

## SLAVONIC MUTUAL & BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO, INC.

60 Onondaga Avenue at Alemany Boulevard  
San Francisco, California 94112 ♦ 415-584-8859



CACC Photo © Marijo Jeric

## SMBS BULLETIN

VOL. 52, EDITION 1

JANUARY 2022

Serving our members  
continuously from 1857 to 2022



**Current Covid-19 regulations in San Francisco require indoor dining attendees to be fully-vaccinated, both at the January 2022 quarterly meeting and any other indoor dining events taking place in our hall.**

## SMBS Dinner Meeting Tuesday, January 11, 2022 Croatian American Cultural Center

Members - \$20.00  
Non-Members - \$25.00  
Cocktails - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

General Meeting - 8:00 p.m.

**Call 415-584-8859**

If you expect us to have enough food.  
No reservations, you get the leftovers!

### MENU

COCKTAILS ♦ FINE WINE

CAESAR SALAD

LAMB SHANKS ♦ RICE PILAF

STRING BEANS

COFFEE ♦ DESSERT

CHEF: RAFAEL CHAVEZ

## CACC Social/Cultural Events

### 2022 SMBS MEMBER EVENTS

**Western Night**, Saturday, January 22nd

**Crab Fest Fundraiser**, Saturday, March 12th

**165th Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance**

Saturday, November 19th

### 2022 SMBS CULTURAL EVENTS

**Croatian Heritage Music Festival**

Saturday, January 9th

For information: [croatianamericanweb.org](http://croatianamericanweb.org)

## SMBS BACK IN ACTION AGAIN!



Left to right: President Emeritus Sam Mosunic and President Gary Bozin welcomed Croatian Consul General Renee Pea from the Republic of Croatia Consulate in Los Angeles, CA to celebrate our first anniversary banquet since the Covid Pandemic turned the world "upside down." © Marijo Jeric.

### DOBAR DAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families in good health.

Thank you to all who attended our 164th Anniversary Banquet. A good time was had by all. I want to give my thanks once again to Renee Pea, Consul General from the Los Angeles Croatian Consulate for joining us. Also, a special thanks to John and Christine Lubimir for coming out from the East Coast. It was the first time they were able to see the John & Anton Family Garden in front of our hall. John made a very eloquent speech and committed another \$5,000 to the Sam Mosunic Building Fund. Read more in Suzy's and Peter's banquet writeups.

Please join us for the January 2022 meeting.

### BUILDING UPDATE

The October "atmospheric river" wasn't kind to our building. We suffered huge leaks in several places. Near the entrance doors water filled garbage-can-sized buckets. There were leaks in the kitchen, the pantry, the hallway, among others. The roofing bill came in at \$23,600. That was just to fix the immediate

problems. There are other issues. We are looking into further repairs as we are able. The repairs depleted the Building Fund and we also had to borrow from the Scholarship Fund. Donations made prior to December 31st will be fully tax deductible for 2021. Please make donations to CACC. Thank you!!

Breaking news... We have an anonymous donor willing to match all donations up to \$25,000!!! Your donation helps us twice.

### COVID UPDATE

This hasn't changed as I wrote in the last newsletter, San Francisco has mandated that eating establishments require patrons to be fully vaccinated to dine indoors. We must comply with this order at our dinner meeting. This also affects our catering business, but business seems to be pretty brisk. Danica has been very busy.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our 2021 membership drive was very successful. I don't have the final tally yet as there are a few last-minute applications in the works. We are working on and looking forward to the new-member-welcoming (continued on page two)

# SMBS 164TH ANNIVERSARY GALA!



Left to right: Chaplain Peter Bacich, Cemetery Manager George Lazaneo, Radmila Forencich, Catering Manager Danica Eterovich, Vice-President Frank Forencich, Jr., Membership Chair Elsie Euing, Helen O'Brien and Ed Gorzynski, Jr. lead members and guests in singing the U.S. and Croatian national anthems. © Mario Jerić

Seven hundred and twenty-eight days had passed since we last gathered for the anniversary gala held on November 16, 2019. Dancing shoes were dusted off, suits were pressed, and hair was coiffed by the 100+ members and guests attending the 164th Anniversary Gala on November 13, 2021.

Learning how to walk in high heels again, one approached the Croatian American Cultural Center with its beautiful garden and barbeque area. Paula Forencich greeted attendees at the entrance and guided them to their seat assignments. Then the familiar music from the bar area drew you in.

One individual who needed no practice nor to dust off his instrument-Ed Gorzynski, Jr., with his accordion! Ed played familiar melodies in the bar area as we recalled what our "go-to" cocktails were.

