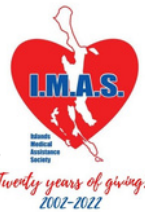


# IMAS NEWSLETTER

ISLANDS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF GIVING!



IMAS was invited to meet with Zupan (County Executive), Zlatko Komadina, at Lječilište (Wellness Center) in Veli Lošinj. Marta Fazlic, former radio announcer from Mali Lošinj, IMAS Board Members Rose Maracic, Miroslav & Ivanka Eror and I met the Director, Renata Zugic, at the newly renovated facility, Villa Elizabeta.

The Zupan and Podzupan (Deputy County Executive), Marina Medaric, included us in a busy day of meetings and repeatedly shared how grateful they were for our support. The Zupania allocates funding to help Lječilište operate services for the residents of the islands and visitors. On this occasion, they showcased the newly built parking lot of the facility. Each and every renovation helps to improve the patient experience during challenging times.

On behalf of the county, I was presented with a ceramic plaque for IMAS. Director Zugic gave us a tour of the facility and showed us how the items we donated last year are being used. She introduced us to the Pulmonary Doctor, Ivana Jukić Soldičić, who explained how our donation, the Asthma Nitric Oxide Monitor, helps in diagnosing patients. The patients would have otherwise needed to go to Rijeka KBC for the diagnosis before she would be able to treat them. It's an example of how we are able to help improve the lives of local citizens. Please visit: [www.ljeciliste-veli-losinj.hr](http://www.ljeciliste-veli-losinj.hr)

The recognition and heartfelt thanks IMAS received is shared here with YOU, our loyal supporters who have generously donated to the mission these past 20 years. Together, we've made a real difference. Thank you!

- Dusanka Marusic, President



### MISSION STATEMENT:

IMAS, a not for profit corporation, is a humanitarian foundation created in the USA to support the health services for the people of the islands of CRES, LOSINJ, ILOVIK, SUSAK, MALE & VELE SRAKANE, & UNIJE in Croatia

### APPEAL 2023

MAIL your DONATION to:

IMAS  
P.O. Box 314  
Manhasset, NY 11030

OR DONATE ONLINE AT:

[www.imasus.org](http://www.imasus.org)

FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK :

IMAS CRES LOSINJ  
(NO HYPHEN)

Support  
Islands Medical  
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When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com),  
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Your donation is tax deductible



## 20TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE LJEČILIŠTE VELI LOŠINJ

Dear Everyone from **IMAS**,

For your **20th anniversary**, we are saying a **big THANK YOU** from **Lječilište Veli Lošinj!**

Last year, you **donated** a **FeNO**, an apparatus that helps control **asthma**. Thanks to that donation, our patients can have their asthma properly **checked right here in Lošinj**.



Another important apparatus that you **donated** is the **Roche Cobas h 232**. This small point of care device **detects** if there is a **blood clot** in circulation, a potentially **life-threatening condition**. So, we **don't have to send a patient on a 3 hour journey** to the next hospital, we have **important information** on the spot. **It's priceless!**

I'm sending you a **testimonial** from one of our **thankful patients**.

**If it weren't for you and your donations, the health standard on the island would be lower.**

We wish you a **happy 20 year anniversary** and many more!

-Dr. Ivana Jukić Soldičić, Pulmonologist

### PATIENT TESTIMONIAL:

Poštovani,  
 Imam 28 godina.  
 Odrasta sam i živim na otoku Lošinj.  
 Prije 3 godine doživjela sam i preživjela plućnu emboliju.  
 Tada sam se liječila u Zagrebu, a sada radim i živim na otoku.  
 Nedavno sam osjetila bol u nozi, a zbog ranijeg iskustva, bojala sam se i pitala jeli ponovo u pitanju tromboza.  
 Drago mi je da mi je dr. Julio Soldičić mogla ispitati potreban parametar kako bismo otklonili sumnju i moj strah.  
 Mami je to bilo od velike važnosti jer sam rezultat dobila u samo par minuta, bez odlaska u Rijeku. Vistinu mi je puno značilo!  
 Hvala svima koji odvojaju sredstva za opremu i pomoć u zdravstvu!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS -  
OFFICERS  
2022-2023**

