

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ROMANIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY "FARSAROTUL"

The Romanian Benevolent Society "FARSAROTUL" was founded on September 3rd, 1903, under the name of "SPERANTA" (HOPE) and changed to "FARSAROTUL", on December 10th, 1906. On December 23rd, 1909, it was incorporated in the state of New York under the name of "THE ROMANIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FARSAROTUL". From the very beginning its aim was charitable, educational, cultural and social.

During its almost sixty years of activity, The Society FARSAROTUL has helped a number of its members with burial expenses, numerous Romanian students with scollarships, and the Romanian Orthodox Churches of New York Bridgeport, Conn. Cleveland, Ohio, Woonsocket, R.I., Southbridge, Mass. and St. Louis, Missouri, and many other religious, ~~and~~ educational and charitable institutions, both within and outside of the U.S.A. In addition, our Society was able to help many of our brethren in need, as well as our own Churches of our place of origin, and especially the Churches of Korytza Nevesca, Pleasa, Salonica, Bucharest, Farsari etc. More than \$20,000.00 were given to the above mentioned institutions, which is a record we are very proud to have achieved.

During the 1st and 2nd World Wars, our Society was able to help our own Government of the U.S.A., by purchasing U.S. Saving Bonds, the Ameircan and Romanian Red Cross and the Romanian Government and People. In the years of crisis and depression, from 1934-138, many of our members were left without work and without any other means of support. It was our Society's privilege to come to their assistance, however small may have seemed to some of them.

Many of our Youth do not realise that most of us came to this blessed country of ours without a penny, without proper education, and leadership, and that we have been able to achieve, whatever we have

achieved, only ^{through} hard and continuous work and personal qualities, which ^{But} we have inherited from our ancestors. In spite of all our ~~difficulties~~ early difficulties and hardships, we have been able to ~~have~~ build our own Churches and Cultural Societies, to take care of ~~our~~ our own families and especially to give our children any and all opportunities this country could offer to us and to them.

Most of our children and grand children are American born. They have better education and ^{many} every opportunity this country can offer. ~~But~~ They are facing the great challenge of our time with renewed effort and courage. They have to realise, however, that they will not be able to achieve very much, if they have no moral and spiritual foundation, upon which they should build their own future and if they are cut off from their spiritual heritage, which we have inherited from our forefathers. Therefore, in spite of their many opportunities, their task is far greater than ours and far more important. ~~Only through~~ They will never be able to properly grow towards ~~that~~ a national and international leadership, if they have no actual and real participation in their family, religious, social, cultural, and community relationships. To fulfill one's destiny in the desire to help others and to participate in the spiritual law of giving and receiving, they might well start close to home, with their active participation in their Churches and Cultural Societies and in their communities. The Feast is ready and the doors are always open to those, who wish to start on this path ~~many and varied opportunities~~, and we will be ~~sure~~ only too glad to welcome them and to share with them our experience in this work and our achievements.

Christy Balamaci,
~~President~~ General President

Pandely Talabac,
General Secretary