

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

An outstanding program of music, dance, historical documentaries, cooking demonstrations, traditional costumes, wine tasting, and much more is being planned for the CroatiaFest 2021 Virtual Festival. The program will be aired on Facebook and YouTube on October 3rd. The planning committee is in the process of creating the program schedule, which will be published on the CroatiaFest website at www.croatiafest.org and on Facebook. This year's program includes the following presentations:

Croatian-American Immigrant Communities

Showcasing the history and contributions of Croatian-American communities of the Pacific Northwest has always been an integral part of our festival. We have taken the opportunity to go on the road and document our history on video. Last year we featured stories about West Seattle, Tacoma, and Roslyn. This year we will visit Anacortes and Gig Harbor, interviewing community members, visiting the local history museum, and hearing from museum curators and historians with walking tours telling the Croatian immigrant story.

Dalmatian Fishermen

We will feature an interview with Ray Fadich, author of "The Big Run: Life Aboard a Salmon Seiner," in which Ray reminisces about his first-time fishing experience aboard the purse seiner "Emancipator" during the height of the huge salmon run of the 1958 season.

Our film crew traveled to Gig Harbor to interview current and "old-time" fishermen onboard the restored fishing vessel "Veteran" and to tour the historical Skansie Netshed.

We will also take you north to Anacortes to tour the Lovrić Shipyard and visit the Croatian Cultural Center and American Croatian Club.



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ANACORTES

The CroatiaFest Film crew traveled 80 miles north to Skagit County to visit with Croatian immigrants and their descendants who make Anacortes their home. Our first stop was the Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center to interview Education Curator Brett (Maricich) Lunsford. Records show that the first Croatian settlers in Anacortes arrived in the 1870s. CroatiaFest committee member and Anacortes native John Lovrić guided us through the town, narrating interesting historical and scenic points of interest. Along the way, we were treated to a demonstration (and tasting) of hobotnica (octopus) salad prepared by John's mother Florence Lovrić in her kitchen overlooking the Lovrić Shipyard.

Anacortes boasts two centers of Croatian activity—the American Croatian Club of Anacortes and the Croatian Cultural Center. We visited both places and interviewed their founders.

The American Croatian Club of Anacortes was founded in



1972 and has provided a gathering place for local and regional communities, with monthly dinners and social activities. Two of the club's founding members, Nikola Mavar and Vlatko Kolega, tell their individual stories of leaving Croatia as young men immigrating to the United States. They eventually made their way to Anacortes, where they became commercial fishermen, raised their families, and become leaders in the Croatian-American community.

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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.

CroatiaFest Coordinator: Joanne Abdo

CroatiaFest Officers & Executive Board of Directors: Dr. Frank Brozovich, Chairman; Cathryn Morovich, President; Antoinette Slavich, Vice President; Kristin Tarabochia Boline, Treasurer; Stephanie Rogstad, Secretary

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Croatia—Reflecting Back.

30 Years of Hard-won Independence.

A 1,000-year-old Dream.

As I look back, I ponder what has taken place on the Croatian stage during the past 30 years. On May 19, 1991, the republic of Croatia held a referendum on becoming an independent state. Eighty-three percent of voters went to the polls, with an overwhelming 94% voting in favor of Croatia's independence from Yugoslavia. On May 28, 1991, this declaration was marked by a military parade and review in Zagreb's Krancevica stadium—the first public lineup of the Croatian National Guard, which eventually became the Croatian Armed Forces.

On June 25, 1991, Croatia's Parliament, the Sabor, declared Croatia's independence.

An epic journey

Croatia's journey to freedom was not without setbacks and disappointments. Firstly: Diplomatic recognition of Croatia as an independent state did not come easily. There was opposition from many quarters, from within Europe to the United States. It seems political circles feared a contagion that would spread to other areas, such as Spain, Belgium and, of all places, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or USSR.

The ice was broken by the Vatican, which announced on October 31, 1991, that it was working on Croatia's international recognition. On December 19, 1991, Iceland recognized Croatia. On January 13, 1992, the Holy See formally recognized Croatia. On January 15, 1992, Germany recognized Croatia's independence, becoming the first country to establish diplomatic relations. This paved the way for other European countries to follow suit.

