

Happy International Children's Day to all the children and to all of those who still feel young at heart!

Your friends at Romanian Community Center

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A Look Inside the Soul of a True Romanian

Story told by Dorel (February 2024), curated and edited by Romana Roman

and vetted by Argentina (May 2024)

'What are we going to do now?'

Dorel looked around the terminal again. The luggage carousel long delivered their suitcases tied with his mother's handmade string. He knew every corner and security person at the airport by now, and even stepped outside to peek at the busy lanes in front of the Arrivals area.

The cold and the speed of the new world terrified him. 'What are we going to do now?'

It was getting late, very late... all the other passengers had been picked up or grabbed a yellow taxi. That was not an option for the young couple with a restless 3-year-old who had just landed after a 12-hour long flight from Romania.

March 1996. John Fitzgerald Kennedy Airport. No cell phones. New York. No internet. No GPS. No contacts. No money but a phone card that was impossible to use. No English. And nobody waiting at the gate as originally planned. The pickup date and time were erroneously communicated to their acquaintances living in Pennsylvania and the mix-up was evident after 6, 7, 8 hours of wait.

Imagine the angst, the little boy's energy, the tired look on his parents' faces, the exhaustion and the fear - the fear of the unknown that all immigrants are so intimately familiar with on top of an overwhelming uncertainty that at the 9th hour was agonizingly transforming into a paralyzing panic.

'How did we get to this point?' The emotion was far from what they had felt months ago, when Argentina found a coupon in the local newspaper and then as a family decided to apply for the visa program. They had won the lottery but now they were alone, uprooted, and their parents left behind along with everything they had ever known and held dear. 7,500 km away. 'Why did I ever agree to it?'

Late that night, a Romanian family from Connecticut happened to walk through the terminal with the plan to pick-up two-family members. They left with three more after noticing the distressed couple who had arrived fresh out of Viseu, Maramures many, many hours ago. Too many.

Suddenly, it felt the clouds parted, and the communication and the language barrier were no longer obstacles. After a short deliberation, the Samaritans from CT offered to take them home. Finally, Dorel and Argentina were able to leave the airport, excited and looking forward to a warm meal and a clean bed for their 3-year-old. The relief and the gratitude they felt was immense.

After a week with their new friends, somehow the word got around that a family of Romanians supposedly on their way to Pennsylvania were kidnapped and their organs sold on the black market.

The couple was enjoying the new world opening in front of them and forgot to communicate that they were indeed safely tucked in a welcoming home in New England with their organs intact.

It was on that day in March 1996, a seminal moment, when Dorel made a promise to help as many new immigrants as he and Argentina could. His visceral desire became to help others. It was that gesture of unconditional help that took root in his mind and continued to guide and shape the remainder of his life, his friendships and his beliefs. He didn't want anybody else to experience the excruciating airport wait and feeling lost to the world. Throughout the years, he managed to keep that promise and today, so many families are forever grateful for his kindness.

This is just one of Dorel's stories... but it's an indispensable element that also impacted the end... We all remember Dorel's laughter and the words of wisdom he shared with us while fighting a devastating diagnosis and a horrendous battle with cancer. He wanted to hang out longer, out of love for his family... he wanted to stay longer because he still had something to tell the world.

Dear friend, you are no longer in pain. You fought bravely and your family will miss you fearlessly. Your friends will miss you. The whole community will miss you. You are a hero to all of us. Thank you for your lessons and for giving us a chance to learn to say goodbye.

May you rest in peace!



Sandi Tim

May 13 · 🌐

Almost 25 years ago my daughter, my ex and myself landed in a completely unknown country to build a life from ground up. 4 suitcases and \$1000.00 in our pockets. This man, his wife and their two young kids opened their home to us, took us under their wings, gave us shelter and food, helped us find jobs, find a car, find rent, taught me to drive, showed us the ins and outs of the life here, treated us like their family. They did not have a whole lot, but they shared what they had with us, people they barely knew. They did it without any gain, all from the goodness of their hearts.

Now God is opening His home to welcome him. To step into heaven with the smile on his face like he ALWAYS had. Because a man like him can only go to heaven.

Pour your wide wisdom and knowledge into stories and share them with the angels, Dorel Bancos. Laugh loudly, like you do, to shake the skies a little. No more pain, worries where you are. Rest in peace, you good man! We will always keep you in our memories and prayers. The world is much poorer without you! ❤️

Sandi Tim (Facebook, May 2024)

My Experience in Romania

Author: **Kassia Oros, 8th grade, Wilson School District**

"I want to go home; I hate it here"

That's what I would say when I stayed in Romania. I'd say I hate it, but how can you hate a country you grew up visiting? How can you hate the same place you spent summers in at your grandparents' house, with your cousins? Playing the funniest games you've ever heard of. All the colors outside being a blur, and the air clean and calming. Like one deep breath can put you to sleep, like the air would erase everything you're used to as being a picky girl from the States. The air would turn you around, flip you, to spend hours outside, walking everywhere with little sandals all worn out by the mini rocks and pebbles filling roads with hard mud used inside of concrete.

