

January 2016

Established 1904

All Slavonic

SRETNA NOVA GODINA!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2016

Well, another year has gone by and I am still standing erect. I celebrated my 80th birthday on January 16 and my doctors tell me I am doing well for my age. I'm still playing golf 4 times a week and fishing whenever possible. I went fishing in the Delta with my Grandson and we caught at least 50 fish in one day. Due to my weight lifting program for my left arm, I can now fly fish left-handed without getting tired. We had a ball. I hope all of you are doing as good as or better than me. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and enjoyable new year.

Now down to business. Our Association had a good year. Everyone who attended the Summer Picnic Festival and Christmas Party had lots of fun, visiting with relatives and friends. We added a Bocce Ball Tournament to our Summer Festival and everyone that played had fun, and some won some money! This year, 2016, the Summer Festival will be in Fresno. Hope to see you there.

Financial News: Our financial position remains steady. Our General Fund did not go down this year, in part because we eliminated the live Tamburitza Band at the Festival. The Scholarship Fund is doing just fine due to the generosity of our members. Although we had only one scholarship applicant this past year, he was a truly outstanding candidate! The Board approved a \$2000 scholarship for Jack Pandol III; he is currently attending Purdue University. We would welcome additional applicants in 2016! The costs of higher education continue to rise, and it is the desire of the Board and the Scholarship Committee to assist our families in making sure that our young people can pursue their academic goals; with your GENEROSITY and the Board's approval, and the generation of additional funds from our Scholarship Fund investment program, an increase in the amount of the scholarship awards is our goal. The Scholarship Program still offers special recognition to special donors; the Fund will name a Scholarship as you desire. An honorary or memorial scholarship can

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News

be named for 3 years with a \$500 donation, or for 6 years with a \$1000 donation. Please contact us if you would like to support the Scholarship Fund in this way.

Unfortunately, in terms of membership, the news is not good; our membership is still dwindling. Please invite some relatives or friends to join.

We will be having our Annual Meeting soon, during the month of March. This is an excellent time for members to give some input into the operation of the Association ... what they want the Association to do.

Have an idea? Have a suggestion? Have a concern or question? PLEASE ATTEND the Annual Meeting. The nominating committee (The Board of Directors) will meet 30 minutes before the Annual Meeting. If you desire to be nominated for a position or nominate someone else for a position, PLEASE ATTEND.

I want to thank all Board Members for their efforts this past year to make this Association an enjoyable experience for our membership, THANK YOU. I also would like to thank all the members that participate in our activities for their help in making our Association an enjoyable experience, where family and friends can get together and have fun.

I would like to especially give a BIG THANK YOU to all the members that have generously donated to our Scholarship Fund. The scholarship recipients are very fine young people and they are very appreciative.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2016!

Louie Obradovich, President



In Memoriam
Remembering those members who passed
from this life in 2015

Duke Balich
Georgia Cucuk
Donald Dostinich
Frank Stepovich
Pete Zarko

Annual Meeting . . .

Please plan to attend - share your ideas and input - help guide the direction of the Association - let your voice be heard ... we need your participation as we move forward ...

- Election of Officers
- Annual Financial Reports
- Annual Scholarship Reports
- Delicious No-Host Lunch

Watch your mail for notice of specific date, time, and place!

The business portion of the meeting is not lengthy, but the information presented is vital for all members. Please plan to attend!

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
Evelyn Miljevich—January 13
Louie Obradovich — January 16
Mike Ubick — January 21
Janet Ferguson — January 23
Marko Zaninovich Jr. — January 24

Matt Pandol III — January 31
Stephanie Mello — February 9
Amy Turnipseed — February 10
Myrna Zivanich — February 14
Louise Ninkovich—February 25
Robert Walker— March 19
Stacie Hernandez—March 24
Zorka Tarailo — March 25
Kurtis Smith—March 28

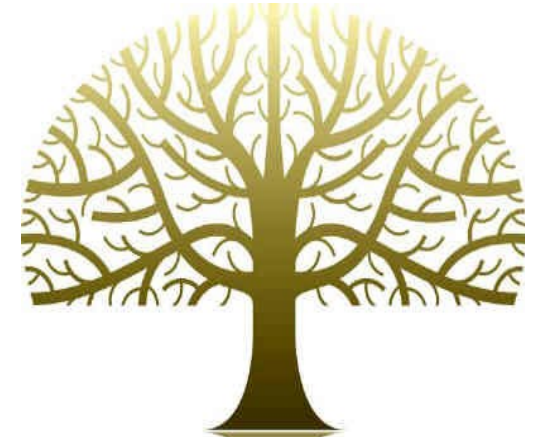
If we missed you ... please let us know!

