



Newsletter volume IV, February 2011

A NEW YEAR. NEW PLANS. NEW HOPES

Looking back... and looking forward!

Even though we are happy and proud of our attendance so far, we have to accept that not all our potential attendees have the time or the means to reach our events in this format. Thus, we decided to also try other formats in 2011 and new ways in reaching our public. While still offering seated presentations for the more entertaining events, we plan to increase the reach of our web site by offering abstracts of all our power point presentations. Some will shortly be present on our site ("Castles of Transylvania", Romanian Spring Customs", "Early Romanian Immigration in Minnesota", "Dracula Fest 2010"). Others are in the works (such as "Romanian Icons", Romanian Painted Monasteries", etc). All these presentations have a longer version that can be offered by a HORA member per request for a fee.

Also, in order to encourage members' collaboration, HORA will execute PP presentations based on special requests from the public.

HORA will be part of other Twin Cities events. Between May 5-8, HORA will organize the Romanian Booth at the Festival of Nations and on July 30th will staff the cultural booth at the 5th Annual Romanian Festival of the St Stefan's Romanian Orthodox Church.

Our organization will also work on its own ongoing projects. HORA has joined the Minnesota Genealogical Society through its new "Genealogy Chapter". In 2011, two main projects will be jumpstarted: Romanian Genealogy: Researching and Preserving Your Family History and, the Oral History Project. Our members will be informed of the progress of these projects through the Newsletter.

For 2011, HORA planned two main events:

The first event is: "Izvorasul"- 30 years of Romanian Folk Presence in Minnesota

This event will take place at the Coffman Union Mississippi room on the U of M campus on 4/2/11 and will showcase the director of the Ensemble, John Omorean. He will present highlights of his career of over 30 years, excerpts of home and professional films, hardships encountered and success stories. He will also bring guests, former and actual members of the ensemble and members of the children's ensemble "Dunarea si Randunica" to recount stories and exchange memories.

The second event will be held in December 2011. It will be a *"Black tie event"* focused on socializing, connecting and fundraising.

Details about this event will be available later this summer.

Starting in 2011 we also plan to present in our Newsletter outstanding members of the Romanian American Community in Minnesota.

We take this opportunity to start the series with the leader of the **Dance Ensemble Izvorasul – John Omorean** as our first outstanding Minnesotan Romanian American.

John Omorean is the Romanian American par excellence, with a soul as big as both countries, at that. The used and abused expression: larger than life persona is in his case, a perfect fit. Born in a Romanian village in Banat, Serbia, John grew up and Ontario. He graduated from McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, and studied in Bucharest, Romania for a research specialist certificate at the Institute of Folklore and Ethnography. He attended the George Enescu School of Choreography and also, participated in field research with the Institute of Folklore staff learning and understanding the Romanian dance at its roots.



Back in Canada, he worked with the Multi-Cultural History Society of Ontario and the University of Toronto as field researcher of the Immigrant experience in Canada. In Minnesota, John founded the "Izvorasul Dance Ensemble", danced with the ensemble at festivals, fairs, weddings, conventions, theatres and at various community functions.

John is a dance creator and promoter of the beauty of the folk dance in different areas of Romania, mindful of its diversity due to the influences of the surrounding areas. He choreographed more than forty suites of dances for the Izvorasul, Dunarea and Randunica (the Lark) ensembles. For many Romanian children and their parents, John has been a bridge of comfort and pride which he continues to be to this day.

HORA is proud and honored to be trusted with showcasing his accomplishment in April 2011.

End notes

We thank all of you who have donated to our organization in the past year and we hope to increase your trust in our commitment.

In 2011 we hope to improve our volunteer reach and our fundraising efforts adding sponsors and grantors to our development. We are also planning to learn how to reach out to a larger number of interested people and organizations.

We have been blessed with

In hopes for a good year for HORA, we thank again to all our supporters.