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# Trumbeta Shqiptare

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Volume 101

June/July 2018

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The Official Publication of the Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.



*“We, American citizens and Canadian citizens, of Albanian descent and others interested in Albanian-Americans, desiring to form and perpetuate a federation and promote its objectives and principles; to effect a perfect and harmonious understanding between ourselves and others, to promote the cause of good citizenship in the country in which we live; to stimulate the spirit of good fellowship and good cooperation; do hereby establish and ordain these By-Laws.”*

**Please visit us at: [www.AANO.org](http://www.AANO.org)**



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Website: AANO.org*

**2017-2018  
NATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

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**Albanian-American**  
*National Organization*

June/July 2018

### *President's Message*

Greeting to All,

The Annual Convention and the 72nd Anniversary celebration for the AANO is around the corner.

This year we are gathering in our Nation's Capital, at the Westin Hotel – City Center. The Convention kicks off with meetings of the AANO National Board and Delegates on Friday morning, August 3rd, and ends with the Saturday evening Scholarship Fund event full of entertainment. As always, we will have the Friday night music and dance and Saturday night gala events.

This year many people will also visit the Pentagon and the White House. The Pentagon tours for Friday are full, however, there may be some tour slots available on Thursday, August the 2nd, or Monday, August 6th. To view tour time schedules and availability, please visit: <https://pentagontours.osd.mil/Tours/tours?action=viewRequestTimes&email=imaluka2013@gmail.com>.

The registrations for the White House tour are closed as we have reached the approved number of participants. However, we have requested from the White House to expand the number of

### *Mesazhi i Presidentit*

people in our group. As of now, we do not have a response from the White House. However, if we receive a positive response, we will post it on our website [www.aano.org](http://www.aano.org) along with the registration instructions.

Her Excellency, Floreta Faber, the Albanian Ambassador to the United States, and her staff, have extended an invitation to us for a visit to the Albanian Embassy. This visit is scheduled for Sunday, August 5th, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

This year marks the 550th Anniversary of the passing our National Hero, **Gjergj Kastrioti-Skënderbeu**. We are dedicating this year's convention to his memory and the Cultural Room will feature interesting displays dedicated to his life.

With the hard work of the AANO National Board and the Board of Governors, we expect to have a fantastic convention.

We are pleased to announce that both the Albanian Ambassador, her Excellency Floreta Faber, and the Kosova Ambassador, Her Excellency Vlora Çitaku, will honor us with

their presence at the convention. We also expect to be honored with the presence of the Albanian Minister of Diaspora, The Honorable Pandeli Majko, and the representative of the American-Arbëresh Community, Ms. Elena Farah.

I would like to encourage all of our AANO friends to join us as we plan to have a fantastic time and turn Washington DC, into an “*All Albanian*” city. Therefore, please visit our website, [www.aano.org](http://www.aano.org) and make your convention and hotel reservation as soon as possible.

Please remember that the AANO is a labor of love for all of us that work to keep this organization moving forward so that we can continue to perpetuate and celebrate those special things which come with our Albanian heritage. We are committed to support the academic endeavors of Albanian-American college students through our annual scholarships, and to do our best to safeguard and preserve our national identity for future generations. We believe that these goals and objectives are worthy of our commitments and the support of the Albanian-American Community.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Convention and 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the AANO, on August 3-5, 2018, at the Westin Hotel – City Center, Washington DC.

Mirupafshim!



*John K. Lulgjuraj*

**John K. Lulgjuraj, National President  
Albanian-American National Organization, Inc.**



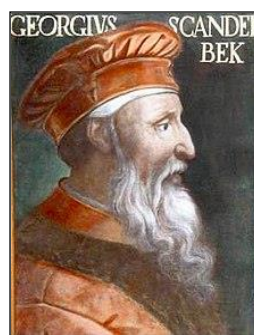
**Albanian-American  
National Organization**

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

The Albany Chapter met early in June to collect dues, hold annual elections and discuss happenings at the National level. The meeting was closed with a birthday cake home made by Louise Mabin to celebrate the birthdays of our two both Gemini and left-handed past National Presidents, *Phil Christo* (65) and *Paul Apostol* (72). As always, a good time was had by all!



The Detroit Chapter held their fourth Annual “**Shqipos at the Detroit Tigers**” event on June 9, 2018. There were at least 81 people in attendance ranging from ages 1 to 79! The National Board met in Detroit for the annual scholarship meeting in June and many of the national officers were also in attendance. People were very excited and the turnout was very big. An amazing time was had on that Saturday afternoon and evening. Many youth signed up for this event and we are hoping that this enthusiasm carries over to the Washington, DC Convention! We will be sure to provide pictures for the next issue.



The Detroit Chapter is also spearheading the Cultural Exhibit for the upcoming convention which will have a *Skënderbeg theme*. If any of you have artifacts/items of any kind that we could use for the cultural room, we would be very happy to utilize them on display at the Washington, DC Convention.

If so, please contact:  
Julia Black at [julialisablack@hotmail.com](mailto:julialisablack@hotmail.com)

## *Attention Past Scholarship Winners*



We would love to know what you're doing !!

Please send your information to Gayle Orlow ([gorlow@comcast.net](mailto:gorlow@comcast.net)) and list the year that you won your scholarship, where you attended school, your major, and what has transpired since. If you like, attach a photo.

We enjoy keeping up to date on our Scholarship recipients.

