

CroatiaFest

A Celebration of Croatian Culture and Heritage



Newsletter, Spring 2012



CroatiaFest 2012

**~Croatian-Americans in
the Building of America~
Inventors, Innovators
& Entrepreneurs**

Seattle Center
Center House/Armory

Saturday, October 6, 2012

Dance Party
Sing-a-Long

Sunday, October 7, 2012

Art Gallery
Crafts for Kids
Croatia Today
Genealogy
Historical Exhibits
Music and Dance Performances
Souvenirs of Croatia
Lectures
Market Place

*Look for updates as plans develop
in future publications and at
www.croatiafest.org
and like us on Facebook.*

CroatiaFest activities are FREE
and open to the public.

A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear fellow Croats,

CroatiaFest 2012 marks another great year for CroatiaFest. This will be the 9th anniversary of presenting CroatiaFest. The date marks nine years of highlighting the contributions of Croatian Americans to Americana and also nine years of showing



off the country of Croatia.

The theme for CroatiaFest 2012 is "Croatian-Americans in the Building of America". This year's CroatiaFest will again be held at the newly renovated Center House/Armory in Seattle Center. We will recognize those Croatian Americans - inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs - who have put and continue to put their imprint on the "Building of America."

CroatiaFest 2012 will again present some outstanding nationally known performing groups and will continue to emphasize the art and history of Croatian Americans.

October 7th at CroatiaFest will be a great day for camaraderie and celebrating your Croatian heritage. Mark the date on your calendar. Bring friends and continue to support CroatiaFest.

**Frank Brozovich
Honorary Croatian Consul
& CroatiaFest Chairman**

CROATIAFEST 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

The CroatiaFest planning committee is busy planning an interesting and fun event, set for Sunday, Oct. 7 at the Center House/Armory at the Seattle Center.

To fit with this year's theme, historical panels will display photos and biographical information on many Croats who have made an impact in science, industry, construction, manufacturing, and the food industry, just to name a few.

Traditional music and dance will grace the main stage throughout the day, and

of course the merchant vendors will be on hand for you to purchase your favorite Croatian souvenir, olive oil or specialty food.

Because we are returning to the Center House/Armory, we are able to bring back lectures and panel discussions, which will take place in one of the upstairs meeting rooms. The art gallery will feature Croatian artists and artifacts.

Watch for more details in our next newsletter and at www.croatiafest.org.

DIGNITARIES ATTEND CROATIAFEST 2011

Thanks to all of you, we have built a festival that is now being recognized as the premier Croatian-American event in the United States!

So much so that the Croatian Embassy to the United States sent their acting Ambassador Vice Skračić and Consul General Ilija Želalić of the Los Angeles Consulate to CroatiaFest 2012. It is a tremendous honor to have members of Croatia's diplomatic corps attending the festival.

U. S. Congressman Rick Larsen, 2nd Congressional District, joined in the festivities since he represents three communities with strong Croatian-American presence: Anacortes, Everett

and Bellingham. Larsen gave an update on the current state of Croatian and U.S. relations as well as sharing his appreciation for the contributions of Croatian Americans.

At the opening ceremonies, Frank Chopp, Washington State Speaker of the House of Representatives, welcomed the audience and spoke of the pride he has of his Croatian roots. Honorary Consul Dr. Frank Brozovich introduced

the dignitaries in attendance and thanked them for their support.



Consul General Ilija Želalić, Honorary Consul Dr. Frank Brozovich, Acting Croatian Ambassador Vice Skračić, Congressman Rick Larsen and Washington State Speaker of the House of Representatives Frank Chopp at CroatiaFest 2011.

CroatiaFest Coordinators: Cathryn Morovich and Kristen LeMieux

Board of Directors: Dr. Frank Brozovich, Chairman; Cathryn Morovich, President; Kristen LeMieux, Vice-President; Michael Rancich, Treasurer; Beverly Read, Secretary.

2011 CroatiaFest Planning Committee: Joanne Abdo, Dr. Frank Brozovich, Nikki Cvitanović, Bob & Peggy Gunovick, Lori Repanich Hill, Louise Petrich Iverson, Adam LeMieux, Kristen LeMieux, Richard Major, Steven Mataya, Darci McKinley, Karen Mikacenić, Cathryn Morovich, John Morovich, Diane Petricić, John Pintar, Alma Franulović Plancich, Michael Rancich, Beverly Read, Stephanie Rogstad, Mark & Dunja Ruljancich, Kristin Tarabochia, Igor Vuletić, Margaret Martinis-Wallace.

