



Photo by Jol Schrof

CroatiaFest Newsletter

***A Celebration of Croatian
Culture and Heritage***

CroatiaFest Newsletter
Spring 2010

CroatiaFest

**October 2, 2010
6-10pm**

**Dance Lesson
& Party!**

**October 3, 2010
12noon – 8pm**

Seattle Center

CroatiaFest - October 2 & 3, 2010

Dear Friends of CroatiaFest,

As we wrap up CroatiaFest 2009 with this newsletter, I wish to thank all the many individuals and organizations who participated in making our 6th Annual CroatiaFest a success.

Our 2009 theme "Croatian Women—Tradition Bearers", exhibited the sacrifices made and accomplishments achieved by Croatian women and demonstrated "the strength of the Croatian woman can never be underestimated".

Many thanks to our generous donors and a special thank you to the festival committee for their time commitment to this event. This multi-faceted production is a great teaching tool for the Croatian community and the community at-large.

I have been coordinator of CroatiaFest since 2003 and co-coordinator with Maria Plancich Kesovija (2003-2008), Assistant Director, EHC. CroatiaFest has been granted non-profit status

and therefore Ethnic Heritage Council will no longer act as their fiscal agent—umbrella. So now is a logical time for change. The time has come for me to pass the leadership torch of CroatiaFest to the able hands of CF Board President Cathryn Morovich.

Special thanks to the Board of Directors of the Ethnic Heritage Council for their support of CroatiaFest since the planning stages in 2003. We could not have accomplished all this without the support and non-profit status of the Ethnic Heritage Council.

Thank you one and all and I look forward to seeing you at CroatiaFest 2010 where we celebrate the 2010 theme "Culture & Sports".

Very truly yours,

Alma Plancich

Alma Franulović Plancich
CroatiaFest Coordinator, 2003-2009
Executive Director,
Ethnic Heritage Council

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2010 CroatiaFest - Croats & Sports

- By Frank Brozovich
Honorary Croatian Consul,
CroatiaFest Chairman of the Board

As we Croats disappear from the seas, the mines and the steel mills and become dispersed in the great melting pot called America, we still keep identity with our roots. We take pride in those of our own who distinguish themselves in all fields of endeavor. Croats, in the world of sport, whether it is on the gridiron, the diamond, court or any other realm where sports take place, have made their mark.

National Croatian luminaries from bygone days include home run king, Roger Maris; Heisman winner Frankie (the Georgia peach) Sinkwich and basketball hall of famer George Mikan.

In our own Pacific Northwest, some of the greats of the past are: University of Washington's All-American football players, Vic Markov and Max Starčevich; Aberdeen's and Gonzaga's football star, George Karamatić and Tony

Vlastelica, Oregon State basketball star.

Cle Elum and Roslyn, claim: All Coast football player and National Discus Champion Pete Zagar; multi talented Washington State great, Frank Mataya and track standout George Stimac.

Some of the more recent outstanding Croat athletes are: Jason Chorak, University of Washington, All-American and PAC 10 Defensive football

Continued on page 10, Croats & Sports

CALLING ALL ADVERTISERS!!!

CroatiaFest Program Ads

Your ad will be seen by over 2000 people at CroatiaFest & you will receive a FREE line ad on www.croatiafest.org for ONE full year!

Price: \$75 per 2x2 space

Call Nikki about special pricing for larger ads 360-420-5846



**Congrats on your 7th
Year of CroatiaFest**

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The CroatiaFest Committee is also encouraging parents, grandparents, friends and family members to consider buying ad space congratulating a performer, wishes for a future graduate or even family memorial.

CroatiaFest 2010 Activities

Saturday, October 2
Evening

**Special Donor Reception &
Center House Dance**

Dance your beloved kolos and hear your favorite Croatian pop music played by local Croatian bands & guests

Sunday, October 3
All Day

Art Gallery
Music & Dance Performances
Community Historical Displays
Foods with a Croatian Flair
Lectures & Lessons
Marketplace
Activities for Kids

Visit: www.croatiafest.org
For the full schedule coming soon!

CroatiaFest activities are FREE,
open to the public, and held in the
Seattle Center House.