If you would like to make a donation to the AANO Scholarship Fund, please send your contribution to:

### **AANO SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**c/o Nancy Capstick  
15 Ellis Drive  
Worcester, MA 01609**

[ncapstick@hotmail.com](mailto:ncapstick@hotmail.com)



**Donations to the Scholarship Fund are  
Tax Deductible**



**Albanian-American  
National Organization**



## **PRESENTS**

*72nd Annual Convention*

*August 3-5, 2018*

*Washington D.C.*

*The Westin City Center*

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

### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

The Westin City Center  
1400 M St. N  
Washington D.C.  
(800) Westin1 or (202) 429-1700

Online: [www.AANO.org](http://www.AANO.org)  
Events tab, hotel reservation

Single/double..... \$119  
Triple.....\$139  
Quad.....\$159

**Cut-off date: July 9, 2018**

**Our 72nd Anniversary** will be a special event dedicated to the 550th Anniversary of the death of our National Hero **Gjergj Kastrioti-Skenderbeg**.

## Guests

For our 72nd Annual Convention we have invited, and expect to honor us with her presence, **Her Excellency, Floreta Faber**, the Albanian Ambassador to the United States.

We have also invited and expect to honor us with her presence, **Her Excellency, Vlora Çitaku**, the Kosova Ambassador to the United States.

The have invited and expect to honor us with his presence, **His Excellency, Pandeli Majko**, Minister of Diaspora, former Prime Minister of Albania.

During our Convention the **AANO will honor several prominent Albanian -Americans** for their valuable contribution to the Albanian-American Community.

## Sponsors

**Gold:** Table for 6 \$3,000.00  
1 Gold Page in the Ad Journal  
Announcement at Convention & display  
Listing on our web page  
2 tickets - reception - Albanian Embassy

**Silver:** Table for 4 \$2,000.00  
1 Silver Page in the Ad Journal  
Announcement at Convention & display  
Listing on our web page  
2 tickets - reception- Albanian Embassy

**Bronze:** Table for 2 \$1,000.00  
1 Full Page in the Ad Journal  
Announcement at Convention & display  
Listing on our web page  
2 tickets - reception - Albanian Embassy

**For Sponsorship please contact:**

**Lea Bitta**

2800 N. Lakeshore Dr. Unit 510

Chicago, Ill 60657

Tel. 847-951-5691

E-mail: [ebitta@gmail.com](mailto:ebitta@gmail.com)

## EVENT INFORMATION

### Friday, August 3, 2018

Board Meeting  
Potential Pentagon and White House Tours.  
Dinner, dancing, live Albanian music with  
Ermira Babaliu and DJ

### Saturday, August 4, 2018

City tours  
Cultural room dedicated to the Albanian  
National Hero Gjergj K. Skenderbeu  
Walk about D.C.  
Cocktails starting at 6:00 pm  
Banquet Dinner Dance  
(Cocktail Attire is required.)  
Music by **Ermira Babaliu and DJ**

### Sunday, August 5, 2018

Closed morning Board Meeting  
Open General Meeting  
Election of Officers  
2019 Convention Bids  
Coffee and Pastries  
Closing Ceremony

### Sunday Night Event (separate pricing)

Afternoon reception - Albanian Embassy  
Dancing night with DJ and food from 7:00 to  
10:00 PM EDT, at the hotel. Priced separately,  
\$40.00 per person.

### Ad Journal Prices

#### **Commemorative Booklet**

_____	Gold Page	\$500
_____	Silver Page	\$300
_____	Inside Cover	\$200
_____	Full Page	\$125
_____	Half Page	\$ 75
_____	Quarter Page	\$ 50
_____	Booster Page	\$ 30

\*\*\*\*\*To add photo.....\$ 25



**Ad Journal Deadline: July 10<sup>th</sup>****Send Ad and payment to:****Nancy Capstick**

15 Ellis Dr.

Worcester, MA 01609

**E-mail: [ncapstick@hotmail.com](mailto:ncapstick@hotmail.com)**Or process online at [www.AANO.org](http://www.AANO.org)

Check made payable to: AANO Inc.

Online at [www.AANO.org](http://www.AANO.org)**Convention Ticket Information**

	<u>&lt;7/1</u>	<u>&gt;7/1</u>
<b>AANO Members # _____</b>	<b>\$165</b>	<b>\$175</b>
<b>Non-AANO Members # _____</b>	<b>\$180</b>	<b>\$190</b>
<b>Children 16 &amp; Under # _____</b>	<b>\$ 85</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Children is a child's meal</b>		

**DEADLINE DATE July 17, 2018*****\*SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE REQUIRED  
FOR SATURDAY EVENING***

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List ALL names included in your reservation:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

**Reserve your tickets online:****[www.aano.org](http://www.aano.org)****or mail check (provide email) to:****Jana Foundos**

5 Twelve Pence Court

Melville, NY 11747

**E-Mail: [janafoundos@gmail.com](mailto:janafoundos@gmail.com)****Make check payable to: AANO Inc.****Preferred seating with:**


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**Albanian-American  
National Organization**

Te dashur antare, ju kujtojme qe tani mund te blini biletat per konventen tone ne Washington, DC ne datat 3-5 Gusht, 2018. Festoni me ne nje fundjave te kendshme ne Kuvendin e 72te te organizates tone. Per shume dekada AANO ka patur qellim te forcoje komunitetin Shqiptar ne Amerike / Kanada nepermjet bursave universitare dhe evenimenteve kulturore. Mbeshtetja juaj eshte shume domethenese per ne ne kete mision kaq te rendesishem. Ndiqni linket e meposhme per detajet e evenimentit dhe per te blere bileta. Per bizneset kemi opsione reklamimi/sponsorizimi. Gjithashtu mund te rezervoni dhomat e hotelit me nje cmim special per evenimentin.



