

Lăsăți-mă să zbor !
Let me fly !

SMARANDA
BRĂESCU
(1897–1948)
Skydiver-Pilot
world records



American-Romanian Academy
of Arts and Sciences



ARPIA Cluj "Smaranda Braescu"
Romanian Association for
Propagand and History of Aviation



I.C. ART



Voxx Studios

**Saturday, October 15, 2022 14:30 - 17:00 Place:
VOXX Studios, 430 W. Cypress St., Glendale, CA 91204**

FREE EVENT

Feature Documentary Movie:
Mandița Trilogy Summary (in Romanian with English subtitles.)

The event will be in English. Free snacks and wine.

The event is on [Eventtribe](https://www.eventtribe.com). Get your free tickets there.

Organizer: Ileana Costea, Professor Emeritus, California State University, Northridge (CSUN); American-Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA) Interim President

Collaborator: Adrian Stoica, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

Special Guests: Commander **Laurențiu Buzenchi** ARPIA President (Asociatia Romana pentru Propaganda si Istoria Aviatiei / Romanian Association for the Propaganda and History of Aviation), **Colonel Cornel Mituț**, the movie director of the Mandiata Trilogy, and **Cosmin Dumitrescu**, General Consul of Romania in Los Angeles.

The event is free but if you wish to make a tax-free donation to the American-Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA, non-profit organization) follow the steps: Go to the main page of ARA link <http://main.ara-as.org/about-us/> and click on Members. In that menu choose Benefactors (las item), then at the bottom of that page you find the Donate button. Click on it.

We are looking for volunteers to help us with the events. If you wish to be one or have someone to recommend write to Ileana Costea at arainterimpresident@gmail.com .

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For the Romanian community in the Los Angeles area there also is another event (in Romanian) that will take place at

"Presentation of Mary Romanian Catholic Church"
5329 Sepulveda Blvd
Sherman Oaks, CA 91411 Tel.:617-615-2352

(In Romanian) Hram de pomenire Smaranda Brăescu. Slujba incepe la orele 11:00AM Duminica 16 Octombrie 2022. O gustare este apoi oferita.

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Join us if you are interested in the story of an extraordinary woman, way ahead of her time; if you are interested in sports champions; if you are from the field of aviation, either of skydivers or pilots; or if you just want to understand how a world-renowned champion was persecuted by the communist regime.

Meet an aviation delegation from Romania, watch a movie about the life of this extraordinary woman, skydiver and pilot champion from the 1930's. Smaranda Brăescu was of Romanian origin, but is also an American sports champion: she broke the world absolute (both for men and women) record in skydiving on American soil, near Sacramento, in 1932, with an American Cessna plane, flown by an American pilot. This year is the Anniversary of this record broke by Smaranda. Many events took and still take place in Romania, Europe and in California (Los Angeles, Sacramento, Hayward). The Romanian government has declared this year "Smaranda Brăescu year".

The Romanian aviation delegation is lead by commander Laurentiu Buzenchi, President of ARPIA Cluj "Smaranda Brăescu".

The courage, perseverance and creative way of approaching a career reserved in those days to men only, is inspiring. Through the brief presentations at the beginning of the event, and the documentary movie that will follow you will learn about the forgotten heroin, Smaranda Brăescu (known to friends and relatives as Mandita).

Smaranda Brăescu wanted to become a pilot when the aviation was an "only man field". Her courage, creativity in approaching situations, and perseverance made her take a smart detour and first proved herself in skydiving (world female record in Baragan field, Romania, 1931, then absolute (both for men and women) skydiving record near Sacramento.

Then Smaranda obtained a pilot license in the USA in 1932, being the first European woman to do so. She finally reached her career goal making an important achievement as a pilot in 1936, by crossing the Mediterranean Sea alone, with no stops, in a single-engine plane. During World War II she volunteers for the sanitary aviation troops (Escadrila Alba) transporting wounded people from the East front to hospitals. Convicted to two years in prison for signing with other young people a letter of revolt against the falsification of the elections in Romania (1945) who made the communists win, she kept running in her plane, and was never found.

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Smaranda Brăescu, a woman to be admired and always remembered. A woman way ahead of her time.

A unique inspiring event not to be missed.

You can read [an article in English about Smaranda Brăescu](#).

Link: <https://www.themarketforideas.com/smaranda-braescu-the-girl-with-her-head-in-the-clouds-a433/> (You might need to copy it).

A brief article about Smaranda Brăescu can be found on [Wikipedia in English](#) and [a longer one on Wikipedia.ro in Romanian](#).