

25 years of
**ROMANIA - UNITED STATES
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**
friendship ★ security ★ prosperity



HONORARY CONSULATE OF ROMANIA
TO CONNECTICUT

ROMANIA NATIONAL DAY 2022

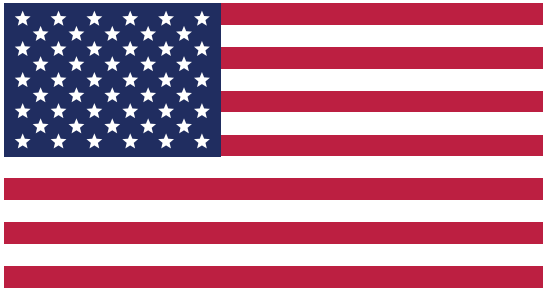
December 8TH, 2022
4:00-8:00 PM

Capital Community College – Centinel Hill Hall Auditorium
950 Main St, Hartford, CT

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NATIONAL ANTHEMS



Performed by David Osnaga, Piano

The Star-Spangled Banner

Lyricist: Francis Scott Key
Composer: John Stafford Smith

Oh, say, can you see
By the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hail'd
At the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd
Were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare
The bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there;

O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?



Performed by
Nadia Diaz Bucin, Guitar
Eliza Diaz Bucin, Ukulele
David Osnaga, Piano
Mirela Panaitișor, Violin
Iuliana Roată, Voice

Deșteaptă-te, române

Versuri: Andrei Muresanu
Muzica: Anton Pann

Deșteaptă-te, române, din somnul cel de moarte,
În care te-adânciră barbarii de tirani
Acum ori niciodată croiește-ți altă soarte,
La care să se-nchine și cruzii tăi dușmani.

Acum ori niciodată să dăm dovezi în lume
Că-n aste mâni mai curge un sânge de roman,
Și că-n a noastre piepturi păstrăm cu fală-un nume
Triumfător în lupte, un nume de Traian.

ROMANIA NATIONAL DAY PROGRAM

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Meet & Greet

His Excellency, the Ambassador of Romania, Dan-Andrei Muraru
Cocktail Hour & Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres

5:00 – 5:15 PM

Opening Event

by Honorary Consul of Romania to CT, Dana Bucin
Anthems
Blessing prayer - Fr. Daniel Moldovan & Fr. Iura Godenciuc

5:15 – 6:15 PM

**Address by Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin,
Ambassador of Romania & Other Dignitaries
Community Partners, Sponsors**

Testimonials of Ukrainian Refugees

6:15 – 7:15 PM

Artistic Performances directed by

Iuliana Roată - Artistic & Cultural Director of the Honorary Consulate of
Romania to CT, Assistant Principal at Stamford Public Schools, CT
Mirela Panaitișor - Vice-President of Romanul Corp, Owner & Music
Director of The New Old School of Music, West Hartford, CT

7:15 – 8:00 PM

Art Exhibit and Sale

Reception

Andrei Muraru has been accredited by the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the United States on July 7, 2021. The President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, accepted his Letters of Credence on September 15, 2021.

Andrei Muraru holds a Ph.D. in History from the University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" in Iași, as well as an MA and BA in History from the same university.

He has worked at the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile since its foundation. Furthermore, Andrei Muraru was Senior Advisor to the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, serving as the head of the Department of Relationship with Public Authorities and Civil Society. Andrei Muraru is a university lecturer at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Department of International Relations and European Integration) and scientific researcher at The Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania. He received a doctoral scholarship funded by a POSDRU program and a postdoctoral fellowship at Yad Vashem - The International Institute for Holocaust Research 2020.

He was awarded, by H.M. King Michael I, the Medal "King Michael for Loyalty" for his contribution to the historiography of the Romanian monarchy, and he was granted the distinction of Officer in the Order of the Crown for his activity as head of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile.

Luke Bronin was sworn in as the 67th mayor of the City of Hartford on January 1, 2016, and was reelected to a second term in November of 2019. He is a husband, a father, a veteran, and an attorney, and he is committed to building a stronger Hartford for all of the city's residents.

Before becoming mayor, **Mayor Bronin** served in senior positions in both federal and state government. In 2013, he was appointed by then-Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy to serve as General Counsel. As the Governor's chief lawyer, Bronin was deeply involved in developing policies to combat veterans' homelessness, pass common sense gun laws, expand economic opportunities, reform our criminal justice system, and protect our environment.

Prior to his role in the Governor's office, he served in the Obama Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In that role, he helped lead the federal government's efforts to isolate and disrupt international terrorist groups and advance U.S. national security.

Mayor Bronin served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and was a member of the military's anti-corruption task force during his deployment to Afghanistan from September 2010 to April 2011. He earned his B.A. and J.D. from Yale University and his M.A. from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

He and his wife, Sara, live in Hartford with their three young kids.

