



Photo by Jal Schrof

CroatiaFest Newsletter

*A Celebration of Croatian
Culture and Folkways*

CroatiaFest Newsletter

Fall 2007

CroatiaFest 2007 - October 6 & 7

From the Adriatic Sea to the Maritime Pacific

CroatiaFest, one of Seattle Center's liveliest cultural festivals, has an uncanny ability to compel anyone who happens by to tap their feet, clap their hands, or test their dancing shoes. Back-to-back performances and participatory music and dance define this annual festival, now in its fourth year.

For the first time, the festival has a theme: the maritime heritage of Croats. Many Croatian immigrants had seafaring skills culled on the warm and mild Adriatic, and upon their arrival in the Northwest, found work in the maritime industries on the cold and fierce Pacific. Sunday's day-long festival pays tribute to that hearty group.

"Continuing to explore new ways to showcase our culture as well as educate and entertain are important to us," said Alma Plancich, CroatiaFest coordinator. "The younger generations, as well as the public at large, don't know very much about the history of our country, the struggle for independence, the sense of fun we all share, or the beauty that exists today. Sharing this ensures that future generations of Croatian Americans will experience their cultural heritage, and that others can appreciate all it has to offer."



Kristin and Nick Tarabochia, siblings, wearing the costume of their forefathers from the island of Susak, in the Adriatic Sea. Photo by Jal Schrof

Maritime Heritage

Croats have long been shipbuilders, longshoremen, fishermen and seafood processors. Their contribution to the Northwest's maritime industry is significant for how it shaped their communities. They brought skills, experience and innovation. Over the years, Croats have built thousands of boats – the south end of Puget Sound is filled with shipbuilders with names that might be found on the Dalmatian coast: Babare, J.M. Martinac (Tacoma), Martinovich, Petrich, and Skansi. Everett's Fishermen's Packing Corporation, a fish-buying cooperative dating back to 1929, was founded by Croatian immigrants, who made up the majority of its membership.

Maritime traditions and innovations will be depicted through historical exhibits

CroatiaFest

October 6, 2007

Saturday

6-10pm

October 7, 2007

Sunday

12noon – 8pm

Seattle Center

FREE

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of photos, artifacts and newspaper clippings, panel discussions, art and oral histories. Today's fishermen will demonstrate how to mend nets on the Center House main floor, while a panel will share stories about their – and their ancestors – successes, hardships and adventures of life on the sea.

Dance

The dancing begins on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. inside Center House. World renowned instructor Željko Jergan leads a folk-dance lesson and at 8 p.m., he'll lead a participatory dance to Croatian

Continued on page 2, Maritime

folk favorites. At 7 and again at 9, music by L.A.'s Grupa Zrinski, known for their high energy dance music and overall commitment to a good time, will have everyone on the dance floor. Even those with two left feet will discover a new-found talent, thanks to an exceptionally capable – and all-forgiving – dance instructor.

A native of Croatia but now a U.S. resident, Željko Jergan, choreographer and teacher of Croatian dance around the world, has created hundreds of original choreographies and serves as artistic director for Ontario (Canada), Pittsburgh and Los Angeles folklore ensembles. He was a leading performer with the Croatian National Folk Ensemble "Lado" and performed with the Zagreb National Ballet and Modern Dance Companies. Jergan will also lead a dance session at Sunday's festival.

Art

Seattle Center's Harrison Street Gallery on the 3rd floor of Center House will feature special CroatiaFest exhibits October 2 - 11.

Fine art paintings, sketches of fishing boats, and types of nets will depict Croatia's maritime his-

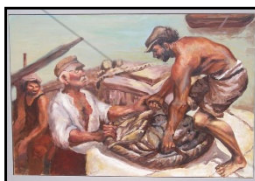
tory. Emerging artists Gloria Barello (artwork below by Gloria) and Sam Mirkovich will exhibit new art created especially for the event.

