



American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences

ARA Interim President: Ileana Costea

Board of Directors:

Ileana Costea, Vasile Staicu, Dinu Leonte, Oana Leonte,

ARA website: <https://main.ara-as.org>

ARA info email: [info@ara-as.org](mailto:info@ara-as.org)

# **ARA Newsletter (New Series) English edition #1 December 2022**

**Title:**

***ARA Activities  
2017-2022***

Editorial Board:

Main Editor:

Ileana Costea - Email: [arainterimpresident@gmail.com](mailto:arainterimpresident@gmail.com)

Co-editors:

Diana Brown (Romanian version) & Deborah Zournas (English version)

The newsletter is published in two different editions files, one in English and one in Romanian

=====

Content

- ❖ Happy New Year Card
- ❖ ARA President Message
- ❖ Recent Congresses
  - ARA 41, 2017, Sinaia Romania
  - ARA 42, 2018, Iasi Romania
  - ARA 43, 2019, UCLA, California, USA: in person & Zoom
- ❖ ARA 2021 Zoom Minisymposia

- ❖ ARA 2021 online Musical MiniConcerts (gifts),
- ❖ ARA 2022 Smaranda Brăescu Event in California, USA
- ❖ 2022, ARA Events in Media

=====

## ***Happy New Year 2023!***

### **History of ARA Newsletter**

In the past, for many years, ARA had a highly successful newsletter. Its editor was a non-Romanian specialist of Emil Cioran, and passionate for everything Romanian, Prof. Alexandra Gruzinska, <http://www.public.asu.edu/~gzl747>. We take this opportunity to give a big Thank You to her. She made an important contribution to ARA, and then, this was followed by a long gap.

In 1988, under the Maria Manoliu Manea Presidency, ARA felt there was a need for an ARA Newsletter as a means of communication among members, but there was no one willing to take the task. In 1989, the ARA Executive Committee decided to entrust the publication of an ARA Newsletter to an editorial Board, whose members were Professors Aleksandra Gruzinska, Dan Gabriel Cacuci, Nicolette Frank (Europe), Monica N. Grecu, Peter Gross, Olga Porumbaru, and Mircea Sabau. The General Assembly approved the project and the first newsletter (Vol. 1:1) appeared in August of 1989. ARA members were invited to contribute news of significant interest about their scholarly activities. The General Editor of the ARA Newsletter was Prof. Alexandra Gruzinska, School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University. For a few years, the ARA Newsletter was listed in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory. You can find some information about Prof. Gruzinska and download a few issues of the original ARA Newsletter (Summer 2000, Fall 1999, Spring 1999, Fall 1988, and Vol 1, June 1996) at the following web: <http://www.public.asu.edu/~gzl747>. Gruzinska was a professor of French, interested in Romanian culture and one of her research topics was the Romanian philosopher, Emil Cioran.

We are now reviving the ARA Newsletter. It will be in both English and Romanian. The first three issues will be sent to all ARA members, past and present, as well as all ARA friends and other people we know whom we think appreciate learning about Romanian values. After that, the Newsletter will be distributed to only the active ARA members, as a bonus for their membership, at the beginning of each month. Its title will reflect the themes and/or main subject(s) presented in the respective newsletter issue. It will contain information about ARA activities, events, news, as well as various short articles on Romanian issues, like ARA itself, in the fields of Arts and Sciences, in Romania and around the world. New items will be posted on the ARA website, <https://main.ara-as.org>

=====

# ARA Activities 2017 – 2022

## ARA Recent Congresses & Proceedings [Annual ARA Congress Proceedings – American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences \(ara-as.org\)](#)

### ARA 43, 2019 UCLA & Zoom

Interim President Ileana Costea

Conference Chair Ilona Scott

Congress website where you can find the video recordings and PowerPoint of all presentations:

<https://ileanacostea.wixsite.com/mymainsite/ara43>

(We are proud that we used Zoom long before the world jumped to it, due to the pandemic. That congress had a whole day the presentations on Zoom; then an innovative idea)

