



Photo by Jai Schrof

# CroatiaFest Newsletter

***A Celebration of Croatian  
Culture and Folkways***

*CroatiaFest Newsletter*  
*Spring 2009*

## CroatiaFest - October 3 & 4, 2009

Dear Friends of CroatiaFest,

The theme for CroatiaFest 2009 is "Croatian Women--Tradition Bearers". In this the 6th year of the festival we will turn our attention to the accomplishments, work, family life, religion, leadership, and the keepers of tradition, the Croatian Women. The Croatian women were real partners to their Croatian males and many times were the leaders of the household.

At the 2009 festival we will explore and share the countless ways in which our women toiled, produced, nurtured, and brought the old country to America. These tradition bearers bore joy and sorrow to family life in America. We hope to show through exhibits, performances, films, storytelling, mu-

sic and dance, of their contributions to the success of their families and their communities. The women did not simply embroider, mend, cook, garden; they created and restored.

Please join us this year to celebrate "Croatian Women--The Tradition bearers". Please do contact us with ideas, stories, pictures, you wish to share or contact the representative in your community who will be producing an exhibit or art work to represent your communities. The possibilities are endless.

Very truly yours,

*Alma Plancich*

Alma Franulović Plancich,  
CroatiaFest Coordinator

## The Power Women of Croatia

- By Frank Brozovich,  
Honorary Croatian Consul

The power of Croatian women has transcended all former confines. They have now assumed their place in the governing of the nation and the running of the nation's commercial enterprises.

The degree to which women serve in Croatia's diplomatic service and in its government was evident in the US signing ceremony of the protocol for Croatia's admission to the NATO alliance. The ceremony took place in the Rose Room of the White House on October 24, 2008. Standing with President Bush; NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Schefer and Robert A. Bradke, US Ambassador to Croatia, was Croatia's signing representative,



Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, Croatian Ambassador to the US and former Croatian Foreign Minister.

Besides Croatian Ambassador Kitarović, other women in the government of Croatia are: Deputy Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Minister of Family and Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Soli-

darity; Djurdja Adlešić, Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Croatian Social Liberal Party; Marina Matulović Drolčić, Minister of Environmental Planning and Construction; Jagoda Premužić, Secretary of the Government and Vesna Pušić, President of the National Committee for monitoring negotiations with the European Union.

More of Croatia's power women are: Anna Lovrin, Chairwoman of the Judiciary Committee in Croatian Parlia-

*Continued on page 10, Power Women*

## CroatiaFest

**October 3, 2009**

**5-10pm**

**Festive Events  
& Dance Party!**

**October 4, 2009**

**12noon - 8pm**

**Seattle Center**

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# CALLING ALL ADVERTISERS!

## CroatiaFest Event Program 2009

Your ad will be seen by thousands of people in the CroatiaFest printed program & you will receive a free line ad on [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org) for 1 full year!

Price: \$75 per 2x2 space.

*(FYI, you may purchase as many spaces as you wish)*

*The CroatiaFest Committee encourages parents, grandparents, friends and family members to purchase an ad space congratulating a performer, a future graduate or in memory of a loved one.*

**DEADLINE: August 28, 2009**

**Contact Nikki Lovrić - 360.922.0551**

**[nikki@windermere.com](mailto:nikki@windermere.com)**

2008 Event Program & 2009 Application Forms available online at [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org)

## CroatiaFest on Facebook

In 2009 CroatiaFest is getting with the times & moving into the future of technology! We are now on Facebook.

Type CroatiaFest (all one word) into the Search & join us.

Tag your friends, add photos of your favorite CroatiaFest moments & post your comments about CroatiaFest.

We even have a discussion board ready for your input!

Be OUR friend!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php>

## CroatiaFest 2009 Activities

**Saturday, October 3**  
**Evening**

**Special Donor Reception &  
Center House Dance**

Dance to your favorite kolos and Croatian pop music played by local Croatian bands & **Grupa ZRINSKI** from L.A.!

**Sunday, October 4**  
**All Day**

Art Gallery

Music & Dance Performances

Community Historical Displays

Foods with a Croatian Flair

Lectures & Lessons

Marketplace

Movies & Activities for Kids

**Visit: [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org)**

For the full schedule coming soon!

