

Volunteer Recruiters...

(Continued from page 1)

the Female Non-Smoking Band 3 rate, all applicants, male or female, purchasing the 20 Pay Life insurance plan must purchase a minimum \$10,000 face value or higher. Normal underwriting rules will apply.

Since the 2010 New Membership campaign provides appropriate recognition for the work accomplished by CFU recruiters, there will be no Weekly or Monthly Winners recognized or accompanying awards made during the 2010 Campaign.

In this issue of the **Zajednicar**, there is a coupon provided for interested members to complete and mail to the CFU Home Office which will serve as registration for your participation in the 2010 CFU "Go for the Gold" Campaign. We urge you to clip and submit this coupon immediately to enroll in the campaign.

Each week we will publish the names of all active recruiters as new business is received from our hard-working campaigners. As lodges qualify for the \$250 monetary award, we will also list those lodges in the Official Organ.

The 2010 New Membership Campaign presents an exciting opportunity for all CFU members to become involved in expanding the ranks of our Society. We are proud our Society is celebrating its 116th anniversary year and are anxious to share our fraternalism with others.

We urge all CFU volunteer campaigners and recruiters to carry the CFU Torch with pride and seek new members who will promote the Croatian Fraternal Union and its outstanding fraternal benefits and programs.

Jumpstart for New Campaign

PITTSBURGH, PA - In this issue of the **Zajednicar**, we are introducing the 2010 New Membership Campaign.

As the incentive prizes of the campaign are revealed, we are pleased to announce that as of February 26, 2010, we have already achieved a total of \$4,913,155 in face amount new insurance sales. Year-to-date total premiums for January and February amounted to \$89,871.

During this same two-month start to the year 2010, we have received a total of \$2,467,058 in annuity sales deposits.

A total of 121 new members were enrolled during the months of January and February, with a total of 325 certificates issued.

These facts and figures reflect an encouraging start for a new campaign year. We certainly urge all volunteer recruiters to closely read the announcement for the new campaign since the Society is once again offering generous rewards for life insurance sales efforts. The campaign gives everyone the opportunity to compete with fellow CFU members to earn fantastic gold, silver or bronze monetary awards.

Let's keep the momentum going and set our sights high for great results in 2010 and the future of our Society!

Bernard M. Luketich
National President

Lodge 617 Changes April Meeting

WELLAND, ON - The April monthly meeting of CFU Lodge 617 has been changed from Sunday, April 4 to Sunday, April 11 at 2 p.m.

See you on April 11!

Ann Simunic/Secretary



AT THE HEAD TABLE (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): Dario Mihelin, Counselor for Political Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to the United States of America; Zvonko M. Labas, Immediate Past Treasurer for the National Federation of Croatian Americans; Lovro Vrbos, Immediate Past President of the Croatia Club of Tampa Bay; Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to the United States of America; Ljubica Šimunović, President of the Croatia Club of Tampa Bay; and John Dukovac, President, La Maison.

Not Just a Dream:

The Grand Opening of the Croatia Club of Tampa Bay, Florida

TAMPA BAY, FL - The winter of 2010 will hold special memories for the members of the Croatia Club of Tampa Bay; it marked the Grand Opening of their new Croatian Cultural Center in Clearwater, Florida. Principal builder John Dukovac wore a shirt bearing the name of his company, La Maison, with the caption: "We Build Dreams." It was appropriate attire for the long-anticipated event. Former Club Secretary Mary Kušeček commented, "Having a building like this back when I was secretary was only just a dream--now it's a reality."

The completion of the Center was a triumph in many ways for members of the Croatia Club of Tampa Bay. There was talk of creating a cultural center for Croatians in Florida as far back as the 80's, but the Club started getting serious about the project just a few years ago. Late Club member Marko Pavičić of Marco Polo Builders, Inc. began architect selection in Spring 2005, but

he passed away later that year. Club member John Dukovac and his partner Russell LeGrande of La Maison took over the project in 2008, and drafted new County-approved blueprints. Former Club President Lovro Vrbos commented, "God sent him [Dukovac] to us." He added, "Some people were skeptical [about the project] but we made it."

