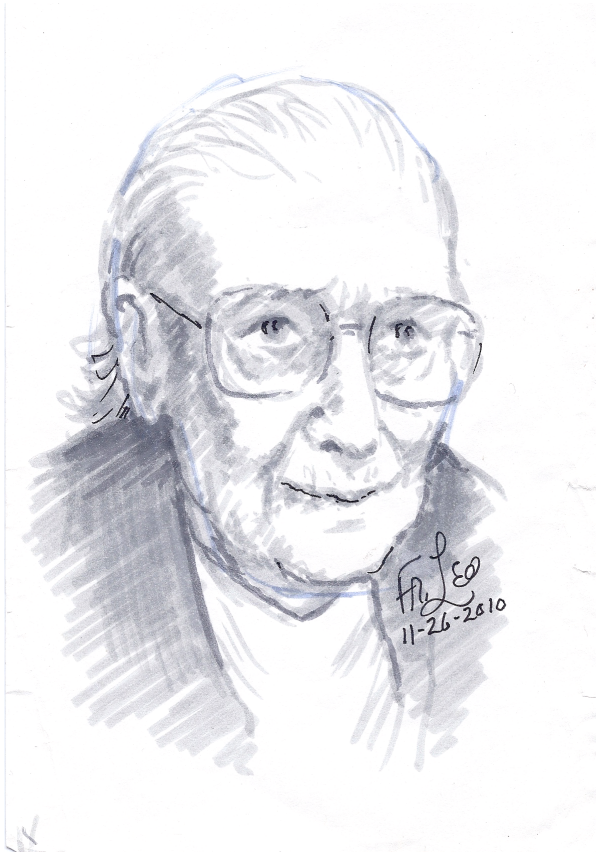


In memoriam

Sloboda (Boba) Bazjanac

(7 July 1910 – 15 September 2017)



Sloboda (Boba) Bazjanac passed away in Berkeley, California in the afternoon of 15 September 2017. She was 107 years old, possibly the oldest living person in Berkeley. She lived in several countries during her long life and had a very rich and interesting life.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, on 7 July 1910, the daughter of Milan Marinković, a surveying engineer and diplomat on duty in Egypt from the then Kingdom of Serbia, she received her early education in Geneva, Switzerland. By the time she got married, she spoke perfect, accent-free French and Serbo-Croatian, and was proficient in German and English. Later in her life she also learned Italian. She travelled extensively with her husband to locations throughout the world. At times she lived in Egypt, Switzerland, France, Belgium, England, the former Yugoslavia, and the last 27 years in Berkeley.

She lived through two World Wars (early in the World War II she survived German bombing in London, and later in the war, British bombing in Zagreb, Croatia), and through the turbulences in the post-World War II Yugoslavia. In 1990, two years after her husband's death, she moved to Berkeley to join her son and his family.

Boba had a rich life, full of interesting events. When she was a six-year-old child in Switzerland, she handed flowers to the visiting Vladimir Ilich Lenin from the Russian Empire. In the 1930s, while with her husband who was earning his PhD at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, she made friends with Mileva Einstein (the first wife of Albert Einstein). From the late 1950s through the early 1980s she often invited US astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts to dinner in her home in Zagreb. For her 100th birthday, she received greetings from President Obama's office. She was a close friend of a number of prominent painters, sculptors, musicians, writers and poets in Croatia, and often hiked to Sljeme (the top of the mountain Medvednica north of the city of Zagreb) with her friends. She was known as a very classy lady who knew how to entertain and who lived a full life.

Boba loved her life in California. She hiked on the hills in Berkeley every day, even in her late 90s, and loved to walk around San Francisco. She loved to read books and watch science fiction movies, and enjoyed drinking beer, coffee, and cappuccino. She was very friendly and blew kisses to everyone. Members of her family were with her until the end; she received the Catholic anointing and died peacefully in her sleep.



Boba's son, Prof. dr. Vladimir Bazjanac and his wife Edie, granddaughter Maia and great-grandson Corwin will celebrate her long life with a Catholic mass and a reception in Zagreb at a later date, yet to be announced. Her ashes will be buried next to her husband at the Mirogoj graveyard in Zagreb.