

HORA Newsletter

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A Note From The President

A couple of months have passed since HORA members selected me to preside over HORA for the next two years. My emotions over being elected have been replaced by a constant attention to where and how to position HORA within Minnesotan communities, with an eye toward guaranteeing our existence here for a long time.

I want to congratulate the newly elected Board. I am looking forward to working together towards the following goals:

- **Grow** HORA's membership base and participation by including groups of all ages and faiths, with Romanian roots and an interest in Romanian culture.
- **Develop** HORA as a platform for communicating news and the opinions of the Romanian American community.
- **Establish** relationships with other U.S. Romanian American communities and cultural centers, to coordinate events.
- **Transform the Gala into a traditional biennial event to celebrate the Romanian presence and community accomplishments in Minnesota**

I want to thank you all for your confidence in me! None of these goals would be possible without your ongoing encouragement and support.

- **Monica Nedelcu-Erickson**

Get to know HORA's board members by visiting the People page on our website:

<http://www.hora-mn.org/people.html>

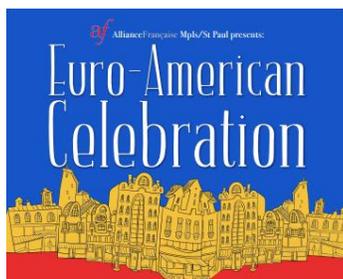
HORA'S Board at Work



Pictured above from left to right around the table: Octavian Cornea, Arria Giulan, Helena Orlandi, Gabriel Petre, Monica

Nedelcu-Erickson, Gina Popa, Raluca Octav and Vicki Albu.

Not pictured: Cleo Cabuz, Sinziana Cornea and Fr. Paul Hodge



May 1st-9th, 2013



Heritage Organization of
Romanian Americans in Minnesota

Join HORA for the Euro American Celebration

This spring, HORA was invited to participate in the Euro American Celebration held during the first nine days of May!

The event is presented by Alliance Francaise with support from the Delegation of the European Union to the USA.

Join us for this event to support our community and reconnect with our European roots.

Important dates:

Wed. May 1st **Meet the EU Opening Reception**

Nicollet Island Pavilion
4:00pm – 8:00pm

HORA will have an exhibit showcasing our community and organization.

Sat. May 4th **Young Professionals Networking Brunch**

Amore Victoria
10:30am – 1:30pm
Come and meet other Euro-

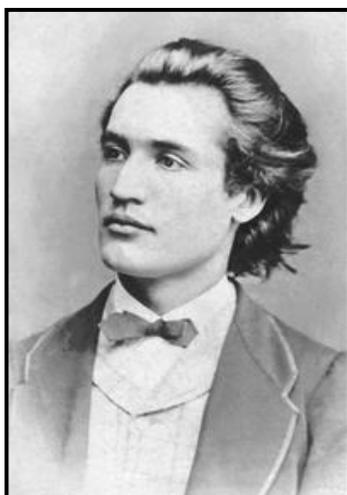
minded young professionals over brunch.

Tues. May 7th **European Wine Tasting**

The Wine Merchant in Mendota Heights. 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Sample a variety of European wines, including several Romanian wines!

For a complete list of events and details, please refer to the event flier on the last page of this newsletter.



*Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889)
Romanian poet, novelist and
journalist.*

Falling in love with Eminescu, again.

One can never forget the Eminescu lyrics we grew up with, but it is not every day that one gets the opportunity to sit down with friends and talk at length about his legacy. Until recently...

Responding to a spontaneous, last-minute idea to commemorate Eminescu's birth on January 15th, 1850, a few of us got together to read, recite and sing along to some of the poet's most

famous lyrics. Sitting in a small circle, around the fireplace, we each took turns sharing our stories and memories of discovering and learning about Eminescu as young elementary students, and later on in high school and throughout young adulthood. A cold January Sunday afternoon quickly turned into a warm and magical moment, filled with romantic and sweet lyrics, bringing back deep

emotions and fueling a renewed love.

HORA is interested in starting a series of Romanian Nights, where literature enthusiasts could come together and renew their appreciation and love for the Romanian poetry, drama and theater.

Please contact HORA if you are interested and can help organize Romanian Cultural Events!

