

# Croatia Fest

Newsletter  
Spring 2013

## **CroatiaFest 2013**

### **What is Croatia? Croatia is...**

**Saturday, October 5**

Dance & Sing-Along Party

*Russian Community Center  
704 19th Ave. E. in Seattle*

**Sunday, October 6**

Music & Dance Performances

Croatia Travel Today

Historical Exhibits

Souvenirs of Croatia

Market Place

Cooking Demonstrations

Crafts for Kids

*Seattle Center  
Armory / Center House  
305 Harrison St. in Seattle*

Look for updates as plans develop  
in future publications and at  
[www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org),  
and like us on Facebook.

CroatiaFest activities are FREE  
and open to the public.

## **'WHAT IS CROATIA?' FESTIVAL THEME UNVEILED**



*Historic Dubrovnik, Croatia, the "Jewel of the Adriatic."*

Croatia means different things to different people: homeland, culture, music, food, traditions and ancestry.

CroatiaFest 2013 will capture some of these treasures by presenting an all-day, fun filled festival in Seattle on Sunday, Oct. 6, kicked off by a dance and sing-along party Saturday, Oct. 5.

### **Saturday, Oct. 5 - Evening Dance Party**

We start with a dance and sing-along at the Russian Community Center. Admission is only \$10, and there will be Croatian food available for a la carte purchase catered by the Seattle Jr. Tamburitizan parents.

A no-host bar will feature a variety of wines and imported Croatian Karlovacko Pivo. Come dance and sing along to the

new as well as the old standard Croatian songs and kolo dance to the music of Sinovi.

### **Sunday, Oct. 6 - All-Day Festival**

Festivities begin at Seattle Center Armory with opening ceremonies at noon. The festival will include:

*Culture:* Experience the music, exquisite costumes and traditional dances performed all day on the main stage by various Croatian musicians, dance ensembles and singing groups.

*Traditions:* At least three different Croatian cooking demonstrations will take place at the new cooking stage in the west wing of

*See THEME on page 11*

## STAY CONNECTED WITH CROATIAFEST ALL YEAR

There are a number of ways that you can stay connected with the CroatiaFest community throughout the year.

Visit [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org) and click on "Croatian Events" to see events of interest in the Croatian community in the Pacific Northwest and around the country.

Click on "Business Pages" to find contact information for the businesses that loyally support CroatiaFest.

Subscribe to eNews to receive timely information by email, or "like" us on Facebook to see the info in your newsfeed.

## CROATIA TO JOIN EUROPEAN UNION

*By Frank Brozovich, Honorary Croatian Consul and CroatiaFest Chairman*

Croatia has met the requirements for European Union membership and is on track to become a member state in July.

A series of events – a war for independence from the former Yugoslavia, United Nations membership and membership in NATO – culminates in the forthcoming E.U. membership, which puts Croatia on an equal footing with all European nations. The strengthening of Croatia's national identity makes Croatian-Americans all the more proud of our heritage and gives us all the more reason to



*Honorary Croatian Consul Frank Brozovich, Croatian Consul General Ilija Zelalic from Los Angeles, Croatian Ambassador to the United States Josko Paro and Washington Lt. Gov. Brad Owen.*

keep alive and pass on those things that identify us. And that is the mission of CroatiaFest.



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



Ethnic Heritage Council

**CroatiaFest Coordinators:** Cathryn Morovich and Kristen LeMieux

**Board of Directors:** Dr. Frank Brozovich, Chairman; Cathryn Morovich, President; Kristen LeMieux, Vice-President; Mark Ruljancich, Treasurer; Stephanie Rogstad, Secretary.

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**Newsletter Editor:** Jenny Zuvela Marin

**CroatiaFest Logo Designer:** John Lovrić

**Program Designer/Editor:** Diane Petricić-Brust

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



FESTAL 2013





# SARMA: THE ULTIMATE CROATIAN 'COMFORT FOOD'

By Peggy Gunovick

What is it about sarma that people seem to love? Sarma, cabbage rolls that originated in Croatia, is a favorite traditional food of Croatians all across the United States. Every Slavic country has its own version of cabbage rolls. The filling of ground meat and rice and seasoning is rolled up in a cabbage leaf from a soured cabbage head or with layered sauerkraut to give it that special slightly sour taste.

So, what is it about these little cabbage rolls that Croatian people seem to relish? Nostalgia? Remembering the old days eating sarma prepared by a family member, or eating them at Croatian parties or holiday dinners? Do they enjoy comparing the sarma to Mom's or "Baba's" recipe, or are they comparing the sarma with their own recipe?