CroatiaFest Coordinators: Cathryn Morovich & Kristen LeMieux

Chairman of the Board: Dr. Frank Brozovich, Honorary Croatian Consul. **Officers:** Board President, Cathryn Morovich; Board Vice-President, Richard Major; Board Treasurer, Michael Rancich; Board Secretary, Beverly Read. **2010 CroatiaFest Committee:** Dr. Frank Brozovich, Joanne Abdo, Lora Batina, Nikki Cvitanović, Bob & Peggy Gunovick, Louise Petrich Iverson, Maria Plancich Kesovija, Kristen LeMieux, John Lovrić, Richard Major, Karen Mikačenić, Cathryn Morovich, John Morovich, Jonathon Papac, John Pintar, Alma Franulović Plancich, Michael Rancich, Beverly Read, Stephanie Rogstad, Mark & Dunja Ruljancich, Kristin Tarabochia, Igor Vuletić.

Community Representatives & Volunteers: Nancy Freeman, Jana Harvey, Vjeko Ivanković, Greta Kos, Priscilla Lisicich, Bret Lunsford, Colleen Mavar, Steve Medalia Jr., Veronica Mratinich, John Petrinovich, Maria Franulović Petrish, Janet Segur, Damir & Elaine Tomšić.

*CroatiaFest is produced by the local Croatian-American Community and is part of Seattle Center's **Festál**, a year-long series of world cultural events that honors the richness and diversity of our region.*

CroatiaFest
P.O. Box 60003
Shoreline, WA 98160



**A special thank you to all CroatiaFest
participants & volunteers!**

Phone: 206-619-4193
Email: info@croatiafest.org
www.croatiafest.org
Newsletter Editor: Maria Kesovija
CroatiaFest Logo by John Lovrić

FESTÁL 2010
seattlecenter



Ethnic
Heritage
Council



CroatiaFest Newsletter is a publication of the CroatiaFest Committee. Please send submission materials to CroatiaFest via mail or email. If you wish to be removed from, or added to the CroatiaFest mailing list, or have corrections, please contact: 206-619-4193; info@croatiafest.org.



March 23, 2010

Dear loyal friends and supporters of CroatiaFest:

The CroatiaFest 2010 all volunteer Planning Committee and Board of Directors has been meeting and working diligently to select a theme and set a budget for a cultural and fun packed event the first weekend in October.

This year's theme is "**Culture and Sport**" and the committee needs your financial support to bring all aspects together for a successful event. Our capable volunteer grant writers are searching avenues to find grants and then make the applications. We are thinking positive but also realistic knowing that monies are not readily available or there are many applications and competition for the grants.

We are fortunate to be a part of the Seattle Center Festál series and are grateful for their support providing the venue and ancillary services. The Board of Directors anticipates your participation by sending your most generous donation today! Chairman Dr. Frank Brozovich kicked off the fundraising effort for 2010 with a donation of \$1,000 and fundraising chair, Beverly Read, submitted her check for \$250 today. An early donation of \$100 was received from Dick & Michele Kloss. CroatiaFest is a recognized non-profit by the IRS so your donation is tax deductible.

You can help us raise \$20,000 by making your donation of any size right now! A self-addressed envelope is in this newsletter. Anyone making a donation of \$100 or more will receive an invitation to a Dignitary Reception on Saturday evening, October 2nd and be listed on the website and program. You just might meet some of our famous Pacific Northwest athletes and performing artists at the reception. Our committee is working on it!

On behalf of Chairman and Honorary Consul, Dr. Frank Brozovich; Event coordinators, President Cathryn Morovich and Kristen Lemieux; Vice-President, Richard Major; Treasurer, Michael Rancich; Board of Directors and the Planning Committee we extend this opportunity for your participation to continue the preservation and presentation of our culture to our communities and even to future generations.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and generosity,

Beverly Prkačin Read

Beverly Prkačin Read
CroatiaFest Fundraising Committee Chair & Board Secretary
206-940-4875
bread@windermere.com

Website: www.croatiafest.org

Email: info@croatiafest.org

View this newsletter on-line!
www.croatiafest.org/newsletter.html

A Message From CroatiaFest Board President

The CroatiaFest planning committee is busy working on the 2010 festival, which will take place at the Center House at the Seattle Center on Sunday, October 3rd. Our theme this year is **"Culture and Sport"**. The emphasis is to not only showcase the achievements of Croatian tamburitza bands, dance troupes and theatre groups beginning in the 1920's but also to shed light on the accomplished Croatian men and women athletes of the Pacific Northwest. The festival will be appealing to everyone regardless of age and/or gender with pictorial displays and artifacts of some of these great sports figures from the past right up to the present.