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

CF Market Place on page 10

**CroatiaFest Director:** Alma Franulović Plancich

**Chairman of the Board:** Dr. Frank Brozovich, Honorary Croatian Consul; **Officers:** Board President, Cathryn Morovich; Board Vice President, Richard Major; Board Treasurer, Mike Rancich; Board Secretary, Beverly Read.

**2009 CroatiaFest Committee:** Dr. Frank Brozovich, Joanne Abdo, Bob & Peggy Gunovick, Louise Petrich Iverson, Maria Plancich Kesovija, Kristen LeMieux, John Lovrić, Nikki Lovrić, Richard Major, Darci McKinley, Karen Mikačenić, Cathryn Morovich, John Morovich, Alma Plancich, Mike Rancich, Beverly Read, Stephanie Rogstad, Kristin Tarabochia, Igor Vuletić.

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

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

## CroatiaFest

c/o Ethnic Heritage Council  
305 Harrison St. Suite 304  
Seattle, WA 98109  
Phone: 206-443-1410  
Fax: 206-443-1408



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

Email: [ehc@seattle.gov](mailto:ehc@seattle.gov)

[www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org)

[www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org](http://www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org)

Newsletter Editor: Maria Kesovija

CroatiaFest Logo by John Lovrić



**Ethnic  
Heritage  
Council**



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



March 1, 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters of CroatiaFest:

I hope you are still reliving every moment of last October's CroatiaFest with the sounds of the great music of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, accompanied by Bravo! Chorale from Vancouver, Washington and the Sno-King Chorale from Edmonds. Many thanks to all the performers and participants in the historical booths and panels carrying out the theme "Croatian Hands At Work".

CroatiaFest 2009 will celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival and it has expanded to include events on Saturday evening, October 3<sup>rd</sup> with the main festival on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. We are fortunate to have an extended time for the display in the Art Gallery from the week prior to the festival to the week after.

This year's theme is **"Croatian Women – Tradition Bearers"** and the committee is busy meeting monthly to plan and secure the speakers and performers, write grants and fundraise, work with our communities, making all the necessary arrangements to put on the festival. Seattle Center's Safeco Insurance Festival Program makes it possible to use the Center House at no charge for the basic services.

***You can help us raise \$20,000 by making your donation of any size right now. Sponsors of \$300 or more are welcome. Anyone making a donation of \$100 or more will receive an invitation to a Dignitary Reception on Saturday evening and be listed on the website as a donor.***

*We know that you will choose carefully how you will invest your dollars this year and we hope you will consider to include a donation to CroatiaFest 2009. Every dollar is very important and is spent wisely. **We are grateful for the ninety-eight individuals and families who made donations last year and would like to make the challenge to raise the number of donors to 200 or more for 2009.** Please make your investment today to insure a successful CroatiaFest.*

If you would like to volunteer at the festival or have any questions or suggestions please call me or e-mail. Photos of last year's festival are posted on our website at: [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and generosity.

***Beverly Prkačin Read***

Beverly Prkačin Read  
CroatiaFest Fundraising Committee  
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**View this newsletter on-line!**  
**[www.croatiafest.org/newsletter.html](http://www.croatiafest.org/newsletter.html)**



# Matilda Mataya and Pauline Puhich – Two Remarkable Croatian Women

By Richard L. Major

CroatiaFest 2009 will focus on the important role of women in the Croatian communities. Thus the opportunity to revisit the lives and activities of Matilda Mataya and Pauline Puhich, two close friends who were very influential in the greater Seattle area beginning in the late 1930's and continuing for decades thereafter.

**Matilda Mataya:** Matilda, maiden name Galac, was born in Žabica near Gospić in the Lika region of Croatia in 1907. In 1925 she emigrated to Merritt, British Columbia where she married Mile (Mike) Mataya later that same year. In 1929 the couple with sons Joe and Pete moved to Seattle. Daughter Mary Ann was born here in 1943.

