

CFU Scholarship Foundation Adds Dr. Joseph Cindrich Ph.D. Award

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA - We are very pleased to announce the establishment of the 117th individual Scholarship Fund within the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc., through the fraternal generosity of the late Joseph Cindrich of Menlo Park, California. Born in the coal mining community of Republic, Pennsylvania, to Croatian immigrant parents Anthony and Agnes Cindrich on September 11, 1935, Joe and his six siblings were raised with a strong work ethic and to honor their Croatian heritage.

Plans for the creation of the Joseph Cindrich Fund were initiated in 2024 with an initial donation of ten thousand dollars to our Foundation with the proviso that the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc., would be a prime beneficiary of a charitable fund envisioned as part of his estate planning. This past July we were informed that the first of, at minimum twenty annual distributions, would soon be sent to augment the initial seed money for the fund. At the writing of this announcement concerning the creation of the individualized scholarship fund in Brother Cindrich's name, we are pleased to report that a total of \$19,433 has now been accrued for the purpose of awarding a scholarship stipend to a worthy CFU member.

What is unique about this particular individual scholarship fund established by Brother Joseph Cindrich is that through well-designed Estate Planning annual disbursements from the charitable fund he created will continue to benefit not only our Foundation but a number of additional charitable organizations recognized by the IRS and 501 c (3) entities as well.

Our good friend Brother Cindrich was a cultured man who valued education while remaining humble and sincere with all those with whom he came into contact. His life story is worthy of a Horatio Alger novel as we are very proud to memorialize Dr. Joseph Cindrich through the perpetual award of a CFU Scholarship in his memory each year through the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc. A truly fitting remembrance of a man who rose from humble beginnings to attain personal achievements in education and humanitarian endeavors through hard work and persistence. Thus, showcasing his philanthropic nature which he demonstrated throughout the majority of his lifetime. One of his pat answers to questions regarding his outlook on life and the reason for any successes he achieved was, "I had the advantage of growing up disadvantaged."

While his father Anton was a coalminer, Joe's love for football



Dr. Joseph Cindrich

led him to the gridiron where he excelled at Redstone High School in Southwestern Pennsylvania. His prowess on the field provided opportunities to continue his education at both the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Tennessee. However, when his father passed away, Joe joined the US Marine Corps in 1955 to serve his country and support his family. While in the Marine Corps he played football and was injured which ended his playing career; however, true to the fabric of the man, he completed his enlistment serving elsewhere within the ranks while stationed in Japan and Okinawa.

Following his discharge from

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94th Annual Croatian Day at Rankin Croatian Home

RANKIN, PA – It's time for a grand Croatian Celebration! The 94th annual Croatian Day, sponsored by the CFU English Speaking Lodges of Western Pennsylvania, and commemorating the 132nd Anniversary of the Croatian Fraternal Union, will be held on Sunday, September 6th, at the Rankin Croatian Home, 4th and Antisburry Street, Rankin, PA.

Come and be a part of the celebration! Admission is free!

Kicking off the festivities, starting at 3 p.m., on the first floor of the Croatian Home, we will have something new this year. We invite everyone to come and enjoy, for the first time ever, a Croatian Costumes Fashion Show! Join us as we host a specialty fashion show featuring our young tamburitzaans wearing different traditional Croatian Folk Costumes. As the children model these unique and beautifully embroidered costumes, we will have someone explaining which regions of Croatia the costumes represent. The Fashion Show will be followed by a Kolo Clinic with the very

CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS...
The Croatian Home in Rankin, Pennsylvania was officially founded in 1926 and has remained a cornerstone in the Croatian community there since its doors were first opened for business. The Rankin Croatian Home will serve as the gathering place for the celebration of the 94th Annual Croatian Day on Sunday, September 6, as CFU members and families join together to enjoy this traditional day in tribute to our Croatian heritage and fraternal footprint in western Pennsylvania.

talented Arianna Ordway teaching some of the basic steps how to dance kolos. Admission is Free!

Of course, the day would not be complete without the chance to enjoy delectable Croatian foods. For our 2026 Croatian Day Celebration, the Rankin Croatian Home Centennial Committee will be selling the annual crowd pleasers...Čevapi and Sarma dinners, while the Members of the Croatian Day Committee will be selling their delicious Croatian style homemade baked pastries. Plan to come and enjoy the wonderful foods

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Lodge 126 Croatian American Civic Club Calendar of Events

FARRELL, PA - Sept. 19, Saturday: Cash Bash-Enjoy an entertaining event filled with small games of chance, cash prize drawings, delicious food, and a fun, social atmosphere. Bring your friends for a day of excitement, laughter, and opportunities to win.

Sept. 20, Sunday: Lodge 126 Meeting, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Croatian American Civic Club, Meeting 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; Following the meeting, join us for a tasty ethnic meal and great fellowship.

Oct. 10, Saturday: Croatian Indoor Picnic; Experience the warmth of Croatian hospitality at our annual indoor picnic. Enjoy delicious traditional Croatian foods, lively fellowship, and an afternoon filled with authentic Tamburitza music performed by multiple talented ensembles. It's a celebration of Croatian culture, heritage, and community for all ages.

The "50 Year Members Celebration" will be held to honor individuals who have maintained membership in Lodge 126 for five decades. It recognizes their long-term dedication, service, and contributions while bringing together members, leaders, family, and guests to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

Oct. 18, Sunday: Lodge 126 Meeting, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Croatian American Civic Club Meeting 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; Following the meeting, join us for a tasty ethnic meal and great fellowship.

Nov. 14, Saturday: Lamb An'a Band; Join us for one of our signature events featuring expertly roasted lamb, traditional side dishes, and live performances by talented Tamburitza musicians. Gather with family and friends to celebrate Croatian culture through delicious food, spirited music, dancing, and lasting memories.

Nov. 15, Sunday: Lodge 126 Meeting, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Croatian American Civic Club Meeting 2 p.m.- 3 p.m. Following the meeting, join us for a tasty ethnic meal and great fellowship.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

Anniversaries Abound

When the Labor Day weekend rolls around each year, many CFU members automatically think of Croatian Day at Kennywood Park since the annual celebration brought hundreds of CFU members together during that weekend for decades in the greater Pittsburgh area. CFU members, families and friends streamed in large numbers to the site of the annual Croatian Day to enjoy the wonderful music, Croatian foods, community atmosphere, as well as the thrill rides and games at the amusement park. Generations of families became accustomed to joining together on this day for an action-packed day of fun.

This year marks the 94th Anniversary Year of Croatian Day and, although it is no longer celebrated at Kennywood Park, it continues to be properly celebrated at the Rankin Croatian Home in Rankin, Pennsylvania...which adds yet another historic dimension to this event.

In 2026, the Rankin Croatian Home is commemorating its 100th Anniversary. This Croatian cultural landmark in Rankin is a stately, huge red brick edifice which has long been

recognized as a gathering place for members of Rankin CFU Lodge 6, and previously for Rankin CFU Lodge 718, as well as for the Rankin Junior Tamburitians and various other lodge and club meetings and social events. Now publicly acknowledged as being in operation for one hundred years, the Rankin Croatian Home continues to greet many CFU members, Croatian families and visitors through its welcoming doors. And, on September 6th, 2026, many people will flock to this time-honored, imposing building which has withstood the test of time as they arrive to celebrate the 94th Annual Croatian Day hosted by the English-Speaking Lodges of Western Pennsylvania.

In keeping with tradition, the 2026 Croatian Day Celebration will also serve to acknowledge yet another anniversary, namely the 132nd Anniversary of the Croatian Fraternal Union since our organization was officially founded on September 2, 1894. The Croatian Day Committee has always paid tribute to our Society's founding during the annual Croatian Day celebrations and continues to commemorate our Society's birthday each year at this event.

For this year's Croatian Day, there will be the usual great foods, friendly faces, and delightful tamburitza music but there will also be a Fashion Show of our Croatian national costumes presented by the Rankin Junior Tamburitians, yet another way to pay tribute to our amazing Croatian culture and how it has been preserved by CFU members, Croatian families, tamburitians, singers, and dancers. What a beautiful way to share our Croatian heritage at the 94th Annual Croatian Day, a day which remains an outstanding tribute to our Croatian legacy in the greater Pittsburgh community, the tri-state region, and throughout the Croatian Fraternal Union!

How Do I Join the CFU?

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

CFU membership may be completed through either the purchase of a CFU insurance plan or through the purchase of a CFU annuity or IRA. Excellent dividends on insurance coverage and competitive interest rates on CFU annuities will surely provide prospective members with many reasons to want to become a part of our Fraternal Society.

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

A Fond Farewell for Martha Luketich



By Edward W. Pazo/National President

With the writing of this President's Column, we are recognizing the passing of the "Grande Dame" of the Croatian Fraternal Union, Sister Martha Luketich, wife of our late National President Emeritus Bernard M. Luketich. Sister Luketich, as first lady of the society, fulfilled that role with dignity and grace for thirty-six years as her husband Bernard led the Croatian Fraternal Union of America. While she supported Bernard in his fraternal work, she also led her own very active life supporting her St. George Lodge 354, the United CFU Lodges of Fayette, Greene, Washington & Westmoreland Counties and the St. George Junior Tamburitians, to name just a few of her interests. For her fraternal involvement and lifelong devotion to the Croatian Fraternal Union and its mission of perpetuating Croatian Culture & Heritage, she was honored with husband Bernard by the Four County CFU Lodges as Fraternalist of the Year for 1980.



We were deeply saddened with the news of Martha's decline and eventual passing; however, knew very well her deep faith in our Lord and His promise of eternal salvation. A lifelong partner with husband Bernard, Martha was unassuming in character and a person of great charity and love for others. She made the world a better place and brought joy to her family and friends with her words and deeds.

We were honored to have been asked by our colleague, Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras, and her sister, Marlene Luketich Kochis, to offer a eulogy on behalf of the Croatian Fraternal Union following Mass of Christian Burial at Martha and Bernard's home Ave Maria Parish, St. Katharine Drexel RC Church, in Bentleyville, PA, on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Mass was concelebrated by the pastor of the parish, Fr. Edward Yuhas, former pastor and member of St. George Lodge 354, Fr. Pierre (Bud) Falkenhan, and family friend Fr. Philip Pribonic. It is very noteworthy to include that this particular worship site has been the home to many St. George Day Masses held in conjunction with the annual St. George Day celebration that our Lodge 354 in Cokeburg, PA, sponsors.

We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Martha Luketich, daughters Marlene (husband Dan Kochis) and Bernadette (husband John Sikaras); grandchildren Derek Hohn (wife Amanda and children Karlo and Zora), Adam Henderson and Marko Kochis; niece Janice Smargie; and cousin Drago Luketich, along with Martha's many friends upon their loss.

Following is our Eulogy offered at St. Luke's Cemetery adjacent to the parish Church upon Martha's interment at the Luketich family plot.

Dear Friends,

As we gather this morning to pay our respects and to offer our prayers for Martha Luketich, we remember her as a woman of great faith and love. Her faith in Jesus and His promise of eternal salvation and her love and concern for her family were bedrocks of the person that she truly was....

Of course, it's hard to think of Martha without remembering her dear husband, Bernie. Their courtship and marriage were worthy of a novel and a best-selling one at that. Given Martha's Croatian heritage through her father Mike Cindric and mother Anna Kekich, she was a natural interest for the young man from Cokeburg who came to CFU Lodge 72 in Uniontown to teach Kolo Dancing. Their membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union and their love of Croatian culture and heritage were natural interests that they shared. These shared interests led to their marriage in 1952 which lasted 63 years until the passing of her beloved Bernard.

Always the faithful and supportive wife, Martha joined Bernard in his work with the

(Continued on page 6)

GOOD NEWS !

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

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

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

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

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



DEBORAH BABICH

Detroit Lodge 351 Honoree Night

DETROIT, MI - Saturday, October 3, we will honor our 50 Year Members and Person of the Year. Doors open to the American Croatian Club, 32851 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI 48092, at 6 PM. The kitchen will sell dinners and ala carte items from 6:30 PM until gone. The menu is your choice of roasted chicken, pulled pork or burek, with side choices of cheesy potatoes, cole slaw or mixed veggies. Dessert is also available, as well as a full stocked bar.

Musical entertainment for the evening will be provided by Detroit's own, Orchestar Lira. They promise to play lots of kolos, so wear comfy shoes for a casual night at our Club.

The CFU Home Office will be represented and presenting 50 Year pins and certificates to this year's Golden Members. The official program will start at 8 PM and last no longer than one hour.

This year's honorees are: Susan M. Cindrich, Andrea Haliford, Diane Kosovec, Gregory H. Matkovich, Mark J. Millinkov, Caryn E. Ross, Mary M. Russell and Stephanie M. Sertich. All honorees will receive a personal invitation from Lodge 351.

The official program also recognizes your Lodge's pick for Person of the Year 2026. This is not an annual event and it's been a few years, but this year we have a stand-out member, who, although she has been steadily active in our Lodge since her teens, the last two years she seems to be on steroids! She constantly reminds us that she "doesn't want this". We made it clear we would have this honoree celebration with or without her.

This modest and humble person is Deborah Babich. Her tireless energy has been essential to Lodge 351 over four decades, and she will finally get her due, before she burns out!

Debbie is the daughter of Sam and Irene (Korach) Petracich,

two very active, well-known and life-long members of our Detroit Croatian community. Debbie first became involved with the Detroit Star Tamburitians at about the age of 16 and went on their first tour of Croatia in 1975. She then joined the Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra, and has been a continuous member, playing brač for over 40 years. She also has been the group's treasurer for a very long time; a position that she may never give up. Managing money is her thing, for good reason.

