When Croats left their homeland and first set sail toward America, they carried with them centuries of maritime tradition. From Alaska to Anacortes, down the coast through San Francisco and San Pedro, Croatian fishermen, boatbuilders and sailors set down roots on the West Coast, weaving an Adriatic fabric of fishing nets, marine rituals and seaside culture into their American life.

It is impossible to think of Croatia without thinking of its jagged coastline, its array of islands and its sublime Adriatic Sea. In fact, Croatia’s territorial waters encompass over 7,300 square miles and are home to over 1,200 islands, with 47 inhabited. The country's 1,100 miles of mainland coast – 3,625 coastal miles in total, including islands and islets – define its littoral character, lending a slow rhythm and nautical melody to Istrian days and Dalmatian nights.

Illuminating one of this year’s themes – “Sea,” an exhibit of remarkable photographs of Croatian lighthouses will be on display at the Seattle Center during CroatiaFest.

The traveling exhibit, a series of 29 photographs, is culled from the permanent Plovput Split - Croatian Lighthouse Authority collection.

By Mia Brozovich Nacke

See LIGHTHOUSES, page 3
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: RAKIJA BEND

CroatiaFest is pleased to welcome back the very popular and talented Rakija Bend of Chicago.

This outstanding tambura band and talented singers will perform for the CroatiaFest weekend kick-off dance and sing-along 6-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Russian Community Center. Admission is only $10. Ala carte menu will be prepared by the Seattle Jr. Tamburtizan parents with a no host bar featuring Karlovacko Pivo, Croatian imported beer, wine and your favorite soft drinks.

Rakija Bend will share the stage with our own Sinovi Tamburtiza Orchestra. Mark your calendars. You don’t want to miss this fun evening of music and dance, sing-a-long to your favorite old time and new Croatian melodies, feast on delicious authentic Croatian food and homemade Croatian pastries and enjoy the company of family and friends.

The next day, Sunday, Oct. 1, Rakija Bend will perform on the main stage at CroatiaFest. See the schedule of performances on the insert page in this newsletter. Come to both events! Bring your family and friends. Make it a CroatiaFest weekend!
MEET CROATIAN HISTORICAL FICTION AUTHOR

Author Rosemary Gard will be back to CroatiaFest, introducing her new book of the Destiny series: “Destiny’s Design.” In the tradition of writers such as Ernest Hemingway and Boris Pasternak, Rosemary writes powerful and compelling works of fiction based on reality. Her works feature richly drawn fictional characters, drawn upon a canvas of historical fact. Unlike most other writers, Rosemary lived among the people upon which her characters are built. She lived the life of a peasant in Croatia in the late 1950s. Rosemary’s books give readers a first-person account of the lives of their ancestors - drawing water from a well, washing clothes in a stream, sleeping on a straw mattress, cooking on a clay stove, and working in the fields. Her works are filled with passion for her characters, written with an intimate knowledge of a different time and a sharp eye for historical accuracy.

Stop by and chat with Rosemary at her booth on the main floor of the Armory. Christmas will be just around the corner. The books would make wonderful gifts to special family members or friends. When you purchase one or more of the Destiny book series: “Destiny’s Dowry,” “Destiny Denied,” “Destiny Delivered,” “Destiny’s Dance,” or “Destiny’s Design,” Rosemary will be delighted to sign and personalize your copy.

LIGHTHOUSES  Continued from page 1

archives of Plovput Split, the Croatian Lighthouse Authority. The exhibit was first organized in 2004 under the patronage of Croatia’s Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development. Since 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration’s Cultural Department and Embassies have mounted the exhibit in cooperation with partners and sponsors at prominent spaces and galleries around the world.

The exhibit has been viewed at nearly 50 locations including the European Commission Headquarters - Berlaymont Building (Brussels, Belgium), the Kursaal Palace (San Sebastian, Spain), the National Polytechnic Institute (Toulouse, France), the New Library of Alexandria (Alexandria, Egypt), the Einav Cultural Centre Gallery (Tel Aviv, Israel), the United Nations Building - East River (New York, NY), the Pierce Reading Room, Lauinger Library - Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.) and the Fine Arts Pavilion - Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

These artistic interpretations tell a story of Croatia’s maritime heritage, cultural patrimony, ecological landscape and native resilience.