A major obstacle in creating the center was financing. Initial funding was procured through contributions, raffles, and building material gifts, but it was not enough. Mr. Vrbos had the keen idea of creating shares, which allowed members to own a part of the building. Some members invested in shares ranging from \$2,000-40,000 to aid the project's completion; a generous member loaned the Club the remaining money needed to finish the building on schedule; and other members contributed talent, for example, painting and laying tile.

Another obstacle was the strict

regulations of the County. Builder John Dukovac commented, "If it wasn't for him [partner Russell LeGrande, project site manager] this club wouldn't be here. They have different rules here [in Pinellas County]." Together, the Dukovac-LeGrande team was able to navigate County regulations and complete the building. While accepting awards given to him and Russell by the Club "for outstanding service and leadership," Dukovac said, "The heart that they [the Club members] showed, this is the reason that the building is here. Hvala lijepo."

Applause greeted Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, Ambassador from the Republic of Croatia to the United States of America, who arrived at 2:30 p.m. to cut the ribbon, signifying the official opening of the Center. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the tamburaši "Prijatelji" from Chicago (band members Joe Kirin and brothers Steven and Den Ovanin) played "Viva Croatia" ("Živjela Hrvatska"). Standing by were Club President Ljubica Šimunović, former Club President Lovro Vrbos, and Father Ivica Majstorović from Chicago, who blessed the opening. Pieces of the ribbon were cut and distributed to members as souvenirs.

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres, including Dalmatian Ham (pršut), cheese (sir) and Dalmatian octopus salad (salat "hoba") were served upon entering the Center. Everyone stood with hands over hearts for the U.S. National Anthem, followed by The Croatian National Anthem, "Our Beautiful Homeland" ("Lijepa Naša Domovino"). Father Ivica blessed the community, building, and Club members, and led the Our Father ("Oče Naš"). Concluding his blessing, Father Ivica said, "Only the people who built this Center know how hard it was to achieve. People should be aware that this place will bring a lot of happiness to this community in the future." Father Ivica then presented his gift to the Center, a large wooden crucifix, symbolizing his blessing.

In her opening address, Master of Ceremonies Mary Kušeček thanked Mr. Dukovac, praising him as "one of the miracles of having this hall here today." She

(Continued on page 15)

Upcoming Events in Steelton

STEELTON, PA - The St. Lawrence CFU Lodge 13 is sponsoring several events for the spring.

Our Junior Tammies will host a Basket Bingo on Sunday, April 11 at the Chambers Hill Fire Company at 6400 Chambers Hill Road. Tickets are \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the door. If baskets are your passion, contact any Tammie member or our Parents' Organization President, Tina Simpson at 717-319-1499. The proceeds will benefit the kid's travel fund.

The following weekend, on Sunday, April 18, the Lodge will host its Third Annual "Hot Lamb and Tambura Jam." President Scott Kuren and his pit crew will be out early in the morning preparing lamb for your enjoyment. Lamb will be sold by the pound or come inside to the club and order a dinner. Musicians, bring your instruments, and singers, bring your voices, for an afternoon of your favorite songs.

In May, the St. Lawrence Adult Tamburitzans will celebrate their Spring Fling on the 8th. For a donation of only \$20 a ticket, you will have a full dinner, beer and soda, and a performance by their guest group, the St. George Adult Tamburitzans from Cokeburg, PA. Door prizes will be awarded. Don't forget about their eye-catching baskets to be chanced off. If you need a little stimulus help, there is time to purchase raffle tickets for a top prize of \$500, 2nd prize of \$200 or 3rd prize of \$100. Contact Fran Radosevich at 717-473-3152 for dinner and raffle tickets or further details.

On Sunday, May 9, we invite all Moms to hang up your aprons and come to the club for our Mother's Day Brunch. We will be serving a buffet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The club is open weekdays at 7 a.m. We are located at 13 Highland Street. Stop by and see some old friends or make some new ones. You can reach us at 717-939-4788.