We are diligently working to acquire as much information as possible in order to create an interesting and fun exhibit for all to see.

The performance of traditional music and dance has been a very important part of maintaining our cultural identity. This year marks milestone anniversaries for three noted Northwest musical ensembles -- *The Seattle Junior Tamburitizans*, 40 years; *Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble*, 35 years; and *Sinovi Tamburitza Orchestra*, 30 years. The Harrison Gallery located on the third floor of the Center House will feature an exhibit chronicling the accomplishments of these fine groups along with a pic-

torial history of the numerous tamburitza orchestras of years past. A multimedia display will include historic Croatian folk instruments, including bagpipes, drums, flutes and tamburitzas as well as traditional garments worn in performance.

As co-coordinators of CroatiaFest 2010, Kristen Lemieux and I are striving, together with the other planning committee members and volunteers, to produce a fun and interesting day long festival for all to enjoy. Mark your calendars for October 3, 2010. You don't want to miss this fabulous event.

Cathryn F. Morovich
Board President, CroatiaFest

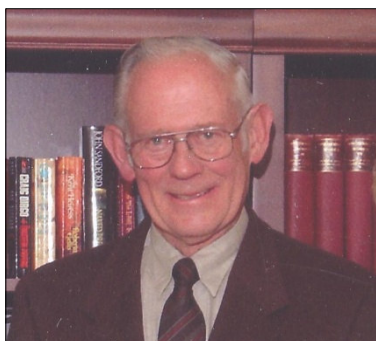
Seattle CFU Lodge 439 Honors Richard L. Major

Seattle Lodge 439 of the Croatian Fraternal Union is proud to honor brother Richard L. Major with a dinner & dance on **April 17, 2010** at the Renton Senior Center. The event will recognize the numerous contributions brother Major has made to the Pacific Northwest Croatian Community as well as his very active participation in the Croatian Fraternal Union, both locally and nationally.

Dick became a member of the CFU in 1963 and has held many offices with Lodge 439, currently serving as secretary/treasurer and Nest manager. Through the years, Dick has also held various important offices with the National Croatian Fraternal Union including serving as President of the High Trial (Judicial) Board until he retired from that position in 2007.

For many years Dick has been the backbone of Lodge 439... always there to lend a hand or chair an event. He is the guiding force at

the monthly lodge meetings, keeping accurate and precise records and correspondence as well as providing a little levity with his inventive raffles.



Among his many achievements is the founding of the Seattle Junior Tamburitizans (SJT - a.k.a. "Tammies") with his good friend, the late Tom Krmpotich.

SJT celebrate their 40th anniversary this year and are still going strong. Many second generation Tammies are current musicians and dancers. Dick and his wife Louise are proud to have their grandsons, Sammy and Matty among them. SJT will provide a short program in Dick's honor followed by dancing to music by Sinovi.

Dinner/Dance: Prime rib dinner: \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 12 years of age. No host bar, beer and wine. **Reservations required by April 10.** Send check to CFU Lodge 439, c/o Cathryn Morovich, 2130-48th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116. Call: 206-619-4193.

Respectfully submitted by Cathryn F. Morovich, Lodge 439



Photo above: Richard "Dick" Major, CF 2008 Master of Ceremonies and Alma Plancich, CF Coordinator, 2003-2009, & EHC Executive Director.

Richard Major is the 2003 recipient of EHC's **Aspasia Phoutrides Pulakis Memorial Award**, given annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to a Northwest ethnic community.

CroatiaFest on Facebook

Type CroatiaFest into the search & join us. Tag your friends, add photos of your favorite CF moments & post your comments about CroatiaFest. Be OUR friend!

www.facebook.com

Local Profiles: Mikačenić & Mataya

The Mikačenić sisters belong to the cadre of great Croatian North-west Women Athletes whose feats CroatiaFest 2010 will put on show. It could be said that it was to be expected that they would become soccer standouts.