Also on display will be "Puget Sound Croatians in the Salmon Industry," part of the Washington Stories program that debuted early this year at the Museum of History and Industry, as well as an educational exhibit featuring the ancient and contemporary Croatian text by artist Ante Sardelić.

And so much more!

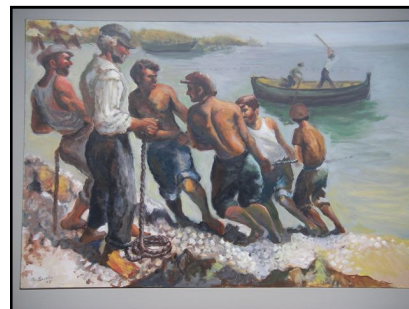
Workshops, language lessons, a Croatian marketplace (don't miss the Croatian lavender or olive oil) and special foods made by Center House food merchants all add to the authenticity of this notable and comprehensive event. If you can't visit Croatia – and we all must, one day – then CroatiaFest is the next best place to be.

Produced by Croatian community partners in partnership with Seattle Center's Safeco Festál.



CroatiaFest 2007 Feature Artists Sam Mirkovich & Gloria Barello

Artwork by Sam & Gloria will be displayed in the Harrison St. Gallery, Center House, 3rd Fl., prior to, during, and following CroatiaFest, October 2-11. Don't miss this opportunity to view breathtaking artwork.



Fishermen by Gloria Barello



Dugi Otok by Sam Mirkovich

Event Coordinators: Alma Franulović Plancich & Maria Plancich Kesovija

2007 CroatiaFest Committee: Dr. Frank Brozovich, Joanne Abdo, Bob & Peggy Gunovick, Louise Petrich Iverson, Maria Kesovija, Kristen LeMieux, Priscilla Lisicich, John Lovrić, Nikki Lovrić, Richard Major, Colleen Mavar, Darci McKinley, Cathryn Morovich, John Morovich, Veronica Mratinich, Alma Plancich, Mike Rancich, Beverly Read, Kristin Tarabochia, Igor Vuletić, Marija Grgurević Yerkovich

Commitee Representatives & Volunteers: Nancy Freeman, Jana Harvey, Greta Kos, Bret Lunsford, John Petrinovich, Maria Petrish, Janet Segur, Antonija Stipetić, Richard Tarabochia

*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 presented by **The Seattle Times** that honors the richness and diversity of our region.*

CroatiaFest

c/o Ethnic Heritage Council
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Seattle, WA 98109
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**A special thank you to all CroatiaFest
participants & volunteers!**

Email: ehc@seattle.gov
www.croatiafest.org
www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org

CroatiaFest Logo by John Lovrić

Newsletter Editor: Maria Kesovija

CroatiaFest Newsletter is a publication of the CroatiaFest Committee. Please send submission materials to the EHC office via mail, fax or email, attn: Maria Kesovija. If you wish to be removed from the CroatiaFest mailing list, or have corrections, please contact: 206-443-1410; ehc@seattle.gov.



Konsulat Republike Hrvatske
Consulate of the Republic of Croatia
Seattle

Dear Fellow Croatian Americans & Friends of Croatia,

The committee for CroatiaFest wishes to thank all Croatian Americans, friends of Croatia and organizations for their support of CroatiaFest. CroatiaFest 2007 promises to be better and different from past CroatiaFest events in that it will be unique in its theme of exhibiting the contributions of Croatian Americans to the fisheries and maritime industries. This unique theme idea will be carried on in future CroatiaFest celebrations by displaying the contributions of Croatian Americans in other facets of American society. Our 2008 CroatiaFest will showcase Croatian Americans in mining, lumber and industry.

Our especial thanks go to all Croatian Americans and friends of Croatia who have given the financial support that has made CroatiaFest possible. Your continued support is very much needed.