### ARA 42, 2018, Iași, Romania



## ARA 41, 2017, Sinaia, Romania Proceedings



### The 41<sup>st</sup> Congress of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences , 2-5 August 2017, Palace Sinaia - Romania





## • ARA 2021 Zoom Minisymposia

There were six Zoom events in the time of strict pandemic restrictions: two in the field of literature, of which one about the well-known Romanian poetess, Ana Blandiana, the other one about Hortensia Papadat Bengescu; one about the aviation champion (absolute world record at skydiving in 1932, Smaranda Braescu); two about scholars in the sciences fields of mathematics (Constantin Corduneanu) and chemistry (Gheorghe Mateescu), both known for their achievements in their field, but also their effort to keep in touch with Romania, and “bring back” a lot, in various ways, to their country; one in the field of linguistics, with the support of the Linguistic Institute of the Romanian Academy of Romania, about an archaic Romanian language, Istro-Romanian, spoken by only 500 people in Croatia, near Trieste, Italy. Since ARA tried to find interesting subjects, it also strived to bring back into the minds of Romanians subjects of great intellectual value, although not very well known, such as the aviation heroines erased from the mind and history books by the communists, Smaranda Braescu, the very little talked about Istro-Romanian language, and the prolific, very talented writer, Hortensia Papadat Bengescu, the Virginia Woolf of Romania, who is unfortunately also not very well known.

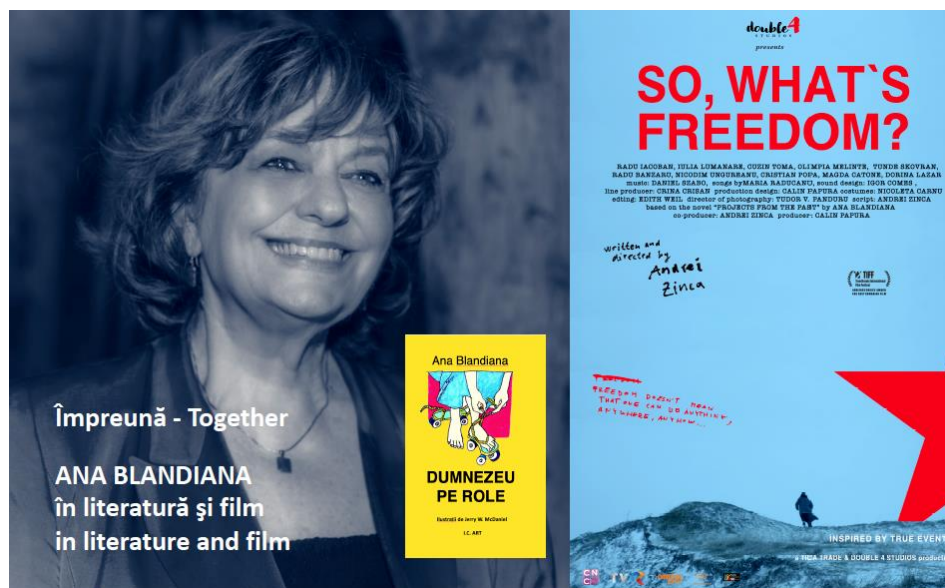
All the ARA Zoom events had speakers of high academic level from various countries around the world, all successful in their fields, and many of them noticeably young, and had sponsors of prestige. They were all well attended.

