

# CCSM

Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota

Spring 2005

## News About Boris

A recent article on the WCCO website talked about Boris losing the election for the Presidency of Croatia and running for the position of Mayor of Zagreb. Boris finished third in Croatia's Presidential election receiving 17.8 percent of the vote. Zagreb was one of his strongholds and he is currently running for mayor of Zagreb. The election will be held on May 15th.

In talking to his wife Anna, she mentioned that Boris inspired people in Croatia with his ideas and hopes for Croatia. Let's wish Boris luck in the election.

The Minnesota Ambassador, news of the Friendship Force Club of Minnesota/Twin Cities recalled in their newsletter that Boris and Anna hosted a group of Friendship Force members and ambassadors from Croatia during an exchange in the year 2000. They also wished him luck in his campaign.

## **Officers for CCSM**

The Croatian Cultural Society is looking for new officers. President, Secretary and Treasurer are the open positions. Responsibilities of the officers include ensuring that we have representation at the Festival of Nations; coordinating all functions relating to cultural events for the organization and arranging the Annual Christmas Party. Although the jobs sound busy, they are very rewarding. Call Joe Rukavina at 651-429-9230 if you have an interest.

## Representation at the IHRC

Marko Kirn and Andrea Novak Neumann represent the Croatian Cultural Society at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

The IHRC houses writings and records from 24 ethnic groups collected from basements, attics and drawers around the country. The current director, Dr. Rudy Vecoli, is retiring the end of July. He was instrumental in obtaining funding for new storage for these records once housed in an old coffee warehouse. Now, there is a state-of-the-art archives in underground storage space on the river bluff of the West bank of the University.

There will be a retirement party honoring Dr. Vecoli on Saturday, May 14, 2005 at the Hubert Humphrey Center. Donna Gabaccia will be the new director.

## Festival of Nations

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Festival of Nations a success. Thanks to Ivanka Schrunk who coordinated the effort and to Vesna for her vision of the exhibit. Rudy Vrkljan, Tom Schrunk and Vesna Kittleson erected and tore down the exhibit and we thank them for the hard work involved there. We thank the following people who worked at the exhibit

Rudy Vrkljan  
Margaret Mikulich  
Mike Bukovich  
Brian Lalich  
Lidija Novakovic  
Mary Sedlar  
Monique Sedlar  
Stipe Hlaca  
Eti Jakovcevic  
Snjzana Paulovic  
Tom Schrunk  
Meg

Josie Linders  
Vic Mikulich  
Susan Flahaven  
Preston Lalich  
Ivo Novakovic  
Mary's husband Tim  
John Kayfes  
Mary Ann Novak  
Bob Valentine  
Ivana Schrunk  
Vesna Kittleson

## Super Croatians

Three-time Super Bowl Coach Bill Belichick has Croatian roots. Putting speculation to rest once and for all, it has emerged that New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick is of Croatian heritage. Belichick's grandfather, Ivan Bilicic, came to the United States in 1897 from the Karlovac region and his grandmother, Mary Barkovic, arrived in 1898, also from near Karlovac. The couple settled in Pennsylvania. Belichick's father, Stephen Nickolas Belichick (Bilicic) was born in 1919 and in 1924, the family moved to Struthers, a suburb of Youngstown, OH. Ivan Bilicic spoke six languages despite not having any schooling. He worked at Pittsburgh Steel and was a butcher and a gardener on the side. When he applied for his citizenship papers, an immigration official suggested he change his name to "White". Bilicic refused.

Ivan Bilicic and Mary Barkovic had one daughter and four sons. Stephen (father of Coach Bill") was their third son. He graduated from Struthers High School in 1937 and Case Western Reserve University in 1941. He went on to play professional football for the Detroit Lions with Andy Runovich from Indiana University. Steve married Jeannette Munn (Bill's mother), a Spanish and French professor at Hiram College where Stephen was the head football/head basketball/head track/head golf and physical education coach. Stephen Belichick is a member of the CFU and his nieces have visited Karlovac as well as relatives in the villages of Draganic, Lazanic and Barkovic. They have been active in the Croatian communities in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Stephen Belichick and Jeannette Munn had one child, a son Bill, who was born in Nashville in 1952 when Stephen was coaching at Vanderbilt University. William Stephen Belichick, "Bill," is a three-time Super Bowl Coach and the rest is history.

## More Croatians in the News

**Northwestern University:** Ivan Tolic, Davor Duyancic and Vedran Vukusic, all came to the United States after being recruited to play basketball at Northwestern University. The three Croatians are roommates from Split. Besides their athletic skills on the hard court, which have proved beneficial to the Wildcats' team, the three have also brought with them much of their own culture as well.

