



American Croatian Club

March 2011

Zora Lodge 351, 32851 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091
www.zoralodge351.com 586-979-8154

Save the Date

Saturday, April 2, 2011
American Croatian Club
Lodge 351 – Old Fashion/
50-Year Honorees Banquet
7 pm

Sunday, April 17, 2011
American Croatian Club
Nest 318 Easter Party
11:30 am – 2 pm

Saturday, April 30, 2011
DTO Annual Concert
St. Lucy's Church
6:30 pm

Thursday, May 5, 2011
American Croatian Club
Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge
meeting
7 pm

Saturday, May 7, 2011
Detroit Star Tamburitza
Spring Concert
Michigan Collegiate School –
Warren
5 pm

Sunday, May 15, 2011
Mothers Club Victoria Tea
American Croatian Club
12:30 pm

Sunday, June 12, 2011
Lodge 351 Annual Summer Picnic
K of C (St. Lawrence)
Picnic Grounds
Shelby Township
Gates open at 10am
Games for kids at 3pm
Music from 1 – 6pm

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Where does the time go? It seems like just yesterday we celebrated the dawn of the new millennium, excited about the future and relieved that the feared Y2K was pretty much a non-event. Yet, here we are in 2011; one decade of the new millennium is already behind us and in that time we have been through good times and bad. Thankfully, it appears that our economy is recovering and I certainly hope it continues in that direction.

Of course, the start of a new year means Lodge elections and, once again, there was no need for any voting. However, we do have several new names among the ranks of this year's roster of officers and most of them are the next generation. Here are the results:

President: Mark Mavretich
Vice President: Robert S. Novosel
Treasurer: Cathy Boley
Lodge Secretary: Robert S. Novosel
Recording Secretary: Marge Chovich
Club Manager: ???
Assistant Club Manager: Marge Chovich
Sports and Education Director: Blake Roller and Garrett Slank
Nest Manager: Kathy Thiel
Board of Trustees
President – Lois Rzepka
Secretary – Sheryl Zatezalo
Members – Amanda Cindrich, Debbi Cindrich, Dolores Gray, Dan Majhan, Mary Mavretich, Grace Orsag, John Tarbunas
Newsletter Editor: Vicky Fulks
Historian: Kathy Thiel
President Emeritus (appointed): John Belavich
Historian Emeritus (appointed): Katy Kosovec

So, who are the new faces?
Grace Orsag, Board of Trustees – she brings a little more experience than the next generation
Amanda Cindrich, Board of Trustees – one of the next generation
Blake Roller, Sports & Education Co-Director – one of the next generation
Garrett Slank, Sports & Education Co-Director – one of the next generation

We are thrilled to welcome each of you to your first term as a Lodge Officer and look forward to your active participation in continuing the legacy of Lodge 351. We are especially proud to have three of our next generation Lodge members take an active interest in leadership of Lodge 351 and hope that your peers will be inspired to become active, too.

You may be wondering, who is the Club Manager? For now, it is an unfilled position, so if you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, please contact any Officer or the Club. In the meantime, John Tarbunas has agreed to continue fulfilling these duties while we search for a new Club Manager, thank you, John!

Fraternally Yours,
Mark Mavretich
President, Zora, Lodge 351

LODGE SECRETARY

Unlike years gone by, there is nobody at the club during the day and sometimes not even during the evenings. With no "retirees" working in this position, messages left at the Club's answering machine may not be picked up every day. So we ask for your patience if your call is not answered as quickly as it used to be.

Questions on CFU Policies/Annuities

Questions regarding joining the CFU, current insurance policies or annuities can still be addressed by calling the Lodge at 586-979-8154 or by calling Bob Novosel at home at 586-759-4911. [Other volunteer recruiters include Katy Kosovec (586-775-4899), Barbara Ruppe (248-585-4182), Kathy Thiel (248-477-7621) and Debbie Babich (586-979-9392)] In any case, leave a message and someone will get back to you shortly. Or, if you prefer, you can call the CFU directly at 412-351-3909. We promise that you will be taken care of as quickly as we can.

Death of a Lodge Member

Other changes that the members should be aware of are who to call in the event of a death of a member. Because of the urgency of this situation, it is recommended that you call Bob at home at 586-759-4911 (or President Mark Mavretich at home at 586-726-0755) and leave a message if necessary. The immediate question that will be asked (after arrangements) is what the family's choice is regarding a donation. Lodge 351 will make one of the following:

- A. a \$50.00 donation in the form of a flower arrangement to be sent to the funeral home
- B. a \$50.00 donation to the Lodge 351 Memorial Board, which is properly displayed forever in a prominent location in the Club.