**President**  
Dusanka Marusic

**Executive Vice President**  
Ines Kucic

**Vice President**  
Justin Calabrese

**Secretary**  
Fedora Rucconich

**Assistant Secretary**  
Maris Cividini

**Treasurer**  
Loredana Beg

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Anton Benvin

**Lječilište's latest donation request is a Defibrillator.**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

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Robert Betic

Julie Butkovic

Jasna Dobrila

Ivanka Eror

Miroslav Eror\*

Doris Karcic

Eugene Kuljanic

Rose Maracic\*

Liliana Muskardin\*

Franko Neretich

Marina Pilic

Marco Pinezich

Klaudio Simicic

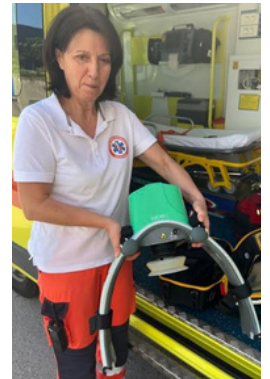
ADVISOR : PETER BUDINIC

FORMER PRESIDENTS \*

## CRES HITNO DONATION & MEETING

By: Marina Pilic

**Emergency Service or "Hitno" in the city of Cres, located in the same building with Dom Zdravlja (Primary Care), is a division of Emergency Medicine of Primorsko Goranska County in Croatia. These two services have been operated independently since 2011.**



**Emergency Service is responsible for providing emergency care from the most northern settlement on the island, Konac, up to the village of Belej in the south. They serve walk-ins, and go to the field utilizing their two emergency vehicles and a helicopter stationed in Krk. They are staffed by two teams.**

**Denis Gazilj, the nurse in charge of the Emergency Services in Cres, proudly showed me their state of the art equipment. She pointed out items donated by IMAS over the years, the most valuable being recently obtained, a battery operated mechanical chest compressor unit utilized in cardiac arrest patients. Luckily, during this visit Nurse Gazilj was able to give me a detailed tour of their facility since there were not any emergencies taking place at the time.**

**Hitno is eagerly awaiting an Autoclave sterilizer that is on IMAS' list of priorities to donate next.**



Life Saving Emergency Supplies donated 2022

# VIRTUAL PLANT BASED COOKING CLASS

In March, we hosted a **Virtual Plant Based Cooking Class** fundraiser with meal planning expert, **Stephanie Dreyer**. We had **22 attendees** and **all proceeds raised went toward IMAS' mission!** Stephanie generously **donated her time and talents**. We created **mint pea hummus** and a **hummus salad pizza**, a refreshing spring meal. It was a fun night on zoom and absolutely delicious! You can find out more about her at [stephaniedreyer.com](http://stephaniedreyer.com)



**Chairperson:** Julie Butkovic **Committee:** Doris Karcic, Liliana Muskardin

# 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN NJ

On **Sunday April 24, 2022**, at **La Fortuna Restaurant** in Fairview, NJ, **IMAS** celebrated **20 Years of Giving**. Due to the continued uncertainty with Covid, it was a modest but **enthusiastic** crowd, excited to **celebrate this momentous occasion** with us. The evening was nothing short of **magical!** The entertainers **Eleonora, Marko, Zvonimir and Marty** had **everyone** on the **dance floor** the **entire night**.

**La Fortuna Restaurant** once again did an **incredible job** for us, and it was very **special** to **host** our **20th anniversary** at the same venue that our **very first Dinner Dance** was held, **20 years ago** with **437 guests**.

The **honoree** at this event was our local Croatian / American artist, **George Karcich**, who supported IMAS from the very first day and **donated** one of his **original paintings** as a raffle prize, as he's done each and every year for the past 20 years. We are **grateful** to George for attending with a large group of his friends and family in support of our mission.

As always, we are **very grateful** to **all our guests** for their **continued support** and for making this special event a very **memorable** and **successful** one for **IMAS**. Our **"Thank You"** to all of our many **donors** of the valuable **raffle prizes** as well as the **"silent auction"** items.