Lucifer – Mihai Eminescu, 1884 [fragment]

*“Come down, good Lucifer and kind,
O lord of my aspire,
And fill the forest and my mind
With your sweetest fire!”*

*And Lucifer, alone in space,
Her tender summons heard,
A planet o'er the ocean's face
That trembled at her word,*

*But did not plunge as'n former day
And in his heart did cry:
“O, what care you, fair face of clay,
If it be he or I?”*

*Still earth shall only earth remain,
Let luck its course unfold,
And I in my own kingdom reign
Immutable and cold.”*

English version by Corneliu M. Popescu

Documenting Romanian Early Immigration to Minnesota

Although Romanian immigration to Minnesota started back in the early 1900s, the local official archives and depositories hold a fairly limited amount of documentation on it.

In December 2012, HORA was awarded a \$7000 Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to conduct an oral history project.

The purpose of this project is to record and preserve the stories of how Romanian immigrants first came to Minnesota and how their cultural heritage has been preserved here.

The team is lead by Vicki Albu with support and assistance provided by Monica Nedelcu-Erickson, Raluca Octav and Dorrene Hern of the Romanian Genealogy Society. Gabi Petre, a new HORA board member and an energetic supporter of the project connected the team with several Jewish community members of Romanian ancestry.

Typically, oral histories are audio-recorded and then type-written transcripts are made of each interview and deposited in a designated historical archive. This project is unique because HORA partnered with Town Square Television (TST) to professionally video-record the interviews.

Both the digital video recordings and the typewritten transcripts of each interview will be deposited with the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS), and also offered to the Minnesota History Center and the University of Minnesota's

Immigration History Research Center.

To date, HORA has interviewed Ann Bongard, Eugene Evasku, Vasile Jura, Ella Choban Motu, John Omorean, John Sarafolean, Joe Stoi, Mihai Ticiu, and Philip Toconita.

Each of these individuals has close connections to family members who immigrated to North America in the early 1900s. Interview discussion topics included reasons for immigration, modes of travel, adapting to changes, memories of traditions and cooking, family and marriage, education and work life, religious rituals and entertainment.

Stay tuned for an upcoming series of articles and stories shared by the interviewees which HORA will start publishing in the future newsletters.

To continue this work, HORA is now exploring the possibility of obtaining additional grants to support follow-on recordings and documentation of mid and late 1900s immigration, pre and post Communist era.

If you or a family member would like to share your immigration story, please contact HORA.



Preparing to interview Mr. Phil Tocanita



Mr. Vasile Jura



Mrs. Ella Choban Motu



Mr. John Omorean



Mr. Joe Stoi



Mr. John Sarafolean



Mrs. Ann Bongard



Mr. Gene Evasko



Mr. Mihai Ticiu

New website in the works!

A new website for HORA is due to be released this spring!

The new site will be full of new features for everyone's viewing pleasure. It will be much more interactive, and allow community members to easily give feedback and make suggestions for types of events, projects, goals, etc. There will also be a new page called "Community Stories", where HORA will showcase individuals from the community. Our quarterly newsletters will feature one member from the community doing something interesting and/or meaningful. On the website, there will be many more stories, and updates will be ongoing.

We know you will enjoy the new HORA website!

Valer Popa – *"I could totally do this for the rest of my life."*

Creative Writing MFA Program in English Literature at Cornell University.

Originally from Bucharest, Romania, Valer immigrated to Minnesota with his parents, Gina and Laurentiu Popa, in 1995. His passion for literature and storytelling began at a very young age, a passion he describes in heart-warming detail in his mini-biography set to be published on the HORA webpage "Community Stories" in the spring of 2013. We have included an excerpt from this article as this newsletter's Community story.



Valer Popa graduated with a B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Chicago.

**Good luck Valer,
HORA is very proud of you!**

"When I was four years old, I discovered a taste for telling stories to an empty room. Back then, when we still lived in Bucharest, in the Drumul Taberei district, all I needed was a bit of open space, somewhere where no one could see me, where I could run endlessly in circles and leave behind little mists of spit - my lips trying tirelessly to mimic the sound of spinning helicopter blades and airplane propellers.

For some reason, my stories could only be told in this way, because only in this way could they materialize, like films, inside my mind. Plot lines, characters, and intricate action scenes were always clearest to me as I jumped over toys and furniture, or as I dove, head-first, into a couch - enacting

some catastrophic explosion that marked the climax of an epic melodrama.

Three years later, when we moved to Minnesota, I learned to tell my stories in English (or at least what I felt sounded like English). Suddenly, they seemed more important when told in this other language. I almost felt responsible for them. I felt the need to improve them, to make them better and this brought along a new kind of pleasure, one I hadn't experienced before. 'Boy,' I'd say, pausing in the middle of a big scene to catch my breath, 'I could totally do this for the rest of my life.'

(Continue reading the rest of Valer's story on the soon-to-be-launched HORA website.)