## • “Together”: Ana Blandiana in literature and film, March 17, 2021

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/576483066>

**Ana Blandiana – well-known contemporary Romanian Poet**

**1st Zoom** (Topic: Literature and film; 125 participants)



**Books:** *Dumnezeu pe role / God on Roller Skates* and *Sora Lume;*

**Movie:** *So What is Freedom / Si atunci ce este libertatea* (regizor/director Andrei Zinca);

Co-organizers: Ileana Costea and Andrei Zinca; Moderators: Ileana Costea and Andrei Zinca; Translator: Peter Bota

The books presented at this event were the new book of Ana Blandiana, *Sora lume*, and the book *God on Roller Skates*, conceived by Ileana Costea, with illustrations by the American artist Jerry W. McDaniel, and

containing an *After word* by Ana Blandiana, and an article about the visit of the poetess and her husband, Romulus Rusan in California in 2015. The movie discussed was Andrei Zinca's new featured film *So what is Freedom*, inspired by a short story of Ana Blandiana about the horrible event of the deportation in the Baragan, a region in Romania.

- **Let me fly! / Lasati-ma sa zbor! , May 20, 2021,**

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/571659950>

**Smaranda Braescu – Romanian American interbellum skydiver and pilot**

**2nd Zoom** Topic: Aviation celebration; 95 participants

Edited Romanian version /Edition in Romanian

Co-organizers: Laurentiu Buzenchi and Ileana Costea; Moderator: Ileana Costea; Translator: Ileana Costea

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/557089851>, Smaranda Braescu Zoom session as recorded (not edited); Spoken in English, Romanian, and French; translator Ileana Costea.



American-Romanian Academy  
of Arts and Sciences



ARPIA Cluj "Smaranda Braescu"  
Romanian Association for  
Propagand and History of Aviation



I.C. ART



Voxx Studios

- **In Memoriam – Dr. Gh. Mateescu, The artisan of the Romanian Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, June 9, 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/562332804/6836212a85>

Gheorghe Mateescu was a well-known chemist, known for having introduced the MRI in Romania.

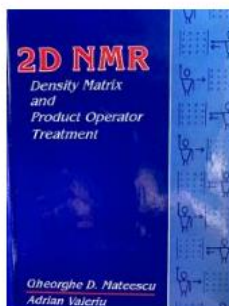
**3rd Zoom Topic:** In Memoriam; 40 participants; Organizer and Moderator: Oana Leonte



9 iunie 2021

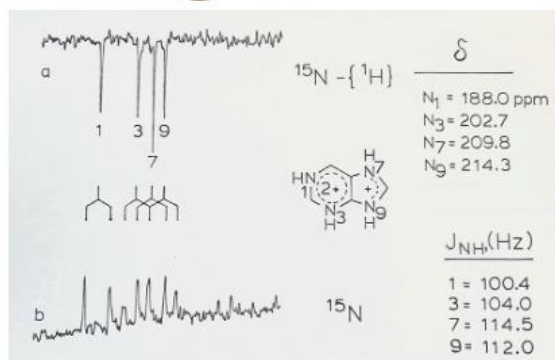
9:00 am PST / 12:00 pm EST / 18:00 CEST /

19:00 Romania time



### Virtual Mini-Symposium

**"In Memoriam - Gh. Mateescu,  
the artisan of the Romanian Society of  
Magnetic Resonance in Medicine"**



- **Celebration of Life of Acad. Prof. Dr. Constantin Corduneanu, July 29, 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/588683899/ee0d8274e2>

**4th Zoom Topic:** In Memoriam; 55 participants

**INVITATION/INVITAȚIE**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Zoom ARA 2021 Event  
Al 4-lea Eveniment Zoom ARA 2021  
Mini-symposium / Mini-Symposium

**"Celebration of Life – Acad. Prof. Constantin Corduneanu"**  
**"Aniversare omagială a zilei de naștere a  
Acad. Prof. Constantin Corduneanu"**

**Monday / Luni**  
**July 26, 2021 / 26 iulie, 2021**  
**9:30 am – 12:30 pm (PST)**  
**19:30 - 20:30 România**

**Libertas Mathematica 14**

**Academia Româno-Americană de Arte și Științe**

Co-organizers: Ileana Costea and Oana Leonte

Main collaborator in the organization Prof. Tuncay Aktosun, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, USA. The important contributions of Acad. Constantin Corduneanu were highlighted in this Zoom; the creation and publication for over 30 years of the prestigious Libertas Mathematical journal, which finds itself in numerous university libraries and helped many Romanian mathematicians make themselves known by publishing in it (now the journal continues to function under the ARA umbrella, having as main editor Prof. Dr. Vasile Staicu, from the University of Aveiro, Portugal, to which Prof. Corduneanu entrusted the publication).