While the beauty of the Croatian American Cultural Center caught attendees' eyes heading into the center, a great need for roof repairs was clear. To that end, member Carol Bozin and her crew were selling "70/30" raffle tickets (the winning ticket splits the pot between the winner and the house). Proceeds of this raffle (70%) will be used toward much-needed roof repairs (with additional donations always welcome).

As we sat down to dinner, Vice President Frank Forencich, Jr. (and Anniversary Gala Chair), dedicated the "Anton and John Lubimir Family Garden," the beautiful entry garden made possible by the generosity of the Lubimir Family. Chaplain Peter Bacich led us in a thoughtful invocation followed by members singing both the United States and Croatian National anthems. Some *Dalmacija* folk chorale veterans led us in the singing.

President Gary Bozin delivered the 164th Anniversary Gala President's Message, which included the current status of the roof and purpose of the raffle. After the introduction of SMBS officers, Consul General Renee Pea was welcomed. Consul Pea represents the Republic of Croatia Consulate in Los Angeles. She gave a comprehensive overview of the U.S. area she represents\* and the services they provide. She also presented an update of current events in Croatia with COVID-19, of course, especially in light of the recent surge. Consul Pea stayed for the duration of the gala and during her presentation she expressed her appreciation of being invited to this anniversary gala and enthusiasm about being included in future cultural as well as social events at CACC.

President Gary Bozin presented a 30-year member pin to Christine Olson (other 30-year pin recipients, Betsy Daley, Mary Jo Nejasmich, and Ina Henderson were not in attendance). Congratulations to all 30-year-

(continued from page one)

extravaganza January 22nd. It is going to be Western-Themed with BBQ, Country music, boots and cowboy hats. I hope we break attendance records. As announced earlier, all those who joined in 2021 will be hosted. Of course, SF Mandates will be enforced.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 29, 2021

**General Account – Balance \$1,241**

**Building Fund – Balance \$9,548  
(owes Scholarship Account \$10,000)**

**Scholarship Account – Balance \$10,838  
(Building Fund owes \$10,000)**

**Catering Account – Balance \$20,168**

**Cultural Account – Balance \$13,371**

We need a chef, waiters and dishwashers for catered events! Please contact Danica.

Please check out our new website at

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

Please let me know if you can help keep the new site up to date.

I hope to see you in January.

*Hvala vam i Bog  
vas blagoslovio,*

*Gary*



member pin recipients!

Okay, now for the real challenge, dancing again!!! The Steve Balich Band delivered on that end by providing great dancing tunes and familiar kolos!

Arguably the most exciting moment of the night came with the "70/30" raffle ticket drawing. Only one winner there would be! The winner was John Ulakovic and, of course, the Croatian American Cultural Center with \$940 going to the Sam Mosunic Building Fund targeting roof repair.

New this year, and opening to great acclaim, was the biographical film of President Gary Bozin's late father and SMBS member, Robert Bozin. This idea was conceived and executed

(continued on page three)

## 2021 SMBS OFFICERS

**President**  
GARY BOZIN  
**Vice President**  
FRANK FORENCICH, JR.  
**Treasurer**  
ANNA MOORE  
**Financial Secretary**  
JANICE BECKEN  
**Recording Secretary**  
JANICE RAINS

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JOHN DALEY  
GEORGE LAZANEO  
NICK MILON  
MICHAEL SANTICH

**Sunshine Chairperson**  
KATE MANGOTICH  
**Cemetery Manager**  
GEORGE LAZANEO  
**Conductor**  
ED GORZYNSKI, JR.

**Sergeant at Arms**  
SUSAN EUING  
**Chaplain**  
PETER BACICH

## 2021 SMBS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Anniversary Gala**  
GARY BOZIN  
**Danica Eterovich**  
**Assistant Chaplain**  
OPEN  
**Building Manager**  
OPEN  
**By-Laws Chairs**  
GARY BOZIN  
FRANK FORENCICH, JR.  
**Cultural Director**  
JOHN DALEY  
**Catering Manager**  
DANICA ETEROVICH  
**Food/Beverage Manager**  
JOHN IVANCICH  
MARIJO JERIC

**Legal Counsel**  
PAUL BARULICH  
**Membership Chair**  
ELSIE EUING  
**Memorial Chair**  
GERRY ZARO JOHNSON  
**Scholarship Chair**  
DONNA SANTICH  
**Social Chair**  
OPEN

## NEWSLETTER

**Editor**  
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**Designer**  
LORRAINE LAZANEO VALLEJO



# Anniversary Celebration



Left to right: Christine Olsen proudly receives her 30-year recognition pin from President Gary Bozin. © Mario Jerić

(continued from page two)

by Sunshine Chairperson Kate Mangotich. Kate did a fantastic job and we hope to continue producing bio films as a new tradition.

