

Prime Minister Andrej Plenковиć 1st State Visit to Canada

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA - The Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, His Excellency Andrej Plenковиć, recently concluded the first official State Visit of a Croatian Prime Minister to the country of Canada. The members of the CFU Executive Board, Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras, Franjo Bertović and myself, along with Member of the Board of Directors, Brother John Staresinic, were pleased to be on hand at an impressive welcome reception at the Croatian Sports and Community Centre located at 166 Green Mountain Road East, Stoney Creek in Southern Ontario.

A large gathering of Croatians from the Greater Toronto, Mississauga and Hamilton areas as well as other locations from throughout the Province of Ontario were on hand to officially welcome Prime Minister Andrej Plenковиć, Minister of Economy Ante Šušnjar, Minister of Tourism & Sport Tonči Glavina, Croatian Ambassador to the Canada Vice Skračić, Consul General Republic of Croatia - Mississauga Ante Jović, president of the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) Marijan Kustić and a number of Canadian Government officials.

guests of the importance of the occasion as this was the first official visit of a Croatian Head of State to the Country of Canada. He commented on the meeting of the Croatian Prime Minister with the Canadian Prime Minister in Ottawa earlier in the day and offered that, in addition to the strong business relationships that exist between Canada and Croatia, a cultural bridge has also been established between Croatians in Canada and the homeland.

Following Ambassador Skračić, it was noted that the Croatian National Soccer Team



WELCOMING CROATIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREJ PLENKOVIĆ on June 22 in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada, from left, Croatian Ambassador to Canada Vice Skračić; CFU National President Edward W. Pazo; Prime Minister of Croatia Andrej Plenковиć; CFU National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras; CFU Executive Vice President Franjo Bertović; and Member, CFU National Board, John Staresinic.

(Photo: Vlada Republike Hrvatske)

The assembled audience provided thunderous applause when His Excellency Andrej Plenковиć, Prime Minister and Leader of the Croatian Government, was introduced for remarks. We enjoyed the discourse provided by the Prime Minister which he provided extemporaneously and in excellent fashion.

The Prime Minister began by thanking everyone for joining with him and his delegation this evening while emphasizing that over the nearly ten years of his leadership of the Government it has been a priority on almost every international visit to meet with the Croatian diaspora and Croatian communities in those particular countries. Before arriving in Hamilton that evening, the delegation visited the Croatian Franciscan Centre "Queen of Peace" in Norval and met with Croatian priests from the greater Toronto area, many of whom were in attendance at the reception.

Prime Minister Plenковиć noted that he was especially pleased to be in the Hamilton/Stoney Creek area this evening at the Croatian Sports and Community Centre among Croatian Canadians who have preserved Croatian identity, language, culture, values and love for the homeland for decades. PM Plenковиć also stated the this visit to Canada was important for two reasons, the first official visit by a Croatian Prime Minister to Canada and secondly the planned Croatia-

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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

(Continued on page 4)



CROATIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREJ PLENKOVIĆ addresses large gathering in Stoney Creek, ON.

Prior to the arrival of the guest of honor, we were able to exchange greetings with a large number of CFU members in attendance as well as Ivan Grbešić, a director of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce. Our attention was soon called to the entrance of the grand hall where the members of Zlatni List Tamburitza band were welcoming Prime Minister Plenковиć and his companions.

Ambassador Skračić was called to open the program with official greetings and welcome as the evening's co-host with General Consul Jović. The ambassador informed the gathered

would be participating in their second game of the current World Cup Soccer Tournament taking place with a match against Panama. The president of the Croatian National Soccer Federation Marijan Kustić was next introduced for words of greeting and acknowledgment of the strong support that the Vatrene receive from the Prime Minister and his government as well as all Croatians. Mr. Kustić presented the President of the Croatian Sports Center, Brother Mark Vuksan with a signed Croatian Soccer jersey in commemoration of the event at the end of his remarks.



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

Star-Spangled Salute

Commemorating the nation's semiquincentennial in 2026, America250 will be feted on the Fourth of July, and for several additional days surrounding the fourth, with grand celebrations, multi-day events, concerts, fireworks displays, parades, parties and picnics. The 250th Anniversary of the historic significance of the signing of the Declaration of Independence will be celebrated by Americans across the nation, with elaborate events hosted in many major cities across the country to mark this milestone in our country's history.

Initiatives are in place aimed at connecting people in cities and towns across America to keep this festive celebration and recognition going throughout the remainder of the year. City leaders and government officials are leading programs to make the year 2026 a time of volunteering, giving and service to the community and Americans in need. The goal is to inspire all Americans to engage in programs, activities and services that venerate America's proud history

while furthering efforts to build America to greater heights. Acts of volunteerism and charitable work are encouraged to bring out the best in Americans no matter where they live, work or choose to offer their services and cooperation.

Taking inspiration from events which shaped this country in the past 250 years, Americans across the nation will surely find ways to bring a new dimension of growth in their local communities and will chart new successes that will define the trajectory of American progress in 2026 and beyond. The term "American ingenuity" is not just a coined phrase but can be attributed to multitudes of Americans who found a way, despite limited means, education, finances and other obstacles, to succeed in the face of adversity and challenging circumstances. The goals set in the celebratory days of America250 will be achievable because the American spirit has proven it will not be denied.

We pause to offer our gratitude and respect to our Croatian parents,



grandparents and other ancestors who walked before us on American soil and who left deep footprints to blaze a path for us to follow. Their contributions to the tremendous progress and landmark achievements we celebrate in America today have made a lasting impression on us and this nation. The threads of our Croatian heritage are deeply woven into the fabric of America and inspire us to continue the legacy set before us.

As we celebrate America250, we proudly honor our ancestors, our families, and our heritage. We further pledge our commitment to expanding America's reach throughout the global network. Going forward, we welcome the endeavors of all CFU members who will offer their knowledge, support and expertise to make America stronger and more viable as we face the future together.

CELEBRATE AMERICA 250



By Edward W. Pazo/National President



As I sit in my office at the Croatian Fraternal Union of America, I solemnly note that we are just eight (8) short days from celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by our founding fathers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1776. Known as The United States Semiquincentennial, this particular observance of the July 4th anniversary has very special meaning as it marks a quarter of a millennium of the greatest experiment and most impactful action in liberty that the world has ever known. With the signatures of fifty-six (56) delegates from the thirteen original colonies, America was set on a path toward Freedom and Independence at the Second Continental Congress meeting held at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The courage and bravery of these British citizens turned American patriots matched those earlier patriots who fought in the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. We remember from history class that, "The shot 'heard round the world' began the American Revolution."

While we as Americans may stumble at times with respect to our traversing the path of LIBERTY, we as a country can be very proud of the pursuit and desire to uphold the following critical missive from the Declaration of Independence,

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

This message, my dear friends, is the foundation of our Republic. It is the creed that fuels our democratic way of life. Men and women have fought and died for this principle over the past 250 years. We, as citizens of the United States of America, should remember this every single day and thank our God that America remains that shining star that President Ronald Reagan described as follows:

"If we're ever mindful of our enduring principles — the natural rights to life, liberty, and property, spoken of in your Virginia Bill of Rights — then America will always be the shining star among nations, leading the world on to a better tomorrow."

While our nation may stray at times from our founding principles, we are proud to say that the United States of America remains a country where our citizens enjoy the freedoms and rights guaranteed through our Constitution and associated Bill of Rights.

We were reminded just a few weeks ago of the struggle for independence and self-government of our sisters and brothers in the homeland of Croatia

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CHEERING ON THE CROATIAN SOCCER TEAM IN THE 2026 FIFA GAMES! CFU National Officers and Home Office Staff wear their red and white with pride and hoist the Croatian flag on game day to send positive energy to the Croatian Team for the World Cup games! AJMO VATRENI!



CFU Lodge 5 Salutes Founder’s Day

JOHNSTOWN, PA - CFU Lodge 5 was founded in May 1894. In honor of the Founder’s Day anniversary, a group of volunteers did community service. Volunteers from Lodge 5 helped to clean up the St. Rochus Croatian Cemetery. Weeds were trimmed, stones were made upright and reset.

In addition, the Bells at the Casimer Cultural Center in Johnstown rang on May 13 in honor of living and deceased members of Lodge 5.

Carol Booth/Lodge 5



There’s Much To Do With 32

CHICAGO, IL - 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! Happy 250th Birthday USA! 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, cevaps, 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 Prijatelj 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 you 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.

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.

Sunday, Aug. 9: Lodge 32’s General Meeting will be held at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St., Joliet. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. with the meeting starting

at approximately 11 a.m. A continental breakfast of coffee and...will be served. If anyone would like to add to that, be my guest! I almost never say no!

Tuesday, Aug. 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, Aug. 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, Aug. 30: Lodge 170 of Merrillville is hosting their Annual Picnic.

PLAN AHEAD: **Sunday, Sept. 13:** We’ll be celebrating our 50-year members!

Sunday, Sept. 20: Next meeting of our SAC at 1 p.m. at the Rubinic Clubhouse!

■ ■ ■
“Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn’t have said.” - Unknown

Get Well Wishes for a Speedy Recovery go out to Rosemary Sarich-Miller and Rich Bazel on their recent (bad) car accident! Rosemary had surgery on her left arm and has six broken ribs and a couple in her neck. Rich, the last I heard, has a soft-cast from his hip to his ankle. We wish them the very best as they gather the strength for a super speedy recovery. Many, many prayers are being sent their way!

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

SPOTLIGHT ON CFU PROGRAMS

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

A Message from the Executive Vice President
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

It is very important to designate the right person for your primary beneficiary and contingent beneficiary of your life insurance policy and/or annuity/IRA contract. The purpose of purchasing a life insurance policy is to help provide financial protection for your loved ones. Be thoughtful about who you are naming as a beneficiary. It can be your spouse, child, grandchild or any relative or friend you choose.

Also, a designation is something you should review regularly and update if needed.

A **primary beneficiary** is the person (or persons) first in line to receive the death benefit from your life insurance.

We also recommend that you designate a **contingent beneficiary**. A contingent beneficiary, or secondary beneficiary, serves as a backup to the primary beneficiaries named on your life insurance policy. When you pass away, if all of your primary beneficiaries have also passed away, your contingent beneficiaries will receive the payout.

To change your beneficiary with the Croatian Fraternal Union, you must complete the Change of Beneficiary form which is available for download via the CFU website under tab “Service Center Eforms.”