ROMANIAN FUN FACT

Guinness Book has ranked the Palace of Parliament in Bucharest as the most expensive administrative building and the world's heaviest one. The construction is 270 meters wide and 86 meters tall, weighing about 4,098,500,000 kilograms (9.04 billion pounds; 4.10 million tons)

MUSICAL PROGRAM

Foaie verde lămâiță

by Dumitru Georgescu Kiriac

performed by Denise Popescu, Violin & Jacob Coman, Violin & Mirela Panaitișor, Violin

Povestea ceasului

by Myriam Marbe

performed by David Osnaga, Piano

Am un leu și vreau să-l beau

performed by Matei Panaitișor, Saxophone & Philip Hău, Clarinet

Valurile Dunării

by Iosif Ivanovici

performed by David Osnaga, Piano & Mirela Panaitișor, Violin

Azi e ziua României

Țara mea-i un colț de rai

Cât trăim pe-acest pământ

performed by Românașul Vocal Group

George Matei, Sebastian Matei, Angelina Matei, Philip Hău, Justin Hău, Daniel Hău,
Matei Panaitișor, Nadia Diaz Bucin, Eliza Diaz Bucin, David Osnaga

Noi cântăm hora frumoasă

M-aș întoarce în țara mea

performed by Iuliana Roată

Anthem of Ukraine,

Chervona Kalyna,

Ukraine

performed by Olga Borsh

Balada

by George Enescu

performed by Mirela Panaitișor, Violin & Tania Papayannopoulou, Piano

A FEW WORDS ABOUT TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS

DENISE POPESCU is a high school senior and an active member of the Chamber Orchestra of Manchester High School. She is also a member of the USFSA through Bolton Figure Skating Club. **Denise** approaches every new experience with enthusiasm and in search of knowledge. Whether it is a new piece of violin music or a new figure skating element, she is excited about it all. She is a kind-hearted, intelligent, compassionate, and curious young woman in everything she does. She loves teaching young children to skate and she also mentors freshman students in the orchestra at her school. She is looking to study data science with a minor in neuroscience in college. We wish her good luck and best wishes with her future endeavors.

JACOB COMAN is 15 years old and was born in Hartford but most of his extended family lives in Romania. **Jacob** loves music and started playing the violin about 5 years ago at The New Old School of Music. He likes to explore nature, and its inhabitants, and study wildlife, particularly marine biology. Jacob enjoys visiting other countries and getting to know local people and their cultural habits.

MATEI PANATIȘOR is a junior in high school (West Hartford, CT) and is proud of his Romanian heritage. He is always happy to volunteer for community events. With a genuine passion for social studies, **Matei** likes to keep himself up to date with all worldwide happenings and is always curious to read and learn about the Romanian social and economic climate. Being born into a family of artists, Matei started studying music at the age of 5 and loves playing the saxophone as much as he enjoys photography and graphic design.

DAVID OSNAGA began studying piano at the age of 4. He is an active member of the Romanian American society and volunteered to play piano for different artistic community events. **David** participated in numerous recitals and several local and international competitions like "The Sound of Music" and "Emil Rotundu International Competition" where he distinguished himself among the winners. David loves traveling and learning about different cultures, foreign languages, social studies, science, mathematics and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, biking, and playing tennis.

NADIA LUCIA DIAZ BUCIN started guitar at the age of 7 at the New Old School of Music. She loves her "Hora" guitar manufactured in the very city (Reghin) in Romania where her mother was born and raised. She enjoys playing Christmas songs on the guitar and learning Romanian heritage songs.

Nadia's sister, **Eliza Josefina Diaz Bucin** started learning ukulele at the age of 6 at the New Old School of Music and is playing on a "Hora" ukulele manufactured in Reghin, Romania. Both instruments were procured with love by their grandmother in Romania. Both **Eliza and her sister Nadia** attend the Romanian Language School organized by Romanul in order to learn their heritage language (Romanian). They look forward to next year's trip to Romania when they will be touring the castles and medieval fortresses in Transylvania.

PHILIP HĂU is in 7th grade at Saint Rita School in Hamden, CT. **Philip** has played in his school's band since 4th grade. The clarinet was his first choice and continues to be his favorite instrument. Philip is keen on his Romanian heritage and is interested in learning more about the Romanian language and culture. He likes math, geography, and meteorology. Together with his twin brother, Philip is a member of the Cheshire Y/ Sea Dog Swim team and of the cross-country team at his school.

OLGA BORSH, known as local Ukrainian singer "Olichka," is a music passionate Ukrainian immigrant living in Connecticut with two children, raised in Odessa, Ukraine, before moving to the United States 23 years ago. In addition to her job in the financial sector, **Olga** sings Ukrainian songs at local events to raise awareness of the war in Ukraine and to raise funds to help and support the Ukrainian people and soldiers with vital medical supplies. **Olga** used her personal connections to her home country to send much-needed supplies directly into the hands of soldiers in need.

