



Heritage Organization of
Romanian Americans in Minnesota

HORA Newsletter

Enriching Minnesota's diversity by preserving and sharing the valuable Romanian American cultural heritage, while striving to bring together people from different generations, religions and interests.

Visit us @ www.hora-mn.org Call us @ (651) 336 - 2466 Email us @ info@hora-mn.org Mail us @ 409 Spring Hill Road, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127



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2014 GALA

June 2014

Preparations are underway for the 2nd Romanian American Dream Awards Gala! It is still very early, and we will update you as soon as possible with the exact date, time, and location.

Get ready for an absolutely unforgettable night!

Do you want to volunteer to help with preparations and planning? Your help is so valuable to us. Please contact our volunteer coordinator Raluca Octav at (651) 600 - 8771.

Welcome to the remodeled website

Last Wednesday, Oct. 23rd, was the long-anticipated launch of the completely-renovated HORA website.

Stop by to see the fresh look and lots of new features, including an event-type survey and discussion forums. Visit us at: www.hora-mn.org.

All this was made possible thanks to our interns. "I think it is really important to have an aesthetically pleasing and engaging site, and to make it interactive so our members can make their opinions and ideas known," mentioned Sinziana Cornea on her motives behind the new site.

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at info@hora-mn.org.

HORA showcased in the Star Tribune

The Saturday Oct. 19th issue of the Star Tribune featured an article about HORA, RGS and the Romanian renaissance sweeping Minnesota.

Ms. Hopfensperger did a great job showcasing the events and programs HORA members have made possible, highlighting the launch of Romanian language classes in the Twin Cities!

If you have not done so already, read the article online on our website at www.hora-mn.org under the "News" tab.



Romanian language classes debut in the Twin Cities

In 2013, HORA applied for and received a grant from the Romanian Department of Romanians Abroad to offer Romanian language classes in the Twin Cities.

September cued the beginning of new classes for students everywhere, and this time, students began attending Romanian language classes in the Twin Cities. There are six classes total, all taught by teachers from the Romanian community, and range from beginner to more advanced children and adults.



Attendees include Romanian adoptees and their parents, grandchildren of Minnesota's original Romanian immigrants, children from the Moldovan "Harul" church, children born in America to Romanian parents, and recent

travelers to Romania that fell in love with the culture and language.

These inaugural classes are free for students, and funded by the RO Department of Romanians Abroad (80%) and by HORA (20%). **Donations are encouraged and will be a key determinant of whether future classes will be available.**

Classes are held on Saturday mornings, and last ninety minutes. The students are learning the alphabet, basic greetings and conversational skills, as well as culture and history lessons.



The skills learned through these classes will open up new doors for the participants! Soon, they will be able to exchange small talk during social events, and those adopted from Romania may one day have the chance to speak with their birth parents without a translator. Future visits to Romania will be enriched by the ability to communicate more efficiently. The possibilities are truly endless!



Welcoming Mircea Cărtărescu to the Twin Cities

During the month of October, Mr. Cărtărescu toured North America to celebrate the launch of the translation to English of his remarkable novel "Blinding". He appeared at Rain Taxi's Twin Cities Book Festival on October 12th, from 10:30am-11:30am.

"Part visceral dream-memoir, part fictive journey through a hallucinatory Bucharest, Mircea Cărtărescu's *Blinding* was a bestseller from the day of its release." - Archipelago Books

HORA has signed copies of *Blinding* for \$22.00. If you are interested in purchasing a copy for yourself, please call or e-mail us at info@hora-mn.org.





Photo by Cristina Oltean, at Clifton French Park

Welcoming the Fall season with a Harvest Fest for all ages

On Saturday Sept. 29th, an absolutely gorgeous early fall day, a joyous crowd gathered at Clifton French Park in Plymouth, MN.

One of the day's main attractions was fermented grape must (a sweet fizzy drink) prepared by Arria & OC. Three-days fermented must held just the right amount of kick, and the freshly squeezed grape juice was prepared by Gabi Petre, Cornel Boac and Catalin Pana.



There were plenty of delicious traditional Romanian dishes brought by everyone to this potluck event. There were mici sizzling on the grill, prepared by Arria Giulan and cooked by Florentin Nitu. Lamb pastrami was also served, along with polenta, sausages and many other delectable treats.



The turnout to the event was better than anyone anticipated. Every picnic table was filled with happy people enjoying the day.

There was even an artistic program! Romell Alaman gave a special live performance and Radu Rimbu played DJ music for everyone. Autumn poetry and harvest stories were shared.