It seems everyone has their own version of this dish. I must have tried six recipes before I found the one I loved and still make today. I know it is more authentic to physically sour the whole cabbage heads in a brine, but I tried it once. Give

me a jar of sauerkraut: much easier!

Edward Pazo, the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Croatian Fraternal Union said this regarding sarma in a recent article from the *Zajednicar*, the lodge's newspaper: "It is rumored that the Roman Emperor Diocletian preferred it over the usual dining options of the then Roman Emperors and proclaimed it 'a meal fit for an Emperor.'" (The Diocletian palace located in Split was built in the 4th century and still stands today.)

I have heard some people say that sarma was something they were not familiar with in the Old Country. Well, that may be true in some parts of Croatia, but Croatian-Americans have made it a favorite dish served wherever there is a gathering of Croatians.

Two years ago in Seattle we were allowed to set up food booths selling Croatian food at CroatiaFest for the first time in the festival's history. We were elated! At last we could prepare and sell our own food prepared by our own people. These booths are run by non-profit

Croatian organizations. In addition to our sarma booth, representing Seattle Croatian Lodge #439, the other booths sold *povitica*, *lignje* (calamari), *chevap-cici* and other treats.

The whole project was a challenge for us because the Seattle Center is run by the City of Seattle, and you have to adhere to all the strict food rules and regulations, and oh, by the way, there is no kitchen available at the center. With sarma, which takes hours to bake, this meant that we had to find a commercial kitchen, prepare and bake the day before, refrigerate our pans, then the next morning re-heat the sarma and transport our food to the center in large thermal heating containers.

We found our kitchen at Holy Rosary School in West Seattle, nine miles from the center. The people preparing the sarma had to have food handling permits and the food had to be kept at certain temperatures during the preparation and cooking periods.

I then had to get my cooking crew together. Over 15 people helped with this project, including lodge and family members. I have to admit, making sarma is labor intensive, but oh, so worth it. After two days of hard work, we set up our booth at the center with portable ovens, and then got approved by the Seattle food inspector. The lines formed, and those little cabbage rolls flew out of our booth as fast as we could dish them up. At the end of the day, we were a tired but happy bunch of Croatians!

This year's CroatiaFest will again feature home-made Croatian food.

Be sure to come with an empty stomach to try the yummy dishes, especially the ultimate Croatian comfort food, sarma!



Volunteers Elaine Tomic and Gloria Barelo assemble sarma before CroatiaFest 2012.

## DIDN'T MAKE IT TO CROATIAFEST 2012? HERE'S A RECAP

Last year's festival theme was centered on Croatian and Croatian-American Innovators and Invention.

For the first time inside the Armory we were able to have three Croatian groups selling delicious local cuisine – sarma, povitica and palacinke. Outside we had perfect cevapcici and calamari. It was a tremendous success, and we are grateful to our local community groups who spent countless hours preparing the food to sell. The festival was more authentic with not only the sights and sounds of Croatia but also the smells and tastes.

The festival brought us an exciting panel of local Croatian-Americans sharing

their experiences from the maritime industry to the medical field and beyond. We had a fun tie-wearing contest in honor of the official Day of the Cravat with the winners announced on the main stage. Many people took away helpful information from the Croatia Today booth to plan their trips to Croatia, thanks to Adriatic Tours of San Pedro, Calif., and Croatia Only Tours.

We were also quite excited to have a Tesla car on the main floor for everyone to see. Special thanks to Tom Saxton for taking the time to bring his car and share with the public about this truly unique electric car that uses Croatian-American Nikola Tesla's technology.

It was a great honor this past year to have newly installed Croatian Ambassador to the United States Josko Pavo attend our festival. CroatiaFest is gaining quite the nationwide reputation as being the premier Croatian-American festival to attend, and we are so pleased that the Croatian Embassy is continually a part of this festival. Ambassador Pavo has made the commitment to continue working with our community and plans to coordinate future exhibitions.

We appreciate your input and contributions. Keep those ideas coming. This festival truly is the culmination of our entire community making it so unique and a treasure to share year after year.

## MIGRATIONS OF CROATIANS TO THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER

Information on the migrations of Croatians to the Pacific Northwest is fragmentary. There is quite a bit of detail for some communities, a little bit for others and almost nothing for others.

At this year's CroatiaFest, the popular display panels will be devoted to these migrations, showing, for example, the first individuals or families who came to each community, their place of origin in Croatia, their principal occupations in America and more.