Instructions for completing the CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY FORM:

- **Print** full name, share, relationship to insured or annuitant, date of birth, and complete address of each listed beneficiary.
- **Ownership** – When there is a living designated owner of an insurance certificate (other than the insured), the Owner must sign this form and have their signature witnessed.
- **An original copy** of this form with original signatures must be completed and returned to the CFU Home Office. Electronic versions and fax copies will not be accepted.
- **If you have more than one certificate** and the beneficiaries will all be the same for each certificate, you must list all contract numbers in the header of the Change of Beneficiary form where requested.
- **If you have more than three primary or contingent beneficiaries**, please continue to list them on a separate sheet of 8 1/2 x 11” paper and attach to the Change of Beneficiary form accompanied by the same information requested (full name, share, relationship to insured or annuitant, date of birth, and complete address).
- **When two or more beneficiaries** are named in equal position clearly state the division of proceeds (share %) such as (=) equal shares or a specific percentage.
- **If no beneficiaries survive the Insured or the Annuitant**, the death benefits shall be paid to the “Estate” of the deceased by furnishing a tax identification number or the surviving legal heirs of the deceased.
- **If you have Power of Attorney (POA)** or Guardianship for the Insured, please include a copy of your POA or Guardianship papers and make sure the name, address and telephone number of the POA or Guardian is on the document.
- **If you are listing your TRUST as beneficiary** – include a copy of the Title, Successor/Trustee and Signature pages (typically, the first and last pages of the trust). Please make sure you have your signature witnessed by an adult who IS NOT a listed beneficiary. The Change of Beneficiary form DOES NOT have to be notarized.
- **A funeral home cannot be named as beneficiary.** An assignment can be made by requesting the “Assignment to Funeral Home” form by contacting the CFU Home Office.

If you have any further questions, or wish to review any specific CFU product or benefit, please feel free to contact the Home Office at 412.843.0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org.

CFU Lodge 170 Plans Meetings

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Please join us for our next Lodge 170 Meeting on July 19. Meetings take place at 8550 Taft St., Merrillville IN. Meeting time is 11:30 a.m. Please use north doors.

Future meeting dates are August 16; September 20; October 18; November 15; and December 20.

Keep in mind our Lodge Picnic date is Sunday August 30, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Cindy Mayer/Recording Secretary

Zajedničar Publication Dates

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

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			

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

58th Annual

CFU

19th OF AMERICA

19

OF AMERICA

Schedule for the

Jr. 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 Tamburitizens 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 Zadjna 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 Tamburitizens 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 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)

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 Junior 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 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 Zadjna Stanica of Steelton, PA, who will surely have many people making their way onto the dance floor.

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 tamburitizens, 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.

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YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE



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

10 PAY LIFE SPECIAL

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

\$25,000 Face Value - \$250 first year - Ages 0-25

\$5-10,000 Face Value - \$100 first year - Ages 0-50

\$5,000 Face Value - \$100 First Year - Ages 51-70

INVEST WITH CFU TODAY

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

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THE TRADITION

www.cfu.org

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 on-line 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

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 cevapici 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.

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

taining us at our picnic for many decades now and we always enjoy their wonderful music.

We will also be entertained by the Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitzaans 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

Radost Returns to Twin Oaks Lounge

MCKEESPORT, PA - The popular Tamburitza Orchestra Radost will make their much-anticipated return to Twin Oaks Lounge on Saturday, July 25 starting at 3 p.m.

The Twin Oaks is located in the Rainbow Village Shopping Plaza, at the intersection of Route 48 and Lincoln Way in White Oak, PA.

Come and enjoy a great afternoon of music and fun with Orchestra Radost. Joe Cindrić, Bob Vukić, Dave and Dan Vranešević, all members of the Tamburitza Hall of Fame, look forward to seeing many of their friends and supporters at Twin Oaks Lounge.

Free parking and free admission. Čekamo vas!

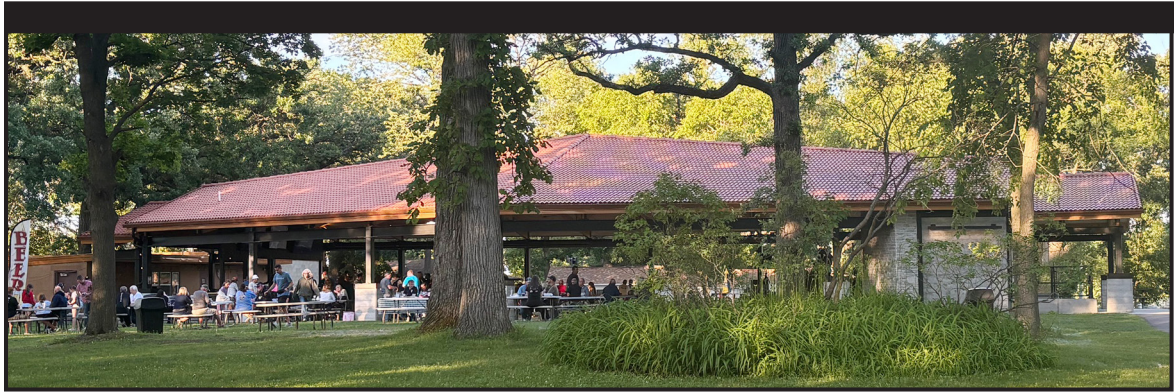
Dave Vranešević/Lodge 146

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 11a.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



Croatia Fest and SUV Raffle in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, WI - Our new Buco Pavilion continues to receive praises from all the patrons who are visiting our beautiful Croatian Park in Franklin WI. Since its completion last year, it has been a welcoming site for our weekly beer gardens, our annual Croatian Fest and many patrons who are renting it for ethnic and company picnics, family reunions, wedding showers, graduations and weddings. With its modern bar that was dedicated in honor of Michael and Anne Stivorac and its most beautiful performing stage dedicated in memory of Patsy Lucas, our new pavilion dedicated in memory of Boris Bucukuzmanovic presents a perfect setting for any gathering. There is no such architecturally

attractive pavilion anywhere in North America.

We are forever grateful to hundreds of generous donors who made all of this possible. Special recognition to Mike and Branka Dudas, owners of Len Dudas Motors in Steven's Point, WI, who have donated almost \$400,000. And they have not stopped. Last year they donated a new SUV that we raffled realizing almost \$100,000 profit and, as a result of their generous heart, they have donated another new SUV for this year's raffle.

New 2025 Buick SUV Raffle

A limited number of raffle tickets are available for purchase. Grand Prize is a 2025 Buick Envision ST SUV. In addition,



we are giving away three cash prizes-\$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500. Only 1,000 tickets are being sold. The drawing will take place on Thursday, September 10, at 8 p.m., during our weekly Beer Garden event. To purchase your tickets please log on milwaukeecroatians.org/car-raffle.

All proceeds from the SUV Raffle will go for further improvements at our Croatian Park-new rest rooms, bakery and office space. All of these projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027. We very much appreciate whether you purchase one ticket or number of them. I have

purchased one for each of our four grandchildren. Two of them could use a new SUV. As the frequent saying goes, "You Can't Win If You Don't Play".

Annual Croatian Fest July 18th

Preparations for our Annual Croatian Fest have been underway from the very beginning of this year. Last year we had a record attendance. We no longer have to worry about rain as our new Buco Pavilion can handle almost 1,000 picnic attendees. The featured orchestra will be Rakija Band from the Windy City of Chicago. Croatian Mass is at 10 a.m., and the Cultural Program will start at 1 p.m., featuring the Milwaukee Tamburitzaans, Graničari, Bura Orchestra and Kud Diva Grabovčeva.

As per our Croatian tradition, there will be plenty of barbecued pork, lamb, chicken and čevapčići and baked goods. To quench your thirst, our bar will be equipped with variety of refreshments-Croatian Park Ale, Karlovačko, Ožujsko and other American made suds as well as Šljivovica, Pelinkovac, Kruškovac, Vine, etc. For your Pork and Lamb BBQ, we recommend that you call American European Foods at 414-444-2121 to place your order in advance.

On Saturday, July 18th, all roads from every part of the Midwest lead to the spacious Croatian Park at 9100 S. 76th St., Franklin, WI. We have plenty of parking. Doors will open at 8 a.m. Parking and Admission is free.

Michael Stivorac
Former CFU Vice President
Advisor to the Board
Federation of Croatian Societies

CFU

Guarantees Your Protection

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

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- ★ Cultural Activities
- ★ Sports Programs
- ★ Complimentary Publication

Read the Zajedničar Online

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

David Chadderdon, Christine Chadderdon, Michael Dabrishus and Nancy Dabrishus, brought a gift of a beautiful painting which the Chadderdons have donated to the CFU. The painting was owned by Christine's grandfather, Matthew Kirin, who had been a longtime member of our Society. On hand to receive the painting were CFU National President Edward Pazo, CFU Fraternal Programs Director Derek Hohn and CFU staff member Dario Sako.

5. Sets an example of financial responsibility.

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

Lodge Secretary _____
Signature



Prva državna posjeta premijera Plenkovića Kanadi

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA - Premijer Republike Hrvatske, Njegova Ekselencija Andrej Plenković, nedavno je završio prvu službenu državnu posjetu Kanadi, kao jedan hrvatski premijer. Članovi Izvršnog odbora HBZ-a, Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras, Franjo Bertović i ja, zajedno s članom Nadzornog odbora, bratom Johnom Starešinićem, bili smo oduševljeni što smo mogli prisustvovati impresivnom dočeku u Hrvatskom sportskom i društvenom centru smještenom na adresi 166 Green Mountain Road East, Stoney Creek, u južnom Ontariu.

Veliko okupljanje Hrvata iz područja velikog Toronta, Mississauga i Hamiltona, kao i drugih mjesta širom provincije Ontario, bilo je prisutno da službeno dočeka premijera Plenkovića, ministra gospodarstva Antu Šušnjara, ministra turizma i sporta Tončija Glavinu, hrvatskog veleposlanika u Kanadi Vicea Skračića, generalnog konzula Republike Hrvatske - Mississauga Antu Jovića, predsjednika Hrvatskog nogometnog saveza (HNS) Marijana Kustića i brojne kanadske vladine dužnosnike. Prije dolaska našeg počasnog gosta imali smo priliku razmijeniti pozdrave s velikim brojem prisutnih članova HBZ-a, kao i s Ivanom Grbešićem, direktorom Kanadsko-hrvatske gospodarske komore. Naša je pažnja ubrzo bila privučena ulaskom u veliku dvoranu gdje su članovi tamburaškog sastava Zlatni List dočekivali premijera Plenkovića i njegove pratitelje.