Their father, Mike Mikačenić sponsored 1st Division men's soccer teams named Croatia that won the National Amateur Cup in Chicago in 1982 and both the regional Amateur and Open Cup Championships in Denver in 1984.

Carmen and Nancy Mikačenić were stand out soccer players and led Lakeside High School to three state championships and four metro league championships while attending there. The Mikačenić metro-league standouts helped Lakeside women's soccer achieve a #11 national ranking in 1997. Carmen served as captain to the 1997 state championship team.



Nancy was a two time high school All-American and Gatorade Pacific State and Regional Player of the Year in 1998 and 1999. She captained the US

women's Under-17 national team and was a member of the United States Under-18 team. In 1999, as a starting member of Notre Dame's #2 national ranked team, Nancy was selected as one of the top 11 freshman in NCAA division I women's soccer. She was also selected the same year to the Big East League's All Rookie Team. Nancy competed in the finals in the national championship in 1999 and 2000.



NCAA Tournament. As captain of that team, she led Tuft's through tournament play to compete in the National Championship finals.

Carmen's athletic prowess extended beyond soccer as stroke for the Lakeside High School Varsity Rowing Eight that won regional's in 1997 and competed at the Junior Nationals in Ohio in the same year.

Frank Mataya from Roslyn, Cle Elum High School and Washington State University is considered to be the most versatile athlete that ever came out of the State of Washington. He was inducted into Wash-



FRANK MATAYA

ington State University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989. He is the all time record holder for varsity athletic letters (12) earned at Washington State University

and Pacific Coast Conference Schools: 4 football, 4 track, 3 basketball and 1 in baseball.

He was a 3 sport stand out in high school from 1944 to 1946. As a tailback, he led Cle Elum High School to the Yakima Valley Conference Football Championship with to a win over Yakima High, one of the largest high schools in the state at that time. Cle Elum barely totaled 300 students in 4 grades. He was an all conference guard on the basketball team that went undefeated in conference play his junior and senior seasons.

In track, Frank competed as a shot-putter. He won the state high school shotput championship with record throw of 52 feet, 7 ¼ inches at the state A meet in Pullman in 1946; a record that stood for 5 years. (At that time high school athletics were classified as only A or B category.) He accomplished that feat despite being only 5 foot 11 and weighing 175 pounds.



From Cle Elum High School, Frank went to Washington State University where he was a starting varsity quarterback, basketball guard, shot-putter and played in the outfield on the baseball team. As was normal back then, he also played defense in football. He was known as a vicious tackling defensive back.

Continued on page 10, Local Profiles

CroatiaFest 2009 Photo Album

October 3, 2009: Donor Reception with entertainment by Klapa Dowopella & Ruže Dalmatinke Orchestra

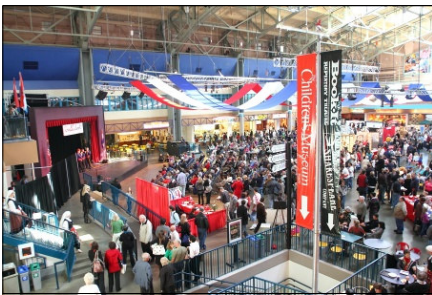


Ambassador Kitarović joined in the singing!

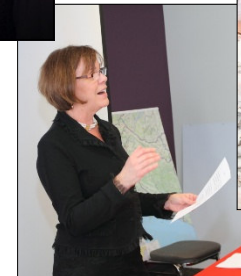


L to R: Consul General Ante Barbir; Robert Gunovick; Max Vekich, Alma Plancich; Dr. Frank Brozovich; Ambassador Kolinda Kitarović; Frank Chopp, Speaker of the House, WA

October 4, 2009: Seattle Center House



CroatiaFest MarketPlace & Historical Exhibits



Vocal Workshop with Mary Sherhart



Genealogy with Barbara Budinich Starkey



Časne Sestre - Daughters of Mercy, Third Order of St. Francis: The life and work of Blessed Marija Petković



Travel to Croatia - Gretchen Strauch of "Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door"

"Hrvati" - Viewing and Discussion with Jean Walkinshaw, Producer, KCTS

Costume Care and Restoration with Kathy Sandstrom



Harrison Street Gallery - October 1 - October 12, 2009: Artwork by Katerina Zahirović - Marinović, Gloria Barello, Eva Sköld Westerlind and watercolors from the the Blanche Payne Costume Photograph & Drawing Collection.



