



All Slavonic American Association

President's Message

Dear Members, Friends, and Families of the All Slavonic-American Association,
A toast to 2023!

Here is to the unknown and cheers to the problem solvers. My grandparents came to America because they wanted a better life. They took a chance. I really do not know what is around the corner, but you have to take the chance too! Solve problems, inspire, create and make a better life. Hey, Columbus did!

Our scholarship recipients will be tomorrow's problem solvers. All reports are positive, and success is all around as our students settle into their new lives. We wish them great luck in the spring term.

May God protect and watch over your families. Please take a moment and *Continued p. 2*



Campaign Success ! Thank You, Donors !

It is with grateful hearts that we once again celebrate a very successful **Light the Tree Scholarship Campaign**. Isn't our tree gorgeous? Fully lighted, with berry garland, popcorn strings, **and** licitar hearts as well! But we know it's not about the "tree" ... but rather what the tree represents ... members working together for the futures of our young people! **Thank you** to all of you donors for your generosity in helping us reach, and in fact surpass our \$5,000 goal — our campaign has raised a total of **\$6,000** in support of our future scholars! With the costs of higher education consistently on the rise, it is a privilege for ASAA to assist our young people in their academic pursuits. In the last 7 years our ASAA Scholarship Program has given over \$40,000 to 20 entering college students who have attended 16 different colleges and Universities, preparing for successful careers in over 16 areas. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and accomplishments. And we are profoundly appreciative of your willingness to partner together with the ASAA sponsored Tom and Martha Slaven Scholarship Program and assure that this support of higher education will continue! **Puno ti hvala!**



cont. from p. 1 say a prayer as we recall our members who passed away in the past 12 months. Tonky, Anna and Winnie were a blessing to all, and will be missed.

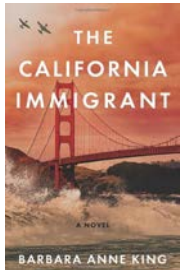
As our organization evolves and grows, I want to thank members for their active involvement. With your encouragement many new members have joined in the past year. We have welcomed Ina Zaninovich, Paris & Annette Blohm, John & Tracey Bezmalinovich, Greg Miskulin, Jeff Jankovic, Frank & Katherine Martin, Linda Pavlovich, Andrew & Erin Pandol, Geraldine Marcia, Justin & Briana Ritchie, Marjorie Woolley, John & Rondi Nale, Morgan & Joanne Zaninovich, Stephen & Marnell Pandol, and Brandon Bronzan. We invite you to jump in and enjoy our organization to the fullest!

Thank you to our membership for attending our summer picnic in Delano! We had all types of fun being together on a great day. Thank you very much to the Delano Slavonic Social Club and their chefs for preparing such a great meal: Nick Buratovich, Sixto Magno, Steven Pavich, David Turnipseed, Justin Ritchie, Mark Kovacevich, Anthony Tartaglia, and Al Zaninovich, and Matt Pandol. Thank you to all our members who helped set up, serve, attend bar, and organize the event. This summer we plan to be in Fresno for another great picnic!

The Bocce event was a great success. Plans for 2023 are in the works. The pot will grow and the bragging rights will again be on the line! I want to thank you all for your willingness to participate. This is **our** organization and I welcome your thoughts and comments.

Finally, our friends from S.A.C.O in Watsonville suggested some books for their student ambassadors to read in preparation for their trip to Croatia last summer. One of the titles, **The California Immigrant**, by Barbara Anne King, is a great, easy read (realistic fiction) about Slavs from the Adriatic immigrating to California. Maryanne Bulich (SACO) provided these books for the student travelers along with some very thought provoking words about recalling **our** families who left for a better life in California and other parts of America. Like my grandparents, those ancestors had that dream of a better life and they took the chance. The job is now **ours** to keep this dream of a better life alive. Hvala,

Marko



NEW MEMBERS since our last Newsletter ...

Morgan and Joanne Zaninovich & Family - Napa
Stephen and Marnell Pandol - Los Angeles
Brandon Bronzan - Ft. Wayne, Indiana

And we accidentally omitted last October (oops, sorry) ...

John and Rondi Nale - Biola (Fresno)

Birthday Grams . . .

