

All Slavonic American Association

2025 Summer Festival

Sunday, July 27~ 12 Noon - 5:00 p.m.

St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church Social Hall
3502 N. First St. ~ Fresno

Delicious Menu

BBQ Lamb & Chicken
Mostaccioli ~ Sauerkraut
Salad ~ Rolls
Hosted Bar

** Ladies, Please bring a dessert to share **

Social and Cultural Events

Social Hour 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Served 1:30 pm

Scholarship Raffle

Bocce Tournament

Scholarships Awarded

Fun for the Whole Family

Živjeli !

See Reservation Form Inside ... Send in your Reservation Today!

Storytellers

An Immaculate Reception ... A Treasured Pigskin ... and a Story to be Told ...

Meet Croatian-American sports and entertainment publicist **Michael Misetić** - he is embarking on a project to co-write the screen play not only of one of the most iconic plays in NFL history, but also of the impact on one of the fans in attendance that day.

Many of us remember the legendary football play: it was 1972 - with mere seconds remaining in the playoff game. The Pittsburgh Steelers were trailing the Oakland Raiders 7-6 when Pittsburgh QB Terry Bradshaw let fly a pass intended for teammate Frenchy Fuqua. The pass was deflected by Raiders Jack Tatum, or Fuqua, or both ?? (some controversy still remains) and Steeler rookie Franco Harris caught the ball just inches from the ground and ran in for the winning touchdown (hence the tag "immaculate reception"). The point-after kick was good, Pittsburgh won 13-7, and ... with no netting behind the goal posts in those days, the ball went thru the uprights for the point after and was scooped up by ... a fan ... and ... then?

Therein lies the story that Misetić is going to tell in this screenplay. As Misetić explains, "It's a narrative about chance, choice, and the unexpected intersections of fandom and fate. Writing this screenplay isn't just about capturing a moment in sports; it's about exploring the human side of history and the personal journeys that intertwine with it."

Over the past several years, Michael Misetić has established himself as a leading writer and publicist in the sports and entertainment field, garnering praise from peers and professionals alike. He stands to bring a unique perspective to this story, one that we hope will make it to the big screen soon. We'll be watching for it!



Just for the Record . . .

Past Winners of the "Awesome Toss 'Em" Bocce Tournament:

2022 - Marko E. Zaninovich and Spenser Gagos

2023 - Ashley Tartaglia and Matt Pandol III

2024 - Matt Pandol III and Monte Peckinpah

2025 - ??? Could be YOU! Sign up on July 27



A people without the knowledge of their past, origin,
and culture is like a tree with no roots.

Birthday Grams . . .

Summer Birthdays!

ASAA extends birthday wishes to all those members who will be celebrating a birthday this quarter ... **Želim vam dobro zdravlje i sreću**

Matt Schneider - July 2	Jeff Bronzan - Aug 14
David Bronzan - July 4	Mark Pandol - Aug 20
Katherine Slaven - July 11	Sofia Zubacz - Aug 25
Katie Schneider - July 11	Ken Kovacevich Jr. - Aug 26
Vera Naden - July 12	Adair Vasilovich - Aug 31
Helena Zubacz - July 17	Andrei Romanenko - Sep
Jonathan Martin - July 18	Stefanie Pandol - Sep 3
Katherine Martin - July 25	Janet Evans - Sep 4
Andrew J. Pandol - July 25	Judy Zaninovich - Sep 6
Marie Zaninovich - Aug 1	Donna Bronzan - Sep 7
John Etsell - Aug 3	Lynn Burich - Sep 9
Marnell Pandol - Aug 8	Katy Zaninovich - Sep 13
Mike Jerkovich - Aug 9	Donna Smith - Sep 19
Kate Ritchie - Aug 12	Johnny Zaninovich - Sep 19
Amanda Sugrue - Aug 13	Cheryl Jerkovich - Sep 23
Del Evans - Aug 13	



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

WELCOME

to our newest member (oops ... we DID miss her in the last issue):

Toni Lubisich - Clovis

“Most Beautiful Croatian in Folk Costume Outside the Republic of Croatia” Pageant (*Whew! That’s a Long Title*)



The contest by that name, held each year in Tomislavgrad, Bosnia and Herzegovina, is set to take place June 30 - July 6 this year. This unique cultural event brings together young Croatian women from emigrant communities across the globe, showcasing traditional costumes and celebrating the rich heritage of the Croatian people. The aim is to foster unity and strengthen cultural identity among Croats living abroad, while also offering support to Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event is organized by Stećak, the Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Croatian Traditional Culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Croatian Heritage Foundation (Zagreb).

On July 2 the contestants will don the traditional dress of their ancestral region and spectators can enjoy a colorful parade across the pageant stage featuring representatives from Croatian communities across several continents. (Apparently there is no entrant from the US this year.) The final selection of the “Most Beautiful Woman ...” will take place on July 5.

Prior to that final selection, however, a recognition will be made for the “Most Photogenic” contestant, as judged by the public ... public, as in even you and me! Yes, the world-wide Internet-connected public will be able to input our choice; voting is open until 5:00 pm (Bosnia time) July 5 at <https://m.shortstack.page/mbvnrQ>.

(That’s 8:00 a.m. July 5 California time, so better step on it!)



Got News?

Please send us your celebrations and shout-outs —we’d love to publish for the membership to see and we’ll all celebrate with you!



Niko Writes Again !

