



World Record Strudel

The community of Jaškovo (Karlovac County, Croatia) has set a new world record for the longest line of strudel at their recent Štrudlafest celebration. Actually, the record-setting strudel was a long line of 8,940 *individual* strudels that when assembled end-to-end measured 3,136.84 meters, or 1.949+ miles!

Brussels, Belgium originated the “longest strudel” effort in 2009 with a 704-meter creation; that was topped in 2016 by Jaškovo’s 1,479 meter strudel. But Sisak, Croatia responded in 2019 with a 1,762 masterpiece, prompting Jaškovo to attempt to reclaim the record. And reclaim they did, on the 10th anniversary of Strudlafest!

Need a strudel recipe? Check out several different types at <http://strudlafest.com>



News from CroatiaWeek Magazine . . .

Croatian long-distance swimmer **Dina Levačić** will attempt 2 major swim challenges in the U.S. this Fall. By the time you read this she will likely have completed the first, scheduled for September 28: a 16 km (9 mi.) swim in the waters of Long Island, New York. The other swim, without a specific scheduled date, is the famous crossing from Alcatraz to the San Francisco shoreline, approximately 3 km or 1.8 miles. Weather conditions will play a critical role in the scheduling of this swim. Dina has been training specifically for the colder water temperatures here in North America, but is certainly no stranger to the demands of long-distance open water swims. In 2023, Levačić was named World Open Water Swimming Association (WOWSA) Open Water Swimmer of the Year, cementing her status among the sport’s greats. You can read more of her accomplishments at croatiaweek.com.



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

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Established 1904

All Slavonic American Association

2025 Summer Picnic Success !

Fantastic Celebration! Our Annual Summer Festival was held on Sunday, July 27 at the newly remodeled St. Peter’s Orthodox Church Social Hall in Fresno. We extend our thanks to Father George Gligich and the St Peter’s congregation for graciously allowing us to use their facility for our celebration! A wonderful mix of traditional Slavic and contemporary tunes compiled by Victoria Kovacevich emanated from the sound system and added to the festivity as attendees nibbled from the delicious hors d’oeuvre trays prepared by Toni Lubisich. Those in attendance enjoyed socializing and sipping the signature libation of the day: a delightfully light and luscious Sangria courtesy of Dominique Zaninovich. Also available for cold refreshment at the bar, so expertly manned by Andrej Romanenko, was a hearty supply of authentic Croatian Ožujsko beer imported especially for the occasion.



The hall’s walls were adorned with replicas of vintage travel posters highlighting the many charming and picturesque islands, villages, and points of interest along the Dalmatian Coast and Baltic territories, our shared homeland.

Social Chair Donna Smith and husband Mike were aided by our scholarship recipients in selling raffle tickets for our prize raffle, and Toni Lerandean was busy encouraging participation in our “Split the Pot” drawing.

Before lunch was served President Marko welcomed everyone in attendance, and we joyously sang “God Bless America”. Marko led us in a brief remembrance of those members and friends whom were lost to us during the year. After a prayer of Thanks and Blessing for our meal, the youth in attendance were invited to join in the serving.

The lunch was delicious and plentiful: BBQed lamb, chicken, mostaccioli, sauerkraut, salad and rolls. Bottles of red and white wine on the tables added to our guests’ enjoyment. Our many, many thanks go to the talented volunteers who prepared and served the meal: Al Zaninovich, Steve Pavich, Mark Kovacevich, Matt Pandol III, David Turnipseed, Rich Barsanti, Anthony Tartaglia, and Nick Buratovich. An array of desserts were available from which all were invited to self-serve; so much deliciousness brought by the ladies in attendance! Thank you all!

