



All Slavonic American Association

Summer Festival !

What a great afternoon we all had at our recent Summer Festival. Held on Sunday, August 7 at St. Peter's Social Hall in Fresno, we enjoyed a fabulous lunch of BBQ lamb and chicken, mostaccioli, zeljanica, and salad. A huge thank you goes out to Nick Pavlovich and Marilyn Bahn and their crew of volunteers who organized the meal preparation and service. Capping off the delicious meal were the many varied desserts that were provided by the ladies in attendance. Thank you all!

We were treated throughout the afternoon to the recorded melodies of several Slavic bands, and even got to view a short video of the city of Dubrovnik, part of the "Cities in 4K" series on YouTube. (For more videos, visit our web page: <http://allslavonic.org/documents.html>)

One major attraction of the afternoon was our **Artifactory**—a display of memorabilia, artifacts, and keepsakes that showcase our Slavic heritage and culture. The exhibit included a hand-painted oil by a local artist following her visit to Yugoslavia, as well as beautiful artwork from a contemporary Croatian artist. There were several examples of intricate needlework, both lace and embroidery, hand-made authentic folk costumes, and a hand-hammered copper coffee service. We had three guzle on display, as well as hats, slippers, dolls, photos, and a wine (or rakija) decanter. There was a Serbo-Croatian school grammar book from 1903 brought to this country by a young immigrant boy, and the 1906 Naturalization Laws study book used by this same boy as he studied to become a US citizen.



Certainly the oldest (and heaviest!) of the artifacts was an ancient amphora recovered from the Adriatic sea floor. These ancient jars were used to store and transport primarily oil and wine throughout the ancient Mediterranean. This is a true treasure!

The Board extends our gratitude to all those who contributed to the Artifactory, shared your treasured items, and helped make the event a success.

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Summer Festival continued . . .

One of the major functions of the Festival is to award scholarships to deserving high school seniors who are heading off to college. ASAA was very pleased to honor two recipients this year:



- **Carly Regehr**, pictured at left, is the granddaughter of Louie and Linda Obradovich. She graduated from Clovis High School and will be attending Clovis Community College. Carly will be studying engineering and Political Science;
- **Stephanie Pandol** is the daughter of Linda and Matt Pandol Jr., and the granddaughter of Lucy and the late Matt Pandol Sr. She graduated from Garces High School in Bakersfield and will be attending Utah State University. Stephanie will be majoring in Ag Business.

Both scholarship recipients have maintained exceptional grade point averages throughout high school as well as being involved in extracurricular activities and volunteer work in their communities. We congratulate them and wish them well in their college pursuits.

Carly was able to meet many of the Festival attendees as she was kept busy selling raffle tickets for the Scholarship raffle. Raffle winners took home a wide array of prizes, delivered to them by the young children in attendance, the Bronzan children who, with their parents and grandparents, made this year's Summer Festival their annual family reunion. All proceeds from the Scholarship Raffle are added to the Scholarship fund for the benefit of future award recipients.