Matilda joined Seattle Lodge 439 of the Croatian Fraternal Union (CFU) in 1936 but she was not to be just an ordinary dues-paying member. From 1939 to 1976 she served 23 terms as a lodge officer - three as treasurer and 20 as manager of the all-important Junior Order (Nest). It was as Nest Manager she made her greatest contribution. In 1939 she enrolled 155 children in the Nest and then continued her phenomenal recruiting work right on through 1969 when she earned a CFU-sponsored trip to Croatia, her beloved homeland. There are without doubt hundreds of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation Croatian-Americans who owe their exposure to Croatian culture and activities to Matilda Mataya.

Aside from her CFU work, Matilda always made sure the Mataya home on Beacon Hill was a center of Croatian activity - be it tambura lessons, pastry-making sessions, planning meetings, etc. Her hospitality knew no end.

**Pauline Puhich:** Pauline, maiden

name Bruketta, was born in Roslyn in 1905. In 1907 she travelled with her parents to the original family home in Brestova Draga near Mrkopalj in the Gorski Kotar region of Croatia. She remained there for 8 years, attended school and learned to speak Croatian so well that people always thought she had been born over there. The family returned in 1915 and in 1923 Pauline married Ivan Puhich in Cle Elum. From 1933 on, the couple and their five sons made their home in Renton.

Pauline, like her dear friend Matilda, became active in Seattle Lodge 439 of the Croatian Fraternal Union in the late 1930's and she too specialized in recruiting new members. By 1979 it was estimated that 150 or so of the lodge members had been recruited by Pauline. This work earned her a spot on the CFU tour of Croatia in 1969. Pauline was also a long-time officer in the lodge - serving 1 year as president and 27 years as a financial officer.

During and immediately after World War II, with three sons in military service, Pauline played a leading role in preparing relief supplies for the suffering people in the former Yugoslavia. Also, after the war she was instrumental in founding Puhich Dry Cleaners in downtown Renton and worked there for 30 years.

Like the Mataya household, the Puhich home was one of endless hospitality. Pauline always had a big pot simmering on the stove waiting for the arrival of one or more of her sons and their friends. No one, including this writer, ever left hungry.

In their twilight years, after decades of working at Croatian picnics, dances, children's parties, etc., Matilda and Pauline wound down some and became known as



L to R: Matilda Mataya & Pauline Puhich

the "Sunshine Ladies". Although beset with ailments of their own (particularly Pauline) they took it upon themselves to regularly visit elderly, shut-in Croatians in the greater Seattle area. They worked as a team until Pauline's death in 1983. Thereafter Matilda continued on as the single "Sunshine Lady" until she could no longer drive. She passed away in 1999.

Prior to the leadership that Matilda Mataya and Pauline Puhich exerted in the late 1930's, social activity in Seattle's Croatian community was largely the realm of men. From that point on, however, and continuing to this day, women have been equally involved in every aspect of Croatian life in our community.

A tip of the hat then to Matilda Mataya and Pauline Puhich as CroatiaFest 2009 acknowledges the contributions of our stalwart Croatian women.



# Croatian Women – Their Journey to America

By Peggy Gunovick

“That’s the picture I fell in love with!” These were the words of an elderly Croatian widow we were visiting one day years ago in Seattle. She was pointing to a picture sitting on her mantle—a picture of her late husband, a Croatian immigrant she married in the 1920’s. After exchanging pictures, she traveled to America and then, after knowing each other a few short weeks, they were married.

This was a story repeated many times over and over in America. This is how many Croatian women came here after the first World War. Most of these “picture bride” marriages were arranged by families and many times the prospective couples were from the same village or the same area in Croatia. Most of the Croatian immigrants were un-married when they came to America. For example: we know from a State of Washington Governor’s report that in 1914, during the strike at the Tacoma/Ruston smelter, there were 264 Croatian smelter workers and only 17 of them were married.

The gates to America were wide open to all immigrants from Europe prior to the outbreak of the First World War, but after the end of the war, immigration was restricted and much more difficult. Yet, immigrants who were already here could bring a prospective bride or extended family members.