Debbie's work career was at General Motors where she had the title of Senior Financial Analyst. She held that position for 44 years, 8 months and 16 days. Counting days is a lot like counting money for Debbie! She retired in September 2022.

Debbie was involved in so much more through those years. After the Stars, she joined Kolo Group Šumadija, where her friendship with future husband, Joe Babich, grew and bloomed. She was also Secretary of that group and remained a member until the group dissolved.

Debbie and Joe bowled on the Lodge Bowling league and participated in multiple tournaments. In fact, their wedding was celebrated in Las Vegas, Nevada and centered around the National Tournament there in May 1999. Her team was the 'Wedding Belles' and she bowled wearing a bridal veil. There was too much celebrating going on that year to be a serious contender, but Debbie can boast many winning tournaments.

Debbie and Joe were also avid card players at our hall and attended Friday night card parties regularly. When the Lodge needed someone to run the events, Debbie did not hesitate to take them over. She has been running card nights for over 20 years.

Upon retiring, they got involved in local senior center cards and pickleball. She has made many friends who now come to our Hall and participate in Lodge cards. The parties grow larger every month.

The Babichs loved to travel on trips and cruises. They also liked to attend CFU functions held by Lodges in other states. Music was a common interest, and they were season ticket holders at the DSO.

Sadly, Debbie lost Joe two years ago, but with a little coaxing, she was able to continue her busy lifestyle. Sometimes, our losses in life make us appreciate each day we have, and that is definitely the case with Debbie! Her social calendar is full and it has helped her heal.

Since joining the Lodge Board in 2023, she has been the driving force behind multiple events including the recent National CFU Golf Tournament. She's our goodwill ambassador

amongst Lodges and cities. She audits the Lodge books like a Senior Financial Analyst for GM, runs the kitchen and loves shopping for deals for the Club. She single-handedly researched and funded a defibrillator unit for the club with multiple fund-raisers. She has many more ideas for raising money for the Lodge if only the State of Michigan's Lottery and Gaming Board would get out of the way!

Since Debbie "doesn't want this," we promise to keep all official business short and sweet.

The evening is for socializing, enjoying friends and honoring our Croatian roots. Please put October 3rd on your calendar and support Lodge 351 and those whose hard work and membership give our Lodge the success and longevity we have been blessed with!

Kathy Perpich Thiel
Lodge 351

Sloboda Lodge 32 To Honor Golden Members

CHICAGO, IL - Sloboda Lodge 32 will celebrate their 50-Year Members on Sunday, September 13th, at Mama Luigi's Restaurant & Banquets, 7500 South Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, Illinois. Everyone is invited to celebrate our Honorees!

Social Hour begins at 12 noon. Luncheon served at 1 p.m., followed by music for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Adults: \$55 per person (open bar); Children ages 13 thru 20, \$20; Children ages 5 thru 12, \$15; Children ages 4 & under, Free.

Reservation deadline is Thursday, September 3. Reservations are a MUST. All seating is reserved.

Those being honored are from the Classes of 1975 and 1976. They are: Amy K. Babich, Gregory Buyan, Michael Buyan, Brian T. Byrne, Daniel J. Byrne, William J. Celio, Jerry Diehl, Jeffery Lane, Scott C. Lane, Ann Marie Lindsey, Mila Prkic, Gina M. Rubel, Nevenka Sipic Simandl, Frances M. Dennis, Michael Hairlich, Paul T. Jagust, Laura E. Keseric, Karen Denise Kostrzewa, Norbert Kozlowski, Catherine Lane, John C. Lane, Richard J. Modelski, Kathleen M. Momper, Branko Predovic, Diane R. Sarich, Nikolas Derek Sestan.

For more information or to make your reservation, please call Nita at 847.710.2027 and leave a message or email her at nhunter271@gmail.com.

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

SPOTLIGHT

ON

A Message from the Executive Vice President

FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

CFU PROGRAMS

TWO EXCELLENT SAVINGS OPPORTUNITES

The **CHOICE TWO** program is an excellent product offered by the CFU with a very favorable 4.5% interest rate. We are pleased to continue offering this rate amid the fluctuating financial markets, recessionary fears and an unstable global situation with various conflicts.

Though this product is favorable for many, the Executive Board always explores other avenues to meet members' and prospective members' needs.

The **EASY ACCESS** annuity is a product for those who would like more flexibility with their investments, and no restrictions during the unpredictable movement of the money markets. This annuity contract is based upon the previous CFU offering of a Zero Surrender Charge contract. The contract will be issued with the current interest rate of 3% for a limited time, through December 31, 2026, with a guaranteed minimum return of 2.4%.

The contract provides the annuitant the opportunity to withdraw money at any time, partly or the full amount, without any withdrawal penalty. **Again, there is no surrender charge for withdrawal at any time!**

MEMBERS UNDER THE AGE OF 59 ½ - Please note that the IRS may impose penalties for early withdrawals as the tax-deferred status of a differed annuity requires holders, in almost all instances, to refrain from withdrawals prior to the age of 59 ½. For these members, we strongly recommend the CFU's Choice Two Annuity Offer for your consideration.

To understand your investment and avoid any confusion, please call our Home Office for clarification.

CFU'S LIFE INSURANCE SPECIAL OFFER

- The 20 Pay Life Special Offer: Age 0 to 25 can purchase \$10,000 to \$25,000 face value for the first-year premium of only \$17.76;
- Ages 26 to 70 may purchase a minimum face value of \$10,000 with eligibility for up to \$250 in a one-time fraternal dividend credit to be used toward the first-year premium.
- Minimum first-year premium payable is only \$17.76. An illustration: Female, age 42, (Non-Tobacco) choses to purchase the \$10,000 face amount, the standard premium is \$245.80. The applicant would pay the first-year premium of \$17.76 and be eligible for the fraternal dividend credit of \$228.04 to fulfill the remaining amount needed for the first-year premium. Or, a Male, age 42, (Non-Tobacco) purchasing \$10,000 face amount, the standard rate is \$263.80. The applicant would pay the first year premium of \$17.76 and be eligible for a fraternal dividend credit of \$246.04. After the first-year Special Offer, the standard premium rates would apply for future years.

This special offer is available until December 31, 2026. The standard underwriting rules of the Society are applicable.

If you would like to learn more about our products and/or benefits, please feel free to call us at 412-843-0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org.

Life Happens in a heartbeat.

In one moment, one Heartbeat-your life changes.

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

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

Learn more at www.cfu.org.

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■-Publication dates are highlighted in black ○-All Material Deadline dates are circles ■-Office Closure	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23/30 24/31 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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



Successful Outing for 2026 Joe Rady Tournament

CANTON, IL - Sacred Heart Lodge 367, Canton, IL, happily greeted CFU members and friends on July 18th as they hosted the 2026 Joe Rady Golf Tournament. It was a warm, sunny day with a light breeze that kept our golfers comfortable, along with cool beverages found at the course. The best ball format kept play moving along and the friendly competitive banter between teams was entertaining. The awards banquet meal was excellent and enjoyed by all. While we wish we'd had more than 10 teams and more CFU lodges represented, Lodge 32 and Lodge 367 members and friends had a great time. We recognize Lodge 367 members, Martha Davis for Women's Longest Drive, Andy Sepich Jr. for his Hole in One and all our Lodge friends who won the other



hole challenges! We send Derek Hohn a special thank you for traveling, golfing, and hanging out with us later that evening. We always enjoy having a member of the Home Office at our events! All in all, we consider the 2026 Joe Rady to be a success and look forward to keeping the tourney going in 2027.

Ruth Sepich/Lodge 367 Secretary



There's Much To Do With 32

CHICAGO, IL - Sunday, August 30: Lodge 170 of Merrillville is hosting their Annual Picnic! Monday, September 7: It's Labor Day! The unofficial end of summer! So sad. Where did it go? Friday, Sept. 11: It's Patriot Day! The word patriot signifies a person who loves their country and is ready to boldly support and defend it. That meaning has endured since the word's arrival in English in the 16th century,

but it has not marched through the years unchallenged. Sunday, Sept. 13: We'll be celebrating our 50-year members from the Classes of 1975 & 1976 at Mama Luigi's Restaurant/Banquets. Honorees, I hope you received your official invitation! Everyone is invited to celebrate! Sunday, Sept. 20: Next meeting of our SAC at 1 p.m. at the Rubinic Clubhouse. Monday, Sept. 21: The International Day of Peace. "Peace is not just made at conference tables, but in classrooms, neighborhoods, and everywhere people meet with open minds and

open hearts. Together, day by day, we can build a more just world, with compassion, equality and dignity for all." - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Wednesday, Sept. 23: The official end of summer. It's Autumnal Equinox. Sunday, Oct. 11: We're back at the Linda Sokol Brookfield Library, 3541 Park Avenue in Brookfield for our Lodge 32's General Meeting. Library doors open at 11 a.m. with the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m. The facility is handicapped accessible with an elevator to take you down to the lower level. A continental breakfast of coffee and...

will be served. Hope to see y'all there! Monday, Oct. 12: It's Indigenous Peoples' Day! It's an official city and state holiday in various localities in the United States that celebrates and honors Indigenous American peoples (Native Americans) and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated on the second Monday in October. Also celebrated on this day is Columbus Day! Saturday, Oct. 17: DATE CHANGE - from October 3rd for our Sloboda Jr. Tammies Golf Outing! Be sure to make this date change! Full details will be coming. Saturday, Oct. 31: It's Halloween also known as All Hallows' Eve or All Saints' Eve and is a celebration observed in many countries on October 31st, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It is at the beginning of the observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the Christian liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed. Who knew?

Members to be boating on the Chair O'Lakes here in Illinois! Our guide and captain, Bill Pavlecic and his First Mate Nita were the best hosts for this event. After our boating experience, we all gathered at Famous Freddie's Roadhouse for a bite to eat and some liquid libation to toast one of the few "perfect" days this summer! Thanks Bill and Nita for a most memorable afternoon! Registration is now open to enroll your children/grandchildren into our Sloboda Jr. Tammies (performing) group. If you feel your child/grandchild has no talent for this kind of thing - think again! Our talented instructors will bring out the best in them with guaranteed fun doing it! If you are the least bit hesitant, give Bob Vucinic a call at 312.287.6758 because he just might help you make the decision to give it a try! If no answer, please leave a message. "This is what life is about. We do not get redos, but we do get second chances." - Jeffrey Fry "A man deserves a second chance, but keep an eye on him." - John Wayne

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

CFU Scholarship Foundation...

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the service, brother Cindrich completed his BS and MS degrees at Indiana University. Joe started his professional career as a faculty member at Western Illinois University, where he met his wife, Karen, to whom he was married for forty-four years until her passing in 2015. Continuing his education was a lifelong endeavor and Joe earned a doctorate in Public Health from the University of Maryland in 1975 and later held a faculty position at San Diego State University before serving in several roles within the federal government in Washington, D.C. We first met Brother Cindrich in St. Louis, Missouri, at the inaugural meeting of the National Federation of Croatian Americans in 1994. Joe was a representative of the Croatian Scholarship Fund (CSF) of San Francisco, an organization that provides financial awards to students living in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina while CFU was represented by ten delegates in-

cluding my colleagues National President Luketich, Vice President Brigich and myself. Joe quickly distinguished himself over the ensuing twenty-five and more years as a knowledgeable, concerned, and diligent supporter of our Croatian brothers and sisters in the homeland. First, during the war for independence, and then throughout the ensuing peace years where the NFCA continued to provide Congress and the US State Department with information vital to the interests of Croatia and its people (including those Croatians living in Bosnia-Herzegovina). Joe's work with the NFCA as well as the CSF garnered him many awards and opportunities to meet elected officials including President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, as well as President of the Republic of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. As the years progressed and Brother Joe passed the reins of leadership positions he held in benevolent organizations on to others, our paths crossed less

often. However, when we were apprised of his nomination for a prominent award from his alma mater by Brother Steve Rukavina, president of the NFCA_CF, we quickly agreed to offer our own endorsement of this nomination for the prestigious Indiana University Public Health Distinguished Alumni Award. During the proceedings of the society's 26th Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH, during September of 2023, we were very pleased to introduce Dr. Joseph Cindrich, Ph.D., to our delegates and to congratulate him on receiving the award! We conclude this article with our recollection of the friendship that existed between our late National President Emeritus Bernard Luketich and Brother Joseph Cindrich which, without a doubt, was based upon the Croatian values imparted to each of them by their coalmining fathers - each growing up in a coal mining town with humble beginnings which belied their achievements throughout their lifetimes. It was a pleasure and honor to know them and call them friends.

Croatian Mass and Dinner in Steelton

STEELTON, PA - Father Maurus Dolčić will celebrate a Croatian Mass at Prince of Peace - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church on Sunday, September 6. Confessions in Croatian will be available beginning at 4:30 p.m., and Mass will begin at 5 p.m. Immediately following Mass, everyone is invited to a complimentary dinner at St. Lawrence CFU Lodge 13. All are welcome to attend. St. Lawrence Lodge 13 hopes to continue hosting dinners following the monthly Croatian Mass from September through April. While reservations are not required, they are appreciated so we can plan for the meal. If you plan to attend the dinner, please call or text Kaitlyn at 717-319-2028 with your name and the number of people in your party prior to September 3. Tina Simpson/Recording Secretary

Lodge 320 Announces 14th Annual Joe Gajdos Šljivo Open

DUQUESNE, PA - The Duquesne Croatian Club members are proud to announce the 14th Annual Joe Gajdos Šljivo Open will be held at the Grandview9 Golf Club on Saturday, August 29. We welcome you to join us for a great day of golf and our fun-filled awards dinner.

