



All Slavonic American Association

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, March 18, at Fugazzi's Restaurant in Visalia. Twelve members were in attendance and enjoyed "a little business and a lot of socialization." On the "socializing" side, there was ample opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch, excellent wine, and get to know one another better while swapping stories and shared experiences—some new celebrations, and some recollections of shared events dating back to childhood. On the "business" side, highlights of information presented are as follows:

Election of Officers: Elected to serve another term of office are the Board Members listed at right.

Membership Report: Our membership total at the close of 2022 was 125, a significant increase over the past few years! Several members have not yet renewed their membership for 2023; all are urged to bring their membership to current status ASAP.

Social Report: Donna Smith reported on the very successful Summer Picnic held in Delano last August; plans are underway for our 2023 Summer gathering to be held on Sunday, August 6, 2023, at St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church hall in Fresno.

Scholarship Report: Marc Hure reported on the very successful Scholarship Fund Drive and the awarding of 2 scholarships in 2022; he thanked all members for their generous support of our fund-raising efforts; see page 5 in this newsletter for information re: the scholarship process and applications for 2023.

Financial and Audit Report: Susan Gonsalves reported that she has completed the audit of all club finances—both the general checking and investment accounts, and the Scholarship account; all accounts, balances, and transactions have been verified and found correct. See next page for details.

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President	Marko Zaninovich
Vice President	Victoria Kovacevich
Secretary	Donna Bronzan
Treasurer	David Bronzan
Social Chair	Donna Smith
Scholarship	Marc Hure
Auditor	Susan Gonsalves
At Large	Toni Lerandeanu

Annual Meeting cont.

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Remarks from our President: Marko expressed appreciation to the Board members for their efforts during the past year, a very successful one for ASAA, and also thanked to the ASAA membership for their support and participation; our successes, he noted, are due to the efforts of many, not merely a few! Noting the many remembrances and stories being recalled around the table, Marko suggested that the club engage in a concerted effort to capture and catalogue the rich history, the myriad of experiences, and the contributions of Slavic people in the San Joaquin Valley. There is great value in being able to pass on to future generations our rich heritage and history. No specific plan is in place to accomplish this goal, but President Marko asks **all** members to consider how you might contribute to this worthy effort, and he welcomes your input and suggestions. Marko concluded our Annual Meeting with a toast to the rich longevity of our 119 year-old Association and to the bright future that lies ahead.

Audit — Close of 2022 Calendar Year		
General Fund:	Checking Account:	\$ 8,712.73
	Investment Account:	<u>9,362.85</u>
	Total Assets:	\$ 18,075.58
Scholarship Account:	Investment Account:	\$ 71,793.28

Looking forward to a Great 2023 !

Let's continue to **grOW** our membership ... Invite a Slavic friend or family member to join ASAA ... Applications can be found at <https://allslavonic.org/documents.html> ... or contact us ... we'll mail you as many as you need !



Welcome ! Dobro Došli

New Members since our last Newsletter:

Dr. David R. Taylor (Sambuk) . . Fresno
Kay Jelacich Merced

Birthday Grams . . .

Spring Birthdays !

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



Emilie Hernandez	April 1	Nick Jurkovich	May 13
Tootsie Riggs	April 1	Anna Phippen.....	May 15
Luka Zaninovich.....	April 5	Brian Hixson	May 16
Alyssa Tartaglia.....	April 14	Debra Vasilovich	May 18
Mel Lubisich	April 14	Alissa Turnipseed	May 19
Keeley Hernandez	April 17	Zachary Hernandez	May 19
Ron Radish.....	April 18	Kay Jelacich	May 21
Mike Pestorich.....	April 20	Patty Hixson	May 25
Betty Papac.....	April 21	Morgan Zaninovich	May 26
Marko Zaninovich Sr.	April 22	Fran Pavlovich.....	June 1
Justin Ritchie	April 27	Stephen Pandol.....	June 1
Sam Phippen.....	April 27	Eric Zalunardo	June 3
Rosemary Cameron	April 30	Dona Pestorich.....	June 23
Thomas Zaninovich.....	May 3	Matt Pandol	June 27
Dominique Zaninovich	May 5	Maryanne Smith	June 28
Marianne Kovacevich	May 10	Kenny Kovacevich	June 29
Babe Obradovich.....	May 12		

If we missed you, please let us know !



In Memoriam John J. Kovacevich

November 7, 1926 - July 28, 2022

John was a 33-year member of ASAA ~ He will be missed.

Book Review by Niko Lerandean

I recently had the opportunity to read Cody McClain Brown's book, *Chasing a Croatian Girl - A Survivor's Tale*. Mr. Brown, an Oklahoma native, is now a senior lecturer at the University of Zagreb, where he teaches English to journalism and political science students. The book describes his observations about Croatians and contrasts their behavior with our American culture.