Community Representatives & Volunteers: Nancy Freeman, Greta Kos, Priscilla Lisicich, John Lovrić, Bret Lunsford, Colleen Mavar, Steve Medalia Jr., Veronica Mratinich, John Petrinovich, Maria Franulović Petrish, Damir & Elaine Tomšič.

Volunteer Photographers: Steven Joyce, Paul Lukinich, Sam Mirkovich, Katrina Batina.

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.

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CroatiaFest

P.O. Box 60003
 Shoreline, WA 98160



Ethnic Heritage Council



FESTÁL 2012



Croatia Fest



April 2012

Dear friends, fans, supporters and the American Croatian community;

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! CroatiaFest 2011 featured new aspects of our culture that opened up because we were afforded the opportunity by the generosity of the Seattle Center to use a new venue while the Seattle Center House was under renovation.

It was also made possible by your generous donations. We are grateful! I wish I could give each of you a big hug! I love it when you give before I ask as the first check for \$100 is in from Michele and Dick Kloss, \$100 from Antoinette Slavich, \$1,000 pledge from Dr. Frank Brozovich and my \$250 pledge.

Our planning for CroatiaFest 2012 started immediately in November 2011 with the planning committee and Board of Directors volunteers brainstorming to come up with the theme: "Croatian-Americans in the Building of America." Next comes the development of the theme.

This is where you can help us by making your donation of any size now so we know we can meet the financial commitment of producing a memorable CroatiaFest on Oct. 7. We expect more visitors with other special events going on at Seattle Center commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1962 World's Fair.

Donate online by going to www.croatiafest.org or sending the 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, Oct. 6 and be listed on the website and program. It's a great time to gather with friends, newcomers and start the celebration.

Chairman and Honorary Consul Dr. Frank Brozovich, event coordinators President Cathryn Morovich and Vice-President Kristen LeMieux, Treasurer Michael Rancich, Board of Directors and the Planning Committee extend this opportunity for your participation to continue our culture's preservation and presentation to our communities and to future generations. CroatiaFest is a recognized 501c3 non-profit corporation by the IRS, so your donation is tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and generosity,

Beverly Prkacin Read, Fund-raising Chair & Secretary
206-940-4875
bread@windermere.com



CroatiaFest Newsletter is a publication of the CroatiaFest Committee.

Please send submissions to info@croatiafest.org. If you have corrections, wish to be removed from or added to the CroatiaFest mailing list, please call 206-619-4193 or email info@croatiafest.org.

To view this newsletter on-line or sign-up to receive it via email please go to www.croatiafest.org.

A RECAP OF CROATIAFEST 2011

By Cathryn Morovich
CroatiaFest President

Some say the measure of a successful festival is the number of people in attendance. By that measure, CroatiaFest 2011 was an overwhelming success!

Our planning committee was presented with a huge challenge; how to produce a festival in a new venue, with food booths, a beer and wine garden as well as all day main stage performances, a special cooking demonstration stage, historical panels, merchant vendors, kids activities and an art gallery.

We took that challenge head on and with the help and creativity of so many people and organizations we were able to produce a festival that was enjoyed by an estimated 4,000 people! We have so many to thank.

First of all our incredible planning committee who took on the challenge with a positive "we can do it" attitude! Their vision and insight truly enabled us to think outside the box and create a spectacular experience.

Secondly, the heart of our festival: the communities and organizations who came together and offered the true "Taste of Croatia" with six food booths featuring traditional and authentic

Croatian cuisine. Our volunteer bartenders in the beer and wine garden giving adult attendees an opportunity to sample a variety of wines from several Croatian-American vintners as well as enjoying a cold Karlovacko Pivo, the delicious beer imported from Croatia. The cooking demonstrators who showed the standing room only crowd how to make traditional Croatian delicacies and gave out samples of their creations. The exceptionally talented main stage performers who gave the audience the experience of enjoying the music, dances and colorful costumes of Croatia. The artistic volunteer photographers, who captured every aspect of CroatiaFest. Visit the gallery at www.croatiafest.org to see their outstanding photographs. There are also many individuals who contributed their time and talent.