Tradition Bearers: A Panel Discussion

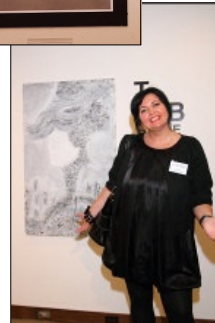
L to R: Dorothy Cordova, Moderator Luise Petrich Iverson, Priscilla Lisicich, Helen Čupić Stone, Maria Franulović Petrish, Maria Plancich Kesovija

Book readings & presentations by:

Bret Lunsford "Images of America: Anacortes"
Gary Loverich "Let it Go Louie"

Jasenska Piljac Žegarac "Zinfandel: A Croatian-American Wine Story"

Caroline Gallacci "Images of America: Tacoma"



To view event photos by Jal, visit: www.pbase.com/jal/croatiafest2009

CroatiaFest 2009 Photo Album

October 4, 2009:

CroatiaFest Opening - Alma Franulović Plancich, CroatiaFest Coordinator
Dignitary Introductions - Dr. Frank Brozovich, Honorary Consul of Croatia

- Ambassador Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, Croatian Ambassador to the US;
U.S. Representative Jim McDermott; Consul General Ante Barbir,
Consul of Croatia; Anne Arries Corsano, District Director,
US Citizenship & Immigration Services; Leann Leigh, USCIS



Fashion Show -
Rites of Passage



Dunava
Women's
Choir



Seattle Junior Tamburitans

Vela Luka Children's Dance Ensemble



Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble



Radost Folk Ensemble



Dave and the Dalmatians



Zbor Jele

Lindo Folk dance lesson
with Nicholas Petrish III



Tamburaški Orkestar Kardinal Stepinac



Center House Dance to the
music of Grupa ZRINSKI



Master of Ceremonies -
Theresa Obradovich Stankovik



Naturalization Ceremony
administered by USCIS



Seattle Tamburitza Music Celebrates Milestones

-By John Morovich, Artistic Director, Seattle Junior Tamburitza

It seems hard to believe that it was 40 years ago when the late Tom Krmpotich began training 12 young musicians in the art of playing the tamburitza. Since 1970 over 400 musicians, singers and dancers have been a part of The Seattle Junior Tamburitza, the region's longest running yet "youngest" ethnic folk group of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

The group has been celebrating its 40th anniversary with year long series of events. In July 2009, the group took its 5th tour performing tour of Croatia visiting Zagreb performing at St. Joseph's Orphanage Hrvatski Leskovac and participating in the International Folklore Festival in Velika Gorica. The young Tamburitza had performances in Punat on the Island of Krk, Cavtat, Vela Luka on the Island of Korcula and in Sali on the Island of Dugi Otok.

On February 13, over 350 former performers and parents gathered at John F. Kennedy High School for an all class reunion. The evening was filled with much reminiscing, sharing of stories, photo taking and hours of spirited kolo dancing to the music of the Sinovi Tamburitza Orchestra. The guests were welcomed by both current Artistic Director John Morovich and the group's co-founder Richard Major and were treated to a performance of songs and dances from the Podravina region by current members of the group. Starting chronologically, as the Sinovi played the popular "Kolo Seljančica", graduates were called out class by class starting with the first group of dancers in 1972 led by the group's first dance teacher, Gloria Kelemenić Barelo. It wasn't long before nearly 300 dancers were kicking up their heels! The evening will remain a fond memory for all who attended.