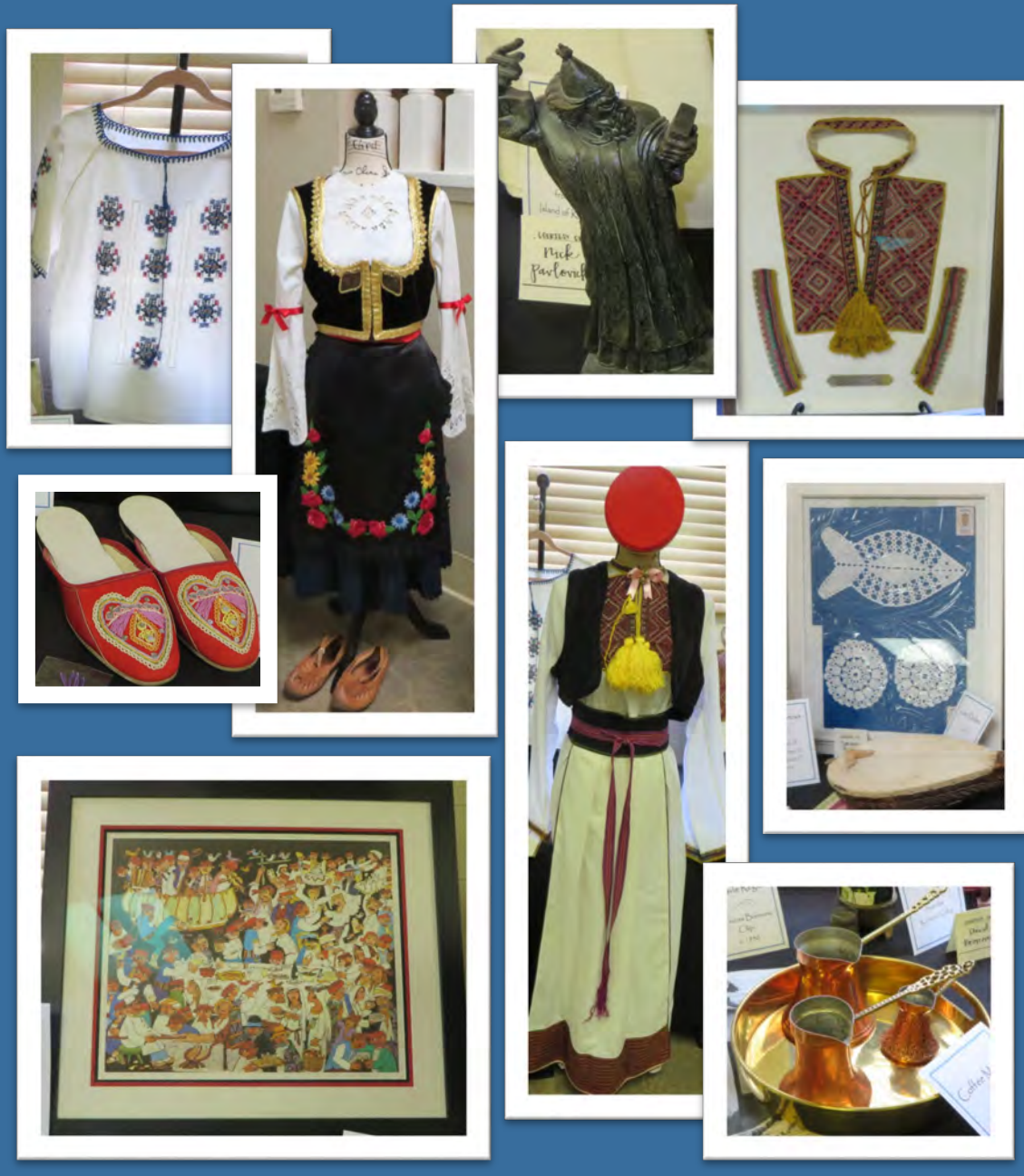


ASAA thanks Scholarship Chairperson Yvonne Duran and her committee for their work in this year's scholarship award process. And we also extend grateful appreciation to the many members and friends who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund and help make these awards possible.

Returning to the Festival again this year was the 50/50 Raffle; participants buy tickets with the winner receiving half of the proceeds from the total 50/50 ticket sales. The more tickets sold, the larger the "pot" of winnings. This year's ticket sales amounted to \$424, so the very surprised winner left the Festival with \$212! Proceeds from this raffle go into the ASAA General Fund.

Plan now to attend next year's Festival in Delano—it really is fun for everyone!

Some items on Display at our Artifactory ...



It will be here before we know it...