This year The Day of Croatian Independence will be celebrated and commemorated with a reception on Saturday evening, October 6th, 5:30pm in the Harrison Street Gallery at Seattle Center. Special guests will include the Croatian Ambassador to the United States, Neven Jurica and Croatian Consul General, Ante Barbir. All contributors of \$100 or more to CroatiaFest and their spouses will be invited to the reception. Presidents of Croatian American organizations that contribute \$100 or more to CroatiaFest are also invited to the reception.

Support CroatiaFest and join in celebrating the Croatian Independence by increasing your CroatiaFest contribution to \$100 or more! It's not too late to become a donor.

Sincerely,

Frank Brozovich

Frank Brozovich, Honorary Consul
Republic of Croatia

7547 S. Laurel St., Seattle, Washington 98178

206 772 2968

206 772 3487 Fax

fwbroz@comcast.net

Dalmatian Fishermen - by Robert Pearsall, October 25, 1937

The following story, dated October 25, 1937, a WPA project during the depression, was written by Robert Pearsall, a Tacoma short-story writer & non-Croatian. Bob Gunovick located this article in 1987, at Suzzallo Library, UW campus, while doing research on Croatian history. The story captured him immediately and he saw to it that it be republished - a wonderful story full of color and vivid life experiences to be shared! Enjoy!

They are dark, hardy people—not as volatile as the Italians, more so than the Slavs—who dwell on a narrow tableland below a wooded bluff on the West side of Gig Harbor, across the Narrows from Tacoma, Washington.

There are about half a hundred families. Their environs are much like their ancient Adriatic Sea, with its long coastline and countless islands. Here is the same heady scent of pine and fir, impregnating air of equable temperature, and the same quiet, lapping waters, studded with islands like emeralds of deepest green. Perhaps that is what attracted the first three fishermen who settle here in 1867, and the later harvesters of the sea who immigrated in the 80's and 90's. (1880's and 1890's)

Certainly they came naturally to salt water. They were descendants of many generations of fishermen. But the methods used on the Adriatic were still primitive. Lights were used at night to attract fish shoreward, then a net was lowered in a semi-circle extending from shore. Or a light was held over the side of a boat to draw fish—particularly sardines—to the surface. At first, much the same methods were used in Puget Sound. But the fish grew wary and rarer, and this New World air was stimulating to invention.

Schooners replaced the flat-bottomed rowboats. Then came the steam trawlers with their reek of oil, grime, and smoke. Now these fishermen range from the Bering Sea to Mexico in trim, white, Diesel-powered craft, with two-way radio communication, and anchor chains

700 feet long. They are the aristocrats of all sea harvesters. And that change in fishing methods inevitably caused other changes.

From individualists—each paddling his own boat—these fishermen became cooperators. None was rich enough to buy one of the modern boats, so they bought “on shares.” And ownership of such a share gave each man job-ownership. Each continued to be to a great extent his own employer. So there has persisted among them a freedom of speech and manner sometimes startling—more traditionally American than those who call themselves Americans feel free to practice.

This is perhaps their most outstanding characteristic. If you would hear what a man thinks, sometimes picturesquely expressed, talk with a Dalmatian fisherman in front of his union hall, or as he mends his nets wide-spread on the wood wharf.

Though somewhat short and squat, they are handsome in the main, some with noble faces and features of classic mold. And as a group, they have won to something approaching abundance. Their homes are in general the finest in Gig Harbor, and are almost as modernly equipped as their fishing craft.

To eat with them means a feast. Fish is usually absent, but meat forms part of nearly every meal. Particularly are they fond of chicken, usually stewed, with grated cheese sprinkled liberally on top. Homemade wine is present in quantity, though lacking something of the flavor of the muscatel and maraschino of Almissa (Omiš) and Zara (Zadar), which Queen Victoria used to sip. These fishermen do more than sip it, but their Old World habit of drinking without drunkenness persists.

Their native language also persists. They know English, but seldom use it in their homes or at their work. And they have also retained certain habits of gallantry and laughter, strong family affections and ties, and attitude of deep respect for the family's patriarch.

