; Joe Stydahar-Football.

Steve Rukavina/Lodge 760 CAS-HOF Co-Chairman



Members Enjoy Sarma Dinner

FARRELL, PA - Following our monthly CFU Lodge 126 and CACC meetings on May 17, a Sarma Dinner ensued at our Croatian Home. Members and guests enjoyed their choice of either a delicious and generous traditional sarma dinner or savory kielbasa dinner. A variety of tempting homemade desserts from which to choose topped off the meal.

Homemade apple strudels, prepared by the Veseljaci Tamburitza Orchestra, were available for purchase and in demand. Entertainment was provided by the lively Orkestar Radost band which compelled many guests to dance kolos and sing along. Svima hvala!

Susan Yazvac/Lodge 126 and Recording Secretary CACC

Kellogg Golf Course
7716 N. Radnor Rd.
Peoria, IL 61615
(309) 691-0293

Staggered Start Scramble Format

Check-in Time 10:00am
Start Time 11:00am



CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION
72nd ANNUAL
JOE RADY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday July 18, 2026

Sacred Heart Lodge 367
Canton, Illinois

ENTRY DEADLINE – Tuesday, July 4, 2026

Adult Golfers, Green Fees & Golf Cart\$95.00*
Junior Golfers, Green Fees & Golf Cart.....\$50.00*
Golf, Green Fees and Cart Only.....\$65.00
Non-Golfer Banquet Only Ticket.....\$30.00

*Includes sandwich at the turn and banquet ticket

SATURDAY EVENING VICTORY BANQUET

Lindenhoff
7403 N. Radnor Rd.
Peoria, IL 61615

Doors open – 4:30pm
Dinner Served – 6:30pm

Non-Golfing guests may attend the banquet for \$30 each

Full Name	Email and/or Phone Number	Lodge Number	Guest (Mark with X)

Make Checks Payable to:
Sacred Heart Lodge 367
NO REFUNDS
Mail entries with check to:
Toni Dillefeld
120 W. Cedar St.
Canton, IL 61520

Total Due:

Lodge Secretary _____

Signature _____



Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST

Sretan Očev dan!



GLASILO HRVATSKE BRATSKE ZAJEDNICE U AMERICI / SVI ZA JEDNOG

Ilustracija
Mladen Veža.

GODINA 121.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA / SRIJEDA 17. LIPNJA 2026.

SEDMA STRANA

Dobrodošli na 58. tamburaški festival mladih naše Zajednice

Na festivalu u Clevelandu nastupa trinaest ansambala

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA – Slaveći 250. godišnjicu Sjedinjenih Američkih Država 2026. godine, godišnji Omladinski tamburaški festival odjekivat će patriotizmom i radosnim fanfarama. Sudionici i gosti ujedinit će se u počast poluvjekovnoj obljetnici naše nacije i obilježiti veličanstvenu priliku prekrasnim izvedbama koje odražavaju doprinose naše hrvatske baštine razvoju Amerike kroz njenih 250 godina kao suverene nacije.

Povratak u Cleveland, Ohio šesti put u povijesti izvedbenih mjesta Omladinskog festivala, godišnje održavanje "Show of Shows" 2026. održat će se od 3. do 5. srpnja u Cleveland Hilton Downtownu. Festival 2026. ugostit će trinaest omladinskih ansambala iz cijelih Sjedinjenih Američkih Država i Kanade. U radosnom slavlju naših mladih koji se okupljaju kako bi podijelili svoje glazbene talente, odajemo počast 250. obljetnici Sjedinjenih Američkih Država i s ponosom predstavljamo glazbu i ples naše hrvatske baštine u izvedbi naših mladih članova.

Prethodni festivali mladih naše Zajednice održani u Clevelandu bili su 1971., 1979., 1983. i 1989. godine u poznatoj Cleveland Music Hall, a novije, 2017. godine u Cleveland Hiltonu. Ove godine, počevši od petka, 3. srpnja, sudionici festivala stići će u Cleveland Hilton Downtown Hotel, gdje će mladi tamburaši HBZ-a i njihove obitelji pozdraviti kolege glazbenike i prijatelje iz brojnih gradova širom SAD-a i Kanade za početak svečanog vikenda.

Druženje u petak navečer održat će se u prostoriji za balove Cleveland Hiltona, gdje će glazba za vaše slušanje i ples tijekom večeri biti osigurana od strane nekoliko talentiranih omladinskih tamburaških sastava naše Zajednice.

Trinaest sudjelujućih ansambala zabavljat će tijekom dvosatne popodnevne koncertne serije na 58. godišnjem festivalu Omladinske kulturne federacije Hrvatske bratske zajednice.

Otvaranje programa festivala 2026. u subotu poslijepodne održat će predsjednik Omladinske kulturne federacije Michael Ricci koji će pozdraviti okupljenu publiku i uputiti svoje dobre želje svim sudionicima u ime Odbora spomenute Federacije. Brat Ricci upućuje srdačan poziv svima da prisustvuju festivalu, izražavajući: „Apsolutno je nevjerojat-

no gledati nastupe djece i mladih koji su neumorno vježbali kako bi predstavili svoje programe. Njihova ljubav prema našoj hrvatskoj kulturi, kao i njihovi talenti na sceni, zaslužuju vašu pažnju i pljesak.”

Potičemo sve članove HBZ-a da se obrate Programu Festivala koji je uključen na drugom mjestu u ovom broju Zajedničara za cjelovit popis rasporeda događanja za ovo vikendsko slavlje Festivala 2026. Program uključuje početke koncerata tijekom (Nastavak na 10. strani)



HRVATSKA NOGOMETNA REPREZENTACIJA spremna je za sudjelovanje na Svjetskom prvenstvu. Prvu utakmicu odigrati će u Dallasu protiv momčadi Engleske. Ovo je prvi put u povijesti Svjetskog nogometnog prvenstva da se održava u tri zemlje domaćina. Treneru Daliću i momčadi želimo puno uspjeha na prvenstvu. Finalna utakmica će se igrati u New Yorku 19. srpnja. Idemooooo Vatreni!

Nacionalni odbor završio godišnje zasjedanje i usvojio programe za budući napredak Zajednice

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

Treći dio
PITTSBURGH, PA – Godišnje zasjedanje Nacionalnog odbora nastavljeno je s pregledom o prihvaćanjem Izvješća Nadzornog odbora. Izvješće je uključivalo područja koja su pregledali, a to su dokumenti i informacije koje je izvršnom odboru zatraženo prije početka godišnjeg zasjedanja. Prema izvješću, područja koja je pokrivalo njihovu nadležnost uključivala su, ali nisu bila ograničena na: vozila / putovanja; kreditne kartice; inventar; bratstvene događaje; obuku odbora; glavnu

knjigu, osiguranje za glavni ured; te dnevnicu članova odbora za kvartalne sastanke.

Odbornici su izvijestili da su sva njihova pitanja zadovoljavajuće odgovorena od strane Izvršnog odbora. Što se tiče obuke članova Nadzornog odbora, članovima je omogućeno pristupanje modulima za obuku razvijenim od strane American Fraternal Alliance, industrijske trgovačke udruge u kojoj HBZ ima članstvo.

Izvještaj je prihvaćen na prijedlog drugog nacionalnog potpredsjednika brata Michaela

Riccija, a potvrdio ga je izvršni potpredsjednik brat Franjo Bertović nakon čega je uslijedio poziv na glasanje.

U okviru točke - Za dobrobit društva - Nadzorni odbor je od Izvršnog odbora informiran o financijskoj podršci koju je udruga pružila programu kojeg je razvilo Veleposlanstvo Hrvatske u Washingtonu u čast 250. godišnjice Sjedinjenih Američkih Država. Aktivnosti su planirane u Washingtonu i uključuju koncert tamburaša koji odaje počast doprinosu Hrvata u Americi očuvanju hrvatske kulture unutar cjelokupnog američkog društva. Nadzorni odbor spomenuo je mogućnost pokretanja fonda za promicanje kulture koji bi mogao financijski pomagati ansamblima. Tema je raspravljena ukratko, bez dogovorenih konkretnih (Nastavak na 11. strani)

Gost dirigent Nikola Vranešević vodit će Festival 2026.

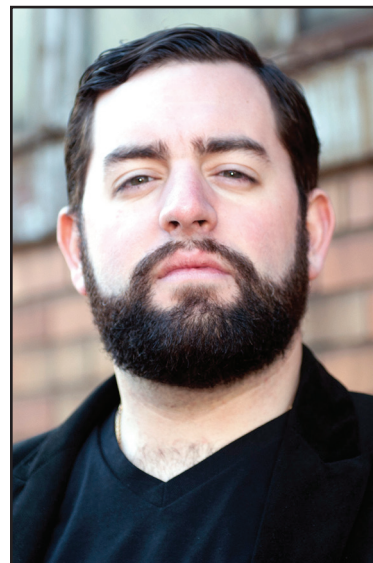
Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA – Nikola Vranešević, glazbeni direktor Junior Tamburice iz Duquesnea, Pennsylvania, bit će Gost dirigent na 58. festivalu Omladinske kulturne federacije Hrvatske bratske zajednice.

Tijekom dvodnevnih festivalskih nastupa koji će se održati 4. i 5. srpnja u hotelu Hilton Cleveland Downtown, Vranešević će voditi veliki zajednički nastup svih članova sudjelujućih ansambala na početku nedjeljnog programa, vrhunac godišnjih festivala koji svi prisutni uvijek iščekuju i uživaju u njemu.

Čestitamo Nikoli Vraneševiću na odabiru za ovu prestižnu počast i izražavamo našu zahvalnost za njegovu posvećenu predanost očuvanju naše hrvatske glazbene kulture. Kroz njegovo podučavanje i strastveni angažman u obrazovanju naše mladeži, Nikola je potaknuo mnogu djecu da aktivno sudjeluju u obilježavanju našeg glazbenog naslijeđa.

Gostujući dirigent 2026. Nikola Vranešević vodi aktivnu karijeru kao nastavnik glazbe, izvođač, aranžer i dirigent. Trenutno radi kao



ravnatelj orkestra za razrede 6-12 u Srednjoškolskom okrugu North Hills (Pittsburgh, PA). Prije ove pozicije, predavao je u školskim okruženjima Plum Borough, Mt. Lebanon i North Allegheny, gdje su njegove nastavne odgovornosti uključivale orkestar, početni bend, opću glazbu i glazbenu tehnologiju/kompoziciju.

Osim svog rada u javnom obrazovanju, Nikola obnaša funkciju glazbenog direktora za Junior Tamburicu iz Duquesnea (JTD). Postao je član JTD-a sa 8 godina, a nastavio je nastupati s grupom sve do diplomiranja (2009.). Nikola je bio snažno (Nastavak na 9. strani)





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

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA...LORRAINE TURKALL

Zastave, Oci i Festivali

Domoljublje i patrijarhi slave se u punom sjaju! Počevši od Dana zastave koji smo obilježili 14. lipnja, zatim Dana očeva koji se obilježava 21. lipnja, ovime službeno pozdravljamo i ulazimo u ljetnu sezonu. Uživamo u prilikama da odamo počast „Staroj slavi“, našem nacionalnom simbolu, i počašćeni smo što možemo iskazati zaslužno poštovanje vlastitim očevima, s ljubavlju i zahvalnošću, za njihovo vodstvo, žrtve i vrijednu prisutnost u našim životima. U ovoj povijesnoj godini, ne zahvaljujemo samo Očevima osnivačima naše zemlje, već i vlastitim očevima i djedovima koji su nas voljeli, brinuli se i skrbili za nas.