Slijedeći riječ ambasadora Skračića, primijećeno je da će hrvatska nogometna reprezentacija sudjelovati u svojoj drugoj utakmici na aktualnom Svjetskom prvenstvu u nogometu, u susretu protiv Paname. Potom je predstavljen predsjednik Hrvatskog nogometnog saveza Marijan Kustić, koji je imao riječi pozdrava i priznanja za snažnu podršku koju Vatrene dobivaju od premijera i njegove vlade, kao i od svih Hrvata. Gospodin Kustić je na kraju svog obraćanja predsjedniku Hrvatskog sportskog centra, bratu Marku Vuksanu, uručio potpisani nogometni dres u znak sjećanja na ovaj događaj. Okupljena publika pljeskala je na sav glas kad je g. Andrej Plenković, premijer i vođa hrvatske Vlade, predstavljen za obraćanje. Uživali smo u govoru premijera, koji je održao improvizirano i na izvrsan način.

Premijer je započeo zahvalom svima što su se pridružili njemu i njegovoj delegaciji te večeri, naglašavajući kako je

tijekom gotovo deset godina njegovog vođenja Vlade svaki internacionalni posjet bio prilika za susret s hrvatskom dijasporom i hrvatskim zajednicama u tim zemljama.

Prije dolaska u Hamilton te večeri, delegacija je posjetila Hrvatski franjevački centar „Kraljica mira“ u Norvalu i sastala se s hrvatskim svećenicima iz šireg područja Toronta, od kojih je mnoštvo bilo prisutno na prijemu.

Premijer Plenković je istaknuo da mu je posebna čast što je večeras u Hamiltonu/Stoney Creeku u Hrvatskom sportskom i društvenom centru među Hrvatima u Kanadi koji desetljećima čuvaju hrvatski identitet, jezik, kulturu, vrijednosti i ljubav prema domovini. On je također rekao da je ova posjeta Kanadi važna iz dva razloga: prvo, kao prva službena posjeta hrvatskog premijera Kanadi, i drugo, zbog planirane utakmice Hrvatske i Paname na Svjetskom prvenstvu.

Što se tiče sastanka s Markom Carneyem, premijerom Kanade, premijer ga je opisao kao „Izvrnog.“ Nadalje je rekao da vjeruje kako će novi zamah koristiti političkim, gospodarskim i općim odnosima između Hrvatske i Kanade. Izjavio je da je oko 250.000 Hrvata koji žive u Kanadi najvažniji most između dviju zemalja.

Izrazio je želju za uspjehom hrvatske nogometne reprezentacije dok se pripremaju za susret s Panamom u Torontu sljedećeg dana, uz napomenu o neusporedivom uspjehu koji je reprezentacija postigla s obzirom na broj stanovnika Republike Hrvatske.

U svom govoru naglasio je kako aktivnosti hrvatske Vlade i dalje slijede principe prvog hrvatskog predsjednika Franje Tuđmana. Naime, jedinstvo hrvatske domovine i naroda s Hrvatima u inozemstvu. Spomenuo je da su u posljednjih nekoliko

(Nastavak na 9. strani)



Kanadski Hrvati priredili doček Plenkoviću u Hamiltonu

HAMILTON, ON - Predsjednika Plenkovića dočekao je ispred kanadskog parlamenta (Parliament Hill) u Ottawi kanadski premijer Mark Carney uz državničke počasti.

Predsjednik vlade Andrej Plenković doputovao je u službeni posjet Kanadi. Ovo je po prvi puta da državni čelnik Republike Hrvatske posjećuje ovu visoko razvijenu industrijsku zemlju čijoj su gradnji i razvoju pridonijeli mnogi Hrvati koji se ovdje doseliše.

Predsjednika Plenkovića dočekao je ispred kanadskog parlamenta (Parliament Hill) u Ottawi kanadski premijer Mark Carney uz državničke počasti. Nakon pozdrava i riječi dobrodošlice razmijenili su prigodne darove koji su odnosile na održavanja Svjetskog nogometnog prvenstva koje se održava u Kanadi, SAD-u i Meksiku.

Nastavljeno je s razgovorima o dosadašnjoj gospodarskoj suradnji koja je vrlo vidljiva ali uz prostor za intenzivniji napredak a posebno u brodogradnji, vojnoj i avio industriji te u polju nafte i plina. Turistička razmjena je također vrlo dobra uz naznake rasta. S predsjednikom Plenkovićem doputovali su ministri Ante Šušnjari i Tonči Glavina te mnogobrojni poslovni ljudi koji će obaviti dosta posla u poslovnim kontaktima i sklapanju gospodarskih ugovora.

U ponedjeljak 22. svibnja je u Hamiltonu održan prijem za predsjednika Andrej Plenkovića i njegovu pratnju na Hrvatskom sportskom i društvenom centru. Pred nekoliko stotina okupljenih Hrvata i hrvatskih prijatelja, predstavnika provincije Ontarija, lokalnih gradskih dužnosnika priređen je doista veličanstven prijem u organizaciji

POVODOM SLUŽBENOG POSJETA KANADI
Predsjednik vlade RH Andrej Plenković susreo se u Hamiltonu s izvršnim odborcima HBZ, tajnicom/blagajnicom Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras i glavnim predsjednikom Edwardom Pazo do kojeg stoji izvanredni i opunomoćeni veleposlanik RH u Kanadi Vice Skračić.

vleposlanika RH u Kanadi g. Vice Skračića i generalnog konzula g. Ante Jovića.

Izvana ovog lijepog Hrvatskog centra, na parkiralištu, vijorile su se bezbrojne hrvatske zastavice u znak podrške našim 'Vatrenima' u nogometnoj utakmici s Panamom. Nadamo se nastavku ovog veselog raspoloženja i slavlja nakon utakmice u Torontu, poručio je predsjednik vlade na kraju svog govora.

Franjo Bertović
izvršni potpredsjednik HBZ

Dobrodošli na 58-mi Festival mladih HBZ 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

(Nastavak na 10. strani)

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST

(ISSN 1087-7460)

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Official Organ Of The Croatian Fraternal Union of America

Službeno Glasilo Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice u Americi

Izlazi svaki drugi tjedan u mjesecu

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HRVATSKA BRATSKA ZAJEDNICA

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GLAVNI URED

Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice u Americi

Organizirane 1894. godine

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA...LORRAINE TURKALL

Počast našoj zastavi

U spomen na polu-milenij nacije 2026. godine, America250 bit će proslavljen četvrtog srpnja, a i nekoliko dana nakon toga, s velikim proslavama, višednevnim događanjima, koncertima, vatrometom, paradama, zabavama i piknicima. 250. obljetnica povijesnog značaja potpisivanja Deklaracije o neovisnosti bit će obilježena od strane Amerikanaca diljem zemlje, s raskošnim događanjima u mnogim velikim gradovima kako bi se obilježio ovaj važan jubilej u povijesti naše zemlje.

Postoje inicijative usmjerene na povezivanje ljudi u gradovima i mjestima diljem Amerike kako bi se ova svečana proslava i priznavanje nastavili kroz ostatak godine. Gradonačelnici i vladini

dužnosnici vode programe kako bi godina 2026. bila vrijeme volontiranja, davanja i služenja zajednici i Amerikancima u potrebi. Cilj je nadahnuti sve Amerikance da se uključe u programe, aktivnosti i usluge koje odaju počast ponosnoj američkoj povijesti, istovremeno nastavljajući napore da Ameriku podignu na veće visine. Čini volonterizma i dobrotvornog rada se potiču kako bi se izvuklo najbolje u Amerikancima, bez obzira gdje žive, rade ili odluče ponuditi svoje usluge i suradnju.

Crpeći inspiraciju iz događaja koji su oblikovali ovu zemlju u posljednjih 250 godina, Amerikanci diljem nacije sigurno će pronaći načine da unesu novu dimenziju rasta u svoje lokalne zajednice

i postići nove uspjehe koji će definirati smjer američkog napretka u 2026. i dalje. Izraz „američka domišljatost“ nije samo izmišljena fraza, već se može pripisati mnoštvu Amerikanaca koji su, unatoč ograničenim sredstvima, obrazovanju, financijama i drugim preprekama, uspjeli prevladati teškoće i izazovne okolnosti. Ciljevi postavljeni u slavljenju dana America250 bit će ostvarivi jer je američki duh dokazao da se njemu ne može poricati.

Zastajemo kako bismo izrazili našu zahvalnost i poštovanje prema našim hrvatskim roditeljima, bakama i djedovima te ostalim precima koji su hodali prije nas na američkom tlu i koji su ostavili duboke tragove kako bi nam otvorili put kojim ćemo ići. Njihovi doprinosi ogromnom napretku i značajnim postignućima koja danas slavimo u Americi ostavili su trajan dojam na nas i ovu naciju. Nit našeg hrvatskog nasljeđa duboko je utkana u tkanje Amerike i nadahnjuje nas da nastavimo naslijeđe koje su nam ostavili.

Dok slavimo America250, ponosno odajemo počast našim precima, našim obiteljima i našem nasljeđu. Nadalje, obećavamo našu predanost širenju američkog utjecaja kroz globalnu mrežu. U budućnosti, radujemo se naporima svih članova HBZ-a koji će ponuditi svoje znanje, podršku i stručnost kako bi Amerika bila snažnija i održivija dok zajedno suočavamo budućnost.

Službeno glasilo HBZ

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

PROSLAVIMO AMERIKU 250



Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik



Dok sjedim u svom uredu u Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici, s dubokim poštovanjem primjećujem da nam je ostalo samo osam (8) dana do proslave 250. obljetnice potpisivanja Deklaracije o neovisnosti od strane naših očeva utemeljitelja u Philadelphiji, Pennsylvania, 4. srpnja 1776. Poznata kao **Dvjestopedeseta obljetnica**, ova posebna proslava obljetnice 4. srpnja ima vrlo poseban značaj jer označava četvrt tisućljeća najvećeg eksperimenta i najutjecajnije akcije u slobodi koju je svijet ikada poznavao. S potpisima pedeset i šest (56) delegata iz trinaest originalnih kolonija, Amerika je postavljena na put prema slobodi i neovisnosti na sastanku Drugog kontinentalnog kongresa održanom u Independence Hall u Philadelphiji.

Hrabrost i odvažnost tih britanskih građana koji su postali američki patrioti bila je jednaka onim ranijim patriotama koji su se borili u bitkama kod **Lexingtona i Concorda** 19. travnja 1775. Iz povijesti se sjećamo da je 'pucanj koji se čuo širom svijeta' započeo Američku revoluciju.

Iako mi kao Amerikanci ponekad posrnemo dok kročimo putem SLOBODE, možemo biti vrlo ponosni kao zemlja zbog težnje i želje da očuvamo ovu ključnu izreku iz Deklaracije o nezavisnosti:

'Smatramo ove istine samorazumljivima: da su svi ljudi stvoreni jednaki; da ih je njihov Stvoritelj obdario određenim neotudivim pravima; među kojima su život, sloboda i potraga za srećom.'

