

ISLANDS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY APPEAL/NEWSLETTER 2011

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

I.M.A.S. 2011 Fundraising Goal: \$30,000

Dear Friends,

As we approach the 10th anniversary of I.M.A.S., we extend our heartfelt thanks for your time, support and generous donations, which helped us surpass our 2010 fundraising goal of \$15,000 to aid the islands of Mali Losinj, Cres, Ilovik, Susak, Unije and Male i Vele Sra-kane.

Our 2011 fundraising goal is \$30,000, and your dona-tions will make the delivery of EKG machines, defibril-lators and hospital beds to Cres and Losinj a reality.

Your generosity over the past ten years is the reason we have been able to help this worthy cause and we hope to continue to count on your support. All dona-tions are tax deductible* and should be sent to:

I.M.A.S.
c/o Anita Pagan
P.O. Box 314
Manhasset, NY 11030

*Donations are tax deducti-ble according to 501(c)3 not-for-profit charity regu-lations.

Mission Statement:

I.M.A.S., a not-for-profit corporation, is a humani-tarian foundation created in the USA to support the health services for the peo-ple of the islands of CRES, LOSINJ, ILOVIK, SUSAK, MALE & VELE SRAKANE, and UNIJE in Croatia.

Cilj Udruge:

I.M.A.S. je dobrotvorna i neprofitna udruga osno-vana u New Yorku, SAD, s ciljem da potpomogne pružanju zdravstvenih us-luga stanovnicima otoka CRES, LOŠINJ, ILOVIK, SUSAK, MALE i VELE SRAKANE, i UNIJE u Hrvatskoj.

**ISLANDS MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE SOCIETY
APPEAL/NEWSLETTER
2011**



**PLEASE VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT:
www.imasus.org**

**SAVE THE DATE!
10TH ANNIVERSARY
DINNER DANCE
ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 3,
2012**

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President
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Anita Pagan
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Marco Pinezic
Klaudjo Simicic
Marie Urem
Natalie Vlakancic



**AWARD PRESENTED TO I.M.A.S. IN NOVEMBER, 2010
BY CITY OF MALI LOSINJ**

Carnival Masquerade Ball

The annual I.M.A.S. dinner-dance, organized by Maria Cividini, was held on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at Villa Amalfi in Cliffside Park, NJ. Guests were encouraged to arrive in costume for the “Carnival” masquerade-themed ball.



REVELERS AWAITING RELEASE FROM ‘JAIL’ AT THE BALL!

In a comical ruse to raise additional funds, a ‘policeman’ patrolled amongst the revelers and ‘arrested’ misbehaving masqueraders at a fine of \$1 each; bail was then set at \$2!

Performing at the event were Gina Picinic and Mario Nikolic, and guests were also treated to the company of Zlatko Komadina, VP of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia and Prefect of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. The net profit collected for the event exceeded \$7,000. Prof-

its will be divided between hospital beds for Dom Zdravlja in Mali Losinj, Croatia, and an EKG machine and defibrillator for the ambulance in Cres.

Over the past ten years, I.M.A.S. has sent over \$300,000 of medical equipment to the island hospitals and local ambulances through their annual fundraisers, such as the Carnival Ball. I.M.A.S. has set the bar for quality help in its mission to obtain the items that health professionals from the island hospitals and ambulances have deemed necessary. In most in-



BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF I.M.A.S. ENJOYING THE SPREAD AT VILLA AMALFI

stances, the equipment provided rises above the minimum standard mandated by the Croatian Health Association for the islands.

I.M.A.S. looks to continue the tradition of the old country, with whom they have not cut ties, in spite of the distance. Marie Urem adds, “Many of us, myself included, were born and raised in America with a heart for Croatia and their people. This was instilled in me by my ancestry. I hope that I.M.A.S. stays strong and continues to help the islands and our people for years to come.”

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The Rockaway Hunting Club Golf Outing



THE ROCKAWAY HUNTING CLUB IS THE OLDEST COUNTRY CLUB & SPORTING VENUE IN THE U.S.

Chaired by Dario and Liliana Muskardin, the Golf Outing Tournament was held at The Rockaway Hunting Club on Wednesday, June 8, 2011. 96 participants were treated to a beautiful, sunny day on the Club’s amazing 18-hole championship golf course. The winner of the outing received a follow-up day of golf and a lunch

at the Club. “This was a lot of work, but Rose Maracic, Dusanka Marusic, and Ines Kucich were all there and very helpful, as always, and Dario’s nephew, Cedo Mara, brought over half of the players,” said Liliana. Revenue from the event was approximately \$22,000, and an additional

\$6,000 in donations was presented by members of the Club in Dario and Liliana’s honor.