ASAA Holiday Luncheon

Sunday, December 4
12 Noon – 4:00 pm

Lamp Liter Inn
3300 W. Mineral King
Visalia, California



Hosted Bar and Hors D'oeuvres

Social Hour 12 noon – 1:30 pm ~ Buffet Lunch at 1:30 pm
Delicious Turkey and Ham Holiday Menu

*Celebrate heritage and the holidays with
family and friends.*

Members: Adults: \$25.00 ~ Children 12 & Under: Free ~ Children 13-18: \$5.00
Family Plan Members: All children: Free

Non-Members: Adults: \$30.00 ~ Children 6-12: \$5.00 ~ Children 13-18: \$10.00
All children 5 and Under: Free

PLEASE MAKE PAID RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE – MAIL BY NOV 25

*Your name will be on the reservation list at the door
See enclosed reservation form*

Who do you think you are?

We continue our series of short biographies, in this issue highlighting the life of long-time member Stella Wisniewski:

Stella Papac Wisniewski is the daughter of Slavic immigrant parents Bosko (Robert) Papac and Manda (Madeline) Tomacich. Her father was born in Stolac, Herzegovina in 1887 and came to the U.S. in 1906; he settled in Los Angeles and worked in road construction, as did so many other Slavic men in the tight-knit Boyle Heights community. Stella's mother came to the U.S. in 1920 from the island of Hvar; she came to take care of her uncle's children. Her uncle, also living in Boyle Heights, had recently become widowed and needed help with 4 young children. It wasn't long before Bosko and Manda met and fell in love, and the two were married in December 1921 in Los Angeles.



After a short time the young couple, with infant Stella, moved to Del Rey where Robert purchased a home and farm property; he ran the Del Rey Cement Pipe company while his farming partners, Zaninovich family members, farmed the land. Stella soon became the adoring big sister as Vinka, Louis, Muriel, and Nick were born. Stella fondly recalls when her Aunt Pearl Tomacich came to America. Stella remembers that her aunt was beautiful and had many young men interested in her. "We kids all gave her advice as to whom to marry; our advice—the handsome Mike Pavlovich, who just happened to own an ice cream store – and she did!" (Thus Stella and Nick Pavlovich are first cousins.)

Stella has many memories of her childhood and adolescent years in Del Rey and her years at Sanger High School. "Our mother always exposed us to educational and cultural activities – piano, voice, and musical instrument lessons – and of course the boys were very involved in sports of all kinds." While she acknowledges her mother as the driving force for those pursuits, she is quick to point out that her father's hard work and business success made those activities within their reach. "We were from little-old Del Rey, but we all went to college, too." Stella especially remembers her mother baking bread every Saturday ("The aroma of fresh-baked bread filled the neighborhood"), and delicious lemon pies.

After some time at Fresno State, Stella moved to Newport Beach with a

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

Gizdich Ranch ~ Watsonville



Pie, anyone? Croatian immigrants from the former Dubrovnik Republic first started arriving in the Pajaro Valley in the late 1800s, and for the first half of the 20th century, the Croatians -- commonly called "Slavonians" -- built a robust apple industry and a bustling subculture in Watsonville—"simple, hard-working people running a very complicated business structure" writes Kathryn Mekis, author of *Apples into Gold*. In the 1920s and '30s, on Main Street of Watsonville, the Croatian language was heard as much as English, and there was a thriving Croatian "colony" in Watsonville, a district just west of Main Street. The land around Watsonville sprouted some of the first commercial orchards in the state, and the city's downtown prospered with a boom of apple-related businesses.

By 1908, the Pajaro Valley was the biggest apple producer on Earth, boasting a million trees and shipping apples as far afield as Europe and Asia. Watsonville had dozens of packing sheds, as well as apple dryers and vinegar plants. Successful farmers and businessmen built gorgeous Victorian-style homes and, in the spring, the view of pink-and-white apple blossoms stretched for miles.

Today, many things have changed, but Nita Gizdich still runs the area's favorite apple farm, Gizdich Ranch, east of Watsonville. "When my father-in-law bought this ranch in 1934 there were 5 acres of apples," Gizdich says. "Over the years he added more and more land. But down in the lower part of the orchard, those original trees are still there." Much of the acreage is now dedicated to several varieties of berries.