Ova poruka, dragi prijatelji, temelj je naše Republike. To je vjera koja pokreće naš demokratski način života. Muškarci i žene su se borili i poginuli za ovo načelo tijekom posljednjih 250 godina. Mi, građani Sjedinjenih Američkih Država, trebali bismo se toga sjećati svakog dana i zahvaljivati Bogu što Amerika ostaje ona sjajna zvijezda koju je predsjednik Ronald Reagan opisao ovako:

"Ako ikada budemo svjesni naših trajnih principa — prirodnih prava na život, slobodu i imovinu, o kojima se govori u vašem Virginskoj Povelji o pravima — tada Amerika će uvijek biti sjajna zvijezda među nacijama, vodeći svijet prema boljoj budućnosti."

Iako naša nacija ponekad odstupa od temeljnih principa, ponosno možemo reći da Sjedinjene Američke Države i dalje ostaju zemlja u kojoj naši građani uživaju slobode i prava zajamčena našim Ustavom i pratećom Povelju (Nastavak na 9. strani)



FINALISTI I ODBORNICI
ODSJEKA 530 s lijeva su:
Mike Lukiček, Ken Marlatt,
Darinka Cindrić, Ljubica B.
Cox, Franjo Bertović, Monica
Reid, Brian McDonald, Derek
Bonnett i Mirjana Bertović

članica odbora za sport Ann Marie Silva. Čestitamo pobjednicima, drugoplasiranima i svim učesnicima turnira. Ova sportska natjecateljska igra privlači sve više popularnosti u našim odsječnim redovima i diljem Ontarija.

Ljetni piknik
 Ljetni pikni planiramo za nedjelju, 30. kolovoza 2026. kod naše Hrvatske crkve sv. Leopolda Mandića u Londonu, ON, odmah poslije svete mise. Kao i u prošlosti na sv. Misi nastupiti će jedan od naših tamburaških sastava i uveličati misno slavlje uz crkveni zbor. Prošlogodišnji ljetni piknik bio je vrlo uspješan u sportsko zabavnom ruhu. Imati ćemo ponovno Memorial Bocce Tournament Drago Magdić koji je natjecateljskog karaktera ali vrlo zabavan za učesnike i gledatelje.

Nadamo se učešću Hrvatskog folklornog ansambl „Nova Nada“ iz Detroita, MI, Tamburaškog zbora „Zlatni Pajdaši“ iz Hamiltona te članova HBZ-a i naših prijatelja. Ne propustite ovu ljetnu zabavu! Svi nam dobro došli!

Za ples i razonodu svirati će popularni TS „Hrvatski zvuci“ iz Londona, Ontario. Planirajte tu nedjelju 30. kolovoza sprovesti s nama u St. Thomasu/Londonu. Rado vas očekujemo a do tada želimo vam lijepo i ugodno ljeto!

Franjo Bertović/predsjednik

Uspješno održan tradicionalni proljetni piknik odsjeka 530

ST. THOMAS, ON – Drago mi je izvijestiti da smo održali vrlo uspješan tradicionalni „Proljetni piknik“ u nedjelju, 7. lipnja 2026. na Tower Rd. i lijepom imanju obitelji Rupčić i Karn. Duboko i iskreno se zahvaljujemo!

Uz izvanredno lijepo vrijeme, bio je to dan bratskog druženja, veselja i zabave. Zahvaljujemo se kuharicama: Toniki Salopek, Darinki Cindrić, Ljubici Cox, Ankici Rupčić, Henrietti Karn i Mirjani Bertović te svim osobama koje su poklonile poslastice i piće za bar. Hvala pečenjarima Mike Lukiček, Mirjani i Franji Bertović.

Natjecanje u boćanju

Na boćarskom natjecanju takmičilo se je 28 članova. Pobjednici su bili Derek Bonnett i Brian McDonolds a drugo plasirani Monica

Reid i Ken Marlatt. Natjecanje je uspješno vodio odsječni Direktor za sportske i fraternalističke aktivnosti Mijo Lukiček i



Ankica i Franjo Rupčić odbornici odsjeka 530 uvijek od pomoći.



Gordana Pejčinović, Ann Marie Silva i Anto Pejčinović uživaju u proljetnom ugođaju i uvijek su od pomoći.

Prva državna...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

godina ojačali rad Vijeća za Hrvate izvan Hrvatske i značajno povećali financiranje projekata vezanih uz hrvatske zajednice širom svijeta. Deklarirao je da je u isto vrijeme Hrvatska ekonomski jača, politički stabilna i duboko integrirana u srce Europske unije kroz članstvo u EU, Schengenskom području i eurozoni. Naveo je da pred njima stoji još jedan strateški cilj: članstvo u Organizaciji za gospodarsku suradnju i razvoj.

Premijer je rekao da se posebno cijene doprinosi hrvatske dijaspeore tijekom Domovinskog rata, jer je neovisnost stečena u tom sukobu temelj moderne hrvatske države. Nastavio je da hrvatsko stanje razvoja sustiže razvijenije članice Europske unije, te da je vidljiv sve veći trend povratka Hrvata u Hrvatsku iz Europe i dijaspeore. Pozdravio je one koji razmišljaju o povratku u domovinu, ističući da je Hrvatska pouzdan partner unutar Sjevernoatlantskog saveza (NATO-a).

Premijer je svoje obraćanje zaključio još jednom zahvalom svima koji su prisustvovali, kao i za dugogodišnju predanost očuvanju hrvatskog identiteta, jezika, kultura i vrijednosti u Kanadi.

Na kraju službenog programa, premijer je bio vrlo velikodušan sa svojim vremenom jer je u stvarnosti osobno pozdravio 99% prisutne hrvatske dijaspeore. Ljubazno je pozirao za fotografije i razgovarao s njima na iskreno prijateljski način, što, vjerujemo, prikazuje njegov stil

vođenja i karakter. Bili smo vrlo zadovoljni što smo mogli razgovarati s premijerom Plenkovićem, njegovim savjetnicima, ministrom gospodarstva Šušnjarom i ministrom turizma i sporta Glavinom tijekom prijema te se veselimo daljnjem jačanju snažnih mostova suradnje koje je naša Zajednica i njeni članovi gradili i njegovali posljednjih trideset i pet godina.

Živila Hrvatska i živila Hrvatska bratska zajednica! Bog i Hrvati!



S LIJEVA SU Franjo Bertović, Dino Mihanović, savjetnik za politička pitanja premijera, Bernadette M. Luketich Sikaras i Edward W. Pazo.



PRIJE DOLASKA U HAMILTON te večeri, delegacija je posjetila Hrvatski franjevački centar „Kraljica mira“ u Norvalu i sastala se s hrvatskim svećenicima iz šireg područja Toronta.

PROGRAMI HBZ-A

Poruka iz ureda izvršnog potpredsjednika
FRANJE BERTOVIĆA

ODREĐIVANJE BAŠTINIKA

Vrlo je važno da odredite pravu osobu za vašeg glavnog i uvjetnog baštinika na vašoj polici životnog osiguranja ili anuitetskih/IRA računa. Razlog kupnje životnog osiguranja je da pomognete i opskrbite svoje najmilije s financijskom zaštitom. Dobro razmislite kod imenovanja svog baštinika. To može biti vaš bračni drug, dijete, unuk ili unuka te bilo koji rođak odnosno vaš prijatelj.

Također, vaš odabir trebate pogledati redovito kako bi bili sigurni da to utječe na ispunjenje vaših želja. Radite teško i požrtvovano da bi imali dostojan život za sebe i svoje koje volite, pa to treba biti promišljena odluka.

Glavni baštinik je osoba ili osobe koje su prve na redu da prime iznos s police životnog osiguranja – obično je to vaša supruga ili suprug, djeca ili drugi obiteljski članovi.

Mi također preporučamo da odaberete i uvjetnog baštinika za slučaj ako se glavni baštinik ne može pronaći ili je umro prije osiguranika.

Upute za ispunjavanje obrasca za PROMJENU BAŠTINIKA:

- **Tiskanim slovima** ispišite vaše puno ime i prezime, postotak iznosa, srodnost s osiguranikom ili vlasnikom anuitetskog računa, datum rođenja, i adresu od svakog baštinika.
- **Vlasništvo** – gdje postoji vlasnik police koji nije osiguranika, vlasnik treba potpisati ovaj obrazac uz svjedoka, što ovaj svojim potpisom potvrđuje.
- **Originalni obrazac** s navedenim potpisima i popunjen prema ovom naputku treba se dostaviti na Glavni ured HBZ-a. Elektronska ili fax kopija se neće uvažiti.
- **Ako imate više nego jedan ugovor** i baštinici su isti za svaki ugovor, trebate u zaglavlju upisati sve brojeve tih ugovora na obrascu za Promjenu baštinika.
- **Ako imate više nego tri glavna ili uvjetna baštinika**, molimo vas da ih navedete na posebnoj stranici službene veličine papira 8 ½ x 11 i priložite zahtjevu promjene sa svim više spomenutim podacima (puno ime i prezime, postotak, srodstvo s osiguranikom, datum rođenja i punom adresom).
- **Gdje su dva ili više baštinika** s istim postotkom (%) za primitak sredstava kao što je s jednakim postotkom ili različitim treba se navesti.
- **Ako nitko od baštinika ne preživi osiguranika ili vlasnika anuitetskog računa** posmrtnina ili iznos osiguranja treba biti uplaćena na račun imovine osiguranika s dodanim brojem porezne identifikacije ili pravnim nasljednicima preminuloga.

- **Ako imate Punomoć ili Potvrdu o starateljstvu** o osiguraniku, trebate priložiti potvrdu i navesti točno ime, adresu i broj telefona od opunomoćenika ili staratelja.
- **Ako navodite svog povjerenika kao korisnika** – priložite preslike s imenom i titulom opunomoćenika/ nasljednika s potpisom i propisanim stranicama.
- Svoj potpis trebate izvršiti u prisustvu svjedoka a što on ovjerava sa svojim potpisom. Samo osoba koja nije baštinik može biti svjedok. Ovjera kod javnog bilježnika nije potrebna.
- Pogrebno poduzeće (funeral home) se ne može navesti kao baštinik. “Dodjela pogrebnom poduzeću” može se izvršiti na zahtjev kod Glavnog ureda HBZ-a.

Ako imate bilo koje pitanje ili želite više saznati o nekom specifičnom programu, osjećajte se slobodnim kontaktirati naš Glavni ured na tel. 412-843-0380 ili posjetite naše internetske stranice na www.cfu.org.