Following lunch our Association Vice President, Victoria Kovacevich, presented scholarship awards from our Tom and Martha Slaven Scholarship Program. Three outstand-

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Milana, Anton, Brynlee, Victoria

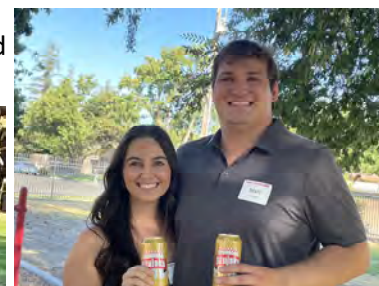
ing students were honored this year for their academic achievements, extra-curricular participation, and community service, and each was presented with a \$2,000 scholarship award. Our talented award winners are: Brynlee Obradovich, Milana Smith, and Anton Zaninovich. Each of the students spoke briefly giving thanks and revealing their collegiate plans. Please see p. 4-5 of this newsletter to read more about these excellent scholarship recipients. Victoria, standing in for

Scholarship Chair Marc Hure, expressed deep appreciation to the Scholarship reviewers and raters for their work in selecting this years' recipients: Nick Pavlovich, Katherine Slaven, and Nick Jurkovich. Additionally, on behalf of the entire organization, Victoria thanked the membership of ASAA for their continued faithful support of our scholarship program through memorial gifts, donations, and raffle participation.

These students were then given one more opportunity to sell raffle tickets (as they had been doing throughout the afternoon) and then the raffle began! Olive oils, wines, specialty liqueurs, lovely gift baskets with a variety of goodies, ... and more — a wide array of raffle items (21 in all) were available to the holders of the winning tickets! Social Chair Donna Smith called the numbers and the Scholarship recipients delivered the prizes to the winners. This is always a fun way to conclude our lunch time together, and makes for a great addition to our scholarship fund. The "Split the Pot" was the last prize item drawn—cash in the amount of \$405 to the lucky winner! ASAA extends a huge "Thank You" to all the donors of the raffle items and those who participated as ticket purchasers well.

The excitement then moved outside to the bocce courts —Thanks are extended to Marko E. Zaninovich for preparing the courts for the competition. Seven teams participated in the single-elimination tourney and the competition was fierce! The final game was a nail-biter: partners Matt Pandol III and Ashley Taglia vs. Victoria Kovacevich and Marko E. Zaninovich. In the end Ashley and Matt reclaimed their title (having been winners in 2023) receiving 1/2 of the pot and all of the bragging rights (and the Ožusko)! Congratulations !! and thanks to all the contestants for adding to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

We look forward to our 2026 Festival, tentatively to be held in late July/early August in Delano. We hope to see you there!



Bocce Champs Ashley and Matt

"Our" Nick fondly remembers his years growing up and attending the picnics held by ASAA. He has a multitude of stories to share about those years and the closeness and camaraderie among the many Slavs in the area. He especially remembers the strong moral code with which he was raised, and his father's admonition, "Don't ever lie!" He remembers Slav being spoken among the adults when they didn't want the kids to know what they adults were talking about! And he remembers that his dad placed great importance on his children being a good spellers!



Nick graduated from Reedley High School and began studies at the University of San Francisco (primarily because his older sister Patricia was attending there and she had a car!) and at the Art Institute of San Francisco. He then transferred to Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara where he earned a Bachelors of Professional Art. Upon returning to the Valley he made his career in professional photography, specializing in agricultural photography of produce. Did you know that each patent application for a new hybrid or new varietal must be accompanied by specific photographic records? Nick has been the photographer for patent applications of over 450 different varieties of produce, as well as photography for commercial advertising in the produce industry. Occasionally he also did home interiors photos that have appeared in architectural and design magazines. And once he was back in the valley, he became an active ASAA member.

Nick and the late Lucille Carić were married at St. Mary's Church in Delano in 1983 and they made their home in Dinuba. The couple welcomed 4 children during their marriage: 2 girls and 2 boys, each with careers in various California locations. His closest daughter, location-wise, is nearby in Clovis, and she is the mother to Nick's 2 grandchildren.

In his free time Nick enjoys golfing and attending Fresno State Bulldog games, and he has proven invaluable in helping organize the kitchen crews for our Fresno Festivals, most recently this year! Nick is a treasure trove of information re: some of the earlier days of ASAA, and has many more stories to tell.

Thank you, Nick, for sharing your story with us.

Crush Party and Roast Lamb Dinner



Sat, Oct 11, 2025 ~ 6:00 to 9:00 pm
at ZIVELI Winery

5840 N Biola Ave Fresno CA 93723

More Info/Reservations: <https://www.ziveliwinery.com/visit/public-winery-events/>



Casino Night Party

Croatian American Cultural Center
60 Onondaga Ave. ~ San Francisco, CA 94112

Saturday, October 18, 2025 ~ 6:30—11:00 p.m.