MIRELA PANAITȘOR earned her double degree in Violin Performance as well as Music Education from the prestigious Music Academy of Bucharest-Romania and has been a dedicated educator for the past 32 years. Today, she owns "The New Old School of Music" in West Hartford, CT where notable achievements of her students include successful auditions to Juilliard Pre-College Division, Carnegie Hall Honors Orchestra, auditions for WHPS' "Camerata" and "I Giovani Solisti" chamber orchestras, select groups at Hartt School of Music, Inter EI, CT Regionals, All-State Festival, as well as abroad. In 2020, **Mirela** was appointed as a member of the Commission on the Arts by the West Hartford Town Council and she also serves as Principal-2nd for West Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Actively engaged in the Romanian community, **Mirela** loves promoting Romanian music and culture with any chance she gets. She serves as Romanul Corp vice-president as well as FORA secretary.

TANIA PAPAYANNOPOULOU, a native of Athens, Greece, is a choral conductor, music educator, and music therapist. She holds graduate degrees from Columbia University and New York University in piano performance, music education, music psychotherapy, and conducting. She has been on the music Faculty at Mannes College of Music, Eastern Conservatory of Music & Arts, and the Hollingworth School at Teachers College. **Ms. Papayannopoulou** has practiced music therapy at the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function. She is the Director of Keyboard & Ensemble Productions and has been conducting and directing The Unforgettables Chorus since June of 2011. Ms. Papayannopoulou is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree at Columbia University.

IULIANA ROATĂ is the Director of Education & Artistic Programs of the Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut since 2018. She coordinates any desirable programs to advance CT-based cultural education among first generation Romanians in CT as well as showcasing Romanian culture to American audiences and undertakes any other projects mutually agreed upon with the Honorary Consul and which would advance the mission of the Honorary Consulate. Iuliana has been an ambassador of the Romanian culture and heritage at various International Festivals in New England, including the Performance Arts of New England Cultural Events, Romanian National Day in Boston, and The Romanian Day on Broadway. This year **Iuliana** was selected among Top 100 Romanian and participated at Repatriot Summit where she worked on cross-border educational initiatives between CT and Romania. **Iuliana** holds a Certificate in Advanced Studies in Administration and a Sixth Year Degree in Advanced Studies in Literacy, CLSP from University of Sacred Heart, Fairfield, CT, and she also earned a Master Degree in Elementary Education from University of Bridgeport, CT. **Iuliana** is a former elementary teacher and literacy coach, currently working as an Assistant Principal at Stillmeadow Elementary School in Stamford, CT.

ROMANIAN FUN FACT

The British newspaper The Telegraph considers the Transfăgărășan the most beautiful road in the world. Built in the 1970s as a strategic military route, the Transfăgărășan presents the daring driver with 90 kilometers of tunnels, viaducts, bridges, and breathtaking landscapes.

FINE ARTS / EXHIBITION – ARTISTS

IULIAN BUDEA – *guest artist*

LUIZA BUDEA is originally from Braila, Romania, where she began her artistic studies, which she completed in New York City. Before moving to Connecticut, **Luiza Budea** has two decades of experience in NYC as an artist and art curator. Currently, she is a consultant for Rafael Gallery on Madison Ave., NYC, and Fine Arts Project Coordinator for the Honorary Consulate of Romania to CT, preparing the launch of the National Heritage Mural Project as collaboration among Romanian-American artists around CT.

IOANA HOBAI – *guest artist*

IOANA BARAC is a designer and maker of urban ornament and public sculpture, from flat pattern and shallow relief to elaborate, large scale works. In photography, as in sculpture and drawing, she explores the ancestral need for meaning and connection and the relation of the individual with the social and built environment. In producing her work, **Ioana Barac** strives to continue traditional methods of making the craft and to combine the technologically advanced and hand made. Initially trained in Bucharest, Romania, Barac has a B.S. from University of Hartford and a Master of architecture from Yale University where she received the Moulton Andrus Award for excellence in Art and Architecture. Barac is founding partner at Atelier Cue, a public art and place making studio committed to community engagement. Barac teaches design at University of Hartford.

ANDRADA ELENA – *guest artist*

ILEANA DUMITRIU is a New Haven architect and painter. She has a Baccalaureate in Fine Arts from Tonitza College and a March from Ion Mincu Institute of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest, Romania. **Ileana Dumitriu** is a painter and a senior associate architect at Pelli Clarke and Partners in New Haven, CT.

TORITAVENNER – *guest artist*

ADRIAN PANAITSOR is a West Hartford, CT conceptual artist who's aiming to continue the work of the great Italian artists, Lucio Fontana and Agostino Bonalumi, as well as the Cuban artist Zilia Sanchez in merging two and three dimension art using the canvas surface as the most logical building block in achieving such a goal. BS in Electrical Engineering, and BFA in graphic design from University of Connecticut, Instructor of contemporary Art at Manchester community college, Manchester CT.

JORDANTAVENNER – *guest artist*

ROMANIAN FUN FACT

Charles III, King of the United Kingdom, is involved in the rehabilitation program of several old Transylvanian Saxon villages from the 12th century, some of which are UNESCO patrimony. He bought several old houses in Romania that tourists could rent and opened a Training Center in Viscri, Transylvania where those willing may learn ancient methods of crafting traditional fabrics.