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

(Nastavak sa 8. strane)

smo se na borbu za neovisnost i samoupravu naših sestara i braće u domovini Hrvatskoj koji svake godine 30. svibnja slave svoj vlastiti "Dan Državnosti", što se poklapa s našom proslavom Dana neovisnosti 4. srpnja. Možemo se sjetiti mnogih pjesama napisanih o američkoj slobodi. Naravno, na pamet odmah padaju naša Nacionalni himna i "Bog blagoslovio Ameriku". Međutim, *pjesma country glazbenika Leeja Greenwooda* dobiva poseban značaj ovog 4. srpnja dok se sjećamo sljedećih stihova: *"I ponosan sam što sam Amerikanac jer barem znam da sam slobodan i neću zaboraviti muškarce koji su umrli, koji su mi to pravo dali.*

I neću zaboraviti muškarce koji su umrli, koji su mi dali to pravo I rado bih stao uz tebe i još danas je branio jer nema sumnje da volim ovu zemlju. Bog blagoslovio SAD."



Sretan Vam Četvrti srpnja, draga braćo i sestre.





DEATHS REPORTED

FROM JUNE 9 TO JUNE 22, 2026

126	John A. Kiefer.....	Farrell, PA
146	Daniel Forkovitch.....	Versailles, PA
146	Anne Kopta.....	Versailles, PA
154	Michael Vlasic.....	E. Chicago, IN
185	Ronald S. Paloski	Campbell, OH
217	Dora Berutti	Benld, IL
222	Dorohty J. Rozycki.....	Madison, IL
248	Steve S. Smintich	Clairton, PA
439	Helen Pavlich.....	Seattle, WA
530	Nykola Olijnyk.....	St. Thomas, ON
535	Michael S. Radella.....	Midland, PA
561	Karl Matesic.....	Flint, MI
635	Lorraine Curto	Virginia, MN
859	Dwayne L. Hunn	Cleveland, OH
995	Michael Abramovich	Cleveland, OH
1994	Richard A. Naystatt.....	Milwaukee, WI

Godišnji Dan zajedničara Četiri kotara održava se u Clairtonu

FOUR COUNTIES, PA - Godišnja proslava Dana zajedničara Ujedinjenih odsjeka HBZ u kotarima Fayette, Greene, Washington i Westmoreland održat će se u nedjelju, 16. kolovoza.

Ovaj tradicionalni hrvatski piknik ponovno će se održati u Clairton Community Parku, na adresi 435 Fremont St., Clairton, PA 15025.

Clairton Community Park, lako dostupan iz područja Pittsburgha i okruga Washington, prekrasan je i dobro održavan park s dovoljno parkirnih mjesta i stolova za piknik radi vaše udobnosti.

Pripremamo izvrsni dan pun zabave za sve. Kao i kod svih naših prethodnih proslava Dana zajedničara, događaj će započeti u podne uz svečanu glazbu i ukusnu hranu za piknik za vaš užitak.

Ponudit ćemo ukusnog toplu pečenu janjetinu na roštilju koju priprema Mike Mezick, počevši od 12 sati. Janjetina je dostupna samo po prethodnoj narudžbi, stoga kontaktirajte sestru Teddi Stevenson na broj 724-930-70966 najkasnije do ponedjeljka, 10. kolovoza, kako biste dali svoju narudžbu.

Osim pečenke, imat ćemo obilje druge piknik hrane i osvježavajućih napitaka po razumnim cijenama.

Također znamo da se mnogi naši posjetitelji piknika vesele raznim domaćim kolačima i drugim delicijama na našem godišnjem pikniku, stoga apeliramo na sve naše članove i prijatelje da nam donesu svoje posebne deserte koje možemo ponuditi na našim stolovima za prodaju kolača. Cijenimo velikodušnost naših članova za ovu godišnju prodaju kolača i nadamo se da možemo računati na velik broj ukusnih proizvoda koji će izazvati apetiti naših gostiju.

Vrhunac našeg druženja je cijeli dan tamburaške glazbe, počevši s kulturnim programom u kojem nastupaju naši tamburaški sastavi za odrasle, a program počinje u 1:30 u paviljonu. Ples odmah slijedi uz glazbu popularnog tamburaškog orkestra sve do 6 sati.

Godišnji Dan zajedničara pomaže u podršci našem tjednom radijskom programu Četiri kotara, koji se emitira svake nedjelje u 11 sati na radio stanici WEDO.

Toplo pozivamo sve članove HBZ-a iz naših četiriju okružnih odsjeka i okolnih zajednica da dođu i pridruže se slavlju Dana zajedničara u Clairton Parku.

Za ovaj godišnji piknik oslanjamo se na sve naše odsjeke iz Četiri okruga da nam osiguraju volontere iz svakog odsjeka i nadamo se da će svatko sudjelovati kako bi ovaj dan bio ugodan za sve.

Ne propustite ovo slavlje prijateljstva, druženja i kulture. Spremni smo vas dočekati uz glazbu i gostoprимstvo i nadamo se da ćete planirati biti s nama na ovom pikniku na otvorenom kojim slavimo Dan zajedničara naših Ujedinjenih odsjeka HBZ iz Četiri okruga!

Lorraine Turkall /tajnica/blagajnica

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

Dobrodošli...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

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 nevjerovatno 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 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, koreografa i pomoćnika svih sudjelujućih ansambala, uz Gosta dirigenta Nikolu Vraneševića ponovno na čelu.

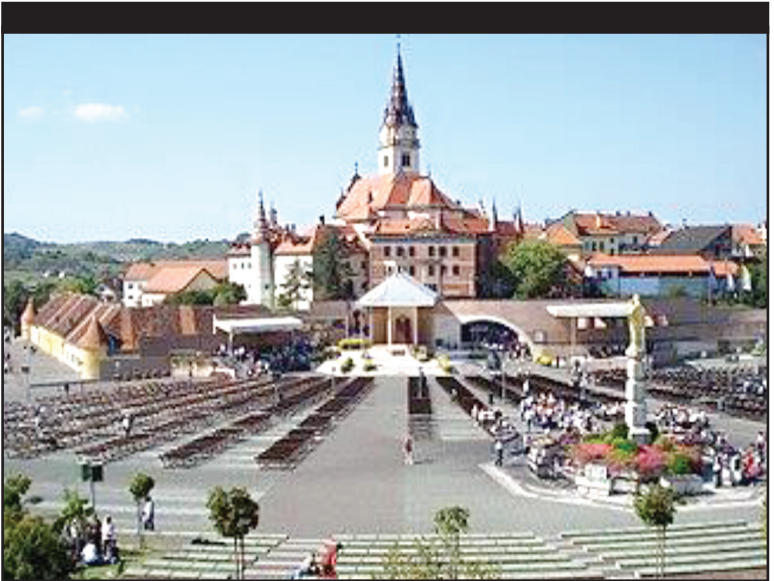
Iskorištavamo ovu priliku da izrazimo našu zahvalnost svim našim mladim tamburašima, instruktorima, roditeljima i pokroviteljima zbog zajedničkog rada na osiguravanju da se naša hrvatska glazbena kultura uživa, očuva i dijeli među nama i našim prijateljima. Zahvaljujući velikom angažmanu stotina mladih članova HBZ-a koji sudjeluju na ovim godišnjim festivalima, naše hrvatsko nasljeđe ostaje vrijedan dio američke scenske umjetnosti

ti 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 festivalu 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!



Svetište Majke Božje Bistričke

Marija Bistrica je općina u Hrvatskom zagorju, u Krapinsko-zagorskoj županiji. Poznata je po hrvatskom nacionalnom marijanskom svetištu.

Zemljopis

Općina Marija Bistrica proteže se od sjeveroistočnog obronka Medvednice prema sjeveru do rijeke Krapine, s istočne strane omeđena je potokom Žitomirka, a na zapadnoj strani potokom Pinja. Nalazi se 25. km sjeverno od Sesveta. Graniči na istoku sa Zagrebačkom županijom točnije s Gradom Sveti Ivan Zelina, na sjeveroistoku s Općinom Konjščinom, na zapadu s Općinom Gornjom Stubicom, na sjeverozapadu s Općinom Bedekovčinom, na sjeveru s Općinom Zlatar Bistricom, te na jugu s Gradom Zagrebom točnije s gradskom četvrti Sesvete.

Općina Marija Bistrica

Nastala je iz starih općina Zlatar-Bistrica i Donja Stubica. Od 1857. do 1991. dio podataka sadržan je u općini Konjščina.

Povijest

Mjesto Bistrica dobila je ime po potoku koji protječe kroz mjesto. Spominje se prvi put 1209. u povelji kojom hrvatsko-ugarski kralj Andrija II. vraća županu Vratislavu njegove zaplijenjene posjede, uključujući i Bistricu. Župa u Bistrici spominje se prvi put 1334. Župna crkva bila je posvećena sv. Petru i Pavlu. Otkada je 1731. zagrebački biskup Juraj Branjug posvetio novo uređenu crkvu Snježnoj Gospi, svetište i mjesto zovu se Marija Bistrica.

U Bistrici se nalazi i svetište Majke Božje Bistričke, jedno od najpopularnijih i najposjećenijih marijanskih svetišta u Hrvatskoj.

Kip Majke Božje Bistričke potječe iz 15. stoljeća i bio je u crkvi na Vinskom Vrh. Zbog opasnosti od Turaka, Gospin kip premješten je u župnu crkvu u Mariji Bistrici, a 1650. zazidan u jedan prozor. Nastojanjem zagrebačkog biskupa Martina Borkovića kip je pronađen 1684. i stavljen na počasno mjesto. Od tada počinju brojna hodočašća.

POGLED NA SVETIŠTE MAJKE BOŽJE BISTRIČKE i crkvu na otvorenom. Majka Božja Bistrička svake se godine slavi 13. srpnja. Ovo je jedno od najpopularnijih i najposjećenijih marijanskih svetišta u Hrvatskoj.

Hrvatski je sabor 1715. darovao glavni oltar na čast Bistričke Gospe, 1715. Papa Benedikt XIV. podijelio je oproste hodočasnicima koji se ispovijede i pričeste. Požar je 1880. oštetiio čitavu crkvu osim glavnog oltara s kipom Majke Božje Bistričke koji je ostao posve neoštećen. Arhitekt Hermann Bolle obnovio je i proširio crkvu te izgradio cintor oko svetišta. Papa Pio XI. proglasio je crkvu Majke Božje Bistričke manjom bazilikom (basilica minor). Zagrebački nadbiskup dr. Antun Bauer okrunio je 1935. čudotvorni kip Marije i Malog Isusa zlatnim krunama i proglasio Mariju kraljicom Hrvata. Govornik je tada bio nadbiskup koadjutor dr. Alojzije Stepinac. Biskupska konferencija proglasila je 1971. bistričko svetište Nacionalnim prošteništem čitavog hrvatskog naroda. Godine 1984. u Mariji Bistrici je održan Nacionalni euharistijski kongres.