This coming June 19, SJT will hold a 40th Anniversary KAVANA 2010. The youngsters are diligently polishing 4 choreographies from Podravina, the Islands of Susak and Dugi Otok and a brand new piece from Donji Desinec in the Jastrebarsko region near Zagreb. As a grand finale, all Tamburitza alumni have been invited to join the current group in playing, singing and dancing which promises to be an exciting and fun conclusion to the performance. For more information about attending KAVANA, signing up a student in the Seattle Junior Tamburitza, making a donation of an instrument, costume, recordings or sheet music, please contact Director, John Morovich at johnmorovich@hotmail.com. Please visit our website at www.sjtamburitza.org

This SJT Historiette was originally prepared by SJT co-founder Richard Major on the occasion of the Tamburitza's 25th Anniversary in 1995 and subsequent historical details were added by John Morovich for this publication.

The Seattle Junior Tamburitza were founded in September, 1970 on, on inspiration received at the Croatian Fraternal Union's 4th Annual Junior Tam-



buritza Festival held in Pueblo, Colorado the previous July. The seed was sown when 11 Seattle youngsters and their parents attended the concurrent Festival and CFU Junior Convention, liked what they saw, and brought the idea home to Seattle.

From a rag-tag beginning, with antiquated instruments and generic folk costumes, the group progressed steadily—growing in number, buying new instruments and sharpening their musical repertoire. Wardrobe development proceeded more slowly.

Within months, the group began to appear publicly—Anacortes, Aberdeen, Roslyn, Tacoma, Nainaimo and Vancouver, B.C., Butte Montana, etc. The highlight of these early years was the group's appearance at Expo-74 in Spokane: the first World Fair to invite a Junior Tamburitza group. This was repeated in 1986 when the group was invited to perform at the 1986 World Fair in Vancouver, B.C.

In 1980 in order to participate in the 14th Annual Jr. Tamburitza Festival in Denver, The Seattle Juniors joined the CFU Jr. Cultural Federation. Sophistication soared as a result. Authentic costumes were imported from Europe, music stands were discarded and more boys participated in the dance suites—adding vigor called for by choreography. In 1981 the group conducted a whirlwind tour of old Yugoslavia that culminated with an outstanding performance at the CFU Festival held in Zagreb's Vatroslav Lisinski Hall. The group has since toured Croatia in 1986, 1997, 2004 and 2009.

The group participated in numerous festivals on this continent including Anaheim, Chicago (twice) Cleveland, Milwaukee, Seattle, Orlando, Pittsburgh (twice) Nashville and Toronto. A distinct honor was bestowed upon Director John Morovich when he was selected to be the Festival Guest Conductor in Chicago in 2005. In 2003 Richard Major was awarded The Aspasia Phoutrides Pulakis Memorial Award,

Continued on page 10, SJT



Photo by Steve Joyce

Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble Celebrates 35 Years

-By Maria Plancich Kesovija, VL Artistic Director

Spring—Summer 2010 - Event Schedule

March 27, Saturday: Anacortes, WA

Spring Fešta! Was a hit! Salmon dinner with performances by **Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble** adults & kids and debut performance by **BONACA**.

May 1, Saturday: Gig Harbor, WA

City of Gig Harbor Open House at Skansie Park
www.cityofgigharbor.net/page.php?id=1039

May 30, Sunday: Seattle, WA

Croatian Showcase: 3-6pm

NW Folklife Festival, Seattle Center, FREE

Schedule Subject to Change: VL & RD part I; Dave & The Dalmatians; Nick Petrish; BONACA; VL part II
www.nwfolklife.org/

June 2, Wednesday, 5pm: Seattle, WA

Seattle Center House
MusicianCorps Showcase
206.233.7022

June 6, Sunday, 2:30pm: Gig Harbor, WA

VL & RD at Blessing of the Fleet—FREE

June 27, Sunday, 3:30pm: Leavenworth, WA

International Festival
leavenworthinternationalfestival.com/

August 6-8: Anacortes, WA

Croatian food at Anacortes Arts Festival
Croatian Cultural Center

August 8: Blaine, WA

Peace Arch International Park Concert Series
www.peacearchpark.org

Vela Luka & Ruže Dalmatinke are included in the **4Culture 2010 Touring Arts Roster** and promotional CD. Visit: www.4culture.org/arts.tar

Vela Luka (VL): P.O. Box 635, Anacortes, Washington, 98221. Ph: 360-293-3663; 206-417-2067. Executive Director: Maria Franulović Petrish; Artistic Director: Maria Plancich Kesovija. **Ruže Dalmatinke (RD):** Director, Alma Franulović Plancich, 206-367-2268. Website: www.velaluka.org; Email: ehc@seattle.gov. **BONACA:** Pasko Kesovija; 206-660-5189; pasko.kesovija@yahoo.com

Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble was created by a small group of Anacortes Croatians under the leadership of Maria Franulović Petrish, strictly for cultural preservation and presentation. The sisters, Maria, Alma and Binki realized in this country it does not take long to lose our ethnic and cultural identity and that work must be done to preserve and educate.