GREAT UNION DAY

NATIONAL DAY OF ROMANIA CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 1ST

1881. Eugene Schuyler, the US Chargé d'affaires, is granted an audience with Charles Hohenzollern, the 1st king of the Romanians. Albeit the newly formed state was still a part of the Ottoman Empire, the US Department of State had authorized the diplomat to recognize it. Schuyler became the first-ever US Consul General in Bucharest.

Friend of Turgenev and Tolstoy, and former Consul General both in Moscow and Istanbul, Schuyler had a deep understanding of the Ottoman Empire and the situation of the nations who, striving to emancipate from under its colonial dominance, were trying to avoid slipping under the domination of another regional super-power.

However, Schuyler wasn't just a diplomat when he presented his accreditation letters in front of Charles the 1st. Before reaching Bucharest, at first by interviewing Bulgarian students, then by visiting in person the decimated Bulgarian villages, the American diplomat had investigated and documented the civilian massacre committed by the Ottoman Army after the last Bulgarian uprising. It wasn't the first time that Schuyler has raised his voice against an imperial power. While being a diplomat in Russia, he criticized the manner in which the tsardom was treating its Tartar subjects.

His work that today would be called "investigative or war journalism" added up to Romania's history in a significant way. The American's grisly findings in Bulgaria, published in the UK, produced such a public outrage that it translated into a powerful reluctance to help the Ottoman Empire when, in 1877, Russia declared war. The public opinion was so decidedly against it that the British government felt compelled to communicate it officially to Istanbul.

No matter how remote, Schuyler's story constituted one of the strongest causal links that led to Romania's (and Bulgaria's) success in the Independence War of 1877-1878, empowering both nations to build their own sovereign states.

Following that audience with King Charles the 1st of Romania, Eugene Schuyler learned Romanian and

became a correspondent member of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. He left the country three years later. A mountain in Antarctica bears his name. His activity as an invested diplomat still endures as living proof of how one person's fundamental good will, moral sense, and willingness to understand the surrounding realities, can change the great scheme of things forever.

Thirty-six years later, while the German Zeppelins were attacking England, while the US were feverishly building forts to train more soldiers to send to Europe, while the first battle submarines were roaming the oceans, while in Moscow the Bolshevik party was striving to grab the power, days only after the Battle of Mărășești had stopped the German advance upon the Carpathian Mountains, in Iași, where the Romanian government was forced to take refuge, another Romanian King, Ferdinand, was signing the decree (Royal decree 1027/24 September 1917) by which Constantin Angelescu - a renown medical surgeon - was accredited as Plenipotentiary Minister and Extraordinary Envoy to the US.

At that time, the fate of the war was still frightfully uncertain. Nevertheless, this document allowed that, one year later, when Transylvania expressed its overwhelming popular will to become part of the Romanian Kingdom, the US and Romania had already established full bilateral diplomatic relations.

An adept of the right of peoples to decide their own destiny in the international order, at the end of the WWI, President Woodrow Wilson wrote to King Ferdinand (January 1919): "With 3 million Romanians and 1 million Hungarians, Transylvania will belong to Romania." In many respects, this is the moment when, the Romanians became a cohesive nation on the world map.

The heroic fights of the Romanian army in 1917-1919, the political courage of King Ferdinand and the vision of his contemporary political class, the bravery of the Romanians who gathered at Alba Iulia to affirm their decision to belong to the Romanian state are no doubt the main forces that set the foundation of the modern Romanian state. But, at the end of World War I, the diplomatic connection between Washington and Bucharest was the final switch that allowed it to happen.

More than a hundred years has passed, a second World War, the Communist dictatorship, the nuclear threat, and now Romania and the US share much more than a bilateral diplomatic connection. Romanian soldiers fought and died next to their NATO peers all over the world. Conversely, over 3000 NATO highly qualified troops defend its territory. As of 2021, 74% of the Romanians approve of the American military bases on their soil. Romania has become a trusted ally and, a reliable alternative when democracy in Turkey or in Hungary had faltered. Commerce is now free between

the two countries, as free are the scientific and cultural exchanges.

Especially after the Russian annexation of Crimea and the Donbas conflict, Romania has become a crucial watch tower of the alliance over its most vulnerable border, hence the recent establishment of the Euro-Atlantic Centre for Resilience in Bucharest.

Romania's partnership with the US, though, had started with a simple act of an American diplomat who understood how important it was to support nations who struggle against colonialism.

25 YEARS OF ROMANIA-UNITED STATES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the US-Romania strategic partnership.

The Bilateral Strategic Partnership was launched during the official visit of the U.S. president William Jefferson Clinton to Romania on July 11, 1997, bolstering the framework of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Oriented towards supporting the ongoing reforms and the process of integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures and strengthening Romania's strategic role as security stabilizing force in the region, the US-Romania partnership defined the country's forthcoming foreign policy, and influenced its efforts to redesign the political, economic, military, and public administration landscape.