The golf outing will be a four-person scramble. Registration will be from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. There will be a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Golfers will receive a Šljivo Open golf shirt, and other gifts. The tournament will be followed by a buffet dinner at the Duquesne Croatian Club. The price is \$110 per golfer.

Finally, several sponsorship opportunities remain. If you are an interested golfer or a company interested in being a sponsor for this worthwhile event, please contact Paul Cherkes at 412-812- 0242.

We hope to see you on August 29th!
Paul Cherkes/Lodge 320



By Edward W. Pazo/National President
(Continued from page 2)

local St. George lodge 354 in Cokeburg, including their beloved Kolo and Tamburica Ensemble St. George, whose children became their children by extension. A love for Croatian culture, especially tamburitza music and folklore, was instilled in their own two daughters, Marlene and Bernadette. Her knowledge of Croatian Folklore costumes and the proper way to wear them on the children was of immeasurable value to the ensemble as she cared for the hundreds of Croatian Folk costumes used by the Junior Tamburitza.

This was a natural passion of Martha's as she sought to instill pride in the hundreds of children that performed on stage as a member of the St. George Junior Tamburitza.

While husband Bernard's position as National President required attendance at frequent banquets and festive celebrations, Martha was content to be the "strong woman" behind the successful man. As first lady of the Croatian Fraternal Union she fulfilled her role with grace, dignity and modesty.

She was active in her own right, serving as a local lodge officer as well as a frequent delegate to CFU National Conventions representing her Lodge 354. Additionally, she was a longtime member of the St. George Lodge 354 bowling league where she participated with her friends, Louise, Meleva, Doris, Midge and Dorothy, oftentimes attending the CFU National Bowling Tournament as part of the Cokeburg contingent of bowlers.

Martha honored traditions not only through costumes and folklore but also through her renowned baking of strudels and other Croatian delicacies which were widely anticipated by the many guests attending a celebration or event at the Croatian Home in Cokeburg.

She was indeed a fixture in the Croatian Home; some would say the "home that Bernie built." With Martha and Bernie welcoming their many friends and out of town guests with down to earth warmth and friendship. Friends who became like family, such as MaryAnn and the late Marijan Boljkovac and Mirjana and Franjo Bertović from Canada, and so many more from across the US and Canada.

This is in the true spirit of Christianity, "welcoming a friend, neighbor or even a stranger as you would a loved one," with a smile and friendly word of welcome. That's the Martha that I remember and I know all of you do as well.

One of the true marks of a life well lived is the legacy which we leave behind. We believe that Martha and Bernard may rest easy knowing that the foundations of love, honor and tradition that they instilled in their daughters has been transferred to the generations that will follow. A lasting vestige of faith, love, charity, and fraternalism.

On behalf of my colleagues in the National Administration of the Croatian Fraternal Union, many of whom are here today, we extend our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies to daughters Marlene and Bernadette, their husbands Dan Kochis and John Sikaras; grandsons - Derek and Amanda, Adam, Marko, and great-grandchildren Karlo and Zora, on the loss of their matriarch.

And for dear Martha...we pray that she now basks in the light of eternal salvation made possible by the cross and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Slava joj vječna i neka počiva u miru Božjem.

CFU 2026 Calendar of Coming Events

AUGUST

- 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
- 13 – Sloboda Lodge 32's 50-Year Member Celebration - Mama Luigi's Restaurant/ Banquets

OCTOBER

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

- 11 – CFU 5K - North Park Boathouse - 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

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



50-YEAR MEMBERS, from left: George Raudensky and Michelle Scheib with Lodge 13 President Donna Spandler and CFU National President Edward W. Pazo.

Lodge 13 Celebrates St. Lawrence Day

STEELTON, PA - On August 8, members and friends of St. Lawrence CFU Lodge 13 gathered at the lodge home for the annual celebration of their patron saint, Sv. Lovro, and to honor the lodge's 50-year members.

The festivities began with a procession from the lodge to Prince of Peace-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Members of the Sv. Lovro Junior Tamburitza, dressed in traditional Croatian nošnje, made an impressive and beautiful sight as they processed

through the streets of Steelton.

Mass was celebrated by Father Matthew Larlick, who recognized past and present members of the lodge and shared wonderful words about Lodge 13 during his homily. Several members of the St. Lawrence Adult Tamburitza, along with other members of the church, played tambura and sang with the choir during one of the hymns.

Following Mass, everyone gathered back at the lodge to enjoy the sounds of The Happy Slovenes and tambura music provided by Okolica. As always, the kitchen prepared a delicious meal featuring roasted lamb, chicken, cabbage and noodles, along with many other favorites.

We were especially happy and proud to welcome CFU National President Ed Pazo and his wife, Beth, to the celebration. Lodge President Donna Spandler and Lodge

Secretary-Treasurer Sister Virginia Michtich, along with President Pazo, presented 50-year membership certificates to George Raudensky and Michelle Scheib, who were in attendance.

Other 50-year members who were unable to attend were Joan Carney, Robert M. Lesanec, Jason Moose, MaryAnn Muretic, Suzanne Rados, Amy Sirmons, and Jonathan Squire.



PROCESSION to Prince of Peace-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church led by members of the Sv. Lovro Junior Tamburitza in traditional Croatian nošnje.

Following the presentations, President Pazo recognized the many contributions of St. Lawrence CFU Lodge 13 and noted that the lodge is one of the oldest in the country, having been established in 1895—just one year after the Croatian Fraternal Union of America was founded in 1894. We are extremely proud that, for more than 130 years, Lodge 13 has served as a cultural and social pillar of the Croatian-American community in Steelton. Performances by the St. Lawrence Adult Tamburitza and Sv. Lovro Junior Tamburitza were highlights of the afternoon.

Lodge 13 looks forward to celebrating many more events in the coming months. Mark your calendars for Bingo on September 20 and November 15, and for The Tamburitza of Pittsburgh on October 17. Tickets for all events can be purchased at the club or by contacting Kaitlyn Malatestinic at 717-319-2028. And finally, save the date for the Lodge 13 Christmas Party on December 5!

We thank everyone who helped make this year's St. Lawrence Day celebration such a wonderful success and look forward to gathering together again soon!

Tina Simpson
Recording Secretary





Zaklada HBZ za stipendije dodaje nagradu Dr. Josepha Cindrich

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA - Vrlo nam je drago što možemo objaviti osnivanje 117. pojedinačnog fonda za stipendije kod Zaklade HBZ za stipendije, Inc., zahvaljujući bratskoj velikodušnosti pokojnog Josepha Cindricha iz Menlo Parka, Kalifornija. Rođen u zajednici rudara ugljena u mjestu Republic, Pennsylvania, od hrvatskih roditelja imigranata Antona i Agnes Cindrich 11. rujna 1935. Joe i njegovih šestoro braće i sestara odgajani su s jakom radnom etikom i poštovanjem prema svom hrvatskom naslijeđu.

Planovi za osnivanje Fonda Joseph Cindrich započeli su 2024. s početnom donacijom od deset tisuća dolara našoj Zakladi, uz uvjet da će Zaklada HBZ biti glavni korisnik humanitarnog fonda zamišljenog kao dio njegovog planiranja imovine. Prošlog srpnja obaviješteni smo da će prva od najmanje dvadeset godišnjih isplata uskoro biti poslana kako bi se povećao početni kapital fonda. U trenutku pisanja ovog priopćenja o stvaranju personaliziranog stipendijskog fonda u ime brata Cindricha, sa zadovoljstvom izvijestavamo da je sada prikupljeno ukupno 19.433 dolara za dodjelu stipendijskog novca zaslužnom članu Hrvatske bratske zajednice

Ono što je jedinstveno kod ovog posebnog pojedinačnog stipendijskog fonda kojeg je osnovao brat Joseph Cindrich jest to što će kroz dobro osmišljeno planiranje imovine godišnje isplate iz humanitarnog fonda koji je stvorio nastaviti donositi koristi ne samo našoj Zakladi, već i brojnim drugim humanitarnim organizacijama priznatim od strane IRS-a i 501 c (3) subjekata.

Naš dobar prijatelj, brat Cindrich, bio je kulturni čovjek koji je cijenio obrazovanje, a istovremeno je ostao ponizan i iskren prema svima s kojima je dolazio u kontakt. Njegova životna priča vrijedna je romana Horatia Algera, jer smo vrlo ponosni što možemo odati počast dr. Josephu Cindrichu kroz stalnu dodjelu stipendije HBZ u njegovu uspomenu svake godine putem naše Zaklade. Zaista prikladno sjećanje na čovjeka koji je iz skromnih početaka dosegao osobna postignuća u obrazovanju i humanitarnim djelima kroz naporan rad i upornost. Time se pokazuje njegova filantropska narav koju je demonstrirao tijekom većine svog života. Jedan od njegovih uobičajenih odgovora na pitanja o pogledu na život i razlozima svih uspjeha koje je postigao bio je: 'Imao sam prednost što sam odrastao u nepovoljnim okolnostima.'

Iako je njegov otac Anton bio rudarski radnik, Joeova ljubav prema nogometu odvela ga je na teren gdje je briljirao u Red-



Dr. Joseph Cindrich

stone srednjoj školi u jugozapadnoj Pennsylvaniji. Njegove vještine na terenu pružile su mu priliku da nastavi obrazovanje na Sveučilištu u Pittsburghu i Sveučilištu Tennessee. Međutim, kada mu je otac preminuo, Joe se 1955. pridružio Američkim marinama kako bi služio svojoj zemlji i podržao svoju obitelj. Dok je bio u marinama, igrao je nogomet i ozlijedio se, što je završilo njegovu igračku karijeru; no, vjeran svojoj naravi, dovršio je svoj vojni rok služeći na drugim pozicijama dok je bio stacioniran u Japanu i Okinawi.

Nakon što je izašao iz službe, brat Cindrich završio je svoje BS i MS studije na Sveučilištu Indiana. Joe je započeo svoju profesionalnu karijeru kao član fakulteta na Sveučilištu Western Illinois, gdje je upoznao svoju

(Nastavak na 10. strani)



Posjet Ogulinu i odsjeku 2001 HBZ "Frankopan"

OGULIN - Vrlo rado sam prihvatio poziv predsjednika odsjeka 2001 HBZ-a Ivica Francetića da prisustvujem odsječnoj sjednici. Iznenadna kiša i pljuskovi s jakom grmljavinom i povremenim nestankom struje utjecali su na nešto manji dolazak članova. Međutim početak je bio točno u 20 sati kako je i najavljeno uz predloženi i jednoglasno prihvaćeni dnevni red.

Na slici su: Đurđa Salopek, Mirjana Bertović, Ljubica Francetić (pripremila izvrsnu ogulinsku deliciju) Ankica Sabljak, Ane Grdić i Anka Bertović.



Odbornici su podnijeli iscrpna izvješća o održanom Pikniku 14. lipnja, ove godine, kod Lovačkog doma na Šmitovom jezeru. Divno vrijeme i odaziv članova učinili su piknik zabavan ali i natjecateljskog karaktera u boćanju.

Odsjek 2001, jedan od najaktivnijih i najbrojnijih u Republici Hrvatskoj je poznat u organizaciji natjecanja u boćanju. Ima uređenu boćarsku stazu tako da mnogi rado učestvuju i iskazuju svoju boćarsku i sportsku vještinu. Na sjednici, odsječni potpredsjednik i direktor za sportske i fraternalističke aktivnosti Zdravko Salopek, izvijestio je da se je natjecalo sedam (7) ekipa

a pobjednici su bili Ivan Vučić i Ivica Francetić.

Mnoge su pohvale i zahvale izrečene na ime piknika gdje je sve bilo lijepo organizirano i zabavno.

Meni je pripala čast da sve pozdravim u ime našeg nacionalnog predsjednika Edwarda W. Paze, tajnice/ blagajnice Bernadette Luketić Sikaras i svoje osobno. Ukratko sam spomenuo rad Zajednice a posebno programe životnog osiguranja i stipendijske pomoći studentima-članovima koji teže višoj i visokoj školskoj naobrazbi.

Bilo je pitanja o načinu promjene baštinka, adrese i postupka kod smrti člana na koje sam rado i temeljito odgovarao. Između ostalih pitanja bio je upit o nedolasku službenog glasila „Zajedničar“ na kućne adrese pojedinih članova. Sadržajni odgovor je bio da od početka 2026. Zajedničar je dostupan na web stranicama <www.cfu.org> ne samo članove Hrvatske bratske zajednice već i za širu javnost.

Nakon završetka sjednice u 20:50 nastavljeno je s bratskim druženjem uz poznatu ogulinsku masnicu i piće. Mnoge su šale izrečene u veselju i zabavi uz tradicijske običaje hrvatskog naroda uvijek spremnog za humorističke dosjetke i zajedništvo.

Franjo Bertović
Izvršni potpredsjednik HBZ-a

94. Godišnji Hrvatski dan u Hrvatskom domu u Rankinu

RANKIN, PA – Vrijeme je za veliku hrvatsku proslavu! 94. godišnji Hrvatski dan, koji se održava pod pokroviteljstvom englesko govorećih odsjeka HBZ zapadne Pennsylvanije i koji obilježava 132. obljetnicu Hrvatske bratske

zajednice, održat će se u nedjelju, 6. rujna, u Hrvatskom domu u Rankinu, na uglu 4th i Antisburij ulice, Rankin, PA.