- **Istro-Romanian: Current State of Research, October 15, 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/638109409/9542597443>

**5th Zoom** Topic: Linguistics; 37 participants

Main organizer and Moderator: Ionut Geana; Consultant Organizer: Ileana Costea

- **Hortensia Papadat-Bengescu, interbellum Romanian writer, Nov. 19, 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/651459956/d7beff688c>

**6th Zoom** Topic: Literature

Main Organizer: Madalina Meirosu; Co-Organizers Madalina Meirosu and Ileana Orlich; Consultant Organizer: Ileana Costea



Presenters:

- Prof. Ileana Orlich, Arizona State University
- Prof. Michaela Mudure, Babes Bolyai University
- Sionainn Ditto, Arizona State University (PhD Cand.)
- Assist. Prof. Madalina Meirosu, Swarthmore College

## Hortensia Papadat-Bengescu: Women's Lives in Interbellum Romania

November 19, 2021



- **ARA online musical miniconcerts (gifts) in 2021**

- **Bessarabian Christmas Carols / Colinde Basarabene with Nina Munteanu (voice and violin)** – ARA online Music Christmas Gift

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/659583599>; Password: ColindeNina;

**1<sup>st</sup> Music Gift** Topic: Music; sent to all ARA members and friends

Organizer: Nina Munteanu; Video editing: Ileana Costea.



- Additional video edited by Ileana Costea for the New Year <https://youtu.be/8nMPDt5vwSI> ; Sorcova Vesela / Merry “Sorcova” interpreted by Nina Munteanu (violin and voice) A Bessarabian version of the traditional Romanian song, sang in Romanian but with subtitles in English



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/428053139562883008/>

## Sorcova

En.

Sorcova is a Romanian custom for the New Year (on New Year's Eve or on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January). Children or youngsters shake a “sorcova”, sometimes slightly touching a person with it, singing the “Merry Sorcova” traditional song. The “sorcova” is made of a stick or a twig decorated with artificial floweres of bright colors, made of paper or of fabric.

Ro.

Sorcova este un obicei românesc pentru Noul An. În ajunul anului și de 1 ianuarie copii sau tineri ies la sorcovit, și dau ușore cu sorcova pe câte cineva cântând tradiționala “Sorcova Veselă”. Sorcova este făcută dintr-un bat sau o crenguță decorate cu flori artificiale de diverse culori, făcute din hârtie sau până.

- **Digital MiniConcert by the young musicians of Iasi, Romania**

<https://vimeo.com/657234960> Password: concert2021

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Music Gift Topic: Music; sent to all ARA members and friends)**

Organizer/Project Coordinator: Nina Munteanu, Iasi, Romania; Consultant Organizer: Ileana Costea; Video editing: Ileana Costea



- **ARA 2022 Smaranda Brăescu events in California, 12-23 October 2022**

## Smaranda Brăescu events

In lieu of the annual Congress 2022

Live Smaranda Braescu events in California

Visit of Cluj delegation from Romania (5 people)

Laurentiu Buzenchi – President ARPIA Cluj

Colonel Cornel Mituț – director of trilogy Măndița on Smaranda's life

<https://www.arpia-filialacluj.ro/> (Galerie>Video>Documentare)

### Southern California

Local Chair/Organizer: Dr. Ileana Costea, Professor Emeritus CSUN, ARA Interim President

\* Visit at Air Museum Palm Springs

Meeting with leaders; Women in Aviation Section

\* Visit at NASA/JPL (organizer and guide Dr. Adrian Stoica, JPL robotics)

