

VIITORUL ROMAN SOCIETY

2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February 26, 2017

During 2016, although Viitorul Roman Society (VRS) continued to fulfil its mission to preserve and promote the Romanian heritage and culture in Southern, the year was one of reflection, of great loss and at the same time of hopeful celebration.

On March 25, 2016, we lost to the hereafter, our beloved and quintessential Jon Cepoi, formerly president of the Viitorul Roman Society for 20 years. During his tenure, the Romanian-American cultural community in the LA metropolitan area flourished, as from his personal initiatives the Society hosted and organized, a long list of historic and memorable events. He will remain forever in VRS' memory with pride and gratitude.

This year Viitorul Roman Society celebrated 90 years of continuous activity. On April 18, 1926, at the Catalina Jazz Club, present and former officers and members of the Society along with many distinguished guests enjoyed several wonderful artistic performances, while relishing on Romanian dishes and beverages.

Again, this year VRS tried provided financial and logistics support to the European Heritage Festival, alas, the activity stopped due to various objective difficulties.

On May 27, 2016, we hosted in a small private gathering the world renown mezzo-soprano Roxana Constatinescu, in an effort to connect her with the Blue Heron Foundation and several Romanian artists from our community.

As the Society's representative, we attended the Alianta Awards Gala, which took place in Washington, D.C. on September 27, 2016, at the Organization of American States (OAS) headquarters. The Alianta gathering is used as a vehicle for increasing the visibility of the Society among the Romanian-American community at large in the USA.

On November 5, 2016, the Society hosted the Annual Ball at the Hotel Maya in Long Beach. The sold out party was the pinnacle of another great year in the history of our Society, and included two well appreciated musical numbers, and a raffle with posters and books from Wanda Decca and Toma George Maiorescu.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your invaluable contributions in keeping the organization vibrant and visible among the Romanian-American community here in Los Angeles and abroad. Thank you to all the members of the board: the Vice-President, Mr. Adrian Barbu; the Secretary, Ms. Ionela Kloes; the Treasurer, Mr. Marian Sarbu; the Auditor Mr. Vee Petrescu, who also took on the Webmaster duties; the Member at Large, Ms. Mara Chindris; and to the officers, the Cultural Director, Ms. Aura Imbarus; the Webmaster, Robert Sarbu; and the Principal Advisor to the Board, Ms. Dana Moldovan; and to our visual media curator Ms. Susan Petrescu, for their sustained efforts behind all the activities of the society and to all the members, old and new, for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Virgil Adumitroaie
President, "Viitorul Roman" Society