Kako završavamo ovaj lipanjski kalendar, dočekujemo prvi tjedan srpnja kako bismo započeli naše proslavljanje Četvrtog srpnja i 250. obljetnice naše nacije, odajući priznanje povijesnom potpisivanju Deklaracije o neovisnosti 1776. godine. Spektakularni vatrometi osvjetlit će nebo diljem Amerike na Četvrti

srpnja ove godine, dok se američki građani ujedinjuju u počast našoj bogatoj povijesti. Uz svečano trubljenje truba i snažan ritam bubnjeva, moćno sviranje tambura također će zauzeti središnje mjesto dok Omladinska kulturna federacija Hrvatske bratske zajednice održava 58. Omladinski tamburaški festival 3.-5. srpnja u Clevelandu, Ohio.

Komemorirajući ovaj značajni događaj u povijesti naše nacije i slaveći nacionalnu radost američke slobode, također uživamo u utjecaju koji su naši hrvatski ljudi i hrvatska baština imali u uspostavljanju kulturne mozaike Amerike. U ovom povijesnom trenutku u našoj zemlji, prirodno je da razmišljamo o prošlosti i iskoristimo ovaj povoljan trenutak da odamo počast žrtvama i naporima svih Amerikanaca, uključujući sve osobe hrvatskog podrijetla, koji su doprinijeli rastu i uspjehu naše nacije. Članovi generacija hrvatskih obitelji neumorno su radili u tvornicama, rudnicima,

na poljima, željeznicama i ribolovu od obale do obale kako bi pomogli u izgradnji naše zemlje. Nastavnici, građevinski radnici, liječnici, električari, radnici u tvornicama, te ljudi iz svih sredina, zanimanja i interesa odgovorni su za slobode koje dijelimo, udobnosti koje uživamo i blagoslove koje prepoznamo u našim svakodnevnim životima na američkom tlu.

Dok slavimo ljepotu američkog krajolika, uzbuđenje njegovih velikih gradova, blaga njegovih malih gradova i inovacije rođene ovdje koje su oblikovale naše živote, prepoznamo koliko smo sretni što možemo sudjelovati u dobrobitima ove zemlje i beskrajnim mogućnostima za našu djecu da ovdje rastu i uspiju. Mnoge naše obitelji HBZ dijele zajedničku poveznicu u tome što su njihovi pradjedovi i djedovi i bake dolazili do obala Amerike u nastojanju da izgrade čvrste temelje za svoju djecu. Dijeljenje tog "Američkog sna" dio je nasljedstva predaka za bezbroj pojedinaca koji sada nazivaju Ameriku "domom" i tek je početak onoga na čemu generacije naših obitelji danas grade, dok dijele veće nade i snove za nadolazeće godine. Čestitamo Americi povodom njene 250. obljetnice!

Raspored radnog vremena za praznik 4. srpnja

PITTSBURGH, PA - Pažnja svim čitateljima i suradnicima „Z“: Glavni ured HBZ bit će zatvoren za praznik 4. srpnja i tjedan od 6. do 10. srpnja 2026.

Molimo sve da se pobrinu da sav materijal za izdanje od 15. srpnja bude dostavljen unaprijed (najkasnije do 29. lipnja) kako bi bio objavljen. Planirajte ranije i pošaljite obavijesti o odsječnim događajima i ostalim važnim vijestima čim informacije budu dostupne.

Cijenimo vašu suradnju i želim svima siguran i svečan Dan neovisnosti te ugodnu sezonu ljetnih putovanja i odmora!

Urednici

Timothy Komara/blagajnik

Hrvatska kultura na izložbi u našem glavnom gradu Washingtonu



Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

U utorak, 9. lipnja, moja kolegica Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, nacionalna tajnica/blagajnica, njen suprug John Sikaras i ja imali smo zadovoljstvo prisustvovati vrlo lijepoj i posebnoj večeri tamburaške zabave u našem glavnom gradu. Večer je organizirao hrvatski veleposlanik u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama, g. Pjer Šimunović, i njegovo osoblje, kao dio priznanja Republike Hrvatske predstojećoj 250. obljetnici neovisnosti naše zemlje i osnivanja Sjedinjenih Američkih Država!

Kada smo prvi put čuli za planiranu aktivnost, prikladno nazvanu „Tamburica po Americi: Proslava hrvatsko-američke baštine kroz glazbu“, naši izvršni odbornici su podržali događaj za koji smo vjerovali da ne samo da odaje počast našoj zemlji, već i potvrđuje doprinos bezbrojnih hrvatskih Amerikanaca koji su stigli na obale Sjedinjenih Država u potrazi za boljim životom. Ipak, ovi hrvatski pioniri i dalje su održavali ljubav i poštovanje prema svojoj hrvatskoj baštini. To je bila temeljna vrijednost naše Zajednice tijekom 132 godine postojanja.



VIRTUOZNI PRIMAŠI i svjetski poznati glazbenici Jerry Grčević i Ivan Draženović.

Naime, mi, hrvatski Amerikanci, ponosni smo što smo građani najveće zemlje na Božjoj planeti; međutim, u isto vrijeme crpimo snagu iz svojih korijena koji sežu do Hrvatske i Bosne i Hercegovine. Poštujemo povijest naših predaka koji su se borili za preživljavanje u teškim gospodarskim okolnostima, protiv strane tlačiteljske vlasti i konačnog postignuća suvremene Hrvatske heroje u snažnoj izbornoj pobjedi koja je uspostavila suverenu i neovisnu Republiku Hrvatsku.

S tim mislima na umu, ušli smo u Dvoranu naroda u Kennedy Centru i odmah smo bili pozdravljeni mnogim poznatim licima iz Pittsburgha i Washingtona. Kad smo stigli do naših sjedala u Terrace Theateru, veleposlanik Šimunović odmah je pozdravio veliki broj prisutnih gostiju i objasnio svrhu večeri. Sljedeća dva i pol sata zabavljao nas je virtuozni primaš i svjetski poznati glazbenik i skladatelj Jerry Grčević te mali sastav okupljenih glazbenika, uključujući: Cathy i Angela White, Ivan Grga Grgurević (violončelistica), i Ivan Draženović iz Valpova, Hrvatska, koji je sam po sebi uspješan glazbeni direktor, skladatelj i glazbenik.

Osim tih sjajnih glazbenika, naš prijatelj i član, brat Mark Milovats, hrvatsko-američki pjevač, bio je istaknut u oba seta koja je grupa izvodila. Dok smo sjedili i slušali našu hrvatsku braću i sestre kako zabavljaju sve sa svojim tamburaškim instrumentima, misli su nam odlutale na sjećanje na mnoštvo Hrvata, imigranata i onih rođenih ovdje u Sjedinjenim Državama, koji su naučili svirati i pjevati hrvatske narodne pjesme. Pjesme koje su imale tendenciju povezati i glazbenika i publiku s domovinom. Sjetili smo se i našeg djeda s mamine strane, Josipa Ferenčića, koji je svirao „prim kornjaču“ u tamburaškom sastavu ubrzo nakon svog dolaska u Sjedinjene Američke Države 1912. godine.

Također smo pomislili na veliki broj tamburaških sastava i orkestara diljem naše velike zemlje koji su nastajali i zabavljali Hrvate i ne-Hrvate jednako na proslavama i drugim događanjima gdje su se okupljali ljudi dobre volje. Čestitamo našem prijatelju, veleposlaniku Šimunoviću, na njegovom predviđanju da oda počast doprinosima Hrvata u Americi kroz povijest naše bogate zemlje ovom koncertu, ali i kroz razne (Nastavak na 10. strani)



POSEBNA PONUDA HBZ-A

Povodom obilježavanja 250. rođendana naše velike zemlje, Sjedinjenih Američkih Država, HBZ je najavila posebnu ponudu kroz kredit fraternalističke dividende kod kupnje životnog osiguranja u planu Osiguranja otplaćenog u 20 godina (20 Pay Life).

- Osobe od 0 do 25 godina starosti mogu kupiti zaštitu u životnom osiguranju od \$10,000 do \$25,000 uz premiju od samo \$17.75 u prvoj godini;
- Osobe u dobi od 26 do 70 godina mogu se osigurati na iznos od \$10,000 ili veći s pomoću jednokratnog fraternalističkog kredita na dividendu do \$250.
- Premija u prvoj godini iznositi će također \$17.75. Na primjer: žena u dobi od 42 godine (nepušač) ako odluči kupiti nominalni iznos od \$10,000 standardna premija iznosi \$245.80. Kod podnošenja zahtjeva osoba bi prvu godišnju premiju platila \$17.76 i ispunjavala bi uvjet za kredit kroz fraternalističku dividendu od \$228.04 koji bi doplatio razliku ostatka iznosa od \$245.80. Ili, muškarac starosti 42 godine (nepušač) kupnjom nominalnog iznosa od \$10,000 uz standardnu cijenu od \$263.80, imati će ovaj popust. Osoba će u prvoj godini platiti \$17.76 plus \$13.80 da bi podmirila ostatak iznosa od \$263.80.

Ova specijalna ponuda vrijedi do 31. prosinca 2026. Standardni propisi Zajednice primjenjivati će se kod odobrenja zahtjeva. Niže objavljena tablica cijena za muškarac za \$1,000.

MUŠKARAC NEPUŠAČ					MUŠKARAC PUŠAČ				
God.	\$5,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000	God.	\$5,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000
0	15.78	11.44	9.02	8.69	0				
1	15.97	11.65	9.24	8.92	1				
2	16.17	11.86	9.46	9.14	2				
3	16.37	12.08	9.69	9.37	3				
4	16.58	12.30	9.93	9.61	4				
5	16.79	12.53	10.18	9.86	5				
6	17.04	12.79	10.45	10.13	6				
7	17.29	13.06	10.72	10.40	7				
8	17.55	13.33	11.01	10.69	8				
9	17.81	13.61	11.30	10.98	9				
10	18.07	13.90	11.61	11.28	10				
11	18.38	14.21	11.92	11.60	11				
12	18.69	14.53	12.25	11.93	12				
13	19.01	14.86	12.59	12.26	13				
14	19.34	15.19	12.93	12.61	14				
15	19.66	15.53	13.28	12.97	15				
16	20.32	15.63	13.40	13.04	16	20.74	16.12	13.92	13.56
17	21.00	15.72	13.52	13.11	17	21.86	16.74	14.59	14.18
18	21.70	15.81	13.64	13.18	18	23.06	17.37	15.29	14.83
19	22.42	15.90	13.76	13.25	19	24.31	18.03	16.03	15.51
20	23.16	15.99	13.89	13.32	20	25.63	18.71	16.80	16.22
21	23.38	16.26	14.17	13.62	21	25.99	19.10	17.19	16.62
22	23.60	16.53	14.47	13.92	22	26.35	19.49	17.60	17.02
23	23.82	16.81	14.77	14.22	23	26.71	19.90	18.01	17.44
24	24.04	17.09	15.08	14.54	24	27.08	20.31	18.44	17.86
25	24.27	17.38	15.40	14.86	25	27.46	20.72	18.88	18.30
26	24.62	17.76	15.79	15.24	26	27.94	21.22	19.37	18.79
27	24.99	18.15	16.19	15.64	27	28.44	21.74	19.88	19.29
28	25.36	18.55	16.60	16.05	28	28.94	22.26	20.41	19.81
29	25.73	18.97	17.02	16.47	29	29.45	22.80	20.94	20.35
30	26.12	19.38	17.46	16.90	30	29.97	23.35	21.49	20.89
31	26.55	19.84	17.91	17.35	31	30.61	23.80	21.80	21.19
32	26.99	20.30	18.37	17.81	32	31.26	24.27	22.11	21.49
33	27.44	20.77	18.85	18.28	33	31.93	24.74	22.42	21.79
34	27.89	21.26	19.34	18.77	34	32.60	25.22	22.73	22.10
35	28.36	21.75	19.85	19.27	35	33.30	25.71	23.05	22.41
36	28.92	22.32	20.40	19.81	36	33.99	26.43	23.76	23.11
37	29.49	22.90	20.97	20.38	37	34.71	27.16	24.49	23.83
38	30.08	23.50	21.55	20.96	38	35.44	27.91	25.25	24.57
39	30.68	24.12	22.16	21.55	39	36.18	28.68	26.02	25.34
40	31.29	24.74	22.78	22.16	40	36.94	29.47	26.82	26.13
41	32.02	25.55	23.26	22.52	41	37.87	30.64	27.86	27.01
42	32.78	26.38	23.76	22.88	42	38.82	31.86	28.94	27.92
43	33.55	27.24	24.27	23.24	43	39.79	33.12	30.06	28.86
44	34.34	28.13	24.79	23.61	44	40.79	34.44	31.22	29.83
45	35.14	29.05	25.31	23.98	45	41.82	35.80	32.42	30.83
46	35.93	29.65	26.11	24.75	46	42.99	36.78	33.57	31.92
47	36.73	30.27	26.94	25.55	47	44.20	37.77	34.75	33.04
48	37.56	30.90	27.79	26.37	48	45.44	38.80	35.98	34.20
49	38.40	31.54	28.66	27.21	49	46.72	39.85	37.25	35.40
50	39.25	32.19	29.56	28.08	50	48.03	40.94	38.57	36.64

