



# Happy Valentine's Day



Croatian American Women's Club Presents

30TH ANNUAL

## Valentine's Dinner Dance Fundraiser

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH AT 6:00 PM



Croatian Cultural Center, Sacramento

Gourmet Dinner • Skalinada Ensemble Performance • Live Auction  
Music • Dancing • Prizes • Traditional Croatian Pastries

Tickets: [croatiancenter.square.site/shop/valentines-dinner/5](https://croatiancenter.square.site/shop/valentines-dinner/5)

More Info: <https://www.facebook.com/CroatianCenter>

### CROATIAN CHOCOLATE WINS WORLD GOLD !

For the first time, Croatian chocolate has won gold in a worldwide competition. **Nadalina**, an artisan chocolate shop in Split, has won gold for their milk chocolate "Cococa Coffee Nicaragua", crafted from perfectly blended and balanced cocoa and coffee beans. Marinko Biškić, founder of Nadalina, spent six months refining this recipe, and said, "this time I was convinced that the chocolate with Nicaraguan cocoa and coffee would win an award, but the gold sur-



prised me!" In addition to combining chocolate with coffee, Nadalina produces other combinations inspired by Dalmatia, which combine dark chocolate with local flavors, such as lavender, dried figs, prosecco, sage, honey, carob and olive oil. Mmmmm ... my mouth is watering ... how about yours?

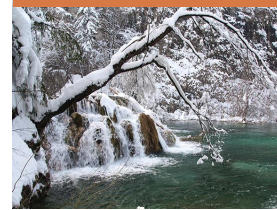
Newsletter of the **All Slavonic American Association**, published Quarterly

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Established 1904

## All Slavonic American Association



With each new year comes new opportunities to connect, grow, promote and celebrate our shared Slavic culture. We continue to look for ways to do that, and we hope that in 2024 you will join with us, add your ideas and input, and help us make this year the best yet for our Association. Thank you for your continued membership and participation — we lift a glass to our forefathers who began this Association, and we look forward to our 120th year with joy and anticipation!!

**Zivjeli !**



### Thank You, Donors !

Once again we celebrate a very successful Light the Tree Scholarship Campaign and we offer our members sincere thanks for your generosity. We raised a total of **\$5,075** for our scholarship fund to fully light our tree! Isn't it lovely? We had fun watching our tree grow and glow with brightness ... because we know it's not about the "tree" ... but rather what the tree represents ... members working together for the futures of our young people! With the costs of higher education consistently on the rise, it is a privilege for ASAA to assist our young scholars in their academic pursuits. In the last 8 years our ASAA Scholarship Program has given over \$45,000 to 23 entering college students who have attended sixteen different colleges and universities, preparing for successful careers in over 16 different areas of study. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and accomplishments. And we are profoundly appreciative of your willingness to partner together with the ASAA **Tom and Martha Slaven Scholarship Program**. You have helped us insure that our support of our students, and their educational dreams will continue!

**Thank You ~ Puno ti hvala!**



## What's Cookin' ?

**Andrea Pisac** is the Croatian owner/writer of the [CROATIAhonestly](http://Croatiahonestly.com) blog and website, begun while living in England as a way to help travelers to Croatia understand and navigate the local mentality and provide Croatians living abroad a connection with their motherland. The site is a collection of articles about Croatian traditions, customs and various topics from everyday life. Today, Andrea is back home in Croatia, and is also a lover/chef of all good things to eat. She has published three Croatian cookbooks: [Croatian Classics](#), [Croatian Desserts](#), and her latest, [Croatian Savoury Baking](#) (breads, burek, pies, and pastries). The recipes are authentically Croatian, written in English, include both metric and English measurements, have easy-to-follow directions and full-color high-quality photos to inspire cooks and bakers! All cookbooks are available from [Croatiahonestly.com](http://Croatiahonestly.com), and the first 2 books can also be found on Amazon.



## Annual Meeting of ASAA

*You are Invited ~*

All Slavonic-American Association  
**Spring Lunch**  
and Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 16, 2024

12:30 p.m.

**Fugazzis Restaurant**  
**127 W. Main, Visalia**

**No Host Lunch • Complimentary Wine**

Election of Officers for 2024  
Financial Reports  
Socializing with Fellow Members

*Let us know you are planning to attend . . .*

RSVP [allslavonic@gmail.com](mailto:allslavonic@gmail.com) or (559) 784-8859



ST ANTHONYS KOLO CLUB "CROATIA" PRESENTS

# WILD WEST COAST

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANZA

*Guest Groups from Throughout California and Canada !*



**LOS ANGELES, CA**  
**FEBRUARY 9 - 11, 2024**

- Friday Evening Dinner / Dance ~ 7:30 pm at St. Anthony Parish Center
- Saturday Afternoon Concert ~ 1:30 pm at Aratani Theater, Los Angeles
- Saturday Evening Banquet ~ 6:00 pm at St. Anthony Parish Center
- Sunday Mass ~ 10:30 am at Str. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church

More Information: <https://allevents.in/org/st-anthony-croatian-catholic-church/2014556>

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

 [facebook.com/croatianchurch](https://facebook.com/croatianchurch)

**IMPORTANT: Prepaid Admission and Reservations are required for ALL EVENTS**

## Croatian American Cultural Center of San Francisco



### Annual Crab Feast

**March 9, 2024**

**5:30 pm - 11:00 pm**

60 Onodaga St., San Francisco

Members \$65, non-members \$80. All you can eat!  
Hosted bar and dancing.