Much of this stability of custom doubtless springs from their occupation. “Men who go down to the sea in ships” are apt to acquire something of the sea's own changelessness.

Old World religion also persists, though with lessened observance among the men. “Fishermen are a long time away from a priest.” But the children are brought up in the Catholic faith and observe its rituals. Ceremonies are popular. It is mainly at church festivals that one sees the old Dalmatian costume—full skirts, tight bodice, embroidered jacket, tall head-dress, with blue and red mingling in primitive artistry. Dances in these costumes are picturesque, indeed.

Curious superstitions are found. On a fishing voyage, to mention a priest or rabbit makes the fish spoil. But this belief is passing under the influence of modern refrigeration. It is also held that Presidential election years are bad for fishing. Perhaps telepathic forces—swirls of public opinion—drive the fish offshore.

In the home, if three persons make a bed or set a table, the youngest will likely die within a year. And if a householder would destroy weeds, he must do it while the moon is going down. If the moon is rising, the weeds will sprout again.

Youth is apt to laugh at these things, however. And in more important ways, youth is turning away from the past. Parents lament the passing of old Dalmatian holidays and celebrations. “To our young people, everything is Fourth of July.”

There has been much racial intermarriage—in the beginning, with the Indians. Sons of three leading families—the Skansis, Dorotiches, and the Jeresiches—took Indian brides. The Indian blood had little effect on the strong Dalmatian strain. But now Dalmatian young men are seeking “American” girls and frequently winning them over lighter-complexioned but less pros-

Continued on page 5, Fishermen



Seattle Center's Safeco Festál at Downtown Macy's - Summer 2007

Visitors to Seattle and to downtown Macy's enjoyed student interpretations of Seattle Center **Festál** cultural events, displayed in many of the street level display windows, as part of Macy's annual **Windows on Diversity Program**.

2007 Theme: **Stamps, Passports & Postcards**

CroatiaFest Artwork, left & right, created by **Coyote Central**, an innovative arts and academic program for youth ages 10-15.

To learn more about Seattle Center's Festál program visit:
www.seattlecenter.com



Fishermen, from page 4

perous rivals. This gives rise to considerable ill-feeling and intrigue. Dalmatian girls are swift to punish if possible such an errant young fisherman.

Wifhood is taken very seriously, and is seldom forgotten no matter how far or long the fishing fleet wanders. The peril that still lies in "old devil sea" keeps the absent husband ever present in the mind of his spouse. She is the head of the house while he is gone, conducts all affairs—and on his return resigns all control in easy obedience to centuries-old custom.

She is zealous about her children's future, and usually presses their education, with fair results. Some become boat builders, and the product of local plants is found in the water of Soviet Russia and the Mediterranean. A very few take to business and the professions. But the salt of the sea calls to the salt in Dalmatian blood; and there is basis for the grumbling of hard-working fathers pressed by the expanses of higher education.

"What use to send a boy to college? He always comes back to the fishing nets."

They might do worse for themselves in a material way, but perhaps there is a stronger lure.

Here is a boat being loaded for sea under the eyes of the captain, who is also principal shareholder—a fine looking man, taller than most, with something in his face reminiscent of the valiant days when Dalmatia was the one outpost of Western culture and Christian civilization in Central Europe, while all around it swept the conquering Moslem hordes. Master of his ship, though co-worker with his crew, he treads the wharf with proprietary air, and directs the disposition of ample stores, which includes, among other niceties, shore-going clothes with freshly laundered white shirts and other linens. When he and his crew visit distant ports, they will be attired, like ancient Dalmatian travelers, in such fashion as to merit men's respect.

Eagerly, deftly, the men finish load-

ing. The farewells to their families have been said in their homes; they are ready to push off man-fashion on a voyage which may take a month or many months. The Arctics may know them, or the subtropical seas, or perhaps only the capes and islands to the North. What alertness in their bearing! What zest for the far horizons in their dark eyes! What natural sea-wanderers they are!