The partnership has taken a spectacular evolution over two and a half decades, with an emphasis on security and military cooperation, in the context of increased tensions between Ukraine and Russia, and on strengthening the economic and cultural ties between the two allied countries. Stability in the area has required strong statehood, another chapter that became a focus of the intense exchanges in the mechanism of democracy, rules of law, anti-corruption, and accountable governance. The joint efforts in the area of security and stability had a slower echo in the commercial trends, with the transition to a free market

economy and reforms leading up to increased trade volume, especially in domains such as automotive, engineering, machinery and equipment, energy, IT, agriculture, and food processing.

Following the September 11th attacks, Romania joined the international coalition led by the United States in Afghanistan and Iraq, a contribution that won the United States' endorsement for Romania's access to NATO. Romania was invited to open the accession negotiations for NATO membership at the Prague Summit that took place in 2002. On March the 29th, 2004, Romania officially joined NATO by submitting its instruments of ratification at the Department of State of the United States, the depositary nation for the North Atlantic Treaty.

The Defense Cooperation Agreement was signed in **2005**, by the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and her Romanian counterpart, Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu. According to the document, American military facilities were to be located at the Mihail Kogălniceanu air base, the Babadag training base, the Cincu and Smârdan training areas. On **September 13, 2011**, the Joint Declaration on the Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century between Romania and the United States and the Agreement between Romania and the United States of America on the Deployment of the United States Ballistic Missile Defense System in Romania are signed by the

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Teodor Baconschi. In 2013, construction started at the Romanian military base Deveselu, Olt County and in 2016, a ceremony took place for the certification of the operational capacity of the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System (AAMDS) in Deveselu.

On May 20, 2011, FBI opened a bureau in Bucharest to support the anti-corruption and initiatives against human trafficking.

Throughout 2018, a year marking Romania's 100th Anniversary since the Great Union of Romanian provinces, the country received messages from President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, with resolutions and proclamations from the US House of Representatives on the centennial, including 45 governors and the mayor of Washington, D.C.

In **2019** the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, and the President of the United States signed a Joint Statement that added input to the bilateral Strategic Partnership with regard to the 5G and joint energy security cooperation, including through civil nuclear energy cooperation.

In 2022 The Minister of Energy, Virgil Popescu, had a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm, to discuss the next steps to be taken for the construction of reactors 3 and 4 at Cernavodă and the project for the location of small modular reactors (SMR), in Doicești, in Dâmbovița County, SMR being the latest civilian nuclear technology.

In October 2020 the Minister of National Defense, Nicolae

Ciucă, and the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper, signed the Roadmap for the bilateral defense cooperation for the upcoming 2020-2030 decade, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bogdan Aurescu, met with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, to discuss the defense posture on NATO's Eastern Flank, with a focus on the Black Sea region, and other topics such as Black Sea gas exploitation, Romania's access in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and to the OECD. The discussions on the Visa Waiver Program intensified in November 2021, during the meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bogdan Aurescu, and Alejandro Mayorkas, the Homeland Security Secretary, on accelerating the progress to meet the requirements for VWP accession. In the same month, November 2021, a new round of the Strategic Dialogue was hosted by the U.S. Department of State. Romania and the U.S. committed to work further on joint projects in security and defense, economic and trade relations, energy, human rights, and cultural relations.

The most recent landmark diplomatic encounter between US and Romanian officials took place in Bucharest on March 11, 2022, when the Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, met President Klaus Iohannis and Prime Minister Nicolae Ciucă. Vice President Harris reiterated the United States' commitment to defending NATO allies. Later this year, on September 24, 2022, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Celeste Wallander, and the Romanian State Secretary, Simona Cojocar, discussed a range of bilateral defense and regional security issues.

(Sources: Website of the Embassy of Romania to the United States of America)

ROMANIAN FUN FACTS

Seven Romanian landmarks are declared UNESCO patrimony. These locations are the Danube Delta, the painted churches in the north of Moldavia, the Dacian Fortresses of the Orăștie Mountains, the historic center of Sighișoara, the Horezu Monastery, the villages with the fortified churches in Transylvania, and the wooden churches in Maramureș.

The highest wooden church globally and the second-largest wooden structure in Europe is Peri Monastery, located in Maramureș, Romania. The church is 78 meters high, and it has a 7-meter-high cross.

HONORARY CONSULATE OF ROMANIA IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

The Honorary Consulate of Romania in Hartford, Connecticut, was established in February 2018 to promote American-Romanian cooperation and their complex partnership relations as members of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, NATO, Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization.

The Consulate aims to strengthen the lines of the strategic partnership between Romania and the US, engaging in high visibility actions to help foster a stronger environment for entrepreneurship and investment, enabling US actors to learn about market opportunities and the country in general, promoting its artists, tourism and economic and technical achievements.