(Nastavak na 10. strani)

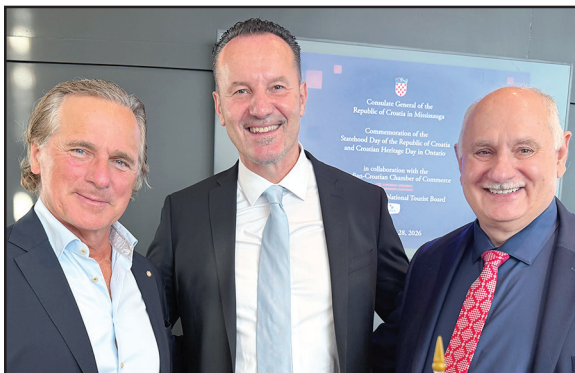


Zvuk tamburica i taktovi domoljubnih pjesama nakon prvog treninga u Alexandriji.

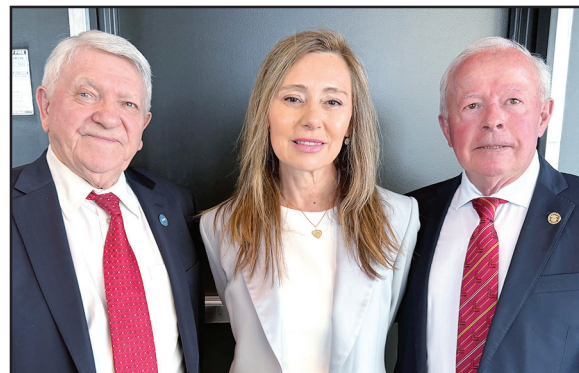
Ugodno iznenađenje Vatrenima priredio je tamburaški sastav Sveti Juraj iz Pennsylvanije, pod okriljem Hrvatske bratske zajednice!

Svi članovi sviraju tamburu, pjevaju i plešu kolo odjeveni u izvorne hrvatske narodne nošnje, s ciljem očuvanja i prenošenja hrvatske kulture i nacionalnog identiteta među Hrvatima u Sjevernoj Americi.

S proslave državnosti RH u Ontariju



JOHN MARION (Gospodarska komora),
Dr. Igor Štagljar (Sveučilište u Torontu) i
Tony Ćorak (HDZ).



FRANK VISMEG (Holiday Inn u Oakvilleu), Ana
Bačić (koordinatorica programa hrvatskog jezika
u Kanadi) i Franjo Bertović.



CAROLYN PARRISH, gradonačelnica Missis-
saugue s zamjenikom Johnom Kovačevićem.



POŠTOVANA DONNA SKELLY, predsjednica
parlamenta Ontarija.

Gost dirigent... (Nastavak sa 7. strane)

pod utjecajem svojih roditelja, Davida Vraneševića, koji svira u Orkestru Radost, i njegove majke Donne, koja je bila koreografkinja za JTD.

On je učio svirati tamburaške instrumente pod vodstvom Toma Manfreda, Jerryja Grčevića i svog oca Davida, a harmoniku kod Justina Greenwalda. Počeo je podučavati u JTD-u 2012. godine kao asistent Tomu Manfredu, a ulogu glazbenog direktora preuzeo je 2013. Tijekom svog vremena s ansamblom imao je privilegiju raditi s Donnom Vranešević, JT Kordesichom, Brockom Belichom, Tomom Manfredom i svojom suprugom, Danielom. Prije svojeg rada s JTD-om, Nikola je bio pomoćni glazbeni instruktor u Ansamblu Hrvatski Tanac, radeći sa Susan Stafurom i Željkom Jerganom.

Nikola je također doprinio brojnim glazbenim aranžmanima za različite ansamble diljem Sjeverne Amerike, uključujući

Duquesne University Tamburitzans, (ranije Duquesne University Tamburitzans), Ansambl Hrvatski Tanac, Junior Tamburitzans of Duquesne, American Zagreb Junior Tamburitzans, St. Anthony's Kolo Club, Golden Triangle Tamburitzans, South Hills Tamburitzans, Milwaukee Junior Tamburitzans, St. Nicholas Tamburitzans, Ansambl Ljeljo, Javor Tamburaši, The North Hills Orchestra, i vokalne aranžmane za Biljana Jeremić Vokal Ensemble (Novi Sad).

Kao izvođač, Nikola je aktivan član T.S. Ponoć i Orkestra Pobjeda. S tim je bendovima nastupao diljem Sjeverne Amerike na raznim događanjima uključujući etničke i društvene plesove, folklorne festivale, vjenčanja i koncerte. Osim toga, nastupao je ili se pojavljivao kao gost glazbenik s brojnim ansamblima uključujući TS Trzalica, Orkestar Tsare, Orchestra Radost, Jerry Grcevich, Gypsy

Strings, Mikey Dee Tamburitzans, Lira, TS Barabe, Naši Tamburaši, Osveženje Bend, 412 Bend, Orkestar Junaci, The Continental Dukes, Javor Tamburaši i Ansambl Ljeljo.

Nikola je također aktivan u Tamburaškom savezu Amerike, gdje je član u nacionalnom odboru. Član je Odbora za nagrade, koji nadgleda Dvoranu slavni i Nagradu osnivača organizacije. Godine 2014. primio je Nagradu osnivača Lou Čavića, koja prepoznaje mlade ljude koji su pokazali izvanrednu predanost očuvanju tamburaške glazbe i slavenske kulturne baštine

Godine 2025. također je odlikovan Predsjedničkom nagradom u znak priznanja za njegov doprinos Tamburaškom savezu Amerike. Nikola je služio u lokalnim planiranim odborima za Tamburaške ekstravaganze održane u Washingtonu, DC (2019.), Pittsburghu (2024.) i St. Louisu (2025.).

Nikola je stekao i svoju diplomu prvostupnika

znanosti u glazbenom obrazovanju i magisterij iz glazbenog obrazovanja na Sveučilištu Duquesne. Dok je bio na Duquesneu, bio je član Duquesne University Tamburice, nastupajući uglavnom kao instrumentalist na raznim instrumentima. U Mary Pappert School of Music studirao je kontrabas kod Jeffreya Mangonea i nastupao

s simfonijskim orkestrom i jazz gitarenskim ansamblom.

On živi u Allison Parku, PA, sa svojom suprugom Daniellom, koja je koreografkinja za Junior Tamburicu of Duquesne, i njihovo dvoje prekrasne djece, Dejanom i Nikolijom. Član je Hrvatske bratske zajednice od rođenja. Njegova supruga i djeca također su članovi naše Zajednice. Čestitamo, Nikola!

Do zlata, Hrvatska

Ajmo, ajmo, srce nek' gori, crven-bijel-plavi svijetom se ori! Ajmo, ajmo, ruke u zrak, Hrvatska ide — jak je naš znak

Iz zemlje male, al' velikog srca, krenuli smo hrabro kroz svjetske arene.

Francuska pamti naš prvi veliki sjaj, kad su Vatrene svijetu pokazali ponos taj.

Nije nas bilo mnogo, al' glas nam je jak, svaki naš korak ostavljao je trag. Od prvog ponosa do najvećih dana, Hrvatska nikad nije igrala sama.

Kad se zastava digna, nebo zadrhti, kad se himna čuje, srce ne šteti.

Mi ne idemo tiho, mi ne znamo stati, za Hrvatsku ćemo sve od sebe dati!

Neka grmi stadion, neka pjeva noć, Hrvatska ima srce, Hrvatska ima moć!

Od snova do slave, od bola do trona, dvije tisuće dvadeset šest — idemo do zlata!

Ajmo, ajmo, Vatrene, sad! Za grb, za ponos, za hrvatski san! Ajmo, ajmo, neka svijet zna, u finalu zlato — Hrvatska ga ima!

U Rusiji smo došli korak do neba, svijet je vidio da se Hrvatska ne da.

Suze i pjesma, ponos u očima, mala zemlja velika među divovima.

A kad su mnogi rekli: "Gotovo je sve", u pustinji smo opet digli zastave.

Još jednom među najvećima stali, jer nikad, nikad nismo odustali.

Kad se zastava digna, nebo zadrhti, kad se himna čuje, srce ne šteti. Mi ne idemo tiho, mi ne znamo stati, za Hrvatsku ćemo sve od sebe dati!

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Ajmo, ajmo, Vatrene, sad! Za grb, za ponos, za hrvatski san! Ajmo, ajmo, neka svijet zna, u finalu zlato — Hrvatska ga ima!

Tko smo mi? — Hrvatska! Što je san? — Zlato! Kuda idemo? — Do finala! Za koga srce? — Za Hrvatsku bije!

Malo nas je, al' nas čuje svijet, svaki naš poraz rodi novi let. Tri puta smo dokazali svima, da Hrvatska srce

pobjednika ima!

Neka grmi stadion, neka pjeva noć, Hrvatska ima srce, Hrvatska ima moć!

Od snova do slave, od bola do trona, dvije tisuće dvadeset šest — idemo do zlata!

Ajmo, ajmo, Vatrene, sad! Za

grb, za ponos, za hrvatski san! Ajmo, ajmo, cijeli svijet zna, u finalu zlato — Hrvatska ga ima! Crven-bijel-plavi, srce se budi, Hrvatska pjeva, Hrvatska ljubi. Mala na karti, velika u srcu, Vatrene naši — zlato je tu!

Dario Rozman
dj.dario.r.hr@gmail.com

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



HRVATSKI PROFESORI KNJIGA IZ ZAGREBA Ana Barbarić, dr. sc. i Ivana Hebrang Grgić, dr. sc., Nacionalna tajnica/blagajnica Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, Veleposlanik RH Pjer Šimunović i Nacionalni predsjednik Edward W. Pazo.

druge aktivnosti osmišljene kako bi se istaknula hrabrost, talent i čast koju su Hrvati u Americi pokazali kao građani Sjedinjenih Američkih Država.