On April 7, 1992, the United States recognized Croatia. On May 22, 1992, the United Nations admitted the Republic of Croatia as a member state.

From a Medieval duchy in the 7th century, to the King



dom of Croatia established by the Pope in 925, to unions with Hungary and Venice (1102-1527)—in which Croatia had its own Sabor and Ban (viceroy) —Croatia sustained its national identity. For the next four centuries, Croatia was part of the Habsburg empire, but with its own legislative authority. Then, in 1918 after WW I, Croatia became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, soon renamed Yugoslavia.

Croatia, at the crossroads of Europe, held fast to its “thousand-year-old dream of independence.”

A nation forged in fire

Tragically, the breakaway path from the Yugoslav union was strewn with blood and destruction of property. As Marcus Tanner describes in his book, “Croatia: A Nation Forged in War,” the rebirth of Croatia left one-third of the country in ruins.

The path to memberships in international institutions did not come easily either. On April 1, 2009, still wounded by war, Croatia became a member of the NATO alliance. In 2003, Croatia had applied for European Union member-

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VIRTUAL FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Continued from page 1

Cooking Demonstrations

Always an audience favorite, cooking demonstrations will feature pastries and two savory Croatian dishes with an added visit to Kuzma's Fish Market, where Ken "Kuzma" Hewitt demonstrates how to filet both salmon and rockfish and how to prepare brudet with polenta.

Costumes

"Obnovimo Stare Užance - Renewing Our Old Traditions" is a two-part program filmed on the stage of

McCaw Hall featuring members of the Seattle Jr. Tamburitza and the Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble. The segments focus on recreations of costumes and performances of folkdance from the areas of Croatia where many Puget Sound Croats trace their roots. This year marks the 50th and 45th anniversaries of the respective groups.

This is just a small sampling of what the CroatiaFest Planning Committee has prepared for our virtual festival and your viewing enjoyment. We invite you to visit the CroatiaFest website at www.croatiafest.org for final updates and scheduling as we finalize our program.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Continued from page 3

-ship. But it took a decade of negotiations before the EU opened its doors to Croatia on July 1, 2013.

I remember back in the late 1990s when Croatia aspired to join NATO's Partnership for Peace. Our own Washington State US Senator Slade Gorton sponsored a "Sense of the Senate" resolution recommending Croatia's NATO and EU memberships. The only joint signatures at the time were those of Senators Patty Murray, Orin Hatch and Joe Lieberman.

A bright future

Croatia is a proud independent state. Looking forward, it's a country with a bright future.

Croatia is now not only a NATO and EU member, but Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Croatia's youngest ever president, is a leading candidate to succeed Norway's Jens Stoltenberg as NATO's 14th Secretary General in 2022. And on January 1, 2020, Croatia took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from Finland, before passing it to Germany on July 1, 2021.

Croatia is a leading world tourist destination. Visitors to Croatia can experience first-class sailing and yachting, 10 World Heritage sites and 7 Michelin star restaurants.



Croatia is quickly becoming one of Europe's top tech hubs. Since gaining independence, small but mighty Croatia has won 52 Olympic medals, including 8 in this summer's Tokyo Olympics.

Many of Croatia's athletes are world-renowned. Croatian tennis player Goran Ivanisevic was the only athlete ever to win Wimbledon on a wildcard invitation. Footballer Luka Modric won FIFA's Ballon d'Or; only twenty countries in the world have a Ballon d'Or player.

And let's not forget the Croatian national football team's historic match against France in the 2018 World Cup Final. (Were we robbed? Maybe; not exactly.)

Živjela Hrvatska! Long live Croatia!

GIG HARBOR

A “Gig” is a small narrow boat adapted for rowing or sailing.

During a storm in 1841, Captain Charles Wilkes, while commanding the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838 - 1842, sought shelter with his “gig” and several longboats in a small bay across the Narrows Passage from Tacoma. Captain Wilkes named the area Gig Harbor.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

During Captain Wilkes’ expedition, he encountered a Native American settlement where he found the Native Americans cooking salmon threaded on sticks over an open fire. It wasn’t until 1867, when a rowboat containing two Croatian fishermen - Samuel Jerisich and Peter Goldsmith (Zlatar), along with their friend John Farrague, who had rowed from Vancouver Island, Canada, came gliding into the bay. Those three fishermen were the founders of what would become the City of Gig Harbor.