VL has now its fourth generation of descendants of one of its founders Jure (George) Franulović. He was an original dancer, teacher, and traditions educator. His daughters, Maria, Alma and Binki, followed his path - their children, Nicholas and Michael Petrish, Matthew Plancich and Maria Plancich Kesovija continued, and now Jure & Marija's great-grandchildren, Christopher & Jaimia Plancich and Ante & Katarina Petrish perform too, plus grandson Paval Franulovich Niemeyer! The sisters' first cousin Marija Damnajović Anderson continues

to dance today—she began in 1975; Maria Plancich Kesovija, today VL Artistic Director, and Michael Petrish, VL dance trainer, began as children in 1975; both Maria and Michael trained & danced with LADO Croatian Folklore Ensemble in Zagreb, Croatia. Our ensemble, Vela Luka, ensemble was, and is, a way to keep the family together—to see each other at weekly rehearsals and performances throughout the year and most certainly holidays!

The **Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble** and **Ruže Dalmatinke Orchestra** perform music and dance of Croatia and the United States. The performers in Vela Luka represent four generations of Croatian-Americans who have introduced their culture's extraordinary choreography, music, and instruments to people all over the world. Forming a cross-cultural link between the Puget Sound region and Croatia, the company strives to preserve Croatian folkways and culture for generations to come.

The **Ruže Dalmatinke Orchestra** is a Seattle-based professional ensemble specializing in the music of Croatia and Bosnia, from the stringent open throat style of interior Croatia, to lyrical Dalmatian and Bosnian melodies. The group was founded by two sisters, Binki Franulović Spahi and Alma Franulović Plancich, who immigrated with their family to the United States after World War II from their native island of Korčula, Dalmatia in Croatia. The sisters are backed by expert musicians who are soloists in their own right.



BONACA: The talented men of Vela Luka/RD orchestra have formed the music ensemble - BONACA - performing folk and pop Croatian tunes.

Vela Luka and **Ruže Dalmatinke** have been featured in two national TV documentaries - *Hrvati!* (PBS, 1981) and *Children of Ellis Island* (ABC, 1986)-numerous local radio and television programs, as well as books and audio recordings. In 1986, they represented the State of Washington at the *Rededication of the*

"Hrvati" documentary film, was viewed and discussed at CF2009. Franulović sisters (l to r) Ljubica (Binki), Alma & Maria. Directed by Jean Walkinshaw. Photo by Wayne Sourbeer

Statue of Liberty in New York and at EXPO '86 in Vancouver, B.C. RD, in 1986, travelled to Mazatlan, Mexico, performing in numerous concerts. In 1988 and 1990, both groups toured Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and in 2000, VL and RD traveled to the homeland once again performing throughout Croatia. They were featured performers at the *Washington State Centennial Celebration* in 1989; *Voices West*, Salt Lake City, 1991, 1993, and 1994, and the opening celebration of the Seattle Symphony's *Benaroya Hall* in 1998. In 1996, the ensemble received the *Governor's Heritage Award* from the Washington State

Continued on page 10, VL

CroatiaFest is proud to be a part of Seattle Center's Festál

Festál 2010 presented by Seattle Center in partnership with community organizations, is a year-long series of FREE events that honors the cultural richness and diversity of the Pacific Northwest. Festál plays a vital part in Seattle Center efforts to connect our dynamic and varied communities. This collection of 22 events is presented with the generous support of Wells Fargo, Verizon Wireless and KUOW 94.9 Public Radio. Additional support is provided by The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Boeing Company, Seattle Center Fund and the City of Seattle.

Visit: <http://www.seattlecenter.com/events/festivals/festal/>

CROATIAN STORIES ONLINE!