Dear members, this is a reminder you may now purchase tickets for our convention in Washington DC, on August 3-5, 2018. Please join us for a wonderful weekend with your family and friends in our 72nd Convention. Throughout the decades AANO has sought to strengthen the Albanian community in America and Canada through our scholarship program and our cultural events. Your support is vital to such an important mission. Please follow the below links for convention details and to purchase your convention tickets. Please take advantage of our advertising/sponsoring options. You may also book your room(s) at a special convention rate.

## SOCIAL NEWS

### Engagement/Wedding



#### Clearwater



Our sincere congratulations to Shpresa Idrizi-Bottie, Esq., daughter of Clearwater BOG, Metat Idrizi and his wife Emine, on her marriage to Adam Bottie.

#### Detroit

Congratulations to Drita Ramolli and Bujar Jakupi on their recent wedding in the Chicago area on May 5, 2018. We wish them every happiness.

### Anniversary



#### Chicago

Perry and Diane Pero celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Maui, Hawaii with Arther, Lauren, Ava, Mila, Alexis, and Shirley. It was a spectacular time for all. Congratulations !!

#### Detroit

Happy Anniversary to Sami and Adile Veliu who have been married over fifty years and recently celebrated an anniversary, courtesy of their daughter Linda, in Las Vegas. They went to amazing shows and did all kinds of activities and were just like kids again!

### Babies

#### Detroit

Congratulations to Richard and Sonja Riza on the birth of their third child, another son, this past March. Older siblings Enver and Maya are very excited!

### New Home

#### Detroit

Congratulations to Alexandra Black Wilson and Lonny Wilson on the purchase of their beautiful new home in Clarkston, Michigan. We wish them many happy memories there.

### Travel

#### Albany

Catherine Halsdorf recently returned from a trip to Las Vegas where she visited with her sister Virginia Lawrence and her family. She wrote the Albany Chapter's ad for the souvenir journal before she left because she knew she would be unable to attend the chapter meeting.



#### Philadelphia

Linda Notskas will be traveling to Albania for two weeks in July. We know she will have a wonderful time. *Rrugën e mbarrë!*



*Graduations/Class Notes*



**Chicago**

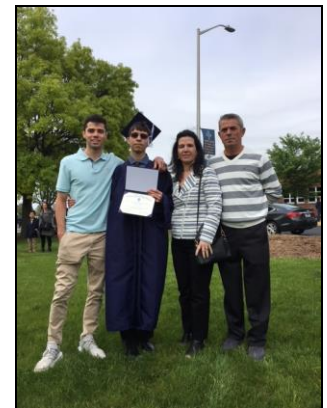
Congratulations to Jason George Borova on his graduation from 8th grade. Jason is with his mother Elvis, grandmother Nekive Kapoli, and sister Georgya who is the current Queen of the AANO.



Congratulations to Erla Teli on her graduation from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California. Erla graduated with a B.A in Business Management with a concentration in Non-Profit. Erla is daughter of Llambi & Etleva Teli. We want to wish her success in her new career at Watts of Love.



Congratulations to Tony Tumba on his graduation from Addison Trail High School in Addison, IL. Tony is son of Toli & Flora Tumba. We want to wish him success in his new chapter at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Congratulations to Jason Tumba on his graduation from DePaul University in Chicago, majoring in Finance and minor in Business. Jason is the son of George & Manuela Tumba. We want to wish him success in his career.

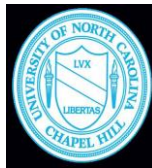
Congratulations to Xhenii Tumba on her graduation from the University of Illinois Chicago Medical School. She is currently completing her residency for psychiatry in adults and children at the University of Wisconsin - Madison Hospital. Xheni is the daughter George & Manuela Tumba. We want to wish her success in her career for the years to come.



Congratulations to Jimmy Poni on his graduation from Naperville North High School. He plans on attending the College of DuPage for two years and will pursue a career in accounting.



Congratulations to Wendi Guraziu on her graduation from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). She will be working in in Boston in financial consulting. The family, Arben, Ariana, Benjana and Grandmother, continued the celebration on Cape Cod. Also, Wendi's sister Benjana will start her Masters program in Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. The family is very proud of them and wish them the best.



**Philadelphia**

Congratulations to Kevin Fiss, son of Sandi and Bob Fiss, who graduated from Kennett High School. He will attend Temple University in the fall as a pre-law major. Kevin is the grandson of Jim and Paula Bendo and Marie Fiss.

Nicholas Centofante, son of Theresa & Nick Centofante, graduated from Charles H. Boehm Middle School. He will be attending Pennsbury High School in the fall. Nicholas is the grandson of Marge & Steve Nowmos.

Vanessa Shehu graduated from Lower Moreland High School in Huntingdon Valley, PA. She was the editor of the Literary Magazine and Yearbook, a member of the National Honor Society, a mock trial competitor, and leader in the Diversity Council. This summer Vanessa will be assisting in a cancer research lab at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia before heading off to Bryn Mawr College, one of the historical Seven Sisters institutions for women's higher education, where she will major in economics with the goal of preparing for law school. Also, she will be furthering her passion for Neuroscience and Psychology at Bryn Mawr through a potential double-major.