The choice is entirely up to the family. If no choice is made, the Lodge will automatically use option B.

If a family member dies, what do I need do?

This is not something that anyone likes to think about, but the question gets asked a lot. You will need to send a copy of the death certificate along with the insurance policy (or a copy of the front page of the policy) directly to the CFU office in Pittsburgh. Please do not send (or drop off) this information at the Club. It has to go to the CFU office in Pittsburgh. The CFU home office is very good at handling this situation and will usually have the check(s) in the mail within 24 hours.

As for Lodge 351 itself, please call any one of the Lodge officers and we will try to help you get the word out regarding funeral arrangements.

Since our Fall 2010 Newsletter, we have learned of the following deaths in our membership. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences are with their families!

Peter Kekic	Frank Kasun
Peter Radowick	Catherine Tofil
Paula Walleman	Denise Polskoy
Dorothy Martin	Nick Serdar
Dolores Susich	Mary Kosulinski

Please Welcome the Newest Transfers from the Nest to ZORA Lodge 351

James Maier

We would like to welcome our newest member! It's very nice to have you join with us. If there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact Lodge Vice President / Secretary Bob Novosel at (h)586-759-4911 or email novosel4@comcast.net.

Annual Assessments are Extremely Important

By now, everyone should have received their notice regarding paying your annual assessments. These small donations are absolutely vital in keeping Lodge 351 and the American Croatian Club open - both today and for many years to come. It's only \$20 per person. If you haven't already, please make sure your dues are paid for this year. Every dollar helps!

NEST 318

Everyone had fun at our annual Christmas party. We had 60 kids, with their families. The Star Tams put on their rendition of Twelve Days of Christmas. We were all impressed by their young voices, especially that of Samantha Radman, who has quite a set of pipes! Lucas Schoel made his singing debut, and to everyone's delight, did not want to give up the microphone without a struggle! Amelia, Russell, Jon Robert, Summer, Ava, Samantha, Allison, Tommy, Hanna, Karla, Madison and Kyle - Great job! If I forgot anyone, I am so sorry!

A special thanks to Lois Rzepka; Dolores Gray; Marge Chovich; Bob Novosel; Vicky and Emily Fulks; Stacey, Allison and Samantha Radman; Bobbie Tarbunas; and Bob and Violet Cunko for donating their services for the event.



Easter Party

Our annual Easter party will be on Palm Sunday, April 17. This year we will have a luncheon, instead of breakfast, as many said we conflicted with Church services. Lunch will be served from 11:30 am to 2 pm., and will be free for all Nest 318 members and includes Bunny Bucks to spend in the Bunny Store and Game room. For non-members, kids 4 and under are free with one paying adult, age 5 - 10 are \$4, and age 11 thru Adult are \$6. There will be Bunny Bucks available for purchase for all.

The Store and Game room will open from Noon - 1:30 pm and the Easter Bunny will visit between 12:30 and 1 pm.

Everyone is welcome for lunch. This is a Nest sponsored event and also a fundraiser to help pay for our parties, so please come down and support Nest 318 and our kid's activities.

Lodge 351 and Nest 318 are working together to sponsor future events for families and young members. We understand that not every child wants to be a member of the Star Tams and sing, dance and play Croatian music, which is currently the only way our children can be regularly involved. Yet, we would like to get more children involved at our Club, give them a chance to learn their Croatian heritage and culture, make life-long friends and just have fun at the Club. If you have any ideas for activities, such as Croatian language lessons, kolo night, game night, a sleepover in the Club, sport events, skating, whirlyball, movie night, to name a few, please contact the undersigned. We want to hear your ideas! If you are interested in volunteering your time and pitching in at an event, we would love the help! Please don't be afraid to step up. This organization is YOURS.

Kathy Thiel, Nest Mgr.
248-477-7621
katthiel@gmail.com



OLD-FASHIONED BANQUET

Saturday, April 2, we will have our annual Croatian-Home cooked, all-you-can-eat, family style banquet. Entertainment for the evening includes performances by our own Star Tamburitzans and Nova Nada, and , finally, for our dancing and listening pleasure, Seoski Lopovi, from Hamilton, Ontario, will be our special guests.