The kids were entertained with games, a giant playground and pumpkin decorating.



It was an incredibly successful day, and a great big Thank You! goes out to all the volunteers and organizers that made it possible. Can't wait to celebrate the Fall with everyone again next year!





MINNESOTA HISTORICAL &
CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS



Oral History Project II

In September, HORA received its second "Legacy Grant" from the state's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society! HORA received \$10,000 to create a documentary video about early Romanian immigrant experiences, and life in the Twin Cities (roughly 1900-1940). The short documentary video will be based on eleven audio-visual interviews conducted in early 2013 under the initial Romanian Immigration and Traditions Oral History Project Grant. The video program will be adaptable for viewing on cable television, web streaming, or on DVD and Blu-ray disc, and will credit the interviewees, HORA, Romanian Genealogy Society (RGS), and the Legacy Grant funding which makes the production possible.

The project will begin in November 2013, and will conclude by no later than Sept. 1, 2014. Partners once again in this project are HORA (grant applicant), RGS, Town Square Television (TST, a non-profit vendor), and Dakota County Historical Society (designated repository). The project team consists of Vicki Albu, Monica Nedelcu-Erickson, Arria Giulan, Dorrene Hern, Raluca Octav, all unpaid volunteers, along with Jodie Miller and Mark DeJoy of TST.

The team's script consultants will comb through interview transcripts

and video to select the passages which will serve as the foundation of a script outline. TST staff will lay out the story for review and editing. Team volunteers will locate, scan and label relevant documents, maps, photographs, fabrics, tapestries, and will obtain other audio-visuals to enhance the story, such as copyright-free music. TST will perform the work of professionally editing the final product under direction of the project team.

It would be ideal to find additional photographs, home movies or cassette tape recordings from early days in the community. We will also be looking for a narrator for the film. If you have recommendations, please share them with the project team members named here, or contact project director Vicki Albu via e-mail at valbu@comcast.net.

- Vicki Albu



The parents of Ann Logojan Murphy, interviewed for the Oral History Project I.

Oral History Project III

Building on the successful execution of the 2013 Early Romanian Immigration project, HORA is next proposing a project that aims to complement the historical documentation by looking at the less-studied period starting after the end of World War II, spanning the communist and post-communist eras.

Romania has undergone a series of profound political, economical and social changes, all of which have been reflected in immigration patterns. By applying the fundamentals of oral history research, we aim to capture the under-documented stories of Romanian immigrants to the Twin Cities and to obtain unique insights that will enable us to compare and contrast these immigration patterns.

This past summer, HORA submitted an application for a third Legacy Grant in order to fund this huge endeavor. Proposed partners on this project are Town Square Television and the Ramsey County Historical Society. A total of fifteen interviews would be conducted, amassing an estimated twenty-three hours of audio, video and written transcripts. We are very excited to continue documenting Romanian immigration to Minnesota.

Please wish us luck!

- Arria Giulan



HORA MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP FORM

Please fill this form out* completely and mail it in along with payment to:

Monica Nedelcu-Erickson
409 Spring Hill Road
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

HORA is a 501(c) non-profit organization. Member support is a critical factor in our ability to function, and sustains our efforts to promote and preserve the Romanian American cultural heritage in Minnesota.

Demonstrate your commitment to helping our efforts by becoming a sustaining member today!

Your membership will support a very young and ambitious organization, helping it grow, expand and make a difference.

If our mission and aspirations appeal to you and align with your values, please choose to become a member today. It will allow YOU to bring forward and implement YOUR ideas and dreams.

Benefits of Membership:

- Participate in the annual members meeting, with voting rights for election of the Board of Directors.
- Special invitations to private HORA gatherings.
- Endless opportunities to help with HORA events, programming and organizing.
- A 20% discount on HORA events and merchandise.
- Annual explanation of the ways in which membership dues were used.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Full Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Preferred method of communication: _____

How did you hear about HORA?

Thank you so much for your continued generous support and participation. Our gratitude is endless, and we are constantly pushing to improve this organization to better serve you and the Romanian American community in Minnesota.

*Membership sign up can also be completed and payed for online at: www.hora-mn.org.

Membership Dues

One year memberships:

- \$25 one-time individual
 \$20 one-time senior (65+)
 \$45 one-time household (max 2 adults)

Two year memberships:

- \$50 one-time individual
 \$40 one-time senior (65+)
 \$90 one-time household (max 2 adults)

Optional tax-deductible donation

- \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100
 Other: _____

Total membership dues: _____

Additional donations: _____

Total Enclosed: _____