

July 2015

Established 1904

# All Slavonic American Association

## Summer Festival 2015

Sunday, August 9

American Slavonic Social Hall, Delano

### Menu:

BBQ Chicken and Shish Kabob  
Pasta  
Sauerkraut  
Salad  
Hosted Bar



### Activities:

Social Hour — 12:00-1:30 pm  
Lunch Served—1:30 pm  
Bocce Tourney —12:45 pm  
50/50 Money Pot Raffle  
Scholarship Raffle  
Slavic Music—Dancing

*See Reservation Flyer Inside !!*

## The Slavic Boys of Summer . . .



Baseball ... that great American pastime! Which Slavic-Americans made baseball *their* passion and pastime? Here is a look at some Slavic-American major league baseball players, in alphabetical order . . .

**Walt Dropo**, (1923 – 2010) whose parents emigrated from Mostar, played first base in the major leagues from 1949-1961, playing for the White Sox, Tigers, Red Sox, Redlegs, and Orioles, earning the Rookie of the Year Award and being named to the All Star Team in 1950.

**Eli Grba**, (1934 – ) born in Chicago, had 5-year baseball career in the majors, pitching for the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Angels. He pitched the first game in the Angel's club history in 1961, winning 7-2 over the Orioles.

**Ed Jurak**, (1957 – ) born in Los Angeles, played in Major League Baseball from 1982 through 1989 on the Red Sox, the Oakland Athletics, and the San Francisco Giants. He was a utility player, playing in the field at shortstop, third base, first base, second base, and outfield in his major league appearances.

**Mike Kekich**, (1945 – ) born in San Diego, is a former left-handed pitcher in the major leagues who played for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Yankees, Cleveland Indians, Texas Rangers and, Seattle Mariners in parts of nine seasons spanning 1965–1977.

**Mickey Lolich** (or Miki Lolić) (1940 – ) was born in Portland in 1940. His career as a major league pitcher spanned 1962 until 1979, most notably for the Detroit Tigers. Lolich was consistency itself, winning 14 or more games for ten consecutive seasons. In 1971 he led the American League with 25 victories and was the Cy Young runner-up.

**Roger Maris** (Maras) (1934 – 1985), a true baseball legend, was born in Minnesota but grew up in North Dakota. Signed first by the Cleveland Indians at the age of 18, he spent twelve seasons in the major leagues, playing right field on four MLB teams, from 1957 through 1968: the Indians, Kansas City Athletics, Yankees, and Cardinals. He is most remembered for hitting a record 61 home runs in the 1961 season.

**George Francis "Doc" Medich**, (1948 – ) born in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, pitched in the major leagues from 1972-1982. A medical student at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, he earned the nickname "Doc" early in his baseball career. Originally drafted by the Yankees, he also was a member of the Pirates, Athletics, Mariners, Mets, Rangers, and Milwaukee Brewers.

**Johnny Miljus** (1895 – 1976) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Nicknamed Big Serb and

*continued p.3*

Jovo, he was most likely the first American Serb to play in professional baseball. A pitcher, he played Major League Baseball between 1915 and 1929, first for the Pittsburgh Rebels of the outlaw Federal League, then the Brooklyn Robins, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and concluded his career with the Cleveland Indians.

**Erv Palica** (Ervin Martin Pavlicevich) (1928 – 1982) was born in Lomita, California. A pitcher, his career spanned 1947 – 1956, with time out to serve his country in the Korean War ('51-'53). He played for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Baltimore Orioles, appearing with the Dodgers in the 1949 World Series.

**Johnny Pesky** (John Michael Paveskovich) (1919 – 2012) was born in Portland, Oregon. As a professional player, manager and coach, his baseball career spanned an amazing 73 years! Pesky was associated with the Boston Red Sox for 61 of those 73 years. From 1946 – 1954 he played shortstop and third base for the Red Sox, Tigers, and Washington Senators. Following his active playing career Pesky served baseball as manager and coach in the minor leagues and major leagues for the Pirate and Red Sox organizations.

**Paul Nickola Spoljaric** (1970 – ), born in Kelowna, British Columbia, first signed with the Toronto Blue Jays, making his major league debut in 1994. The left-handed pitcher went on to also play for the Mariners, Phillies, and Kansas City Royals before moving to the Canadian League in 2001.

page 3

**John Vukovich** (Ivan Vuković) (1947 – 2007) was born in Sacramento, California. A utility infielder capable of playing all four positions, he is best known for his years with the Phillies, but also spent parts of seasons with the Cincinnati Reds and Milwaukee Brewers (1970-1981). He was a member of 2 World Championship teams: 1975 Reds, and 1980 Phillies.