MUSEUM, THE TOWN, AND ITS PEOPLE

The CroatiaFest film crew was welcomed to the little town of Gig Harbor with open arms! We filmed and interviewed folks who grew up in the Croatian community and learned about its charming history.

Stephanie Lile, Executive Director and Curator of Collections, gave us a tour of the Harbor History Museum. She spoke of the contributions Croatian immigrants made to the development of the town and their impact on its economy through the commercial fishing industry.

We then boarded the restored wooden fishing boat “Veteran.” Brothers Nick and Andy Babich compared modern-day fishing to the old ways with Skipper Mike Skrivanich. Retired fishermen Ken Malich, Joe Serka and Greg Lovrovich talked about growing up in a small town densely populated with Croatian families where everyone knew and supported each other.



The historic Skansie Net Shed was the setting for an entertaining interview with long time girlfriends Phyllis Tarabochia Ohrbeck, Nadine Skrivanich Tuttle, Janye Stanich Dempsey, and Christine Allen, who reminisced about their childhood adventures. Finally, a visit to Gig Harbor would not be complete without an interview with the town’s patriarch Jake Bujacich. Jake is part of the large Ross family who immigrated to Gig Harbor at the turn of the 20th century from the small Dalmatian island of Premuda.

The Skansie Netshed is a preserved treasure. Walking into the shed is like walking back in time where the boat owner hung his nets and maintained the gear necessary for a successful fishing season.

The CroatiaFest Planning Committee would like to thank Ken Malich and Mike Skrivanich for their help in facilitating the tours and interviews for the Gig Harbor segment of the CroatiaFest 2021 Virtual Festival, which will air on Facebook and YouTube on October 3rd. A complete video schedule will be posted on the CroatiaFest website at www.croatiafest.org as plans are finalized.

ANACORTES

Continued from page 2

In 1981, “Tri Marije (The Three Marias),” comprised of Maria Franulovich Petrish, Marija Damjanovic Anderson, and Maria Damjanovic Franulovich, purchased a former church built 1891. They were guided by the dream of the late George Franulovich—“To have a place to show that the Croatian people had been here.” They set out to renovate the old church and develop the building into a premier Croatian cultural center, which now also serves as home to the

Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble.

The Three Marias made that dream come true with a lot of hard work and determination. In this segment, Maria Petrish and Maria Anderson share about their work in cultural preservation through the Croatian Cultural Center and the dance ensemble.

You can view this video on the Facebook platform on October 3rd. A video schedule will posted on the CroatiaFest website at www.croatiafest.org as plans are finalized.

WELCOME ABOARD THE EMANCIPATOR

The CroatiaFest 2021 Virtual Festival will take you aboard the 100-year-old restored purse seiner “Emancipator”, currently owned by Brad Buske and moored at Fishermen's Terminal in Seattle. The boat was previously owned by a Nick “Foreigner” Barhanovich, a Croatian fisherman from Everett.

While onboard we will talk with Ray Fadich author of the book “The Big Run: Life Aboard a Salmon Seiner”. Ray is a second-generation Croatian originally from Eugene, Oregon. His family relocated to Everett, where he became part of that tight-knit Croatian community. Ray discusses his motivation for writing the book and his experience as a crew member aboard the Emancipator in the summer of 1958. We also find out about “the big run”. This is every fisherman’s dream: a deck load, when you catch so many fish, they cannot fit in the hold, so you continue to “load the deck” with fish until they are falling over the top of the rails.

Butch Barcott also joins the interview discussing the



Everett net sheds, the 14th Street Dock and growing up Croatian in Everett. Jerry Barhanovich and his sister Mary Barhanovich Sievers reminisce about their dad Nick “The Foreigner” Barhanovich and the years he owned the Emancipator. Adding to the conversation, Len Zuvela recounts his fishing experience in the 1970’s.