Who do you think you are?

We continue our series of short biographies, getting to know our members, their Slav heritage, and just a wee bit about their professional and personal lives.

Vince Jurkovich sends this information about his father, Bob Jurkovich (1884—1973):

Bob Jurkovich was born November 20, 1884 in Stolac, Bosnia-Herzegovina. He never went to school a day in his life but spent his early years herding sheep. In 1907 Bob immigrated to the United States, first arriving in New York. He then traveled to Los Angeles where he worked constructing roads. Eventually Bob ended up in Porterville, working for Nate Ball and making irrigation pipe by hand. The construction of the Springville Highway began, however the project soon went bankrupt. Nate Ball took over the job and made so much money he quit the pipe business, in favor of concentrating on road-building, and gave the pipe-making tools to Bob Jurkovich.



Bob's wife was **Nina Zaninovich Jurkovich**. Nina was born November 14, 1899 on the island of Hvar. She came to the United States in 1923 traveling with Kenny Kovacevich's mother—the two young ladies sailed on the same ship (the Aquitania) and shared the same cabin. Initially Nina resided in Del Rey, staying at the home of Mrs. Robert Papac.

Bob and Nina were blessed with three sons: George, Vince, and Peter.

Bob's pipe-making company, Porterville Concrete Pipe, has been in business for 94 years, a period of three generations. The company makes storm drain pipe for city, county, and state jobs. Currently the business is run by Bob's grandsons, **Nick and Steve Jurkovich**.

Thank you to Mr. Vince Jurkovich for sharing this bit of family history with us.

Share your family story with us!

Contact Donna at allslavonic@gmail.com or call 625-9537

Saturday - Sunday, February 13-14: 17th San Francisco Tamburitza Festival

Croatian American Cultural Center

60 Onondaga Ave ~ San Francisco, CA 94112

Come enjoy the music, dancing and food at the 17th Annual San Francisco Tamburitza festival. The headlining band will be **Tamburaski Sastav Ponoc (Midnight)** from Pittsburgh. www.tsponoc.com. They are today's virtuostic, new generation of musicians and vocalists with numerous cds to their credit. Also performing will be Sidro Tamburitza Orchestra, Slavonian Traveling Band with Lilla Serlegi, Eszterlanc Hungarian Folk Ensemble, and the Kolo Festival Band. John Morovich will teach the kolo dances!



2 Fabulous Days of Music! Feb 13th: Welcome Dance 7:30PM
Feb 14th: Concert, Kolos, Sing-a-Long 12PM-8PM



Traveling south? Looking for a dining experience in the San Gabriel valley? The owners of Café LuMar welcome you ... known for down-to-Earth, home-cooking, and a home-away-from-home atmosphere for all who visit.

Using only the freshest ingredients, there is no compromise in quality. A passion for cooking and good food, and a love for people prompted **Dragica Grabovac** to open her first family restaurant.

Check them out if you are in the area! Cevapi is on the menu, along with other Slav

136 East Colorado Blvd, Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626.357.2184 • www.cafelumar.com

Slavs in Sports



Previously we profiled Slavic-Americans in MLB—and in this issue, with the playoffs in full swing and the Super Bowl just around the corner, we thought a look at Slavic-Americans in the NFL would be appropriate. As before, let us know if we have made omissions. In alphabetical order, we recognize and remember ...

Bob Babich, a linebacker from Ohio, played for the Chargers and Browns, 1970-78. Also from Ohio, **Make Basrak**, center, played 1937-38 for the Pittsburg Pirates (later renamed the Steelers). **Steve Belichick** (Biličić) played fullback for the Detroit Lions in 1941 before going on to coach for Navy. Son **Bill Belichick** has coached the Colts, Lions, Broncos, Giants, Browns, Jets, and Patriots, the latter of which he has coached to 4 Super Bowl wins (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, and XLIX). **Brian Billick**, Ohio, played tight end for the 49ers and Cowboys, then coached the Vikings and Ravens in his 30-year career (1977-2007), including a win in Super Bowl XXXV. **Novo Bojovic** was born in Titograd, raised in Michigan, and was a kicker for the Cardinals during the 1985 season. Quarterback **Rudy Bukich**, Missouri, played for the LA Rams, Redskins, Steelers, and Bears during his career (1953-68). **Norm Bulaich** (Bulajić), running back from Texas, played for the Colts, Eagles, and Dolphins during the 1970-79 seasons.