**Worcester**



Congratulations to Michael Gregory Vasil on his graduation from Boston College High School. He will be attending the University of Virginia in the Fall where he will also be playing baseball for the Cavaliers. Mike is the son of Gregory and Kathy Vasil and brother of Kristina Vasil of Wellesley, MA, and the grandson of Peter and Pauline Vasil and Liria Kolis of Worcester. *See next page for Mike's story that aired on WBZ-TV, Boston; certainly one Albanian pitcher whose career we will be following !!*

**We wish all of our graduates much success in their future endeavors.**



## Sports



### BC High Pitcher Mike Vasil Chooses College Over MLB Draft

By [Dan Roche](#)

June 4, 2018 at 11:45 pm

**BOSTON (CBS)** – Every young baseball player’s dream is to play in the big leagues and it’s definitely a goal for Mike Vasil, a highly touted pitcher from BC High (Boston College High School).

Projected to be a first round pick in the major league draft, big league scouts packed in for every one of his starts.

“Yeah I mean every game was kind of like a circus,” Vasil said.

The 6-foot-4, 210-pounder Wellesley native, whose curveball is his strikeout pitch, actually threw a major curveball at everyone when he announced he was withdrawing his name from the draft and heading to the University of Virginia instead.

“Obviously becoming a Major League Baseball player is what I want to do in my life and I just think going to Virginia would be able to put me forward and enhance those skills to get there.”

“Overall I know baseball doesn’t last forever and UVA opens up doors for opportunities that I don’t even know about right now.”

While many people thought it was crazy for an 18-year-old kid to pass up a chance to play pro ball, his buddies completely understood.

“My friends were very supportive. Obviously my friends would have thought that it was really cool for me to get drafted but I think three years from now I’m going to be really happy with my decision either way and you know what? I made it. Not looking back.”

And while it’s crystal clear he has potential big league stuff on the mound, it’s also crystal clear that all the attention he’s received hasn’t gone to his head.

“I think I’m just a normal guy, I got a lot left to prove, barely scratched the surface you know, even going to college, that’s going to be something, I know the ultimate goal is to get to Omaha, someday hopefully I can be on TV there, and that’d be awesome, you know maybe get a little fame from that.”

Clearly an easy kid to root for that hopefully we’ll one day see in the show.

## Career / Awards

### Albany

Dolores Bachandouris retired in June after a lengthy career working for New York State. We wish her a long and happy retirement!

### Detroit

Congratulations to Luiza Riza on her new job at the District Court in Novi, Michigan. After many years as a stay-at-home mom, she is back, at least part time in the work force, thriving, and enjoying it.

Congratulations to eighth grader Allonja Wilson on being one of only two eighth graders in her community to be presented with a community art award from the State of Michigan, and it was the first time she had ever even taken an art class!

Detroit would like to welcome back Professor Frances Trix, previous winner of the AANO Lifetime Achievement Award for all of her work with the Albanian American community in Detroit. Frances had relocated to Indiana with her teaching and has recently returned to live in Michigan. We welcome her back with open arms.

***The Washington, DC Chapter is hosting the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual AANO Convention on August 3-5, 2018. Please join us for a wonderful weekend where we will nominate two of our community members for their outstanding devotion and service to the Albanian Community the the DC Area.***



**Warmest regards,  
Iris Maluk, President of Washington, DC Chapter**



**Artur Elezi, Ph. D in  
Mathematics  
2018 Community Service  
Award**

Professor of Mathematics at  
American University in  
Washington, DC.

President of Albanian-American Academy (AAA) for 6 years. AAA organized the Albanian Sunday School at American University as well as many community activities in the DC area such as Independence Day Celebration, International Women's Day Celebration, Teacher's Day Celebration, Traditional Annual Picnic of the Baltimore-DC area, sponsored and fundraised for Albanian Cinema Project movie restorations, etc.

Co-founder and Chief Editor of Albanian Journal of Mathematics.

Founder and Director of Graduate School at University of Vlora.

Regular Lecturer in Summer and Winter School at University of Vlora.

Co-founder of Research Institute of Science and Technology whose aim is fostering scientific cooperation between Albanian Scientists in

academia and industry as well as facilitating student exchange with Albanian Universities.

Organizer of two Nato Conferences on Cryptography and Coding Theory at University of Vlora.



**Alban Pruthi  
2018 Community  
Service Award**

Alban Pruthi was born in Gjakova, Kosova in the late 1970s. He moved to Washington, DC in 2006 to complete his Masters Degree at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University. Since late 2000, Alban has played an instrumental role in laying down and strengthening the foundations of the Albanian-American Community in the Washington, DC area by establishing an informal yet innovative virtual network called Albanian Professionals in DC (APDC). Recognizing the enormous potential of the Albanian-American Community, including the power of the existing and formal organizations such as VATRA, AANO, etc., Alban has aimed to bring everyone on board regardless of their regional, political or professional backgrounds. His modus operandi has always been unity, collaboration, creativity, flexibility, humility, dedication, and that nothing is impossible if there is a will. Through APDC and other networks, as well as close collaboration with Albania and Kosovo's Embassies in Washington, DC, Alban together with other co-community activists have brought to life numerous activities, initiatives, festivities and volunteering pro-bono and with the goal of benefiting the Albanian-American and other communities in the Washington, DC area.

