

January 2025
Vol. 12 No. 1

Established 1904

All Slavonic American Association



From Our President

Dear members of the All Slavonic-American Association,

I want to wish you a year of great happiness, health and success as we brave the storm of challenges to come. Be confident, stick to your values, and look forward.

Thank you members for your involvement, financial contributions, and thoughtful participation to the All Slavonic-American Association.

Thank you to our board members and your families for the energy you share to keep communication and activities relevant. Our summer festival was outstanding. We exceeded goals of attendance as well as continued organization support. The meal was superb as usual! As a result of the event success, ASAA intends to contribute to the DELANO Slav Club improvement plan. We also just completed a successful Scholarship drive—thank you for helping ensure that our support of student scholars will continue!

Congratulations to our scholarship recipients from 2024. Best of luck in school; become a problem-solver and never forget your roots. Members, looking forward - if you have a student considering college or university, please consider applying for a scholarship to be awarded for the fall term of 2025.

It is a great pleasure to serve as your president, especially when phone calls arise from people seeking to find a connection to their Slavic roots. One request came from a lady looking for translating help - She had letters that were 80 years old and wanted to learn the content. Another call came requesting travel tips.

Creative people use resources to solve problems and I enjoy being surrounded by problem solvers. If anyone has questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us to share your thoughts. Chances are if you are thinking about it so have 100 people before you - the difference may be that we can act on it! We welcome your input!

We also welcome your contributions to this newsletter. Please share items of travel, culture, recipes, past experiences or anything out of the ordinary.

Looking forward enthusiastically to 2025!

Marko



Congratulations...



Congratulations to the **American Slavonic Social Club of Delano** on their 75th Anniversary. A gala dinner celebration was held at the Hall on October 12, 2024, and was attended by 230 members and well-wishers. A delicious barbecued steak dinner was followed by live entertainment and dancing that continued well into the night. In addition to celebrating their anniversary, the event served as a fund-raiser for some needed improvements at the hall.

Founded in 1949, the Social Club has served as a cornerstone of the Croatian community and the greater agricultural community in the Delano area for these past 75 years, and has allowed us, ASAA, to celebrate our Summer Picnics there biennially for several years as well.

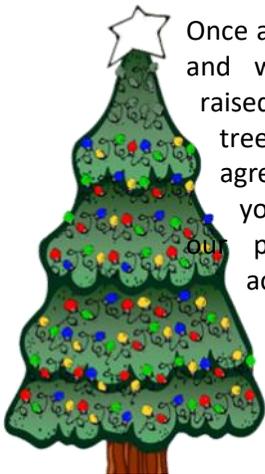
We extend congratulations and best wishes for continued success!

Annual Meeting of ASAA

Plans are underway for the Annual Meeting this Spring ! Watch your mailboxes (both email and postal) for date and time and plan to join us! This is for ALL members ~ we'll elect officers for 2025, conduct a little business, share a meal, and have a lot of fun !



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 **\$4,625** for our scholarship fund to *almost* fully light our tree! Even though we didn't *completely* reach our \$5,000 goal, we can all agree the tree is lovely, indeed! It is a privilege for ASAA to assist our young scholars in their academic pursuits. We are incredibly proud of our past recipients' (27 in the past 9 years) dedication, and their accomplishments. And we are deeply appreciative of your willingness to partner together with the **ASAA Tom and Martha Slaven Scholarship Program**. You have helped us ensure that our support of our students and their educational dreams will continue!

Thank You ~ Puno ti hvala!

Birthdays 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	Fr Gregory Zubacz - February 8
Kathryn Spradling - January 3	Stephanie Mello - February 9
Michael Yingst - January 4	Amy Turnipseed - February 10
Craig Bronzan - January 5	Marc Hure - February 13
Marilyn Bahn Jurkovich - January 6	Martha Slaven - February 21
Anton Zaninovich - January 7	Nick Buratovich - February 22
Patricia Jurkovich - January 8	Teresa Zubacz - February 26
Warner Ritchie - January 12	Erin Pandol - March 3
Evelyn Miljevich - January 13	Jenna Zaninovich - March 8
Annette Blohm - January 19	Aaron Zaninovich - March 11
Katina Zaninovich - January 20	Niko Lerandeau - March 14
Janet Ferguson - January 23	Samuel Ritchie - March 17
Mike Ubick - January 24	Margie Woolley - March 22
Marko S. Zaninovich - January 24	Oliver Pandol - March 24
Al Zaninovich - January 25	Stacie Hernandez - March 24
Matt Pandol III - January 31	Kurtis Smith - March 28
Geraldine Marcia - February 7	

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 2024

Zorka Tarailo

Ina Zaninovich

Lucy Pandol

Kay Ivancovich Jelacich

Who *Are* Those Guys?