Joanne Maljevac
Trustee/Lodge 13

How Do I Join the CFU?

When someone asks for details about how to become associated with our Fraternal Family, if you are not familiar with the process yourself, please refer them to us here at the Home Office of the Croatian Fraternal Union, at 412-843-0380, where we stand ready and waiting to be of assistance.

CFU membership may be completed through either the purchase of a CFU insurance plan or through the purchase of a CFU annuity or IRA. Excellent dividends on insurance coverage and competitive interest rates on CFU annuities will surely provide prospective members with many reasons to want to become a part of our Fraternal Society.

There are many extracurricular and fraternal benefits which may be derived from CFU membership. Among the most important benefits are lasting friendships, opportunities for mutual-interest companionship, and numerous chances to appreciate the simple joys of people caring about one another. Encourage your family members and friends to become a part of our CFU Family today and welcome them to find out what benefits are awaiting them to enhance the meaning and quality of their lives.

20th Anniversary Recognition of Croatian Scholarship Fund

SAN RAMON, CA – The Croatian Scholarship Fund (CSF) has received a letter of recognition from Radovan Fuchs, PhD Minister of Science, Education and Sports for the Republic of Croatia. The Ministry of Education that Minister Fuchs leads is the department of the government that guides the education system of Croatia. The following except from Minister Fuchs' recognition letter speaks to the mission and the dedication of CSF towards the students of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina:

"On behalf of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Croatian Scholarship Fund. Through its dedicated work and selfless endeavors..., CSF has shown an incontestable vision of progress, sincere responsibility for its homeland, true love for its people as well as a community spirit and social maturity by becoming the biggest Croatian-American organization for supporting gifted students in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina,..."

CSF President Marijana Pavic was quite appreciative and moved by the letter of recognition from the Croatian Government. President Pavic was quoted as saying, "I am very pleased to forward this recognition letter from the Croatian Minister of Education, Mr. Radovan Fuchs

to all members of the CSF. This is a wonderful letter that honors every officer, director, benefactor, contributor and friend of CSF from its beginning. The true legacies of CSF are the wonderful young men and women we support and will continue to support. We are so pleased to see the alumni of CSF entering Croatian society and making a difference in the future of our beloved homeland."

The Croatian Scholarship Fund is hosted its 20th anniversary celebration on Saturday, March 13 at the Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) in Sacramento, CA. More than 250 dignitaries, members of CSF and guests attended the celebration. Among those confirmed to attend were:

The Honorable Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Croatian Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Ilija Zelalic, Croatian Consul General Los Angeles, Mr. Tony Butala the founder of the Lettermen singing group, Mr. Krist Novocelic, the co-founder and bassist of the rock group Nirvana, and Mrs. Sandra Loncar, current CSF student, studying to be an architect.

About CSF

The Croatian Scholarship Fund was established in 1989 in the San Francisco Bay Area by a group of Croatian Americans for the purpose of providing uni-

versity scholarships for Croatian students who could not otherwise afford a higher education. In 1991, as a direct result of the war and devastation in Croatia, CSF and its Board of Directors became deeply concerned about the severe impact this war would have on future generations as the country began to rebuild.

The sole purpose of CSF is to provide financial scholarship aid for Croatian students from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to attend universities in Croatia. CSF's mission is to raise funds in order to provide scholarships to help educate young, bright and needy Croatian men and women who all someday become future leaders in medicine, agriculture, transportation, technology, economics, law, engineering, political science, education, and other academic fields.

With this goal in mind, CSF's Executive Board established rigid academic standards for admission into the program in an effort to select the most promising students who would someday become qualified leaders to help Croatia establish and maintain a free democracy and a sound enterprise system. This would enable Croatia to become more competitive in the global world economy as we enter the 21st century.

Croatian Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 290, San Ramon, CA 94583 - Website: <http://www.croatianscholarship.org/>, Contact Person - Ms. Vesna Brekalo, Telephone: 925-556-6263, E-mail: ymbrekalo@sbcglobal.net.