## Obituaries



### Albany

Condolences to Vera Apostol and family upon the passing of her mother, Anita Ferraro, on May 18, 2018. She would have been 92 years old on June 8, 2018. May her memory be eternal.

**Detroit**

Heartfelt condolences to Xhenis Turhani Levack, (who was an active part of the Detroit Chapter until she moved to Charlotte, North Carolina) on the sudden death of her husband, Marc Levack, at the age of 49, on May 9, 2018. Marc and Xhenis have two young children, ages 6 and 4, and we know his presence will be deeply missed in their family.

Condolences to Sadet, Pete, Teuta, Diana, and Gezim (Johnny) Rakipi and their families on the death of Adem Rakipi, their husband and father in late December 2017. Adem was a wonderful man who will be missed by all of them and the entire Albanian-American community in Detroit. May his memory be eternal.

**New York****Agim Leka, M.D.**

*January 25, 1924 - March 8, 2018*

Dr. Agim Leka passed away peacefully in his home on March 8, 2018 at the age of 94.

A man of many talents, Dr. Leka's life-long dedication to education and service are his most meritorious accomplishments. He was born on January 25, 1924, in Delvina, Albania, a small town near the Greek border. His love for Albania was inspired by the historical events that formed the lives of his parents, grandparents, professors, and others who, through their sacrifice for the country, made Albania a free state in 1912. Dr. Leka's father, Rakip Leka, was from the historical village of Borsh and was a summa cum laude graduate of the Imperial University of Istanbul, School of Jurisprudence. Rakip was one of the first judges appointed by Ismail Qemal, the founder of Albanian Independence. Rakip eventually reached the highest ranks of Albanian Jurisprudence. Dr. Leka's maternal grandfather, Nebi Sefa, was one of the signees of the Albanian Declaration of Independence.

*(Excerpted from: Albanian American Success Stories)*

**In Memoriam: A Tribute to Dr. Agim Leka (1924 - 2018) and Elizabeth Leka (1933-2017)**

*Offered to their sons Donald and Drini and their spouses and family*

Dr. Agim Leka and his beloved wife Elizabeth were an exemplary couple whose shared life personified a brave and pioneering new way of marriage long before it became common place with today's relationships. By some special mystery, the two of them embodied and blended together a spirit of ecumenism, humanitarian and social outreach with a commitment to their chosen careers of service to their fellow inhabitants in this world of ours. At the same time, their spirit of collegiality was much more than tolerance, since it transcended their love for their own Albanian culture, its origin and its future aspirations. They were equally passionate about their own heritage as they were with being international citizens of the world, if not of our universe. Educated, charming, articulate and compassionate by nature they have been a singular couple whom we shall not forget.

*May their memory be eternal.*



**Very Rev. Arthur and Margaret Liolin**

Saint George Cathedral

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America

Boston, Massachusetts

**Worcester**

**Virginia Soter** passed away on December 30, 2017 at the age of 82. She is survived by her brother, Thomas Soter and his wife Patricia, nieces and nephews. Virginia was the daughter of the late James and Helen (Naum) Soter. She was a member of St.

Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church, the Daughters of St. Mary's, and the Albanian-American National Organization. Virginia enjoyed being with her family and traveling, especially to Albania.



**Anastasia "Ann" (Anastas) Alera**, 95, of Hudson, passed away on February 19, 2018. She leaves two sons, A. Keith Alera and his wife Roberta, and



Thomas Alera; two grandchildren, Kristin Bell and her husband Michael, and Jason Alera. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, godchildren and many close cousins. Ann was predeceased by her husband of 47 years Victor

"Tony" Alera, four brothers, George, Vangie, Peter, Charles and one Sister Rose Margarit. She was the daughter of George and Athena (Theodore) Anastas who immigrated from Permet, Albania. Ann was a member of St Mary's Albanian Orthodox Church in Worcester, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the Emblem Club of Hudson. Ann enjoyed summers at the Cape with her family.

**Elaine (George) Dionis** passed away at the age of 88 on March 12, 2018. Her husband of 54 years, William L. Dionis predeceased her in 2010. She is survived by her two sons, Mark Dionis and his wife Sandra of Shrewsbury and Christopher Dionis and his wife Kimberly Houston-Dionis of Auburn; her grandchildren, Sydney and Zachary Dionis both of Shrewsbury; a brother, Gust George of Worcester; three sisters, Cleo George, Sophie George and Jean George all of Worcester and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. She is predeceased by five sisters, Catherine Costa, Alexandria Bardho, Naomi Veshi, Mary George and Anna Pillary. Elaine was a lifelong member of Saint Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church and was always an active participant in the bi-annual Church festival. She was an avid sports fan, especially for New England teams and greatly enjoyed spending time at Hampton Beach and always looked forward to the trips of Atlantic City. She was a devoted mother and grandmother and will be missed dearly.



**Katherine (Budo) Boria**, 88, passed away on April 1, 2018. She was the daughter of the late George and Margarita (Saradaris) Budo. Katherine was the Treasurer of Deerhill Dairy working alongside her husband for 34 years before retiring in 1993. She



assisted her daughters at their business, French Twist Boutique, for the past 9 years. Katherine was a member of St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church and its Women's Guild. Her husband of 51 years passed away in 2002 and she is survived

by her three daughters with whom she lived, Carolyn Boria, Joan Boria and Roberta Boria, and niece Paula (DiLiddo) Fox and her husband Russell. She is predeceased by her two sisters, Helen Pando and Theodora Budo.