**Special thanks** to my co-chair, **Ivanka Eror**, and committee, **Fedora Rucconich**, for all their help, as well as all of the **IMAS members** who attended and helped make sure this evening was a great success..

**By : Maris Cividini - Dance Co-chair**

**Chairperson:** Maris Cividini **Co-Chairperson:** Ivanka Eror **Committee:** Fedora Rucconich

IMAS  
Twenty years of giving!  
1992-2022

IMAS's Medical Assistance Society  
cordially invites you and your friends to  
**20th Anniversary Celebration**

at the Annual Fundraising Dinner Dance  
to benefit the Health Services on the Islands of  
Cres, Lasinj, Rovik, Susak, Srakane & Unije in Croatia

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Cocktail Hour at 4pm  
Open Bar - Dinner & Dancing to follow

La Fortuna  
430 Kennon Street, Fairview, NJ 07022

Entertainment by Marty & Eleonora

Guest of Honor, Artist George Karcich

Donation: \$135.00 per person  
Please RSVP with the enclosed card by April 10, 2022

WWW.IMASUS.ORG

All donations to IMAS are tax deductible according to 501(c)(2) not-for-profit charity regulations.



# 20TH ANNIVERSARY FEŠTA IN MALI LOŠINJ

In July, the “Celebrating 20 Years of Giving” fešta continued in Poljana, Mali Lošinj. It was a grand celebration with 140 attendees including locals from Ilovik, Nerezine, Cunski, Cres, Unije, Veli and Mali Lošinj, and many visitors from the various villages of these islands that were spending the summer there.

The festivities began with a mass celebrated by Fr. Robert Zubovic, one of our honorees, in Zupna Crkva (Parish Church) Lošinj. We then headed over to Poljana for the dinner dance, Folklore Dancers from Susak and Unije started the celebration off right with a great performance. Entertainers Mario Battifiaca, Karen Kuljanic, Robert Grubisic, Dule Dusko Jelacic with the group Bonaca supported IMAS by giving of their talents and entertaining all of us on this special occasion. Honoree Marta Fazlic read a letter from the Zupan.

Mali Lošinj Mayor Anna Kucic gave a speech thanking IMAS for our contributions. We thank Grad Mali Lošinj for making a donation toward IMAS' fundraising efforts.

Honorees Marta Fazlic and Fr. Robert Zubovic were each presented with beautiful flowers and a plaque. They both addressed the group with their own moving speeches.

Attendees included Dr. Tanya Mikulicic of Dom Zdravlja, Director of Lječilište Renata Zugic, Dr. Kristijan Mužić of Dom Zdravlja, and Representative from Turisticka Zajednica Dalibor Cvitković.

**Board members in attendance:** Dusanka Marusic, Zdenko & Loredana Beg, advisor Peter Budinic, Maris Cividini, Jasna Dobrila, Ivanka & Miroslav Eror, Doris Karcic, Eugene Kuljanic, Rose Maracic, Liliana Muskardin and Fedora Rucconich.

We graciously thank all honorees, entertainers who performed gratis and all our supporters including the local communities. Special thanks to Lječilište and Turisticka Zajednica for their support. Thank you to Klub Pomoraca, PGZ Komadina/Medaric and A/R Cresanka for their donations.

Together we've made a substantial impact during these past 20 years and look forward to the next 20 in supporting the islands' health needs.

**Chairpersons:** Ivanka Eror & Rose Maracic **Committee:** Maris Cividini, Fedora Rucconich



## WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

**Eugene Kuljanic**, owner of Bretone-Stivan Plumbing & Heating in Astoria, NY and **Robert Betic** of Mali Losinj.

We thank you for joining IMAS' mission in supporting the islands and look forward to your contribution to the board.