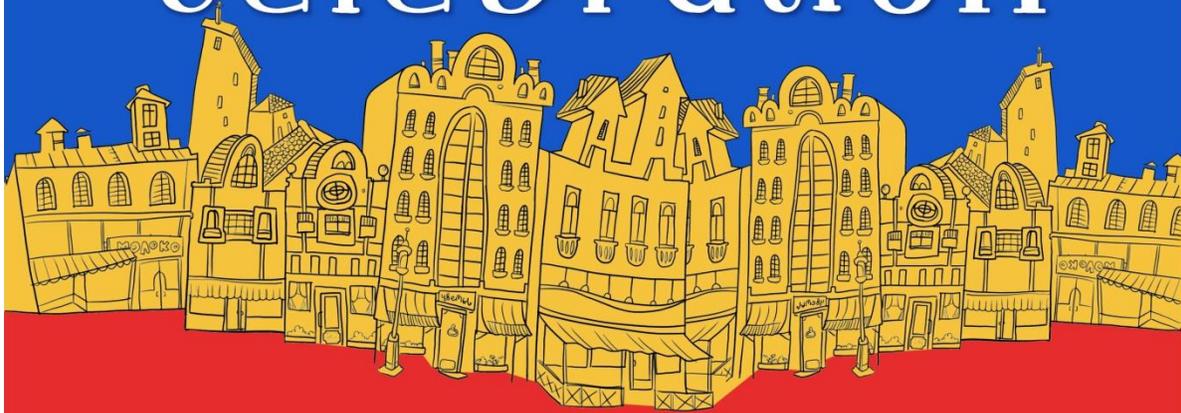
UPCOMING EVENTS AND LATEST NEWS

- HORA's next event will be a "Career Growth Workshop" taking place in June, 2013.
- Also, Andrei Codrescu, the NPR author, after meeting with our members the other night, suggested an event hosted by him.
- We have applied for funding from the Romanian Foreign Affairs department.

Stay tuned for our future communication!

af Alliance Française Mpls/St Paul presents:

Euro-American Celebration



wed MAY 1 Meet the EU Opening Reception
Nicollet Island Pavilion, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Free, All Are Welcome
In Partnership with the City of Minneapolis

thur MAY 2 Reach for the Stars: The Europe-Minnesota
Aerospace Connection
Learn how technology partnerships are shaping the way we live, from Earth to the International Space Station and beyond.
Carlson School of Management
7:30 AM – 10:30 AM Breakfast & Networking
\$15 for Students with ID, \$25 General Public
In Partnership with AirSpace Minnesota

fri MAY 3 Ciné Club: Laugh in Europe
The 4th annual Eurochannel Short-Film Tour
Alliance Française, 7:00 PM
Free, All Are Welcome
In Partnership with Eurochannel

sat MAY 4 Young Professionals Networking Brunch
Les Jeunes Cadres Dynamiques of Alliance Française host their European counterparts for this mixer in the heart of Uptown. Come, meet other Euro-minded young professionals over brunch!
Amore Victoria, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM
\$15

sun MAY 5 European Story Time
Treat your family to tales and activities from the EU as told by partnering cultural centers.
Red Balloon Bookshop, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Free, All Are Welcome

sun MAY 5 European Cup Soccer Tournament & Barbecue
Maple Grove, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Contact AF for more information: 612 332 0436

mon MAY 6 Business in Europe: Free Trade Today
Special guest Giulio Menato from the EU Delegation's Trade & Agriculture Section will join local business experts in discussing Free Trade, followed by break-out sessions and lunch.
University of St Thomas, Opus College of Business
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
\$20 Members, \$30 General Public
In Partnership with the University of St Thomas

tue MAY 7 European Wine Tasting
Wine is an essential part of culture in many areas, don't miss this tour of Europe's finest vineyards.
The Wine Merchant in Mendota Heights, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Free, All Are Welcome (Ages 21 & Older)

wed MAY 8 European Capitals of Culture
Learn more about the cultures selected by the EU for a year of celebration and fanfare: Marseille, France and Košice, Slovakia.
Germanic-American Institute, St. Paul, 6:00 PM
Free, All Are Welcome

thur MAY 9 Europe Day Soirée de Clôture
Join us for a toast to Europe Day!
Bachelor Farmer Restaurant, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
\$60 Members, \$85 Non-Members
Space is limited, Advance reservations required to Alliance Française at 612 332 0436.
In Partnership with Grand-Pere Wines

This series is made possible with support from the Delegation of the European Union to the USA

