

July 2021
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Established 1904

All Slavonic American Association

Let's get together ... We are planning a

Fall BBQ and Social Gathering

Sunday Afternoon, October 17

St. Peter the Apostle
Serbian Orthodox Church

3502 N. First St., Fresno

More specific details will be coming as we continue to plan for this
get-back-together event! **SAVE THE DATE !**

You can help us . . .

Please help us plan for a successful BBQ and Gathering by letting us know
how many from your family you anticipate will attend.

Call your Social Chair, Donna Smith, at **559-784-8859**,
or send her a text at **559-359-6767**. You can email allslavonic@gmail.com,
or respond to our post on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/allslavonic). (So many ways to say "YES!")

We hope to see all of you there ... and bring your friends, too!

2021 Scholarship Awarded



The All Slavonic American Association, through its Tom and Martha Slaven Scholarship Program, and with deep appreciation to the membership for their generous support, is pleased to announce our scholarship recipient for 2021:

The **Janice Mary Zaninovich Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,000.00 is being awarded to **Brock Obradovich**.



The Obradovich Family: Michael, Stacy, Brynlee, and Brock

Brock is the son of Michael and Stacy Obradovich and grandson of L.B. "Babe" and the late Sonja Obradovich. He is a graduate of Clovis North High School, Clovis, where he maintained a 4.2 grade point average and earned the distinction of Lifetime Member in the California Scholarship Federation, completing several Honors and AP classes. Brock will be attending **California State University, Fresno** and will be pursuing a degree in business. And speaking of business, Brock is quite enterprising ... He had his own lawn mowing business from age 13 until his freshman year, then he did pool cleaning during the summer months for two years.

After competing in football and track during his first two years in high school, Brock took a break from athletics to concentrate on academics, but continued to volunteer with a local outreach group, *Teens That Care*, to serve his community in several ways: helping at the Fresno food bank, making blankets for needy children, and writing letters to the elderly who were shut-in during COVID.

Congratulations, Brock! The ASAA membership extends our best wishes for your future educational endeavors; we are honored to be able to provide this scholarship support.



Who do you think you are?

We continue our series of short biographies, tracing family roots; for this issue we (David and Donna B.) took a drive to Sanger to visit ASAA member Mike Ubick at his winery, learning about Mike's family, his Croatian roots, and a little about wine making, too ...

The Klondike Gold Rush enticed an estimated 100,000 prospectors to the Klondike region of the Yukon, in north-western Canada, between 1896 and 1899. One of those prospectors was Mike Ubick's grandfather Mato Ljubić (1877-1943), who left his home in Hodilje, Croatia, approximately 60 km north of Dubrovnik, and headed for the Klondike. Mato arrived on the shores of the U.S. in 1898. At some point in the Ellis Island processing, Mato Ljubić became "Mike Ubick" and he continued on to Alaska. The gold mining boom was short-lived, however, so after working for a limited time in the mining industry, Mike (Mato) moved south and settled in Anacortes, Washington where he found work in a sawmill. While visiting another Croatian family, he noticed a photograph of their cousin, Kate Vranjican. So taken by her photo, Mike corresponded and asked Kate to come to America to be his bride. She left her home on Hvar and arrived at Ellis Island in 1908; Kate then traveled by train to Washington State, and on the 27th of April, 1908 they were married at St. Patrick's Church, Tacoma Washington.



In 1914 Mike's grandfather and his young family, grandmother Kate and three children, moved to Fresno and bought a 40-acre vineyard; that property is now part of the Fresno State farm school. Three additional children were born to the family, but tragedy struck in 1926 when Mato's wife (Mike's grandmother) Kate passed away. Within the next couple of years, Mike's grandfather returned to Croatia with his three youngest sons; he remained there for the rest of his life.



Mike and Tanya Ubick

Mike's father Nicholas (1911-2013) was the second oldest of the children, and he remained in the U.S. with his older sister Mary, living in Clovis and working on his brother-in-law's (Steve Budrovich) farm. By 1931 he had purchased his own 20-acre farm east of Clovis. In 1935 he met Agnes McCabe while visiting North Carolina with her brother-in-law's family. Nick and Agnes married in 1937 and made their home on the farm in Clovis; over the years they farmed wine grapes, raisins, peaches, garlic, watermelons, pumpkins, onions, olives, oat hay, and raised cattle! Nick also worked as a cement mason, and they raised their four children on the homestead.

The youngest of the four children was ASAA member Mike Ubick, born January 24, 1951. Mike attended Clovis schools, graduated from Fresno State, and began operating his parents' farm while also working for USDA. He married Tanya Dillon, from a

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Birthday Grams ...

Summer Birthdays!

ASAA extends birthday wishes to all those members who will be celebrating a birthday this quarter ...