More Details: <https://croatianamericanweb.org/>



Who Do You Think You Are ?

Nick Buratovich has been a life-long member of ASAA, as were his father and grandfather before him. He recently shared with us his story and his Croatian roots:

On the highest hill of the island of Hvar sits the village of Vrbanj. It is in this village, in the late 1800's, where Nickola Buratović, a wine producer, and his wife Perina raised their family of 8 children. The second-oldest child made the decision to emigrate to America, and so Tomas Buratović, along with his best friend Pete Pavicić-Donkić, left home in 1905 and eventually boarded the *RMS Carpathia*, bound from Trieste, Italy to New York. The pair arrived in 1906, and traveled by rail to Oakland, California where they sought work. Thomas was Nick's grandfather; he found work as a dishwasher at a restaurant, worked his way up to serve as a cook, and eventually became manager. After just a few years, Tomas asked Pete about his younger sister—would she like to come to America? Tomas offered to pay the passage for Jakica to make the journey, and there would be no need to re-pay the cost if she would agree to become Tomas' wife. So Jakica Pavicić sailed to the US in 1911, but she didn't come alone—making the voyage with her was her best friend Magdalena. And, you guessed it — Jakica and Tomas wed in 1912, and Pete and Magdalena tied the knot soon after. True BFFs — the two couples forged a strong bond that was life-long.

Their lives were blessed, but Tomas had a yearning to be back working the land as he did with his father in Vrbanj. By 1920 Tomas, Jakica, and their three children were living in Fresno and Tomas was working on his own fruit tree farm. We are confident that Tomas became a member of ASAA at that time. During the next the decade the family welcomed another son, and Tomas owned two ranches with fruit trees and grapes. The end of that decade, however, saw the collapse of the economy, the beginning of the Depression, and the loss of the ranches. This prompted the family's move to Dinuba where Tomas continued to work in agriculture. He found employment with Vincent Zaninovich (VBZ), soon becoming ranch foreman. In 1940, when VBZ made the decision to move to Delano, the offer to buy the Dinuba ranch was extended to Tomas.



The deal was completed and Tomas owned his own farm again, and now he had his older son Nick to work the farm with him. Nick had been born in Oakland in 1915 and graduated from Dinuba High School, but higher education was forfeited for the role of helping his father run the ranch.

This son Nick ("our" Nick's father) continued to work with his father Tomas while also developing a fruit packing enterprise in the Reedley/ Dinuba area, and he joined with other Slavs in the area in membership of the ASAA. In June of 1943 Nick and Evelyn Friesen were married; they made their home in rural Reedley and to them were born three children: Patricia, Nick (born 1949), and Mike.

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Birthday Grams . . .

Celebrating milestones! ASAA extends birthday wishes to all those members who are celebrating birthdays this quarter ...

želi Vam dobro zdravlje i sreću

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oct 7 - Andrew Zaninovich | Nov 15 - Lucy Pandol |
| Oct 7 - John D. Zaninovich | Nov 16 - Janie Jurkovich |
| Oct 9 - Paris Blohm | Nov 19 - Briana Ritchie |
| Oct 11 - Melita Zubacz | Nov 28 - Peter Zaninovich |
| Oct 15 - Andrew Pandol | Dec 1 - Michael Smith |
| Oct 18 - Kathy Hixson | Dec 6 - Maren Ritchie |
| Oct 22 - Nick V. Zaninovich | Dec 9 - Frank Martin |
| Oct 24 - Ashley Tartaglia | Dec 10 - Steve Jurkovich |
| Oct 28 - Cassie Bronzan | Dec 14 - Katherine Etsell |
| Oct 30 - Carol Bronzan | Dec 15 - Linda Pandol |
| Nov 3 - Kenny Jelacich | Dec 18 - Marianne Keathley |
| Nov 4 - Brock Obradovich | Dec 19 - Gary Ferguson |
| Nov 6 - Bob Vasilovich | Dec 20 - Susan Gonsalves |
| Nov 10 - Curtis Bronzan | Dec 21 - Nancy Turnipseed |
| Nov 11 - Brad Hixson | Dec 30 - Michael Turnipseed |
| Nov 11 - Antoinette Lerandeau | |