The Consulate promotes Romanian entrepreneurship, whether from Romania or within the CT Romanian Diaspora, and facilitates conversations between US and Romanian startups, investors, incubators, policymakers, and entrepreneurs to advance Romania's and Connecticut's innovation and startup ecosystem. It is also involved in economic development efforts in Connecticut via the consul's membership on the MetroHartford's Global Business Council Executive Committee, the World Affairs Council of Connecticut Board of Directors, and several other local/ global organizations.

Also, encouraging US-Romania cooperation in the domain of education, research, and cultural collaborations is an important focus of the Romanian Honorary Consulate in Hartford, as these factors provide a solid, natural framework for building constructive dialogue and expanding bilateral political and economic relationships. Over the past years, especially during 2022, marked by the intensification of the political, energy, and climate crises, with the associated humanitarian one, the Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut constantly adapted its directive activities, changing priority and focus in order to serve the most pressing needs. It has, nonetheless, continuously promoted and

supported members of the Romanian community and their dreams, trying to build a tightly knit community, interested in maintaining and promoting Romania's culture, products and role in the area. Connecticut is also home to a dynamic, diverse and highly educated American-Romanian community which has proved to be motivated and ready to establish bridges between Romania and the US, especially in education, research and development, cultural, and entrepreneurship domains.

A main objective of the Honorary Consulate is an active promotion of Romania's rich culture and history in Connecticut, along with increased information in regard to its long and fruitful relationship with the United States. It also focuses on stimulating the development of relations and facilitating economic and commercial contacts between Romanian and foreign companies, as well as recommending economic agents in the consular district and supporting the conclusion of commercial contracts; providing information on developments in the commercial, economic, cultural and scientific fields in the consular district in which it operates. The Honorary Consulate strongly supports initiatives and activities of the Romanian secular or religious organizations in the state.

One secondary but actively pursued goal is academic diplomacy, the Honorary Consulate being involved in stimulating cooperation between Romanian and foreign universities and other research institutions. It has recently partnered with CIRC (Coalition for Immigrants and Refugees) Connecticut, IRIS Connecticut, Welcome.nt, Welcome.US, Quinnipiac's University Central European Institute, UCONN Institute for Human Rights, Romanian Center for Comparative Migration Studies at Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Mark Twain International School of Bucharest, The League for the Defense of Human Rights, Cluj

Branch, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research at the Iaşi Branch of the Romanian Academy of Sciences, and other US-based Romanian-Americans organizations (Romanul Corp, FORA - Federation Of Romanian American

Organizations, RUF - Romanian United Fund, ARCHER (American Romanian Coalition for Human and Equal Rights). In addition to these secular organizations, the Consulate established collaborations with church community partners in the Romanian and Ukrainian communities, such as St Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in New Haven and St Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in New Britain.

DANA BUCIN, the **Honorary Consul of Romania to Connecticut** since 2018, represents Romanian interests in Connecticut and works to foster bilateral relations

between Romania and Connecticut in the business, commercial, cultural, legal, scientific, and social spheres. Dana Bucin is an Immigration/ International attorney, Chair of the Immigration Practice and Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee at Murtha Cullina LLP. Dana regularly provides multi-lingual representation in Romanian, Spanish, French and English, with basic proficiency in Italian, German, Hungarian and Latin. Among numerous other distinctions over the years, Dana Bucin was named in 2019 the "Attorney of the Year" by the Connecticut Law Tribune.



In support of U.S. – Romania Strategic Partnership
Afghanistan's Humanitarian Crises
Triangular Diplomacy Exercise (Saving Afghan Allies)

In 2021, immigration attorney Dana Bucin, Honorary Consul of Romania in Hartford, worked to evacuate 51 Afghans with Connecticut ties to the United States amid the collapse of the Afghan government and facing the August 31 deadline to complete the evacuation. As an immigration attorney, she offered Pro Bono representation to all applicants and coordinated with the Connecticut Immigrant & Refugee Coalition (CIRC) for a fundraising campaign to pay for their USCIS fees.

In addition, in her diplomatic capacity, she coordinated with embassies of various countries and, with the support of Romanian partner organization The League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADO) Cluj, worked with the Director of the International Organization for Migration office in Romania to find safe passage for Afghan nationals with relatives in Connecticut in what was called "a triangular diplomacy exercise."

Afghanistan's Humanitarian Crises

CT for Ukraine Matching Program - launched May 2022 (<https://ctukraine.org/>)

The "Connecticut for Ukraine" (CT4U) initiative is a volunteer-based matching service in support of applicants for the United for Ukraine program launched by the Biden administration in April 2022.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 triggered the fastest-growing and largest refugee crisis since World War II. Connecticut stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as many locals decided to welcome those who needed temporary refuge. On February 24th, 2022, Governor Ned Lamont condemned the unjustified and unprovoked invasion (Governor-Lamont-State-ment-on-Russian-Invasion-of-Ukraine). He later declared the state's full support in these times of need on his social media channels: "Connecticut accepted families from Afghanistan months ago when they needed a new home. If there is a need to accept refugees

from Ukraine due to Russia's unjust invasion, we'll welcome them with open arms."