As a still important aid to navigation, Croatia’s 46 stone lighthouses with their prominent light towers are built at the most distant points of the Croatian territorial sea. Each main light has a range of 30 nautical miles to help guide maritime pilots and their vessels.

Some lighthouses are also equipped with radar beacons, fog detectors and fog sirens. Along with coast lights, buoys, signal stations and radio stations, as well as optical, audible and electrical devices, Croatia’s lighthouses ensure safe navigation through its Adriatic waterways.

Today, all of Croatia’s lighthouses are automated and operated through remote control systems. Yet 17 Croatian lighthouses still have lightkeepers who man the tall towers in shifts, keeping a mysterious and poetic maritime tradition alive.

This enduring symbolism, along with the historical protection of Croatia’s lighthouses and their present day vitality, remind us that Croatia welcomes us home, whenever we chose to return, and embraces all new visitors to its Adriatic shore.

LEARN MORE

Read about the exhibit: www.plovput-exhibition.com/english/home.htm
www.plovput.hr/en/monography

Research Croatian maritime safety information and commercial maritime services: www.plovput.hr/en

Experience a lighthouse holiday in Croatia: www.lighthouses-croatia.com
We are pleased and honored to welcome two new groups to Seattle and to CroatiaFest 2017: Vokalna Skupina Korijeni (Croatian Roots) from Chicago and Milwaukee, Wisc., and Kardinal Stepinac from New York City.

**Vokalna Skupina Korijeni**
Six talented singers and musicians make up this traditional Croatian folk singing group. The group focuses on singing traditional a cappella songs in three- to four-part harmony.

Their mission is to increase public awareness of Croatian cultural and folk traditions by sponsoring, performing and promoting UNESCO recognized forms of traditional a cappella singing and other forms of traditional Croatian singing via high quality vocal and music performances, education, communication, arts, research, outreach, and social activities.

Members are Anna Marie Hostička, Ann Lebar, Leah Lenardić, Jason Ottmann, Vesna Špehar and Heidi Ulm.

**Kardinal Stepinac**
When Croatians began immigrating to the United States, New York was the city that many chose to build a new and better life for them and for their children.

As Croatians began to build their lives in this foreign country, for many it was a hardship. The Croatian church was the place that all Croatians could come to spend time together to reconnect to their roots by sharing their stories from the homeland. Sts. Cyril & Methodius & St. Rafael Croatian Church was the center for all Croatians to come together to pray, sing, dance, and preserve their rich culture, heritage and language. These Croatians wanted to ensure that their deep-rooted traditions were passed on to their children to ensure they never forget their roots and from where they came. As a result, a Croatian School was established, and in 1971 our folklore group took the name of “Kardinal Alojzija Stepinac.”

For many years, Kardinal Stepinac New York has played an important role in this community. Traditions have passed from father to son, mother to daughter. Many members who are represented here are actually grandchildren, sons and daughters of past members.

The love of Croatian history and the respect for Croatia’s rich history that tells its stories through folklore has been handed down from generation to generation by its members.

Welcome Kardinal Stepinac and Vokalna Skupina Korijeni to Seattle and CroatiaFest 2017!
NEW OLIVE OIL BOOTH

Drusk Trading Company of Chicago. looks for world-class producers and products that large companies will overlook. By hand selecting each producer and product after a thorough vetting process, they gain assurances on the high quality they seek in each of their products.

Their products come from the regions that for decades have been overlooked. It is here that they find true gems, people who work tirelessly to develop and create products unsurpassable by other producers. Due to the geographic positions and traditions of the area, the profound flavors found in each of the products they carry are unique and differentiated from other products in the market.

Mike Druskovich serves as the President of Drusk Trading Company, developing new markets for some of Croatia's top products, most notably Chiavalon extra virgin olive oil, produced in the town of Vodnjan, just outside of Pula.