About Croatian Minister of Science, Education and Sports

Radovan Fuchs, PhD, Address: Donje Svetice 38, 10000 Zagreb, Phone: +385 1 4569 000, Fax: +385 1 4594 301, E-mail: office@mzos.hr.

About Croatian American Cultural Center

The Croatian American Cultural Center in Sacramento, CA is a non-profit organization. Its main purpose is to promote the Croatian name to the local and surrounding communities as well as to preserve and endear the Croatian culture for future generations.

Croatian American Cultural Center, P. O. Box 214711, Sacramento, CA 95821, Telephone: 916-489-0339, Fax: 916-481-4233, Website: www.cacc.com, E-mail: info@cacc.com.

Lodge 66 Seeks Plaque Donations

YOUNGSTOWN, OH – Donations are now being accepted for a plaque honoring all deceased members of St. George CFU Lodge 66.

A donation of \$10 for each deceased family member or loved one is needed so their name, or names, can be permanently engraved on the plaque. The names will be presented to the lodge on Saturday, May 1 at the St. George's Day dinner. Please have your donation sent in by Friday, April 16.

Please make checks payable to St. George Lodge 66. When sending in a donation, please print clearly the name of the deceased member and indicate if that member was a 50-year member or an officer of the lodge.

This will be a fitting permanent tribute to our deceased loved ones. Send your donation of \$10 to St. George Lodge 66, C/O Frances M. Rogan, 2714 Bears Den Rd., Youngstown, OH 44511. Thank you.

Frances M. Rogan
Secretary/Treasurer



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Grand Opening... (Continued from page 7)

went on to say that she hoped the Center would be a home away from home for Croatians in Florida. Club President Ljubica Šimunović echoed Kušček's sentiments. Fighting back tears, she said, "If it wasn't for Mr. Dukovac, we would not be in this building today. This was very difficult for us, but we did it." Šimunović went on to thank all of the Club members for their support, and honored the many members who were no longer with them. She also thanked Zvonko Crkvenčić, the largest shareholder, and Nikola Bašić, who loaned money to finish the Croatian Cultural Center, the only existing American Croatian club building in Florida.

Ambassador Kolinda Grabar Kitarović was one of the last to take the podium. She first spoke in Croatian, then English. "This Center and memories about being here will last forever," she told attentive members. "Thank you for your warm welcome. It is very nice to have a place like home, even though we are very far from home." The deep appreciation members felt for Kitarović's presence and remarks was later evident by the number of people who lined up to talk with and have a photo taken with her. Following Kitarović's speech, "Prijatelju" played "To-

night is Our Party" ("Večeras je naša fešta") and the buffet dinner ensued, replete with traditional Croatian food such as sauerkraut and sausages, as well as many delicious pastries.

When "Prijatelji" played "Fairly of Velebit" ("Vilo Velebita"), members crowded around the band to sing along. This Croatian patriotic song was banned during the 1970's because Croatians were not allowed to express their love for Croatia during that time. Members expressed their joy by dancing the kolo (circle dance) and singing and clapping to the music.

The Croatian Cultural Center is a new home for these members, a place where they can gather and celebrate their Croatian identity, history and culture, and pass it on to their children. Dukovac sat watching people dance and enjoy the music. "See, now this is what it's all about, right here" he said, patting his heart. "This is why it was built."

For Club information and upcoming events, call 941-748-7222, or 727-449-2997.

Kristin Vuković Reprinted with permission from the *Croatian Chronicle*/Photos by *Kathleen Vuković*/Special thanks to *Ivana Lipošćak* for her help with translation.