The "Connecticut for Ukraine" Matching Program is a pro bono matchmaking service to help Ukrainians who decide to come under the United for Ukraine program understand the new sponsorship program, find a sponsor, and secure accommodation and jobs in Connecticut according to their interests and skills. Shortly after the invasion, Honorary Consul and Immigration Lawyer Dana Bucin headed to the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego, California, to meet with Ukrainian refugees and discuss their legal options for entering the United States. As a Romanian native, she was inspired by television coverage of Romanians taking in refugees fleeing war-torn Ukraine and felt the urge to take action. After being repeatedly contacted by

both Ukrainian citizens interested in seeking refuge in the US, and American private citizens who wanted to help, Dana decided to create a matching program to complement what the United for Ukraine federal initiative offered.

The Honorary Consulate of Romania's team designed two complementary forms, one addressed to sponsors and one for Ukrainians, to collect important practical information from both prospective hosts and guests and facilitated live online meetings between interested sponsors and parolees.

In addition, in collaboration with members of the Connecticut Ukrainian and Romanian communities, the team managed to fundraise, raise awareness, find prospective sponsors, and put together a set of important resources designed to support those fleeing war violence.

With a diverse business environment, top educational and medical institutions, Connecticut hosts a resettlement ecosystem that has already test-driven a complex system of public-private-civil society partnership designed to fast-track the settlement

journey of refugees and asylum seekers around the world. "Connecticut for Ukraine" aims to bring the safety, freedom, hope, and joy of a new life in a small, picturesque state in the Northeast, a state that is also full of life, communities equipped with kindness and countless work and educational opportunities. Yet, any fleeing journey has its uncertainties and complexities, usually amplified by fear, grief, homesickness, and even guilt for the ones left behind.

The Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut has also been supporting the fundraising efforts of the Romanian United Fund (RUF), which set up the Ukrainian Peace Fund for the refugees of Ukraine currently seeking safety in Romania. Supported by the Romanian Embassy in the US, the RUF fundraised over \$100,000. Furthermore, together with the Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut, Romanul Corp, and other organizations, RUF has founded the Federation of Romanian-American Organizations (FORA), an umbrella organization that unites the Romanian-American communities in a single collaborative forum for mutual support.

HONORARY CONSULATE OF ROMANIA IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Partnerships with Romania: Communities, Institutions and Organizations

The Honorary Consulate's activities also aim to support the Romanian Government's local response to the refugee crisis. In response to the humanitarian crisis, on July 26th, 2022, the Romanian Government publicly launched its National Plan of Measures for the Integration of 100,000 Ukrainian refugees in Romania in the medium and long term, aiming at supporting refugees to become independent, a plan that includes a set of concrete measures designed to simplify the employment procedure, education, healthcare, and housing access, and a framework for providing targeted language courses. As a result, Romania became the first country within the EU to set up a longer-term set of measures intended for the smooth Integration of Ukrainian refugees. This program could benefit from both support and expertise coming from countries with experience in the resettlement sector, such as the US.

By cooperating with Romanian institutions and organizations involved in humanitarian support for Romania's neighbor, such as The League for the Defense of Human Rights, Cluj, Gheorghe Zane Institute of Social and Economic Research, Iasi, or Romanian Center for Comparative Migration Studies at Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, The Honorary Consulate seeks to intensify the transnational research and intervention changes that the present structures require for a prompt and adequate response to the refugee influx.

In collaboration with the aforementioned institutions, the Honorary Consulate team started an online journal, AFAR/DEPARTE - A Journal of Migration Studies. AFAR/DEPARTE (JA/D) is designed as an annual multidisciplinary publication that includes original scientific articles, reviews, and case reports on

migration and aims to offer a variety of perspectives on the phenomenon of migration: linguistic, sociological, anthropological, ethnological, historical, psychological, philosophical, legislative, ecological, urbanistic, etc. The journal gathers bilingual research papers (Romanian-English) on the many aspects of migration, written by academics, diplomats, or independent researchers interested in migration and its consequences (the impact of migration on the individual, society, and culture).

In the educational domain, the most important partnership signed by the Consulate this past year is with the Mark Twain International School Bucharest (MTIS), an International Baccalaureate-certified private K-12 school in Bucharest, Romania, with a bilingual curriculum (English-Romanian) (to which Românul - SUA, Românul Online School are also partners). The purpose of this new educational partnership is to create

a framework for developing joint educational programs for our students to further their education and understanding of the world as multicultural and bilingual citizens and advance Romanian educational offerings in CT/ USA. The representatives of Mark Twain School - Ioana and Petre Vlăsceanu - also partnered with the Stillmeadow Elementary School in Stamford, where Assistant Principal is our very own Iuliana Roată.