Reljefnu sliku, "Svjetlo istine", koja je izložena na štovanje u samoj unutrašnjosti crkve Majke Božje Bistričke, bliže oltaru, izradio je 1997. varaždinski umjetnik Ladislav Gradečak. Slike u cintoru naslikao je Ferdo Quigerez, a obnovio ih akademski slikar Vladimir Pavlek od 1982. do 1984. Papa Ivan Pavao II. proglasio je kardinala Alojzija Stepinca blaženim 3. listopada 1998. u Mariji Bistrici, kada je svetište za tu prigodu posebno uređeno i dograđeno.

Zagrebački nadbiskup Josip Bozanić otvorio je Karmel Majke Božje Bistričke i bl. Alojzija Stepinca te posvetio samostansku crkvu 12. veljače 2000. U godini Velikog jubileja 2000. odlukom Josipa Bozanića bazilika Majke Božje Bistričke postala je jedna od četiri oprostne crkve. Podignut je spomenik papi Ivanu Pavlu II. podno Kalvarije 18. svibnja 2003.

Glas Koncila



Lodge 136 Extends Thanks to All for Great Bowling Tournament

LORAIN, OH - On behalf of CFU Lodge 136, I would like to express what a tremendous honor it was to have hosted the 90th annual CFU Bowling Tournament in Lorain, Ohio on May 16th and 17th. Many thanks are in order: Thank you to Derek Hohn for your impeccable organizational skills in putting the tournament together.

To the CFU National Officers

for choosing Lorain in the first place and attending the activities throughout the weekend. To Lodge 136 officers and members for your commitment to make the entire weekend, a quality event. To the American Croatian Club officers, members and staff for creating such an inviting and accommodating atmosphere. To our kitchen crew for an absolutely wonderful dinner Saturday evening and for food throughout the weekend. To Orchestra Sare-

na for serenading the bowlers on Saturday and Sunday. To Mikey Dee and the Tamburitza All Stars for making Saturday night's banquet much more than just a dinner with your extensive musical repertoire. Thank you also to Rebman's Recreation for your professional accommodations.

This show of appreciation would not be complete without a HUGE thank you to all the bowlers from CFU Lodges across the United States and Canada, who came to Lorain to make the weekend a truly memorable and enjoyable party...One we will never forget!

Richard J. Grubic
 President/Lodge 136

2026 National Bowling Tournament Winners

May 16-17
 Rebman Recreation, Lorain, OH
 Hosted by CFU Lodge 136 "Jesus of the Last Supper"

Men's Winners	
Singles	Total
Richard Shawver Sr.	735
Dan Flint	685
Mark Zakrajsek	683

Doubles	Total
Peyton Zakrajsek and Mark Zakrajsek	1426
Drago Vinski and Daro Klaric	1340
Keith Muskiewicz and Richard Shawver Sr.	1331

Team	Total
CFU Lodge 136 Team 1	3260
Split Happens	3259
California Vatreini	3046

Women's Winners	
Singles	Total
Peyton Zakrajsek	766
Arlene Boudos	677
Kristina Vinski	654

Doubles	Total
Dubravka Tarandek and Kristina Vinski	1294
Nita Pavlecic and Bernadette Barnes	1252
Sharon Smetko and Marie Looney	1240

Team	Total
Spice Girls	3064
Strike It Out	2646

Annual CFU Four County Fraternal Day at Clairton

FOUR COUNTIES, PA - The annual Fraternal Day celebration of the CFU United Lodges of Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties will be held on Sunday, August 16th. This traditional Croatian Picnic will again be held at the Clairton Community Park, located at 435 Fremont St., Clairton, PA 15025.

Clairton Community Park, easily accessible from the Pittsburgh and Washington County areas, is a beautiful well-maintained park with ample parking and picnic tables for your convenience.

We are preparing an outstanding day of festivities for one and all. Just as with all of our previous Fraternal Day celebrations, the event will begin at 12 noon with festive music and delicious picnic fare for your enjoyment.

We will feature delicious hot barbecued lamb prepared by Mike Mezick beginning at 12 noon. Lamb is by pre-order only so contact Sister Teddi Stevenson at 724-930-70966 **no later than Monday, August 10th**, to place your order.

In addition to barbecued

lamb, we will have an abundance of other picnic foods and cooling refreshments available at reasonable prices.

We also know that many of our picnickers look forward to the variety of home-baked cakes and other delicacies at our annual Fraternal Day so we appeal to all of our members and friends to provide us with their special desserts which we may offer for sale at our Bake Sale tables. We appreciate the generosity of our members for this annual Bake Sale and hope we can count on a large supply of delicious items to tempt our guests.

The highlight of our Fraternal Day gathering is a full day of tamburitza music, beginning with a cultural program featuring our CFU adult tamburitza ensembles beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the pavilion. Dancing will immediately follow with music by a popular tamburitza orchestra until 6 p.m.,

The Annual Fraternal Day helps to support our weekly Four County Radio Program which is broadcast every Sunday at 11 a.m. over radio station WEDO.

We warmly invite all CFU members from throughout our Four County Lodges and surrounding communities to come and join in this Fraternal Day celebration at Clairton Park.

For this annual Fraternal Day, we are depending upon all of our Four County Lodges to provide us with volunteer workers from each lodge and hope everyone will participate to make this an enjoyable day for one and all.

Don't miss this celebration of fraternalism, friendship and culture. We are ready to greet you with music and hospitality and hope you will plan to be with us for this outdoor picnic celebrating the Fraternal Day of our United CFU Four County Lodges!

Lorraine Turkall
 Secretary/Treasurer

NFCACF Announces Rudy Perpich Fellow for Summer 2026

ASHEVILLE, NC – The National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation (NFCACF) is pleased to announce that Giovanni M. Perlain has been named a Rudy Perpich Fellow. Perlain is a Master's student in International Studies at North Carolina State University, where his academic work focuses on international relations, European politics, public policy, diplomacy, and transatlantic affairs. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina Asheville in December 2024.

A dual American and Croatian citizen, Perlain brings a personal connection to Croatia and a long-standing interest in international affairs. Born in Asheville, North Carolina, he has lived in North Carolina, Florida, Croatia, Germany, and Sweden, and has traveled to 13 countries. He has often described himself as having "always lived out of a carry-on," a reflection of the frequent travel that has kept him connected to family, Croatia, and the wider world.

During his time at UNC Asheville, Perlain was awarded a career trek to Washington, D.C., where he visited government offices, think tanks, and public policy organizations. As part of that experience, he was invited by Congressman Chuck Edwards to his office on



Giovanni Perlain

Capitol Hill in 2023 and visited the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, and other institutions connected to public service and policy.

Outside of his academic and professional work, Perlain's interests include history, cultures, languages, traveling, and technology.

As a Rudy Perpich Fellow, Perlain looks forward to building on his Croatian American background, academic training, and interest in diplomacy while continuing toward a career in international relations, public service, or a future doctoral study.

Steve Rukavina/Lodge 760
 President, NFCACF

Lodge 270 News

CALUMET, MI - Our July meeting will take place on Monday, July 20th, at our usual location at the Merchants and Miners Building, at 200 Fifth St. in Calumet. The social hour will start at 6 p.m., with dinner and dessert. Our business meeting will follow.

We will be deciding on a date for our 50-year member dinner in the fall and continuing to discuss the Croatian Fest in August.

See you there!

Donna Preston/Secretary

Lodge 235 July Meeting Notice

CLEVELAND, OH - Lodge 235 will hold our next meeting on July 19th. The meeting will be called to order at 1 PM in the library at Croatian Home in Eastlake. If the main entrance is locked, please use the side door by the meeting rooms.

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

Agatha Luketic/Secretary/Treasurer

New Online Croatian Class Now Available

DETROIT, MI - New Online Croatian Course, learn to speak and read Croatian online. These classes will be held Tuesday nights via Teams. We use the Croatian textbook and the Croatian workbook right from the University of Zagreb.

My name is Michael Chovich. I graduated from the University of Zagreb and have been teaching Slavic languages, from a university level to a high school level, for over 25 years.

If you would like further details about the class, please email me at mikechovich@yahoo.com .

Mike Chovich/Lodge 351

Protect your family with insurance from the
 
Croatian Fraternal Union
The Society That Cares! 412-843-0380



Lodge 351 Hosts Memorable 50th CFU National Golf Tournament in Detroit

DETROIT, MI – “Zora” CFU Lodge 351 proudly hosted the 50th CFU National Golf Tournament on June 5 and 6, with tournament play taking place at Rackham Golf Course in Huntington Woods, MI.

The historic, 100-plus-year-old Donald Ross-designed course gave golfers a true appreciation for what a well-maintained city course can offer. From the layout to the condition of the greens and fairways, Rackham provided an excellent setting for this milestone CFU tournament. However, as enjoyable as the golf was, the true highlight of the weekend was the hospitality shown by the

members and friends of Zora Lodge 351.

All weekend activities were centered around the Zora Lodge 351 Croatian Home, where the kitchen, volunteers, musicians, and lodge members created the kind of warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes CFU events so special.

Following Friday’s round of golf, members and friends returned to the lodge and were treated to an outstanding evening of food, music, and fellowship. The menu included roast lamb dinners, ćevapi, burek from local shops, and plenty of refreshments from the bar. The evening was made even more enjoyable by the wonderful music of father-and-son duo Robbie and Antonio Sestili, along with Steve and Danny Capuzzi, who kept everyone entertained and at the club late into the evening.

Saturday morning, with tee times starting at 7:30 a.m. Despite the early start, our golfers were ready to compete, enjoy the course, and, just as importantly, return to the lodge for another afternoon of fun. Once again, the staff and volunteers at the Croatian Home prepared an excellent spread for everyone in attendance.

The celebration continued with music from the local lodge All Star tamburaši consisting of Joe Novosel, Danny Capuzzi, George Patras, Frank Corak, Joe Matievich, Pero Pavlovich and Ben Corak. Throughout the afternoon, golfers and guests enjoyed singing, dancing, and the genuine spirit of fraternalism that defines our CFU gatherings. The lodge also hosted a cornhole tournament, along with a fantastic basket raffle and 50/50 drawing, adding even more energy to an already enjoyable weekend.

On behalf of the Croatian Fraternal Union, we extend our sincere thanks to Debbie Babich for her tremendous efforts in helping organize the tournament, as well as Lodge President Allison Radman and all of the members and volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the weekend such a success. Zora Lodge 351 truly took this event and ran with it, creating one of the most enjoyable and

memorable CFU weekends we have had in quite some time.

We encourage all CFU members and friends to visit Zora Lodge 351 Croatian Home whenever they are in the Detroit area. Their hospitality, pride, and commitment to preserving our Croatian and fraternal traditions were on full display throughout the entire weekend.