Are they satisfied with the thousand mile stretch of the Pacific Coast? Or are there, in the back of their minds, deep-seated memories and ancestral longings calling them to voyage farther, beyond the distant stars, even to the land of their fathers --

"Far, far from here,
Where the Adriatic breaks in a warm bay,
Among the green Illyrian hills."

Perhaps! But the family ties are stronger. When the ship is deep-laden with wealth of the sea, back they will come to Puget Sound and the little Gig Harbor settlement, as the ancient Dalmatians returned with war loot.

CroatiaFest 2007

All events take place in the Seattle Center House
FREE and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, October 6

5:30: Donor and Sponsor Reception*

6pm: Folkdance workshop by **Željko Jergan**

7-8pm: Dance to your favorite kolos and Croatian pop music played by **Grupa ZRINSKI** from L.A. & local musicians.

8-9pm: Kolos led by **Željko Jergan**

9-10pm: More dancing with **Grupa ZRINSKI**

Sunday, October 7

12noon: Anthems and Dignitary Greetings

12:30-4:30pm: Performances by:

Dave & the Dalmatians

Klapa Do Wapella

Radost Folk Ensemble

Ruže Dalmatinke Orchestra

Seattle Junior Tamburitians

Sinovi Orchestra

Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble

Žive Žice Tamburica Band

& Ensemble Sarajevo from Vancouver B.C.

5:15-8pm:

Kolos led by **Željko Jergan**

More dancing with **Grupa ZRINSKI** & local favorites

- CroatiaFest Activities -

"Art For Sale" - purchase art & photography from local artisans

Dance-Language-Singing Lessons

Food - Participating Seattle Center Merchants add a Croatian flare to their menu, promising to make your entire CroatiaFest experience spectacular!

Harrison Street Gallery

Historical Displays

Maritime Displays

Movies & Activities for Kids

Vendors - where you can find souvenirs of Croatia & more!

* Donor and Sponsor reception - invitation only

Visit: www.croatiafest.org for complete schedule of events & updates.

Special this year!

Maritime Displays - learn about the lives of the Croatian American fishermen through photos and historical artifacts.

Fish Tales - a group of Croatian fishermen sharing their tales of life at sea.

Fish Net Mending & Boat Caulking - watch as local Croatian American fishermen share their expertise passed on from generations. (On Center House floor!)

Croatian Variety Store

*By Peggy Mojaš Gunovick,
CroatiaFest Committee Member*

Calling all crafters, artists, collectors, musical groups – do you have Croatian items you would like to sell? Well, CroatiaFest this year, 2007, has added a vendor's booth for miscellaneous items like these called the "Croatian Variety Store".

We are not talking about large items, but smaller Croatian items such as: musical tapes and CD's; videos; hand crafted greeting cards, dolls, carvings, sculptures; books; clothing; shoes; socks; post cards; small musical instruments; small pieces of art and photographs, etc... all with a Croatian theme.

A small percentage of all sales will go to CroatiaFest, which is normal in all consignment booths such as this. Also, sales tax must be charged on all items sold.

If you have items you would like to be considered, contact me, Peggy Gunovick at 425-603-1142, or email me at bobgunovick@yahoo.com. Deadline is October 1st. We hope to have some interesting items at our "Croatian Variety Store", so let's hear from you.

Want to learn Croatian? Are you planning a trip to Croatia and want to know a few basic phrases? Or have you simply wanted to try out a bit of the language? All for FREE, **Sunday afternoon!** **Nick Petrish**, just back from Dubrovnik where he lives half the year, will host an hour-long session where I promise you will walk away with several good phrases and a smile on your face!

Do you enjoy the melodic songs of the Dalmatian Coast and always envisioned yourself joining in? Well here's your opportunity! **Kit Adams will give a klapa & Dalmatian singing workshop Sunday afternoon!** Everyone welcome! Have some fun, come and sing!