More recently, a celebration was held the weekend of October 22, 2011 in honor of Dario’s 50th year at the Club. Dario and Liliana’s daughter and her husband flew in from Italy to attend the event. As

a thank you, an additional \$1,000 donation to I.M.A.S. was made on behalf of the Club. Notes Liliana, “The members of the Club really care about our volunteer work. They appreciate the fact that we are helping our hospital in our home town.”

Liliana is looking to use funds raised to purchase hospital beds that can be adjusted for different comfort levels. The idea stemmed from a visit she and Anita Pagan took to the hospital for a friend recovering from a hip-replacement surgery. Liliana adds, “Some of the older beds in the hospital look like they are from the vojska [military]. So I really hope that we can accomplish this, that we can fulfill this request for them.”

Hunter's Dinner

On April 29, 2011, friends of I.M.A.S. joined our Board for the annual Hunter's Dinner, hosted this year by Anton Benvin and Dusanka Marusic at the welcoming Lawrence Beach Club on the shores of the Atlantic.

The funds raised at the event will help I.M.A.S. to send an EKG machine to Cres and hospital beds to Mali Losinj Ambulanta.

The managers of the club, Bill and Cathy Rogynsky, made the night possible, and honored the memory of Peter Maracic and Luigi Benvin. Luigi, who was born in Zbisina, launched the hunter's dinner over 30 years ago by gathering his closest friends and family together to enjoy their "catch of the season." His hunting buddies included his cousin, Anton Benvin, and Marco Bunicci, originally from Cres, but living in Woodmere, NY. Luigi and his buddies hunted venison in

the upstate New York town of Stanford. The semi-related Peter Maracic joined the group with his catch from Cuddleback, NY, usually caught by his son-in-law Sime Marusic, known as the "Dalmatian-Indian." Every winter they would invite friends and family to savor a meal prepared by Luigi's brother-in-law, John Zorovich, at the Rockaway Hunting Club in Lawrence, NY, whose manager of 50



GUESTS ENJOYING VENISON, WINE
& GOOD COMPANY

years, Nick Benvin, was Luigi's brother.

After I.M.A.S. was formed, the group began a new tradition of collecting donations to support the health services of the Cres and Losinj islands, thus joining forces with I.M.A.S.

With the recent passing of both Peter and Luigi, a new generation has stepped in to support I.M.A.S.

Peter's grandson, Anthony Marusic, not only prepared this year's standard Croatian feast of venison and polenta, "like Nona used to make," but also harvested the venison from his grandfather's land. John Benvin and Little John, Luigi's son and grandson, also joined the celebration, thus bridging the memories and traditions of the Croatians of a distant land with the American-born generations.

"THE
MEMBERS...REALLY
CARE ABOUT OUR
VOLUNTEER WORK.
THEY APPRECIATE
THE FACT THAT WE
ARE HELPING OUR
HOSPITAL IN OUR
HOME TOWN."

2011 Donors: Thank you for your continued support!

Maria Abbatte
Renata Abrahami
Anton and Ketj Angelich
Lino and Luciana Basic
Lois Benvin
Maryanne Benvin
Nicholas Bertha
Marcello and Ester Bonifacic
Maria Bozicevic
Anthony Bunicich
Antonio and Dorothy Burburan
Renzo Carcich
Lina Cavedoni
Antonio Cogliavina
Annamaria and Pino D'Angelo
Steven DiMare
Renata Dumicic
John Emery
Vera Fabris
Laura Fermeiglia
G&L Plumbing Co.
Laura and Andrew Galosic
Corinne and Steve Ganzerla
Silvana Gasparovich
Edward Gentner

Adriana and Richard Gladitz
Roselina and Drago Grskovic
Stephen Grzic
Joseph Hansen
Pompeo Hronicich
Mattea Karcic
Laura and Karl Kerceland
Cedomir and Catherine Mara
Ida and Giorgio Marinzoli
Dusanka Marusic
Nives Mattiasich
Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Maver
Joseph and Nada Mezic
Matthew Miller
Benito and Nevio Mircovich
Josip and Nada Nadalin
Margaret and John Nicolich
Sime and Karmen Nikolic
Anita Pagan
Guido and Theresa Petrani
Antonio and Lillian Picinich
Antonietta and Walter Pogliani
Aleksandra and Maria Popovic
Prince Electric
Anna and Joseph Radelich

Joseph Radoslovich
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia
Barry Ringelheim
Fedora Rucconich
Rita Saganic
Romeo and Rosemary Saganic
St. Nicholas Society of Sansego
Rita Saraceni
Nick and Mary Sepcich
Ruggero and Carmen Sucich
John Sweeney
Kresimir and Bianca Telesmanich
National Land Tenure
Jakov and Mariangela Toich
Nora and Michael Torchiano
Trucking and Moving
United Miners Club
Urbano and Vanda Venturi
Giordano Vidulich
Liljana and Joseph Vlakancic
Miroslav and Janne Vlakancic
Zdravka Vlakancic
Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilson



www.imasus.org

A History of I.M.A.S.