Započinjući proslavu u 3 sata poslije podne, na prvom katu Hrvatskog doma, ove godine ima-

mo nešto novo. Pozivamo sve da dođu i uživaju, po prvi put ikad, u modnoj reviji hrvatskih narodnih nošnji! Pridružite nam se dok organiziramo posebnu modnu reviju s našim mladim tamburašima koji nose različite tradicionalne hrvatske narodne nošnje. Dok djeca predstavljaju ove jedinstvene i prekrasno ukrašene nošnje, netko će obja-

(Nastavak na 10. strani)

Zajedničar

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Official Organ Of The Croatian Fraternal Union of America

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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

Obilježavanje godišnjica

Kad godišnji odmor za Praznik rada dođe svake godine, mnogi članovi HBZ-a automatski pomisle na Hrvatski dan u Kennywood Parku jer je godišnja proslava tijekom desetljeća okupljala stotine naših članova tog vikenda u području velikog Pittsburgha. Članovi HBZ-a, obitelji i prijatelji dolazili su u velikom broju na mjesto održavanja godišnjeg Hrvatskog dana kako bi uživali u prekrasnoj glazbi, hrvatskoj hrani, zajedničkoj atmosferi, kao i vožnjama i igrama u zabavnom parku. Generacije obitelji navikle su se okupljati tog dana za dan ispunjen zabavom i akcijom.

Ove godine obilježava se 94. godišnjica Hrvatskog dana i, iako se više ne slavi u Kennywood Parku, i dalje se odgovarajuće slavi u Hrvatskom domu u Rankinu, Pennsylvania... što ovom događaju dodaje još jednu povijesnu dimenziju.

Godine 2026., Hrvatski dom u Rankinu slavi svoju 100. obljetnicu. Ovaj hrvatski kulturni spomenik u Rankinu je veličanstvena, ogromna

zgrada od crvene cigle koja je dugo prepoznata kao mjesto okupljanja članova odsjeka 6, a prije toga i odsjeka 718, kao i za Rankin Junior Tamburicu i razne druge sastanke odsjeka i klubova te društvene događaje. Sada javno priznat kao objekt koji postoji već sto godina, Hrvatski dom u Rankinu i dalje dočekuje mnoge naše članove, hrvatske obitelji i posjetitelje kroz svoja dobrodošla vrata. A 6. rujna 2026. godine, mnogi će ljudi doći u ovu tradicionalnu, impresivnu zgradu koja je izdržala test vremena kako bi proslavili 94. godišnji Hrvatski dan koji organiziraju englesko govoreći odsjeci HBZ zapadne Pennsylvanije.

U skladu s tradicijom, proslava Hrvatskog dana 2026. godine također će poslužiti kako bi se obilježila još jedna godišnjica, naime 132. godišnjica Hrvatske bratske zajednice od osnivanja naše organizacije 2. rujna 1894. Odbor za Hrvatski dan uvijek je odavao počast osnivanju naše Zajednice tijekom godišnjih

proslava Hrvatskog dana i nastavlja svake godine na ovom događaju obilježavati rođendan naše bratske organizacije.

Za ovogodišnji Hrvatski dan bit će uobičajeno izvrsna hrana, prijateljska lica i prekrasna tamburaška glazba, ali bit će i modna revija naših hrvatskih narodnih nošnji koju će predstaviti Rankin Junior Tamburica, još jedan način odavanja počasti našoj nevjerojatoj hrvatskoj kulturi i kako su je sačuvali članovi HBZ-a, hrvatske obitelji, tamburaši, pjevači i plesači. Kakav prekrasan način dijeljenja našeg hrvatskog naslijeđa na 94. godišnjem Hrvatskom danu, danu koji ostaje izvanredno priznanje našem hrvatskom naslijeđu u široj zajednici Pittsburgha, u tri savezne države i širom Hrvatske bratske zajednice!

Odsjek 530 održava ljetni piknik

ST. THOMAS, ON – Odsjek 530 “Ogulin” HBZ-a toplo poziva svoje članove i prijatelje na Ljetni piknik u nedjelju, 30. kolovoza.

Piknik će se održati odmah poslije sv. Mise, na zemljištu za ljetne zabave nadomak crkve. Sveta misa je u 11 sati u Hrvatskoj crkvi sv. Leopolda Mandića koja se nalazi na 2889 Westminster Dr., u Londonu, ON. Kod misnog slavlja pjevati će crkveni pjevački zbor iz Lonodna pod vodstvom Ante Pejčinovića.

Odsjek se vesli dolasku naših gostiju iz Detroita, Hrvatskom američkom folklornom ansamblu “Nova Nada”. Poslužiti ćemo vas s svinjskim pečenjem i piletinom s ražnja za \$25 što uključuje i piće. Za ples i razonodu svirati će naš popularni pjevač i harmonikaš Tomica Peretić.

Sve vas pozivamo i radujemo se vašem dolasku!

Franjo Bertović
predsjednik

Dragi oproštaj za Marthu Luketich



Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

S pisanjem ovog predsjedničkog stupca odajemo počast preminuloj „Velikoj dami“ Hrvatske bratske zajednice, sestre Marthi Luketich, supruzi našeg pokojnog počasnog predsjednika Bernarda M. Luketicha. Sestra Luketich, kao prva dama naše Zajednice, ispunjavala je tu ulogu dostojanstveno i elegantno trideset šest godina dok je njezin suprug Bernard vodio Hrvatsku bratsku zajednicu Amerike. Dok je podržavala Bernarda u njegovom zajedničarstvu, ona je također sama vodila vrlo aktivan život podržavajući svoj odsjek Sv. Juraj broj 354, Ujedinjene odsjeke HBZ kotara Fayette, Greene, Washington i Westmoreland i omladinski ansambl Sv. Juraj, da spomenemo samo neke od njezinih interesa. Za njezinu zajedničarstvo i životnu predanost Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici i njezinoj misiji očuvanja hrvatske kulture i baštine, zajedno sa suprugom Bernardom, odana joj je počast od strane organizacije odsjeka HBZ Četiri kotara proglašenjem Fraternalistom godine za 1980.



Bili smo duboko tužni viješću o Marthinom zdravlju i konačnom odlasku; ipak, dobro znamo njenu duboku vjeru u našeg Gospodina i Njegovo obećanje vječnog spasenja. Martha je bila životna partnerica svoga supruga Bernarda, nenametljiva u karakteru i osoba velike dobrote i ljubavi prema drugima. Svijet je učinila boljim mjestom i donosila radost svojoj obitelji i prijateljima svojim riječima i djelima. Bilo nam je čast što su nas naša kolegica Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras i njezina sestra Marlene Luketich Kochis zamolile da održimo nadgrobno slovo u ime Hrvatske bratske zajednice nakon mise kršćanskog ukopa u njihovoj crkvi, Ave Maria sv. Katherine Drexel RC, u Bentleyvilleu, Pennsylvania, u srijedu, 19. kolovoza 2026. Misu su koncelebrirali župnik župe, fra Edward Yuhas, bivši župnik i prijatelj obitelji sv. Juraj, fra Pierre (Bud) Falkenhan, te obiteljski prijatelj fra Philip Pribonić.

Vrlo je vrijedno spomenuti da je ovo posebno mjesto štovanja bilo domaćin mnogim misama povodom Dana svetog Jurja, koje se održavaju u sklopu godišnje proslave Dana svetog Jurja koju održava odsjek 354 u Cokeburgu, PA. Izražavamo najdublju sućut obitelji Marthe Luketich, kćerima Marlene (suprug Dan Kochis) i Bernadette (suprug John Sikaras); unucima Dereku Hohnu (supruga Amanda i djeca Karlo i Zora), Adamu Hendersonu i Marku Kochisu; nećakinji Janice Smargie; i rođaku Dragi Luketichu, kao i brojnim prijateljima Marthe povodom njihovog gubitka.

Ovdje slijedi naš govor održan na groblju svetog Luke pokraj crkve župe prilikom pokopa Marthe Luketich na obiteljskoj grobnici.

Dragi prijatelji, dok se jutros okupljamo da odamo počast i prinesemo svoje molitve za Martu Luketich, sjećamo je se kao žene velike vjere i ljubavi. Njena vjera u Isusa i Njegovo obećanje vječnog spasenja te njezina ljubav i briga za obitelj bile su temelji osobe koja je ona zapravo bila....

Naravno, teško je misliti na Marthu a da se ne sjetiš njenog dragog supruga Bernija. Njihov brak je bio vrijedan romana, i to bestsellera. S obzirom na Marthino hrvatsko porijeklo kroz oca Mika Cindrića i majku Annu Kekich, bila je prirodan interes za mladog čovjeka iz Cokeburga koji je došao u odsjek 72 u Uniontownu podučavati kolo. Njihovo članstvo u Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici i ljubav prema hrvatskoj kulturi i baštini bili su prirodni interesi koje su dijelili. Ti zajednički interesi doveli su do njihovog braka 1952. godine, koji je trajao 63 godine, sve do smrti njenog voljenog Bernarda.

Uvijek vjerna i podržavajuća supruga, Martha se pridružila Bernardu u njegovom radu s lokalnim odsjekom 354 u Cokeburgu, uključujući njihov omiljeni Kolo i Tamburaški ansambl Sv. Juraj, čija

(Nastavak
na 10. strani)

Konzularni dani u Pittsburghu i Clevelandu

WASHINGTON – Velepo-slanstvo Republike Hrvatske iz Washingtona održat će konzularne dane u Pittsburgh-u u prostorijama Hrvatske bratske zajednice, na adresi 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, u vremenu od 10 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (uz prethodni dogovor termina) na sljedeće datume: 10. rujna; 22. listopada; 12. studenog i 3. prosinca 2026. godine.

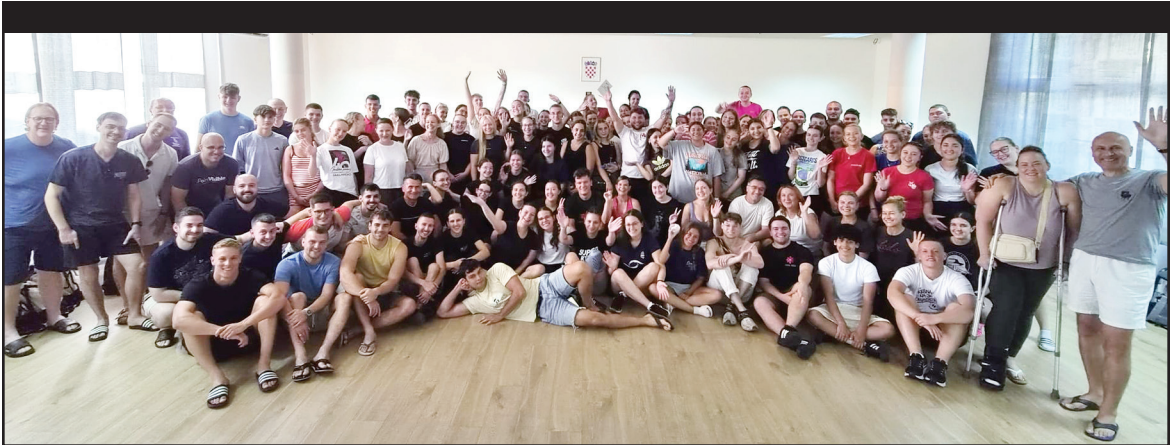
Konzularni dani u Eastlake-u održat će se u prostorijama hrvatskog doma "Kardinal Alojzije Stepinac" na adresi 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095, u vremenu od 9 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (uz prethodni dogovor termina) na sljedeće datume: 11. rujna; 23. listopada; 13. studenog i 4. prosinca 2026. godine.

VAŽNA OBAVIJEST:

Potrebno je unaprijed zakazati termin i to putem adrese elektroničke pošte: crocons.washington@mvep.hr ili nazvati na +1-202-588-5899, kućni 2.

Uz zahtjev za sastanak, potrebno je navesti vrstu usluge koja se zahtjeva i kontakt podatke (ime i prezime, broj telefona). Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske u Washingtonu određuje vrijeme termina po redu zaprimanja zahtjeva i prema dostupnosti istih.

Mihovil Pažin/VRH



U ZADRU JE OD 4. DO 13. KOLOVOZA 2026. GODINE plesnim i glazbenim probama te predavanjima održana još jedna Ljetna škola hrvatskoga folklora, najdugovječniji i jedan od najuglednijih stručnih programa edukacije voditelja folklornih skupina, glazbenika i zaljubljenika u hrvatsku tradicijsku kulturu. Program je bio u organizaciji Hrvatske matice iseljenika a okupio je sudionike iz Hrvatske, hrvatskoga iseljenništva, redova hrvatskih nacionalnih manjina, Bosne i Hercegovine te drugih zemalja.
 Ovogodišnja Ljetna škola bila je posvećena folklornoj baštini jadranskoga područja. Stručni program vodio je Andrija Ivančan, programski voditelj Ljetne škole i umjetnički voditelj Folklornog ansambla Lindo iz Dubrovnika. Odjel tambura vodio je Tibor Bün, jedan od najistaknutijih hrvatskih stručnjaka za tamburašku glazbu, dok Odjel tradicijskih glazbala vodio Vjekoslav Martinić, glazbeni pedagog i poznati majstor izrade tradicijskih glazbala.
 Kao gost predavač u programu je sudjelovao i maestro Siniša Leopold, jedan od najuglednijih hrvatskih skladatelja, aranžera i poznavatelja tradicijske glazbe. Škola hrvatskoga folklora temelji se na znanstveno-stručnom programu koji je 1963. godine osmislio ugledni hrvatski etnolog i etnokoreolog dr. sc. Ivan Ivančan. Kroz Školu hrvatskoga folklora Hrvatska matica iseljenika ostvaruje jednu od svojih temeljnih zadaća – očuvanje, promicanje i prenošenje hrvatske tradicijske kulture među Hrvatima izvan Republike Hrvatske.