As a prelude to this undertaking we offer some little known information about three Croatian communities on the lower Columbia River. Two, Clifton, Ore., and Brookfield, Wash., were settled long ago while the third, in the Portland-Vancouver area, is quite new.

### 1880-1930

Oregon historians assert that there were two or three Croatians in Astoria even before 1880. One, Nick Devich, is said to have run a saloon. Then in 1880 the territorial census listed 129 Croatians – all



*Croatians celebrate Karnival 2013 in Vancouver, Wash.*

but four in Astoria, and nearly all as fishermen. Included here were names like Baranovich, Dragolich, Maricich and Stanovich.

Subsequent records show that by 1890, 10 years later, a new group of Croatian fishermen had settled in Clifton, some 25 miles upstream from Astoria. These included Vincenzo (Visco) Mar-desich and Andrew, Furezo and Jack

Marincovich, all from the village of Komiza on the Adriatic island of Vis. By 1914 an additional 25 Croatian men, some with families, had come to Clifton, all from the island of Vis or other locales in Austrian-controlled Dalmatia.

Meanwhile Brookfield, across the broad Columbia River on the Washington side,

*See MIGRATIONS on page 11*



## NORWEGIAN INVADES CROATIAFEST

Velkommen til CroatiaFest! Wait...Norwegian? What does Norway have to do with CroatiaFest?

Our back by popular demand, Master of Ceremonies Don Wick is actually a dyed-in-the-wool Ballard Norwegian.

Don (who by day is the Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Skagit County) began his career in radio broadcast and in 1987 stepped into his executive director role with EDASC.

Each year he MC's and organizes wonderful events, from the annual Swing Into the Holidays: Dinner Dance and Auction to EDASC's highly successful Golf and Wine Festival.

During his travels with Anacortes Sister Cities Association in 2004, Don wrote

the following observation about Croatia and the food experience: "One great and tremendous feature of the trip was the food. Goodness gracious, we ate and ate and ate and ate: seafood, fish (very expensive, 250-300 Kunas for a seafood dinner, 40-65 for a lamb dinner), squid, octopus, lamb, pork, beef, beets, cabbage (love that cabbage, lots of cabbage), cabbage rolls, cabbage salad, beans, marinated peppers (WOW, get me that recipe for the marinated peppers), olives and olive oil – olive oil on everything. Once I saw someone pour olive oil on the olives – a bit over the top!"

Don's enthusiasm for Croatia is catching,



*Don Wick interviews Joanne Morovich Abdo at CroatiaFest 2012.*

and it is an honor to welcome him back to this year's festival.

For the weekend of CroatiaFest, we will grant our Norwegian honorary Croatian status, renaming him Don Wick-ovich, to help him fit right in. Be sure to tell him hello and ask him about his recent trip when he's not on stage announcing.

## RUŽE DALMATINKE PERFORMS AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, KENNEDY CENTER

Ruže Dalmatinke, from Washington State, was invited to Washington, D.C., to present traditional songs of Croatia as a part of the American Folklife Center's Homegrown Concert Series 2012, called The Music of America.

This concert series achieves two missions of the AFC's congressional mandate to preserve and present traditional culture. It is a form of fieldwork as a vehicle of documentation of traditional performing art, which will be preserved and placed in the American Folklife Center's permanent collections, and as a public presentation of the featured artists to a live audience.

Ruže Dalmatinke is recognized as one of the finest and most seminal ensembles in the performance of traditional songs of Croatia in the United States. Ruže Dalmatinke was chosen to participate in this concert series based on artistic



*Ruže Dalmatinke: Binki Spahi and Alma Plancich with musicians Allan Swenson, Matt Thompson, Matthew Tweten, Steven Mataya and Pasko Kesovija, U.S. Representative from Washington State Jim McDermott and Ambassador from the Republic of Croatia to the United States Josko Paro. Photo by Pamela Olich Tweten, Library of Congress.*

achievements and through vetting of the state folklorists.

Two concerts were given July 18 in Washington, D.C.: a noon performance at the Library of Congress, where attendees included members of Congress with an introduction by U. S. Representative from Washington State, Congressman Jim McDermott, and a welcome by the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the United States, Joško Paro; and an evening concert at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, with an

introduction by Washington State Folklorist Willie Smythe.

Ruže Dalmatinke (Dalmatian Roses) are sisters Ljubica "Binki" Franulovich Spahi, lead vocals, and Alma Franulovich Plancich, harmony vocals, with musicians Pasko Kesovija, accordion, Matthew Olich Tweten, prim, Steven Mataya, brač, Allan Swenson, guitar & bugarija, and Matthew Thompson, bass.