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

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In Memoriam

FRAN PAVLOVICH

JUNE 1, 1938 – JUNE 30, 2025

Meet Our Scholarship Recipients ... the A.S.A.A. Tom and Martha Slaven Scholarship Program



Milana Smith is the daughter of Maryanne Slaven Smith and granddaughter of Martha and the late Tom Slaven. She has been awarded the **Katherine Maikovich Berger Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,000. She is a graduate of South Sutter IEM Charter School (Sacramento area) where she maintained a 3.6 GPA, was a member of the National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and received the California State Seal of Bi-literacy in American Sign Language.

She is a member of the St. Stephen's Catholic Church Choir, plays piano and organ, and holds a first degree black belt from Kovar's Satori Academy of Martial Arts. She was a team leader at Camp Immaculate Heart and has pursued advanced study in American Sign Language.

Milana has spent time outside of the classroom volunteering with St. Stephen's Brown Bag Lunch program (providing aid to the homeless) and the Sacramento Life Center's Baby Bottle Project (support for mothers in need). Additionally she served as a Junior Instructor at Kovar's Satori Martial Arts for their youth classes.

Milana has performed several jobs working at McDonald's and at Pacific Homecare Services – providing care and supervision to special needs children. She's CPR and First Aid certified.

Milana will be attending California State University, Sacramento majoring in English. Congratulations, Milana!



Anton Rocco Zaninovich, son of Marko and Dominique Zaninovich, has been granted the **Mark Pandol Jr. Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,000. He graduated from Robert Louis Stevenson School where he excelled both in and out of the classroom, maintaining a 3.45 GPA while engaged in challenging coursework: AP Spanish, Calculus, Physics Honors, and Mechatronics Engineering. He was a member of the lacrosse, water polo, and baseball teams and received Water Polo Defensive Player of the Year.

In 2024 he received the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scout: this rank signifies dedication, leadership skills, and commitment to serving the community. His volunteer efforts total about 200 hours through multiple Eagle Scout projects and about 50 hours at Martha's Soup Kitchen while at Stevenson.

Brynlee Obradovich, the recipient of the **Maikovich Family Scholarship** in the amount of \$2000, is the daughter of Michael and Stacy Obradovich and the granddaughter of the late Babe and Sonja Obradovich. She graduated from Clovis North High School, earning a 3.6 GPA while competing on their National Winning cheer team all four years and garnering numerous accolades: State Championship and 3-time Valley Champions; Brynlee served as team captain her senior year.

As part of the Career and Technical Education program at Clovis North Brynlee volunteered at Maple Creek Elementary helping in the Kindergarten classroom. Outside of the classroom she was a competition cheer coach for Fugman Elementary for three years and also often volunteers at Liddell Elementary School where her mother is a second grade teacher, helping in both the second grade classroom and TK.



Work experience has included retail (Ace Hardware) and educational fields: most recently she served as an Instructional Aide at Granite Ridge Intermediate helping with special education students, and also serving as an 8th grade cheer coach.

Brynlee is entering her second year at Cal State, Fresno, majoring in Liberal Studies, and is a member of Delta Gamma Sorority where she has volunteered for the Blue Run in support of the local Fresno police. We extend Best Wishes for continued success!



With an entrepreneurial spirit Anton founded a business, "Alpacas for any Occasion", providing alpacas (the ones he was raising for the Kern Country Fair) as entertaining attractions at a variety of social occasions. In addition to his business, he has spent the last few summers working for Sunview Vineyards (both in the field and at the shop), Precision Labs, and Motor City. In 2023 Anton spent a semester abroad in Australia where he worked for Fresh Produce Group.

Anton's hobbies include welding, fly fishing, hunting, building engines, go karts, and shotgun reloading. He has been a mentor to young kids at General Tree Mechanic Shop (engine swaps and car modification). His interests include American History, Analog Photography, and Agriculture to name a few.

Anton will be attending Texas Tech University majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations, Anton!