Ove europske zemlje privlače najviše turista

Velik broj turista i dalje najviše privlače mediteranske zemlje poznate po toploj klimi, a među njima se nalazi i Hrvatska.

Unatoč sve češćim upozorenjima na negativne posljedice masovnog turizma, Europa i dalje ostaje najprivlačnija turistička regija na svijetu. Milijuni putnika i dalje biraju europske gradove, obalu i poznata turistička središta, a najnoviji podaci otkrivaju koje zemlje bilježe najveći broj stranih gostiju i turističkih noćenja.

Prema podacima Europske komisije, među deset najposjećenijih država svijeta nalazi se čak šest europskih zemalja. Na samom vrhu europske ljestvice i dalje je Španjolska, slijede Italija, Turska, Francuska i Ujedinjeno Kraljevstvo.

Podaci Eurostata i britanskog Ureda za nacionalnu statistiku, koje je objavio VisitBritain, pokazuju da je tijekom 2025. godine u Europi ostvareno više od 1,5 milijardi turističkih noćenja. Riječ je o nastavku snažnog rasta turističkog sektora koji traje desetljećima. Za usporedbu, 1950. godine u Europi je zabilježeno tek 25 milijuna noćenja stranih turista.

Turistička industrija nastavlja rasti unatoč gospodarskim neizvjesnostima i globalnim krizama. Prema procjenama Svjetskog vijeća za putovanja i turizam,

sektor bi tijekom 2026. godine trebao rasti brže od ukupnog svjetskog gospodarstva, a očekuje se i da će osiguravati oko 376 milijuna radnih mjesta diljem svijeta, piše Euronews.

Španjolska uvjerljivo vodi

Španjolska je tijekom 2025. godine ostvarila gotovo 330 milijuna noćenja stranih turista te tako ponovno potvrdila status vodeće turističke destinacije Europe. Na drugom mjestu nalazi se Italija s nešto manje od 265 milijuna noćenja.

Turska i Francuska također su prošle godine privukle više od 150 milijuna međunarodnih noćenja, dok je Ujedinjeno Kraljevstvo, unatoč izlasku iz Europske unije, ostalo među najposjećenijim europskim državama.

Među deset najpopularnijih turističkih destinacija nalaze se još Grčka, Austrija, **Hrvatska**, Njemačka i Nizozemska.

Sunce i more glavni aduti

Velik broj turista i dalje najviše privlače mediteranske zemlje poznate po toploj klimi, dugoj obali i razvijenoj turističkoj infrastrukturi. Španjolska, Italija, Grčka i Hrvatska desetljećima su među najtraženijim ljetnim destinacijama zahvaljujući plažama, gastronomiji, kulturnoj baštini i velikom broju turističkih sadržaja.

Iako se posljednjih godina, osobito u Španjolskoj i Italiji, sve češće organiziraju prosvjedi

protiv masovnog turizma, interes stranih gostiju ne slabi. Brojni turisti i dalje biraju poznata obalna odredišta i povijesne gradove. Francuska pritom ne privlači posjetitelje samo Parizom. Tijekom ljeta velik broj turista odlazi na Azurnu obalu i u Provansu, dok su francuske Alpe među najpopularnijim zimskim destinacijama u Europi.

Austrija je također zadržala status jednog od vodećih europskih odredišta za zimski turizam, dok je Hrvatska s više od 85 milijuna noćenja stranih turista ponovno potvrdila važnu poziciju na europskoj turističkoj karti, ponajviše zahvaljujući jadranskoj obali.

Najposjećenije europske zemlje prema broju noćenja stranih turista:

1. Španjolska – 329,7 milijuna noćenja
2. Italija – 264,7 milijuna noćenja
3. Turska – 154,8 milijuna noćenja
4. Francuska – 150,7 milijuna noćenja
5. Ujedinjeno Kraljevstvo – 149,8 milijuna noćenja
6. Grčka – 130,9 milijuna noćenja
7. Austrija – 97 milijuna noćenja
8. **Hrvatska** – 85,6 milijuna noćenja
9. Njemačka – 83,6 milijuna noćenja
10. Nizozemska – 64,3 milijuna noćenja

Magazin.HR

Poziv Ličanima iz svijeta

Dragi prijatelji, ja sam dr. sc. Manuela Miletić, od prije godinu i pol predsjednica Zavičajne udruge Ličana "Vila Velebita" Sisak.

Udruga smo koja nema puno godina, 9 punih, ali smo ponosni i na to. Još početkom prošlog stoljeća Ličanin Medarić osnovao je Klub Ličana u Sisku, ali kako je u svim bivšim državama bilo nemoguće opstati hrvatskim (i ličkim) udrugama, tako i ta naša prva asocijacija

nije uspjela održati svoj rad! Nakon Domovinskog rata nekoliko puta su Ličani pokušali osnovati i održati svoju udrugu, ali tek od 2017. godine ova Udruga je s kontinuiranim djelovanjem.

Od prošle godine imamo svoju fb stranicu: Zavičajna udruga Ličana "Vila Velebita" Sisak te web stranicu: vilavelebitasisak.hr.

Uvela sam promjene u radu Udruge u smislu agitacije svih članova na aktivan rad i doprinos u očuvanje bogate ličke tradicije koje su naši stari Ličani donijeli sa sobom kad su trbuhom za kruhom odlazili iz Like i nastanjivali se u Sisačko-moslavačkoj

županiji (i moj tata je tako došao 1967. iz Kalinovače / Pazarišta u Sisak): održavamo radionice, koncerte, Večeri Like u Sisku, lička prela, posjećujemo događanja / manifestacije u Lici, nadam se i monografiji za 10 godina rada Udruge, a posebno sam ponosna za projekt digitalizacije ličke kulturne baštine naših članova, koji se provodi ove godine i kojeg je odlično ocijenilo Ministarstvo kulture i medija te će kao e-muzej biti na našoj stranici i na stranici Ministarstva.

Posebna nam je želja povezati se s Hrvatima i Ličanima iz svijeta, kako bi zajedno nastavili tamo gdje su stali naši stari. Ne

PROGRAMI HBZ-A

Poruka iz ureda izvršnog potpredsjednika
FRANJE BERTOVIĆA

POD POVEĆALOM

DVIJE IZVRŠNE PRILIKE
ZA UŠTEDU

ODABIR DVA (CHOICE TWO) je izvrstan plan štednje koji nudi HBZ svojim članovima i prijateljima uz kamatnu stopu od 4.5%. Zadovoljstvo nam je i dalje zadržati tu kamatu unatoč nestabilnom tržištu novca uzrokovanim inflacijom, strahovanjem od recesije i nestabilnim globalnim poremećajima izazvanim s ratnim sukobima.

Unatoč ovoj izvršnoj mogućnosti da na svoj teško zarađeni novac oplemenite s kamatnom zaradom od 4.5%, naš Izvršni odbor istražuje i druge načine kako bi osigurao priliku i koristi našim članovima i onima koji to žele postati.

JEDNOSTAVAN PRISTUP (EASY ACCESS)

je proizvod namijenjen članovima koji žele veću fleksibilnost kod ulaganja svojih sredstava bez obzira stanja i kretanje novca na tržištu. To je potaknulo ideju o uvođenju novog anuitetskog programa i sklapanja ugovora na plog sredstava. Jednostavan pristup uložnim sredstvima od strane članova i potencijalnih članova odgovor je i pružena mogućnost zadovoljiti njihove potrebe.

Ovaj novi, ponuđeni proizvod, ugovor o ulogu u anuitete temelji se na dosadašnjem ugovoru HBZ-a bez naknade kod raskida (Zero Surrender Charges). U ovom osmišljenom ugovoru kroz Jednostavan pristup kamata je 3% kroz ograničeno vrijeme do 31. prosinca 2026., uz zajamčeni minimalni iznos od 2.4%.

Sklopljeni anuitetski ugovor omogućuje podizanje novca u bilo koje vrijeme, djelomično ili u punom iznosu bez globe (penalty). **Dakle, ne postoji bilo koja naknada za prijevremenu isplatu.** Na kraju ove godine, 31. prosinca 2026. Financijski odbor HBZ odrediti će daljnju kamatnu stopu za slijedeće tromjesečje, ovisno o financijskom stanju na tržištu novca.

ČLANOVI MLADI OD 59 I POL GODINA

moraju imati na umu da porezna uprava IRS može odrediti novčanu kaznu za prijevremeno podizanje novca, s obzirom na status odgode plaćanja poreza kod različitih vrsta anuiteta, te potiče vlasnike računa da ne podižu sredstva prije vremena. Svi anuiteti i IRA ugovori podliježu pravilima IRS-a prema kojima se većina podizanja sredstava osoba mlađih od 59 i pol godina kažnjava novčanom kaznom. Zato ovim članovima, ove životne dobi iskreno preporučamo da razmotre ponudu anuitete u programu Izbor dva (Choice Two) HBZ-a.

PODSJETNIK O POSEBNOJ PONUDI ŽIVOTNOG OSIGURANJA HBZ-A

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

Ova specijalna ponuda vrijedi do 31. prosinca 2026. Standardne odrednice Zajednice će se primjenjivati kod odobravanja životnog osiguranja na ovoj ponudi.

Ako vam je potrebno više saznati o našim programima i koristima koje pružamo, nazovite nas na broj 412-843-0380 ili posjetite na web stranicama www.cfu.org.

smijemo dopustiti da naša djeca ne znaju od kud su im geni, i kako bih ja kao biokemičar rekla (to sam rekla na 8. Ličkom prelu u Sisku 22.11.2025.): Mora postojati lički gen: gen tvrdoglavosti, snage, dobrote i ponosa!

I kako bi se to na hrvatskom reklo: Save the date! Ovogodišnje 9. Ličko prelo održat će se 21.11.2026. u Hotelu Panonija u Sisku.

Još nije gotov konačan poziv jer su dogovori u tijeku, ali Vas srdačno pozivam na naše prelo u Sisku! Bit je u zajedništvu! To ne smijemo izgubiti!

I da, ukoliko ste u mogućnosti podržati naš rad sugestijama

/ donacijom / slično, koji je sve veći što zahtjeva puno rada, vremena, osobnog angažmana i novaca, a uz rad to nije lako, na našoj web stranici su informacije za IBAN računa. Kako god, hvala!

Što reći, nego nadam se da ćemo surađivati, vidjeti se negdje, izmijeniti emocije ljubavi prema Hrvatskoj, kako bi to naši preci sigurno priželjkivali!

Srdačni pozdravi iz Siska!
Manuela Miletić
Dr. sc. Manuela Miletić,
specijalist medicinske biokemije
Manuela Miletić, PhD,
European Specialist in
Laboratory Medicine (EuSpLM)





DEATHS REPORTED

FROM AUGUST 4 TO AUGUST 17, 2026

3	Julia M. Leader	McKeesport, PA
13	Henry C. Tamanini	Steelton, PA
32	Barbara A. Banich	Chicago, IL
32	Carl Churlin	Chicago, IL
32	Vilka Ilic	Chicago, IL
32	Joseph J. Jugovich	Chicago, IL
72	Joan M. Shushok	Uniontown, PA
141	Todd E. Waszkiewicz	E. Pittsburgh, PA
146	Emma M. Beck	Versailles, PA
146	John J. Nohavicka	Versailles, PA
146	Elizabeth Oeler	Versailles, PA
217	LaVerne J. Bilich	Benld, IL
235	George Markulin	Cleveland, OH
248	Kent M. Blaisdell	Clairton, PA
304	Mary Beitch	Ambridge, PA
310	Frances I. Benedetto	Columbus, OH
354	Martha J. Luketich	Cokeburg, PA
354	Francis P. Pepka	Cokeburg, PA
530	Ivan Mavretic	St. Thomas, ON
541	David C. Mikach	Trafford, PA
557	Mary D. Hacic	Buffalo, NY
995	Ana Baresic	Cleveland, OH
1983	John G. Nicholas	Sunnyvalle, CA
2000	Ivan Marincic	Zagreb, HR

Nikad više tvrdi kruh: Stavite ovo u kutiju i ostat će svjež i mekan danima

Nema većeg razočaranja nego kada se cijelo jutro veselite sendviču, a onda shvatite da je kruh postao tvrd i ustajao. Upravo se to često događa s kvalitetnim kruhom koji ne sadrži konzervanse ni sredstva za sprječavanje razvoja plijesni. Ako se ne čuva pravilno, vrlo brzo gubi svježinu, zbog čega mnogi traže jednostavne načine kako mu produljiti trajnost. Osim klasične kutije za kruh, postoji još jedan trik koji posljednjih mjeseci privlači veliku pozornost. Sve što vam treba je – stabljika celera.

Portal Food Republic razgovarao je s Domenicom Tolomeom, glavnim chefom tvrtke Orlando Food Sales, koji je objasnio zašto ova metoda može biti učinkovita. Tajna je, kaže, u velikom udjelu vode koji celer prirodno sadrži.

Kada se stabljika celera stavi u vrećicu ili kutiju s kruhom, postupno otpušta malu količinu vlage u zrak. Ta dodatna vlaga pomaže usporiti isušivanje kruha pa on dulje ostaje mekan i svjež – pojasnio je Tolomeo.