**Andrew Bogut Profile:** Born November 28, 1984 to Croatian parents but has spent his life in Australia. He played basketball for Utah in the NCAA, where he played center, a suitable position for his 7 foot 0, 240 pound frame. Bogut is lethal in the paint, can adapt to almost any situation and was probably the best rebounder in the NCAA last year. He will almost undoubtedly go number one in the NBA draft.

**Ivan Ljubicic:** The 25 Year old Ljubicic beat Andy Roddick of the United States clinching the first-round Davis Cup tie for Croatia. in March in California. Croatia seemed to have almost as many fans as the US team. Southern California is home to a large number of transplanted Croatians.

### Duquesne University Tamburitza

The Duquesne University Tamburitza's will be in Minneapolis this summer. They will play at the Moundsview High School, 1900 Lake Valentine Road, Arden Hills, Minnesota on Thursday, August 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Reserved Seats will cost \$18.00  
General Admission      \$14.00  
Seniors and Students    \$12.00

Since seating capacity is limited, be sure to get your tickets in advance by calling Moundsview High School at 651-633-4031. Call early enough to get tickets to see this wonderful group - don't be disappointed.

**Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota  
4119 White Bear Parkway, Suite 220  
St. Paul, MN 55110  
NFCA**

May 3, 2005

Dear Minnesota Croatian Americans;

The Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota is one of the Founding organizations of the National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA). Over the past year, our Mother organization, the NFCA, has been an effective advocate for the interests of Croatian Americans and the Republic of Croatia in our Nations capital. The NFCA spearheaded a drive to establish a Congressional Croatian Caucus in the US House of Representatives. They were successful in having 41 members of Congress join as founding members.

The Bipartisan co-chairs of this new Caucus - Rep. George P. Randanovich (R CA) and Peter J. Visclosky (D IN) - welcomed all those present and discussed their long-standing desire to establish this important Association of members of Congress interested in promoting Croatian American relations. Both co-chairs are of Croatian descent which gives even further emphasis to this historic event for Croatian Americans.

The officers and members of the NFCA work on Croatian issues on a voluntary basis, however they cannot be effective without the assistance of all the organizations and their members. We thank you for your past financial help and ask that you renew your commitment to a Democratic Croatia. Your 2005 NFCA membership will help to keep a full time national office in our Nations Capital.

The NFCA will hold its twelfth annual assembly of delegates from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup> 2005 at the down-town Doubletree Hotel located at the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> and Dodge streets. The afternoon session will be open to the public at 1:00 PM. The featured speakers will be Congressman Lee Terry of the Nebraskan 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, who will discuss pertinent issues that effect Croatia. Terry is a member of the Croatian Caucus and a friend to the Croatian American community in Omaha. Also speaking will be Jeff Fortenberry of the Nebraskan 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. He is a member of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives. He will speak on issues that directly effect Croatia. Neven Jurica, Croatian's Ambassador to the United States. Will speak on Foreign policy issues and Croatia's evolving relationship with the United States.

We are looking for dedicated individuals who would like to be delegates for this year or in the future. If you have any questions, they may be directed to Joe at 651-429-9230 or Rudy at 651-484-5260. All expenses are paid by the individual delegate.

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph T. Rukavina*  
Joseph T. Rukavina

*Rudy Vrkljan*  
Rudy Vrkljan

Complete this donor card and mail your 2005 contribution before May 20, 2005

**Make checks payable to- Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota-NFCA  
4119 White Bear Parkway, Suite 220, St. Paul, MN 55110**

Student	\$15 - \$24	Name	_____
Individual	\$25 - \$49	Address	_____
Sponsor	\$50 - 100	City	_____
Other	\$ _____	State	_____ Zip _____

**Contributions are not tax deductible. Checks payable to NFCA Cultural Foundation are deductible**

Subj: **Croatia defeats USA in Tennis**  
Date: 3/12/2005 8:51:33 AM Central Standard Time  
From: RukSJ  
To: Jtrukav

## Croatia shocks U.S. in Davis Cup

Ljubicic's five-set victory over Roddick seals Americans' fate

Croatia seemed to have almost as many fans as the U.S. team in the lively, drum-banging and somewhat rowdy crowd of 6,584. Southern California is home to a large number of transplanted **Croatians**.