\* Event with speakers and documentary screening

\* Memorial Service Smaranda Brăescu

Adrian Rosca Priest, Sherman Oaks, Los Angeles

### Northern California

Local Chair/Organizer: Nick Suciu, Skylark Aircraft, CEO and founder & new association "Historical Events"

\* Major Speakers and movie event

at the Sacramento Aerospace of California Museum

Large audience (180 people

famous speakers, many sponsors)

Grand Opening: National Hymns. brass band

\* Banquet at Romanian "Hora" restaurant

\* Events at Holly Resurrection Church, Hayward

Memorial Service – Octavian Mahler priest;

Speakers and Movie Event

## Gallery of pictures from the Smaranda Events in California

The General Consul of Romania greeted the public at the Smaranda Brăescu events both in Southern and in Northern California. Nick Suciú at the California Aerospace Museum in Sacramento organized the most spectacular event, where Smaranda already has some objects relating to her in the permanent collection of the museum. Smaranda won the absolute record at skydiving in 1932 in Sacramento.

General Counsel of Romania, Dr. Cosmin Dumitrescu and ARPIA Cluj President Laurențiu Buzenchi



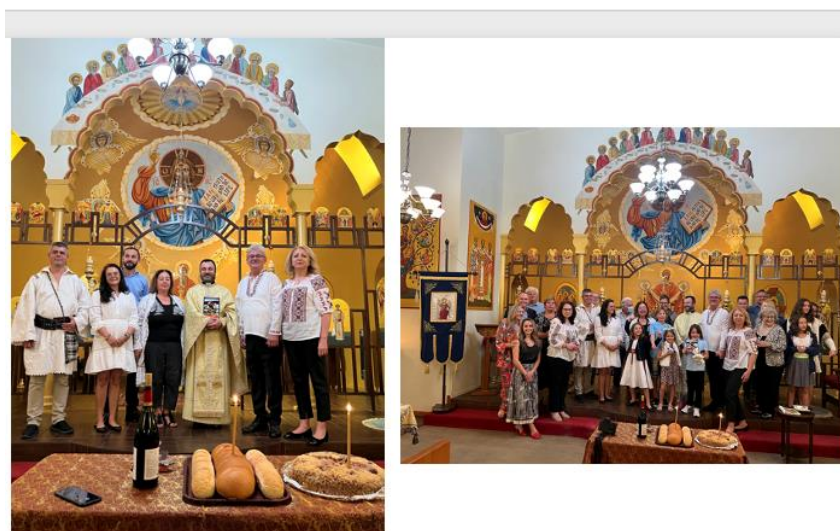
Spectacular event, with a large audience at the Museum of Aerospace of California, Sacramento, October 22, 2022







Memorial services for Smaranda Brăescu were offered at churches, both in Southern and in Northern California.



=====



## 2022, ARA Events in Media

ARA President, Ileana Costea, made in media several presentations and interviews about Smaranda Braescu and ARA Activities.



TVR1 at "3 Good Hours" show, November 2, 2022

Interviewed: Ileana Costea & Cornel Mituț

<https://www.facebook.com/536951448/videos/1290463111748695/>  
Ileana Costea

\* RR International 4 interviews

(before and after the Smaranda Brăescu events in California and ARA Activities;)

jump to 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the radio show

<https://soundcloud.com/radioromaniainternational/asociatii-romanesti-din-lume-1412202>

<https://www.facebook.com/536951448/videos/5586787274745181/>

\* RR Actualitati / News

\* Publive.ro platform in Lidia Lazu's show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0i1mRySLU4>

---

• Melidonium

<https://melidoniumm.wordpress.com/2022/11/24/smaranda-braescu-din-nou-in-california/>

## MARATHON of INTERVIEWS

Smaranda Brăescu and ARA interview: Vasile Badiu and Ileana Costea interviewed by Florin Fratila for Oglinda Zilei, Campina, Romania

[Ileana Costea, președintele Academiei Româno-Americană, în trecere prin Câmpina](#)