“We serve to bring something exclusive and memorable to your table, something that not only enhances your next meal, but also represents the flavor of the region from which the product derives,” Mike said.

Mike served as an analyst under Igor Gvozdanovic at one of Croatia’s top investment management funds. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Economics and Russian Language and Literature, which included a semester at the Zagreb School of Economics and Management. Originally from the resort town of Traverse City, Michigan, Mike now resides in Chicago. He ventured into international trade after discovering highly competitive Croatian products from producers that did not have the resources to export to the United States. Mike is of Samoborski and Korculanski descent.

Stop by the Drusk Trading Company booth, and sample a taste of the delicious olive oil from Istria. Be sure to pick up a bottle or two for your holiday table.

ART GALLERY

This year the Art Gallery located on the third floor of the Armory will present two artists: Gig Harbor native Lita Dawn (Ancich), famous for charcoals and murals, and Tim M. Jovanovich, linoleum block print artist. Fitting right in with the CroatiaFest theme “A Fish Swims Three Times: Sea, Oil and Wine,” both artists will display their maritime art work.

The Seattle Jr. Tamburitzans have recently acquired five antique original Croatian costumes to add to their collection. All are about 100 years old. Several mannequins dressed in these beautiful museum quality costumes will also be on display in the gallery.

Be sure to make your way up to the third floor to meet the artists and admire their unique artwork and the amazing hand embroidered Croatian costumes in the art gallery.

FOOD

Come hungry, leave full! CroatiaFest’s food booths will satisfy your cravings for traditional, authentic Croatian cuisine.

OUTSIDE
Roslyn, Ronald, Cle Elum Heritage Club, Ronald Community Club
Kobasica (sausage) made by Carek Meats of Roslyn and Glondo's Sausage Company of Cle Elum.

Anacortes Sister Cities
Cevapici, grilled to perfection served with roll and avjar.

Byrek & Baguette
Burek, traditional meat or cheese filled light and delicate savory pastry.

CroatiaFest - Seattle Jr. Tamburitzans
BBQ lamb on the spit, sliced and served in a hard roll sandwich with traditional condiments.

INSIDE
Croatian Fraternal Union Seattle Lodge 439
Sarma, stuffed meat filled cabbage rolls prepared the traditional Croatian way.

Balkan Task Force
Palacinke, made to order crepes with jam or chocolate filling.

American Slavic Women's Club
Povitica, walnut filled sweet bread pastry, sold by the slice or by the loaf.

Be sure to visit every food booth, taste the delicious menu items and help support these hardworking non-profit organizations.

Remember, you may bring your entrée into Quincy’s located on the northwest corner of the Armory, to enjoy the imported Croatian beer Karlovacko Pivo, wine or your favorite soft drink with your meal.
CROATIA’S “WHITE GOLD”  

By Peggy Gunovick

For as long as I can remember, I was told stories about my Croatian grandfather, Ivo Mojas, working at the salt beds of Ston in Croatia. Every day he would walk five miles from his village called Doli to work in Ston.

How important was salt to human beings before modern refrigeration? So important that in times past salt was as valuable as gold by weight. It was called "white gold." The saltworks at Ston, a coastal village 25 miles up the coast from Dubrovnik, still harvests salt from the Adriatic the same way they did for centuries, shoveling it by hand into carts that carry the salt to the warehouse.

The saltworks at Ston go back to Roman times. The first actual written record was recorded in 1272. Ston, at that time was part of the Ragusa (Dubrovnik) city state. A 3.3-mile ancient wall was built to protect the saltworks from invaders.

Ston’s beaches and bay are ideal for harvesting salt. The sea flows in and deposits water into shallow pools that go through a drying process from the sun’s heat and rays until it is dry enough for harvesting.

The salt was so precious, without it, people could not preserve their food to last them over the winter and other lean times. What type of food can be preserved with salt? All kinds - fish, meat, vegetables, fruit, hams, prsut and baka-lar to name a few. This salt is considered "pure" with nothing added, unlike other saltworks that add other ingredients and use mechanized methods. Many gourmet chefs use this sea salt in their cooking.