Last but not least, from the bottoms of our hearts, we want to thank all of you who supported CroatiaFest with your generous donations and to those of you who attended the event. Because of your support, CroatiaFest 2011 was a resounding success sharing our heritage, food, culture and music!

CroatiaFest will only get bigger and better, thanks to each and every one of you who contribute so much to our event! Planning is underway and I carry with me the energy and enthusiasm of our tremendous community! See you all in October!

PLANCICH RECEIVES 'OUTSTANDING AMERICAN BY CHOICE' AWARD



Alma Plancich, Executive Director of Seattle's Ethnic Heritage Council who also served for several years as CroatiaFest coordinator, received the Outstanding American by Choice award, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens.

Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to this country and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. Throughout the year, U. S. Citizen and Immigration Services recognizes naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to both their community and their adopted country.

The National Immigrant Integration Conference was held in Seattle Oct. 24-26. USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas introduced Plancich and presented her with the award.

"Through her commitment to this country, performing arts, citizenship promotion and civic engagement, she has devoted her life to inspiring others to discover the roots of their own heritage," Mayorkas said.

CroatiaFest congratulates Alma for receiving this prestigious and very deserving award.



Cathryn Morovich and Kristen LeMieux, CroatiaFest coordinators.

'RUNNING AWAY TO HOME' AUTHOR SPEAKS AT CROATIAFEST

When the economy tanked a few years ago, Jennifer Wilson and her husband Jim sold most of their belongings at a name-your-own-price garage sale and returned to the ancient Croatian mountain village of her ancestors to start over as a family.

Along with their two kids, Sam and Zadie, they wanted to see what the Old Country might teach them about family and about surviving tough times. In tiny Mrkopalj, they found a whole village-worth of family and a profound gratitude for what they had as Americans.

Jennifer has written a book about pulling up roots in America and moving her family to Mrkopalj. It details what

their life is like now, new-found family connections and how they adjusted to their new surroundings.

"Running Away to Home" has received great reviews. Booklist calls it a fun-filled, revealing peek into the Croatian countryside.

Wilson and husband were interviewed on CNN in December. She is a writer for National Geographic Traveler, Esquire, Better Homes and Gardens and other national magazines and newspapers.

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer will be at CroatiaFest 2012 to give a lecture



about her book and her life in Mrkopalj along with a slide show presentation of the village, its people and beautiful countryside. "Running Away to Home" will be available for purchase.

SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT SEPT. 20

Golfers, did you know this? "No matter how bad your last shot was, the worst is yet to come. This law does not expire on the 18th hole, since it has the supernatural tendency to extend over the course of a tournament, a summer and, eventually, a lifetime."

Plan on playing in the inaugural CroatiaFest Golf Tournament. It will be held at Riverbend Golf Course in Kent, Wash., and everyone is welcome regardless of ability.

If you don't have a partner we will try to find one for you. \$65 per player covers, green fee, cart, meal at Mick Kelly's Irish Pub at the course, tee prize and, for those of you who play well enough, certificates redeemable at Riverbend.

Apply online at www.croatiafest.org or contact John Pintar at jfpintar@comcast.net for more details. See you in September.

NEW COLLECTION OF RECORDS FOR VELI LOSINJ (LUSSINGRANDE)

A new collection of birth, marriage, and death records has been acquired by genealogist Barbara Starkey.

Starkey has been a featured presenter and advisor on Croatian genealogy for the past five years at Croatiafest and has helped many individuals find their family history.

The previous collection of records for Veli

Losinj had records dating from 1828 forward to 1918. These records included the valuable Status Animarums (church censuses) that grouped families together and included birth and death dates and family connections through marriage. The new collection includes marriage records from about 1650, birth records from about 1600, and death records from about 1680.



The town of Veli Losinj, Croatia.

Currently Barbara is indexing the entire collection to make searching the records easier.

Please contact Barbara at barb@the-starkeys.com if you are interested in researching your Croatian ancestry either in Veli Losinj or other locations in Croatia. She will be happy to help you.

Barbara will also be a part of CroatiaFest again this year. Make it a point to stop by her booth. She is always willing and able to help you with questions about your Croatian roots.

CROATIAFEST 2011 PHOTO ALBUM



CROATIAFEST 2011 PHOTO ALBUM



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CROATIAFEST 2011*

*CroatiaFest 2011 was brought to you
through the generosity of these individual donors as well as grants & sponsors.*

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Slavonian American Benevolent Society
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Continued on next page

**Donations recorded for CroatiaFest 2011 as of Dec. 31, 2011.*

Please let us know if we made an error! Corrections will be printed in future CroatiaFest publications.