**Call (650)584-8859 for reservations.**





## Happening Around the State . . .

### Festa Svetoga Vlaho ~ Feast of St. Blaise

Patron Saint of Dubrovnik

Saturday, February 3, 2024 ~ 6 pm - Midnight  
Cocktails - Dinner - Dancing

at the **Villa Ragusa**

35 South Second Street ~ Campbell, CA 95008

Information: [svetivlahosj@gmail.com](mailto:svetivlahosj@gmail.com)



### S.A.C.O.

**Slavic American Cultural Organization — Watsonville**

**Student Ambassador and Exchange Program**

Seventh Annual Fundraising Dinner  
**Saturday, February 24, 2024 ~ 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 14, 2024**

For Information Call:

**Maryann Bulich Schnitter ~ 408-828-5206**



**Annual Meeting of the ASAA**

**Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Save the Date ~ See further details on p. 2

## 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  
Martha Slaven — February 21  
Nick Buratovich — February 22  
Teresa Zubacz — February 26  
Erin Pandol — March 3  
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 2023



*Matt Steve Pandol Jr.*

*Martin Stephen Jelacich*

*Louis Steve Caric*

*Stella Papac Wisniewski*

*Kenneth John Kovacevich*

*L.B. "Babe" Obradovich*

## “Travels with Danger !” by Niko Lerandeanu

Over the last year, I have written about the incredible opportunity I had with the Slavic American Cultural Organization to travel to Croatia in the summer of 2022 as a Student Ambassador. One of the many benefits of that trip was visiting my grandfather’s village and meeting family. This past summer, I was fortunate enough to return and experience so much more because of that wonderful opportunity last summer!

Mom and I flew into Split on a little Croatia Airlines propeller plane. We rented a car and drove to Split, where we stayed at Hotel Corner, the same hotel we stayed in as students the year before. The next morning, before departing south, we visited Stadion Poljud, the home stadium of the infamous Hajduk Split team. Our timing was perfect because we were able to tour the stadium. If you are ever in Split, I highly recommend this tour because it includes so much history about not only the team but the region itself.



From Split, it was a straight shot south on the A1 to **Saric Struga**, the village where my grandfather, Ante, was born. The most poignant part of this trip was taking my mom to visit my grandfather’s gravesite for the first time, which I had visited last year. My mom noted how quiet it was and how happy she was that he had such a peaceful final resting place. From the cemetery we descended to the village and walked the only narrow road, looking forward to seeing our family.

Word travels fast in those small villages, because within minutes of our arrival at the community center, we were greeted by a crowd with hugs, shots of rakija, and the wonderful smell of dinner. We stayed for several hours that night, cheering the Croatian national soccer team on for a come-from-behind win against the Netherlands. The rest of our stay there was filled with visits to our distant cousin’s bakery, daily morning coffee at the local cafe with family, and dinners of frog legs and eel, local delicacies, with cousins.



We were very lucky that a qualifying race for the Marathon Lađa was happening the week we were visiting. The **Marathon Lađa** is a boat race among various towns that was started in 1998. The boats are unique because they are very shallow and wide, like the boats used long ago for transport on the Neretva River. My

*Cont. next page*



cousin’s husband was racing for Gusari Komin. There were big crowds, happy families greeting each other, children eating ice cream, and a very exciting race among ten teams. It was an awesome evening. You can read more about this wonderful tradition at <https://maraton-ladja.hr/en/>.

My favorite part of this trip was visiting the neighboring village’s elementary school. I have been corresponding with the students for a few years, sending them English language books for their program and lots of candy. To meet them and their teachers was a dream come true! They cheered with delight when I told them my favorite Hajduk player was Marko Livaja. Funny enough, he is preferred to Bruno Petković, practically a local to Rogotin, who plays for the rival team, Dinamo Zagreb. We played corn hole on a portable set we had brought from the States and took lots of pictures. I promised to return next summer!



## Renew Your Membership



*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

*Please complete the enclosed membership form and send with payment to:*

*David Bronzan ~ ASAA Treasurer*

*112 W. Green Oaks Dr. ~ Visalia CA 93277*