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HORA Upcoming Events

Celebrate Fall in Twin Cities with Romanian Traditional Cooking, September 2013

Let's welcome Mircea Cartarescu to Minnesota, Romanian poet extraordinaire, and support his book release in October 2013

Celebrating the 1st Universal Day of the IE

A Romanian group, La Blouse Roumaine (name inspired by the famous Henri Matisse painting), started the new tradition of celebrating the Universal day of IE, globally.

On June 24th, a day coinciding with the celebration of "Sanziene", Romanians living in all countries around the world dress up in their traditional IE, take pictures in their communities, and share these images on Facebook.

At the center of this new celebration is a piece of clothing made and worn by Romanian women for centuries – the well-known and loved IE. The garment has been described as the "Dacian blouse"

or the "Carpathian blouse" to locate it in time and space. In the past, a woman's status in her village was captured and preserved in the small sewing patterns of various colors on her IE. Ever pattern is a symbol for an idea that is important to the person that was wearing it.

For example, the spinning wheel with four blades, "vartelnita", is a symbol for perpetual motion or change, such as the change in seasons. It represents positive energy that keeps things moving. Some patterns were predominantly used by specific communities, thus differentiating them from other communities and regions.



Members from the Twin Cities Romanian community celebrating "Ziua lei" at the Como Park Conservatory in Roseville, MN

Reflections on the Career Growth Studio, by David Filip, HORA Intern

HORA's first Career Growth Studio took place on June 8th, 2013, at the Edina Public Library. There were over forty people in attendance, representing a wide variety of backgrounds, spanning from high school students to senior professionals, all with diverse career interests.

The event was split into two parts. During the first, everyone paired off, got to learn about each other's professional roles, interests and aspirations, and then got to introduce their partner to the larger group. This served as a great ice breaker and an ice way to learn about all the attendees.

The second part was a panel discussion featuring many knowledgeable professionals. The members of the panel openly shared their experiences and lessons learned throughout their careers, and answered specific questions from the audience.



The panel members included:

Ron Bongard, CEO, Bongard Corporation
Cleo Cabuz, VP Engineering, Honeywell Life Safety
Mirela Miresan, Program Chair, Argosy University
Florina Nita, VP Operations, Eniva
Rino Orlandi, MD, Sr. Cardiologist Minneapolis Heart Institute
David Silver, Executive Recruiter, The Sterling Group



Here is a summary of the topics covered and the most important points from each of them:

• Networking advice

*Be respectful, approachable and enthusiastic – others will notice and be eager to introduce you to their friends

*Keep an updated resume and LinkedIn account

*Get acquainted with important individuals in your field

*Teaching or mentoring others will help you advance

*Participate in different clubs and organizations to meet others with similar interests as you

• Strategies for successful career changes

*Career changes occur when opportunity presents itself and you want it, or you see need for change

*Find links between your current and future career

*Hone skills that will be useful for your target career

*Volunteer!!! And sign up for groups on LinkedIn

*Be determined and set goals – do not let others dictate where to take your career

*If you commit to what is important to you, you will succeed!

• Interviewing and resume

*Use "most difficult experience" questions to show how you have prevailed and grown.

*Apply to as many positions as possible

*Dress to impress! And show that you are a team player

*Know your resume inside and out, and prepare thoughtful questions for the interviewer(s)

*You can only control what you will do or say. Prepare

*Send thank you letters

• Most important career lessons

*Set daily, weekly, monthly goals and then meet them!

*Network all the time - you never know what opportunity will present itself, or what amazing person you will meet

* Define what success means to you

* Know your end goal, stick to it and be tough

* Be responsible, confident, honest and authentic

"What a day! What a great event! Thank you to all of you who trusted HORA with your precious time and your career hopes and concerns. We hope you enjoyed the event. It's a start with many more ideas for networking, spending time together and getting the community to prosper emotionally, professionally and, why not, financially!"

Romanian Early Immigration to Minnesota, by Arria Giulan & Vicki Albu

HORA has successfully completed the work related to the Legacy grant received from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to conduct an oral history project!

The purpose of the project was to record and preserve stories on the ways in which early Romanian immigrants came to Minnesota, and how their cultural heritage has been preserved. Eleven interviews were filmed, transcribed and archived for public availability to historians, researchers and other interested parties.

The audio-video recordings and typewritten transcripts will be stored and made available at the Dakota County Historical Society in South St. Paul, MN (www.dakotahistory.org), at the Minnesota Historical Society, and at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center.