Make CroatiaFest 2012 a success by giving your donation today! See the CroatiaFest 2012 donation form on page 12.

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Continued from previous page

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DID YOU KNOW?

By Richard L. Major

Okay, by now most readers know that among his hundreds of patents, Nikola Tesla fathered the distribution of alternating current and the polyphase electric motor – inventions that power industry and provide the basis for our modern way of life.

But DID YOU KNOW that Tesla, born in 1856 in Smiljan, Croatia to Serbian Orthodox parents, was also the father of radio? Although most textbooks still cite the Italian scientist Marconi as the inventor of radio, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1943 ruled that Tesla's patent preceded that of Marconi.

And DID YOU KNOW that Antun Lucic (later Anthony Lucas) was a pioneer in the U.S. oil industry? Lucic, born in Split, Dalmatia in 1855, was an electrical engineer but, unlike his contemporary Nikola Tesla, he used his skills to pursue oil – "black gold" as it was then called.

It was his team that drilled and loosened the famous Lucas Gusher in what eventually became known as the Spindletop oil field in eastern Texas in 1901. This discovery changed the

course of history in that it rejuvenated the lagging industrial revolution and transformed the United States into a superpower.

Closer to home, most local folks know that the Suzzallo Library on the University of Washington campus was named after Dr. Henry Suzzallo who was president of the University from 1915 to 1926.

But DID YOU KNOW that Suzzallo also started the University's Schools of Fisheries and Forestry and, with uncanny foresight, launched the Department of Aeronautical Engineering?

Historian Adam Eterovich has established that although Suzzallo himself was born in San Jose, Calif., in 1875, his parents came from the village of Ljuta near Dubrovnik where the name was originally Cucalo.

Other big contributors to the building of America were the Tacoma-area shipyards – Barbare, Petrich and Martinac in Tacoma proper, Skansie in Gig Harbor and Martinolich in Dockton.

Much has been written about the

thousands of salmon purse seiners built by these companies in the first half of the last century not to mention some of the largest tuna seiners. But DID YOU KNOW some of these same shipyards built and restored ships for the U.S. Navy in both World Wars I and II?

And DID YOU KNOW that Martinolich built the passenger-only vessels Vashon and Verona, which were part of the so-called Puget Sound Mosquito Fleet that preceded the introduction of auto-bearing ferries?

And further, DID YOU KNOW that the Skansie brothers built at least five of the first car ferries and operated their own system called the Washington Navigation Company?

To find out more about the contributions of these pioneers and other influential Croatians who have had a hand in the building of America, you are warmly invited to attend CroatiaFest 2012.

Panel displays, lectures and exhibits will help you learn all about the Maglite flashlights, the Puretic Power Block, Grgich Hills Winery, the Letica (plastic) Corporation and many, many others.

BE PART OF CROATIAFEST'S KEEPSAKE PROGRAM

A few years back the idea of a keepsake program was presented to CroatiaFest, and a new tradition was born.

Thanks to our creative volunteer Nikki Cvitanović, that idea comes to life. Not one detail is left out, from the bright and brilliant cover to the material inside.

We are so grateful for the countless hours Nikki donates to produce our

free brochure. Each year she takes on the Herculean task of taking our festival theme and creating a program with background photos, recipes, the schedule, articles and information that is not just for the day of the festival, but also for beyond.

You might also have noticed each of the ads, promoting Croatian-American businesses. Nikki creates the ads and

memorials unique to each business and individual who purchases them.

Want to be a part of this wonderful program? Consider purchasing an ad or creating a memorial for a loved one.

Contact Nikki at nikki.cvit@gmail.com (or see the form below), and she would be more than happy to help you be a part of CroatiaFest's keepsake program.

CORPORATE GIFT MATCHING PROGRAMS

CroatiaFest is eligible to receive corporate gift matching from several corporations who offer this community service to their employees.

This is how it works: after making a monetary donation to CroatiaFest, an employee or retiree makes a request to

their company for a gift match. Some companies have a minimum donated amount, others do not. CroatiaFest is a 503c3 corporation, approved and registered with the Internal Revenue Service.

Thanks to the employees and retirees of The Boeing Company, Microsoft and

Expedia, CroatiaFest has received gift matching funds from these companies.

