

AMERICAN SRBOBRAN



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www.serbnatfed.org

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005

AMERICANSRBOBRAN (USPS 023-400)

One Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

64TH ANNUAL SNF GOLF TOURNAMENT NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, CANADA ITINERARY

Wednesday, July 27th:

6:00pm Registration begins at St. George Serbian Church.
6:00 - 9:00pm - Dinner will be served
7:00 - 9:00pm - KIDS CAMP inside Serbian Hall. Pre-schoolers to pre-teens welcome! Plenty of crafts and activities to keep the kids busy!
7:00 - 11:00pm - Cevapi Grill
8:00 - 1:00am - Tamburica music provided by Orkestar Lika from Toronto, Ontario.
Admission \$5.00 12 & under free

****Must pre-order Lamb Wednesday night for Thursday!!!**

****Saturday Banquet Tickets are available for purchase on Wednesday & Thursday night for \$35 Canadian.**

****Marineland Tickets are also available for purchase for Friday's Group trip. Special group rates are available and transportation will be provided to and from the Ramada Hotel.**

Thursday, July 28th:

8:00am Golf Shotgun Tee-off, Legends on the Niagara, Chippawa
6:00pm - Lamb & Dinner served
7:00 - 9:00pm - KIDS CAMP inside Serbian Hall.
7:00 - 11:00pm - Cevapi Grill
8:00 - 1:00am - Orkestar Srbija from Toronto, Ontario
Ensemble Skadarlija from Toronto, Ontario
Admission \$5.00 12 & under free

***Beginning Thursday, we will introduce a Wine Bar featuring several of our local award winning Wineries of the Niagara Peninsula.**

Friday, July 29th:

8:00am - Golf Shotgun Tee-off, Legends on the Niagara
9:30am - Bus departs Ramada Hotel for MARINELAND daytrip
4:00pm - Bus departs Marineland for Ramada Hotel



6:00 - 9:00pm - Dinner served
7:00 - 9:00pm - KIDS CAMP inside Serbian Hall
9:00 - 11:00pm - Cevapi Grill
8:00 - 1:00am - Orkestar Istina for dancing
Tamburica music provided by Orkestar Sokoli from Lackawanna, New York
Admission \$10 12 & under free

Saturday, July 30th:

8:00am - Golf Shotgun Tee-off, Legends on the Niagara
12:30 - 4:00pm - Pool Party at the Ramada Hotel
Tamburica music provided by Orkestar Lika from Toronto, Ontario
AWARDS BANQUET AND DANCE UNDER THE STARS!!
5:30 - 6:30pm - Cocktail Hour -
Music by Orchestra Lira from Detroit
6:30 - Dinner and Trophy Presentation to follow
8:00 - 1:00am - Tamburica music provided by Orchestra Lira from Detroit, Michigan
Orkestar Frula from Toronto, Ontario for dancing
Adult Banquet ticket \$30
Child Banquet ticket \$15 (ages 4-12)
Dance Admission Only \$10 12 & under free

***Please note that all events are taking place in an outdoor environment. All venues will be covered and protected from the elements. Come and breathe our clean Canadian air! Our summer nights are beautiful!

***Special note to parents: Arrangements have been made for babysitters!!! Please see Gordana Lazich on Wednesday, July 27th for contact information.

more on page 30-31

Menu

(*All dinners include side salad and fresh bread)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27TH

Roast Beef with Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Serbian Green Beans

Or

Penne Pasta & Meatballs

THURSDAY, JULY 28TH

Lamb
(*orders must be placed Wednesday)
Side salads available

Or

Breaded Pork Cutlets with Satara?
Roasted Potatoes
Baby Carrots & Bean Medley

FRIDAY, JULY 29TH

Broasted Chicken
Rice Pilaf & Corn

Or

Fish & Chips & Coleslaw

Every night available on Menu:

Hot Dog
French Fries
Nachos & Cheese

Cevapi Grill open nightly

**Freshly baked selection of cookies and pastries will be available nightly!

"My Thoughts..."

A Personal Conversation
with Dan Pyevich
SNF President

As promised, I have returned home from the Fifth Annual SNF Folklore Federation Festival and am pleased to give a summary of this outstanding event that was held over the June 24-26 weekend. The Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church community of Steubenville/Weirton again upheld its longstanding tradition of being an exceptional host. In addition, the facilities for all the activities were equally

outstanding.