As Nicolae Iorga stated, "people who don't know the history of their own country are like kids who don't know their parents." To share the historical insights captured in these interviews, as well as to raise awareness and understanding of the early Romanian immigration to Minnesota, a series of short articles will be published in our upcoming newsletters.

The articles will cover several important facets of immigration, including: arrival and settlement, employment and occupations, social and cultural integration, language and tradition preservation, and other topics. We are working on creating an all-encompassing presentation that will be available at St. Mary's Orthodox Church Centennial Celebration held in October this year.

We welcome all questions, comments and any support that can further enhance our collective knowledge of the Romanian early immigration to Minnesota.

Romanian Arrival and Settlement in Minnesota

Most of the interviewees dated their families' immigration to the US to the early 1900s, although in one case it was believed that the arrival took place before the opening of Ellis Island in 1892.

The departure port mentioned in two interviews was Cuxhaven, Germany, with travels on board the

Pennsylvania or the Amerika ship. Port Constanta was also mentioned as the departure point from Romania.



The "Amerika".



Cuxhaven, Germany, 1900s

In some cases, families traveled together – husband, wife, and children. In other situations however, some of the younger children were left at home because the cost of the ticket could only be justified for the family members who could immediately find employment.

"When my mother came from Cuxhaven to United States on board the Amerika, which was spelled with K, the ship was pretty nice. They'd drop people off in New York. On their way back, they saw the iceberg and they radioed the Titanic. For whatever reason, the Titanic didn't either slow down or change course, because they were given the spot to where these great breakers were, and of course the Titanic sank. So think about it, they came through the same area. It could have been their ship too."

Two arrival ports were specifically mentioned by the interviewees: Castle Garden and Ellis Island, both in New York.



Castle Garden, New York



Ellis Island, New York

The travel on board the ships was recalled by many as an extremely strenuous experience, only overcome by the determination of the passengers.

“They missed one boat and they had to wait around and the boats were crowded and it was summertime and it was smelly and terrible. They were put down in the steerage where they only had room to sleep on the floor – stuck together like sardines. And they had to bring their own food, and so her mother had cooked the food and sent it along, packed in cans.”



Immigrants traveling to the U.S.



Ellis Island, Romanian Family

Once in the U.S, families lived close to each other in Minnesota, most Romanians settled in South St. Paul, in the vicinity of where the St. Stefan Church stands now, and around St. Paul and the Rice Street area, as well as in the vicinity of where the St. Mary Church stands today. A large Romanian Jewish community settled on the outskirts of Minneapolis.

“In South St. Paul, most Romanians lived on First, Second, and Third Avenue. I had an uncle and aunt who lived further south on sixth, but my cousins lived on Twenty-First or Twenty-Second, I had cousins who lived there. I had cousins and friends who lived on Ninth and Tenth Avenue.”

Moving outside their immediate neighborhood often meant a major separation: “It was crazy; seven miles apart and you have like two different worlds.”

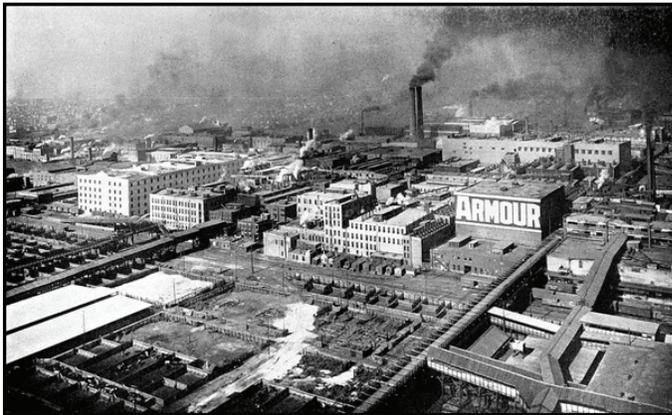
Most Romanians worked in the meat packing factories, either at the Armour and Company, or the Swift Company.

"I think that's why they settled in South St. Paul is because of the packing house. It provided employment and the Romanian community was here. In fact, the whole neighborhood around Rice Street for several blocks was all Romanian."

Working conditions in these plants were hard and only improved in the later years with the forming of unions. Fewer Romanians had small stores, worked in retail, banking, and insurances.

More information from the interviews will be covered in our next article "Employment and Occupations". Quotes used in this article have been selected from the transcripts of the Oral History interviews.