Također čestitamo bratu Jerryju Grčeviću na životnom djelu očuvanja i promocije hrvatske kulture kroz pjesmu! Iskoristili smo ovu priliku da s Facebook stranice Hrvatske ambasade u Washingtonu prenesemo sljedeću izjavu u vezi s veličanstvenim koncertom u Terrace Theateru.

Sinoć smo imali čast predstaviti Tamburitza Across America: Proslava hrvatsko-američkog naslijeđa kroz glazbu u Terrace Theateru Kennedy Centra kao glavni kulturni događaj Ambasade u sklopu A250 programa.

Bila je to zaista čarobna večer koja je slavila bogatu glazbenu tradiciju, povijest i trajni doprinos hrvatskih Amerikanaca američkom društvu.

Iskreno zahvaljujemo Jerryju Grčeviću, čija su vizija, umjetnički talent i predanost oživjeli ovaj izvanredni koncert. Kroz glazbu, pripovijedanje i bezvremeni zvuk tamburice, Jerry je odavao počast generacijama hrvatsko-američkih obitelji koje su sačuvala svoje naslijeđe dok su pomagale graditi i jačati Sjedinjene Američke Države. Njegov nastup bio je dirljivi podsjetnik na moć kulture da povezuje zajednice, generacije i narode.

Bilo nam je drago ugostiti članove hrvatsko-američke zajednice, prijatelje Hrvatske i podržavatelje inicijative A250 na večeri koja je slavila zajedničku priču s obje strane Atlantika. Iskreno zahvaljujemo i našim velikodušnim sponzorima čija je podrška omogućila ovaj poseban događaj: Adriatic Strategic Partners, ACAP, Hrvatska bratska zajednica, Gideon Brothers, KiNRG i Podravka.

Kako se Amerika približava svom 250. rođendanu, večeri poput ove podsjećaju nas na bezbroj načina na koje su Hrvati Amerikanci obogatili kulturni, građanski i zajednički život Sjedinjenih Država. Ponosni smo što slavimo tu baštinu i zahvalni svima koji su nam se pridružili.

#A250 #USCroatiaTies #HrvatiAmerikanci #Tamburica #KennedyCenter.



DEATHS REPORTED

FROM MAY 26 TO JUNE 8, 2026

1	John M. DeZulovich	Pittsburgh, PA
35	Harriet G. Eriks	Kansas City, KS
50	Ernest Buschbacher	St. Louis, MO
66	James Matune	Youngstown, OH
126	Gloria A. Nagy	Farrell, PA
146	John F. Bills	Versailles, PA
146	Lorraine E. Hoffman	Versailles, PA
170	Annie J. Seral	Merrillville, IN
229	James C. Truby	S. Chicago, IN
235	Michael Simcic	Cleveland, OH
304	Norma J. Mulik	Ambridge, PA
351	Andrea Z. Floden	Detroit, MI
351	William Laslavich	Detroit, MI
354	Joan R. Hott	Cokeburg, PA
354	Augustin Vincent	Cokeburg, PA
354	Jacqueline Willis	Cokeburg, PA
567	George J. Tonsetic	Canonsburg, PA
614	Edward Kratofil	Newton Falls, OH
730	Carrie A. Sill	Tehachapi, CA
859	Constance M. Zabukovec	Cleveland, OH
995	Mate D. Kovacevic	Cleveland, OH
995	Paul R. Salopek	Cleveland, OH
1989	George Marinovich	Sunnyvale, CA

PROGRAMI CIJENE JEDNOPREMIJSKOG...

(Nastavak sa 9. strane)

MUŠKARAC NEPUŠAČ					MUŠKARAC PUŠAČ				
God.	\$5,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000	God.	\$5,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000
51	40.22	33.15	30.50	28.98	51	49.65	42.46	40.05	38.03
52	41.22	34.14	31.47	29.91	52	51.32	44.04	41.60	39.47
53	42.23	35.16	32.47	30.87	53	53.05	45.68	43.20	40.97
54	43.28	36.21	33.49	31.86	54	54.84	47.38	44.87	42.52
55	44.35	37.28	34.55	32.87	55	56.69	49.14	46.60	44.12
56	45.57	38.50	35.73	34.00	56	58.72	51.05	48.45	45.84
57	46.83	39.75	36.95	35.16	57	60.83	53.04	50.38	47.62
58	48.13	41.04	38.21	36.35	58	63.01	55.09	52.39	49.46
59	49.46	42.37	39.51	37.59	59	65.27	57.23	54.47	51.38
60	50.82	43.75	40.85	38.87	60	67.62	59.46	56.64	53.37
61	52.33	45.14	42.18	40.11	61	69.82	61.45	58.56	55.13
62	53.87	46.58	43.54	41.39	62	72.09	63.51	60.53	56.93
63	55.47	48.07	44.95	42.71	63	74.43	65.63	62.58	58.80
64	57.11	49.60	46.40	44.07	64	76.85	67.83	64.69	60.73
65	58.80	51.19	47.91	45.48	65	79.35	70.10	66.88	62.73
66	61.09	53.25	49.83	47.24	66	82.65	73.06	69.71	65.29
67	63.48	55.40	51.84	49.08	67	86.07	76.15	72.65	67.95
68	65.96	57.64	53.92	50.99	68	89.64	79.36	75.73	70.72
69	68.54	59.97	56.09	52.97	69	93.36	82.71	78.93	73.61
70	71.21	62.39	58.35	55.03	70	97.24	86.20	82.27	76.62

Osiguranje otplaćeno kroz 20 godina je odličan i vrlo popularan postojeći plan životnog osiguranja. Zaštitite sebe i vaše drage koji ovise o vama!

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Dobrodošli na 58...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

kom dva dana popodnevni nastupa 13 sudionika ansambala.

U subotu navečer, Sveta Misa bit će slavljenja od strane oca Nikole Pašalića, OFM, Custosa Superiora Hrvatske Franjevačke Kustodije, Chicago, IL, uz pomoć oca Williama Hritska, kapelana, Columbus Catholic Cemeteries, Columbus, OH. Zahvaljujemo ocu Pašaliću i ocu Hritsku što su počastili naše članove slavljenjem ove tradicionalne Tamburaške mise koja je uvijek dobro

posjećena i cijenjena od strane sudionika i gostiju festivala.

Nakon Mise, svi prisutni će poželjeti uživati u večeri ili se nakratko odmoriti prije nego što dođe vrijeme za dodatno druženje i kolo. Fantastičnu glazbu za večer će pružiti energični i vrlo zabavni Orkestar Zadnja Stanica iz Steeltona, PA, koji će zasigurno mnoge ljude potaknuti da izađu na plesni podij.

Nedjeljni program započet će s istaknutim kombiniranim nastupom predstavljenim od strane članova svih sudjelujućih ansambala koji će nastupiti na pozornici pod ravnanjem Gosta

dirigenta 2026. godine, Nikole Vraneševića. Ova glazbena produkcija uvijek je pravi spektakl, i svi su uzbuđeni svjedočiti velikom i impresivnom okupljanju festivalskih izvođača.

Nakon pojedinačnih nastupa juniorskih tamburaških ansambala koji su zakazani za nedjeljno poslijepodne, program će završiti tradicionalnim Finalom nastupa glazbenih direktora, ko-reografa i pomoćnika svih sudjelujućih ansambala, uz Gosta dirigenta Nikolu Vraneševića ponovno na čelu.

Iskorištavamo ovu priliku da izrazimo našu zahvalnost svim

našim mladim tamburašima, instruktorkama, roditeljima i pokroviteljima zbog zajedničkog rada na osiguravanju da se naša hrvatska glazbena kultura uživa, očuva i dijeli među nama i našim prijateljima. Zahvaljujući velikom angažmanu stotina mladih članova HBZ-a koji sudjeluju na ovim godišnjim festivalima, naše hrvatsko naslijeđe ostaje vrijedan dio američke scenske umjetnosti i repertoara te će se nastaviti uživati u njemu i među budućim generacijama koje žive na ovom kontinentu.

Uznemireni što će se pridružiti svima na 58. godišnjem festi-

valu u Clevelandu, članovi svih sudjelujućih ansambala spremni su vas zabavljati. Neizmjereno smo ponosni na naše mlade glazbenike, pjevače i plesače i sigurni smo da će njihovi nastupi donijeti radost našoj festivalskoj publici.

Proslavite s nama na Festivalu 2026 dok obilježavamo ovaj 'četvrt tisućljeća' u američkoj povijesti neovisnosti, istovremeno odajući počast identitetu, povijesti i naslijeđu naših hrvatskih predaka koje naša djeca njeguju kroz glazbu i ples na ovom američkom tlu. Dobro došli!

Profil kandidata za predsjednika Hrvatskog olimpijskog odbora: Prof.dr.sc. Dragan Primorac

'Zalažem se za najviše dva predsjednička mandata u HOO-u, a nacionalni centri nužni su za jačanje sporta'

Jedna od najvećih zabluda koje se često pojavljuju pri dolasku novih čelnika jest uvjerenje da s njima sve počinje

Piše: Robert Šola

ZAGREB - Prof. dr. sc. Dragan Primorac pristao je iznijeti svoju viziju hrvatskog sporta. S tom će vizijom pokušati skupiti najviše glasova na izborima koji će se koncem srpnja ili početkom kolovoza održati u HOO-u, kada će se izabrati novi predsjednik. Primorac ne treba posebno predstavljati jer je već dugo godina prisutan na političkoj, znanstvenoj te sportskoj sceni.

Prva vaša poruka bila je da su sve medalje jednake, da nema razlika u medaljama među loptačkim i neloptačkim sportovima. Mislite li da je malena država kao naša sposobna financirati toliko sportova?

- Svaka medalja osvojena za Hrvatsku ima jednak sjaj, jednaku vrijednost i zaslužuje jednako poštovanje. Mala država, velikih sportaša, podržava širok spektar sportova — ne zato što imamo neograničene resurse, nego zato što raznolik sportski sustav daje više mogućnosti, ali i zbog toga što sportaši u Hrvatsku redovito donose medalje, prezentirajući na taj način našu domovinu na najbolji mogući način. Manji sportovi često stvaraju jednako velike šampione, a njihovi uspjesi inspiriraju jednako snažno kao i oni u najpopularnijim disciplinama. Ključ razvoja hrvatskog sporta je u pametnoj, pravednoj i dugoročno održivoj raspodjeli sredstava koja omogućuje da svi oni sportovi koji postižu rezultate imaju šansu rasti, razvijati se i stvarati nove generacije sportaša. Koristeći tu logiku, Hrvatska je postigla sjajne rezultate i od osamostaljenja samo na Ljetnim olimpijskim igrama hrvatski sportaši su osvojili 48 medalja.

Godinama zazivamo reformu sporta, bolji status u državi i društvu. Kako vi gledate na to, mislite li da je reforma nužna i kako biste je proveli?

- Jedna od najvećih zabluda koje se često pojavljuju pri dolasku novih čelnika jest uvjerenje da s njima sve počinje. Iskustvo pokazuje suprotno: najuspješnije države njeguju kontinuitet i sustavno unapređuju postojeće modele, umjesto da ih ruše i iznova grade. Temelj mog programa jest da sportaš mora biti u središtu sustava — sve odluke, financiranja i programi moraju služiti sportašima, a ne obrnuto. To je temeljno načelo koje nikada ne smijemo

izgubiti iz vida.