Even today, most Croatian farmers have hams hanging from hooks in their kobobe (basements or storage rooms). How fortunate Croatia is to have this precious saltworks so close to their cities and villages today and in years past.

Today, people can visit the salt beds of Ston and walk the ancient walls. If you are hungry, local restaurants serve their famous mussels and oysters.

CroatiaFest’s theme this year, "Fish Swim Three Times: In Sea, Oil, then Wine," could add one other ingredient - that wonderful "white gold" for preserving the fish for future meals.

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT SEATTLE ARMORY

Donors who have contributed $100 or more to CroatiaFest will be invited to attend our exclusive annual Sunday morning brunch. It will be on the third floor of the Seattle Center Armory next to our art gallery from 10 a.m. to noon on Oct. 1.

Pacific Foods International (PFI) will provide our favorite Croatian charcuterie, cheeses, tapenade, ajvar and dried figs with delicious Croatian pastries, our handsome Croatian men serving your refreshments, and entertainment by our talented Andy Mirkovich to play your favorite songs.
CroatiaFest is pleased to present the fourth annual wine tasting in the CroatiaFest Wine Cellars located on the third floor of the Armory. Our expert, Tom Kuker, who has previously conducted many Croatian wine tasting events in Washington, D.C. and Virginia and at the National Conference of the American Wine Society, will again present five imported Croatian wines for your tasting pleasure.

A tribute to Mike Grgic(h), “The Man, The Icon and His Wines,” will be a special feature in the program. Mike celebrated his 94th birthday on April 1, 2017. His Grgich Hills Winery is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

And, as if that’s not enough, with your price of admission, you will receive a stemmed CroatiaFest etched wine glass and you will be treated to tasting of imported Croatian olive oil!

Tickets for the casual event may also be purchased online at www.croatiafest.org, or, depending on space availability, at the door.

When purchasing your tickets online, please indicate which event you would like to attend—the main (1-2:30 p.m.) event or the casual (2:30-5:30 p.m.) event. Attendees must be 21 years of age. IDs are required for entry.

CroatiaFest welcomes Consul General of the Republic of Croatia, Siniša Grgić, Ph.D., to the festival’s annual “Croatian Consulate Day” on the third floor of the Seattle Center Armory. We are very grateful for the opportunity to bring to you, here in Seattle, the ability to do all business that you ordinarily must take care of in the closest Consulate Office, which is in Los Angeles.

The Consul General’s staff can assist you with a variety of services: from citizenship interviews, visa renewals and applications, notary services, customs issues, birth and marriage registrations, and Croatian passport renewals. Call the Consulate office to schedule your appointment and be sure to gather all of your necessary paperwork now to take full advantage of their mobile office services!

The Consulate office can be reached for appointment scheduling and questions at 310-477-1009 or via email at crocons.los-angeles@mvep.hr

A very special thank you to the Consul General and staff for their partnership and efforts to bring their office to Seattle. It makes such a difference for so many of us!
FESTIVAL FEATURES

CHEF DEMONSTRATIONS LIVE FROM DUBROVNIK

Word is out about Croatian gastronomy!

Our link between our homeland, heritage and culture is deeply rooted in what is presented on the table. Each year at CroatiaFest, the heart of our festival is centered around food, thanks to our wonderful organizations who volunteer countless hours to create and serve authentic Croatian dishes for our on-site food demonstrations and personal consumption.

This year, CroatiaFest is taking it a step further by Skyping in live cooking demonstrations with Croatian chefs from restaurant Konoba Dundo Maroje in Dubrovnik. See the demonstrations live and learn from the chefs, all while interacting with them and asking questions.

So, pull up a chair, prepare to learn from Croatian-American chefs on site or Croatian chefs live from Croatia and then taste the best of what we have to offer! Dobar tek!

SKYPE WITH AN ATTORNEY

With Croatia’s independence in 1991, many Croatian-Americans have had challenges managing Croatia’s property and estate laws. Each one of us can tell our stories or the stories of friends who are going through decades long processes to get the paperwork right, get titles clear and deeds together, trying to balance language barriers and distance.