Remember that line from the iconic movie, “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid”? They, Butch and Sundance, wondered about the band of men who were doggedly chasing them!

In Croatia, they are not chasing, but several men of historical significance steadfastly stand over their communities and nation ... in the form of impressive statues in stone and bronze. Let’s take a brief look as we ask “Who *are* those guys?”

One of the most famous statues in Croatia is that of **Gregory of Nin**, or more precisely “Grgur Ninski”, a work of famed Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović (1883-1962). Gregory was a medieval bishop who played a pivotal role in the early Christian Church in Croatia during the 10th century. He is celebrated for his efforts to promote the use of the Croatian language in religious services in 926 AD, which was a bold move at the time when Latin was the dominant language of the Church. By advocating for the vernacular, Gregory aimed to make Christianity more accessible to the common people, thereby fostering a sense of national identity and unity among Croats.



Created in 1929, the statue stands at an impressive 28 feet tall and is made of bronze; it is located outside the Golden Gate entrance to Diocletian’s Palace in Split. Traditional belief is that rubbing the statue’s big toe brings good luck; as a result, the bronze toe is noticeably polished and shiny from the countless visitors who have touched it over the years.

Gregory’s legacy as a defender of the Croatian language resonates deeply with the local population, making the statue not just a tourist attraction, but an important symbol of national pride. Over the years, the statue has become a symbol of resistance against oppression, particularly during periods when Croatian culture and language were under threat. A visit to this statue is a must-see when visiting Split.

Dominating **Ban Josip Jelačić** Square in the capital city of Zagreb is the wonderful equestrian statue in honor of Count Josip Jelačić Von Bužim (1801-1859), a Croatian Lieutenant Field Marshal in the Imperial Royal Army, best remembered for his military campaigns during the Revolutions of 1848; he was a leading figure in the abolition of serfdom in Croatia. This huge bronze statue is the work of Austrian sculptor Anton Dominik Fernkorn and was created and installed in the square in 1866.

Jelačić’s reputation is different in Austria (where he was regarded as a rebel, seeking to break up the Austrian Empire), and in Hungary (where he is seen as a traitor to the Hungarian revolution for independence). In Croatia he is revered as a national hero. The statue



cont. next page

was removed by the Communist regime in 1947, but reinstalled in 1990, this time not pointing his sword north towards Hungary, but instead facing south.

Orlando's Stup (Orlando's Column) is a stone monument dating to the 14th Century, making it the oldest surviving public sculpture in Dubrovnik. Who carved the column and deep relief statue? Some say the Italian Gothic sculptor Bonino da Milano, while others believe that it was carved *for* Bonino by a local master, Antun of Dubrovnik. And how is this work connected to history? Dubrovnik historians have linked this medieval knight with sword raised upwards to the legend of the hero Roland, who helped the city fight the Saracens in the 8th century. Others say because it was erected in 1418, it is connected to Emperor Sigismund of Luxembourg who stayed in Dubrovnik after his defeat at the Battle of Nikopol in 1396.



We know that it stood in the square in front of the Church of St. Blaise, with the flag of Dubrovnik flying from a mast above the column, in the early 1400's—from there proclamations were made and punishments were meted out (public shaming, flogging, and worse!) The very public placement of the statue and column, however, have hastened its damage—cracking and some crumbling—from weather, natural disasters, and careless humans.

Stay tuned . . . we will visit more statues in our next issue!



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

Happening Around the State . . .