Primorac je želio naglasiti sljedeće:

- Komentari s terena ukazuju na to da je sportskim savezima nedvojbeno potrebno dati veću slobodu u njihovu stručnom i operativnom radu, a koji istodobno mora biti u skladu sa zakonskim okvirima i najvećim standardima transparentnosti. Administrativni poslovi moraju biti svedeni na razumnu i funkcionalnu mjeru, jer je neprihvatljivo da birokratske obveze oduzimaju više vremena i sredstava od stručnog i operativnog rada.

Jasno je poručio i kako gleda na problem trenera i struke.

- Sustavno ćemo raditi na osnaživanju trenerskog i stručnog kadra u okviru nacionalnih sportskih saveza, s ciljem zaustavljanja odlaska najkvalitetnijih trenera i stručnjaka. Sustavno ulaganje u infrastrukturu i stručni rad, uz jačanje znanstvene i medicinske podrške sportašima, nešto je što će biti čvrsto integrirano u moj program. Sport ulazi u eru umjetne inteligencije, digitalizacije i napredne analitike. Hrvatski sport mora pratiti te promjene kroz digitalnu transformaciju, kvalitetnije upravljanje podacima i donošenje odluka temeljenih na objektivnim pokazateljima.

Još jednom je ponovio važnost svih sportova.

Posebno ću raditi na zajedništvu hrvatskog sporta — nema podjela na velike i male, olimpijske i neolimpijske sportove. Svi su dio hrvatskog sportskog identiteta. Sportaš je u središtu sustava — sve odluke, financiranja i programi moraju služiti sportašima. To je temeljna istina. Jedino stabilan sustav jamči budućnost hrvatskog sporta. Uz sve navedeno, cilj nam je i dovođenje velikih multisportskih priredbi u Hrvatsku.

Kako biste saželi svoje ključne ideje?

- Struka, znanje i inovacije — moja je temeljna poruka za temelje budućnosti hrvatskog sporta. Hrvatski sport ostvario je rezultate koji nadilaze veličinu naše države. Međutim, budući uspjesi neće se temeljiti samo na talentu i tradiciji, nego sve više na znanju, stručnosti i inovacijama. Uz osvajanje novih medalja, moj cilj je izgradnja sustava koji će kontinuirano stvarati vrhunske sportaše, trenere i stručnjake te osigurati da Hrvatska ostane sportska velesila i u desetljećima koja dolaze. Posebnu pozornost želim usmjeriti na razvoj trenerske struke. Trener je najvažnija osoba u razvoju sportaša i zato zajedno s kineziološkim fakultetima moramo stvoriti nacionalni sustav obrazovanja, mentoriranja i profesionalnog razvoja trenera tijekom cijele njihove



karijere. Moramo razviti moderan sustav identifikacije i razvoja talenata koji će svakom mladom sportašu omogućiti da ostvari svoj puni potencijal. Jer Hrvatska nema luksuz propustiti niti jedno nadareno dijete. Istodobno, sportaše moramo pratiti kroz cijeli životni ciklus — od prvih sportskih koraka do završetka. Poseban naglasak želim staviti na zdravlje, dobrobit i sportsku dugovječnost sportaša i trenera. Vrhunski rezultat nikada ne smije biti važniji od zdravlja čovjeka.

Kako gledate na činjenicu da je Zlatko Mateša bio na čelu HOO-a pune 24 godine?

- Pokrenut ću postupak izmjene statuta s ciljem da se mandat predsjednika HOO a, umjesto praktički doživotnog, ograniči na dva mandata od po četiri godine.

Loptački sportovi, odnosno klubovi u tim sportovima, u jako su lošem stanju i s kroničnim manjkom novca, a oni nam donose masovnost u sportu. Kako njima pomoći?

- Još nisam čuo nijednog ozbiljnog sportskog djelatnika koji smatra da loptački sportovi ne zaslužuju snažnu i sustavnu podršku. Upravo su oni najveći generatori masovnosti, društvene kohezije i sportskog identiteta naše zemlje. Zato su njihova stabilizacija i razvoj jedan od ključnih prioriteta svakog ozbiljnog sportskog sustava. U tom smislu i moje aktivnosti u HOO u bit će usmjerene prema sustavnom jačanju loptačkih sportova, prije svega kroz intenzivnu i partnersku suradnju s njihovim savezima, koji najbolje poznaju stvarne potrebe, izazove i razvojne putove.

Zadnje afere jako su naštetile sportu. Je li on u krizi? Mislite li da je i HOO odgovoran za to što se dogodilo?

- Nedavne afere nesumnjivo su naštetile ugledu sporta, ali važno je biti precizan: sport nije u krizi — u krizi su pojedinci koji su počinili kaznena djela i za to moraju odgovarati, bez obzira iz koje institucije dolazili. Generalizacije nanose štetu sportu, sportašima i svima koji svoj posao obavljaju pošteno i odgovorno. Hrvatski sport je i dalje iznimno uspješan, stabilan i međunarodno prepoznat. A odgovornost za neprihvatljiva ponašanja uvijek je individualna, a ne kolektivna. Sustav ne smije biti talac tuđih pogrešaka niti se njegov uspjeh smije dovoditi u pitanje zbog postupaka pojedinaca. Što se tiče HOO a, njegova je uloga jasna: stvarati uvjete, postavljati standarde i osigurati da se pravila poštuju. Ako je negdje došlo do propusta, oni se moraju istražiti i otkloniti. Sustav se ne gradi na skandalima, nego na odgovornosti, transparentnosti i rezultatima.

Na koga se mislite osloniti u HOO-u, tko bi bili vaši najbliži suradnici?

- Prije svega, važno je razumjeti da izbori za predsjednika HOO a nisu izbori za jednu osobu, nego

za novi način rada. Hrvatski sport danas očekuje više: veću transparentnost, jasne kriterije, profesionalne standarde i snažniju podršku sportašima zbog kojih HOO i postoji. Zato ne polazim od imena, nego od principa. Nakon izbora razgovarat ću sa svim relevantnim dionicima — i onima unutar HOO a i onima izvan njega — te ću odluke donositi isključivo prema tome tko može najviše pridonijeti interesu hrvatskog sporta. Suradnici će biti birani po kompetenciji, integritetu i spremnosti da provedu promjene koje su sustavu nužne. Drugim riječima, ne tražim krug ljudi oko sebe, nego stvaram okruženje u kojem najbolji ljudi mogu raditi najbolje za hrvatski sport.

Kako gledate na činjenicu da nemamo nacionalne centre sportova nigdje u državi? Vani oni već godinama postoje, posebno u tzv. manjim sportovima — zašto ih mi nemamo?

- Osnivanje regionalnih nacionalnih centara izvrsnosti jedna je od ključnih točaka moga programa. To nije samo infrastrukturni projekt — to je promjena filozofije rada. Cilj mi je stvoriti okruženje u kojem sportaši imaju standardizirane uvjete za trening, kvalitetnu podršku, medicinsku skrb, sportsku znanost i logistiku kakvu imaju njihovi konkurenti u inozemstvu. Takvi centri nisu luksuz, nego nužnost ako želimo sustavno razvijati sport. Oni omogućuju da i sportovi koji nemaju veliku infrastrukturu ili komercijalnu snagu dobiju jednake šanse za razvoj. Ponavljam, regionalni nacionalni centri nisu samo potrebni — oni su preduvjet modernog, pravednog i dugoročno održivog sportskog sustava.

Tjelesni odgoj u školama svaki dan i to pod vodstvom stručnjaka koji su završili kineziologiju. Je li to potrebno Hrvatskoj i može li se provesti?

- Ideja svakodnevnog tjelesnog i zdravstvenog kulture, koju bi provodili stručnjaci s diplomom Kineziološkog fakulteta, nije samo poželjna — ona je nužna ako želimo zdraviju, motorički sposobniju i mentalno stabilniju generaciju mladih. Sve relevantne znanstvene spoznaje potvrđuju da redovita, stručno vođena tjelesna aktivnost snažno utječe na motorički razvoj, kognitivne funkcije, mentalno zdravlje i školski uspjeh, dok istodobno smanjuje rizik od pretilosti i kroničnih bolesti. S te perspektive, Hrvatskoj takav model ne samo da treba — on je dugoročno jedan od najisplativijih ulaganja koje društvo može napraviti. Svakodnevna tjelesna i zdravstvena kultura nije samo obrazovna mjera — to je strateška odluka o tome kako društvo želimo biti za deset ili dvadeset godina. I zato je podržavam kao jedan od ključnih razvojnih iskoraka.

Tijekom svoga rada kao ministar donijeli ste Zakon o športu, izgradili 211 školskih sportskih dvorana, povećali broj djece koja se bave sportom za čak 130.000, osnovali Hrvatski školski sportski savez... Kad je tadašnji premijer pokušao srezati sredstva za obrazovanje i sport, dali ste ostavku.

- Nije bilo lako, jer sam tada predlagao iskorake koji su mnogima djelovali radikalno, ali bili su nužni ako smo željeli osnažiti hrvatski sport. I — uspjeli smo. Kroz donošenje Zakona

o športu stvorili smo uvjete za sveobuhvatan razvoj sporta: od školskog i rekreacijskog pa sve do vrhunskog. Prvi smo put omogućili i zakonski model spašavanja hrvatskog sporta od stečaja kroz proces preoblikovanja. Do tada je velik broj klubova u Hrvatskoj formalno bio u suprotnosti sa Zakonom o trgovačkim društvima i morao je pokrenuti stečajni postupak. Osnovali smo Hrvatski školski sportski savez, prvu instituciju u modernoj hrvatskoj državi koja se sustavno posvetila uključivanju što većeg broja učenika osnovnih i srednjih škola u barem jedan sport. Time je prvi put stvoren nacionalni okvir za razvoj školske sportske baze. Pokrenuli smo i Univerzalnu športsku školu, namijenjenu djeci od šeste do desete godine života.

Zašto mislite da ste najbolji kandidat za HOO?

- O tome tko je najbolji kandidat, neću odlučivati ja. Ono što ću ja ponuditi hrvatskom sportu jest ono što je danas najpotrebnije: iskustvo, znanje, viziju i dokazive rezultate. Sport nije samo dio profesionalnog puta — on je dio mog identiteta. Od karatea, nogometa i atletike do taekwonda, sport me oblikovao u svemu što jesam: naučio me disciplini, poštovanju, upornosti i odgovornosti. Imao sam privilegij osvajati medalje, ali još veću čast imao sam voditi sustave koji stvaraju uvjete za uspjeh generacija sportaša. Znam kako izgleda put sportaša, ali i put onih koji grade sustav — i ta kombinacija danas je rijetka i dragocjena. Bio sam ministar resora sporta, imam iskustvo u osnivanju i vođenju velikih zdravstvenih sustava, čelnik sam Hrvatskog taekwondo saveza, najtrofejniji pojedinačni olimpijski sporta čiji su natjecatelji od samostalnosti Hrvatske osvojili 434 medalje na olimpijskim, svjetskim, europskim i mediteranskim igrama. U ovu utrku ulazim isključivo zbog hrvatskog sporta. Moj cilj nije funkcija — moj cilj je sustav koji će biti bolji, pravedniji i snažniji nego što je danas.

Kako mislite surađivati s Vladom RH i nadležnim ministarstvom?

