



Newsletter volume VI

March 2012

from HORA ceramic collections



In December 2011, HORA hosted a Romanian Day at the University of Minnesota, to honour young new player Alexandra Ionescu, who became part of the Women's Gopher Team. HORA offered Romanian food to the Fast Break Club and Ticket Holders and to other guests from the University and the Romanian Community. Don Shelby, well known for his involvement with the Romanian orphans after the anticommunist revolution of 1989, was also present, signing his new book "The Season Never Ends". He graciously partook in our Romanian celebration; the dance ensemble IZVORASUL also participated with a much applauded performance.



Romanian Genealogy Formed with Ties to HORA

In November 2011, an offshoot group was formed: the Romanian Genealogy Society. There are very few groups in the U.S. or worldwide with a similar focus. The purpose of the Romanian Genealogy Society (RGS) is exclusively educational, and is to:

- Foster interest in Romanian genealogy;
- Provide an opportunity for exchange of knowledge about Romania, Romanian immigration, and Romanian family history research;

In this newsletter:

- December 2011 event
- Romanian Genealogy Society
- Membership and donations
- Save the date
- Romanian soprano Roxana Constantinescu
- From HORA photo collection of Romanian ceramic and textiles



"In January 2012, Romanian soprano Roxana Constantinescu performed with the Minnesota Opera in "Werther" by Massenet. To celebrate Roxana's arrival in Minnesota, the Cabuz family hosted a welcome reception at their home, along with several HORA members. It is our great fortune that Roxana will be in town again and has graciously accepted to be part of an extended HORA event at that time."

- Encourage the establishment of Romanian genealogical resources;
- Hold meetings for the instruction and interest of its members;
- Collect and publish genealogical, biographical, and historical material relating to people of Romanian descent; and
- Work with other organizations to inform about and preserve Romanian genealogy and heritage.

Continued on Page 2

Officers of the group are Vicki Albu, president; Dorrene Dragos Hern, secretary; and Peggy Corniea, treasurer. The group meets quarterly, and the next meeting will be on Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m. at Minnesota Genealogical Society Library, Room 218, 1185 North Concord Street, South St. Paul, MN. Annual membership dues are \$20 per household. In collaboration with HORA, one of the first projects of the group is to interview Romanian-Americans with connections to the South Saint Paul community in order to produce a small publication in 2012 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the City of South St. Paul. Since the early 1900s, Romanian immigrants and St. Stefan's Church have been elements of the fabric of South St. Paul's proud working class heritage. For more information, contact Vicki Albu at young754@umn.edu or by phone (651) 402-6805. Find the group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RomanianGenealogySociety.

Central & Eastern European Family History Conference, April 27-28, 2012

If you are interested in immigration history and the study of genealogy, please take note of this conference, which will take place on April 27-28, 2012 at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights. For the first time, the conference will feature a full track of Romanian presentations by Dorrene Hern of Romanian Genealogy Society, Vicki Albu, Raluca Octav and Bogdan Filipescu of HORA, and Daniel Necas of the U of M's Immigration History Research Center. The conference will feature nationally known genealogist and author John Philip Coletta, Ph.D. and many prominent local speakers on over 15 topics. For more information and to register for the conference, go to www.mngs.org.



Bongard family picture



RGS meeting



Sarafolean family picture

DONATIONS

HORA is a non-profit organization, heavily reliant on donations and volunteer work, not unlike other organizations. For information visit our website at www.hora-mn.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

After more than two years and several events under our belts, the HORA board has established the need for volunteers to help with the everyday organizational functions. Until now, all the work surrounding the events, the planning, the managing, the publishing, the mailing and many other activities needed to keep the organization active were shared by the members of the board who doubled as executive managers. We could use your talent to help with fundraising, membership, advertising, mailing, merchandise production and selling, event management, etc. Please, email HORA to let us know your interests and to volunteer! info@hora-mn.org.

Last, but not least. In February, St Mary's Church invited a group of Romanian entertainers on tour through the US. The show was professionally presented, entertaining and the attendance partook in dancing, singing and all had a really great time. Pictured below is folk singer Maria Dragomiroiu. On March 1st, Romanians celebrate the "MARTISOR", little "marchling", a celebration of love, friendship and the coming spring.



The Romanian-American Dream Awards Gala **At The University Club**

It is our distinct pleasure to introduce you to the Romanian–American Dream Awards Gala!

For the first time ever, the Romanian Community in Minnesota and its guests will come together to recognize and celebrate outstanding Romanian & American individuals for their unique accomplishments and contributions to the livelihood of each other's communities. While these achievements are rooted in relentless commitment and hard work, it all starts with a dream.

Please join us for an elegant and highly engaging evening with remarkable artists, great food, music and dance. We will honor our Romanian heritage, celebrate our diversity, and lay the path for our younger roots to grow stronger.

When: Saturday, June 9th, 2012, 6:00-11:00 PM.

Where: University Club St. Paul, 420 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102.

***Please take a moment and send in your nominations for the
Romanian–American Dream Awards!***

Romanian – American Dream Awards and Qualifications:

1. Romanian Traditions Promotion Excellence Award
2. Community Service Excellence Award

Romanians who have integrated newcomers, coached and mentored children and youth, helped elderly in Minnesota

or

Americans who have helped Romanian communities in Romania or Minnesota

3. Romanian Achievement in MN Excellence Award

Awards submission deadline: April 30th, 2012

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>>>Event organized by HORA, the Heritage Organization of Romanian Americans in Minnesota<<<

www.hora-mn.org