Typically, a young Croatian man would come to America, join fam-

ily members here, start working, save money, gradually learn English and start getting established. After a period of years, most of them wanted to settle down and marry a Croatian girl – thus, the arranged marriages. Some went back to Croatia to find a bride or marry a sweetheart who had been waiting for him. After the wedding, this brave couple would travel, by ship, back to America, and start a new life together.

How did other Croatian women come to America? Certainly, some came as married couples and some couples already had small children. Usually, the men went to work while the wives stayed home and cared for the family. There were also many immigrants who were married in Croatia but came here without their wives and after a period time, some as long as ten years, would then bring their wife to America. During this early period, it was very rare for a single young Croatian girl to arrive in America unspoken for. She was certainly sought-after by Croatian men who wanted to marry a girl from “the Old Country”.

Very few immigrants during that period could speak English when they arrived and had to learn on their own. Because of this, the men of the house often learned English much earlier than their wives because of their exposure to the “work world”. Most women eventually learned to speak English, and those of us who grew up with immigrant parents know what it’s like to grow up in a home hear-

ing broken English. When we were teen-agers, their broken English may have embarrassed us, but as we became mature adults, their broken accents became endearing to us. My father immigrated to America from Croatia in 1910 at the very young age of 14.

Croatian immigrants of the late 1800’s first settled in the Eastern part of America, much earlier than the West Coast. Thus, most Croatian Americans in the East are third and fourth generation; whereas, many of us here in the West are first and second generation Croatian offspring born in America.

Most of these original immigrants are gone now, even the younger “picture brides” who came here prior to the 30’s. No matter how these Croatian women came to America, they brought with them and passed on to us the many skills, traditions and culture of that land – the cooking, the sewing and needlework, the music, the songs and dances, and the Croatian language of which we as children learned in the home because this is the language that was spoken. We also learned from them the virtue of hard work.

The CroatiaFest 2009 theme of the festival is: “Croatian Women – Tradition Bearers”, and will explore in detail the many traditions and skills passed on to us from these women. Come hear more stories like this one and see and experience this tribute to Croatian women!

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## ***CroatiaFest is proud to be a part of Seattle Center’s Safeco Insurance Festál***

***Seattle Center’s Safeco Insurance Festál*** program 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. Safeco Insurance 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 Safeco Insurance, 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: [www.seattlecenter.com/events/festivals/festal/](http://www.seattlecenter.com/events/festivals/festal/)*



# CroatiaFest 2008 Photo Album

**Harrison Street Gallery—October 1 - 7, 2008**

**2008 Featured Visiting Artist: Ivo F. Raič**, from Sarajevo, exhibited and demonstrated artist's hands at work, creating a water color painting during the Sunday festival.

**2008 Featured Local Artists:** Artwork by **Gloria Barello**; FIBREARTS by **Marylou Ozbolt-Storer**, her creations of distinctive art to wear; and jewelry by **Louise Petrich Iverson**.

Historical costumes showing traditional Croatian handiwork were also on display.



*Miner sculpture from the collection of Dr. Frank Brozovich, Honorary Croatian Consul*

**Historical Displays**—Historical displays of selected Croatian communities in Washington State were featured on the Center House main floor. This year's CroatiaFest theme "Croatian Hands at Work", focused on Pacific Northwest Croatians in mining and industry: Coal mining in Ronald, Roslyn & Cle Elum; Coal mining in western Washington; The ASARCO smelter in Ruston (Tacoma); Puget Sound Croatians in the Salmon Industry; The fishing vessel "Bainbridge"; and Croatian communities of Anacortes, Bainbridge Island, Grays Harbor.

**Cooking Demonstration—John Sarich**, Chateau Ste. Michelle Culinary Director, was "in action" at CroatiaFest. (We are convinced it is John's Croatian heritage which makes him such a fabulous chef!) Thank You John!

**Folkdance Workshop—Pam Kelley** and **Melissa Obenauf**, co-founders and co-directors of Ohio's **Živili Dance Company** led us all in learning and dancing together Saturday night! Thank you ladies!

**Genealogy Presentation—Barbara Budinich Starkey**, is one of a few genealogists specializing in information helping Croatians find their roots. Thank you Barb!