Our presentation is full of memories, facts about fishing and a tribute, not only to Everett Croatian fishermen but all Croatian fishermen who fished on the waters of Puget Sound.

OBNOVIMO STARE UŽANCE

Croatiafest is proud to present a two-part series entitled “Obnovimo Stare Užance (Renewing Our Old Traditions),” filmed at the Seattle Center Studios at McCaw Hall. The first of these special segments features members of the Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble of Anacortes, Washington. What makes this program unique is that the folk dances presented have a special connection to the Croatian community of Puget Sound, particularly dances from the Island of Korčula. The ensemble was founded in 1975 in Anacortes, spearheaded by the George Franulovich family and community members for the mission of cultural preservation and presentation.

The Franulovich sisters, Maria, Alma, and Binki, realized that in this country it does not take long to lose one’s ethnic and cultural identity and that work must be done to preserve, educate, share, and enjoy that identity. Due to Covid restrictions at the time of filming, a maximum of four dancers were allowed to perform on the McCaw Hall stage. Long time members Tibor Horvath, John Lovric, Anamaria Dulama Lovric, and Artistic Director Maria Plancich Kesovija lit up the stage in their

traditional costumes with choreographies of Lindjo and from the regions of Korčula, Vrlika, and Bačka.

For those of you who joined us for our virtual festival last year, there was a presentation of museum-quality original garments in the collection of the Seattle Junior Tamburitians (SJT) narrated by Directors John Morovich and Joanne Abdo. The SJT organization was cofounded by Richard Major and the late Tom Krmpotich in 1970 with a mission of preserving folk traditions through playing the tamburitza and performing traditional dances. In their 51st year, the SJTs are celebrating their many achievements, including performing at various festivals locally, throughout the United States, Canada, and Croatia. This year’s festival will include a display of recreations of colorful folk garments sewn here in the United States modeled by SJT siblings Gus and Ellie Schafer.

We hope that you enjoy these outstanding programs spotlighting the Vela Luka Croatian Dancers and the Seattle Junior Tamburitians, sharing their efforts in preserving Croatian folklore, 5,000 miles away from the homeland.

CROATIAN REAL ESTATE

Property ownership and management in Croatia can be difficult to figure out, especially when travel is currently so difficult! Zagreb based attorney Don Markusić of Don Markusić Law Offices will be discussing many of the issues concerning property ownership, property management and rentals and providing overall advice for wading through the complicated paperwork process.

CroatiaFest has been very fortunate to have a great partnership with Mr. Markusić and we appreciate his

ability to make the difficult world of property ownership much more understandable. In addition to owning his private law firm, he serves as President of ACAP Zagreb and is Vice President of Transparency International Croatia. If you have specific questions, please email: lemieuxkf@gmail.com

The segment will be a part of the CroatiaFest 2021 Virtual Festival. A program schedule will be posted on the CroatiaFest website www.croatiafest.org as plans are finalized.

COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

Cooking demonstrations of authentic Croatian cuisine have been very popular events with standing-room-only audiences when CroatiaFest was an in-person festival at the Seattle Center Armory. Last year, because of Covid 19, the demonstrations were filmed and presented virtually. The segments were extremely popular and were viewed by hundreds throughout the United States, Canada and beyond.

CroatiaFest 2021 will feature presentations of both sweet and savory.

Sisters Marija Mataja and Antonija Stipetić will show you how to make Barica Mataja's Žarko Naresci, a delicious and decadent chocolate creation cut into delectable diamond shape cookies that will be beautiful and impressive on your dessert table.

For many years, Mriža, or fishing net cookie, has been a best-seller at the Vela Luka Croatian Dance Ensemble food booth at Anacortes Arts and Crafts Festival. It is also a featured pastry at the Croatian Cultural Center. Maria Franulovich Petrish and Berrie Martinis, along with young assistant Katarina Petrish, will demonstrate the technique of creating the "mriža" design that tops the sweet jam filling that makes this delicacy a favorite after-dinner dessert or with afternoon coffee or tea.