Tvrđi kruh

Ako vam se na prvu učini da bi dodatna vlaga mogla pretvoriti kruh u gnjecavu masu, stručnjak tvrdi da za to nema razloga.

Za razliku od izravnog dodavanja vode ili stvaranja kondenzacije, što bi kruh učinilo mekanim i pogodovalo razvoju plijesni, celer vlagu otpušta postupno i u malim količinama. Ipak, s vremenom će i kruh i celer početi izjednačavati razinu vlage, zbog čega je ovaj trik namijenjen isključivo kratkotrajnom čuvanju – istaknuo je.

Nije dovoljno samo dodati celer

Ipak, jedna stabljika celera sama po sebi neće učiniti čuda. Za najbolji rezultat važno je i mjesto na kojem čuvate kruh.



Tolomeo preporučuje da se kruh drži na hladnom i suhom mjestu, najbolje u kutiji za kruh ili papirnatoj vrećici koja omogućuje laganu cirkulaciju zraka. Na taj se način sprječava nakupljanje viška vlage, a time i razvoj plijesni.

Papirnata vrećica, dodaje, mnogo je bolji izbor od plastične jer plastika zadržava vlagu, što može ubrzati kvarenje kruha ako se stanje ne prati redovito.

Zamrzavanje je i dalje najbolje rješenje

Koliko god ovaj trik bio praktičan, stručnjaci upozoravaju da nijedna metoda ne može zauvijek održati kruh svježim. Celer može usporiti njegovo isušivanje, ali ne može zaustaviti prirodan proces starenja.

Jedna stvar koju nikako ne biste trebali raditi jest čuvati kruh u hladnjaku. Suh zrak u hladnjaku izvlači vlagu iz kruha pa on puno brže postaje tvrd nego kada se čuva na sobnoj temperaturi.

Ako kruh planirate sačuvati dulje vrijeme, najbolji izbor ipak je zamrzavanje.

Ja ga uvijek narežem na kriške prije nego što ga stavim u zamrzivač. Tako svaki put možete izvaditi samo onoliko koliko vam je potrebno, bez odmrzavanja cijele štruce – savjetovao je Domenico Tolomeo. Iva Novak/izvjest.

Zaklada...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

suprugu, Karen, s kojom je bio u braku četrdeset četiri godine sve do njezine smrti 2015. godine.

Nastavak obrazovanja bio je cjeloživotni pothvat, pa je Joe 1975. godine stekao doktorat iz javnog zdravstva na Sveučilištu Maryland, a kasnije je radio na fakultetu na San Diego State University prije nego što je služio u nekoliko uloga u saveznoj vladi u Washingtonu, D.C.

Prvo smo se upoznali s bratom Cindrichom u St. Louisu, Missouri, na osnivačkom sastanku Nacionalne federacije hrvatskih Amerikanaca 1994. Joe je bio predstavnik Croatian Scholarship Fund (CSF) iz San Francisca, organizacije koja dod-

94. Godišnji Hrvatski...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

šnjavati iz kojih dijelova Hrvatske nošnje dolaze. Modnu reviju će pratiti Kolo klinika s vrlo talentiranim Arianom Ordway koja će učiti neke osnovne korake kako plesati kolo. Ulaz je besplatan!

Naravno, dan ne bi bio potpun bez prilike da uživate u ukusnoj hrvatskoj hrani. Za našu proslavu Hrvatskog dana 2026., Odbor za stogodišnjicu proslavu Hrvatskog doma u Rankinu prodavat će godišnje favorite... čevape i sarmu, dok će članovi Odbora za proslavu Hrvatskog doma prodavati svoje ukusne hrvatske domaće kolače. Planirajte doći i uživati u prekrasnoj hrani pripremljenoj posebno za ovaj godišnji događaj.

Počevši od 6 sati navečer, pa sve do 10 navečer, veselu glazbu pružat će uvijek popularni TS Radost, svirajući za vaše plesanje i slušanje dolje u baru.

Dok se pripremamo za 94. godišnje slavlje našeg Hrvatskog dana, koristimo ovu priliku da zahvalimo Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici za njihove mnoge godine podrške, a posebno što su nam pružili toliko nevjerojatnog glazbenog talenta za godišnja slavlja tijekom godina.

Najviše od svega... posebna ZAHVALA SVIMA VAMA koji podržavate ovaj Odbor i ovaj naš Hrvatski dan u znak priznanja naše hrvatske baštine posljednje 93 godine!

U ime našeg Odbora za proslavu Hrvatskog dana, srdačno pozdravljamo sve vas da nam se pridružite u nedjelju, 6. rujna, za još jedan prekrasan dan sjajne glazbe, fantastične hrane i ugodnog druženja dok slavimo našu hrvatsku kulturu, identitet i baštinu. Nadamo se da ćete nas i dalje podržavati još idućih 93 godine. Hvala!

Mike Ricci/Predsjednik

Službeno glasilo HBZ

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

jeljuje financijsku pomoć studentima koji žive u Hrvatskoj i Bosni i Hercegovini, dok je HBZ bila zastupana s deset delegata, uključujući moje kolege, naš Nacionalni predsjednik Luketich, potpredsjednik Brigicha i ja. Joe se brzo istaknuo tijekom sljedećih više od dvadeset pet godina kao stručan, brižan i marljiv podržavatelj naših hrvatskih braće i sestara u domovini. Prvo tijekom rata za neovisnost, a potom tijekom narednih mirnodopskih godina kada je NFCA nastavio osiguravati Kongresu i Ministarstvu vanjskih poslova SAD-a informacije vitalne za interese Hrvatske i njezinih ljudi (uključujući Hrvate koji žive u Bosni i Hercegovini).

Joeov rad s NFCA-om, kao i s CSF-om, donio mu je mnoge nagrade i prilike za susret s izabranim američkim liderima, uključujući predsjednika Billa Clintona, potpredsjednika Ala Gora, kao i predsjednicu Republike Hrvatske Kolindu Grabar-Kitarović. Kako su godine prolazile, a brat Joe predvodio vodstvo u dobročiniteljskim organizacijama,

naši su se putevi rjeđe susretali. Međutim, kada nas je brat Steve Rukavina, predsjednik NFCA CF-a, obavijestio o njegovoj nominaciji za značajnu nagradu njegove alma matere, brzo smo se složili da pružimo vlastitu podršku ovoj nominaciji za prestižnu nagradu na Sveučilištu Indiana. Tijekom 26. četverogodišnje konvencije HBZ u Clevelandu, OH, u rujnu 2023. godine, bili smo vrlo zadovoljni što smo našim delegatima predstavili dr. Josepha Cindricha, Ph.D., i čestitali mu na primanju nagrade!

Završavamo ovaj članak s našim prisjećanjem na prijateljstvo koje je postojalo između našeg pokojnog Nacionalnog predsjednika emeritusa Bernarda Luketicha i brata Josepha Cindricha, koje je bez sumnje bilo utemeljeno na hrvatskim vrijednostima koje su im prenijeli njihovi očevi rudari – obojica su odrasli u rudarskim gradovima, s poniznim počecima koji su obelshrabivali njihove životne uspjehe. Bilo je zadovoljstvo i čast poznavati i nazivati ih našim prijateljima.

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

(Nastavak sa 8. strane)

su djeca postala njihova proširena djeca. Ljubav prema hrvatskoj kulturi, posebno prema tamburaškoj glazbi i folkloru, prenesena je na njihove dvije kćeri, Marlene i Bernadette. Njezino znanje o hrvatskim narodnim nošnjama i pravilnom načinu nošenja na djeci bilo je neprocjenjivo za ansambl, jer se brinula o stotinama hrvatskih narodnih nošnji koje koriste mladi tamburaši. To je bila prirodna strast Marthe, jer je željela usađivati ponos u stotine djece koja su nastupala na pozornici kao članovi junior tamburice. Dok je muževljeva pozicija Nacionalnog predsjednika zahtijevala prisustvovanje čestim banketima i svečanim proslavama, Martha je bila zadovoljna što je „snažna žena“ iza uspješnog muškarca. Kao prva dama Hrvatske bratske zajednice, ona je svoju ulogu ispunjavala s gracioznošću, dostojanstvom i skromnošću. Bila je aktivna na svoj način, služeći kao odbornica lokalnog odsjeka, kao i česti delegat na Nacionalnim konvencijama HBZ-a, predstavljajući svoj odsjek 354. Osim toga, bila je dugogodišnja članica kuglačke lige odsjeka 354, gdje je sudjelovala sa svojim prijateljicama Louisom, Melevom, Doris, Midge i Dorothy. Često je prisustvovala na Nacionalnom kuglačkom turniru HBZ-a kao dio sastava kuglača iz Cokeburga. Martha je odavala počast tradicijama ne samo kroz kostime i folklor, već i kroz svoj poznati pečeni štrudel i druge hrvatske delicije koje su s nestrpljenjem očekivali brojni gosti na proslavama ili događanjima u Hrvatskom domu u Cokeburgu.

Zaista je bila stalni dio Hrvatskog doma; neki bi rekli „dom koji je Bernie izgradio“. Martha i Bernie su svojim mnogobrojnim prijateljima i gostima izvan grada pružali toplu i iskrenu dobrodošlicu. Prijatelji koji su postali poput obitelji, MaryAnn i pokojnog Mariana Boljkovac te Mirjane i Franje Bertović iz Kanade i toliko drugih iz cijelih SAD-a i Kanade.

Ovo je u pravom duhu kršćanstva, „dočekati prijatelja, susjeda ili čak stranaca kao što biste dočekali voljenu osobu“, uz osmijeh i prijateljsku riječ dobrodošlice. To je Martha koju se ja sjećam i znam da se vi svi također sjećate.

Jedan od pravih znakova dobro življenog života jest nasljeđe koje ostavljamo iza sebe. Vjerujemo da Martha i Bernard mogu mirno počivati znajući da su temelji ljubavi, časti i tradicije koje su usađivali svojim kćerima preneseni na generacije koje dolaze. Trajni trag vjere, ljubavi, dobrote i bratstva.

U ime mojih kolega iz Nacionalne uprave Hrvatske bratske zajednice, od kojih su mnogi ovdje danas, izražavamo najiskreniju i najdublju sućut kćerima Marlene i Bernadette, njihovim supruzima Danu Kochisu i Johnu Sikarasu; unucima - Dereku i Amandi, Adamu, Marku i praunucima Karlu i Zori zbog gubitka njihove matriarhinje.

A za dragu Marthu...molimo se da sada uživa u svjetlu vječnog spasenja omogućenom križem i uskrснуćem našeg Gospodina i Spasitelja Isusa Krista. Amen.

Slava joj vječna i neka počiva u miru Božjem!



Zašto je jedrenje Hrvatskom najljepši način da doživite Jadran

Hrvatska je destinacija koja kao da je stvorena za nautiku. Njezina razvedena obala, mirno more, brojni otoci, uvale, marine i očuvani prirodni krajolici čine je jednim od najprivlačnijih prostora Mediterana za jedrenje, krstarenje i opušteno istraživanje ljepote obale i otoka.

Plovidba Jadranom nije samo način putovanja, nego iskustvo povezivanja s prirodom. Boravak na plovilu omogućuje mir, privatnost i bijeg od užurbane svakodnevice, uz osjećaj slobode koji se najpotpunije doživljava upravo pod jedrima. Hrvatska ima drugu najrazvedeniju obalu na Mediteranu, a Kornati su najrazvedenija otočna skupina. Uz pretežno mirno more, niz zaštićenih uvala i razvijenu infrastrukturu marina, nautički turizam ovdje ima sve preduvjete za autentičan i premium doživljaj.

Posebna vrijednost plovidbe je mogućnost dolaska do prirodnih plaža, skrivenih uvala i restorana dostupnih samo plovilom, od lokalnih autentičnih konoba do ekskluzivnih restorana. Rute mogu uključivati jedinstvene krajolike nacionalnih parkova Brijuni, Kornati, Krka i Mljet te parkova prirode Lastovsko otočje i Telašćica. Upravo zato jedrenje

Hrvatskom postaje oblik "slow travel" putovanja – smirenog, sadržajnog i duboko povezanog s prostorom. Desetljećima privlači nautičare iz cijelog svijeta, od Argentine, Brazila i Sjedinjenih Američkih Država do Australije.

Ekosustav i okoliš

Za mnoge goste plovidba je i alternativa klasičnom odmoru na kopnu. Umjesto stalnog pakiranja i seljenja, plovilo postaje smještaj koji putuje s njima. Svaki dan može donijeti novu uvalu, otok, mjesto, zalazak sunca ili gastronomski doživljaj. Plovila je moguće unajmiti duž cijele obale, od Istre i Kvarnera, preko zadarskog, šibenskog i splitskog područja, do Makarske, Ploča i Dubrovnika. Dostupne su jedrilice, katamarani, motorne jahte, motorni brodovi i guleti, kao i mogućnost rezervacije kabine na većim ili manjim plovilima.

Hrvatska ima veliku čarter-flotu, a plovila se najčešće iznajmljuju na tjedan dana, od subote do subote. Oni koji ne znaju ploviti mogu angažirati domaće skipere, profesionalce koji dobro poznaju područje jedrenja, vremenske prilike i život na moru. Ruta se može prilagođavati željama gostiju.

Nautički odmor donosi i odgovornost prema prirodi. Pri sidrenju je posebno važno ne sidriti se na područjima morske cvjetnice Posidonia oceanica, poznate kao "pluća Jadrana", jer ona čuva morski ekosustav i okoliš. Boravak na sidru, pod zvjezdanim nebom, u zaštićenoj uvali, za mnoge je najljepši dio putovanja – trenutak u kojem se more, tišina i priroda pretvaraju u osobni doživljaj slobode.