**Miners' Memories**—The intrigue and stories of coal mining in Western Washington came alive as a panel of coal miners including **Rich Miller**; **John Ferro**, **2007 Coal King of Roslyn**; **Agnes Ferro**, **2006 Queen of Centennial Cle Elum**; **Fred Krueger**, **historian and Honorary Consul Frank Brozovich** shared their experiences and memories, moderated by **William J. "Bill" Kombol**. Thank you all!

**Travel to Croatia Presentation—Gretchen Strauch**, **Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door**. (She returned from a trip to Croatia just the day before CroatiaFest!) Thank You Gretchen!

**CroatiaFest Marketplace—**  
**Adriatica Croatian Lavender;**  
**American Slavic Women's Club;** **Balkan Market;** **Croatian Fixation;** **Croatian Variety Store;** **Dalmatian Kitchen;** **Heart of Croatia;** plus **Croatia Today! Cultural Exhibit** and **CroatiaFest Event Booth.**



Plus... All day craft activities for kids and Croatian cuisine for all featured at participating Seattle Center House merchants.



*Photos, page 7:*

- 1: Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra & crowd
- 2: Mr. Ante Barbir, Croatian Consul General, Los Angeles, Bravo! Vancouver Chorale, & Sno-King Community Choir
- 3: Ruže Dalmatinke performing at Saturday evening dance.
- 4: Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra
- 5: Zbor Jele
- 6: Sinovi Tamburica Orchestra performing at Saturday evening donor reception.
- 7: Dave & the Dalmatians
- 8: Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble
- 9: Dunava Folk Choir
- 10: Klapa Doo Wopella
- 11: Radost Children's Folk Ensemble
- 12: Vela Luka Croatian Children's Ensemble
- 13: Tamburaški Orkestar Kardinal Stepinac
- 14: Seattle Junior Tamburitizans

To view event photos by Jal, visit: <http://www.pbase.com/jal/croatiafest2008>



# CroatiaFest 2008 Photo Album





# Seattle Junior Tamburitizans 2009 Croatia Tour

By John Morovich, SJT Artistic Director

The 2008–2009 season marks another milestone for the Seattle Junior Tamburitizans as they embark on their 5th tour of Croatia and plan ahead for the group's 40th Anniversary in 2010.

For as long as anyone can remember, there have been tamburitza orchestras and bands in Seattle and surrounding communities. As early as the 1920's tamburitza musicians under the direction of the late Andrew Skrivanich played for picnics, dances weddings and lodge gatherings. Later the Sušan and Cvitković families had orchestras and in the 1960's Tacoma had its own Junior Tamburitizans. Seattle in the 1950's however, really got a tamburitza "shot in the arm" when Tom and Louie Krmpotich moved here from Minnesota's Iron Range. The brothers started a group called *Jadran* and in 1970, Tom, along with Richard Major, founded the Seattle Junior Tamburitizans.

## AUCTION - MAY 9

On May 9th the Seattle Junior Tamburitizans parent's club will host the second annual Tamburitizans' Benefit Auction which will be held at the Renton Senior Center. This year the auction committee has planned a sumptuous meal and will offer hundreds of fun and interesting auction items from weekend getaways, gourmet Croatian catered dinners, artwork, sports memorabilia and much more. If you would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact Joe Medalia at 206-762-9463.

## KAVANA - JUNE 20

Shortly after the group's inception in 1970, a parent's club was organized in order to raise funds to purchase tamburitza instruments and costumes, cover hall rentals and day to day operational costs of running a group. The

late Millie Jurgich Medin, a SJT Mom, envisioned an evening of music, song and dance modeled after the "Balkan Kafanas" or "coffee houses" where one could dine on ethnic foods and enjoy an evening of entertainment. KAVANA has been an annual event ever since, where the SJT's showcase the folk songs and dances they have been perfecting all season long. This year's KAVANA will be held Saturday, June 20 at John F. Kennedy High School.

Look for flyers in the mail with more information about the auction and Kavana. Reservations are strongly recommended.

## CROATIA TOUR 2009

Just a week after Kavana, the Tamburitizans will depart for a two week performing tour of Croatia. The group will fly to Zagreb and will visit the beautiful sights of Croatia, performing along the way. Each of the Tamburitizans will have the opportunity to perform in the towns and villages of their ancestors and will meet (some for the first time) cousins, aunts and uncles.