Markusic has over 10 years of experience managing land use and estate issues in Croatia, originally from Australia, returning in 2007 to help make a difference. When not working in his capacity as an attorney, Don is lovingly restoring a house in St. Mark’s Square that was built in 1744 and serving on the Asia-Pacific and United States Chambers of Commerce.

Put your questions together or just come listen and learn as we are very pleased to partner with such a tremendous resource this year.

A CHILDREN’S CROATIAN CHRISTMAS

For the past several years, young families visiting the Kids Booth at CroatiaFest have had fun creating Christmas decorations to hang on their holiday tree. Again, this year, there will be the traditional Licitar hearts to embellish. And in keeping with this year’s maritime theme, kids will be able to paint tiny wooden lighthouses to take home.

A packet of wheat berries and planting directions for the age-old Croatian custom of growing zito (wheat) for the Christmas season will be available for families to take home to plant on Dec. 13, the Feast of St. Lucia.

Visit the booth to order your Christmas wreath from the Seattle Jr. Tamburitzans. The beautiful, fresh, fragrant wreath with a special “Sretan Bozic” ribbon and bow attached will be delivered to you the first week in December.

The Kids Booth, located on the main floor of the Seattle Center Armory, is
FESTIVAL FEATURES

a very special place for your family to have fun, be creative and bring a meaningful souvenir home to enjoy.

CROATIAN TRAVEL

Planning a trip to Croatia? We have you covered!

Visit the Adriatic Travel booth on the main floor of the Armory. Their travel experts are ready to help plan your trip, find the perfect guided tours, track down the best air fare rate, arrange hotel accommodations, car rental, etc. While you are at their booth, pick up a beautiful color travel brochure provided by the Croatian National Travel Bureau.

Rick Steves Travel representative Gretchen Strauch will give a presentation along with video of some of the most beautiful and popular sights of Croatia from 1:30–2:30 p.m. in one of the lecture rooms on the third floor of the Armory. Come prepared with curiosity and questions and she will be happy to talk with you about group tours or individual travel when traveling to Croatia and the rest of Europe.

Let CroatiaFest help you plan the trip of a lifetime!

MERCHAND VENDORS

Shop for those hard to find unique items and gifts with that special Croatian touch. The CroatiaFest merchant vendors offer you a variety of products: items that will enhance your kitchen pantry with imported goods from the Mediterranean, exotic hand lathed wood serving bowls and platters, hand crafted ceramics, and Croatian themed apparel. Don’t forget to stop by the CroatiaFest Apparel Booth to buy the newly designed 2017 T-shirt or sweatshirt. See the list of merchants in the insert accompanying this newsletter.

HOTELS

The following hotels are offering special room rates for CroatiaFest guests:
- Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Ave. N, Seattle, (206) 448-9444
- Mediterranean Inn, 425 Queen Anne Ave. N, Seattle, (206) 428-4700
- Hyatt House, 201 Fifth Ave. N, Seattle, (206) 727-1234
- Stay Alfred, short term apartment type rental, various locations, 866-232-3864

All hotels are located close to or within walking distance of the Seattle Center.

Support CroatiaFest 2017! Your ongoing support is essential for the future of CroatiaFest.

Name

In Memory or Honor Of (if applicable)

Address

Phone

Email

$1,000
$500
$250
$100
$50
$25
other

Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Method of payment:

□ Check # □ Visa □ Mastercard

Credit Card #

Exp. Date

Zip Code

Security Code

Signature

Make checks payable to CroatiaFest.

Mail your 2017 donation to:

CroatiaFest
P.O. Box 546
Medina, WA 98039
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CROATIAFEST 2017

CroatiaFest 2017 is brought to you through the generosity of these individual donors as well as grants & sponsors.*

$1,450  
Microsoft Corporate Gifts Match

$1,200  
Darek Mihocka

$1,000  
Dr. Frank Brozovich  
Cornelia M. Devlin  
Gretchen Newman  
Narda Lemert Cultural Enhancement Fund Administered by Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 439

$600  
Mary Sudar - In memory of our parents, Eva & George Sudar, Sr.