Upcoming Golf Outing

For those looking to enjoy another great day of golf, fellowship, and CFU fun, be sure to mark your calendars for the Joe Rady Golf Tournament, hosted by “Sacred Heart” Lodge 367, on Saturday, July 18, at Kellogg Golf Course in Peoria, Illinois. It promises to be another excellent opportunity to support a CFU lodge, enjoy a day on the course, and spend time with fellow members and friends.

Derek Hohn
CFU Fraternal Programs Director

Lodge 66 Memorial Plaque Donations

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - Donations are now being accepted for the memorial plaque honoring deceased members of St. George CFU Lodge 66. A donation of \$15 for each deceased family member or loved one is needed to have their name permanently engraved on our lodge memorial plaque. The names will be presented and added to the memorial plaque during a short candlelight memorial service at the Lodge's annual indoor celebration picnic on Sunday, July 19, 2026. A family member or friend must be present to participate in the candlelight memorial.

Please print clearly the name of the deceased Lodge 66 member and indicate if the member was a 50-year member, officer, or trustee of St. George Lodge 66 so that it can be noted on this permanent tribute. Also include the name of the person who will be participating in the ceremony to honor your deceased loved one.

Send your \$15 payment by check made payable to ST. GEORGE LODGE 66, prior to July 10th, to St. George Lodge 66, c/o Patricia Moran, 1806 Lancaster Drive, Youngstown, OH 44511. Include the deceased member information, the name of the person who will be present to participate in the ceremony, as well as your name and phone number. Mail early to ensure that your check and information is received in time to be included. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call or text 330-550-3404.

Patty Moran/Sec/Treas Lodge 66

2026 CFU National Golf Tournament

Rackham Golf Course,
Huntington Woods, MI
June 5-6, 2026
Hosted by “Zora” Lodge 351

Friday Winners
Low Overall Scramble (-10)
Edward Pazo III
Keith Reed
Sawyer Smith
JC Bele

Low Blind Pick Scramble (-7)
Angelo Sestili
Robbie Sestili
David Jones
Derek Hohn

Saturday Winners
Men’s Division
A Class
1st Edward Pazo III
2nd Angelo Sestili
B Class
1st Keith Reed
2nd Dan Flint
C Class
1st Benjamin Corak
2nd David Jones
3rd Josip Lucic
D Class
1st Brian Sepich
2nd John Sikaras
E Class
1st Robbie Sestili
2nd Marko Zatezalo

Senior Men
1st Bob Sestili
Women’s Division
A Class
1st Ava Boley
B Class
1st Cathy Boley
Senior Women
1st Debbie Sestili
Junior Division
1st Antonio Sestili
2nd Matija Sestili

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



A bottle of wine



A single subscription meal



A fitness class



A music streaming plan



One meal from a sit-down restaurant

LH.

OBITUARIES



Frances Irene Benedetto



COLUMBUS, OH - Frances Irene (Zubovich) Benedetto, age 94, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family April 10, 2026.

Born on April 7, 1932, she was a woman of faith and deep love for her family. Frances was a proud lifelong member of the Croatian Fraternal Union, St. Anthony Lodge 310 and worked at Columbus Pipe and Equipment Company for 42 years.

The heart of Frances' life was her family. Her favorite titles were Mom and Nana. She

found her greatest fulfillment in the presence of her daughter, Lisa, son-in-law, Steven, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many loved ones. She cherished having everyone over for holidays, birthdays and family gatherings, with her great-grandchildren running around and laughter filling her home.

Frances enjoyed making cookies with her daughter, Lisa, for holidays and all of her grandkids' weddings. Her pizzelles were famous! Even as technology changed, Frances became legendary within her family for her heartfelt text messages. Her messages were never just words, they were famously decorated with an abundance of emojis. Her texts were a constant reminder that she was always thinking of us.

Frances found the greatest joy not in things, but in shared experiences with the ones she loved. Whether it was a formal holiday or a spontaneous trip to the movies, Bob Evans or Cracker Barrel with her grandkids, she was happiest when she was with her family. Frances took great comfort in knowing she could rely on her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

She enjoyed hosting her family for the annual Grandview Heights Memorial Day Parade. The grandkids always loved her delicious scrambled eggs and DK Diner Donuts to celebrate. Among her many cherished relationships, the time she spent with her daughter, Lisa, was truly special. Frances and Lisa loved to go on "field trips" to many places around town. She loved every car ride, shared meal and laugh during these special times together as mother-daughter. Together they enjoyed going to Carfagna's, Der Dutchman and Yutzy's among other local favorites. Frances and Lisa were inseparable, and created a lifetime of memories built on togetherness.

Preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Helen (Tamuret) Zubovich, husband Herman Benedetto, brothers Frank Zubovich and Samuel Zubovich, nephew Matthew Zubovich and nieces Annmarie Zubovich and Samantha Zubovich.

She was the loving mother of Lisa (Steven) Force, affectionate Nana of four grandchildren, Stephanie (Jimmy) Hafner, Francesca (Matthew) Jackson, Vincent (Cassidy) Force, Anthony Force and six great-grandchildren, James, Elizabeth and Carmella Hafner, Vincent and Nico Force and Baby Jackson on the way. She is also survived by her brother Joseph (Carol) Zubovich, many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Frances adored her family and loved to be surrounded by them. She has left behind traditions and values that her family will continue to carry on.

The Family of Frances Irene (Zubovich) Benedetto

★ 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

By Edward W. Pazo/National President

(Continued from page 2)

who celebrate their own "Dan Državnost", or the Croatian Statehood Day, on May 30th each year which correlates to our Independence Day celebration on July 4th.

We can think of many songs written about American freedom and liberty. Of course, our National Anthem and "God Bless America" come to mind very quickly. However, the *song by country music recording artist Lee Greenwood* takes on special meaning this July 4th as we recall the following verses,

**"And I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land
God bless the USA!"**

Happy Fourth of July, my sisters and brothers!

Prime Minister...

(Continued from page 1)

Panama World Cup match.

With regard to the meeting with Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, the prime minister characterized it as "Excellent." He further stated that it was his belief that new momentum would benefit the political, economic, and overall relations between Croatia and Canada. He declared that the approximately 250,000 Croatians who live in Canada are the most important bridge between the two countries.

He stated his wish for the success of the Croatian National Football team as they prepared to meet Panama in Toronto the next day while noting the unmatched success that the national team has achieved based upon the population of the Republic of Croatia.

His speech emphasized the actions of the Croatian Government continued to carry out the principles of Croatia's first president Franjo Tudjman. Namely, the unity of the Croatian homeland and people with Croatians abroad. He offered that in recent years they have strengthened the work of the Council for Croatians abroad and significantly increased funding for projects related to Croatian communities throughout the world. He declared that, at the same time, Croatia is economically stronger, politically stable, and deeply integrated into the heart of the European Union through membership in the EU, the Schengen Area and the Eurozone. He stated that one more strategic goal lies ahead: Membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The Prime Minister offered that the contributions of the Croatian diaspora during the Homeland War are especially valued as independence gained from the conflict is the foundation of the modern Croatian state.

He continued that Croatia's state of development is catching up with the more developed members of the European Union and that an increasing trend of Croatians returning to Croatia from Europe and the diaspora is evident. He welcomed those who are considering a return to the homeland while noting that Croatia is a reliable partner within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Prime Minister concluded his remarks with gratitude once again to all those in attendance as well as for the long-standing dedication to preserving Croatian identity, language, cultures, and values in Canada.

At the conclusion of the formal program, the Prime Minister was very generous with his time as he greeted, in all reality, 99% of the Croatian diaspora in attendance; graciously posing for photographs and conversing with them in a genuinely friendly way, which we believe aptly portrays his leadership style and character. We were very pleased to speak with Prime Minister Plenković, his advisors, Economy Minister Šušnjar and Tourism and Sport Minister Glavina during the reception and look forward to building upon the strong bridges of cooperation that our society and membership have established and nurtured over these past thirty-five years.

Živila Hrvatska i Živila Hrvatska bratska zajednica! Bog i Hrvati



WISCONSIN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE TOM TIFFANY

stopped to talk to members of John Movrich Lodge 993 as they completed the final touches on their float for the Mukwonago Father's Day Parade. He tried a shot of šlivo and said he would attend our Mukwonago Croatian Day Fest on July 11th. With him are Dustin and Destiny Froelich, Laura Ellis, Kim and Bob Movrich, and Molly, Brady and Audrey Krejcarek.

CFU Scholarship Applications Now Available

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.

Applications are **NOT** available on the website.

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.

CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

The following Rules will determine qualification in applying for a CFU Scholarship Foundation Grant.

1. THE APPLICANT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE (3) YEARS PRIOR TO MAKING APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANT; MUST BE INSURED ON A PERMANENT LIFE INSURANCE CERTIFICATE OF \$5,000 OR MORE IN FACE VALUE OR WITH AN ANNUITY/IRA PLAN; AND ONE PARENT MUST ALSO MAINTAIN MEMBERSHIP WITH THE SOCIETY.
2. Scholarship Grants will be made for undergraduate studies ONLY with 12 or more credits per semester.
3. Eligible to apply are all deserving and needy CFU student members whose Scholastic Records, including College Board Examinations, are such as to qualify them for acceptance by a college or university, or such institution that the Board of Directors from time to time may approve.
4. All applications for a Scholarship Grant must be accompanied by a transcript of the latest Scholastic Record of the applicant. Absence of the required transcript will disqualify the student's application for Grant.
5. All applications for a CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Grant must be accompanied by the applicant's most recent photograph, a resume not to exceed 200 words of the applicant's biographical sketch.
6. All applicants for a Scholarship Grant must have the Financial Aid Officer complete the Financial Aid Statement and forward it directly to the Executive Secretary of the Scholarship Foundation.
7. All questions on the application and the Parents' Confidential form must be answered in full.
8. All Grant award checks will be sent to the accredited school where the applicant is enrolled FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER ONLY.
9. Transcripts and other forms included with the application shall not be returned to the applicant.
10. No application will be considered unless all requirements are met and fulfilled.
11. All applications and required forms must be submitted to the Executive Secretary, CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc., 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 by September 15th of the current year. APPLICATIONS AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED
12. All questions relating to applications, transcripts, etc. must be directed in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Foundation.

Cooking Corner

Swiss Potato Bake

5 large uncooked baking potatoes peeled & shredded
1 c. (4 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese
3/4 c. chopped green onions
2 garlic cloves, minced
3 eggs, lightly beaten
2 c. sour cream
1/4 c. butter, melted
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 c. sliced almonds
In bowl combine potatoes, Swiss cheese, onions & garlic. In another bowl, combine eggs, sour cream, butter, salt, and pepper until smooth. Pour over potato mixture; toss to coat. Put into greased 11x7-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with almonds. Bake uncovered 350° for 55-60 minutes until potatoes are tender and top is golden brown.