Kevork Djansezian / AP

Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic, center, celebrates with the rest of his teammates and officials after he defeated Andy Roddick of the United States on Sunday, clinching the first-round Davis Cup tie for Croatia. Ljubicic won 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (11), 6-7(7), 6-2. The Associated Press



United States' Andy Roddick (news), right, congratulates Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic (news) after Roddick lost their first round reverse singles match of Davis Cup at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif., Sunday, March 6, 2005. Ljubicic won 4-6, 6-3, 7-6,(11), 6-7(7), 6-2 to eliminate the U.S. and advance Croatia to the Davis Cup quarter-finals. (AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian)

**NFCA**  
**National Federation of Croatian-Americans**  
**Minnesota Membership**

\*Emily Amberg  
\*John and Barb Bacich  
\*John Badalich  
\*\*John Balaich  
John Joseph Balaich  
Karen Balaich  
Robert Ray Balaich  
\*Steven Balaich  
Tihomir Banovic  
\*Anthony Bekavac  
Margaret Berres  
\*Mary Ruth Cameron  
\*Mary Chamberlain  
Eunice Dasovich  
Jean Dickson  
Albert Dorich  
Bruce Drake  
Joe Dragich  
\*Dan Dusich  
\*John Dusich  
Patti Fotopoulos  
\*\*Hrvatski Dom  
\*Rita Ives  
Marko Jukic  
John Kayfes, Sr.  
John Kayfes, Jr.  
\*Rudy Kezele  
Mark Kirn  
Dave & Vesna Kittleson  
\*Frank Krmpotich  
Eugene Kubes  
\*\*Julia Latkovich  
Helen Lind  
\*Josephine Linders  
\*Goldie Lindsey

\*Sponsor  
\*\*Patron

Mary Maki  
\*\*Jim Malnar  
\*Matt Marincel  
\*Robert McDonald  
\*\*Joe and Bill Mihelich  
\*Boris Miksic  
Vic Mikulich  
John Milosevich  
Ivan Musich  
\* Floyd & Betty Olson  
Albin Paver  
\* Anton Perpich  
\* Delores Perpich  
\*Frank Perpich  
\*George Perpich  
\*Frank Plesha  
\*Richard Rajcic  
\*John Rebrovich  
\*Arlene Rukavina  
John Rukavina  
\*\*Joseph Rukavina  
Kay Rukavina  
Steve L. Rukavina  
Val Rukavina  
Bill and Mae Schunk  
Ivana Schrunk  
Genevieve Simanovich  
Steve Sporcic  
Dave Stojevich  
\*\*John Tancabel  
Mark Tesija  
Anne Thornton  
\*Pasko & Gordana Vela  
\*Rudy and Fran Vrkljan  
\*John Vucinovich  
Tom Vucinovich

We wish to thank all of you who have contributed in the past to the Croatian Cultural  
Society of MN (NFCA).

Note: We do have a list of members who paid their 2005 dues directly to the NFCA.

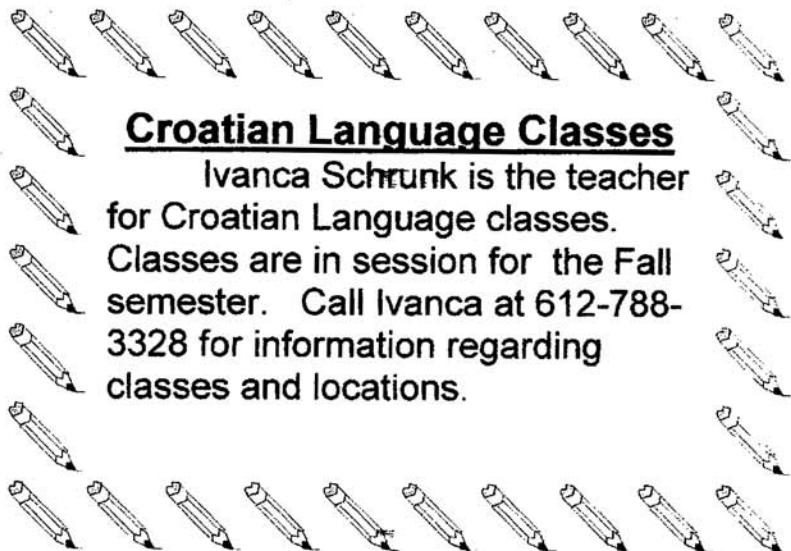
Kudos to John and Karen Balaich and the Duluth members for their successful Sarma  
Fundraiser on behalf of the NFCA and the Dora Foundation.

## CCSM

We are looking for pictures of the following:

Ethnic festivals, celebrations, parades, community gatherings, places of worship, weddings, christenings, funerals or other personal photos, family ceremonies, family portraits or family activity photos

Photos can be duplicated and returned. Owners may consider donating photos to the archives of the CCSM.



## Croatian Language Classes

Ivana Schrunk is the teacher for Croatian Language classes. Classes are in session for the Fall semester. Call Ivana at 612-788-3328 for information regarding classes and locations.

Send news, notices and announcements to  
Mary Ann Novak - e.mail =  
[lpnovak@iprimus.com](mailto:lpnovak@iprimus.com) or 612-789-5063.

Mary Ann Novak, Editor

## CCSM

Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota  
4119 White Bear Parkway, Suite 220  
St Paul MN 55110

### In this issue:

*News about Boris  
Representation at IHRC  
Festival of Nations  
Croatians in the News  
Duquesne University Tamburitza*