Founded in 2002, the Islands Medical Assistance Society (I.M.A.S.) is a not-for-profit humanitarian foundation created in the USA to support the health services for the people of the islands of Cres, Losinj, Ilovik, Susak, Male and Vele Srakane, and Unije in Croatia. Since its inception, I.M.A.S. has donated x-ray and EKG machines, portable respirators, defibrillators, anesthesia equipment, stretchers and wheelchairs, and numerous other basic medical supplies, to the local island hospital, senior care centers, and private and satellite clinics.

The commitment to supporting the healthcare needs of the islands began long before the founding of I.M.A.S. An article published in late 2001 titled, "Losinjska bolnica u - komi" [Losinj Hospital in a coma] unveiled the dire situation of the hospital. "It was desperate," noted Maria Cividini. "At the same time the article was written, a private committee for the dialysis movement had been formed in Mali Losinj. My father was in it." After a ski trip organized and attended by Maria, Dario and Liliana Muskardin, and 2 mutual friends, it was decided that the mission was simple: "How can we help?"

Over 300 phone calls to family, friends and Croatian organizations resulted in 80 people attending their very first meeting held at the Istra Club in Astoria, NY, on February 24, 2002. Liliana Muskardin said the outpouring of support was a result of, "...this being on everyone's mind for years. We decided early on that we didn't want to send sheets, blankets, or money; just equipment. We wanted something *lasting*, something that couldn't be removed." Klaudio Simicic called Mario Dumicic, a resident of Cliffside Park, NJ, and asked if he would coordinate with the officials in Losinj on behalf of I.M.A.S. He quickly agreed. Notes Liliana, "Everyone's response was, 'Of course I'll help.' There were no questions asked. Everyone was on board to start

this." In the USA, after the official incorporation of I.M.A.S., Maria Cividini began researching ways to speed up the 501(c)3 approval process. Her efforts helped the organization to obtain 501(c)3 status in under a year.



THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN LATE 2001 THAT SPURRED THE IDEA FOR I.M.A.S.

Once the organization was approved as a registered charity, Mario Dumicic was voted in as I.M.A.S.'s first president and under his guidance, the group reached out to Dr. Vjekoslav Devcic, Hospital Director of Dom Zdravlja; Zuber, the President of Dialysis; and Mayor Dragan Balija of Mali Losinj to determine the hospital's most pressing needs. Dr. Devcic half-jokingly requested an x-ray machine, which at that time was the most advanced model in Croatia.

The first fundraiser was a raffle organized by Anita Pagan. A golf outing organized in October 2002 by Liliana Muskardin and Dusanka Marusic was also a success, as was a dinner/dance gala held in February of 2003 organized by Maria and Mario. Held at La Fortuna in Fairview, NJ, over 400 people attended. There were also 2 dances organized in Losinj for the dialysis. Notes Maria, "We had a splash! All the local politicians came, we were giving speeches left and right; it was a time! People are still asking if we're organizing another dance in the summer." Adds Klaudio,

"They didn't believe we were serious, that we could do it; but we got the machine; we sent it to the hospital. I think we shocked the whole island of Losinj! We did so well the first year."

As I.M.A.S. nears its 10th Anniversary in 2012, we recognize that the past and continued success of I.M.A.S. would not have been possible without the dedication of our Board and the generosity of our donors. I.M.A.S. is a not-for-profit organization; your donation is tax-deductible according to 501 (c)3 not-for-profit charity regulations. All donations raised will go directly to support our outreach efforts in continuing to bring much-needed medical supplies and equipment to benefit the island communities of Croatia.

We ask you once again to please open your hearts to our worthy cause and help to kick off our 2012 fundraising efforts!

**Islands Medical Assistance Society
c/o Anita Pagan
P.O. Box 314
Manhasset, NY 11030**

On behalf of I.M.A.S., we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Save the Date!

**I.M.A.S. 10th Anniversary
Dinner/Dance**

**Saturday,
March 3, 2012**