**John Jones**, 94, loving uncle and friend, passed away on June 14, 2018. He was the son of Ernest and Ida (Queleshi) Jones and is survived by his brother, Peter Jones and his wife; many nieces and nephews, and most notably Margaret Aboud and her



husband Moussa who cared for him and whom he considered a daughter. His brother George and sister Margaret Jones pre-deceased him. John was a member of St Mary's Albanian Orthodox Church and its men's club, the Sons of St. Mary, N.E.A.R.O. (New England Albanian Relief Organization), and the AANO. Devoted to his heritage, his faith and his church, over the years, John was active in assisting Albanian citizens settling in the Worcester area and helping them with the language. He was also involved with the church's biannual Festival. He will be dearly missed for his kindness, generosity, and humble spirit.

*Our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently departed former members and friends of the AANO.*

**I Përjetshëm Kutimi i Tyre!  
May their Memories be Eternal!**

**BOSTON ...**

Last February, the 10th Anniversary of Kosovo's Independence was celebrated and organized by Shoqata Kosova Boston. The event was sold out, and all had a wonderful time catching up with old friends and making new ones, and dancing to the music by Alberije Hadergjonaj and Hysni Kelmendi. Also, as always, the Bashkimi Dance Group gave an impressive folk dance performance. This year's celebration was especially a happy one for one more reason, as the community had the opportunity to help the Gashi Family who brought their son Rubin from Kosova for what turned out to be a successful medical treatment at Boston Children's Hospital.



**From left to right:** Community leaders Isuf Restelica, Klodjan Pepi, Hafiz Kabashi, Mark Kosmo, Nexhat Ibishi, Stefan Koci, and Agim Sejdiu.

*(Photo courtesy of Xhim Shehaj)*

**REMINDER ...**

*If you have any news, or newsworthy articles, you would like to see included in Trumbeta Shqiptare, please forward the information to the editor.*

*Thank you for your continued support!*



On Sunday, May 27, 2018, a promotion was held for the book **"Koço Grameno, në Udhën e Shqiptarizmës,"** by Mr. Niko Kotherja, current director of the National Museum of Education Mesonjetorja e Pare Shqip in Korça. It was held at the Saint George Cathedral in Boston, promoted by MaasBesa.

The attendants had the opportunity to hear from and discuss with Niko about the book on the renowned patriot Koço Grameno. Niko is a passionate collector and researcher of our rich history. We also heard pleasant stories from relatives of the patriot Koço Grameno. We wish Niko best of luck in his further research and await with enthusiasm his future publications.



## Albanian Artists Dominating European Music and Beyond! Eurovision: Three Albanian stars representing three different countries



**Eugent Bushpepa**  
(Albania)

**Eleni Foureira**  
(Cyprus)

**Ermal Meta**  
(Italy)

For Albanians, this year's Eurovision Song Contest, which is held in Lisbon, Portugal, was even more special, as there were three Albanian singers representing three different countries.

**Eugent Bushpepa** represented the flag of Albania, as the winner of the 56th Song Festival with the song "Mall" (Longing). **Ermal Meta**, winner of Italy's 68th Sanremo Festival, an Albanian emigrant from Fier, with "Non Mi Avete Fatto Niente" (You have done nothing to me), represented Italy. The singer, ballet dancer and Albanian actress **Eleni Foureira**, also born in Fier Albania, was one of the most clickable characters. Known not only for her graces, but also as one of the main characters of showbiz, she was a singer who first appeared in the Mystique Band in 2007 but later also as a soloist. She represented Cyprus with the song "Fuego." Unprecedented! Three starts from a small country in Southeast Europe represent three different European countries and all of them reached the finals.

With 43 nations competing for the top spot, Eleni Foureira, representing Cyprus, one of the most popular artists of the song contest, finished solidly in second place. Ermal Meta, representing Italy, finished in the fifth slot, while Eugent Bushpepa, representing Albania, also had a strong showing, finishing in 11<sup>th</sup> place. Many fans throughout the world who follow the Eurovision Song Festival, expressing their views online, stated that Eugent Bushpepa's song "Mall" was among, if not the best, song of the Festival.

It is well known that, because the participating countries decide the winner by casting their votes for individual countries, oftentimes voting is influenced by politics, and political relationships between different countries, and not solely on the artistic merits of the song or the performance. Many believe that Albania should have finished in the top five.

Nevertheless, this was a huge success for Albania, but even more for the Albanian artists who are becoming a dominant force in the European musical industry.



**Eugent Bushpepa with Eleni Foureira making the Sign of the Eagle**



**Eleni Foureira proudly holding the Albanian Flag**





*Ermal Meta and Eugent Bushpepa - Eagle Sign  
The Fieri-born Musical Giants*

**Starting to dominate not only the European but the World Musical Scene are superstar like Dua Lipa, Era Istrefi, Bebe Rexha and Rita Ora.**

## Dua Lipa



*Dua Lipa stunning performance at the UEFA Champions League final in Kyiv*



Another Albanian superstar (born in Kosova), **Dua Lipa**, opens one of the biggest sporting events in Europe, The European Soccer Championship Match, held in Kiev, Ukraine.