Visit: www.chrysalisfilms.com/index.html

Click on CROATIAN STORIES

**Our Croatian neighbors in San Francisco carry on the traditions too!
San Francisco Croatian Festival is held each year in late October.**

In the video, along with participants from California, you will see our very own local performers:
John Morovich, SJT Artistic Director and Mary Sherhart, vocalist, and Balkan Cabaret.

Also enjoy San Francisco Croatian Historian, Adam Eterović.

John, Mary and Adam have participated in past CroatiaFests!

Alma Franulović Plancich, EHC Executive Director & Maria Plancich Kesovija, EHC Assistant Director, were privileged to be included in the planning stages of the S.F. Croatian Festival and in an advisory capacity, as professional festival producers of cultural and ethnic events, for cultural events held annually at the Croatian American Cultural Center in San Francisco, CA.

www.croatianamericanweb.org

Croats & Sports, Continued from page 1

player of the Year; Paul Skansi, University of Washington great who had a 10 year professional football career with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Seattle Sea Hawks and Ottawa Rough Riders.

And on the women's side: Lora Batina, rowing for UCLA and Katarina Batina, kayak at the University of Washington; Seattle University All-American basketball star, Sue Stimac; Mikačenić sisters: Nancy, All-American high school soccer player and sister Carmen, soccer and rowing standout and Malinda and Monique Zampera, basketball standouts at Seattle University and Portland State University.

These are just a few of the Croatian-Americans from the world of sport that CroatiaFest 2010 will name and honor. More complete lists and selected biographies will be displayed at CroatiaFest 2010.

Local Profiles, Continued from page 5

After college, Frank played some professional baseball. In 1956, he came back to Cle Elum High School as a coach where his football team won the State Class A Championship in 1959.

From Cle Elum High School, Frank went to Wenatchee Junior College where he served in the athletic department from 1960 to 1984 as basketball coach, football coach and director of athletics. Frank died on October 7, 2009.

It is fitting that CroatiaFest 2010 pays respect to all of our outstanding Croatian Men and Women Athletes.

- Frank Brozovich, CF Chairman of the Board & Honorary Croatian Consul

SJT, Continued from page 8

given annually by The Ethnic Heritage Council to an individual who has contributed significantly to a Northwest ethnic community.

Challenged by their devoted instructors, sustained by the hard work of their parents and supported spiritually and financially by their boosters, the Seattle Junior Tamburitians have filled the air with music, song and dance for 40 years. With continued support and enthusiasm, this wholesome activity will continue far into the future.

VL, Continued from page 9

Art's Commission. Between 1996 and 2000, the ensembles performed in Idaho, Sacramento, San Francisco, and in 1999 were the featured performers at the *Redlands Bowl*, Redlands, California. The ensembles were featured in the King County Arts Commission Touring Arts Roster for 2002-2003 and 2009-2010. Fall 2002, VL participated in Green Meadows Productions' *Festival of Cultures* west coast tour - 48 performances, 7 cities, across 3 states. The 2003 calendar included the opening of McCaw Hall, local theatre and festival performances and a February concert in San Francisco, CA. In 2004, amongst numerous local performances, VL performed at Paramount Theatre, Seattle, as part of the "DANCE this..." and the ensembles together performed for the opening of the McIntyre Hall, Mt. Vernon, WA. The 2005 calendar featured a tour to Oregon and inclusion in the Kirkland Performance Center Season. In 2008 VL performed the 10th Anniversary of DANCE this... at the Paramount Theatre, Seattle. Annual performances continued 2005-2009: Blessing of the Fleet, Gig Harbor; NW Folklife Festival; EHC Cultural Crossroads and EHC Winter Worldfest. VL & RD instructors and members, over the years, have taught at local schools as part of curriculum and as special event speakers/instructors.

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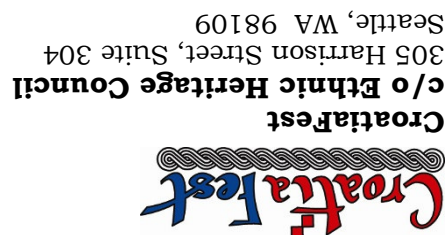
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