

Important Update (and Reason to Celebrate!)

We have exciting news! A few days following the conclusion of our Light the Tree campaign, additional contributions were received, gifts that were clearly earmarked and intended for our Scholarship fundraising effort. With the additional donations, we can report that our \$5,000 goal was met and surpassed—the final total is \$5,225. Our tree was beautifully and completely lit ! We extend gratitude to all who participated in helping light the futures of our scholars !

Hvala !

Annual Meeting Highlights

On Saturday afternoon, March 8, the Annual Meeting of the Association was held at Fugazzi’s Restaurant in Visalia. After President Marko Zaninovich called the meeting to order, attendees took care of Association business while also enjoying a delicious lunch, excellent wine, and engaged in valuable socializing and discussions of future events and projects.

Board members for 2025 were elected (shown at right), Treasurer David Bronzan, and Auditor Nick Zaninovich presented the details of the club financials (see below), and Scholarship and Social Chairs summed up the activities of the past year. Marc Hure expressed appreciation to the Association for their generous response to the “Light the Tree” fund-raising campaign and the club’s awarding of 4 scholarships in 2024; Donna Smith gave a summary of the 2024 Summer Festival and announced that



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

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cont. from p.1 the 2025 Festival will be held in Fresno, at St. Peter’s Serbian Orthodox Church Hall. The date of July 27 was agreed upon. We hope to see many members in attendance. Secretary Donna Bronzan announced that ASAA finished the year with 122 members on our rolls, and so far this year 89 members have renewed their membership (reminders will soon be sent). She also gave a brief report of continued research into our Founders, circa 1904.

An important item of New Business was the opportunity to support the Delano Club (American Slavonic Social Club) in their efforts to refurbish their facilities. ASAA has been graciously allowed to use the Delano Hall every other year for our festivals; the motion was made that, in recognition of their need, their generosity, and the Delano Club’s commitment to honoring and promoting our shared Slavic culture, that ASAA honor the Delano Club’s modernization efforts with a one-time donation of \$2,500. The favorable vote was unanimous.

Enthusiastic conversations continued re: future plans for ASAA: Andrej Romanenko volunteered to supervise the bar at the upcoming summer festival; both he and Marjorie Wooley will try to engage more young people from the Fresno area; Katherine Martin volunteered to share her collection of Zaninovich family history to support our Project 1904.

President Marko ended the meeting with thanks to all for their attendance, input and efforts to continue to celebrate and promote the culture and heritage of the Slavic people of the Central Valley.

Audit — Close of 2024 Calendar Year		
General Fund:	Checking Account:	\$ 14,103.00
	Investment Account:	<u>9,840.52</u>
	Total Assets:	\$ 23, 943.52
Scholarship Account:	Investment Account:	\$ 80,044.99



Project 1904 . . . an Update

Research was slowed, but not stopped, by the remodeling and subsequent temporary closing of the Fresno County Historical records search facility. Continuing to investigate more of our Founding Fathers, we have located some information re: the Suglian (Sôljan) brothers/cousins who originally immigrated from Hvar in the 1880’s. Niko, Visko, Ivan, Marin, Mihovil, and N.M. Suglian were all founding members of the Association. Nick owned/operated the Oyster Grotto Restaurant in Fresno for many years. John (Ivan) owned/operated a barbershop for many years as well as developed an award-winning Hereford dairy operation. We are continuing to seek additional information re: these men and other founding members. Thank you to Katherine Martin who has shared Zaninovich family research—if



anyone has family and/or early club information to share with us, we would be very appreciative of your contributions. Or if you have a bit of “history sleuth” in you, come join in as we dig for the hidden treasures of our past. Email allslavonic@gmail.com

Birthday Grams . . .

Spring Birthdays !

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



Emilie HernandezApril 1
Luka Zaninovich.....April 5
Alyssa Tartaglia.....April 14
Mel LubisichApril 14
Ron Radish.....April 18
Mike Pestorich.....April 20
Betty Papac.....April 21
Marko S. ZaninovichApril 22
Justin RitchieApril 27
Sam Phippen.....April 27
Alexander MartinApril 29
Thomas Zaninovich..... May 3
Dominique Zaninovich May 5
Marianne Kovacevich May 10

Nick JurkovichMay 13
Anna Phippen.....May 15
Brian HixsonMay 16
Debra VasilovichMay 18
Alissa TurnipseedMay 19
Mary Brookhart.....May 22
Patty HixsonMay 25
Andy CesareMay 25
Morgan ZaninovichMay 26
Fran Pavlovich..... June 1
Stephen Pandol..... June 1
Eric Zalunardo June 3
Dona Pestorich..... June 23
Maryanne Smith June 28

If we missed you, please let us know !