Chicken Salad Stuffed Peppers

4 green onions, finely chopped
1/2 c. mayonnaise
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 c. finely chopped rotisserie chicken
1/2 c. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1 celery rib, finely chopped
4 medium sweet red peppers
Crushed potato chips, optional
In small bowl, mix the first 5 ingredients. Add chicken, cheese, celery, toss to coat. Cut peppers lengthwise in half, remove seeds. In a Dutch over cook peppers in boiling water 3-4 minutes or until crisp tender; drain. Place in a greased 13x9 inch baking dish. Fill with chicken mixture. If desired sprinkle with potato chips. Bake uncovered at 350° for 15-20 minutes until filling is heated through.

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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.

CFU Lodge 170 To Host Annual Picnic

MERRILLVILLE, IN - CFU Lodge 170 is hosting its annual picnic on August 30, from 12 noon -5 p.m., at 8550 Taft St., Merrillville, IN. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Join us for an afternoon of delicious food, music and dancing. 5 Hot Guys will be performing. We will have ćevap and sarma dinners, lamb by the pound (pre-orders only), apple and cheese strudels, nut rolls and palaćinke, along with additional baked goods for purchase. To pre-order lamb (2 lb. minimum), please call Violet Bade at 219-577-5459. Deadline to order lamb is August 23rd. Make sure to get your orders in early. We hope to see you there. Enjoy your summer.
Kathy O’Neill/Vice President



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In one moment, one Heartbeat—your life changes.
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Learn more at **www.cfu.org**.

United Lodges To Sponsor Annual Croatian Center Day

MILLVALE, PA - The United Lodges of Western Pennsylvania will hold its annual Croatian Center Day picnic on Sunday, July 26, at the Croatian Center in Millvale, PA.
LAMB WILL BE BY PRE-ORDER ONLY. Deadline to order your lamb is July 17th.
Lamb will be prepared by Mike Mezick. Call Maurine at 412-580-3708 to place your order.
Plenty of cooling refreshments will be served. The kitchen will be offering your favorite foods and baked goods. Any donations of baked goods from our lodges and friends will be greatly appreciated.
Due to health regulations, No Outside Food or Drinks Are Allowed.
Slated to perform are Jadran Junior Tamburitza. Mikey Dee Tamburitza Orchestra will then play for your listening pleasure.
We hope to see you at the Croatian Center on Sunday, July 26. Dobro nam došli!
Don't forget to “Like” us on Facebook at Croatian Center Picnic Grounds.
Andrea Opat
Recording 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 ćevapi 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 Tamburitza.
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
SecretaryTreasurer

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

Annual Festival and Lamb Roast in Lorain

LORAIN, OH - The American Croatian Club, located at 4846 Oberlin Avenue in Lorain, Ohio, will host its Annual Festival and Lamb Roast on Saturday, July 18, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by CFU Lodge 136.
Guests will enjoy a variety of delicious traditional Croatian favorites, including roast lamb, roast pork, sarma, chicken paprikas, cabbage and noodles, ćevapi, and homemade pastries. Food will be available for purchase (à la carte on a first-come, first-served basis). Croatian beer, spirits, and non-alcoholic beverages will also be available.
Entertainment will be provided by Mikey Dee and the Tamburitza Stars Orchestra, offering an afternoon of traditional Tamburitza music, singing, and dancing.
Join us for great food, music, fellowship, and Croatian hospitality. For additional information and updates, please visit our Facebook page and website at americancroatianclub.com.
Donna Katrincsak/Lodge 136

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
●●●●●●●●●●

Midwest CFU Day Picnic

CHICAGO, IL – On Sunday, July 12, Sloboda Lodge 32 will host the Midwest CFU Day Picnic and Raffle at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St., Joliet, Illinois. Admission is free to all!
The day begins with an outdoor Mass at 10 a.m. with Fr. Anthony Dosen as celebrant. Music during the Mass will be provided by the very talented Prijatelji Orchestra of Chicago under the direction of Joe Gornick.
A cash bar will be available, as well as food for purchase from BBQ'd lamb right off the spit (that'll be sold by the pound, in dinners and sandwiches) to hot dogs, beef sandwiches and ćevapčići dinners. Anyone wanting 5 lbs. or more of lamb, please pre-order by calling Tom at 773.586.3025. Kindly leave a message if no answer. Side dishes of coleslaw and Croatian potato salad will also be available for purchase. To satisfy that sweet-tooth, homemade bakery from strudels and poviticas (nut rolls) to cupcakes and cookies. Yum!
The fabulous Sinovi Orchestra of Chicago will fill the picnic arena all afternoon with live music for your listening and dancing pleasure, from kolos to a little bit country!
Need or want more raffle tickets? Just contact Nita at 847.710.2027 or email her at nhunter271@gmail.com and she'll send them right out to you. Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20 - what a bargain! Prizes are: 1st Prize \$500 and 2nd thru 5th, \$100 each to the lucky winners. Winners need not be present.
Hey, parents and grandparents! Bring those kids and grand-kids to the picnic! Keep the tradition going or get one started. All Nest 17 members in attendance are eligible for a “special” drawing, so be sure to register because your child/grandchild could be that one lucky boy and one lucky girl to win. And there will be other surprises too!
Come out and join us and bring the whole family for a day of good old-fashioned fun!
By the way, and very important I might add, we need some Croatian delicacies such as both cheese and apple strudels and poviticas (nut rolls), also cookies, cupcakes, etc., for our bakery table! If you can bring your baked goods on Saturday early afternoon, it would be greatly appreciated. If not, we'll gladly accept them on Sunday morning!
Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

Make Your IRA Contribution Today

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

IRA CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

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

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

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
National Secretary/Treasurer

IRA CONTRIBUTION COUPON

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

Name _____

Certificate No. _____

Deposit Amount _____

☐ Traditional IRA for Year 2026 _____

☐ Roth IRA for Year 2026 _____

CFU 2026 Calendar of Coming Events

- **JULY**
3-5 – 58th Annual CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival - Hilton Cleveland Downtown - Cleveland, OH
11– 66th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Festival - Field Park - Mukwonago, WI
12 – Midwest Croatian Fraternal Union Day Picnic & Raffle - Hosted by Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32 - Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St., Joliet
18 – Joe Rady Golf Tournament - Hosted by CFU Lodge 367 - Kellogg Golf Course - Peoria, IL
19 – St. George CFU Lodge 66 Annual Picnic - Croatian Home - Youngstown, OH
25 – Seattle Lodge 439 Annual Picnic - 12 Noon - 6 PM - Royal Arch Park, 20821 Renton-Maple Valley Road Southeast, Maple Valley, WA
- **AUGUST**
1 – Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra's Bob Novosel Memorial Jamboree - American Croatian Club - 32851 Ryan Rd. - Warren, MI
2 – St. George Junior Tamburitza's Annual Golf Outing - Nemacolin Country Club - Beallsville, PA
16 – Annual Fraternal Day Picnic - United CFU Four County Lodges - Clairton Community Park - Clairton, PA
30 – Summer Picnic and Bocce Tournament of Ogulin CFU Lodge 530 - Croatian R.C. Church -London, ON
30 – CFU Lodge 170 Annual Picnic - Merrillville, IN

- **SEPTEMBER**
6 – Annual Croatian Day Celebration - Rankin Croatian Home - Rankin, PA
12 – St. George Tamburitza's Annual Picnic - Cokeburg Community Park - Cokeburg, PA
- **OCTOBER**
10 – Lodge 126 Indoor Picnic - Farrell Croatian Home - Farrell, PA
11 – CFU 5K - North Park Boat-house - Allison Park, PA
17 – 100th Anniversary Banquet of the Rankin Croatian Home - Rankin, PA
25 – United CFU Four County Lodges' Fraternalist of the Year and 50-Year Member Celebration - Croatian Home - Cokeburg, PA
- **NOVEMBER**
6-8 – 39th Annual CFU Adult TamFEST - Renaissance Columbus Downtown - Columbus, OH
- 22 – CFU Lodge 515 "Bernard M. Luketich" Toronto, Scholarship Luncheon in memory of Magdalena Mary Smintich - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 31, 1050 Weston Road, Toronto
29 – Christmas Dinner and St. Nicholas Day of Ogulin CFU Lodge 530/Nest 530 - Croatian R.C. Church, London - ON
- **DECEMBER**
13 – St. George CFU Lodge 354/Nest 122 Annual Christmas Party - Croatian Home - Cokeburg, PA
13 – Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32's Christmas Luncheon - Place to be determined.
19 – Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra's Christmas in Croatia - American Croatian Club - 32851 Ryan Rd. - Warren, MI

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- EIGHTY FOUR, PA** – National Secretary-Treasurer, Bernadette M. Luketich Sikaras and husband John, in memory of Negley “Ted” Rodgers of Lodge 354 and father-in-law of National President Edward W. Pazo. May he rest in peace 50.00
Towards the Edward and Catherine Pazo Scholarship Fund
- EIGHTY FOUR, PA** – National Secretary-Treasurer, Bernadette M. Luketich Sikaras and husband John, in memory of Marian Guracech of Lodge 351. A beautiful woman inside and out, who brought joy to all she met. May she rest in eternal peace 50.00
Towards the Martha and Bernard M. Luketich Scholarship Fund
- YUBA, WI** – Carol Franke 100.00
Towards the Jennifer Lucas Scholarship Fund
- NAPLES, FL** – Mildred Ehret, in memory of my loving parents Peter and Anna Kostenjak 100.00
- LOS ANGELES, CA** – “Stjepan and Ante Radic” Lodge 177, in loving memory of our deceased member Nancy Stiglich..... 50.00
Towards the Marko Konjevod Scholarship Fund
- NAPLES, FL** – Ray Vinson, in memory of my uncle Mark Vinski 500.00
- CANFIELD, OH** – Ron Ples, in memory of Joan Agler. Many thanks for her 25 years of fraternal companionship to my dad, John Ples, as an honorary Croatian 50.00
Towards the Renee L. Ples Scholarship Fund
- CONWAY, PA** – Bruce and Nancy Sabolic McCormack, in memory of parents Eddie and Millie Sabolic and sisters Judith Sabolic Graham and Deborah Sabolic Anthony 200.00
- MEADOWLANDS, PA** – Maxine Botera Steiner, in memory of Marko Brighich 50.00
Towards the Brighich Family Scholarship Fund
- YOUNGSTOWN, OH** – Louise Repko..... 25.00
Towards the Markulin-Marmilich-Rosan Scholarship Fund
- TOTAL THIS REPORT** \$1,175.00
TOTAL COLLECTED..... \$5,138.12



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DONATION

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

Name _____ Lodge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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