After making a donation to CroatiaFest and if your company offers a gift matching program, make the request for matching funds.

ADVERTISERS WANTED FOR CROATIAFEST EVENT PROGRAM!

Advertise your business in the CroatiaFest keepsake program distributed to 2000+ attendees at the Oct. 6-7 festival at Seattle Center. PLUS receive a free line ad on www.croatiafest.org for ONE FULL YEAR!

More suggestions:

- Advertise a special occasion
- Congratulations
- Honor a special person
- In memory of a loved one

Size

- 1 ad space
- 2 ad spaces
- 6 ad spaces 1/4 page
- 12 ad spaces 1/2 page
- 24 ad spaces 1 page

Price

- \$75
- \$150
- \$200
- \$300
- \$500

DEADLINE:

August 17, 2012

To order, fill out this form and mail to Nikki Cvitanović, 1300 Boblett St., PMB 162, Blaine, WA 98230, or email the information to nikki.cvit@gmail.com. Proof will be sent by email.

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Photo/Logo (circle one): Yes No (If yes, please email a jpg to nikki.cvit@gmail.com)

SPIRIT OF DOLAC MARKETPLACE

Beauty and tradition of old Zagreb and the colorful Dolac marketplace welcomed visitors as they entered Exhibition Hall and the festivities of Croatia-Fest 2011.

Women came to Zagreb on a daily basis with baskets full of produce from their gardens, orchards and vegetable patches – fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers. In honor of those country women, who were a part of the heritage and spirit of old Zagreb, country women dressed in Prigorje costumes returned to the market on June 10, 2011 and continued through October 29, 2011 to remind all of the thousands of women who have fed the inhabitants of Zagreb through the centuries.

It is hoped this will continue to reintroduce and preserve old Zagreb customs,

which are an integral part of the spirit of this town, as well as presenting old traditions and how people sold and bought produce and socialized.

Beverly Prkacin Read collaborated with Alma Franulovich Plancich to replicate the marketplace with a display of Prigorje costumes, produce and fruit, sunflowers, herbs and the Shestine umbrella. Shestine refers to the residents who lived near Zagreb and were the first to use the umbrella. Legend has it as a love story that happened in the rain.

One day, in the rain, a young man expressed his love for a young woman by kissing her as they walked on the street. Suddenly the man's black umbrella turned red, as if it was the sun in the rain. From then on, the Shestine people began to change the black umbrellas



into red ones and added the color lines. The handles were to be made of wood.

Now when the umbrella opens, the color lines look like a rainbow surrounding the sun.

A FAMOUS PIONEER OF SILICON VALLEY

By Bob Gunovick

What comes to your mind when you hear "Silicon Valley"? Most people know this is where the computer industry began in California over 50 years ago and is still the center of the high-tech world. But, how many people know that a Croatian American from Aberdeen, Wash., was one of the founders of Silicon Valley?

Victor Grinich was a pioneer in the semiconductor industry and a member of the "Traitorous Eight" that founded

Silicon Valley. The son of Croatian immigrants, he was born Victor Grgurinovich in 1924 in Aberdeen.

His father Nicholas was from Desne, Croatia, and after immigrating to America, he settled in Aberdeen and became a member of the Aberdeen Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 271. (Desne, near present day Ploce, is also the birthplace of another famous Croatian, Mike Grgich of Grgich Hills Winery in California.)

Victor served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. To make his last name easier to pronounce during military roll calls, he officially changed it to Grinich.

Victor Grinich received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in 1945 and a Master's Degree in 1950 and then earned a Ph.D. in 1953 from Stanford University. He worked at the seminal Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory. He was

one of eight people who developed the transistor, which later led to the invention of the computer chip, the heart of all computers. He then left with other disgruntled members of the "Traitorous Eight" to create the influential Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation – thus, the beginning of the now-famous Silicon Valley.

In the 1960s, Grinich left Fairchild Semiconductor to teach at the University of California Berkeley and Stanford University. His daughter, Portland attorney Anita Grinich, said he had an opportunity to be a co-founder of Intel, but chose to continue teaching. In 1975 he wrote the textbook "Introduction to Integrated Circuits."

Victor is on the list of famous alumni at the University of Washington and Stanford. He passed away in November 2000. This brilliant son of a Croatian immigrant has certainly left his mark on the computer world.



Victor Grinich.



CroatiaFest
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