# RETURN OF OUR ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

On October 24, 2022, IMAS held its annual golf outing to celebrate 20 years of giving back to our islands! The outing was held at the Brookville Country Club on Long Island and featured a full-course breakfast, a perfectly manicured course, an amazing cocktail hour and a top-notch dinner. The day/night included some of our youngest players and some of our oldest - all who enjoyed the day's events and helped to support our mission. The outing would not have been a success without the wonderful staff at the Brookville Country Club, our golf committee, all of our attendees that included players from Ilovik, Istria, Dalmatia and all our American friends, donors and our sponsors:

- All Systems Aerospace International, Inc.**
- Brookville Country Club**
- Cedo Mara**
- Fedora Ruconich**
- Gramercy Group, Inc.**
- Hildene Capital Management, LLC**
- Hollander Legal Group, P.C.**
- Kenko Interiors, Inc.**
- KJ Remodeling of NY**
- Lucky Benvin**
- Rockaway Hunting Club**
- Team Esquire (at Keller Williams)**

**A special THANK YOU to ALPI USA for their generous donation.**

**Chairperson: Justin Calabrese Committee: Doris Karcic, Fedora Ruconich**



# AN EVENING IN CRES

On August 12, 2022 there was a celebration held in Cres to honor emigrants from the Island of Cres. The festivities included a guided visit to the museum, followed by a guided tour of the city, including the loggia. A mass followed at the local parish in Cres, conducted by Father Robert Zubovic. (Father Zubovic spent many years in Astoria, New York at the church of Most Precious Blood.) We celebrated with a wonderful dinner at Restaurant Mistral, located in the ACI Marina. Great entertainment was provided by Klapa Burin.

The invitation was extended to IMAS members by Professor Sonja Pokupec Salkovic. The city of Cres was represented by the Mayor, Mr. Marin Gregorovic, Mr. Daniele Surdic, representative of the Italian community of Cres; the former Mayor of Cres Mr. Kristijan Jurjako, Renata Garbajs, head of the Croatian Heritage Foundation, Walter Salkovic, representative with the Office of the Mayor (he is also on the staff of Novi List), Professor Sonja Pokupec Salkovic, Deputy President of the Committee for Cooperation with Local Self Government Units. Professor Salkovic is also involved with humanitarian volunteer projects and Father Robert Zubovic.

There were 30 visiting emigrants in attendance from various villages on the island of Cres, including Lubenice and even Podol, with guests from New York: IMAS Board Members Zdenko & Loredana Beg, myself and my husband, along with attendees from Chicago and Canada.

It was a wonderful time in celebration and honor of the emigrants from Cres.

**By: Fedora Ruconich**



**Standing left to right:**  
 WALTER SALKOVIC  
 PROF. SANJA POKUPEC SALKOVIC  
**Seated left to right:**  
 FATHER ROBERT ZUBOVIC  
 RENATA GARBAJS  
 MARIN GREGOROVIC

Hi IMAS Community! Hope everyone is doing well and is still tanned from the beautiful summer in Croatia! This year I didn't get to spend much time there because of the move to the West Coast. My husband Mat, who many of you know as the bagpiper and bassist in my band, has been accepted for a Ph.D. at the University of California in Berkeley, so in August we packed our belongings and drove cross country!



I will miss dearly my big family and our beloved New York City which gave me so many opportunities! As a singer, I developed my sound with international musicians from all over the globe while completing my masters degree at the Manhattan School of Music. This resulted in some amazing experiences such as performing Riva at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.



In the almost ten years that I spent there, I have created strong bonds with our community through my job as a musical director for Bl. Ivan Merz at Most Precious Blood Church in Astoria and was able to join IMAS where I saw firsthand how important your efforts are in creating better care for our loved ones in the old country.

Although I resigned from the board, I will continue to follow and support your work and I wish you all great success in fundraising! - **All my best, Astrid Kuljanic**



IMAS Board Member, Franko Neretich, accompanied Roger Belanich as a traveling partner, translator guide and chauffeur this past May, spending two weeks visiting Lošinj and the Islands. They observed the great restoration of the Church in Veli Lošinj that Mr. Belanich financed. Roger was given a special thank you and was recognized for his humanitarian efforts.

They were invited to Mayor Ana Kucic's office, where she thanked Mr. Belanich for his generosity and contribution to the Wellness Center in Veli Lošinj (Lječilište). On behalf of the city of Lošinj, Mr. Dalibor Cvitković, President of the Tourist Bureau, gave Franko a Diploma for his contribution of antique photos that are used to promote the island of Susak.