What is even more exciting is that the youngsters will be performing dances and music specific to the regions from where the families came. It has been the goal of the SJT artistic staff to teach material from the areas where Puget Sound Croatians hail. Over the last 10 or so years, that has included the Islands of Susak and Dugi Otok, Delnice in the Gorski Kotar Region and a wedding celebration of Ogulin. This year's program consists of dances from the Neretva River Valley, Podravina and Baranja. The Tamburitizans will bring a little Americana to Croatia with the Tamburitza Boogie, made popular in the 1950's! We look forward to this historic year in our group's history and invite you to be a part of it!

For more information about SJT please visit our website at [www.sjtamburitizans.org](http://www.sjtamburitizans.org).

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## Anacortes Sister Cities Association

Vela Luka Sister City Committee  
Nikki Lovrić, VLSCC Chair

The Anacortes Sister Cities Association (ASCA) has a busy 2009 planned for all of the sister cities hosting students from three of the sister cities. Lena Marinović, English teacher at the Vela Luka high school, brought together four students to arrive in Anacortes in July. Nikki Lovric, Vela Luka Sister City Committee chair, is working diligently to find American students to go to Vela Luka this summer. Applications will be accepted in March.

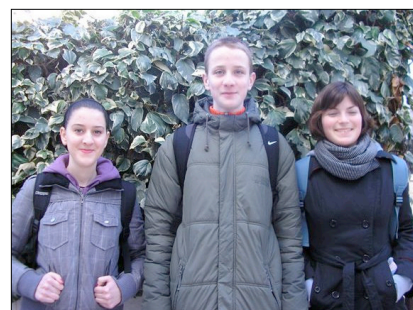
The Lomonosov, Russia committee with Don Lapworth as the committee chair, is working on an exchange with students from both Lomonosov and Anacortes. Last but not least, Cora Lijek, chair of Kiskata, Japan

sister city, will be continuing their exchange with middle school students from Kisakata & Anacortes. Established in 1995, the Kisakata program is what our Lomonosov & Vela Luka exchanges have been modeled after.

Last but not least your attention is directed to a website with an urgent message. Please take the time to visit: [www.saveourferry.net](http://www.saveourferry.net). Our Sister City in Sidney BC, Canada and Anacortes Sister Cities Association is working hard to save our ferry run between Anacortes and Sidney. For more info contact Duane Clark 360.293.8088.

ASCA:

[www.anacortessistercities.com](http://www.anacortessistercities.com)  
Nikki Lovrić, 360.922.0551;  
[nikki@windermere.com](mailto:nikki@windermere.com).



Kristina, Vinko & Ivana

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## American Croatian Club of Anacortes

March Croatian Club Dinner—Saturday, March 28th at 6:30 pm. The menu will be: Breaded Pork, Chicken, Sauteed Peas, Restovani Krompir, Salad, Bread and Dessert. Hope to see you there at 1202 - 7th Street, Anacortes, WA. [croatianclub@verizon.net](mailto:croatianclub@verizon.net)



# Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble Spring Fešta

By Maria Plancich Kesovija, VL Artistic Director

## Spring & Summer 2009 - Event Schedule

**March 21, Saturday, 5:30pm: Anacortes, WA Spring Fešta!** Join us in celebrating spring at the new Croatian Cultural Center in Anacortes! Dinner, Entertainment & Dancing. Performances by Ruže Dalmatinke & Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble.

Reservations: 360-293-3663; [depotartscenter@verizon.net](mailto:depotartscenter@verizon.net).