Our National President, Mr. Bernard Luketich will be joining us from the Home Office to help us honor the following 50 Year members: Beverly J. Bauer, Grace M. Frederick, William S. Buban, Dorothy L. Kovac and Joseph E. Majetic.

The delicious banquet will be prepared by the ladies of your Lodge Board, with a few friends, and the club will smell of all your old favorites! We again are offering this feast and evening of entertainment, Old-fashioned Croatian Style at just \$20 for adults, 18 and over, age 6 - 17 are 1/2 price and age 5 and under are free. If you can't make it for dinner, please join us after 9 pm for the dance only at \$5 per adult, at the door. You can't beat these prices for food and entertainment!

Members of Nova Nada will begin serving dinner at 7 pm, immediately after the Star's performance. The doors and the bar open at 6 pm.

Please reserve your tickets for this event by calling Marge Chovich at 586-939-6197, by March 29th. Have an Old-Fashioned good time with great food, music, and friends. Our traditions may be Old-fashioned, but they never go out of style at our Croatian Club! Join us to honor our past, celebrate our present and strengthen our future! The more, the merrier!

As always, donated baked goods are welcome and appreciated.

Kathy Thiel,
Chairperson

Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra

The Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra thanks everyone who participated in our Christmas in Croatia event in December. Great times were had by all. The Orchestra also participated in the 2010 Tamfest in Columbus, Ohio and is practicing hard in preparation for our annual spring concert. The D.T.O. spring concert will take place Saturday, April 30 at St. Lucy's Church, in Troy. Doors will open at 6 pm., with the concert starting promptly at 6:30 pm. Adult ticket prices are \$15, and for children 12 and under, \$8. Reception entertainment will be provided by T-Roma. Watch the Zajednicar or visit our website www.detroittamburitzaorchestra.com often for updates regarding event details.

John Dzapo
Secretary-DTO

Detroit Star Tamburitzans

The Detroit Star Tamburitzans invite everyone to their 41st Annual Spring Concert on Saturday, May 7. The curtain goes up at 5 pm at the Michigan Collegiate School, 31300 Ryan Road in Warren. The children are eager to show all that they have been working on since September.

Tickets are \$10 for the concert, and \$5 for the dance that follows at the American-Croatian Hall, located just one mile north of the school on Ryan Road. Children 12 years old and younger are free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the dance.

In conjunction with the spring concert, the Stars are selling ads for their program/ad book. If you are interested in purchasing an ad or tickets for the concert and dance, contact a Parent's Club member, or call Marci Crandall at (810) 392-8302.

Star Tamburitzans cont.

If you have children in your family that would be interested in learning the songs, dances and music of Croatia, bring them to the concert. This just might give them the motivation to want to join the Stars when the new season starts in the fall.

The Stars work won't end after the Spring Concert is done. The group will be traveling to the CFU Junior Cultural Federation Junior Festival at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL this summer.

**TIME CAPSULE**

Reminder...anyone interested in placing an item (letter, picture, memento, etc.) in L-351's new box to be placed inside a wall in Croatian Club, please submit to any Lodge officer at any Lodge event. The fee, per item, is \$5. We will announce the date in the future for this upcoming event.

MOTHERS CLUB

This years' annual Victorian Tea is Sunday, May 15th. Ticket price remains at \$20. Menu entre is choice of individual chicken strudel, Michigan salad, or eggplant parmesan, all with appropriate side dishes. The meal begins with scones and your choice of teas, and ends with a delectable desert. Remember, this is a one seating event with food orders taken by the wait staff for filled tables. For tickets please call President Mary Jurich at 586-268-9899.

Tickets are pre-sold only and not available for walk-ins. Doors open at 12:30 pm.

We will again have a stuffed pepper dinner in September with details to come. Newcomers are more than welcome at our meetings which are held the 2nd Monday of the month at the Lodge at 1 pm, September through May except in December (Christmas outing). The other officers are Vice President Violet Cunko (586-412-7016), Treasurer Barbara Ruppe (248-585-4182, and myself, Secretary Lois Lovrekovich Rzepka (734-522-7587).

NOVA NADA

Nova Nada would like to thank everyone who supported Cro-Fest 2011. We also have many performance invitations for the spring and summer, but we haven't confirmed any specific dates this early in the year. We also have another "Spring Bazaar" planned in April, but no firm date yet. Email Nova Nada at novanada1@yahoo.com if you would like to be included in the Upcoming Croatian Events calendar that we put out, and you will be "in the loop" on our performances and events.