The corner shop that's been run by the same person for years. Finding best friends you would spend your days laughing with. Feeling like the coolest kid ever, when I'd walk with my older cousin and her friends everywhere. An ice cream bar costs less than a dollar. The air and breeze of the train passing by. When you hear the train, you know it's time to be asleep.

I can't possibly hate staying in a country that felt out of this world. I smell the most unique scent that I could put aside from anything. "Omg this smells like Romania" I would say to my friends. The scent I smell when I'm only lucky, the scent of summer, of growing up, of every nice memory I had. Running outside while it poured.

The attic upstairs that would go on forever filled with toys. My favorite snacks in the world. Eating watermelon that has a bitter after taste from the same knife bunica (grandma) uses to cut onions. Yes, it tastes not the best but it's one of the few tastes of authentic growing up. Every year your bunicu (grandpa) tells you how big you're getting, bunica saying you need to eat more. Bunicutele (the grandmas) staying in their curti (yards) peeling fruit watching you pass by, some of them giving you 20 kisses. And every single one wears the same outfit. It's impossible to describe what my eyes would see while there. Everything had warm lighting like the sun was always welcoming you. Everyone had a smile even when they were sleeping. Classic folk Romanian music playing in the background all the time. Heaven is what you would see. Not the heaven everyone would expect but the most authentic, pure, venerable type.

Spending months there was full of joy, of something I was lucky enough to experience, the childhood that's shaping me as I grow older. The memories of things kids could dream about.

I say I hate Romania; I hate the hot summers with no air conditioning...the little things. When the truth is, I will be so thankful to experience their culture, all the unique experiences.

Everything that was so perfect, almost like my life was a puzzle with every piece that fits perfectly.

I don't hate it. I love it. I cherish it. I celebrate it.

RCC Collaborations



Consul General of Romania in New York, Ms. Simona Florea, met with the Romanian Community in Pennsylvania at the invitation of the Romanian Community Center (RCC), a non-profit organization that provides cultural and educational support to all individuals affiliated with the Romanian community. The organization is firmly committed to a non-political and non-religious stance and aims to preserve and promote the rich heritage of Romanian culture in America. Together with RCC, the Consulate General of Romania in New York will organize itinerant consular meetings (to provide consular services in this region) and other cultural, social, and educational activities in the state of Pennsylvania.

"Special thanks to Mr. Cornel Costea, President of RCC, and all the executive members and Romanians who participated in this community event! It was an incredible surprise and a joy to discover and meet such an enthusiastic Romanian community in the heart of Pennsylvania."

Simona Florea - Consul General of Romania in New York.

Visit the [Facebook](#) page to see the original post!

PICTURE GALLERY

Romanian Community Center - IT Corner

Protecting your Network, Computer, and Identity

Author: Larry Goncea

Protecting your network, computer, and identity as a consumer involves a combination of best practices, using trusted tools, and staying informed about potential threats.

Below are some practical steps you can follow:

Network Security

- 1. Use a Strong Password for Your Wi-Fi Network:**
 - Ensure your Wi-Fi network is secured with a strong and unique password.
 - Use WPA3 encryption if your router supports it.
- 2. Change the Default Router Settings:**
 - Change the default login credentials for your router's administration panel.
 - Regularly update your router's firmware to fix security vulnerabilities.
- 3. Enable a Guest Network:**
 - Set up a guest network for visitors to keep your main network more secure.
- 4. Use a Hardware Firewall:**
 - Protect your network with a hardware firewall. The firewall provided by your internet company is a basic one.

Computer Security

- 1. Use Antivirus Software:**
 - Install reliable antivirus software and keep it updated.
 - Regularly scan your computer for malware and viruses.
 - Install ransomware protection software.
- 2. Enable a Firewall:**
 - Ensure your operating system's built-in firewall is activated.
 - Consider using additional firewall software for enhanced protection.
- 3. Keep Your System Updated:**
 - Regularly update your operating system and software to protect against vulnerabilities.
- 4. Use Strong Passwords:**
 - Create strong and unique passwords for all your accounts.
 - Use a password manager to keep your passwords safe.
 - Do not use the same password for multiple accounts.

Identity Protection

- 1. Use Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):**
 - Enable 2FA on all accounts that offer this option for an extra layer of security.
- 2. Be Careful with Personal Information:**
 - Avoid sharing personal information unnecessarily, especially on social media.
 - Do not post your vacation departure dates.
 - Do not post vacation photos while you are still on vacation.
 - Keep comments and details to a minimum.
- 3. Be Cautious of Phishing Attempts and Unsolicited Emails Requesting Personal Information.**
- 4. Monitor Your Accounts:**
 - Regularly check your bank and credit card statements for unauthorized transactions.
 - Use a credit monitoring service to keep track of your credit report.