**April 11, Saturday, 7:30pm: Shoreline, WA**

Ruže Dalmatinke & Dunava Women's Choir  
Shoreline Unitarian Church Fundraiser; 206-363-7994  
[www.shorelineuu.org/specialevents.html](http://www.shorelineuu.org/specialevents.html)

**May 15, Friday, 12noon: Seattle, WA**

**Vela Luka @ Seattle International Children's Festival**—McCaw Hall, Seattle Center  
<http://www.seattleinternational.org/>

**May 24, Sunday: Seattle, WA**

Vela Luka & Ruže Dalmatinke  
NW Folklife Festival, Seattle Center, FREE  
<http://www.nwfolklife.org/>

**May 30, Saturday, 10:30-2:30: Mt Vernon, WA**

Vela Luka & Ruže Dalmatinke  
2009 Skagit Hospice Brunch & Auction  
"Discover Croatia - Dobro Došli"; Tickets: 360-814-8222

**June 7, Sunday, 12noon: Gig Harbor, WA**

Vela Luka & Ruže Dalmatinke  
VL & RD at Blessing of the Fleet—FREE

**July 26, Sunday: Leavenworth, WA**

International Festival

**August 7-9: Anacortes, WA**

Croatian food at Anacortes Arts Festival  
Croatian Cultural Center

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.

**Vela Luka & Ruže Dalmatinke** are included in the **4Culture 2009 Touring Arts Roster** and promotional CD. Visit: [www.4culture.org/arts.tar](http://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](http://www.velaluka.org); Email: [ehc@seattle.gov](mailto:ehc@seattle.gov)

### Join Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble

~ Children Ensemble & Adult Ensemble ~

ALL Welcome: Children age 4 & up, Teens & Adults

Rehearsals in Edmonds & Anacortes, WA

Call: 206-417-2067; [ehc@seattle.gov](mailto:ehc@seattle.gov)

## A Celebration Honoring Žive Žice Tamburitza Orchestra

By John Morovich

Recording Secretary, CFU Lodge 439

Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 439 and The Seattle Junior Tamburitzaans invite you to a testimonial dinner honoring the Žive Žice Tamburitza Orchestra on Saturday, **March 28, 2009** at the Renton Senior Center; 211 Burnett Ave North, Renton, Washington.

Social hour from 4-5PM and a Prime Rib dinner served at 5PM. Entertainment provided by the Seattle Junior Tamburitzaans, Sinovi Tamburitzaans and the Žive Žice. Adults \$20, Children under 12 \$10. RSVP by March 26.

For as long as anyone can remember, there have been tamburitza orchestras and bands in Seattle and surrounding communities. Žive Žice Tamburitza Orchestra has been a tamburitza musical treasure in Seattle for the last 33 years.

Žive Žice (Live Wires), the brainchild of Bill & Helen Pavlich and Bronko & Pat Borozan, were organized in 1976. Although some of the musicians were novices at playing tambura, others had been playing since the childhood, and some began playing after years of inactivity. This

was a way to hone up on their skills. They were under the direction of tamburitza legend, Tom Krmpotich, who virtually taught hundreds of people of all ages to play tambura.

Today the group is under direction of Pauli Borojevich and current members of the group include Pauli, her sister Katie Vukelić, John Radosevich, Peggy Sušan, Walter Sušan, Shirley Rancich and Joan Bjeletich. Former members include Bronko and Pat Borozan, Margarita Andrijić, Gloria Barelo, Frank Chebuhar, Jack Jovanovich, Mary Krmpotich/Monti, Bill and Helen Pavlich, Judy Tabak and late members Tom Krmpotich, Vaso Medin, Matt Noonan & Doug Jackson.

We invite you to join us in this multigenerational ethnic folk music event honoring present and past members of Žive Žice and four generations of tambura musicians in Seattle. It is particularly poignant that Žive Žice Bugarija player Katie Vukelić's great granddaughter will be making her first appearance with the Seattle Junior Tamburitzaans and will be performing on the same stage.

Živjeli Tamburaši!

# CroatiaFest Market Place

Nikki Lovrić, Vendor Coordinator

Several thousand people attend CroatiaFest every year & one of the hot spots is definitely the CroatiaFest Marketplace. We have had THE best vendors in all of the Pacific Northwest & even one from Ohio! This year we are going on a hunt for more of the best. We are looking for businesses with Croatian products with THAT pizzazz... something different, new & exciting ~ dazzle us! Does your business meet these criteria? If so, please call Nikki Lovrić at 360.922.0551 or email: [nikki@windermere.com](mailto:nikki@windermere.com) to request an application.