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

WARREN, MI – "Zora" CFU Lodge 351	\$100.00
TRAFFORD, PA – Margaret Ivkovich & Family, in memory of Edward Kercell	25.00
BENLD, IL – CFU Lodge 217, in memory of deceased members of Lodge 217.....	200.00
ROSEVILLE, CA – Nicholas Crnko former member of Lodge 126, in memory of Rudy Crnko, Joe Gregurich & Nick Bartolin. All were from Masury, OH	30.00
KINGSTON, PA – Lillian Thomas, for selections from the Music Library.....	5.00
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA – Caroline Bahr of Lodge 929, for selections from the Music Library.....	2.00
EAST PITTSBURGH, PA – Joanne Baburich of Lodge 141, in memory of a dear, dear friend, Leonard Bacich. A person who touched many hearts as well as mine. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. We should be thankful that we had the opportunity to have him in our lives. He will never be forgotten. I am making this donation to the CFU Scholarship Foundation, a fund that has always been dear to him. May he Rest in Eternal Peace.....	100.00
Towards the Lodge 141 Fund	
JOHNSTOWN, PA – Sharon A. Burnheimer sent the following donations in memory of her uncle, Father Anthony A. Petrusic:	
W. J. Poeling Trust.....	100.00
Donald & Lois Fick	25.00
Gregory Suttmiller	75.00
Pat & Carol Kelley	50.00
D. C. Anderson.....	50.00
Eric & Laura Petrusic.....	50.00
Lois Lovett.....	50.00
Dolores Allison	50.00
Tim & Jill Kielty.....	100.00
Dr. Gerald & Susan Fisher	30.00
Mary Herman.....	10.00
Tracy & Scott Petrusic.....	5.00
Lynn & Cynthia Schrum.....	20.00
Joseph & Margaret Symon	20.00
Tanglewood Acres.....	100.00
Edward Damich	25.00
Santo Calderone	20.00
Rosemary Gregurich	20.00
Total donations made for Father Anthony A. Petrusic.....	800.00
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA – Caroline Bahr of Lodge 929, in loving memory of Eleanor Parac	25.00
TRAFFORD, PA – "St. Vid" Lodge 541, in loving memory of deceased members of "St. Vid" Lodge 541	100.00
NEW YORK, NY – "Slobodna Hrvatska" Lodge 789, u spomen na pokojne članove odsjeka broj. 789	30.00
Toward the Vlado Govic Fund	
NEW YORK, NY – Stephan Galic of Lodge 789, u spomen na pokojne članove odsjeka broj. 789.....	10.00
Toward the Vlado Govic Fund	
NEW YORK, NY – Joseph Knezevich of Lodge 789, u spomen na pokojne članove odsjeka broj. 789	10.00
Toward the Vlado Govic Fund	
CONWAY, PA – CFU Lodge 540, in memory of our departed sister, Lois Martin	50.00
COKEBURG, PA – Drago Luketich of Lodge 354, payment received for services rendered as Assistant Director, United CFU Four County Lodges' radio program, donated to the Scholarship Foundation.....	40.00
MCKEESPORT, PA – Mary & Frank Pavlecic of Lodge 146, in memory of Ed Kercell who liked Croatian music.....	25.00
Towards the Lodge 146 Fund	
SHARON, PA – Kevin Frankovich of Lodge 126	25.00
MCKEESPORT, PA – Helen Ferketic & Betty Oeler of Lodge 146, in memory of Eddie "Edo" Kercell	20.00
MCKEESPORT, PA – Mary & Frank Pavlecic of Lodge 146, in memory of a longtime friend, Rudy Perpich.....	25.00
Towards the Lodge 146 Fund	
WARRENVILLE, SC – Thomas & Frances Felak of Lodge 146, in memory of my brother-in-law, John Dudik	25.00
Towards the Lodge 146 Fund	
WARRENVILLE, SC – Thomas & Frances Felak of Lodge 146, in memory of nephew, Duane Dudik.....	25.00
Towards the Lodge 146 Fund	
UNIONTOWN, PA – Bill & Mary Ann Marinich of Lodge 248 In memory of our relative Regis Mance	50.00
TOTAL COLLECTED	\$1,722.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR 2010 SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS	\$2,672.00

DONATION



CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Yes! I want to CONTRIBUTE \$_____ to the CFU Scholarship Fund in order to aid CFU students seeking a higher education. Please include the following message or memorial with my contribution.

Name _____ Lodge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make all checks payable to CFU Scholarship Foundation and mail to:

Bernard M. Luketich
Croatian Fraternal Union
100 Delaney Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