- Prije svega, važno je naglasiti ono što je temelj svakog modernog sportskog sustava: Hrvatski olimpijski odbor djeluje kao neovisna nevladina organizacija, dok je uloga države stvaranje uvjeta za razvoj sporta. Ta dva sustava imaju različite odgovornosti, ali zajednički cilj — snažan, održiv i međunarodno konkurentan hrvatski sport. Zato odnos mora biti partnerski, transparentan i institucionalno utemeljen. HOO vodi hrvatski sport, predstavlja ga međunarodno i brine o sportašima. Ministarstvo turizma i sporta osigurava regulatorni okvir i financiranje. Vlada daje stratešku i infrastrukturnu podršku te prepoznaje sport kao nacionalni interes. Takav model suradnje u potpunosti je usklađen s međunarodnim standardima i praksom nacionalnih olimpijskih odbora diljem svijeta. Posebno je važno istaknuti da je Vlada Andreja Plenkovića u posljednjem desetljeću sedmerostruko povećala ulaganja u sport. To nije samo brojka, nego jasna poruka da je sport prepoznat kao strateška vrijednost Hrvatske.

Nacionalni odbor...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane) detalja ili obveza.

Dodatni razgovor uključivao je i četverogodišnju konvenciju HBZ planiranu od 19. do 21. rujna 2027. u Las Vegasu, NV. Napomenuto je da je broj aktivnih članova u svakom odsjeku zaključno s 31. prosincem

2026. bi odredilo broj delegata koje svaki odsjek ima pravo poslati na konvenciju.

Budući da nije bilo drugih poslova pred Nacionalnim odborom Zajednice, Nacionalni predsjednik Pazo je završio sastanak u 3:18 poslije podne po prijedlogu brata Waynea Vlašića, uz podršku brata Johna Miksicha.

(Kraj)



Croatian Heritage Day at PNC Park Continues to Grow

PITTSBURGH, PA – The 2026 Croatian Heritage Day at PNC Park, held on Saturday, May 30, was another tremendous celebration of Croatian pride in the city of Pittsburgh. More than 1,200 members of the Croatian Fraternal Union, along with family and friends, came together to celebrate their heritage, their community and their love for the city during an exciting game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and Minnesota Twins.

Now in its fourth year, Croatian Heritage Day at PNC Park continues to grow beyond anything we could have imagined when this event first began. Working alongside the Pittsburgh Pirates, this year's celebration featured several new additions that helped make the day even more memorable for everyone in attendance.

One of the biggest highlights of the day was the custom Croatian-themed Pittsburgh Pirates jersey, which quickly became a favorite among fans. Originally, the first 700 ticket holders were set to receive the jersey, but due to the overwhelming response, the Pirates added 200 more jerseys to help meet the incredible demand. Throughout the ballpark, the "Croatian Section" was filled with red and white checkers, creating a powerful and visible display of Croatian pride.

The Pirates also provided several special on-field opportunities that helped showcase the CFU and our members in a meaningful way.

Prior to the game, members of the CFU Home Office staff were recognized during a special Group Salute. Joining them on the field was longtime CFU Member and Secretary of CFU Lodge 567 of Canonsburg, PA, Alternate to the CFU National Board and outstanding dedicated CFU Recruiter Cathy Obenour, who was celebrating her 90th birthday that week. It was a wonderful way to begin the day and a proud moment for our organization.

Another special moment came when Dan "The Man" Turkall, who will be honored this October as the CFU Four Counties Man of the Year, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Dan had the opportunity to throw the pitch to his father, Dan Turkall, while his mother, Lorraine, and aunt Linda, cheered him on from the field. Following the pitch, chants of "Dan The Man" could be heard throughout the stadium, making the moment even more memorable.

The CFU was also honored to have the Junior Tamburitans of Duquesne perform the National Anthem on the field prior to the game. Under the direction of Ni-



kola "Nick" Vranešević, the 2026 CFU Junior Cultural Federation Guest Conductor, the group delivered a beautiful and moving performance that celebrated the United States while proudly representing our Croatian community. Their rendition impressed many fans in attendance and was a true highlight of the day.

While the game itself was exciting, the energy and camaraderie in the stands made the day truly special. Fans traveled from across Pennsylvania and from as far away as Seattle and Northern California to join the celebration. Everywhere you looked, there were smiles, checkers, flags and families enjoying a day dedicated to Croatian heritage.

The Pittsburgh Pirates informed us that Croatian Heritage Day has grown into the largest ethnic heritage night they host, and they are excited to continue working with us in the years ahead. That achievement belongs to every person

CFU MEMBERS FROM CALIFORNIA at Pirates game: Kerry Glavich (Eureka, CA), Andrew Glavich (Brentwood, CA), Derek Glavich (Eureka, CA), Josh Skipper (Benton City, WA).

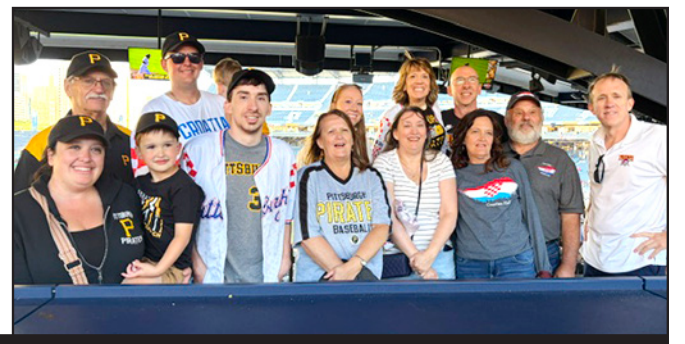


who purchased a ticket, brought their family, wore their checkers, shared the event and helped make this celebration what it has become.

We sincerely thank everyone who joined us for the 2026 Croatian Heritage Day at PNC Park. Your support, enthusiasm and pride continue to make this event bigger and better each year.

Please keep an eye on the **Zajedničar**, the CFU website and our social media pages for information regarding the 2027 Croatian Heritage Day at PNC Park. We look forward to seeing even more of our members, families and friends back at the ballpark next year.

Derek Hohn
Fraternal Programs Director



There's Much To Do With 32

CHICAGO, IL - Saturday, June 20: Summer Solstice-This astronomical event marks the longest day and shortest night of the year. It signifies the official start of summer. Hip Hip Hooray! Have a safe and fun one!

Sunday, June 21: It's Father's Day! It's a time to thank fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, guardians, and other male role models for their love, guidance, and support. Happy Father's Day!

Also on this Father's Day, we gather at the Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St. in Joliet for their Annual Picnic starting at noon. Whatever you're tastin', they're servin'! Lamb, Chicken, Beef, Čevapčići and a lot more. Your mouth watering yet?

Sunday, June 28: Sacred Heart Croatian Church, 2864 E. 96th St. (96th & Escanaba) in Chicago will be having their annual picnic from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Lamb, pig, čevaps, chicken and much more is on the menu! Come early before they run out! Stay for the music provided by Grupa Kliks Croatian Band. For

more information or to pre-order, please call 773.768.1423.

Friday-Sunday, July 3/5: It's the 58th Annual CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival in Cleveland, Ohio.

Saturday, July 4: Independence Day, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the U.S. which commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America by the Second Continental Congress declaring that the 13 Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. This year we celebrate 250 Years! God bless America!

Sunday, July 12: Lodge 32's Midwest CFU Day Picnic at the Croatian Cultural Club in Joliet. This is one Forget Me Not day! Make it a family day! Make it a picnic day! Best part - no cooking on your part. We'll do that for you. BBQ Lamb, čevaps, beef sandwiches, strudels, nut rolls

and more. Oops, I almost forgot, beer, wine, a specialty drink, pop and more! Our day begins with Holy Mass at 10 a.m., officiated by Father Anthony Dosen and music by our Prijatelji Orchestra. Open to all - Spread the word! Come and enjoy!

Friday, July 17: It's "5 Hot Guys" performing at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club from 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. First, starting at 4:30 p.m., the club is serving up the best chicken and pork chop dinners right off the grill you've ever had! What a great way to spend your Friday evening - first, you fill your tummy and then work it off on the dance floor!

Saturday, July 18: We're heading to Peoria for the Joe Rady Golf Tournament hosted by Lodge 367 of Canton, IL. Tournament to be played at the Kellogg Golf Course in Peoria. More details along with the registration form are found elsewhere in this "Z".

Sunday, July 19: The Joliet Croatian Cultural Club will welcome a group from Croatia who will be showcasing various aspects of Croatian culture. This event is scheduled to take place

between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Food will be available for purchase.

PLAN AHEAD!

Sunday, August 9: Lodge 32's General Meeting at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club.

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 (aka mitre) to everyone! Join in the fun! Get your very own Pope Hat! Oops, I think the game might be sold out!

Friday, August 14: Sinovi of Chicago will be performing at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club in Joliet following the club's fabulous Chicken & Pork Chop Dinner.

Sunday, August 30: Lodge 170 of Merrillville is hosting their Annual Picnic!

■■■■
"All of us are born with a gift that someone is waiting to receive!" - Unknown

Get Well Wishes for a Speedy Recovery goes out to Jay Bulthuis whose recent surgery set him back a bit for summer fun. We're hoping that his recovery period will go as predicted and we'll be seeing him very soon

with a bowling ball in hand and a golf club!

Get Well Wishes to Tom Boudos also! He fell climbing out of a sand trap on the golf course's 1st hole and cracked 2 ribs! But that did not deter him from finishing the game - no sir! He finished all 9 holes with a score better than he's had in a very long time! Too bad pain comes with cracked ribs to have a good game!

Step right up, volunteer and you'll feel great knowing that you were part of the success of our Annual Picnic! The more volunteers, the less time spent in the kitchen by others! Speaking of volunteering, we also need help in the bakery department. We need sellers and strudel makers, povitica (nut roll) makers and other sweets bakers to fill our bakery table. Here again, the more help we get, the less time spent behind the bakery table. So please, give me a call at 773.586.3025. Don't be shy and don't forget to leave a message along with your name and phone number. I'll see to it that that message gets to the right person!

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

OBITUARIES

Anne Elgar Kopta



GILBERT, AZ – Anne Elgar Kopta - September 15, 1942 - May 7, 2026.

Anne Elgar Kopta started her career as a singer first on Broadway in the musical "The Sound of Music" as one of the nuns starting the show. Then she won a four-year scholarship to the Metropolitan Opera Studio appearing in many leading roles as a lyric soprano in performances in New York City and up and down the Eastern Sea Board. When Julius Rudel, intendant of the New York City Opera, heard her sing, he invited her to join the company where she performed in 27 leading roles including Pamina in "The Magic Flute," Mimi in "La Boheme," Violetta in "La Traviata," and many others.

Later, living in Paris, France, Croatia and Slovenia, she sang at the Amsterdam 600th-Year Festival and at the Croatian National Theatre and Opera Company in Zagreb. When she moved back to the states with her husband Nick Kopta, she started her teaching career at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, as Artist in Residence and two years later was invited to Carnegie-Mellon University, again as Artist in Residence, eventually becoming tenured Associate Professor of Music in Voice till 1999, when in May of that year she became the new Associate Professor of Music in Voice, again with tenure, at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. She taught voice at ASU up to her retirement in May 2018, then becoming Emerita Professor, at the Emeritus College at ASU.

Following her retirement, she continued teaching privately at her home Gilbert, AZ, doing this weekly on Tuesdays. Anne was beloved by her students and everyone she came in contact with. She was the wonderful wife of Nick, with whom she celebrated their 59th Wedding Anniversary on August 20, 2025.

The time since then was joyful and powerful, in many ways, till the day our Lord took her to His Kingdom and His Glory.