**Peter Dennis Vuckovich** (Petar Vučković) (1952 – ) was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. A pitcher, he was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in 1974, and also played for the Toronto Blue Jays, the Cardinals, and Brewers during his 11-year playing career. Following his playing days he was an announcer for the Brewers, then coach and assistant to the GM for the Pirates. Currently he serves as the Special Assistant to the General Manager in the Seattle Mariners organization.

And we need to give a short shout-out to **Alex Pavlovic** and **Joe Stiglich**, current sports writers for CSN BayArea, reporting on the Giants and Athletics respectively.



# Who do you think you are?

*We continue our profile of members, a bit of their personal family history and professional lives. In this issue, meet . . .*

**Kenny Jelacich**, originally from Delano, now living in Hughson, a prospering agricultural community in the heart of the Central Valley. Hughson is situated in Stanislaus County, approximately 10 miles southeast of Modesto. Kenny's Slav roots go deep, and the story goes like this:

Kenny's maternal grandfather, George Ivancovich, at the tender age of only 10, left from **Klishiva**, 30 miles north of Dubrovnik, and made the trip to the United States in 1902. Entering through Ellis Island, George continued on to Watsonville to live with his father, John, an apple farmer. Kenny's maternal grandmother, Anna Margaretich, immigrated from **Dubrovnik** at the age of twenty (approx. 1918), came through Ellis Island as well, and continued on to California to live with her aunt and uncle in Watsonville. Anna and George met and married not long after, and a daughter Katherine (Kay) was born in 1924.

Meanwhile, Kenny's paternal grandmother, Mary Gutinich, immigrated from **Brac** to New York to work as a dressmaker. Later, she travelled west to Eureka, California, to live with her brother Martin, a restaurateur. Kenny's paternal grandfather, Steve Jelacich, left his home in **Hvar** to come to Bisbee, Arizona. After a short stay in Bisbee he also later moved to Eureka; it was in Eureka that he met and married Mary. Steve and Mary Jelacich then moved to Hollister to farm apricots and raise their family, including son Martin.

In the close and very social Croatian community in Watsonville, Martin Jelacich and Kay Ivancovich met and married in 1946. The young couple moved to Delano to farm grapes and raise their family: 2 boys, Kenny and his older brother Marty. Kenny attended school in Delano, graduated from Delano High School, and went on to Fresno State College. While at Fresno State he met his future bride, Linda Gallo. Kenny and Linda married in 1978 and made their home in Stanislaus County. Kenny and Linda are the proud parents of daughter Ann Marie, a practicing attorney in Walnut Creek.

Kenny, like his father, has made agriculture his career, farming for the past 37 years at Joseph Gallo Farms. In his spare time, he enjoys barbecuing, music from the 50's and 60's, and watching Notre Dame and other college football games. He also enjoys great red wine and looking out on the beautiful Mendocino Coast.

A member of the All Slavonic American Association since 1989, we thank Kenny Jelacich for allowing us a peek into his family tree and Slavic roots.





## Birthday Grams . . .

Let's celebrate milestones! ASAA extends birthday wishes to all those members who are celebrating birthdays this quarter ... and belated birthday wishes for those we may have missed!

### *želi Vam dobro zdravlje i sreću*

July 4 - David Bronzan	Sept 7 - Donna Bronzan
July 12 - Vera Naden	Sept 8 - Janice Walker
July 18 - Winnie Pandol	Sept 13 - Katy Zaninovich
Aug 1 - Marie Zaninovich	Sept 15 - Anne Wills
Aug 21 - Richard Vulich	Sept 18 - Andrea Turnipseed
Aug 26 - Kenneth Kovacevich Jr.	Sept 19 - Johnny Zaninovich
Sept - Andrei Romanenko	Sept 19 - Donna Smith
Sept 3 - Stephanie Pandol	Sept 16 - Rodney Ashley



### *Belated Wishes:*

Jan 3 - Kathryn Spradling	Apr 1 - Emilie Hernandez
Jan 13 - Evelyn Miljevich	Apr 14 - Mel Lubisich
Feb 25 - Louise Ninkovich	Apr 17 - Keeley Hernandez
Mar 24 - Stacie Hernandez	May 3 - Thomas Zaninovich
Mar 28 - Kurtis Smith	May 19 - Zachary Hernandez

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

## Happening Around the State . . . and beyond . . .

### *Opolo Vineyards*

Harvest Dinner & Grape Stomp  
Fri-Sat, October 16-17, 2015  
5:30pm

[www.opolo.com](http://www.opolo.com)



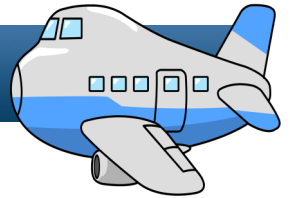
### First Annual ASAA Bocce Tournament

In conjunction with the  
**All Slavonic American Annual Picnic**  
Delano, August 9, 2015

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Serb National Federation Quadrennial Convention

September 11-13, 2015  
Pittsburgh, PA

## Travel News . . . Adventure Awaits



From our friends at [CroatiaTraveller.com](http://CroatiaTraveller.com) . . .