A special shout-out to the living SMBS Golden Members (50+ more years' service and devotion to SMBS) who were in attendance: Nick Ostojica (75 years), Sam Mosunic (69 years), and Frank Forencich, Jr. (55 years).

While this wasn't the highest-attended anniversary gala, it was surely nice to see everyone and start to get back to some sort of SMBS "post-COVID" normalcy!

Thank you, Chairperson Frank Forencich, Jr., for your great work in putting together another successful gala!

*Suzy Mosunic*  
SMBS Reporter

\*Area served by the Republic of Croatia Consulate in Los Angeles, California: 19 States (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)



Right to left: Gathered in front of the SMBS Memorial Wall are President Gary Bozin, Vice-President Frank Forencich, Jr., Croatian Consul Renee Pea, John and Christine Lubimir and Carolyn and John Kristovich. © Mario Jerić



Left to right: Vice-president Frank Forencich, Jr. with John Lubimir as President Gary Bozin announces the dedication of the Anton and John Lubimir Family garden. © Mario Jerić

Left to right: Croatian Consul General Renee Pea presented the Society with a beautiful painting of Stari Grad, island of Hvar, received by Vice-President Frank Forencich, Jr. © Mario Jerić





# Anniversary Celebration



Croatian Consul General Renee Pea bringing news and greetings from our Croatian homeland. © Mario Jerić

Croatian Consul General Renee Pea learning about our community with Suzy Scurich, Cultural Committee member. © Mario Jerić



Two years can be a very long time in one's life. That was the situation for the SMBS when the members gathered for the Anniversary Dinner on November 13, 2021.

Since the last celebration in November 2019, the world had come to a standstill as the Covid Pandemic spread through all countries, communities and families. The social and cultural life of the SMBS membership stopped for that time. Eventually the cities of the Bay Area controlled the spread of the virus and, with precautions in place, gatherings resumed.

With verified vaccinations, face masking except when eating or drinking and some distancing required, members were able to meet and greet each other once again at the anniversary gala.

Pre-dinner festivities included the hosted bar ably overseen by Mario Jerić, a charcuterie of anchovies and cold meats, and lilting Croatian melodies by Ed Gorzynski on his accordion.

President Gary Bozin and Veep Frank Forencich welcomed guests and in particular the Honorable Renee Pea, Croatian Consul for the Western United States. Then the American and Croatian National Anthems were sung and our chaplain launched dinner service by blessing the food.

The program began with a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. John Lubimir for their donation in the Lubimir family name to restore the outer garden. Consul Pea outlined her duties and welcomed all to invest in Croatia, citing the love which most transplanted Croatians have for their homeland. Also the 2020 and 2021 thirty-year members were honored: Betsy Daley, Ina Henderson, Mary Jo Nejasmich (not present) and Chris Olson. Finally the fundraising roof repair raffle winner was also announced.

After tossed salad, a tomato-flavored pasta (a meal by itself), your choice of entrée and a delicious dessert, the sounds of the Steve Balich band, led by the late bandleader's son, invited all to "dance the night away."

What pandemics will do in the future is anyone's guess, but for one night in November 2021, everyone was able to bring back some joy in celebrating 164 years of SMBS history.

By Pete Bacich,  
SMBS Reporter



Left to right: Mr. Nick Ostojica, a 75-year SMBS member—our longest!—with President Emeritus Sam Mosunic who is next in line as a 69-year member! © Mario Jerić

Right to left: Pete Bacich, SMBS Chaplain, Reporter and Cultural Committee member with George Lazaneo, Jr., Croatian Consul General Renee Pea, and George's wife Nancy. © Mario Jerić





## Bits & Pieces

Our 2022 slate of officers (same as 2021) were nominated unanimously by members who attended the October quarterly meeting. The official election will be held at the annual meeting on January 11, 2022.

Congratulations to Nicholas V. Barbarotto on receiving life membership in the San Bruno Lion's Club by the International Association of Lion's Clubs. Nick was honored in recognition of outstanding service as a Lion's Club member.

Dave and Anna Franzio announced that their son Michael (SMBS member) is engaged and the marriage ceremony is planned for late 2022. Congratulations!

We were recently informed that long-time members Robert and Patricia Bilafer are now at an independent living community for seniors in San Francisco. Stay well and hope to see you both soon.

