ARA Newsletter
(New Series)
English edition
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Title:
ARA Activities
2017-2022

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

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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](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](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](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 41st 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 Hortenisa Papadat Bengescu; one about the aviation champion (absolute world record at skydiving in 1932, Smaranda Brăescu); 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 heroin 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)

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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.
• In Memorian – 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

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

9 iunie2021
9:00 am PST / 12:00 pm EST / 18:00 CEST /
19:00 Romania time

• 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/INVITATION
The 4th Zoom ARA 2021 Event
AI-4-3ea 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
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**
  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](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;
   1st 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/8nMPdt5vw5I ; 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
• **Digital MiniConcert by the young musicians of Iasi, Romania**
  
  https://vimeo.com/657234960  Password: concert2021

• **2nd 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 Mândița 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 Suciu 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.
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 Mitu
https://www.facebook.com/536951448/videos/1290463111748695/
* RR International 4 interviews
  (before and after the Smaranda Brăescu events in California and ARA Activities;)
  jump to 2nd 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

### 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

### Melidonium