Are you visiting Seattle? Planning to spend the weekend in Seattle while you enjoy CroatiaFest? Stay just one block away from Seattle Center!

Visit: www.croatiafest.org for hotel information in the immediate vicinity of Seattle Center.

CroatiaFest Yellow Pages

**Are you an artist? Translator? Plumber?
Realtor? Instructor???**

**Tell CroatiaFest visitors about your business!
For your \$50 yellow pages donation, your name and business contact information will be listed on the CroatiaFest website, under "Yellow Pages", PLUS your listing will be in the CroatiaFest 2007 event program!**

What great deal!

**Contact: Kristen LeMieux, 206-786-7155;
lemieuxkf@aol.com**

Thank You
for Supporting CroatiaFest
CroatiaFest 2007 is brought to you through the generosity of
individuals and sponsors listed below!

\$1,000

Gretchen Newman
Seattle Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 439 (Narda Lemert Cultural Enhancement Fund)

\$300

Slavonian-American Benevolent Society

\$250

Dr. Frank & Darlene Brozovich; Frank Chopp & Anne Brozovich Chopp; Dr. Eugen & Olga Halar;
Berrie Martinis; Ruby Plancich McLachlan; Louise Segota Niemi; Dr. Rudolph Pasquan;
John & Alma Plancich; Vince Plancich; Arthur & Helen Richter; Dr. Lisanne Yuricich

\$200

Adriatica; Dubravka Bilić - Balkan Market

\$100

Dr. Irena Baker; Tony Banić; Bob & Joanne Barenberg; Marco Basić Family;
Jeanine Bradley, Pharmaceutical Systems, Inc.; Davor & Breda Kapetanić;
Helen Kranjceovich Brocard; John & Harriet Budinich; Lou & Rose Butkovich;
Dorothy Tomich Carter; Frank & Lois Elenich; Joe & Imelda Gregov;
Burt & Mary K. Joyce; Dr. Anthony Milan; Donald Palmich;
John & Shirley Petrinovich; Michael & Shirley Rancich; Igor & Kelly Vuletić

\$50-\$26

Jane Doughty; Richard & Lillian Groscup; Bob & Peggy Gunovick; Dick & Michelle Kloss;
Anna C. Kovacich; Dr. Henry A. Kuharić; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lindardić; Christine Mrak;
Mr. & Mrs. John Radosevich; Carmen Tarabochia; Margaret Martinis Wallace;
John & Alcena Woods; John & Gerri Woods; Microsoft Matching Funds - John Woods;
Mr. & Mrs. John Workland

\$25-\$15

Mary Boskovich; Julia Case; Tony & Barbara Mandich; Steve & MaryJane Medalia;
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Medved; Russell & Lydia Mitchell; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Muhar;
Mario & Susan Oblak; Leandro & Diane Oliver; Suzanne Philips; John Pintar;
John & Angeline Pocrnich; George Stipetić

Grants

4Culture; Ethnic Artist Grant; Festál

Help make CroatiaFest 2007 a success!

***Donate \$100 or more and join us at the 2007 CroatiaFest donor &
sponsor reception, with special guests: Croatian Ambassador to the
United States, Neven Jurica, and Croatian Consul General Ante Barbir,
Saturday, October 6, at Seattle Center!***

CroatiaFest 2007 Donation form can be found on page 8.





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Support CroatiaFest 2007!

Your on-going support is necessary for the future of CroatiaFest.

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Organization (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

* Make Checks payable to: **EHC** (write on bottom of check: **CroatiaFest donation**)

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

The Ethnic Heritage Council is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, registered in the state of Washington. Ethnic Heritage Council acts as an umbrella to many local community organizations, including CroatiaFest. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Your employer may offer a matching funds program to maximize your donation. Please check with your Human Resources Department. **Thank You**