Sveti Vlaho Dinner and Concert

Annual Gala Dinner/Fundraiser Celebrating the Patron Saint of Dubrovnik

Saturday, February 8, 2025 ~ Dinner and Entertainment
Croatian American Hall of San Pedro - 631 W. 9th St., San Pedro

Reservations Required by: February 1, 2025

Reservations and/or Information: Luci Hazdovac: (310) 871-0379

or email: LibertasFoundation@gmail.com

Additional Details: <https://www.facebook.com/>



S.A.C.O.

Slavic American Cultural Organization — Watsonville

Student Ambassador and Exchange Program

Seventh Annual Fundraising Dinner
Saturday, February 22, 2025 ~ 5:30 p.m.



at the

SEASCAPE RESORT



1 Seascape Resort Dr. - 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 12, 2025

For Information Call:

Linda Pavlovich ~ 831-595-5898



Valentine's Dinner Dance and Fundraiser

Saturday, February 22, 2025 ~ Croatian Cultural Center, Sacramento

Unfortunately, no other details are available at this time;

see <https://www.croatiancenter.org/> or [Facebook.com/CroatianCenter](https://www.facebook.com/CroatianCenter)



ST ANTONY'S KOLO CLUB "CROATIA" PRESENTS
MOSAIC OF CROATIAN TRADITIONS



17TH ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANZA

**LOS ANGELES, CA
FEBRUARY 14 -15, 2025**

- Friday, 7:30 pm—Meet & Greet Dinner Dance
 - Saturday, 2:00 pm—Concert
 - Saturday, 6:00 pm—Semi-Formal Banquet
 - Sunday, 10:30 am—Mass
- Featuring Kolo groups from throughout the US and Canada

For Tickets to all events please contact:

Dijana Gotal - Cell: 1-818-438-3747 - Email: dijanagotal@hotmail.com ... or
Heidi Granic - Cell: 818-425-7706 - Email: koloclub@croatianchurchla.org

**Croatian American Cultural Center
of San Francisco**

Annual Crab Feast

**March 1, 2025
5:30 pm - 11:00 pm**

60 Onodaga St., San Francisco



Members \$70, non-members \$85. All you can eat!
Hosted bar and dancing.

Call (650) 584-8859 for reservations.

College of Sequoias Hosts Croatian Footballer

~ David Bronzan

Otton Roca, resident of Dubrovnik, has just completed his studies and his football tenure at College of Sequoias and has returned to Croatia for the Christmas holidays. Through a serendipitous encounter, we were introduced to Otton and shared dinner with him prior to his leaving.

Here in Visalia since the late Summer of 2022, Otton was one of two European athletes on the Giants' squad, the other being a kicker from Germany. Otton says he had wished for a connection with other Slavs during his time in California, but found none. He wistfully said if he had he known about our Summer Festivals he would have been there "in a heartbeat"!

The 6'1", 240 lb. defensive back played for the Giants in the 2022 and 2024 seasons, having to sit out the 2023 season due to injury. When asked what he especially likes about football his reply was immediate, and spoken with a grin, "I like to hit people". Otton has hopes to continue his studies in Kinesiology at a four-year school here in the US (he reports that his coursework here will not necessarily "transfer" to university in Croatia); his enrollment here, however, is dependent on receipt of a football scholarship, and as of this writing his future is unsure. His return to Croatia, therefore, may be permanent.

Otton's alternate goal is to seek a position on one of the "American Football" teams in Europe. Rules of the ELF (European League Football) limit the number of American players on their squads for the purpose of developing local talent and boosting popularity world-wide. Otton says the sport *is* steadily increasing in popularity in Europe and although there are no professional teams in Croatia, there are several in Germany, Poland, Spain, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and other countries.

Wherever he eventually lands, we wish Otton success in all his endeavors.



Newsletter of the **All Slavonic-American Association**, published Quarterly
Marko Zaninovich, President
email: allslavonic@gmail.com
web: www.allslavonic.org



Our 121st
Year!



ALL SLAVONIC-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Date _____ This is a New Membership Renewal of Membership

() Individual-----\$25.00 Name _____

() Husband & Wife-----\$40.00 Names _____

() Family Plan-----\$50.00 (Includes children 18 and under, please list children's names and ages on back)

Make Checks Payable to ASAA ~ Please return this form with your check ~ Thank You!

Mail To: David Bronzan
112 Green Oaks Dr.
Visalia, CA 93277

For Membership Secretary Use