Nick Kopta/Husband

Anne and her husband, Nick, became members of the Croatian Fraternal Union in 1986, enrolling through Sv. Trojstvo CFU Lodge 146 of Versailles, PA. Anne valued her CFU membership and, together with her husband, enjoyed attending and participating in numerous CFU events and Croatian cultural programs. She treasured the many friends they made while living in the Pittsburgh area and was dearly admired by the numerous students who benefited from her vocal instruction and mentorship.

May she rest in eternal peace.

★ 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

Croatia: The Country and the Language Course Books

ST. LOUIS, MO - We are announcing that our "Croatia: The Country and the Language" Course Books are completely sold out as sets.

Thank you to the thousands of you who have bought them, benefitted from them, and praised them as you learned our beautiful Croatian language.

For those of you who may have bought only Volume 1 or for anyone who would like to purchase only Volume 2, we have a few copies of "Croatia: The Country and the Language" Volume 2 still available to sell. The cover picture on Volume 2 is a view from the sea of Split's harbour with sailboats and Diocletian's Palace.

Our Special Discount Sale price for Volume 2 only with a CD is \$60. Shipping is Free.

If you would like to buy only the Volume 2 CD, the price is \$10. Shipping is Free.

To Order: Send your Name, Address, Phone Number and Email and a Check made payable to: Nasja Meyer, 8055 Davis Drive, St. Louis, MO. 63105.

For more information, you can call Nasja Meyer 314- 727-0747 or send an email to Jasna Meyer at: JasnaMeyer@gmail.com.



Nasja Meyer/Lodge 50

Final Mass on June 29 at Youngstown Church

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - It is with deep sadness that I inform the Croatian Community of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys and North East Ohio that Sts. Peter and Paul Croatian Catholic Church, founded in 1911, will be closing on Monday, June 29, 2026.

I would like to invite you all to come to the final mass that will be held on Monday, June 29th, at 6 p.m., 421 Covington St., Youngstown, OH (Northside), to say goodbye to one of the staples of our community.

Tim Komara
President/Lodge 66

CFU Lodge 72 Annual Mass

UNIONTOWN, PA – We wish to inform members of Ss. Peter and Paul CFU Lodge 72 that the annual lodge Mass to honor our patron saints is scheduled for Saturday, June 27.

The 4:30 p.m. Mass, for the living and deceased members of the Lodge, is held annually at St. Mary Nativity Church on 61 N. Mt. Vernon Avenue in Uniontown. The yearly Mass continues to be a meaningful event for Lodge 72.

We are indeed thankful and recognize the efforts over the years of the members of our lodge who worked for the betterment of our fraternal organization.

Members are also advised that next month's lodge meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 6th, at IHOP in Uniontown.

Thanks to our current members for their continued and valued membership. Best wishes to all for a very pleasant spring and summer.

Catherine Brnich/Secretary

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, 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

National Board...

(Continued from page 1)

The Board of Trustees mentioned the possibility of initiating a fund for Cultural Promotion that could assist ensembles financially. The subject was discussed briefly with no firm details or commitment agreed upon. Additional conversation included the society's Quadrennial Convention scheduled for September 19-21, 2027, in Las

Vegas, NV. It was noted that the active membership count for each lodge as of December 31, 2026 would determine the number of delegates each lodge is entitled to send to the convention.

With no further business before the society's National Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned by National President Pazo at 3:18 p.m., on a motion by Brother Wayne Vlastic, seconded by Brother John Miksich.

By Edward W. Pazo/National President

(Continued from page 2)

other activities designed to showcase the courage, talent and honor that Croatian Americans have displayed as citizens of the United States of America. We also congratulate Brother Jerry Grceвич upon a lifetime of Croatian Cultural preservation and promotion through song!

We take this opportunity reprint from the Facebook page of the Croatian Embassy in Washington, DC, the following declaration concerning the magnificent concert at the Terrace Theater.

Last evening, we were honored to present *Tamburitza Across America: Celebrating Croatian-American Heritage Through Music at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater as the Embassy's flagship A250 cultural event.*

It was a truly magical evening that celebrated the rich musical traditions, history, and enduring contributions of Croatian Americans to the fabric of American life.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Jerry Grceвич, whose vision, artistry, and dedication brought this remarkable concert to life. Through music, storytelling, and the timeless sound of the tamburitza, Jerry paid tribute to generations of Croatian Americans who preserved their heritage while helping build and strengthen the United States. His performance was a moving reminder of the power of culture to connect communities, generations, and nations.

We were delighted to welcome members of the Croatian-American community, friends of Croatia, and supporters of the A250 initiative for an evening that celebrated a shared story spanning both sides of the Atlantic.

Our sincere thanks also go to our generous sponsors whose support made this special event possible: Adriatic Strategic Partners, ACAP, the Croatian Fraternal Union, Gideon Brothers, KiNRG, and Podravka.

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, evenings like this remind us of the countless ways Croatian Americans have enriched the cultural, civic, and community life of the United States. We are proud to celebrate that legacy and grateful to all who joined us.

#A250 #USCroatiaTies #CroatianAmericans #Tamburitza #KennedyCenter



SPOTLIGHT 20 PAY LIFE PLAN...

(Continued from page 3)

MALE NON-TOBACCO					MALE TOBACCO				
Issue Age	\$5,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000	Issue Age	\$5,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$125,000
52	41.22	34.14	31.47	29.91	52	51.32	44.04	41.60	39.47
53	42.23	35.16	32.47	30.87	53	53.05	45.68	43.20	40.97
54	43.28	36.21	33.49	31.86	54	54.84	47.38	44.87	42.52
55	44.35	37.28	34.55	32.87	55	56.69	49.14	46.60	44.12
56	45.57	38.50	35.73	34.00	56	58.72	51.05	48.45	45.84
57	46.83	39.75	36.95	35.16	57	60.83	53.04	50.38	47.62
58	48.13	41.04	38.21	36.35	58	63.01	55.09	52.39	49.46
59	49.46	42.37	39.51	37.59	59	65.27	57.23	54.47	51.38
60	50.82	43.75	40.85	38.87	60	67.62	59.46	56.64	53.37
61	52.33	45.14	42.18	40.11	61	69.82	61.45	58.56	55.13
62	53.87	46.58	43.54	41.39	62	72.09	63.51	60.53	56.93
63	55.47	48.07	44.95	42.71	63	74.43	65.63	62.58	58.80
64	57.11	49.60	46.40	44.07	64	76.85	67.83	64.69	60.73
65	58.80	51.19	47.91	45.48	65	79.35	70.10	66.88	62.73
66	61.09	53.25	49.83	47.24	66	82.65	73.06	69.71	65.29
67	63.48	55.40	51.84	49.08	67	86.07	76.15	72.65	67.95
68	65.96	57.64	53.92	50.99	68	89.64	79.36	75.73	70.72
69	68.54	59.97	56.09	52.97	69	93.36	82.71	78.93	73.61
70	71.21	62.39	58.35	55.03	70	97.24	86.20	82.27	76.62

The 20 Pay Life is an excellent product and one of the most popular plans available. Protect yourself and your loved ones who depend on you!

Call us at 412.843.0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org, We'll help you to select the right product that meets your needs.



Refrigerated Tea Ring

- 1 C. Crisco
- 4 C. flour
- 4 Tbls. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 pkg. dry (not fast-acting) yeast
- ¼ C. warm water
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 C. cold milk
- ¼ C. oleo, softened
- 1 C. brown sugar (heaping cup)
- 4 tsp. cinnamon

Into a large bowl, cut 1 cup Crisco into four cups flour, as for pie dough. Add to this, 4 table-spoons of sugar and 1 teaspoon salt.

Dissolve yeast into ¼ C. warm water, add 1 teaspoon sugar to yeast mixture. Cover and set aside to rise.

Beat eggs and add to flour mixture with yeast mixture and 1 cup of cold milk. Mix with hands, add more flour if needed.

Cut dough in half. Roll as for Kolachi (not as thin) and spread ¼ cup of soft oleo over dough.

Mix together brown sugar and cinnamon (split for both pieces of dough). Sprinkle over dough.

Roll the dough tight and make a circle end to end. Cut slits 1" apart and slightly twist each to lie flat. Put on greased round pizza pan. Cover to keep warm. Then let it rise one hour.

Bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned.

ICE WHEN HOT:

- Powdered sugar
- Water
- Vanilla

Brush with mixture of powdered sugar, water and a couple drops of vanilla. Let run down sides.

If you want to freeze it, let it cool completely. Then wrap it in plastic wrap first, then in aluminum foil.

P.S. Bless before you put in the fridge.

Barb Castro/Lodge 185

Pasta Salad

- 1 lb. Pasta
 - 1 (8 oz.) Kraft Italian Dressing
 - 1/3 to 1/2 bottle McCormick Salad Supreme
- Cook pasta according to directions.

Mix with other ingredients; add diced green pepper, cucumber, carrots, etc.

Mix in the salad dressing. Top with McCormick Salad Topping.

Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Pineapple Crème Frozen Pie

- 2 large cans of crushed pineapple, well drained
- 1/3 c. fresh lemon juice
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk

1 large carton Cool Whip
Thoroughly mix all of the above ingredients together.

Spoon into 2 - 9" graham cracker crusts (which have been baked in advance).

Freeze. Remove from freezer and place in refrigerator about one hour before serving. Makes: 2 - 9" pies.

Zucchini Mushroom Pasta

- 2-3 Tbsp. oil
- 1 1/2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 small zucchini, thinly sliced
- 2 oz. sliced mushroom pieces
- 8 oz. pasta (ziti, farfalle, rigatoni or penne)
- 2 Tbsp. cream
- 1 pat of butter
- Parmesan cheese

In a 6-8 inch pan, heat oil with garlic, until browned. Add zucchini and sliced mushrooms; cook about 5 minutes, stirring well. Add cooked pasta, cream and butter and mix well. Top with grated Parmesan cheese.

Croatian Center Summer Picnics

MILLVALE, PA – Following is the Sunday Summer Picnic Schedule for 2026 which includes all events to be held at the Croatian Center, 80 Schuetzen Park Road, Millvale, PA 15209.

- July 12 - Ensemble Ljeljo
- July 26 - Croatian Center Day
- August 9 - CNH Javor
- August 30 - Junior Tams of Duquesne
- September 20 - CFU Fraternal Day

Please plan to join in the festivities at Croatian Center as we celebrate the summer season!

Ivan Opat/President

Picnic in the Pines

GALLUP, NM – Sponsored by the Gallup Slavic Lodges, the annual Picnic in the Pines will be held on July 26th, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at the Z-Lazy B Ranch.

There will be a Catholic Mass at 10:30 a.m. Food will be served from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Traditional cuisine will be served along with dancing, games, and more. Music will be provided by John Miksich Midwest Band & Friends.

Come celebrate with us as we enjoy our "Picnic in the Pines."

For tickets, contact any of the following: Franki Spolar, 505-870-0898; Misty Tolson, 505-879-2804; Clara DeArmond, 505-979-0679; Marla Dee, 505-870-2807; Robbie Menapace, 505-870-1589; DJ Biava, 505-722-6601.

Deadline to purchase tickets is July 19.

Tickets prices: Adults, ages 12 and up, \$30; Children ages 5 to 11, \$15. Children four and under, free. No tickets will be sold at the picnic.

Clara DeArmond/Lodge 60

Lodge 170 Meeting Dates

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Please remember NO Lodge Meeting in June, due to Father's Day. Future meeting dates are: July 19; August 16; September 20; October 18; November 15; and December 20.