For more info, visit [www.loc.gov/folklife](http://www.loc.gov/folklife) or [www.velaluka.org](http://www.velaluka.org).



## CROATIAFEST 2012 PHOTO ALBUM





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## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CROATIAFEST 2012\*

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*Continued on next page*

*\*Donations recorded for CroatiaFest 2012 as of Dec. 31, 2012. Please let us know if  
we made an error. Corrections will be printed in future CroatiaFest publications.*

**Make CroatiaFest 2013 a success by giving your donation today! See the donation form on page 9.**



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Mail your 2013 donation to:

**CroatiaFest**  
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## CROATIAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 18 Mother's Day Celebration: Portland, Ore.
- April 21 Annual Daffodil Dinner and Pastry Sale: Slavonian American Benevolent Society, Tacoma, Wash.
- April 27 Vela Luka 2013 Spring Festal: Croatian Cultural Center, Anacortes, Wash.
- May 4 American Croatian Club of Anacortes Spring Dinner/Dance, Anacortes, Wash.
- May 4 Slavic Women's Club Annual Mother's Day Luncheon: Maplewood Greens Golf Club, Renton, Wash.
- May 18 Seattle Jr. Tamburitizans Annual Kavana: John F. Kennedy High School Auditorium, Burien, Wash.
- May 25 Roslyn, Ronald, Cle Elum Heritage Ethnic Memorial Day (performance by Seattle Jr. Tamburitizans): Old School, Ronald, Wash.
- May 25 Folklife Festival (performance by Vela Luka Dance Ensemble): Seattle Center Exhibition Hall
- May 31 Maritime Gig Fest Croatian Fish Dinner: Skansie Bros. Net Shed, Gig Harbor, Wash.
- June 1-2 Maritime Gig Festival: Gig Harbor, Wash.
- July 21 Roslyn Croatian Picnic: City Park, Roslyn, Wash.
- July 27 Seattle CFU Lodge 439 Annual Croatian Picnic: Vasa Park, Bellevue, Wash.
- Aug. 2-4 Croatian Cultural Center: Anacortes Arts and Crafts Festival
- Aug. 10 Taste of Croatia Festival: Portland, Ore.
- Aug. 11 Velika Gospa Dinner: Slavonian American Benevolent Society, Tacoma, Wash.
- Aug. 30 Bellingham Croatian Picnic: Hovander Park, Ferndale, Wash.
- Sept. 21 Croatian/Polish Festival: Portland, Ore.
- Sept. 26 Tambauritza Extravaganza: Phoenix, Arizona
- Oct. 5 CroatiaFest Kick Off Dance & Sing-Along: Russian Community Center, Seattle
- Oct. 6 CroatiaFest: Armory at the Seattle Center

*For more details and information about these events, visit [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org).*

## ADVERTISE IN FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Do you know a Croatian-owned business or perhaps have one yourself? Then consider buying an ad in the keepsake CroatiaFest program!

Each year a wonderful program is created with articles, stories, recipes and background on the festival that is distributed for free at the festival. With a purchase of an ad, you will receive not only a print ad in the program, but

advertising for a full year on the CroatiaFest website with the ability to link to your own website or Facebook page. It is a great way to reach out to a truly unique audience.

To buy, go to **[www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org)** and click "Business Pages." To ask questions or to share a business for CroatiaFest to reach out to, email **[advertising@croatiafest.org](mailto:advertising@croatiafest.org)**.

## DONATE TO CROATIAFEST

To our wonderful donors and contributors, thank you! CroatiaFest 2012 was a tremendous success, one we could not have done without the generous contributions from the community. We are a 501c3 non-profit corporation, which means your gift is tax-deductible. Our festival relies upon fund-raising support from our friends.

With your donation, we were able to bring talent from Chicago, California and Canada, we provided kitchen areas for our delicious foods to be prepared for your enjoyment, we hosted fascinating panelists and unique vendors. Each of the performances and every corner of the festival that you enjoy is possible because of you!

To contribute, you may send a check made out to CroatiaFest in the enclosed envelope or donate online with a credit card at [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org). If you have any questions about CroatiaFest donations and/or sponsorship, contact treasurer Mark Ruljancich at 425-462-1918 or [treasurer@croatiafest.org](mailto:treasurer@croatiafest.org).