Initially, I was a little insulted by Cody's apparent lack of basic knowledge about anything Croatian. However, I realized that the book was written in 2015 and that most Americans really did not know that much about Croatia until it joined the European Union (in 2013) and participated in the final of the 2018 World Cup, events that really put Croatia on the map. I also felt a little less offended when I remembered that I had to explain where Croatia was to my local postmaster when mailing books to a Croatian school.

However, once I got over my hurt pride, I appreciated Mr. Brown's observations on Croatian life and comparisons to his American roots. His sense of humor is apparent in chapters on the Croatian propensity for giving gifts, his becoming "addicted to punica (mother-in-law)," and the Croatian fear of the seemingly deadly draft, the *propuh*. He uses poetic prose in describing the warm, inviting Croatian coffee culture and of the city of Zagreb at night in the winter fog. I found the chapter on neighbors to be especially poignant, because it reminded me how a family friend took me from house to house (when searching for family members) in my grandfather's village, never knocking on doors, just letting himself into each house. Not one resident seemed surprised by his knockless entries.

I reached out to Mr. Brown to ask him how his book was received in Croatia. He said that Croatians "seem to enjoy it. One of the best things anyone said to me was that when they read it they realized more about themselves and Croatian culture." Mr. Brown says that his book (translated into Croatian as *Propuh, Papuce i Punica*, meaning *Draft, Slippers, and Mother-in-law*) is "on the list of 'izborni' or optional books [Croatian] children can read for book reports."

Clearly the Croatians love this book. Would I recommend this book? *Pet zvjezdica* (five stars), absolutely! If you haven't been to Croatia, it is a wonderful introduction to the nuances of our culture and the day-to-day life of Croatians. If you have been to Croatia or are surrounded by Croatians at home, it will be a fun reminder of the beautiful traditions that make us Croatian.

Scholarship News . . .

One of the important goals of the All Slavonic American Association is to encourage and provide support to our young people as they continue their educations beyond high school. Support comes via our Association's scholarship program. Details concerning the scholarship program are as follows:

The Tom and Martha Slaven Scholarship Program

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO MAY APPLY:

- A. A child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a present member in good standing for at least two full calendar years.
- B. A child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a deceased member in good standing at the time of demise.
- C. AND who plan to attend a two year or four year accredited college or university. High school graduating seniors and undergraduate college students may apply; **Previous ASAA Scholarship winners are ineligible.**
- D. Applicants must demonstrate scholastic and extra-curricular achievements, civic accomplishments, and work history (if applicable). The selection committee of the ASAA shall evaluate these with an objective and academic view.

You may write or call to request an application:

Marc Hure
13110 Nantucket Place
Bakersfield, California 93314
Ph: (661) 808-6208
marcohure@gmail.com



FILING YOUR APPLICATION:

- A. Please mail completed applications to above address by June 1, 2023.
- B. Please provide the name and address of the institution the student will attend, and include the name of the Dean of Admissions, Registrar, or Director of Scholarship Administration, and contact information.

SELECTION COMMITTEE TIMELINE:

The highest scoring candidates, as scored by the members of the selection committee, will be notified by mail in July. The amounts of the grants for the 2023-2024 academic year will be determined at a later date. These funds will be sent to the successful candidates' colleges in July or August.

"Travels with Danger!"

by Niko Lerandeanu

Welcome back to "Travels with Danger," where we are retracing the Slavic American Cultural Organization's Student Ambassador Exchange Program trip through Croatia last summer. Last time, we traveled through Zagreb and the Plitvice Lakes. Now, it's time to start moving down the Dalmatian coast, hopefully



St Arnir Tower, Split

giving you ideas for your next trip to Croatia. This edition will cover our brief visit to Split, our fantastic days on the island of Hvar, and then our numerous activities in Dubrovnik.

We arrived in Split after our long day of travel from Zagreb with a stop at Plitvice Lakes. Once again, Jelka Basor planned this perfectly, as we had the evening to relax in Split (and we really needed it). The next morning we visited Diocletian's Palace before the crowds and the heat came. I really *felt* like I was in Croatia as we listened to a Klapa performance, surrounded by a palace that was thousands of years old.

After Split, it was great to finally get on the water, as we headed to the island of Hvar. We took a car ferry and landed at Stari Grad (old city) with our van, so we got to drive around the

island to the Napoleonic-era fortress, Fortica Espanjola Fortress, perched way up high above Hvar. The steep walk up is worth the view of the entire old city. Once we got to Hvar (the main town on the island), we stayed at Amphora, a relaxing resort with lots of amenities. On a tour of the city, we took another beautiful and much less steep walk to the Franciscan Monastery with a museum of the island's history. My favorite part was seeing the huge painting of the Last Supper. Hvar is beautiful, peaceful, and full of culture, but the high point of any visit to Hvar is dinner at Alviž restaurant. We were spoiled by the owner's, Mr. Zaninovich, family, who cooked a meal I still dream about today: lamb skewers with cevapi, steamed potatoes, and ajvar (a Croatian dip made with roasted red peppers and eggplant), ending with palačinke for dessert. My mouth waters just thinking about how delicious it was.