No Hrvatska nije samo prirodna kulisa za jedrenje. Boravak na plovilu omogućuje neposredno upoznavanje lokalne kulture, autentičnog života otoka i priobalnih mjesta te bogate kulturne baštine. Posjeti povijesnim

selima, crkvicama, muzejima, interpretacijskim centrima i lokalnim događanjima otkrivaju Jadran kroz običaje, gastronomiju, glazbu, tradicijske obrte i svakodnevicu ljudi koji stoljećima žive s morem.

Jedrenje na Jadranu

Pomorska baština važan je dio identiteta. Uz ribarstvo, maslinarstvo, vinarstvo i uzgoj mediteranskih kultura, čuvaju se i vještine poput gradnje i održavanja drvenih brodova, među kojima su gajete, leuti i batane. Hrvatska njeguje i nematerijalnu kulturnu baštinu, od izrade paške čipke i klapskog pjevanja do procesije Za Križen, umijeća gradnje suhozida i tradicijskih igara poput boćanja. Živopisni svjetionici, UNESCO-ovi lokaliteti i bogata pomorska tradicija dodatno potvrđuju koliko je more utkano u hrvatsku povijest i način života.

Online plaćanje

Važan praktični dio odnosi se na turističku pristojbu. Svaki gost koji noći na plovilu u najmu, kao i gosti na privatnim plovilima, domaćim i stranim, dužni su platiti turističku pristojbu u nautici. Gosti u čarteru turističku pristojbu plaćaju prilikom ukrcaja, dok vlasnici privatnih plovila pristojbu plaćaju online putem portala nautika.evisitor.hr. Online plaćanje moguće je po duljini plovila ili po broju noćenja na plovilu. Vlasnici plovila koje nije plovni objekt nautičkog turizma pristojbu ne mogu kupiti u prostorijama lučkih kapetanija i ispostava.

Hrvatska turistička zajednica nastavlja snažno promovirati nautički turizam kao jedan od premium proizvoda. U proljeće je plasirana posebna kampanja na tržištima Njemačke, Austrije, Češke, Ujedinjene Kraljevine, Poljske i Švedske putem online i offline kanala. Hrvatska se tradicionalno predstavlja i na vodećim nautičkim sajmovima, uključujući BOOT Düsseldorf, Austrian Boat Show - Boot Tulln, Southampton Boat Show, Annapolis Sail Boat Show, Seatrade Cruise Global i METSTRADE Amsterdam.

Promocija se dodatno oslanja na studentska putovanja i iskustvene programe za inozemne novinare. U listopadu 2025. organizirano je nautičko putovanje na području Šibensko-kninske županije, tijekom kojeg su predstavnici medija istražili Šibenik, Skradin, NP Krku, Prvić, Zlarin, Tribunj, Primošten i Nacionalni park Kornati. Cilj je bio pokazati da Hrvatska nudi održajan i autentičan doživljaj i izvan glavnih ljetnih mjeseci, kada su uvjeti za plovidbu idealni, a destinacije mirnije. U svibnju 2026. organizirano je i studentsko putovanje na katamaranima u Splitsko-dalmatinskoj županiji.

Posebno mjesto u promociji jedrenja zauzima Fiumanka, manifestacija koja je iz jedne regate izrasla u višednevni događaj za profesionalne jedriličare, studente, poslovne timove, rekreativce, obitelji i djecu. Nautika u Hrvatskoj zato nije samo plovidba od jedne točke do druge. Ona je susret s prirodom, ljudima, tradicijom i morem. To je prilika da se otkriju ljepote obale i otoka, da se osjeti mir zaštićenih uvala, upozna bogata baština te doživi Jadran na način koji ostaje u sjećanju dugo nakon povratka na kopno.

Jutarnji list

Your Attention and Assistance is Needed

Traveling to meet these weekly obligations, the priest has been utilizing a car which is in poor condition, placing his welfare at risk as he often also travels in less than optimum weather conditions.

To help ensure the future safety of the priest as he dutifully travels to provide Mass for the Catholic faithful in the Croatian language in numerous cities, an initiative has been launched to raise funds for the purchase of a newer and safer vehicle for his travel needs. We have been informed that this initiative will continue until sufficient funds are raised.

Encouraged by the spirit and desire to preserve our Croatian identity, language, and centuries-old Catholic faith in the diaspora, this faithful servant is well-deserving of the generosity of those who support his endeavors to share the joys of our Catholic faith in the Croatian language.

Concerned individuals are asked to please be generous and send your contributions to: The Croatian Commissariat of the Third Order of St. Francis, Inc., 1011 Upshur St., Washington, DC 20017.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Editors

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.



Scenes From
58th Annual Junior
Tamburitza
Festival
July 3-5
Cleveland, Ohio

◀ **FIRST PLACE WINNER OF
THE 2026 Junior Festival Logo
contest** Michael Hilzendegar of
the Jadran Junior Tamburitza
with President of the CFU Junior
Cultural Federation Mike Ricci.



OBITUARIES



Martha J. Luketich



Jan 6, 1929 — Aug 10, 2026
COKEBURG, PA - Martha J. Luketich passed away peacefully on August 10, 2026 at Southmont Presbyterian Senior Care in Washington, Pennsylvania. She was born on January 6, 1929 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania to Mike Cindric and Anna (Kekich) Cindric and was raised in nearby West Leisenring.

After graduating from North Union High School, Martha worked briefly as a secretary to the school's supervising principal. In the early 1950s, she accepted a secretarial position at the Home Office of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America, where she worked for several years in the office of the Supreme Secretary.

It was through her involvement in the Croatian community that Martha met her future husband, Bernard M. Luketich of Cokeburg. Bernard had been invited by Martha's father to teach Croatian dances at the Croatian Hall in Uniontown. Martha went on to organize the CFU Lodge 72 Kolo Group, and through their shared love of Croatian culture and community, their friendship blossomed into love.

Martha and Bernard were married on September 20, 1952, and shared a remarkable 63-year marriage filled with love, family, friendship, and service to their community, until Bernard's passing on December 8, 2015.

As Bernard's career and leadership within the Croatian Fraternal Union and the Croatian community grew in importance, Martha was steadfastly by his side. Her love, encouragement, and unwavering support were instrumental in all that he accomplished. She was truly the embodiment of the phrase, "Behind every successful man is a woman." Yet Martha was much more than a supportive wife; she embraced and distinguished herself in the role of First Lady of the Croatian Fraternal Union. With grace, warmth, and genuine dedication, she became an important and beloved presence within the Croatian community, leaving a legacy of her own alongside Bernard's.

Martha also embraced a number of important roles within their local CFU Lodge 354 "St. George" of Cokeburg. She served for many years as a member of the Board of Trustees and proudly represented her Lodge at six National CFU Quadrennial Conventions. Over the years, she generously donated her time to cleaning and maintaining the Croatian Home and was especially known for baking her popular apple and cheese strudels for the many annual events held there.

Perhaps her most cherished responsibility was caring for and managing the extensive collection of original Croatian national costumes worn by the St. George Jr. Tamburitans. Martha took meticulous care not only of the beautiful costumes, but also of the many young performers who wore them. She lovingly dressed and prepared hundreds of children for performances throughout the United States, Canada, and Croatia. Her patience, kindness, and genuine affection for the children earned their respect and admiration—a bond that many of them carried with them throughout their lives and continue to hold to this day.

George Biondic



ORLAND PARK, IL - George Biondic, age 88, of Orland Park, IL, formerly of Chicago, IL, passed away August 7, 2026.

He was born on May 4, 1938.

Loving Husband of the late Therese. Beloved Pa of Katie (the late Richard) Kubis, Matt (Mary) Biondic and Steve Biondic. Devoted Popi of Sean, Kevin (Chelsea) Biondic, Barry, Ryan and Fiona Biondic. Great-grandpa of Luca. Dear brother of the late Josephine Biondic and Lillian (the late Michael) Vucinic. Also, many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Lifelong friend of Carol Healy.

Visitation was held August 12, at Richard J. Modell Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Homer Glen, IL, until the time of the funeral service, followed by Mass at Our Lady of the Woods Church. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations to be kindly made to your favorite animal shelter or charity of your choice.

George was a member of CFU Lodge 32 of Chicago, IL.

May he rest in eternal peace.

The Family of George V. Biondic

★ 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**

In addition to her deep dedication to her Croatian heritage and the Croatian Fraternal Union, Martha and her husband, Bernard, were devoted to their local community and the people who called it home. Together, they generously shared their time, resources, and compassion with the Borough of Cokeburg and its residents. They were always willing to lend a helping hand and extended genuine kindness, friendship, and care to their neighbors and those around them.

A devoted Catholic and a member of St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Martha was a woman of deep and abiding faith. Her Catholic faith was an integral part of her life, providing her with strength, comfort, and guidance throughout the years. She faithfully prayed the Rosary each evening, a cherished practice that reflected the depth of her devotion to God and her unwavering faith.

Martha is survived by her two daughters, Marlene (Daniel) Kochis and Bernadette (John) Sikaras; grandsons, Derek (Amanda) Hohn, Adam Henderson, and Marko Kochis; great-grandchildren, Karlo and Zora; as well as nieces, nephews, and many dear friends, especially Meleva Pohlot, Kathy McGaha and Drago Luketich.

In addition to her parents, Martha was preceded in death by her loving husband, Bernard; her sister, Dorothy Smargie; and her brother, Joseph Cindric.

Arrangements were entrusted to Leonard M. Pavlic Funeral Homes, Inc., Bentleyville, PA, where visitation was held on August 17 and 18. A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated on August 19, at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Bentleyville, PA, with Celebrant Rev. Edward L. Yuhas, pastor, and Concelebrants, Rev. Pierre M. Falkenhan, Jr., former pastor and member of Lodge 354, and Rev. Phillip P. Pribonic, STB, longtime family friend.

Interment followed at St. Luke's Cemetery, located directly behind the church. CFU National President Edward W. Pazo, offered a fitting eulogy on behalf of the Society.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the professionals and staff of Southmont Presbyterian Senior Care for the compassionate and excellent care they provided to their mother.

The family also extends their heartfelt appreciation to the members of the CFU, as well as to their family, friends and neighbors, for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support they have received.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be directed to the CFU Scholarship Foundation, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

May she rest in Eternal Peace. Slava Joj Vječna!

The Family of Martha J. Luketich

On behalf of our family, we thank everyone for the many expressions of sympathy extended to us upon the death of our mom, Martha Luketich. Every word and every gesture have moved us and we are sincerely grateful.

Martha was an extraordinary woman who not only fulfilled her roles of loving wife and mother, but stood by our father's side with grace, warmth, and dignity as First Lady of our Society for many years. She supported him in a way that allowed him to accomplish great things and positively impact the lives of others.

Our mother gained the respect of many, particularly throughout the Croatian Fraternal Union and within her local community for her generosity, warmth, hospitality, and hard work.

She will be greatly missed by many.

We truly appreciate your words of sympathy and your prayers for our dear mother.

Bernadette, Marlene and Family

Mary Josephine Greger



CARMICHAELS, PA - Mary Josephine Greger, 87, of Carmichaels, PA, formerly of Elizabeth Township, PA, passed away on August 4, 2026.

She was born March 20, 1939 in Duquesne, PA and was the daughter of the late Michael Paul and Serena Anna (Stenger) McGrail. She was the loving wife of 63 years to the late David Donald Greger, who passed away on November 27, 2025.

Mary Jo worked in the Secretary/Treasurer's Department at the Croatian Fraternal Union Home Office for a number of years and as a clerk for US Steel. She and her husband belonged to St. Michael's Church and attended Mass at the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer in Elizabeth, PA. Like her husband, her greatest joy was her grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Joseph Greger of Alexandria, VA; daughter Theresa (Nicholas) Hetrick of Carmichaels, PA; grandchildren, Anna and Danny Hetrick; brother, John (Pat) McGrail of Hidden Valley; nieces and nephews.

Friends were welcomed on August 12 at the Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc., Elizabeth Township, PA. Mass of Christian Burial was held on August 13, at the Divine Redeemer Mother House, Elizabeth, PA, with Father Ed Wichman officiating. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Port Vue, PA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer or Meals on Wheels of Elizabeth Township, 100 Timothy Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037.

Mary Jo was a member of CFU Lodge 146 of Versailles, PA.

May she rest in Eternal Peace.

The Family of Mary Josephine Greger



Protect your family with insurance from the Croatian Fraternal Union

The Society That Cares! 412-843-0380

Tips

From the Home Office

Addresses: Current, New and Changes

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

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

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

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

Remember: Keep your address current with the Home Office.

The Need For Keeping Beneficiaries Up To Date

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

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

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

Please call us at 412/843-0380.

Cooking Corner

- ### Tuna-White Bean Salad

1 15-oz. can cannellini (white) beans, drained
2 5-oz. cans flaked tuna, drained
2 Tbsp. fresh minced parsley
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1/4 c. diced red onion, or 2 Tbsp. dry minced onion
1-2 Tbsp. vinegar, (to taste)

Place all ingredients in large bowl. Mix all well and chill 2-3 hours before serving.

Can be served over bed of lettuce or just eat alone.
- ### Chicken Pot Pie

1 can (10.5 oz.) Cream of Chicken soup
1 pkg. (about 9 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
1 cup cubed cooked chicken
1/2 cup milk
1 egg
1 cup Bisquick baking mix

In mixing bowl combine and mix soup, vegetables and chicken. Pour into 9" pie plate. Mix milk, egg and baking mix. Pour over chicken mixture.