Matt Schneider - July 2	Sofia Zubacz - Aug 25
David Bronzan - July 4	Ken Kovacevich Jr. - Aug 26
Katherine Slaven - July 11	Andrei Romanenko - Sep
Katie Schneider - July 11	Stephanie Pandol - Sep 3
Vera Naden - July 12	Janet Evans - Sep 4
Helena Zubacz - July 17	Donna Bronzan - Sep 7
Winnie Pandol - July 18	Katy Zaninovich - Sep 13
Marie Zaninovich - Aug 1	Rodney Ashley - Sep 16
Mike Jerkovich - Aug 9	Andrea Turnipseed - Sep 18
Del Evans - Aug 13	Johnny Zaninovich - Sep 19
Jeff Bronzan - Aug 14	Donna Smith - Sep 19
Richard Vulich - Aug 21	Cheryl Jerkovich - Sep 23

If we missed you ... please let us know!

**Welcome To Our Newest
ASAA Members ~
Dobrodošli !**



- Andrew Cesare, Solano Beach, CA
- Steve Pavich, Paradise Valley, AZ
- Andy & Kathleen Zaninovich, Bakersfield
- Damian & Christina Zaninovich, Bakersfield
- Kara Zaninovich, San Francisco

**A people
without the
knowledge
of their past,
origin,
and culture
is like a
tree
with no roots.**

News, Events, and Happenings . . .

CroatiaFest

*An annual Pacific Northwest celebration
of Croatian heritage and culture*

CroatiaFest, an annual Croatian Festival in the Pacific Northwest, is going digital again in 2021 . . . Plans are underway for a virtual festival to be held on October 3 from Seattle, Washington. The 2020 Digital Festival included music, dance performances, special workshops and speakers . . . even virtual wine-tasting! 2021 also promises to have a variety of experiences to enjoy! We are not yet certain of the specifics, but we will make every effort to publicize the various events so that you can participate virtually. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for further details!



<http://www.croatiafest.org>

A Graduation Celebration . . .

Sara Vidrio, a 2018 ASAA Scholarship recipient, has graduated from Yuba College with her degree in Radiology, has taken and passed all of the required State Board Exams, and will soon begin her new position at a Northern California hospital, the same hospital where she did her clinical class work.

Her successful journey was not without its challenges . . . her course work was at Yuba College, but then she needed to do clinical work at a hospital about an hour and a half drive away (one-way); the local hospital where she was originally assigned would not allow students there during the Covid "lockdown". But Sara got up extra early and made it to the other hospital every day. In addition, she consistently held down a part-time job while going to school. Sometimes the going got tough, but her determination got her through! Her grandmother Yvonne Duran reminds us, "Good things never come easy."

Sara extends thanks to her family and the ASAA Scholarship program and looks forward to her new and rewarding career. And we extend CONGRATULATIONS! to Sara.



We love to publish celebrations and success stories! Please send your news to allslavonic@gmail.com or call us at 559-625-9537

More News, Events, and Happenings . . .



ASAA is now on Facebook ! Thank you to our VP Victoria Kovacevich for spearheading the effort to broaden our digital presence with this social media and social networking site. Stay connected with your ASAA friends! Like us and follow us on Facebook ! <https://www.facebook.com/allslavonic>



Watsonville's Corralitos Padres Community Hall, and its beautiful redwood tree-studded property, was the site of the recent SACO Summer BBQ. ASAA President Marko Zani-novich and family were there to take part in the introduction of SACO's 2022 Student Ambassadors. Marko and Dominique's son Luko will be one of the members of the 2022 student ambassador team headed for Croatia. Also enjoying the BBQ (and the cooler weather!) were ASAA members David and Donna Bronzan and Toni Nicolac Lerandeanu and her son Niko. Great food and wonderful entertainment by songstress Petra Tulic.



Kenny Kovacevich recently celebrated his 93rd Birthday. Best Wishes, Kenny, from all of your All Slavonic friends and family!

Most Beautiful Woman in Folk Costume Outside of Croatia

2021 Winner: Lidija Sarić, Serbia

1st Runner-Up: Kinga Deniz Danče, Hungary

2nd Runner-Up: Darinka Orčik, Hungary

Held for the past 8 years in a row, the pageant is aimed at connecting Croatians from all over the world, as well as preserving and promoting traditional Croatian culture. The rules state that girls need to be between 18 and 32 years of age, of Croatian origin, and must wear the folk costume from the place where they or their ancestors originate. Use this URL to get a better look at these costumes! <https://www.croatiaweek.com/most-beautiful-croatian-in-folk-costume-abroad-is-crowned/>



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Caruthers farming family, in 1991 and they raised 2 children: son Chris and daughter Miya.