Pete Carroll, California, has coached the Bills, Vikings, Jets, 49ers, Patriots, Seahawks from 1984 to present, and counts a Seahawk Super Bowl win (XLVIII). Born in Crnomelj, Yugoslavia, and raised in Wisconsin, **Joe Cerne** played center for the 49ers and Falcons, 1965-68. **Dave Diehl**, Michigan, played end for the Lions, 1939-45. **David Diehl**, Illinois, retired after 11 seasons (2003-13) as a guard/tackle with the NY Giants, including 2 Super Bowl wins (XLII, XLVI). **Eddie Erdelatz**, California, coached for the 49ers and Raiders in 1948, 1960-61. **Filip Filipovich**, born in Belgrade, raised in South Dakota, punted for the Cowboys, 49ers, Vikings, Texans, Bears during 2002-07. Pennsylvanian **Bill Fralic** was an offensive guard for the Falcons and Lions, 1985-93. Lineman **Bob Gain**, Ohio, played for the Browns, 1952-64.

Elvis Grbac, Ohio, quarterbacked for the 49ers, Chiefs, and Ravens during his career (1993-2001). **Visco Grgich**, born in Zlarin, Yugoslavia, raised in Seattle, played guard for the 49ers, 1946-52. **Momcilo Gavric**, born in Sinj, Yugoslavia, was a professional footballer (soccer player) who was a placekicker for the 49ers during the 1949 season only. Indianan **Les Horvath** was the 1944 Heisman winner and played quarterback/halfback for the LA Rams and Browns, 1947-49. **Keever Jankovich**, North Carolina, was a center/end for the Dallas Texans and the Chicago Cardinals, 1952-53. **Sam Jankovich**, Montana, served from 1991-93 as the CEO of the Patriots. **John Jurkovic**, Illinois, was a defensive tackle for the Packers, Jaguars, and Browns, 1991-99. **George Karamatic** ("Automatic"), Washington, played full/halfback for the Redskins in 1938. **Peter George Kmetovic**, California, was a halfback for the Eagles and Lions, 1946-47.

David Kopay, Illinois, played halfback/running back for the 49ers, Lions, Redskins, Saints, Packers, 1964-72. Indianan **Joe Kuharich** played guard 1940-41 for the Chicago Cardinals, then coached for the Steelers, 49ers, Cardinals, Redskins, Eagles until 1946. **Bill Lazetich**, Montana, played halfback for the LA Rams and Cleveland Rams, 1939, 1942, 1947. Bill's brother **Mike (Milan) Lazetich** ("Sheriff"), also played guard for the Rams at both locations, 1945-50. And **Pete Lazetich**, son of Bill, played defensive end for the Chargers and Eagles, 1972-77. **Mike Mamula**, New York, played defensive end for the Eagles, 1995-

2000. Canadian **Tony Mandarich** was an offensive tackle for the Packers and Colts, 1989-91 and 1996-98. **Jim Mandich**, Ohio, played at tight end during his career, 1970-78, first for the Dolphins, then for the Steelers.

Marv Marinovich, Watsonville, California, played only one season, 1965, as a guard for the Raiders. But he began very early on in his son's life, in his infancy, really, training and developing his son to be fast and strong and athletically superior. Marv's son **Todd Marinovich** quarterbacked for the LA Raiders during the 1991-92 seasons. Illinois native **Vic Markov** played tackle for the 1938 Cleveland Rams. **Mark Markovich**, Pennsylvania, played center/guard for the Chargers and Lions, 1974-77. Also from Pennsylvania, **Scott Milanovich**, quarterbacked for the Buccaneers, 1996. **George Mrkonic** ("Big George"), Pennsylvania, was a tackle for the Eagles, 1953. During the 2006-10 seasons **Rob Ninkovich**, Illinois, played defensive end for the Saints, Dolphins, and Patriots. **Mike Nixon (Niksić)**, Pennsylvania, was a back for the Pittsburgh Pirates (later renamed Steelers), and Brooklyn Dodgers, 1935 and 1942.