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

želi Vam dobro zdravlje i sreću



Nick Pavlovich — January 3
Kathryn Spradling — January 3
Michael Yingst — January 4
Marilyn Bahn Jurkovich — January 6
Anton Zaninovich — January 7
Patricia Jurkovich — January 8
Warner Ritchie — January 12
Evelyn Miljevich — January 13
Annette Blohm — January 19
Katina Zaninovich — January 20
Janet Ferguson — January 23
Mike Ubick — January 24
Marko Zaninovich Jr. — January 24
Matt Pandol III — January 31
Geraldine Marcia — February 7
Fr Gregory Zubacz — February 8
Stephanie Mello — February 9

Amy Turnipseed — February 10
Marc Hure — February 13
Myrna Zivanich — February 14
Martha Slaven — February 21
Nick Buratovich — February 22
Teresa Zubacz — February 26
Erin Pandol — March 3
A. J. Lakovich — March 11
Niko Lerandean — March 14
Samuel Ritchie — March 17
Margie Woolley — March 22
Oliver Pandol — March 24
Stacie Hernandez — March 24
Zorka Tarailo — March 25
Kurtis Smith — March 28

If we missed you ... or got something wrong .. please let us know!



~ In Memoriam ~

Remembering those members, family and friends
who passed from this life in 2022

Anthony "Tonky" Zaninovich

Anna Zaninovich

Winifred "Winnie" Pandol

"Travels with Danger!"

by Niko Lerandean

Welcome back to "Travels with Danger," where we will retrace the Slavic American Cultural Organization's Student Ambassador Exchange Program trip through Croatia last summer. This time I'll describe the first couple of days of our trip through Zagreb and the Plitvice Lakes. Hopefully, a few of our adventures will intrigue you, and you can add them to your next trip!

Our trip started with a long day of travel from Watsonville to San Francisco International Airport and a flight through Frankfurt, Germany, which landed in Zagreb in the evening. We stayed at the beautiful Hotel Westin and enjoyed a five-course dinner before a quick visit of the city. Honestly, it was very exciting to see Zagreb with its lights and feel its bustling energy. Visiting Café Godot, we could see first-hand that the cafe culture described in Cody McClain Brown's book (see my other article) is so cool.

The first full day was perfectly planned by Jelka Basor of *Adriatic Travel Agency*, jam-packed with activities so there was no time to sleep! We started with a sightseeing tour of Zagreb, hitting the Upper Town, St. Mark's Church (and its famous tiled roof), St. Catherine's Church, the Government Palace, and Parliament. Our guide relayed incredibly interesting information that was both entertaining and educational. My favorite part was a small painting of the Virgin Mary on a street corner, which survived a blaze in the 17th century, and now a shrine stands to honor it today.

Then we headed out of town to Kumrovec, a little village so close to Slovenia that we could see the barbed wire border. Ok, so why did we go there? Kumrovec is important because it was the birthplace of Josip Tito, the President of Yugoslavia. We saw a bronze statue of Tito (I was struck by how short he was, standing only five feet seven inches), as well as a reconstructed village. It painted a really good picture of what life was like in the early 20th century.



Village of Kumrovec

After Kumrovec, we had the first of many HUGE and delicious lunches on this trip, making it very difficult not to nap after! Restaurant Grešna Gorica served beef soup, roasted chicken, beans and veggies, with strudel for dessert. Be sure to check out their website, www.gresna-gorica.hr, which has an awesome virtual webcam that shows its beautiful location (on the home page, click on "Virtualna Šetnja").

Our final stop of the day was a visit to Trakošćan Castle. Approaching this 13th century castle perched high on a hill nestled in the forest, you feel like you are traveling back in time. It was restored in the 19th century and shows what the Croatia of the

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Austro-Hungarian empire was like. The YouTube Channel, Explore Croatia, has an awesome video ("Trakošćan castle, Croatia" or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejtuHPm7P54>). When you go, be ready for a workout from lots of sloped walking. But it is worth the visit!

The next morning we headed out early for the 2.5-hour drive to Plitvice Lakes. These lakes are part of Croatia's largest national park and are designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. We only had time to walk around the lower lakes but what we saw was so beautiful! You can walk along the teal turquoise water on wooden planks, watching the various higher waterfalls pour into the lower ones, while listening to the calming, cascading water. Once again, Ms. Basor planned this portion well, as the natural falls were a nice change from the prior day's touring.

These were just the first two days of our journey! As you can see, we hit the ground running, taking in as many sights and as much culture and history as we could. In our next issue we will continue on from here to Split, Hvar, and Dubrovnik.



Plitvice Lakes
National Park



Annual Meeting of the ASAA

Saturday, March 18th

Save the Date ~ See further details on Insert

It's that time of year . . . Membership Dues are due and payable!

Good News! Dues amounts remained unchanged ... they are:



Single individual	\$25.00
Married Couple	40.00
Family *	50.00

* Family Membership includes parents and all children under 18 years of age

Please complete the enclosed membership form and send with payment to:
David Bronzan ~ ASAA Treasurer
112 W. Green Oaks Dr. ~ Visalia CA 93277

Happening Around the State . . .