Lipa was born on 22 August 1995 in London to Albanian parents from Kosovo who had left Prishtina in the 1990s. She attended Sylvia Young Theatre School, part-time, before moving to Kosovo with her family in 2008. Lipa grew up listening to her father, singer Dukagjin Lipa. Her first name means "love" in Albanian; its atypical nature was cause for distaste in her youth, but she grew to "enjoy" it as it eventually eliminated the need for a stage name.

At the age of 14, she began posting covers of her favorite songs by artists such as Pink and Nelly Furtado on YouTube. At the age of 15, she moved back to London with aspirations of becoming a singer. Shortly after, she began working as a model. In 2013, she starred in a television advertisement for *The X Fac*.

Her self-titled debut studio album was released on 2 June 2017. Its sixth single "New Rules," released in the following month, became Lipa's first number one in the UK, and the first by a female solo artist to reach the top ten in the UK since "Hello" by Adele in 2015. Her best-selling single to date, the song also charted in the top ten in other territories, including number 2 in Australia, number 6 in the US and number 7 in Canada.

## Era Istrefi



An Albanian superstar, **Era Istrefi**, will kick off the Russia 2018 World Soccer Championship in Moscow. Era Istrefi (Kosovo born) will be singing the official World Cup

Soccer song, called "Live It Up." Singing with Era will be Will Smith and Nicky Jam.



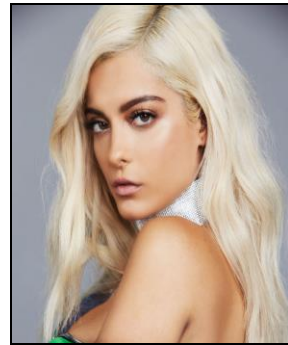
Era Istrefi (born 4 July 1994) is an Albanian singer and songwriter. She has released a number of singles in both Albanian and English. In 2016, Istrefi gained international recognition following the release of her single "BonBon," which drew comparisons to the works of Barbadian artist Rihanna and Australian singer Sia. Following the song's success, she signed to American record labels Sony Music and Ultra Music one month later. In 2017, she won the European Border Breakers Award. In 2018 she featured as one of the singers in the FIFA World Cup song "Live It Up."

Istrefi experienced international recognition with her single "BonBon,, which was released on 31 December 2015, together with a music video shot in Kosovo. The song became an immediate success, becoming viral on social media. Additionally, the singer began gaining support from American actress Chloë Grace Moretz, and various publications referred to her as the "Rihanna and Sia of Kosovo." In February 2016, Istrefi signed to American labels Sony Music Entertainment and Ultra Music. It was reported that Istrefi will record her upcoming debut studio album in collaboration with RCA Records. In June 2016, an English version of "Bonbon" was released.

On 24 February 2017, Istrefi released a new single, titled "Redrum," which features producer Felix Snow. A few months later, on 29 September, Istrefi released another new single, titled "No I Love You," which is in collaboration with French Montana. On May 21, 2018, it was announced that Istrefi had joined with Will Smith and Nicky Jam to release the Official FIFA World Cup Song on 25 of May.



## Bleta "Bebe" Rexha



**Bebe Rexha** is an Albanian-American singer, songwriter, and record producer. She is best known for her collaborations with other artists, such as "Me, Myself & I" with G-Eazy, David Guetta's "Hey."

Rexha was born on August 30, 1989 in Brooklyn, New York to ethnic Albanian parents. Her father, Flamur Rexha, is an ethnic Albanian born in Dibër County. He immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 21, and her mother, Bukurije Rexha, was born in the U.S. to an Albanian family with roots in Gostivar (which, like Dibër, is now part of the Republic of Macedonia). In the Albanian language, Bleta means "bee;" derived from it, Rexha gave herself the nickname "Bebe" as part of her stage name.

Songs of hers performed by artists include Eminem's and Rihanna's single "The Monster" which won a Grammy Award for Best Rap/Song performance at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony, and songs for Selena Gomez, Iggy Azalea, Nick Jonas, Tinashe, David Guetta, and many others. In 2015, she released her first solo EP, *I Don't Wanna Grow Up*. In October 2016, "I Got You" was released as the lead single from her EP *All Your Fault: Pt. 1*. In August 2017, her third EP *All Your Fault: Pt. 2* was released, which spawned the hit single "Meant to Be" with country duo Florida Georgia Line, which peaked at two on the *Billboard* Hot 100. The song is also included on her debut studio album, *Expectations*, which will be released on June 22, 2018.





## Rita Ora



Who has not heard the name **Rita Ora** (born Rita Sahatçiu)! She is one of the top vocal artists and actresses in Europe.

Rita rose to prominence in February 2012 when she was featured on DJ Fresh's single "Hot Right Now" which reached number one in the UK. Her debut studio album, *Ora*, released in August 2012, debuted at number one in the United Kingdom. The album contained the UK number-one singles "R.I.P." and "How We Do (Party)." Ora was the artist with the most number-one singles on the UK Singles Chart in 2012, with three consecutive singles reaching the top position.

In January 2014, Adidas announced a designer collaboration with Ora for their brand, Adidas Originals. The two singles from her upcoming second studio album, "Your Song" and "Anywhere" both reached the UK top-ten in 2017.

Ora was born in Prishtina, Kosovo, to Albanian parents. Her mother, Vera (*née* Bajraktari), is a psychiatrist, and her father, Besnik Sahatçiu, is an economist and a pub owner. Ora speaks Albanian.