Hey, all you fellow Slavs! It's me again, Niko Lerandeanu from "Travels with Danger!" I really loved the "Who Are These Guys?" article in the January 2025 newsletter. And then I realized I recognized the work of **Ivan Meštrović** (the statue of Gregory of Nin) because here at **University of Notre Dame**, I am surrounded by his sculptures. In fact, I toast the sculptor quite often (but I'll explain later). I'm going to take a deeper dive on this guy so you get to know him as well as I have! If you'd like to hear about him, please keep reading!

Ivan Meštrović (1883-1962) was an artist in residence and professor at the **University of Notre Dame** from 1955 until his death in 1962. Father Ted Hesburgh lured Meštrović away from his position at Syracuse University with the promise that his works would be well-received by the predominantly Catholic audience on campus. While Meštrović's work had originally focused on political subjects, he turned to more religious works later in life.

The University of Notre Dame holds true to its promise of appreciation. More than 20 of Meštrović's works can be found displayed in almost every corner of the university. There is even a walking tour on campus which will guide you to his publicly displayed works. His most prominent sculpture, "*Pieta*", is featured in a special enclave of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. I marvel at it every time I'm there.



Pieta

This work had been previously on display at the **New York Metropolitan Museum of Art** from 1947 to 1950. Mr. Meštrović's exhibit was the first at the Met ever dedicated to a living artist. How's *that* for a fun "Croatian" fact! Margaret Cresson wrote in the New York Times that, "His presence in the US serves to remind us of the extraordinary capacity of this artist - the rhythm and the design that flow through his works, the power and the surging passion of many of his religious pieces, the quiet harmony and the delicate tenderness of others."



Girl with a Harp

Prior to Meštrović's tenure at Syracuse and his exhibit at the Met, he was educated in Vienna at the Academy of Fine Arts and then zigzagged across Europe exhibiting his work. His show at the **Victoria and Albert Museum** in London was another first for a Croatian, and his design "*Girl with a Harp*" is the official seal of the Central Bank of Ireland.

And Mr. Meštrović's honors continue beyond his death. At Notre Dame in 1999, Ivan Meštrović was added to the University of Notre Dame's Wall of Honor "whose contributions to Notre Dame are lasting,

continued page 8

News, Events, and Happenings . . .

The Slavic American Cultural Organization invites you to their

S.A.C.O. Summer BBQ

Honoring their Scholarship Recipients and
Welcoming Home the 2024 Student Ambassador
and Exchange Students

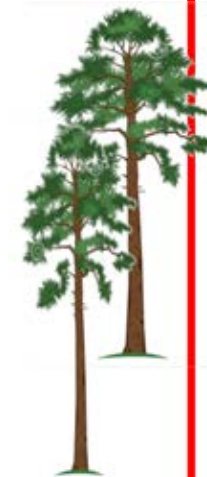
Sunday, July 13, 2025

12 Noon - 4:00 pm

Corralitos Padres Community Hall

35 Browns Valley Road • Corralitos CA

*(Just outside Watsonville in a beautiful setting,
under the shade of towering pines!)*



Delicious Menu

Steak or Chicken Option

Makarula, Salad, Fruit, Roll, Dessert

Fabulous Entertainment

Music by Petra Tulic

Prize Drawing

\$40 Adults, \$15 Children under 12

RSVP by July 8th

*** For more information, call Susan 831-722-3268 ***



St. Anthony Croatian Festival and Picnic

74th Annual

Compton Sportsmen's Club

1625 Sportsman Dr., Compton

**Saturday, September 13, 2025
at 11 AM**

More Information:

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

... not to miss !



SerbFest 2025

Saturday, September 13, 2025

3:00 pm - 11:00 pm

St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church

3502 N. First St., Fresno

Admission/Parking is Free • Food and Beverages Available for Purchase

Food

Delicious à la carte Serbian Specialties

made with love and recipes passed down through generations

Delectable Bakery Sweets

Patio Dining

Take-out Food Available



Entertainment

Silent Auction • Live Serbian Music and Dancing



Cultural Heritage Experience

Tour the beautiful Byzantine styled Church



Croatia Fest

October 4 ~ Seattle Armory
Seattle, WA

Honoring and celebrating the Croatian Culture and Influence in the Pacific Northwest ~ FREE and Open to the Public

More Information: <https://www.croatiafest.org/>

cont. from p. 5 pervasive, and profound." Many of his sculptures and drawings are part of the permanent collection at the **Raclin Murphy Museum of Art** on campus. Because the architecture school is next door to the museum, I frequently enjoy a hot chocolate at **Ivan's Cafe** in the museum, toasting my fellow Croatian and all his successes.



Raclin Murphy Museum



Ivan Meštrović



Ivan's Cafe

Getting Connected

Ultra-fast Internet, here we come! Croatian Telecom companies are busy upgrading fiber-optic infrastructure in the city of Dubrovnik and the surrounding communities to provide enhanced digital communications. No doubt part of the demand has come from tourists, especially during the very busy summer months. But leading provider Hrvatski Telekom is quick to point out that the goal is not just faster browsing, but to improve access to digital services like e-schools, e-health, and e-government. Enhanced connectivity is also seen as key to business development and service quality for all residents. Currently about 20% of Dubrovnik-Neretva County is served by the latest fiber-optic cable, but by the end of this year coverage should increase to 50%.

Rail connection between Northern Croatia and Slovenia will also get a boost this summer.



For the first time in over 30 years there will be a direct rail connection that runs from Zagreb to Ljubljana and then on to Pula. This directional route will run on Fridays, and the return, in the opposite direction, will take place on Sundays. This speedy (up to 85 mph) modern low-floor train will have accommodations for 171 passengers, facilities for wheelchair users, and space for bicycles and baby strollers, and will greatly improve cross-border mobility.



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