L.A. Clippers Present ...

Croatian Heritage Night

7:30 pm, March 25 ~ L.A. Clippers vs New Orleans Pelicans

Post-Game Q&A with Ivica Zubac ~ Custom Ivica Zubac T-Shirt for attendees

Hosted by Project BLITZ and Founder/President Andre Ljustina



Tickets: clippersgroups.com/BLITZ

Questions: contact Xavier Palos at xpalos@clippers.com



SACO continues its work promoting cultural exchange — sending US High School students to Croatia in the summer and in alternate years hosting Croatian teens here in the US. This summer of 2023, teens from Croatia will be hosted here in the U.S. by SACO. Below is information re: an upcoming fund-raising effort to continue this mission:

Do you know of an event that might be of interest to the membership? We will gladly publicize! Please contact Donna at allslavonic@gmail.com or call 559-308-1553



S.A.C.O.

Slavic American Cultural Organization — Watsonville

Student Ambassador and Exchange Program

Seventh Annual Fundraising Dinner
Saturday, February 25, 2023 ~ 5:30 p.m.

at the
SEASCAPE GOLF CLUB
610 Clubhouse Drive - Aptos, California 95003

Ticket Price: \$150.00 per person

Special Guest: **Renee Pia**, Croatian Consul General,
Republic of Croatia Consulate in Los Angeles, CA

RSVP by Feb 15, 2023

For Information Call:
Maryann Bulich Schnitter ~ 408-828-5206



CROATIAN CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA in Los Angeles

February 17—19, 2023

Hosted by St. Anthony's Church, Kolo Club "Croatia"
& Croatian Children's School

Featuring several Guest Groups from throughout
California as well as Seattle, Chicago, and New York!

Music by VIS CROATE—KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA

- Friday Evening Welcome Party • Saturday Afternoon Concert •
- Saturday Evening Banquet • Sunday Mass •

More Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/941411116263740>

For Tickets to all events please contact: Dijana Gotal Cell: 1-818-438-3747
Email: dijanagotal@hotmail.com



A Trip for 2 to Croatia — only \$100

(How can *that* be??)

It's an **Explore CROATIA Travel Raffle** from Valley PBS.

Enter for your chance to win an 8-day adventure to Croatia guided by
Jeff Aiello, creator and host of **Outside Beyond The Lens**.



Valley PBS

Jeff will personally guide the lucky winner and a guest to retrace the footsteps
of the show's Season 3 two-episode
finale from Croatia.

Drawing will take place on Valley PBS
Thursday, May 23, 2023.

Travel is scheduled for late September
2023.

See complete details and entry form at
<https://valleypbs.org/croatia/>

Language Lab . . . NEW & IMPROVED!

Marc Hure has suggested we use lessons from the "Let's Learn Croatian" website and Podcasts for our Language Lab — he used these lessons to brush up before his travels to Croatia last summer and found them very helpful! Good Idea! Words and phrases from the lessons will be printed here, but we encourage you to go to the website and/or access the podcasts for extended instruction regarding pronunciation and best use, as well as opportunity to have guided practice. Visit www.letslearncroatian.com — there you will see the complete lessons and also find several options for accessing the audio podcasts (YouTube and Apple Podcasts are only two); the YouTube podcasts include video of puppet characters learning the language—very engaging for the little ones in your family! Also included in the podcasts (and not printed here) is the *Super Slatko Report*; this will include pertinent information about Croatia—money, weather, geography, and more—just good things to know! We'll begin at the beginning ...

So here we go with **Lessons 1 and 2: Conversation Essentials**

English

Yes / No

How are you ?

Good

Thank You

I am fine

And you?

Good bye

Hello

Good Morning

Good afternoon

Good evening

See you later

I am excellent

I am super

I am tired

Good night

Croatian and Serbian

Da / Ne

Kako si? (*Informal*) Kako ste? (*formal*)

Dobro

Hvala

Ja sam dobro (*the letter J makes a Y sound!*)

A ti? (*Informal*) A vi? (*Formal*)

Bog

Halo

Dobro jutro (*remember, the J makes a Y sound!*)

Dobar dan

Dobra večer (*the č makes a "ch" sound like in chair*)

Doviđenja

Ja sam odlično

Ja sam super

Ja sam umoran (*male*) Ja sam umorna (*female*)

Laku noć



Remember ... the online lessons and podcasts offer so much more they will guide you and help you to practice stringing these words and phrases into sentences and short conversations. Go here for **Lesson 1**: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-1-the-basics-of-saying-hello/id1478562301?i=1000448308065> **Zabavi se! (Have fun!)**

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