In addition to these permanent connections, the Consulate conducted science diplomacy activities, connecting scholars from Romanian and American academic institutions interested in collaborations, identifying international partners for research grants, academic events, promoting new books or journals, or simply seeking to network in both formal and informal settings. Most requests came from professionals in medical, legal, and diplomatic domains, as well as social sciences and the development of new energy.

OUR ROMANIAN PARTNERS:

- ◆ **Historical commune of Bobâlna, Cluj County, Transylvania**
- ◆ **Mark Twain International School, Bucharest** (marktwainschool.ro)
- ◆ **The League for the Defense of Human Rights, Cluj** (ladocluj.ro)
- ◆ **Romanian Center for Comparative Migration Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj** (migrationcenter.ro/wp/team)
- ◆ **Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research at the Iaşi Branch of Romanian Academy of Sciences, Iaşi** (acadiasi.org)

ROMANIAN ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND BUSINESSES IN CT

Românul Corp, President Dragoş Hău
(<https://romanulonline.org/>)

**Holy Transfiguration Romanian Orthodox Church
Fr Daniel Moldovan**
2 Winter St, Manchester, CT 06040
(<https://holytransfigurationct.org/>)

**Holy Brâncoveanu Martyrs Romanian Orthodox
Church, Fr. Mihai Faur**
554 Tunxis Hill Rd, Fairfield, CT 06825
(<https://stbrancoveanu.org/>)

Agape Community Church
314 Main St, Wallingford, CT 06492
(<https://www.agapecommunity.church/>)

A Vila Louisa, owner Asim Etem
60 Villa Louisa Rd, Bolton, CT 06043
(<http://avillalouisa.com/>)

**Transylvania Restaurant and Bar, owner Alina and
Chris Căldăraru**

23 Main St, East Haven, CT 06512
(<https://www.transilvaniact.com/about-us/>)

Silvia's Thompsonville Café, owner Silvia Salvari
28 Pleasant St, Enfield, CT 06082
(<https://thompsonvillecafe.com/>)

**The New Old School of Music, owner Mirela
Panaitişor**
625 #C New Park Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06110
(<https://www.newoldschoolofmusic.com/>)

**Atelier Constantin Popescu, owner Constantin
Popescu**
03 East Putnam Avenue, Cos Cob, Greenwich CT 06807
(<https://www.atelierconstantinpopescu.com>)



ROMANIAN FUN FACT

The tallest sculpted rock in Europe is in the west part of Romania. It represents King Decebal, the last ruler of Dacia; it is 55 meters tall and 25 meters wide. Similar to Mount Rushmore, this attraction is only visible from the Danube

ROMANIAN FUN FACT

In 1869, Timișoara, Romania, became the first European city to introduce a horse-drawn tram. Twenty years later, Timisoara became the first city in Europe to introduce street lighting.

Consular Team, Partners and Supporters

Consular Team

Honorary Consul Dana Bucin

Antonia Baroga, Consular Documentation

Iuliana Roată, Artistic & Cultural Director

Nora Vasilescu, Writing Arts Director

Mihaela Ungureanu, Director of Commercial Relations

Corina Crișan, Ethics and Human Rights Consultant

Ana-Maria Hojbotă, Research Analyst & Website Administrator

Partners

Julia Todeasa, Intern - Translator & Human Services Assistant & Research Assistant CT for Ukraine Program

Nicu-Luigi Marcu, Intern - Research & Writing Assistant & Research Assistant CT for Ukraine Program

Luiza Budea, Plastic Arts Project Coordinator & Artist (<https://luizabudea.com/>)

Alona Voronova, Communication Director, CT for Ukraine Program

Scott Carter, Website Developer and Administrator, CT for Ukraine Program

Mirela Panaitișor, Vice President Romanul Corp

Dragoș Hau, President Romanul Corp

Bogdan Ștefanide, Audio Visual Event Specialist, Romania National Day

Monica Bidoae, Greeter, Romania National Day

Adrian Dobre, Designer, Romanian National Day

Alice Bidoae, Photographer, Romania National Day

Elena Arginataru, Greeter, Romania National Day

Alina Osnaga, Greeter, Romania National Day

David Osnaga, VIP Host & Performer, Romania National Day

Caterina Ticsa, Greeter, Romania National Day

Matei Panaitișor, Photographer, Romania National Day



Romanul Corp is a 501(c)3 non-profit community organization that was established in 2011 in Connecticut as a platform to unite the Romanian community and to consolidate its cultural and economic potential in the American society, while preserving and promoting its inherited language and national value.



Founding member organization of FORA www.fora-usa.org

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(203)307-0123

E-mail: info@theromanian.org
www.romanulonline.org,



www.facebook.com/romanulonline.

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Tonya Harris Cornileus

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truly cares about each and every one of her patients.
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Natalie Swan-Arsenault

The Astra Museum, located in Sibiu, is the second-largest open-air museum in the world. This museum harbors 15,000 works of traditional, pre-industrial civilization. The houses and the buildings are located around a lake and the whole museum has approximately 1,000 square meters.

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