For additional historical background about Romanian immigration to Minnesota, we recommend Chapter 23, "The Romanians," in "They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups," MHS Press.



Armor Company, St. Paul, MN



Swift and Company, St. Paul, MN

Enroll in Romanian Language Classes, Starting Fall 2013, by Octavian Cornea

HORA is following in the footsteps of the early Romanian settlers in the Twin Cities. In the '30s, Romanian language used to be taught by Fr. Coste

The Romanian community in Minnesota, through a grant proposal written by HORA, has obtained funds from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest for teaching Romanian language classes in our state.



We estimated that, in Minnesota, the number of people who declared the Romanian language as being used in the household is 5k+, majority living in the Twin Cities area.

on Saturdays, for an entire day, at St Stefan Church, as we found out recently from a story recorded in the Oral History Project, another one of HORA's projects, funded by a public grant. Eighty years later we proudly continue this great work.

Mr. Gabriel Petre was the driving force behind the Romanian Language project, one of the two goals of his activity since he joined HORA. The other is opening a Romanian restaurant in the Cities. After working with Gabriel for several months on the language project, we anticipate that he might bring this other project to reality, so stay tuned.

Romanian language classes tentatively start on September 2nd, and go for 15 weeks, right before Christmas. It's likely they will be taught on Saturdays. Locations will be in the Twin Cities, depending mostly on student locations, at public libraries, and other settings.

Classes are offered in the following categories: **Children** Beginner & Advanced, **Adult** Beginner & Advanced plus one additional class offered to those for completely unfamiliar to Romanian. Yes, we encourage everyone to participate, e. g. spouses form mixed marriages, former volunteers to Romania, etc.

Classes are free, but we encourage the students to become HORA members. Membership is \$50, paid

biannually. This will help defray some costs not covered by project's funds.

It would be really nice, after all, for our kids or anyone else for that matter to be able to say "Vorbes ceva romaneste" and really mean it.

For more information regarding this program or to enroll, please see www.hora-mn.org.

HORA also recommends:



**South St. Paul
Historic Pill Hill Neighborhood Tour**

Sunday,
July 21, 2013
1:00 to 3:00 pm
Donation: \$20.00
Registration:
St. Stephan's Church

South St. Paul's
Historic District
(5th Ave. North
& Grand Ave)

Overlooking
Grandview Park
&
Mississippi River

Pill Hill is an historic neighborhood in South St. Paul, with homes originally built by the doctors, lawyers, and politicians from the 1930's & 1940's.

Come discover some of the hidden gems while contributing to the SSP Restorative Justice Council. Tours of the neighborhood & St. Stephan's Church will be continuous.

Donations will be used to help fund Peace Guides at Lincoln and Kaposia Education Center as well as for Responsive Classroom Training for teachers and Guides. Your ticket is tax-deductible through Peace-Maker Minnesota.

Parking available at SSP High School and Saint Augustine's Catholic Church parking lots.



Saint Mary Romanian Orthodox Church
100 Year Anniversary - OCTOBER 11-13, 2013

**"Taste of Romania"
2013
FESTIVAL**

Saturday, 24 AUGUST 11am - 7pm
Sunday, 25 AUGUST 12 pm - 4pm

MENU

- ◊ CĂRNAȚI LA GRĂȚAR (GRILLED ROMANIAN SAUSAGE)
- ◊ PUI LA GRĂȚAR (GRILLED LEMON-HERB CHICKEN)
- ◊ MICI (GRILLED ROMANIAN SAUSAGE LINKS)
- ◊ SARMALE CU MĂMĂLIĞĂ (CABBAGE ROLLS & POLENTA)
- ◊ SUPĂ DE LEGUME (VEGETABLE COLD SOUP)
- ◊ SALATĂ DE VARZĂ CU MĂRAR (DILL CABBAGE SALAD)
- ◊ TOCĂNIȚĂ TRADIȚIONALĂ DE PUI (CARPATHIAN CHICKEN & VEGGIE STEW)
- ◊ COZONAC, PRĂJITURI, SAVARINE (NUT ROLL, LAYERED & SAVARIN CAKES)
- ◊ RAFFLE - SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB, ELECTRONIC KID GAME
- ◊ SILENT AUCTION, MUSIC, DANCE & SURPRISES

854 Woodbridge St. (189Awater St.) St. Paul, MN 55117