Her family left Kosovo for political reasons because of the persecution of Albanians initiated with the disintegration of Yugoslavia. They relocated to London, England in 1991 when she was a year old. She grew up in Notting Hill, in West London, and attended St. Cuthbert with St. Matthias Primary School in Earls Court, following which she graduated from a performing arts school, Sylvia Young Theatre School. She began singing at an early age.

*Perëndesh' e Bukurisë*

Perëndesh' e bukurisë je  
Un për tynë do t'pëlças,  
Dashurinë që kam shtënë për ty  
U bu bu si do t'ia bëj. (*dy herë*)

Fle, dhe në ëndërr të shikoj e s'të harroj,  
Mos më mundo o yll o xhan o zemër o. (*dy herë*)

Jak o xhane, jak o shpirt  
Jak o zemra ime,  
Eja të rrojmë që të dy  
Në këtë botë.  
Jak o ylli me shkëlqim  
Fytyrë e dashurisë,  
Me zënë e ëmbël ti që ke  
Më bëre të le.

Ilaçet nuk më bëjnë gjë  
S'më shërojnë plagëtë,  
Përveçse syri yt i zi  
Që më dogji zemrënë. (*dy herë*)

Fle, dhe në ëndërr të shikoj e s'të harroj,  
Mos më mundo o yll o xhan o zemër o. (*dy herë*)

Jak o xhane, jak o shpirt  
Jak o zemra ime,  
Eja të rrojmë që të dy  
Në këtë botë.  
Jak o ylli me shkëlqim  
Fytyrë e dashurisë,  
Me zënë e ëmbël ti që ke  
Më bëre të le.



In **United States of America**, Albanians began to settle in the early 1920s from Southern Albania and post 1990 after the fall of communism mostly by green card lottery, tourist visas and immediate relative or family preference immigrant visas. The largest Albanian American (incl. Kosovar Albanians) populations are in NY city, Boston, Detroit and Chicago area. Another Albanian American community is in Southern California such as Los Angeles area.



*Lendina e loteve (The grassland of tears), Korca, Albania is the place where more than 100 years ago emigrants will leave for United States of America, Turkey, Rumania, Bulgaria, etc. Still is the symbol of Albanian emigration.*

The first church in Albanian language in the world was built in 1912 in Southbridge Massachusetts, U.S.A by emigrants from Southern Albania. At this time the church in Albania was still being suppressed by the Turkish Authorities, who permitted only the use of the Greek language for Orthodox worship out of fear of Albanian nationalism.



*St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Southbridge, Mass, U.S.A founded in 1912 by Albanian emigrants.*

In **Canada** after World War II (1938–1943) very few Albanians moved to Canada, mostly from the former Yugoslavia. At the beginning of the 21st century, a new Kosovo-Serbian war prompted a second wave of immigration of Albanians in Canada. which caused many Albanians to feel compelled to leave Kosovo as refugees. Thus, in 1999, the Government of Canada established a residency program to allow 7,000 refugee Kosovar Albanians. After the fall of communism post-1990, many professional Albanians immigrated with work visa to Canada for a better life.

After the collapse of communism in Albania, post-1990 wave of emigration was in the form of break-ins at foreign embassies, ships, visas, etc., in **Italy, Greece, Western European countries**. Ship ‘Vlora’ is the most famous for carrying twenty thousand of Albanian refugees to the Italian port of Bari, an unprecedented mass arrival on August 8, 1991 that left Italian authorities unprepared.



*Refugees from the Vlora (background) in Bari's port (Italy) on 8 August 1991*

“Qeraxhi I Grebenese” translated as “Coach man of Grebenese” is a famous old Albanian song which prescribes the pain of the family members, mothers and wives when their men emigrated far away. The coach man is a horse-drawn carriage man. At that time, emigrants left the house with horse drawn carriages. Available at RTVKlan, 100 Vjet Musike

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--cizqrj\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--cizqrj_g)



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## Recipe



### Pickled Cabbage Rolls (Sarma me Laker Arme)

#### Ingredients:

2 x 1.5 L jar pickled cabbage  
1 lb ground beef  
1 and 1/2 cups jasmine or basmati rice  
2 tbsp tomato paste  
1 tbsp red pepper paste (optional) or roasted red pepper\*  
1 medium to large onion  
paprika  
salt and pepper  
water, tomato paste and olive oil for cooking

Saute the chopped onion in olive oil, add in the tomato paste and pepper paste if using, add in the ground beef and break up and crumble meat. Add in rice sprinkle with paprika, season with salt and pepper. Taste and adjust filling, you may want to add more tomato paste or pepper paste or salt or paprika.

The leaves that come in a jar are large, I cut them into quarters or in half if they are smaller. Fill with a little filling at a time, roll tightly.

For the bottom of the pan, I like to add sliced tomatoes or potatoes to help prevent the rolls from burning.

Place rolls in a large pot.

Bring about 5 to 6 cups of water to boil, add two tablespoons of tomato paste and season with a little salt. Pour over the rolls, water should reach the top level of the rolls, if it's too much water discard the extra. If you have homemade tomato sauce you may add some over the top as well.

Drizzle with olive oil, and bring to a boil cover with lid. Cook on medium to low heat.

Takes an 1 hour and 15 min to cook (approx). Set aside and allow to rest for half hour before serving.

*Ju Bëftë Mirë!*

Recipe courtesy of  
"When Feta Met Olive with Donika"



*The National Board wishes  
all of our members ...  
a Happy and Safe Summer !!*





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