The festival will also feature a demonstration of the



savory dish of Dalmatian "brudet" (fish stew) and a tutorial on the art of fileting salmon by renowned fish monger Ken "Kuzma" Hewitt of Kuzma's Fish Market in Edmonds. Ken received his training early in life, starting his career at the age of 7 working with his grandmother Margarita Andrijić at her West Hill Fish Market.

The CroatiaFest 2021 Virtual Festival cooking demonstrations will be aired on Facebook on October 3rd. The viewing schedule will be posted on the CroatiaFest website www.croatiafest.org as plans are finalized.

NEW "DESTINY" NOVEL

For the past 4 years, visitors to CroatiaFest have enjoyed meeting Rosemary and talking with her about her "Destiny" series of Croatian historical fiction books at her beautifully-decorated booth at Seattle Center. Rosemary's visits to Seattle introduced her to the Morovich family. In "Danica's Destiny", she created the character "John Morovich", a tall and handsome Dalmatian fisherman who plays the tambura and

accordion. "Tomo Finds His Destiny" introduces John's sister Jana and his mother Katrina. The story takes place in New Orleans, where something tragic happens and the Morovich family must move from where they lived on the waterfront.

Rosemary and her son Michael Gard will discuss her newest book at the CroatiaFest 2021 Virtual Festival. Check the program schedule posted on the CroatiaFest website at www.croatiafest.org for details on viewing this informative talk.

ANCESTRY CELLARS

WINE TASTING

CroatiaFest 2021 is virtual, but your wine tasting experience doesn't have to be! Croatian-American vintner Jason Morin, owner of Ancestry Cellars, will be hosting a "hybrid" tasting - that is, a virtual presentation with the wines available for tasting at home. Ancestry's wines have been gaining popularity with gold medal wines from wine award events all over Washington State. For those of you who have been fortunate enough to try Jason's wines, you certainly know why! For those of you who haven't yet, you are in for a treat!

Jason and his wife Erin have built their winery around their values of tradition and family. A true nod to his

Croatian heritage of wine making beginnings in his grandfather's basement grew to the winery and tasting rooms in Woodinville and Lake Chelan.

Jason has put together a three-pack of wines for purchase that he will be featuring for the tasting. Watch the CroatiaFest Facebook page and website at www.croatiafest.org for details on the wines Jason has selected. Invite your friends and family over to watch the presentation and follow along at home with the wines. The three-pack will be available for purchase at www.ancestrycellars.com. For those in Washington State, please be sure to get your orders in by September 20th to ensure that you receive the wine before CroatiaFest. For those out of state, please place your orders by September 13th.

Živjeli!

ROSLYN

The dedication of a new Interpretive Kiosk at the entrance to the Roslyn Historical Cemeteries on Memorial Day weekend brought townspeople and community leaders together to celebrate. A video will be presented at the CroatiaFest 2021 Virtual Festival featuring the construction of the kiosk, how it came about, was funded, and its purpose, and the involvement of Central Washington University faculty and students in the mapping process. Learn

how to use the computer located inside the kiosk and at home by visiting www.Roslynkiosks.com. Data is being inputted and descendants of those interred in any of the 26 cemeteries are invited to participate by submitting stories, photos, information to the Heritage Club cemetery committee.



There are five Croatian Cemeteries - Dr. David Starčević Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Saint Barbara, and the National Croatian Society Cemetery, where the Croatian Memorial Monument is located. For more information, check out www.Roslyncemeteries.org

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Donations recorded as of December 31, 2020. Please let us know if we made an error. A complete list of past years' donors is available on the CroatiaFest website via the 'Donations' tab.

For the second year in a row, Covid-19 has spoiled the possibility of an in-person CroatiaFest at the Seattle Center Armory. To keep everyone safe and healthy, we will be presenting CroatiaFest 2021 as a Virtual Festival on Sunday, October 3rd.

Although we will not be presenting CroatiaFest in its typical form, we still need your financial support! The virtual festival has incurred production costs. Your donation will help us to continue bringing high quality music, dance, cooking demonstrations, virtual tours of local Croatian communities and interviews with authors, wine makers, legal experts, and so much more.

Please visit our website, www.croatiafest.org/donations, to donate directly using PayPal or use the enclosed envelope to donate by check. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Hvala!

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

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