## MEMORIALS 4TH QUARTER 2021 SAM MOSUNIC BUILDING FUND

In Memory Of:	Donated By
Tony Agustinovich	John and Carolyn Kristovich Mira Palihnich Nick and Gloria Barbarotto
Joan Milon	Nick and Gloria Barbarotto
Frances Bulanti	Nick and Gloria Barbarotto
Nick Kurtela	Diana Kurtela
Charlotte Kurtela	Diana Kurtela
Ed Kurtela	Diana Kurtela
Bill Farac	Diana Kurtela
Robert Bozin	Diana Kurtela
Elizabeth Zagar	Sam Mosunic

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory Of:	Donated By
Tony Agustinovich	Steve and Kathleen Schuler



Submitted by,  
*Gerry Zaro Johnson*  
Memorial Chairperson

Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Ann Marie Devine**  
July 20, 1925 – November 7, 2021



Our condolences to the Devine family on the recent loss of Ann Marie Devine. A beautiful, loving, kind and giving woman, Ann is survived by her loving husband Thomas of 53 years and devoted daughters Danica and Tami and her pride and joy grandson Alexander Devine.

Ann successfully dedicated more than 50 years to education by teaching and actively serving in organizations supporting women in the educational fields. She touched so many young lives providing a learning foundation for thousands of children.

Ann was an SMBS member for 37 years. Ann and Thomas attended and supported SMBS social and cultural events. Ann was laid to rest in SMBS's Croatian Plot at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Colma. May she rest in God's care. †

**Elizabeth Zagar**  
May 10, 1934 - October 14, 2021



Our deepest sympathy to Ivan Zagar and his family on the recent loss of his wife Elizabeth. She is survived by a loving husband of 61 years and sons Gordon, Gary and Adrian and daughter Christine and grandchildren Alexi, Joshua, Aaron, Amanda and Zachary. Her radiant smile always greeted the parishioners after Mass at the Croatian Church of Nativity where she presided over the Sunday hospitality table with grace and warmth.

Elizabeth was a 52-year resident of South San Francisco. She loved gardening, early morning walks, neighborhood watch, loved to bake and cook, but also to try out new cuisines. She will be missed by many. May she rest in peace. †



## NOTICE! CROATIAN GRAVE OWNERS IN HOLY CROSS CEMETERY



Recently we have had individuals asking to purchase burial plots in the SMBS Croatian Cemetery section of Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Colma, CA. Currently all plots in our section are owned but many are empty due to members making different funeral arrangements such as mausoleum burials or remains being scattered.

If you own an empty plot and are no longer planning for a ground burial, SMBS is in a position to sell to a potential buyer on our waiting list. If interested, please contact George Lazaneo, Cemetery Manager or President Gary Bozin.



## MEMBER VIDEO REMEMBRANCES/ ROBERT BOZIN

Thanks to Gary, Greg, Carol and Lorraine for submitting photos and biographical details for the video *Remembrance of Robert Bozin!* The photos as well as the loving stories told at the Anniversary Dinner by Mary, Annie, Carol and Greg provided not only memories for those who knew Robert but also a bit of Croatian history and sense of our SMBS community to those of us who were not so fortunate to have known him.

It is my hope that Robert's remembrance, the first in the video series, will be followed by other member remembrances. Families of departed members can request a video by contacting Kate Mangotich: 510-367-9287 or [katemangotich@yahoo.com](mailto:katemangotich@yahoo.com)

## GET WELL/STAY WELL WISHES

Thankfully, our SMBS members are mostly in good health! But please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers for continued improvement.

Nicholas Kriletich • Judy Laura • Anna Milon  
Frederica Mirkovich • Ivan Zagar

Know of a member or someone in their family who is sick, hospitalized, homebound or otherwise in distress or who is fully recovered? Please contact Kate Mangotich: [katemangotich@yahoo.com](mailto:katemangotich@yahoo.com) or call/text (510) 367-928.



## 2022 SMBS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1ST

Applications and transcripts of grades must reach the Scholarship Committee by April 1st each year. Email Donna Santich at [mdsantich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdsantich@sbcglobal.net) for a digital copy of the requirements and application or call 510-435-9540.

### SMBS Scholarship Committee

Michael and Donna Santich, Chairs, Committee members Gerry Zaro Johnson and Gary Bozin  
© 510-435-9540, [mdsantich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdsantich@sbcglobal.net)

Awards will be \$1,000 for university/college level and \$500 for trade/vocational or other. Send applications and transcripts to: SMBS Scholarship Committee 60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112 or email your documents back to Donna Santich.



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FAX: 415-923-0247

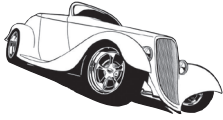
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**Michael Santich**

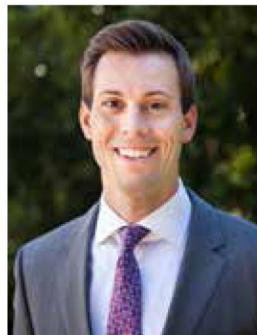
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**Dino Zuzic**

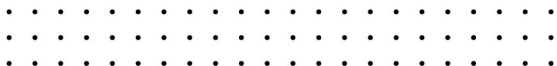
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Call SMBS Catering Manager  
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