Nova Nada will be travelling to Washington, DC for the CFU Adult Tamfest on November 11 -13. If anyone is interested in travelling along with us, since we will be chartering a bus, you can call Anna Talan at 586-677-3949 for more info.

We always welcome new members interested in learning more about Croatian folk traditions in a fun way! We rehearse Sunday evenings from 5:30 pm – 8 pm at the Croatian Club, of course.

Steve Talan
CFE "Nova Nada" Artistic Director

SPORTS AND EDUCATION

As the new Directors of Sports and Education for Zora Lodge 351, I would like to take a moment to introduce my Co-Director, Blake Roller along with myself, Garrett Slank. Both of us are CFU members from birth and are descendants of very dedicated lodge members/officers: Andy & Kay Dellach, Marge & Dick Chovich, Ken & Tammy Slank, Dorothy & Tony Radman, Jan & Elmer Roller. Our parents, grandparents and even great grandparents were actively involved in perpetuating our Zora Lodge 351. We are also former members of the Star Junior Tamburitians. However, over the years, our involvement in lodge activities has been on the decline. After watching most of our generation follow down that same path, we decided now was a good time to step up and get the younger generation involved.

Over the next few months we will begin to put some of our ideas into motion. Some of our immediate ideas include: A four man scramble golf outing, a bowling fundraiser, a bocce ball tournament, and possibly putting together a softball team. Our main goal is to bring people back together, especially those who have drifted away from the club like Blake and I. We want to make sure that our events will be filled with fun! We want to host celebrations where people can let loose and enjoy themselves while surrounded by good friends and family.

Because we are new to this position, we will be looking for people to share ideas they might have or to lend a helping hand. We look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events!!

Thank you,
Garrett Slank & Blake Roller

LODGE 351 ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, June 12th is the date for Lodge 351's annual picnic. The gates open at 10 am at the K of C picnic grounds on 21 Mile Road, east of Old Van Dyke Road.

Barbeque lamb, chicken and cevapcici will be prepared by our crew and available for purchase. Mother's Club / Parents Club will be selling homemade baked goods for dessert. Any donated pastries are welcome and appreciated.

All profits go to the lodge. Since we don't take pre-orders, we can only estimate how much food to prepare on attendance of previous picnics. Get your food early, so you don't miss out.

Entertainment this year will be the popular Sinovi of Chicago. That means we will be doing a lot of dancing, so wear comfortable shoes! They will play from 1-6 pm. Games for all ages will get started around 3 pm. There are plenty of prizes to be won and lots of fun to be had.

Beer, wine, pop, liquor, water and coffee are available to quench your thirst. Remember, per our liquor license and the State of Michigan, no alcoholic beverages are to be brought into the park. They must be purchased at the picnic grounds. We ask that our guests please abide by the rule.



GOLF LEAGUE

It's been a long winter and everyone's anxious to start swinging the clubs. We will be playing at Sunnybrook [17 mile and Van Dyke] on Tuesdays. Tee time is between 4:30 and 5 pm and as always, we still need golfers. Cost will be \$350.00 [carts extra] includes banquet and prizes. Sunnybrook has three 9-hole courses and we will alternate on all three. Golf starts on May 3rd this year and we will be playing 18 weeks. If interested please contact Mike Fitzgerald president at 586-412-1744 e-mail irishmjf48@wowway.com So come out and have some fun in the sun!

Seen around town....



Babas gone wild!



Supporting friends & Croatian businesses

CROATIAN WOMAN

Croatian Woman meets at the club on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Currently we are working on the annual fashion show in November 2011. Fashions this year will be by Lord and Taylor. We will also be discussing and planning a lecture series on health, cooking and language.

President, Violet Cunko, 586-412-7016
New members are welcome.



Nova Nada



Star Tamburitzans and the Twelve Days of Christmas

Lodge 351 Calendar of Events

March 18, 2011 – Friday
American Croatian Club
Lodge 351 – Card Party
(Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at
8pm) Call Debbie Babich
(586-979-9392)

April 2, 2011 – Saturday – 7pm
American Croatian Club
Lodge 351 – Old Fashion / 50-
Year Honorees Banquet
Music by Tamburasi Seoski
Lopovi from Hamilton Ontario
Canada

April 7, 2011 – Thursday – 7pm
American Croatian Club
Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge
meeting

April 15, 2011 – Friday
American Croatian Club
Lodge 351 – Card Party
(Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at
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