Does your employer take part in a donation matching program? CroatiaFest is honored to partner with some of the area's top employers who have matched their employee donations including Microsoft, Expedia, Boeing and others. Check with your employer and double your gift to the festival.

Donors who give \$100 or more are invited to our special Donor's Brunch the morning of CroatiaFest. Enjoy a special breakfast, catered by Seattle's finest, and mingle with dignitaries from Croatia.

Each year our festival is bigger and better, and that is all because of YOU! Be a part of something special and contribute to CroatiaFest 2013!



## THEME

*Continued from page 1*

the Armory.

*History:* Exhibition panels will feature the history of our Croatian communities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

*Food:* Authentic Croatian food will be available for purchase both inside and outside of the Armory.

*Homeland:* Plan your next trip to Croatia by spending some time at the Croatia Travel Today booth. Once again a representative from Adriatic Tours from Los Angeles will be on hand to answer your questions, book your flight and give you guidelines to help with your travel plans.

By popular demand, Quincy's Corner will return, featuring various Klapa singing groups as well as Tamburasi, singing and playing your favorite tunes while you enjoy a Karlovacko Pivo or your favorite wine or beverage with your meal.

The Armory food vendors around the perimeter of the building are planning a special Croatian themed item on their menu.

Our merchant vendors will be back with a variety of Croatian goods and souvenirs for your shopping pleasure. And, of course, there will be activities and crafts for the youngsters.

Details of the festival are still in the planning stages. Keep abreast of the programming and activities planned for CroatiaFest by periodically visiting [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org) or our Facebook page.

Mark your calendars and save the dates: Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6.

## MIGRATIONS

*Continued from page 4*

was being built. But unlike Clifton, which had sizeable populations of Italians and Greeks as well as Croatians, nearly all the inhabitants of Brookfield were Croatians. In his memoirs, Sam Zorich who was born in Brookfield in 1912, listed the Bajocich, Bozanich, Budinich, Churlin, Greget, Kuljis, Mardesich, Picinich, Repanich, Scrivanich, Suich, Tarabochia, Vitalich and Zankich families as neighbors. In Brookfield, as in Clifton, many of the families had come from the island of Vis, but there were also many from the island of Sansego (presently called Susak) in Croatia's northern Adriatic Sea. Who came first is unrecorded, but when Zorich's mother, Nicolina Tarabochia, was born in 1892 the family had long since been in Brookfield.

Sam Zorich recalls that everyone fished for the canneries and that after the canneries took their cut, just enough remained for the families to get by.

"We ate lots of potatoes, dandelions and bakalar," he said. "Shoes? One pair. Pants? One pair. School? Eight grades. Church? On Sundays the women would go into the woods to pray. No electricity, no roads, no nothin' and I mean nothin'. We were poor but happy."

As fishing declined in the 1920s and 1930s, the families headed by these adventuresome immigrants moved on — some to Astoria, some to San Pedro, Calif., and a great many to Puget Sound where fishing was still good.

Hardly a trace of Clifton or Brookfield remains today.

### A New Community Emerges

In the 1990s a new wave of about 150 Croatians came to the lower Columbia area. They came as refugees as their former homeland, Yugoslavia,

disintegrated in chaos. Most came from Bosnia but others were from Hercegovina, Dalmatia and Slavonia. Sponsored by various humanitarian organizations, they came to the Portland-Vancouver area, with Vancouver, Wash., being the hub.

In one way the new Croatians differed starkly from those who came 100 years ago. Most were highly educated or trained in their respective occupations and had years of experience in their homeland. Not all of these qualifications were easily transferable, but with new training and perseverance, most were able to adapt to Americana. You will find them today earning their way as professionals, craftsmen and small businessmen. The young are continuing their education at various levels with a couple aiming soon for their PhD degree.

But like their predecessors in Clifton and Brookfield, the newcomers are intensely proud of their culture and heritage. They gather at every opportunity to speak their native language — often at small gatherings like birthday parties and anniversaries. They have a Croatian Mass once a month and they have an ambitious schedule of social events including a Croatian Festival, a pre-lenten Karnival and more. (See the schedule of events on page 10.) In 2011 members of the group founded Marija Zvijezda, Lodge 401 of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

So, hats off to this new group of Croatians in our midst. May they flourish and find their way in America very much as those who came to Clifton and Brookfield 100 years ago.

*Written by Richard L. Major with acknowledgement to Cheryl Healy, Sam Zorich and Mirjana Filipovic for information on the Clifton, Brookfield and Vancouver groups, respectively.*



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