Bake 30 minutes in 400-degree oven, or until golden.

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.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR GARDEN RECIPES.

There is nothing better than fresh veggies from the garden to cook or snack on.

So share your favorite delights with our members, those picnics, family dinners and special events will be that much tastier.

Send in your favorite summertime recipes. *Cooking Corner has the instructions how to submit all recipes.*

5

Reasons Why You Should Consider Life Insurance:

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

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.

- **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
• • • • •

Lodge 530 Holds Summer Picnic

ST. THOMAS, ON - CFU Lodge 530 “Ogulin” warmly invites all its members and friends to their Summer Picnic which will be held on Sunday, August 30. It will be held at the picnic grounds immediately follow Holy Mass scheduled for 11 a.m. St. Leopold Mandić Parish is located at 2889 Westminster Dr., London, ON N6N 1L7.

The lodge is very pleased to have special guests, the Croatian American Folklore Ensemble “Nova Nada”. This year our guests will join us in the Bocce Tournament following the meal.

Spit-roasted pork and chicken will be available for \$25 which includes refreshments as well.

The popular singer and accordion player Tomica Peretić will be in attendance to entertain throughout the afternoon.

We hope to see you all on Sunday, August 30th. Welcome!

Franjo Bertović/President
• • • • •

Junior Tamburitians of Duquesne Picnic August 30

DUQUESNE, PA - The Junior Tamburitians of Duquesne invite friends, families, alumni, and supporters to our annual picnic fundraiser on Sunday, August 30, at the Croatian Center Picnic Grounds, 80 Schuetzen Park Road, Millvale, PA 15209.

Gates open at 12 p.m. Admission is \$5, and the public is welcome.

Enjoy a fun afternoon featuring homemade food, delicious baked goods, cold drinks, a full kitchen and bar, and live entertainment. Performances begin at 1:30 p.m. with the talented Junior Tamburitians of Duquesne, with additional guest performers to be announced. Live dance music throughout the afternoon will be provided by the Duquesne Dads, featuring Brock Belich, Justin Greenwald, Paul Hladio, John Huckle, David Kosovec and Peter Kosovec.

Join us for a wonderful summer afternoon of music, food and friendship while supporting the Junior Tamburitians of Duquesne. Proceeds from the picnic help provide opportunities for young people to learn and preserve the rich traditions of Croatian and other Slavic music, dance, and culture.

We look forward to seeing you on August 30!

Mary Sestric/Lodge 1

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

BAKE SALES • SPECIAL DINNERS • CULINARY DELIGHTS

Lodge 515 Annual Scholarship Luncheon on November 22

TORONTO, ON - CFU Lodge 515 "Bernard M. Luketich" will host its annual scholarship luncheon in memory of Magdalena Mary Smintich on Sunday, November 22. This year we return to gather at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 31 - Mount Dennis at 1050 Weston Road in Toronto.

Applications for the "2026 Magdalena Mary Smintich Scholarship Aid" awards are now being accepted. Application is open to current Lodge 515 members who are students pursuing full-time studies at an accredited post-secondary institution, college, or university. The deadline for submission of applications is September 15, 2026.

For the current application form and for further information contact the Lodge 515 Council or the Magdalena Mary Smintich Scholarship Committee Chair, Jakop Smintich at jakops@yahoo.com or 647.515.2966.

Jakop Smintich/Lodge 515

Kolo Classes in Versailles

VERSAILLES, PA - Do you want to learn to kolo dance? Well, here is the perfect opportunity!

On Tuesday, September 15th, you can attend a free introductory lesson to see what the class is like. Then, on September 22nd, regular Kolo Class will resume. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to dance kolos, meet new people, and get good exercise while having fun.

The weekly lessons are on Tuesdays from 7 PM – 8:30 PM at the Versailles Croatian Club (upstairs), 4400 Third Street in Versailles, PA. The cost is \$5, and the instructor is Donna Vranesevic.

If you always wanted to learn to kolo dance, or if you already know how and just want to get exercise, why not come on September 15th? This is a perfect chance to relax and have fun. Join us on Tuesday evenings, and don't forget to bring a friend!

For more information, please call Eileen Novobilsky at 412-855-5610.

Steve Komazec/Lodge 141

Croatia: The Country and the Language Course Books

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

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

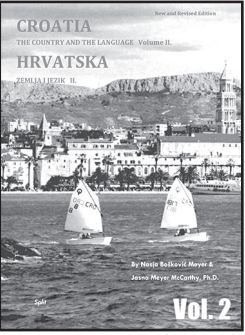
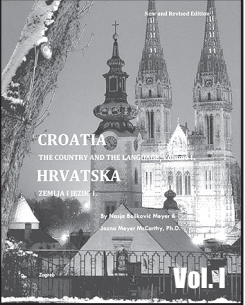
For those of you who may have bought only Volume 1 or for anyone who would like to purchase only Volume 2, we have a few copies of "Croatia: The Country and the Language" Volume 2 still available to sell. The cover picture on Volume 2 is a view from the sea of Split's harbour with sailboats and Diocletian's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

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

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

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

Nasja Meyer/Lodge 50



How to Email Your Materials to the “Z”

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

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

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

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

Editors



Croatian Festival Celebrates Another Great Year in Lorain

LORAIN, OH - The 2026 Croatian Festival, co-sponsored by CFU Lodge 136 and the American Croatian Club of Lorain, was another wonderful success!

This event would not have been possible without the dedication of our many volunteers, including members of CFU Lodge 136 and the Active and Social Members of the American Croatian Club. Your hard work,



enthusiasm, and commitment made the festival truly special—thank you!

A special thank-you to Mickey Dee and the Tamburitza Stars for entertaining the crowd with traditional Croatian songs, kolos, and polkas.

We also extend our gratitude to everyone who attended

and supported this year's festival. Guests traveled from Detroit, Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Chicago, and many communities across Ohio to enjoy an afternoon filled with Croatian culture, delicious traditional cuisine, refreshments, music, and dancing.



We look forward to welcoming you back in 2027 as we continue celebrating our rich Croatian heritage. The Lorain Croatian Festival is always held on the third Saturday in July, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Quarterly CFU Lodge 136 Meeting

Please note that our quarterly CFU Lodge 136 meeting will be held on Sunday, September 6, at 2 p.m., at the American Croatian Club Hall in Lorain. Please plan to attend. Refreshments will be served at 1:30 p.m. Hvala!

Donna Perichak Katrincsak
Lodge 136



TS RADOST of Pittsburgh will entertain the crowd at the 94th Annual Croatian Day celebration on Sunday, September 6th, at the Rankin Croatian Home. Come to sing along, dance and have a great time with this lively quartet of tamburitza who always make it is fun-filled time!

Bingo is Coming to Steelton!

STEELTON, PA - St. Lawrence CFU Lodge 13 is hosting two exciting bingo events this fall, and you won't want to miss either one!

Sunday, September 20 - All Cash Bingo

The St. Lawrence Adult Tamburitza are proud to present their popular All Cash

Bingo. Twenty games of bingo for just \$25 or \$30 at the door. The doors and the kitchen open at 11:30 a.m. and bingo begins at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the bar or from any Adult Tamburitza member.

Sunday, November 15 - BIG BINGO

Get ready for our biggest bingo event of the year! We are super excited about this event! The BIG BINGO features at least \$5,100 in total cash prizes, including an exciting \$1,000 Blackout Game. Your \$100 ticket includes 15

games of bingo, with individual game payouts ranging from \$250 to \$450, plus lunch and snacks.

In addition to the main games, there will be raffles and other chances to win throughout the day. Doors open at 11 a.m. and bingo begins at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the bar.

For more information or to purchase tickets for either event, contact Kaitlyn Malatestinic at 717-319-2028.

Tina Simpson
Recording Secretary

94th Annual Croatian Day...

(Continued from page 1)

specially prepared for this annual event.

Starting at 6 p.m., and continuing until 10 p.m., will be festive music provided by the ever-popular Radost Tamburitza Orchestra playing for your dancing and listening pleasure downstairs in the bar room.

As we prepare for the 94th Annual Celebration of our Croatian Day, we take this opportunity to thank the Croatian Fraternal Union for their many years of support and especially for providing us with so much incredible musical talent for the annual Croatian Day Celebrations throughout

the years.

Most of all...a special **THANK YOU to ALL of YOU** for supporting this Committee and this Day Recognizing our Croatian Heritage over the past 93 years!

On behalf of our Croatian Day Committee, we extend our warm welcome to one and all to join us on Sunday, Sept. 6, for yet another wonderful day of great music, fantastic food and enjoyable socializing as we celebrate our Croatian Culture, Identity and Heritage. We hope you will continue supporting us for the next 93 years. Hvala!

Mike Ricci/Chairman

Lodge 126...

(Continued from page 1)

Dec. 6, Sunday: Lodge 126 Meeting, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Croatian American Civic Club Meeting 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; Christmas Party, 3 p.m. Celebrate the festive season with a traditional Christmas dinner, live entertainment, dancing, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Regular Monthly Activities: Every Wednesday from 6 p.m., a variety of tasty ethnic meals are served at our

Croatian Home: 412 Staunton St., Farrell, PA 16121.

New Members Welcome - Join anytime and enjoy exclusive member benefits.

The Croatian Club thanks all members, volunteers, sponsors, and guests for their continued support throughout 2026. We look forward to sharing another wonderful year of friendship, tradition, and community.

Susan Yazvac/Rec. Secretary

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

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 _____

The Tamburitzens Swing “Fore” Scholarships

PITTSBURGH, PA
- Registration is now open on birdease.com/Tamburitzensgolf2026 for The Tamburitzens 16th Annual Swing “Fore” Scholarships Golf Outing on Monday, September 21, at the trendy 1781 Club in Peters Township, PA. Join us for another terrific day of golf, camaraderie, music and surprises as we tee off for scholarships benefitting our super talented student performers.

This fall begins our 90th year of bringing live performances to audiences of all ages throughout this country and beyond. The Tamburitzens are not-for-profit, so each donation is meaningful no matter the amount.

The ensemble exists to preserve and celebrate international cultural heritage through artistic performance while awarding talented performers scholarships to Pittsburgh-based colleges and universities for their contributions and dedication to the arts. This year, half of the ensemble, 12 performers, will be attending schools other than Duquesne University. This event benefits those students.

Various levels of sponsorships are available and golfers of all skill levels are welcome. Don’t wait! Read all about us and register today!

Joyce Crumbo
Lodge 2019

Ontario Federation of CFU Lodges Scholarships

HAMILTON, ON - This year the Ontario Federation of CFU Lodges will be awarding two scholarships to qualifying members entering college, university or trade school. (Undergrad or Postgrad students with a full-time student load of courses).

This scholarship is only awarded once to each member. Application forms can be emailed to you upon request from Mary Grubic at mgrubic.grubic@gmail.com.

The following must be included with your application, an Official copy of your transcript, completed application form, personal profile, reference from an executive from your lodge along with a photo. You must be a member of one of the Federation affiliated CFU Lodges for a minimum of three years and at least one parent or grandparent must also be a member of the CFU for at least three years. The chosen recipients will be notified by the Scholarship Committee.

Completed applications should be emailed to the above email or mailed to Mary Grubic, 4241 Sarazen Drive, Unit 24, Burlington, ON L7M 5B7 by October 15, 2026.

Mary Grubic/Chairperson

Ontario Federation of CFU Lodges Scholarship Committee

Consular Days in Pittsburgh and Cleveland

WASHINGTON, DC - The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold Consular Days in Pittsburgh, PA at the premises of the Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., **(by appointment only)** on the following dates: September 10; October 22; November 12; and December 3.

The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold Consular Days in Eastlake, OH at the premises of the American-Croatian Lodge Cardinal Stepinac, 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., **(by appointment only)** on the following dates: September 11; October 23; November 13; and December 4.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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

Mihovil Pažin

Embassy of Croatia/Washington, DC

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

GLENVIEW, IL – Mary Kay Turkovich-Hoffmann, in honor of Elizabeth, Mark, Joseph and William Hoffmann, Scholarship recipients \$200.00

WASHINGTON, PA – Samuel Lauricia, in memory of Mark Brigich 50.00

Towards the Brigich Family Scholarship Fund

CANONSBURG, PA – “F.D. Roosevelt” Lodge 567, in memory of Mark Brigich, “On June 29, Mark was laid to rest next to his father, Marko Brigich. His whole life was dedicated to farming and his father. He would meet Marko at 3 a.m. in the dairy barn to do the dairy chores, then field work late into the evening. Mark was a dedicated member of CFU Lodge 567, serving as our President after the passing of his uncle Joseph Brigich. He rarely missed a meeting. He always sent prospective individuals’ names for CFU membership to his aunt Catherine Obenour. He represented CFU Lodge 567 at several Conventions, even the last convention when he was very ill. Mark’s kind heart will be missed by all.” 100.00

Towards the Brigich Family Scholarship Fund

JOHNSTOWN, PA – “St. Rochus” Lodge 5, in memory of deceased lodge members Audrey Babich, Robert Evacko, Robert Fedore, James Machuta, Edwin Mikesic, Kathleen Mikesic and Tillie Plaza..... 350.00

Towards the “St Rochus” Lodge 5 Scholarship Fund

TOTAL THIS REPORT \$700.00

TOTAL COLLECTED..... \$6,938.12

DONATION

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

Name _____ Lodge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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



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\$17.76

APPLICANTS AGE 26 TO 70



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\$250

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Offer Valid May 6-December 31, 2026