Tight end **Jim Obradovich**, Los Angeles, played for the Giants, 49ers, and Buccaneers, 1975-83. Fullback **George Paskvan**, Illinois, played on the 1941 Packers team. Pennsylvanian **John Popovic** ("The Mad Russian") played full/halfback for a combined Chicago/Pittsburgh team in 1944-45. **Milton Popovich**, Montana, played fullback/end/guard for the Chicago Cardinals, 1938-42. **Dan Radakovich** ("Bad Rad"), Pennsylvania, was a defensive line coach for the Steelers, 49ers, Rams, Broncos, Vikings, and Browns, 1970-95. His coaching helped lead to Steeler Super Bowl victories (IX and X). **Bill Radovich**, Illinois, played guard for the Lions, 1938-45. **Dan Rains**, Pennsylvania, played on the 1982-86 Bears teams as a linebacker. **Steve Ruzich**, Ohio, played as an offensive/defensive lineman for the 1952-54 Packers.

Lou Saban, Illinois, played center/guard/linebacker for the Browns, 1946-49. He then coached for the Patriots, Bills, and Broncos, 1960-76. **Nick Saban**, West Virginia, coached in the NFL for the Browns and Dolphins, 1991-94 and 2005-06. (He is currently a collegiate coach at Alabama.) Pennsylvanian **Andrew Salata** played guard for the Newark/Orange Tornadoes (New Jersey), 1929-30. **Paul Salata** ("Slats"), Los Angeles, played end for the 49ers and Baltimore Colts, 1949-50. **Frank Sinkwich (Sinković)**, Pennsylvania, was the 1942 Heisman winner and played full/halfback, quarterback for the Lions, Yankees, and Baltimore Colts, 1943-47. Wide receiver **Paul Skansi**, Washington, was a member of the Steelers and Seahawks during the 1983-91 seasons. Also a Steeler, 1946-48, was **Nick Skorich**, Ohio, a guard.

Alex Smith (Serbian on his mother's side), born in Seattle and raised in California, began his quarterback career in 2005 with the 49ers, and now plays for the Kansas City Chiefs. **Josef Spudich**, Illinois, played fullback for the Chicago Cardinals, 1933-35. **Alex Stepanovich**, Ohio, played center for the Arizona Cardinals, Bengals, and Falcons, 2004-08. Punter/kicker **Pete Stoyanovich**, Michigan, played for the Dolphins, Chiefs, and St. Louis Rams, 1989-2000. **Joe Stydahar**, Pennsylvania, had a 10-year career with the Bears as an end/fullback/tackle, 1936-46. **George Tarasovic** ("The Thing"), New York, played center/end on the Steelers, Eagles, and Broncos teams, 1952-66. **Mike Trgovac**, Ohio, coached the defensive line for the Eagles, Panthers, Redskins, and Packers from 1995-present,

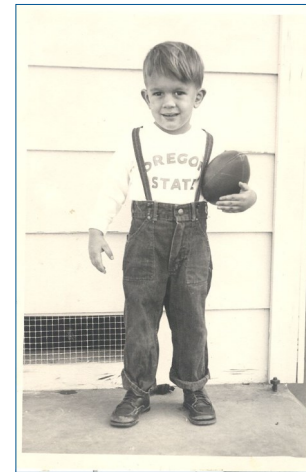
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**You don't stumble upon your heritage.
It's there, just waiting to be explored and shared.**

including helping lead the Packers to a win in Super Bowl XLV. **Emil Uremovich**, Indiana, played tackle for the Lions, 1941-48.

Larry (Lazo) Visnic, Ohio, played guard for the Giants, 1943-45. **Mike Zordich**, also Ohio, played cornerback for the Jets, Phoenix Cardinals, and Eagles, 1987-98. Tackle **Chris Zorich**, Illinois, played for the Bears and Redskins, 1991-97. **George Zorich**, Michigan, played guard for the Bears, Miami Seahawks, and Baltimore Colts, 1944-47.

The above is quite a list of athletic ability, talent, and accomplishment. Most of the athletes and coaches listed here have also had impressive collegiate careers, but for reasons of space we have focused only on their pro careers.



Can you name this member,
a young football hopeful?

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