Power Women, Continued from page 1

ment; Milanka Opačić, Chairwoman of the Committee on the Family, Youth and Sports in Croatian Parliament; Gordana Sobol, Chairwoman of Gender Equality in Croatian Parliament; Ingrid Antičević Marinović, Vice Chairman of the Legislation Committee in Croatian Parliament and former Minister of Justice.

In the Judiciary; there is Jasna Omejec, President of the Constitutional Court.

Important Croatian women in commerce are: Ljerka Puljić, Executive Vice President in charge of business strategy for Agrokor, one of Croatia's largest companies; Gordana Kovačević, President of Ericson Nikola Tesla and Biserka Fizulić, owner and Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board MAGMA, a 230 store retail store chain.

In the media, there is: Ružica Cigler, Senior Manager and a member of the supervisory board



*Dubravka Šuica, Mayor of Dubrovnik*

*In 2006 Dubravka was included among the top ten mayors in the annual World Mayor project.*

of Vecernji list, Croatia's largest newspaper publication.

The Croatian women in the government of municipalities are: Tatjana Holjevac, President of the Assembly of Zagreb; Dubravka Šuica, Mayor of Dubrovnik; Zdenka Buljan, Mayor of Vukovar and Josipa Rimac, Mayor of Knin.

We are all aware of the ascendancy of Croatian women in the world of sports, and to name a few: Janica

Kostelić, considered to be one of the greatest female skiers of all time; the only woman to win 4 gold medals in alpine skiing at the Winter Olympics (in 2002 and 2006). She was also the World Cup overall champion in 2001, 2003 and 2006; Blanka Vlašić, current world's top ranked lady high jumper and Iva Majoli, Croatian tennis star.

Power women of Croatian Ancestry in countries other than Croatia are; Mary Matalan, former assistant to President Bush and political commentator; Leonora Oyarzun Ivanović, former Chilean First Lady; Rose Perica Mofford, former Governor of Arizona; Antonia Horvath Kiss, Chilean Senator; Natasha Stott Despoja, Australian Senator; Carolina Goić Borojević, Chilean Deputy; Ingrid Antonijević Hahn, Chilean Minister; Lynne Yelich, Member of Canadian Parliament and Tomka Tomčić, Chilean model and TV host.

## Women in Local Politics

Beverly Prkačin Read is a member of the CroatiaFest Committee and serves as CroatiaFest Board Secretary. Since the first annual CroatiaFest in 2004, Beverly has been the successful curator of the art gallery, bringing fresh ideas and a professional presentation each year.

Beverly Prkačin Read has served as a grassroots political advocate for real estate issues to improve and sustain the Quality of Life in our communities, jobs and homes. Since 1985 she has served as a volunteer on the Seattle-King County Association of REALTORS® Governmental and Public Affairs Committee and was Vice-President in 2006.

She just completed a two year term as the Washington REALTORS® PAC chair and was presented the REALTORS® PAC Achievement award at Washington REAL-

TORS® January conference meeting in Olympia. She continues to serve on the Trustees committee as an ex-officio member.

Over the years she has worked in many capacities on the campaigns of REALTOR® endorsed candidates including congressmen, state representatives, statewide candidates, city races including mayoral races. Beverly also serves as a key contact to a state legislator and has served as a Federal Political Coordinator for two congressmen.

She has been an elected Precinct Committee Officer since the eighties and served a two year term as a Legislative District Chair.

Beverly is a licensed real estate agent with Windermere Real Estate Company, Lake Forest Park and is a member of the National, Washington and Seattle-King County Associations of REALTORS®.



# Thank You Again for Supporting CroatiaFest 2008! \*

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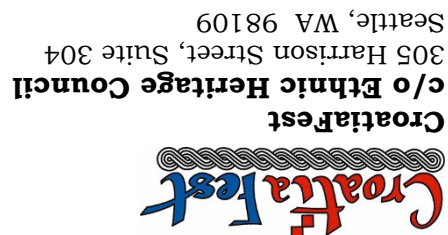
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***Make CroatiaFest 2009 a success by giving your donation today!  
CroatiaFest 2009 Donation form can be found on page 12***



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