Dobro Došli

New / Returning Members since our last Newsletter:

Anthony Joseph Martin — Shafter
Jonathan and Kelli Martin — Arroyo Grande
Amanda and Seanie Sugrue — Los Angeles
Carol Yingst — Visalia

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 child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a present member in good standing for at least two full calendar years.
- A child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a deceased member in good standing at the time of demise.
- 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.
- 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:

- Please mail completed applications to above address by June 1, 2025.
- 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 2025-2026 academic year will be determined at a later date. These funds will be sent to the successful candidates' colleges in July or August.

Who Are Those Guys (and gals)? *continued*

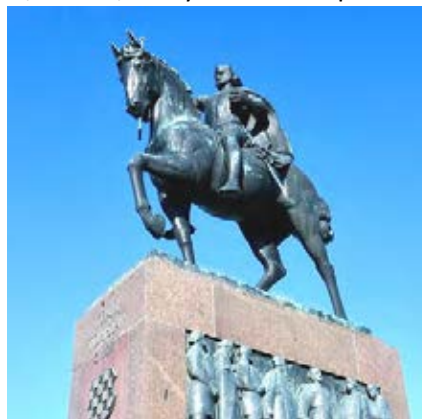
We continue our look at some men and women of historical significance who stand, in stone and bronze, over their communities and nations ...

The **Croatian Apoxyomenos** ("scraper") is an Ancient Greek statue (sculptor unknown) cast in bronze in the 2nd or 1st century BC; it is the most complete and best preserved among the eight known Apoxyomenos statues. It was found in 1996 by Belgian tourist René Wouters, an avid sports diver who had been visiting Croatia and the island of Lošinj for several years; Wouters discovered the work of art in the sea, near the islet of Vele Orjule, on the sandy bottom between two rocks at a depth of about 148 ft. The find was reported to the Croatian Ministry of Culture in 1998 and the statue was eventually raised by a team of divers from the Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Museum in Zadar, in 1999. Apoxyomenos underwent extensive renovation and in 2006 began a tour of several international museums (*including the Getty in California!*), but now is in its permanent home at the specially-constructed *Museum of Apoxyomenos* in Mali Lošinj, Croatia.



Petar Preradović (1818-1872) was a Croatian poet, writer, and military general in the Austro-Hungarian Army. Although his earliest writings were in German, he soon began writing in Croatian only and his poetry was both influenced by and sympathetic to the Illyrian Movement, a South-Slavic political and cultural campaign that aimed to create a Croatian national establishment in Austria-Hungary through linguistic and ethnic unity, i.e. part of a Croatian National Revival. His statue can be found in Preradović Square ("Flower Square") in Zagreb.

Although it is not known exactly when, where, or by whom the proclamation or coronation was made, **Tomislav** had become King of Croatia by 925 A.D., and he was the first Croatian ruler whom the papal chancellery called "king"; he is celebrated as the first Croatian king and the founder of the first Croatian state. Tomislav is said to have defended mainland Croatia from Hungarian conquest and unified the Croatian nation. This monument, at right, by sculptor Robert Frangeš-Mihanović, was erected in 1927 in Tomislav Square in front of Zagreb Central Station. For those who arrive in Zagreb by train, Tomislav welcomes you.



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Happening Around the State . . .