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

Cindy Mayer
Recording Secretary

Single Premium Made Easy

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

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

Annual Sacred Heart Church Picnic June 28 in Chicago

CHICAGO, IL - The Annual Sacred Heart Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 28th, at the Sacred Heart Croatian Catholic Church located on the corner of 96th Street & Escanaba Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. This is one of the last big neighborhood events that occur each year on the Southeast Side of Chicago. It's a great event, featuring delicious food, good music, and fun for all.

Barbecued lamb, čevaps, hamburgers, hot dogs, strudels, and other tasty desserts will be available for your enjoyment. The church hall will be open all day, and baked goods prepared by the ladies of the parish will be available for sale.

The "actual festival" including raffles, prizes, etc., and live Croatian music provided by the "GROUPA KLIKS CROATIAN BAND" will begin in the afternoon at approximately 3 p.m. Additionally, this is when the delicious barbecued shish-kebobs, čevaps, pork dinners, etc., will be prepared and sold in outdoor kiosks.

Parking is available on the street, surrounding the church and social hall.

Please mark your calendars and join the fun at the Sacred Heart Croatian Catholic Church on Sunday, June 28. You'll enjoy great food and drink, listen to lively Croatian music, enjoy the company of old friends and the opportunity to make new ones!

Although lamb, pork and chicken, will be available for sale during this event, it's best to pre-order, by mid-June, by calling the rectory at 773-768-1423.

Take care, and enjoy the picnic! Hvala!

Ed Sambol/President/Lodge 229

CFU 635 to Host Picnic June 28

VIRGINIA, MN - Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 635, "Vila Velebita", along with the Children's Nest 330, will host a picnic for its members on Sunday, June 28, from 12 noon to 2 p.m., in Olcott Park, Virginia, MN, at the Italian-American pavilion.

All members and their families are invited. Sarma will be served along with other items. Cost for non-members is \$20 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-18, and free for ages 5 and under. Please RSVP to help us plan at CFU635@gmail.com.

Ida Rukavina/President
Lisa Radosevich-Craig/Secretary

Lodge 66 Hosts Annual Indoor Picnic July 19

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - St. George Lodge 66 will host its annual indoor celebration picnic on Sunday, July 19th, at the Croatian Home, 3200 Vestal Road in Youngstown. We will recognize our members who have attained 50 years of CFU membership this year. We also will have a short candlelight memorial service for our deceased members whose names are being added to our memorial plaque. If you would like to have a deceased lodge member's name added to our plaque please contact Patty Moran.

Doors will open at noon with a \$6 adult admission. The bar will open at noon and the kitchen will open shortly after that, featuring our own čevapi and pork schnitzel, as well as other standard items. The musical program will begin at 12:30 p.m., with a performance by Veseljaci of Farrell Lodge 126 followed by our own Od Srca Adult Tamburitzans.

Following those performances, at approximately 1:45 p.m., we will have a short program recognizing our new class of 50-year members and our candlelight memorial to honor and remember our deceased members whose names are being added to our memorial plaque.

Following the program, the always fun and enjoyable Mikey Dee will provide music for our dancing and listening pleasure.

Lodge members and friends are asked to bake one of their special treats for our bake sale. We need our members and friends to help us have a successful day by attending and/or volunteering for this event. Please call/text Patty Moran at 330-550-3404 to volunteer for a shift in the kitchen, at the bake sale or door, and for set up or clean up.

Please mark your calendars and join us for a great afternoon of fun and fraternalism and see our new "Cro's Nest" area!

Patty Moran/Secretary/Treasurer

Mahoning-Shenango Valleys United Lodges Annual Picnic

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - The United Lodges of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys are proud to announce and invite you all to their annual picnic to be held on Saturday, June 20, at the Strossmayer Croatian Picnic Grounds, 4202 Smith Steward Rd., Vienna, Ohio.

Admission for the day will be \$6 per person; 12 yrs. old and younger, free.

There will be five folklore groups performing from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., followed, for your listening and dancing pleasure, by Mikey D and his All Star Tamburitzans.

Special guest speaker will be National President of the Croatian Fraternal Union Edward Pazo.

There will be a Croatian Kitchen that day serving breaded chicken, sarma, kolbasi and kraut sandwiches, haluski, Croatian potato salad, hot dogs and pizza, as well as a bar serving cooling refreshments, including Croatian and American beers, pop, and water. Cash only. Open to the public. There will also be a bake sale with apple and cheese strudels, kolachi, cookies, cakes and more, as well as a 50/50 raffle and basket raffles.

Hot Barbecued Lamb and Pork will be available for purchase by the pound (2-pound minimum), made on-site by Zvonko Juratovich and his crew. (Cash only and pre-order only). Please pre-order no later than Tuesday, June 16th, by calling or texting 330-507-6660. Please come and have a great Croatian Day filled with great food, drinks, music and comradery.

If you have any questions, please call 330-519-9036,

Timothy Komara/Treasurer

Lorain Lodge 136 Plans June Meeting

LORAIN, OH - "Jesus of the Last Supper" CFU Lodge 136 will hold its quarterly meeting on Saturday, June 20, at 2 p.m., at the American Croatian Club Hall, 4846 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH 44053.

Members are encouraged to attend as several important topics will be discussed, including funding opportunities for local 501(c)(3) charitable organizations. Another major topic will be the upcoming Croatian Festival on July 18, co-sponsored by our CFU Lodge and the American Croatian Club of Lorain.

The Lodge looks forward to seeing all members. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. Hvala!

Donna Perichak Katrincsak/Secretary

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.



'I feel fantastic!'

NOAH ASIMOW | *For the Post-Gazette*
Grace Landini / Photography for the Pittsburgh Pirates
Published June 7, 2026

An avid Pittsburgh sports fan fires the first pitch in a Pirates win

Dan "The Man" Turkall was born bleeding black and yellow.

In the past three decades, Turkall, 35, has watched almost every Penguins, Steelers and Pirates game. If he can't attend them, he records the games, follows them on his phone and watches them later, even if he already knows the outcome. On the rare occasion that none of his teams are playing, he'll dig through personal archives and watch his favorite old games on tape.

His desk at the Croatian Fraternal Union in Monroeville, where he works, is a perfectly organized display of bobbleheads, team calendars, Terrible Towels and plush Pirate Parrots. His wardrobe is a black, yellow, gray and gold collection of Pirates polos, Pens visors and Steelers jackets. In a sports-crazed city, he is a model citizen.

But the Pirates game May 30 against the Twins was a particularly special day, even for a fan as seasoned as Turkall. Instead of watching from the stands, he took the mound at PNC Park to throw out the game's ceremonial first pitch — a testament not just to his relentless passion and fandom but also to his three decades of making people around him feel like he's their biggest fan.

Turkall was born with Down syndrome. He grew up in Mt. Lebanon, the only child of Lorraine and Dan Turkall Sr., and quickly found a supportive community, playing little league with his father — a former college pitcher for Penn State — as his coach. At school, he made a group of lifelong friends that included him in movie outings, hamburger nights and other tweenage shenanigans. As he grew older, he sang with them in his church choir and boogied with them at school dances. He visited them at college and gave best-man speeches at their weddings.

Turkall's longtime neighbor, Amy Brown, said that when she and her mother got sick, Dan would bring them food and other treats.

"He's amazing. He's genuine.

Every time I see him, he brings a hug, he brings a smile," Brown said. "My mother died at 100. Everyone said they wanted to be more like [her]. I want to be more like 'Dan The Man.'"

The origins of the nickname are unclear, but Turkall has owned it with verve, introducing himself as "Dan The Man" to anyone he meets for the first time. His hair is always perfectly coiffed, his shirt tucked in. When he marched onto the field Saturday, he was wearing a custom Pirates "CityConnect" jersey, with "Dan The Man" emblazoned on the back — a gift from the team.

Turkall's parents, of course, have always been his primary support system. Both are of Croatian ethnic heritage, and the pair met while working at the Croatian Fraternal Union, a national nonprofit organization based in Monroeville that provides life insurance, annuities, cultural programming and other benefits to its members. Pittsburgh has one of the largest Croatian ethnic populations in the country, with estimates ranging between 50,000 and 100,000 in the region.

Lorraine still works at the CFU as an executive assistant to the president and editor of the biweekly newspaper, and the Croatian community has been an important part of Dan's life since he was born. Dan's first word was "sladoled," the Croatian word for ice cream, and he loves to dance to traditional Croatian music. After high school, Dan started working at the CFU, where he does filing, data entry and



research three days a week.

"He's a jack-of-all-trades. You need someone to do something, Dan The Man will do it, and it'll be done correctly, every time," said Turkall's friend and co-worker Derek Hohn, who is the CFU's director of fraternal programs.

During his 13 years with the CFU, Turkall has traveled to Croatia and met multiple Croatian presidents and prime ministers, many of whom have also visited Monroeville to see the organization's expansive library and museum, filled with Croatian folk instruments, like tamburica, and clothing.

He's become a fixture in the office, known for his love of rock music, his art and his moves on the dance floor. Turkall's Pittsburgh fandom is so renowned that it prompted his co-workers to film a prank video, naming him "Ravens Fan of the Year." It was the first time many of them saw the normally gregarious Turkall silent.

This year, Turkall was chosen — for real — as the fraternal organization's 2026 "Man of the Year." When it came time to decide who would throw out the first pitch at the Pirates game for Croatian Heritage night, there wasn't much of a choice. Turkall was thrilled when he heard the news,

thanking his family and saying he was blessed to work for the CFU.

"I feel honored to be here on this earth and thank God for making me the person that I am today," Turkall said.

But Turkall needed to practice his pitching. He chose his father, Dan Sr., to be his catcher, prompting the former college pitcher to also dust off his glove. Pirates relief pitcher Isaac Mattson sent Turkall a video, showing him how to grip the fastball in the "horseshoe" of the seams.

The father-son duo spent months in their backyard, tossing every day, rain or shine — a full-circle moment for the former little league coach and his son, together on the field again for the first time in three decades.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing," Dan Sr. said. "The first pitch is such an honor for us, but especially for Dan."

Before the game, the family gathered behind home plate, the sky a perfect blue, the stands filled with more than 1,000 friends, family and people of Croatian heritage in attendance, wearing red-and-white checkered Pirates jerseys, modeled after the Croatian flag.

Lorraine said she was so nervous that she couldn't hold

her camera steady. But her son was unfazed. His father whispered in his ear to just do what they had practiced for months, planting a kiss on the cheek.

Turkall did a few arm stretches, then walked onto the front of the mound with characteristic poise and aplomb. When his name was announced, he proudly raised his arms, then steadied himself. He kicked up his right leg and fired the ball home with enough lefty velocity that it bounced out of his father's glove. His high school friends, co-workers and neighbors erupted. The family embraced on the field.

"I was nervous," Turkall said after the pitch. "But I calmed down once I was out there. It was great. I feel fantastic."

When the game got underway, Dan "The Man" led his section in cheering throughout the entire back-and-forth battle against the Twins, dancing during the inning breaks. There were home runs. There were hugs. There were smiles. And most importantly for Turkall, there was a 10-9 Pirates win.

"We've always tried to focus on Daniel's abilities, not his disability," his mother said. "He's touched a lot of lives, and we're very proud of him."

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Editors

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Applications for the 2026-2027 academic year are now available through the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc., by sending a request to Executive Secretary, CFU Scholarship Foundation, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA. 15235. Eligibility rules for applying for a CFU scholarship may be found on the CFU website, www.cfu.org.

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All applications must be completed and submitted to the CFU Home Office no later than September 15, 2026. Applications and necessary documentation received after this deadline will not be considered.

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