View of Hvar from the fortress

The next day we had a leisurely trip around the island to catch our ferry back

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to the mainland for the trip south to Dubrovnik. On the mainland, I was honored that our group took the time to stop at my maternal grandfather's village, where I was able to spend a quiet moment at his grave, while the rest of our group hung out in the village. When I returned to our group, they introduced me to some of my distant family members, they happened to accidentally meet. How crazy is that!! My most cherished item from this trip is a handwritten family tree that traces my relation to the family I met. Not surprisingly, my mom and I have made plans to return this summer to spend a lot more time there. I will be forever grateful to SACO for opening this door to my heritage.



Lavender fields atop Hvar

Next stop: Dubrovnik! A Dubrovnik City Council member was our guide (a perk of the trip!) and she showed us the Franciscan Monastery (Yup! Another one. . .you find those Franciscan guys in all the best places!), Rector's Palace, Orlando's Column, Sponza Palace, and the



Niko's visit in 2015

Bell Tower. We had some free time too, so I took the guys to Buža, a watering hole mom and I visited in 2015 that clings to the outside of the walls with a fantastic view of the sea. During our time in Dubrovnik, we had the honor of meeting with Dubrovnik's Mayor, and with Igor Deranja, a Dubrovnik City Council member, and we saw the coat of arms of our "own" city of Monterey (Dubrovnik's sister city). We exchanged gifts with the Mayor, but I think the highlight for him was receiving a poster from the Salinas Rodeo!

As you can see, those few days were once again busy with wonderful sites, experiences, and food! My next article will cover several day trips we took from Dubrovnik and Cavtat. Vidimo se!

Don't Miss the Boat !

If you have not sent in your dues for 2023, please do so today!



Happening Around the State . . .

Croatian American Cultural Center of San Francisco



Mandolin Festival

April 23, 2023 ~ 12:00 pm - 5:00

60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco

More Info: <http://croatianamericanweb.org/>



S.A.C.O. Spring Lamb Feed

Saturday, April 29, 2023

PV Columbian / SACO Hall

230 E. Lake Ave ~ Watsonville, CA

4:00 pm Social Hour ~ Dinner and Drawing to Follow

Delicious Rack of Lamb, Makarula, Vegetables, Dessert

\$ 45 Adults, \$ 15 Children under 12

**** Reservations Required by April 21—No tickets sold at door ****
Makes Checks Payable to SACO, PO Box 226, Watsonville, CA 95077



CROWKND: Croatian Independence Day

Weekend Celebration

Croatian American Hall of San Pedro

631 W. Ninth St., San Pedro

Activities all Weekend, May 26-28

Street Festival ~ May 28, '23



Specific details not available yet, but check for new info on the Croatian American Hall website: www.croatianamericanclub.com or on their Facebook page: facebook.com/croatianamericanhallofsanpedro

Save the Dates . . .

Slavic American Cultural Organization Summer BBQ and Picnic

Sunday, July 9 ~ Noon - 4:00 pm

Corralitos Community Center and Padres Hall

33 Browns Valley Road • Corralitos CA
(Just outside Watsonville)
in the shade of the beautiful coastal redwood trees

Delicious Food & Beverages • Music • Raffle Drawing

More Info: Call Maryann Schnitter 408-828-5206



All Slavonic-American Association Summer Festival

Sunday, August 6, 2023 ~ 12:00 Noon—4:00 pm

St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church Hall, Fresno

SAVE THE DATE—MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW !

Mark your Calendars . . .

SerbFest 2023

St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church, Fresno
Saturday, September 23 ~ 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Delicious Food ~ Music ~ Fun for the Whole Family



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

Language Lab . . .

Again, we are drawing upon the expertise of the “Let’s Learn Croatian” website and Podcasts for our Language Lab. A reminder: words and phrases from the lessons are 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 **Lessons 3,4 and 5: Meeting Someone, Basic Communication**

English

How are you ?
I am fine
I’m lousy
so so
How do you call yourself?
How do you call yourself?
I call myself
my pleasure
Welcome & Please
I am learning Croatian
I speak a little Croatian
How does one say...?
I don’t understand.
Speak slowly!
Wait

Croatian and Serbian

Kako si? (*Informal*) Kako ste? (*formal*)
Ja sam dobro (*the letter J makes a Y sound!*)
Slabo mi je
Tako
Kako se zoveš? (*Informal*)
Kako se zovete? (*Formal*)
Ja se zovem...
Drago mi je
Molim
Ja učim Hrvatski
Ja malo govorim Hrvatski
Kako se kaže?
Ne razumijem
Govori te polako
čekaj



Each recorded lesson/podcast begins with a review of previous lessons, provides ample opportunity to hear accurate pronunciation and practice, and then proceeds to the current lesson ... again with ample opportunities for practice as the instructors converse.



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