WELCOME TO WEIRTON

On Friday evening, a welcome dance was held at Weirton's magnificent Serbian American Cultural Center, and Orkestar Junaci, with SNF members Brothers Danny and Steve Capuzzi (Rankin L #163) and Brother Justin Greenwald (Pittsburgh L #6), played for everyone's listening and dancing pleasure. As readers of this column are well aware, I am especially pleased to see orchestras composed of SNF members perform at SNF-sponsored functions. From the way that the young dancers attacked the dance floor with such skill and enthusiasm on Friday evening, it was a certainty that their performance the next day would be very special.

Things started early (much too early!!) the next

morning when I attended the Folklore Federation Board Meeting. Attendance was excellent as most of the Folklore Federation groups were represented. I was most interested and pleased to observe the professionalism of the twenty group leaders in attendance as business was conducted. It was obvious from their input that they only had the best interests of our young performers in mind, and they are to be commended for their genuine love and dedication.

PASSING THE BATON

The outgoing Board members, consisting of President Brother Michael Malich (Milwaukee L #99), First VP Sister Donna Vranesevic (Duquesne L #76), Second VP Sister Janet Pribanic (Monroeville

continued on page 12

reflections

GREAT BUNCH—Ilija Potkonjak of Milwaukee tells us they have a "great bunch" of kids at St. Sava. One of them is Misha Tubic who graduated #1 in his class at Hamilton H.S. He took advanced placement courses, is a hard-working and gifted athlete, received numerous national academic awards, is an All Conference soccer player, and has played soccer internationally. In addition, Misha is very active at St. Sava, serves in the altar and teaches younger altar boys the ropes, and is a proud member of Jedinstvo Lodge #99. The Lodge is very proud of Misha as well. Good work, Misha!

THANKS, BUT....—We received a nice "thank you" from Father Rodney Torbic of Carmichaels, PA who was pleased to read about his parish's St. George radio broadcast and more in a recent issue. But...we were wrong when we said they do not have a website. They do, and Father Rodney invites you to visit at www.stgeorgeserbian.us/. By the way, they even have archived radio programs online.

MORE MUSIC ONLINE—Brother Mimo Papich of sunny California suggests another website for your listening pleasure.

www.radiomorava.co.yu/listen.wmx. That's a lot to write down, but it's worth it. We've been there and the music was wonderful. Isn't this technological age great?

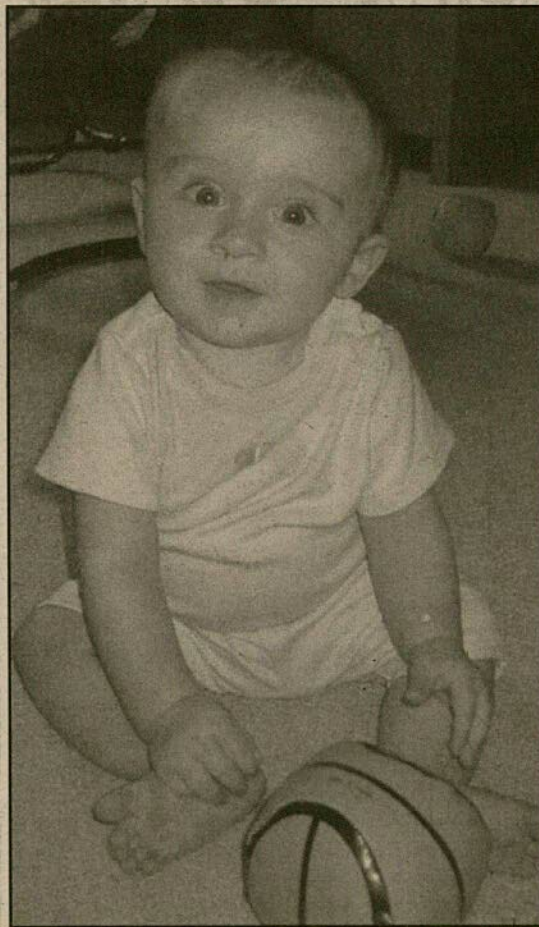
AND MORE MUSIC ON THE AIR—If you are in the Tucson, AZ area here is something you can do (in addition to visiting our SNF President Dan Pyevich who lives there most of the year): Tune into KSAZ AM-580 on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 A.M. for the one-hour show featuring SNF member Dan Babich. Dan promises his show includes "every ethnic group" in a unique cultural exchange including news from churches and synagogues, and public service announcements.