Additional Tips

- 1. Secure Your Devices:**
 - Use encryption for sensitive files and data on your computer and mobile devices.
 - Lock your devices with passwords or biometric authentication.
- 2. Be Careful with Public Wi-Fi:**
 - Avoid accessing sensitive information over public Wi-Fi networks.
 - Use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to encrypt your internet connection when using public Wi-Fi.
 - Avoid public Wi-Fi and use your phone's personal hotspot instead.
- 3. Backup Your Data:**
 - Regularly back up important data to an external hard drive or cloud service.
 - Ensure your backups are encrypted and stored securely.
- 4. Educate Yourself:**
 - Stay informed about the latest security threats and how to protect yourself against them.
 - Follow best practices for online safety and privacy.

And since we're talking about computers and security...

MORE INFO

In Case You Missed Our Previous Event

International Children's Day



June 1 2024

Location: RCC Headquarters

We had a blast making slime, coloring, playing games, and enjoying pizza.

PICTURE GALLERY

Financial Advisors at RCC



May 23 2024

Location: RCC Headquarters

Besides pizza, you missed Mimi's presentation, which offered a full range of financial products and services designed to meet your specific needs, whether you want to finance your education, consolidate debt, buy a home, or build strong credit.

Don't worry, it's never too late—you can always contact her.

MORE INFO

Coming Soon to RCC

Universal Day of Romanian Blouse



June 30 2024

Location: Reading Liederkrantz

Date: June 30, 12:00pm - 7:00pm

Parking: Free

Entry: Free

Food can be purchased based on tickets acquired on site.

Check the website for updates.

MORE INFO

VOLUNTEERS

Romanian Festival



August 24 2024

Location: Reading Liederkrantz

Date: August 24, 12:00pm - 9:00pm

Parking: Free

Entry: More information coming soon on the website.

Food can be purchased based on tickets acquired on site.

Check the website for updates.

MORE INFO

VOLUNTARI

SPONSORS



Starting September 2024, RCC will offer Romanian Language Courses.

A 20-week program presented by accredited teachers.

Interested? More details coming soon.

MORE INFO

RCC - College Scholarship



RCC College Scholarship:

The RCC College Scholarship opens on July 1, 2024, and closes on August 15, 2024. It is open to students who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Have a parent who is an RCC member
- Are currently enrolled in an accredited college or university
- Write an essay (without ChatGPT) of approximately 500 words

Essay Topic: *If you had the opportunity to help develop youth engagement at the Romanian Community Center, what would you do?*

MORE INFO

RCC - School Starts - Fundraising for Children



Donate a Backpack and "Support a Child's Dream" Campaign.

Join us as a community to ensure no child starts school unprepared.

If you can't donate, then share! Encourage your friends, family, and coworkers to donate. Help us send 25 children to school with a new backpack!

Choose from any of the available backpacks on Amazon.

AMAZON BACKPACK

MORE INFO

Business Directory

Don't Be a Secret Agent!

Dear Business Owner,

Are you hiding your business like a spy from a James Bond movie?

It's time to step out of the shadows and let the community know about the great services you offer! Joining our business directory is like having a **bright neon sign** in the digital world - "everyone" will see you, with over 400 views per month! Don't miss the chance to attract new clients, network with other businesses, and become a local star.

Remember, even James Bond needs help!

Sign up now and let the community discover how amazing your business is.

Best regards,

RCC

P.S. If you don't sign up, we'll assume you like keeping your business a well-kept secret.

SIGN UP

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Activities at RCC

Activities at the Romanian Community Center

- Romanian Evening
- Backgammon & Chess Night
- Career coaching
- Tech Talk Hour

Coming Soon

- Romanian Language
- English Language
- Sezatoare - creative workshop (Christmas ornaments and cards)
- Book club

For more information, you can contact us via [email](#) or [website](#)

CALENDAR

Do you want to build a center with us and be proud of your community? Together, with you, we are looking for opportunities to organize for the

common good.

The Romanian Community Center is here to help.
Have hope and give us a chance.

BECOME A MEMBER

Volunteers - Are you passionate about Romanian culture and want to join us? Click the button to start your journey with us for the year 2024

VOLUNTEERS

Suggestion box - We need your suggestions to keep getting better!

SUGGESTIONS

Examples of suggestions:

- I have a fantastic homemade bread recipe...
- I have a proposal for a new committee...
- I want to nominate Ion, Vasile, Maria, or Gheorghe for committee membership...
- I have an idea for an article for the next Newsletter...
- I want to help but don't know how...
- We want more articles about...

Romanian Community Center

Thank you for your interest in the Romanian community.

You are receiving this email as you signed up for our newsletters.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [Unsubscribe](#) or [Update your preferences](#)