With the loss of packing sheds and other buyers, Gizdich created a niche for her produce by offering pick-yourself apples and berries in season, along with a pie shop and deli. She bottles fresh-pressed juice, sells her smaller apples to local schools for kids' lunches, and sends what she can't use to Martinelli's (makers of the famous sparkling cider!)

David and Donna Bronzan recently traveled to the Monterey area and made a stop at Gizdich Ranch a "must do" on their travel plans. (David's Uncle Andro Bronzan worked in the Watsonville apple orchards for years before his death in 1957.) While David opted for Raspberry, Donna couldn't pass up the traditional apple—both delicious! Baked fresh daily, served plain or a-la-mode, Gizdich pies are a delicious treat as you relax inside the red barn or in the shade of the picnic area! And who can resist the opportunity to bring a whole pie home? (Donna couldn't!)

David and Donna also made a stop at the Pajarao Valley Historical Museum in Watsonville—a fantastic resource for information about the early Slav settlers in the area.

Marie Antoinette said "Let them eat cake", but we think pie is a better choice! Especially when the pie is from Gizdich Ranch. Stop by on your next visit to the area.

Birthday Grams . . .

Celebrating milestones! ASAA extends birthday wishes to all those members who are celebrating birthdays this quarter ...

želi Vam dobro zdravlje i sreću

October 2 - Mark Pandol
October 7 - Joann Hall
October 7 - Andrew Zaninovich
October 12 - Ruth Jurkovich
October 18 - Kathy Hixson
October 22 - Nick Zaninovich
October 28 - Cassie Bronzan
November 1 - Bill Cucuk
November 3 - Roy Zivanich
November 7 - Virginia Zarko
November 7 - John Kovacevich
November 9 - Yvonne Duran
November 10 - Curtis Bronzan

November 11 - Brad Hixson
November 12 - Sonja Obradovich
November 16 - Janie Doak
November 28 - Peter Zaninovich
December 1 - Michael Smith
December 10 - Steve Jurkovich
December 13 - George Pavlovich
December 15 - Linda Pandol
December 18 - Marianne Keathley
December 19 - Gary Ferguson
December 20 - Susan Gonsalves
December 21 - Nancy Turnipseed
December 30 - Michael Turnipseed



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

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friend and got a job at a bank. There was a military base nearby and one handsome military gentleman came in often to complete transactions for the base. His name was Leonard Wisniewski. Love blossomed, and after the war Stella and Leonard were married and moved to Chicago, his home town. Daughter Susan was born while they were living in Chicago, but before long Leonard was again called into service during the Korean War; with the help of her brother Lou, Stella and their oldest daughter Susan moved back to Del Rey to be close to her family. At the close of the Korean conflict, the young Wisniewski family decided to make Fresno their permanent home, and three more daughters were born: Madelyn, Mary Jo, and Mame. The family made their home near the Fresno State campus, Leonard working as an engraver for trophies and plaques of all kinds, and Stella working at the Bank of America.

Today, having lost her life partner, Stella enjoys spending her time reading ("I read all the time!"), and going to the movies with her daughter Mary Jo. Not only is she the proud mother of four adoring daughters (daughter Susan lives nearby in Fresno), but Stella is also grandmother to eight – 6 grandsons and 2 granddaughters, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Thank you, Stella, for sharing your story with us.

Events Around the State . . .

Opolo Vineyards Paso Robles

Harvest Dinner & Grape Stomp

Two evenings:
Friday, October 14 ~ Saturday, October 15
5:30 pm

Reservations Required

Wine Tasting and BBQ

Two afternoons:
Saturday, October 15 ~ Sunday, October 16
Each afternoon 10:00 am — 4:00 pm

No Reservations Necessary
www.opolo.com

San Francisco Croatian Heritage Festival

Sunday, October 16, 2016 ~ 12:00 pm
60 Onondaga Ave ~ San Francisco

*Tamburitza Orchestra ~ Dancing
Traditional Croatian Cuisine*

<http://www.slavonicweb.org>

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