With eight National Parks and nearly a dozen protected Nature Parks, not to mention islands, rivers, mountains, rolling hills and placid seas, Croatia is a paradise for active travelers. Whether your holiday revolves around heart-pumping adventure or you'd just like to incorporate a few days of outdoor fun into your trip, here are the **best destinations** for some truly adventurous travel experiences:

**Windsurfing:** **Viganj** on the west coast of the Peljesac Peninsula, where the Maestral wind blows steadily on summer afternoons. For that reason, Viganj has become a top site for windsurfing competitions. The non-windsurfing members of the family can relax on the beach, one of the best beaches on Peljesac.

**River Rafting:** Tumbling for over 100km down from the heights of the Dinaric mountains to the Adriatic sea near Omis, the **Cetina River** provides an incredibly scenic rafting journey as it passes steep cliffs and canyons, mossy banks and verdant woodland. Other popular rafting destinations include the Zrmanja River near Zadar and the Dobra River in Karlovac.

**Cycling:** **Istria** is hands-down the best pedaling destination. It's an activity that local tourist boards have actively promoted with truckloads of maps, brochures and suggested routes, and with cycling options for all skill and energy levels.


**Sea Kayaking:** For sea kayaking, **Dubrovnik** has it all: calm seas, gentle breezes and a sprinkling of delightful islands offshore. Other options: the waters around **Split** and **Trogir**.

**Rock Climbing and Hiking:** Just a short drive from Zadar, **Paklenica National Park** affords some of the best and the most trails for hiking (many offering sea views) and rock faces for climbing.

**Scuba Diving:** Diving clubs and centers are found on nearly every Croatian island as well as dozens of coastal towns. Depending on your choice of underwater scenery (corals, sponges, caves, caverns, varieties of fish, wrecks, amphorae) the diving opportunities are numerous. Keep in mind that permits are required.

Whether adventuring, sight-seeing, or simply relaxing, Croatia has so much to offer!

Need help with travel plans?  
Contact our advertiser at right.



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## Get Ready . . . A Little About Bocce Ball . . .

**Bocce ball**, also called bocci or boccie, is a relaxed but strategic game with an ancient lineage. Although probably emerging from ancient Egypt, bocce started to hit its stride with the Romans and Emperor Augustus. It is played around Europe and also in overseas areas that have received Italian migrants, including Australia, North America, and South America. The sport is also very popular on the eastern side of the Adriatic, especially in Croatia, Montenegro, and Herzegovina, where the sport is known in Croatian as **boćanje** ("playing boće") or balote.

Today, bocce is a calming, competitive way to spend a few hours outdoors in the pleasant company of friends.

Bocce is traditionally played on natural soil and asphalt courts 90 ft in length and 8 to 13 ft wide. Bocce balls can be made of metal or various kinds of plastic. A game can be conducted between two players, or two teams of two, three, or four.

A simple way to describe the object of the game is relate it to the game of soccer. In soccer the only real object of the game is to get the ball into the goal of the opposing team more often than they do, within an allotted time period. In bocce the only object is for one or more of your team's balls to be closer than any of your opponent's balls to the **pallina** (small target ball, often white) at the end of every set. Rather than a time period you can play a fixed number of "**ends**" and total the higher score to win.



You can read more specific rules at <http://www.wikihow.com/Play-Bocce-Ball> and then you'll be all set ... plan to enter the **First Annual ASAA Bocce Tournament** in Delano at the Annual Summer Picnic! Entry fee is \$10 for a team of two. You don't want to miss it ... You will have a Ball!

**You don't stumble upon your heritage.  
It's there, just waiting to be explored and shared.**

Looking Ahead ...

### San Francisco Croatian Heritage Festival

**Sunday , Oct 18, 2015  
12:00 PM**

Tamburitza music will be featured this year at the 158 year anniversary of the Croatian community in San Francisco.



**Sinovi Tamburitza Orchestra** will be the headliners. Traditional Croatian cuisine will be available.

**Don't forget!  
Make your reservations**

**ASAA Summer Picnic**

**Invite a friend, too!  
See details on flyer inside.**



Newsletter of the **All Slavonic American Association**, published Quarterly  
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