

# December 2010 Newsletter

## Volume III

### FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

This newsletter marks the end of a very important year for HORA. Our ambition of sponsoring four events in 2010 has been successful! We have started our adventure more than a year ago, in the fall of 2009, and we can now review accomplishments and use the lessons learned in our upcoming activities.

#### 1

On March 13 we hosted a springtime event on the University of Minnesota campus that showcased Romanian Spring Customs and The Dance Ensemble *Izvorasul*. John Omorean, the Ensemble's artistic director, gave a well-received presentation on The Romanian Folk Dance and its Influences. The Ensemble demonstrated dances from different folkloric areas of Romania.

The Spring Customs presentation about Martisor - a token of spring and love - ended with the presenter Pasa Bortnova offering *mastisoare* to the ladies in the audience.

Another presentation was on traditional foods, and HORA provided participants the opportunity to sample Mucenici, delicious baked goods with both lay and religious roots.



Mucenici, cooked for the springtime event

2

On May 1 HORA sponsored the Romanian booth at the Festival of Nations, held at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

The booth showcased “Dracula: facts + fiction” and exhibited Romanian folk art. Power point presentations were shown on Romanian history and well-known personalities, Castles of Transylvania and Vlad the Impaler, a.k.a. Dracula.



Romanian booth at the Festival of Nations, 2010

This presentation inspired our forth event of the year through the invitation by the St Paul Public Library to be part of the October Dracula Fest.

3

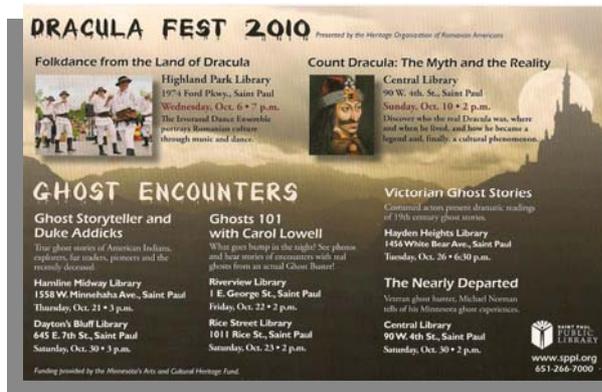
On May 22, at the Augsburg College Hoversten Chapel, HORA presented Romanian Songs and Sounds, a classical music concert featuring young performers with Romanian/ Minnesotan ties.

Piano players Irina Nedelcu and Raluca Boac were joined by composer/tenor Codrut Birsan and baritone Ryan Thorne. They interpreted music by George Enescu, Paul Constantinescu and Codrut Birsan.



The artists at the Songs and Sounds event, 2010

Our fourth and last event of 2010 took place on October 10. A presentation of Dracula – legend and history – was given at the St Paul Public Library.



Prior to this presentation, on October 6, John Omorean and *Izvorasul* performed another dance show at the Highland Public Library, which was co-sponsored by HORA.

Our Dracula Facts and Fiction presentation has drawn so much interest that we are keeping it available to the

interested public and to HORA friends on Facebook, as a permanent sales product.

### Lessons Learned and Next Steps

We list all of these events in the column of Achievements, since most drew an audience of about 40-60 people each, which, considering the “youth” of our organization is extremely encouraging.

Other achievements include the creation of the Romanian Chapter of the Minnesota Genealogical Society affiliated with HORA. We owe this recognition to board member Vicki Albu.



Board meeting at Border bookshop, 2010

We also welcomed several new Advisory Board Members who bring valuable skills to HORA. John Omorean joined us as dance/folklore advisor, Raluca Boac as musical advisor, and Bogdan Filipescu brings his expertise as volunteer coordinator.

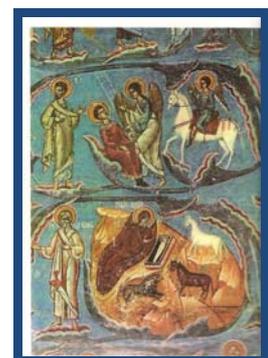
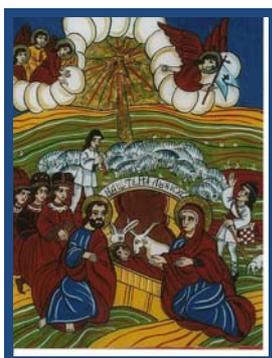
Several crucial issues however, have been slower to develop, such as fund raising (due to the economic climate as well as a lack of a knowledgeable driving force),

membership, advertising and promotion, grants applications, and a stronger connection with the media.

These challenges point to the fact that the HORA Board is still learning how to develop our ideas into a sustainable organizational plan. We are addressing this by learning from our experiences, and by involving a larger number of volunteers with much needed skills. If you are interested to volunteer with us, we would be happy to hear from you!

We have been proven right about the “need” for our organization. We now need to make it work and become the useful tool that we envisioned it to be.

Here at the end of 2010, we wish you all *Happy Holidays*, embracing the diversity of your celebrations. Please check our website for Christmas/Winter cards. They are available for sale, and samples are shown below.



### HORA Contact Information:

[www.hora-mn.org](http://www.hora-mn.org)

[info@hora-mn.org](mailto:info@hora-mn.org)

PO Box 41397, Plymouth MN 55442