**By: Franko Neretich**

On the main roadway on the island of Cres, after the town of Orlec, one can see a road sign for Zbišina. There is a dirt road that leads to this now abandoned village of Zbišina, that was once thriving in 1948, with a population of 57 and seven homes. The chapel of Sv. Alojzija Gonzaga still remains in the village. The locals refer to the chapel as Sv. Alviz.



A father, Ivan and son, Antonio Benvin were both serving in WWI and had a chance meeting on the day of Sv. Alojzija. They made a promise to each other that they would build a chapel in Zbišina upon their safe return from the war. Fortunately, both father and son returned and built the chapel with the help of the local residents. The first mass was held on June 21, 1922 on the day of Sv. Alojzija.

The 100th year anniversary of the chapel was celebrated on June 21, 2022. The mass was officiated by the Bishop of the Krk diocese, Ivica Petanjak, and also included Dennis Zuskin, priest from Orlec, Silvio Spanjica, priest from Nerezine, along with his secretary Josip Karabaica. The outdoor mass was attended by ~140 people, including many local residents and 27 Benvin family relatives from America. The celebration continued in Orlec after the mass.



Many thanks to the residents of Orlec that made the celebration a success, serving delicious food, drinks and entertainment.

**By: Anton Benvin**



## IMAS DONORS 2021-2022

*Special Tribute* : John Mathew Emery II, a dear friend of Dario & Liliana Muskardin, believed in the work IMAS did for their homeland and was a generous supporter for many years. He was a member of the Rockaway Hunting Club, which hosted 10 golf outings for IMAS, and was laid to rest in Philadelphia. May he Rest In Peace.

Mr. John M. Emery II	Bogomir & Marica Kucica	Antonio & Lidia Maver	Bruno & Vilma Tencic	Antonio & Dorothy Burburan
Anonymous Donor :	Benevolent Society of	Mario & Flavia Canaletti	Mario & Bianca Zorovic	John Morin
<i>In Memory of Nelzi Kucich</i>	San Francisco of Nerezine	Lurdino & Renata Muzic	Jakov & Mariangela Toich	John Bussanich
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Milena Eror	Anton Angelich	Miroslav & Janne Vlakancic	Zeljko & Roseanne Karcic	Mario & Carmen Budinic
Sime & Dusanka Marusic :	Anton Benvin	Giulio & Pasqualina Vlakancich	Romeo & Rosemary Saganic	Pompeo & Maria Hroncich
<i>In Memory of Gino Benvin</i>	Judith Aiello	Dennis & Deborah Zucchino	Antonio & Dorothy Angelich	Silana Gasparovic
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<i>Rosella Muzic</i>	Antoinette D'oronzio	Dora Ranj	Anthony & Lisa Carcich	Doris Karcic
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<i>Monique Cibants</i>	Ante & Mirjana Facini	Liljana & Mark Vlakancic	Josephine Gomez	Elise Soccoli
Christine Bezmalinovic	Biagio Kucich	Rita Saganic	Joseph & Maria Kis	Zdenko Beg
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Luciano & Judy Benvin	Bruno & Gloria Viscovich	Maria Rocconi-Gavila	Robert Pilic	Grad Mali Lošinj &
Eric Benvin	Rosetta Bruno	Marina Sablich	John Vidulich	A/R Cresanka pledged donations

## IMAS SUPPORTERS 2021-2022

Luciano Benvin	Ian Brumgnach	Simeon Mezzich	Edward & Jean Brumgnach	Zeljko & Roseanne Karcic	Carmine Borelli	Roger Zorovic
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Silvester Bonica	Ivan Starcic	Zdenko & Loredana Beg	Ida Marinzoli	Nick Hroncich &	Katherine Quinn	Marina Markovic
Anthony Marusic	Eric Benvin	Ed Gentner		Grace Meiwandi		Rita Bernards

We collected \$41,426 in direct contributions.

Please include IMAS when planning your annual charitable gifts for 2023.

**Donations for 2022 :**

**Life Saving Emergency Supplies & Autoclave Sterilizer for Cres Hitno  
Blood Analyzer for Dom Zdravlja, Mali Lošinj  
Defibrillator for Lječilište**

*Thank You*