Over the years Mike and Tanya dabbled in winemaking as a hobby, continuing the family tradition of home winemaking. In 2008, however, they decided to try their hand at commercial winemaking. After Mike's retirement from USDA, they expanded their farming operation, established Ubick Vineyards in Clovis, and released their first vintages, quickly becoming known for producing small lots of exceptional and distinctive red wines.

In 2013, Mike and Tanya took on another new challenge—they planted a brand-new 20-acre vineyard dedicated to 8 varieties of red wine grapes near Sanger. They are carrying on the more than 100-year-old tradition begun by his grandfather Mike (Mato) in 1914. Mike says, "Growing our own grapes allows us to influence every facet of winegrowing and production. We strive to create wines that are fruit forward and rich in aromas and flavors unique to the vineyard and the vintage year." With drip line irrigation and shut-off valves at each row, Mike is very "hands on" with the growing, harvesting, and the winemaking process. Their Valley Oak Winery and Tasting Room opened in 2017. It was there that we met Mike and Tanya on a recent afternoon.

The first thing I noticed in the winery (aside from the many, many oak barrels filled with wine) was a plaque on the wall that read "Mato's Wine Cellar" . . . a tribute to Mike's grandfather, for whom he was named. I was also intrigued by the beautiful oak tree on the bottle labels . . . I learned that it is an exact replica, drawn by son Chris, of the oak tree that grew in the front yard of the Ubick farmstead in Clovis. (The tree was a volunteer that started 1967 and still stands on Ashlan Avenue across from Clovis East High School.) Another Ubick Vineyards label features a 1930 Model A Ford Coupe that Mike drove in high school and which he still has today!



Mike and Tanya graciously gave us a tour of the winery and tasting rooms (both indoor and a shaded outdoor tasting area) and instructed us in the many details of the wine-making process. We relaxed in the tasting room as Mike shared several family remembrances. And, of course, we enjoyed some delicious wine – a beautiful red Barbera!

Grandfather Mato Ljubić left Croatia looking for gold, and years later his grandson Mike Ubick has found *his* treasure alongside wife Tanya, owning and operating a vineyard and winery in rural Fresno County. Located at 11809 East Belmont Ave, Sanger, and open Saturdays and Sundays from 12–5 pm, a visit to Valley Oak Winery makes for a delightful weekend excursion. It is recommended that you call ahead at 559-940-6040. Visit Valley Oak Winery online at www.valleyoakwinery.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you, Mike and Tanya for sharing your story with us.

The Skies are Getting Friendlier . . .



Both Delta Airlines and United Airlines have added direct service from New York to Dubrovnik this summer! The inaugural Delta flight landed in Dubrovnik on July 3 with 225 passengers aboard. The airline will operate four weekly nonstop services between New York (JFK) - Dubrovnik with departures on Wednesdays, Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays. There are 4 weekly return flights as well with multiple connecting flights to other parts of the U.S. Delta prioritizes the health and safety of customers, employees, and the communities it serves. As part of the *Delta CareStandard*, aircraft are regularly sanitized, including rigorous cleaning of high-touch surfaces such as tray tables, screen and seatbelts. Customers must also wear a face covering throughout the journey, except when dining. Croatia has also instituted some safety expectations; wanting to maintain for Croatia the reputation as a safe and desirable place to visit, and to protect its citizens, Croatia has since April been open to tourists from the USA with proof of vaccination, recovery, negative PCR or antigen test, and confirmation of paid accommodation in the Republic of Croatia, and in facilities with their "Safe Stay in Croatia" safety label.

United Airlines began direct service from New York (Newark) to Dubrovnik on July 1 and 4-day-a-week flights will continue through October 3 (Tue-Thur-Fri-Sat) with 4 return flights as well. And what about American Airlines? They were the first carrier in 28 years to offer direct service between the US and Croatia when they began their Philadelphia to Dubrovnik route in 2019. With flights discontinued in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, American Airlines is expected to return the route in summer 2022.

Maybe the biggest news? **Pragusa One**, a new start-up Croatian Airline, has announced the launch of non-stop service from Los Angeles to Dubrovnik and New York to Dubrovnik with 3 flights weekly from each of those US cities through the end of October; they will carry passengers on the Airbus A-330 (New York-Dubrovnik) Mon-Wed-Sat, and the A-340 aircraft (LA-Dubrovnik) on Tue-Thu-Sun. Flights were to begin June 21 and 22. Exciting, yes? Unfortunately, when we went to the website to see schedules and availability (and cost of fares), we could not get past the "sign up to get on our mailing list" page. Definitely disappointing!

But it **IS** encouraging to see that travel possibilities are opening up again. Several new routes throughout many European countries connect with Croatia and Serbia, as well as new boat/catamaran and train travel offerings within Croatia.

This information is provided to our readers to whet your travel dreams and consider the possibilities; the info is current at the time of publication. But if making travel plans, always contact your travel agent for the latest information.

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