Croatian American Cultural Center of San Francisco



Festival of the Mandolins

April 27, 2025 ~ 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Ethnic Food and No-Host Bar Opens 11:30

60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco

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

Tickets: \$20 at the door



Ribarska Noć in San Pedro

at the Croatian Hall ~ 631 W. Ninth St. ~ \$100/Plate

Saturday, April 26, 2025

6:00 Social Hour ~ 7:00 Dinner ~ 9:00 Dancing

Music by Petra with Special Guest

Reservations: 310-308-8343 or 310-418-7074

<https://www.facebook.com/croatianamericanhallofsanpedro>



S.A.C.O. Spring Lamb Dinner

Saturday, May 3, 2024

PV Columbian / SACO Hall

230 E. Lake Ave ~ Watsonville, CA

4:00 pm Social Hour ~ 5:30 Dinner ~ 6:30 Drawing

Delicious Rack of Lamb, Makarula, Vegetables, Dessert

\$ 45 Adults, \$ 15 Children 5-12

**** Reservations Required by April 27—No tickets sold at door ****

Makes Checks Payable to SACO, PO Box 226, Watsonville, CA 95077

More Info: Susan Radin Gallagher (831) 722-3268



Save the Dates . . .



Croatian Independence Day *Weekend Celebration* Croatian American Hall of San Pedro 631 W. Ninth St., San Pedro

Street Festival ~ Sunday, May 25, 2025

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

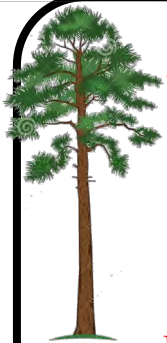


41st Annual Croatian Extravaganza

June 7- 8, 2025 ~ Croatian American Cultural Center

3730 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento

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



Slavic American Cultural Organization Summer BBQ and Picnic

Sunday, July 13 ~ Noon - 4:00 pm

Corralitos Community Center and Padres Hall

Corralitos CA (just outside Watsonville)

Delicious Food & Beverages • Music • Raffle Drawing

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Slavic-American-Cultural-Organization>



Mark your Calendars . . .

SerbFest 2025

St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church, Fresno
Saturday, September 13 ~ 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Delicious Food ~ Music ~ Fun for the Whole Family



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In the small town of Opatija on the Istrian peninsula is a statue known as the **Maiden with the Seagull**—a woman looking seaward over Kvarner Bay who holds a seagull in her right hand. No one knows who the maiden is supposed to be, but she replaces a previous statue, Madonna del Mar, that was destroyed by a storm. This 1956 statue, by contemporary sculptor Zvonko Car, has in her beauty and simplicity become an iconic symbol of the town of Opatija.

One statue that can be found throughout the Balkan region is that of **Josip Broz Tito**, sculpted by Antun Augustinčić (1900-1979), considered one of the greatest Croatian sculptors of his time. Augustinčić, having completed much of his early studying in Paris, had become a renowned and sought after sculptor not only in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, but across pre-WWII Europe as well. He became especially known for his commissioned works of government leaders and rulers, including Yugoslavian King Alexander I. In 1943 a bust of Tito, solemn, stoic, with furrowed brow, was completed. That bust having been lost/destroyed in the next 2 years, Augustinčić began in 1947, using his previous inspiration, to develop a full-sized bronze statue of the then leader of Yugoslavia. The work depicts Tito dressed in his uniform and long military trench-coat with nearly the same head from the bust, but this time it is hung low, staring down as he holds in arms behind his back and steps forward. A gust of wind is seen blowing open the lapels of Tito's trench coat, a feature which researcher Vinko Srhoj interprets as a kind of "powerful drapery that opens and frames the power of his stride, dramatizing Tito's physical appearance, its monolithic, slow, yet unstoppable energy of movement. In this sculpture, Augustinčić captures Tito as a true statesman, a portrayal fit for a politician who aims to be understood as the 'father of a nation' ". Shown at right is the original casting of the statue, on display at the museum at Tito's childhood home in Kumrovec, Croatia. Several additional castings were made (the exact number is unknown) and over the subsequent decades, many more dozens of these full-size reproductions of Augustinčić's concept were erected across Yugoslavia, in all of the Yugoslav Republics, both in public displays and within institutions closed to the public (i.e. military bases, government buildings, etc), as well as among private collections. In fact, there is one casting in Dallas, Texas, on the property of American billionaire real estate mogul Harlan Crow.



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**SAVE THE DATE —
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW !**

All Slavonic-American Association
Summer Festival



Sunday, July 27, 2025 ~ 12:00 Noon—4:00 pm

St. Peter's Orthodox Church Social Hall ~ Fresno

**and
Bocce !**

Delicious BBQ ~ Scholarships Awarded ~ Raffles