$500  
Danica Kaloper - In memory of Victor Kaloper  
In memory of Teta Violet Zuvela  
John & Joann Stilnovich - In memory of Michael & Mary (Cvitkovich) Stilnovich & Arthur & Helen (Cvitkovich) Richter  
Sister Cities of Tacoma Pierce County

$350  
Dr. Eugen & Olga Halar  
Laligam Sekhar & Gordana Juric-Sekhar

$250  
Larry & Konni Barich  
Odell M Clymer - In memory of Rudolph J. Pasquan D.D.S  
Zorka Bolf Drake Croatian Cultural Fund  
Joe & Imelda Gregov  
Gary & Susan Keister  
Ronald Kerzic  
Louise Segota Niemi - In memory of my parents Marko & Doris Segota  
Blake & Kristina Susich Walker - In memory of Frank Susich  
Theresa Babich Witherspoon  
Leonard & Karen Zuvela

$200  
American Croatian Club of Anacortes  
Barbara Dime  
Robert E Mack - In memory of Vlahovich & Kazulin Families  
Tom & Terry Marinkovich - In memory of Nick & Marica Marinkovich  
Berrie Martinis  
Mike & Karen Mikacenic  
Chris Saether & Mary Sherhart  
Evelynn Cava Stimac - In loving memory of George J. Stimac

$180  
Barry Kombol

$150  
John & Margaret Babich  
E.M. Cvitkovic  
Tony & Neva Dominis  
Michele & Richard Kloss - In memory of Frank and Mary (Starcevich) Cernick  
Florence Lovric - In memory of Anton M. Lovric  
Paul & Lita Luvera - In memory of Mary Babarovich  
Richard & Louise Major

$125  
Charles J. & Yvonne Bishop  
Jerry & Patricia Medved - In memory of Rose & Frank Brozovich, Jr.  
Richard & Donna Tarabochia - In memory of Zorca Bolf Drake

$120  
Charles & Jean Cujlak Shaffer - In memory of Tony & Shirley Cujlak

$115  
Gloria & Nick Barbarotto - In memory of our mother Ruza Zuvich Mosunic

$114  
Judith Tabak

$110  
Peter D. Oreb

$100  
Marco & Myrna Basich  
Marco & Myrna Basich – In honor of Audrey May (Basich) MacLean, the newest member of our family  
James & Veronica Mratinich Benvenga  
Mary Ann Mataya Blazevich - In memory of Joseph N Blazevich, Sr. & son Mark  
John & Harriet Budinich  
Jasmina Cernak  
Nordstrom Corporate Gifts Match  
Donna Plancich Day - In memory of Vince W. & George Plancich  
Steven & Karen Rancich Demmert - In memory of Michael & Shirley Rancich  
Alenka Dunatov  
Ed & Dianne Franciskovich Enkerud - In memory of Andrienne Gudaz Stevens & Michael Antich  
George & Yvonne Evjen  
Carmen Mikacenic & Dominic Giaudrone
How did your family say chair, window, pan, shoes or hat in their regional dialect? Stop by the “Kako Se Kaže” booth on the main floor of the Armory at CroatiaFest and write down your version of a pictured object.

Croatia has many regional dialects. These dialects have been spoken for centuries and have been passed down through generations.

Professor Nicholas Lovrich of Washington State University and two professors in Zagreb, Croatia, are documenting and identifying the dialects in a project to preserve the regional languages.

Many of our families received letters from the old country that were written in the dialect of their origin. These letters are priceless. Professor Lovrich would love to see them and talk with you about your family.

In addition to preservation of dialects, Jasmina Cernak will be on hand to translate your letters and other personal documents that perhaps you have been curious about or have a hard time translating on your own.

Bring them to CroatiaFest on Oct. 1, stop by the booth, and learn what treasures these documents hold!
JOIN US IN SEATTLE FOR CROATIAFEST 2017

Saturday, Sept. 30

CROATIAN MASS
St. Joseph Catholic Church

DANCE & SING-ALONG PARTY
Russian Community Center

Sunday, Oct. 1

CROATIAFEST
Seattle Center Armory

Details inside this newsletter and at www.CroatiaFest.org