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PRESS RELEASE

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World Premiere Film Screening Documentary on Romanian Immigration to Minnesota

*U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and two others to receive the **Friends of Romania Award***

(Minneapolis) – The Heritage Organization of Romanian Americans in Minnesota (HORA) is inviting the public to the world premiere of a new documentary film, ***Through The Iron Curtain - From Romania***, on Sunday, Oct. 22nd at 4 p.m. Using testimony of those who suffered through the Communist era under an oppressive regime, the documentary captures the stories of daily survival in post-WWII Romania. The event is hosted by the American Swedish Institute (ASI) as part of their 2017 programming theme of “Migration, Identity and Belonging,” and will be held at their headquarters, located at 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis. For information and tickets, please visit: www.ThroughTheIronCurtain.com.

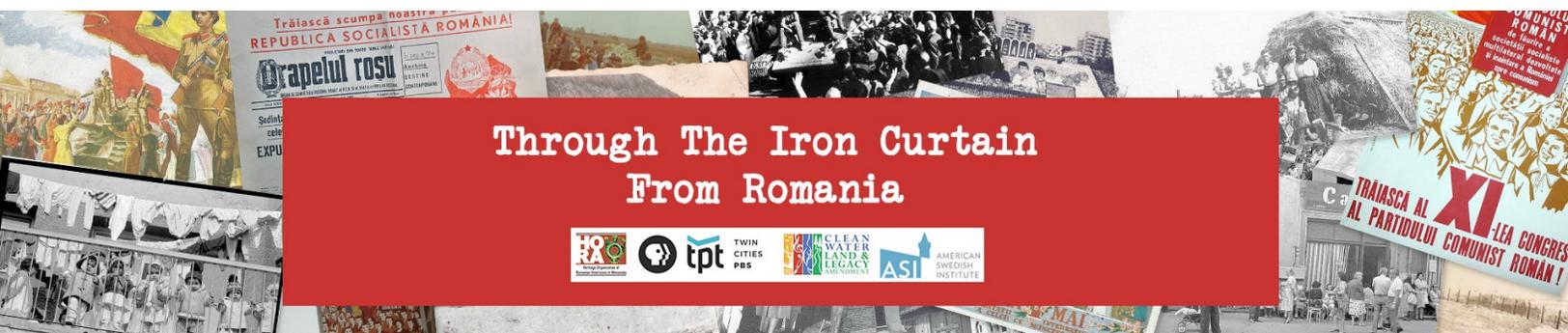
Don Shelby, former WCCO TV anchor, will moderate a panel discussion following an awards ceremony and documentary screening. ***Through The Iron Curtain - From Romania*** was produced in partnership with Twin Cities PBS (TPT) and with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society and HORA. The documentary will begin airing statewide on the Minnesota Channel (tptMN) on November 5, 2017. In addition, this program will be made available to PBS national channels and to Romanian TV channels.

In recognition of the extraordinary support received from the State of Minnesota in helping the Romanian American community document and preserve its history, HORA is giving U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar the ***Friends of Romania*** award at the event. Minnesota Historical Society Director & CEO D. Stephen Elliott and Bruce Karstadt, President & CEO of the American Swedish Institute will also be recognized at the event.

As historian Nick Hayes observes in the documentary: “The government would say that mistakes were made, but these weren’t mistakes – they were crimes, crimes against humanity.” A few were able to escape at great personal risk. In Minnesota, these immigrants built a new life, paving the way for others to follow – while creating a new community that sustains the traditions and values of their deep cultural roots.

Along with unique experiences told by immigrants themselves, the documentary includes commentaries from historians and recollections from journalist Don Shelby. He traveled to Romania in 1990 and famously documented the stories of the innocent orphans abandoned by the regime – and he fell in love with the spirit of that nation. As Shelby puts it in the program: “I know that I’m a better human being as a result of having spent lots of time with Romanian people.”

TPT Producer Susan Marks has been working with HORA for over a year. “This is a rare opportunity to see inside Communist Romania, and hear the first-hand descriptions from immigrants of that era,” she says. “It’s been an honor to help bring their stories of survival, escape and renaissance to public television audiences.”



About HORA

The Heritage Organization of Romanian Americans in Minnesota (HORA) is a non-profit organization with a mission and a passion to enrich Minnesota's diverse image through the preservation, promotion and sharing of the cultural heritage of the Romanian American community, along with its extensive history in the state. For more information, go to www.hora-mn.org.

To arrange an interview with members of the HORA Board or the TPT Producer to talk about the documentary, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, at 952-240-2513 or rachel@rmapublicity.com.



Through The Iron Curtain From Romania