FULL CALENDAR—Home already from Pittsburgh's 3-day? Hurry up and repack for Niagara Falls. The summer golf committee says the preparations are all in place and the golf course is beckoning. Read the final details on the upcoming golf tournament in Sports.

GUINNESS SAID "NO"—Sam Subotich of St. Clair Shores, MI asked the Guinness Book of World Records to consider the true story of the Halyard Mission and the heroic rescue of hundreds of American airmen by General Draza Miahilovich and his Chetniks as an unprecedented epic rescue from the side of a mountain. — and therefore, a world record. But, they declined saying it does not better their record of Operation Solomon, an El Al Boeing 747 evacuating 1,088 Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa in 1991. Well, it must have been the record before 1991, eh?

REFLECTIONS SAID "YES"—"Yes," we are waiting to hear from you at 1255 Blue Bell Trail, Schererville, IN 46375; fax 801-515-4724, sradoja@sbcglobal.net. Until then... *str*

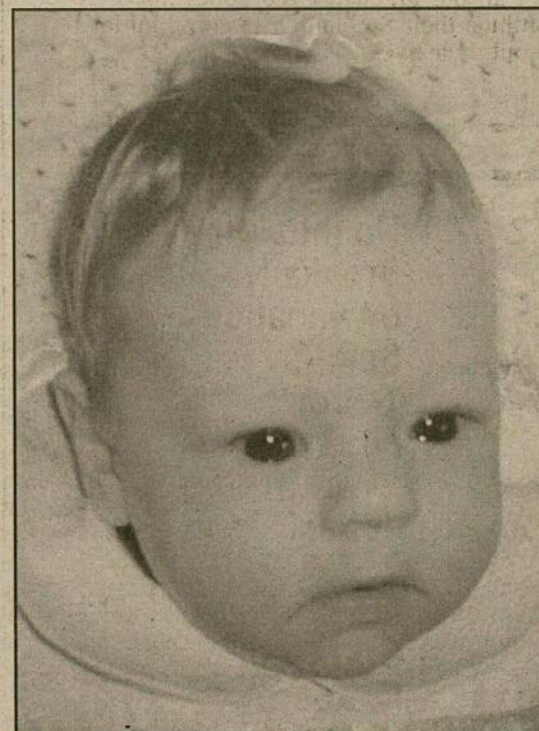
SNF WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



These big blue eyes are wide open in anticipation of the first SNF basketball tournament in which young Lazo Knezic, one of the Serb National Federation's newest members, plans to play. He is already in "practice."

Lazo is the son of Nick and Karen Knezic of Hobart, Indiana. He was born January 14, 2005 and christened in the Serbian Orthodox faith at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville. Both his mother and father are members of the Serb National Federation, and couldn't wait to get Lazo enrolled. Lazo is the first child of the Knezic's, and with his new membership he makes the family 100% SNF!

Congratulations to Lazo, and Dad Nick and Mom Karen.



АМЕРИКАНСКИ СРБОБРАН

THE AMERICAN SRBOBRAN

**The Largest and Oldest Serbian
Newspaper in America and Canada**

Published by the
SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION

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The *American Srbobran* editors reserve the right to reject articles and other submissions for clarity, brevity, good taste and accuracy, content, grammar, punctuation, and to prevent libel. All submissions are subject to editing to meet space requirements/restrictions. Professional discretion of the editors will be used in examining the subject matter of all submissions, including advertising, which may be rejected for reasons such as, but not limited to, space considerations, lack of factual evidence, and/or inappropriate content. Meeting published deadlines for submissions does not guarantee publication in an issue, particularly when space is at a premium.

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For a full copy of the policy statement of the American Srbobran write to the Editor Sandi Tumbas Radoja, 1255 Blue Bell Trail, Schererville, IN 46375

Elizabeth Laketa was welcomed to the world on March 30, 2005 by her parents Paul and Nancy Laketa of Lemont, IL. Now she is welcomed into the Serb National Federation as she joins her cousins Nikola and Luka Laketa as members of the Joliet Lodge. Elizabeth was enrolled by her Baba Anka and Jedo Pete Laketa. Three generations of the Laketa family are loyal SNF members, and we welcome Elizabeth as she continues the 100% SNF tradition.

BACK ON LINE AGAIN

The SNF Home Office is back on line. With the temporary move, they have been out of touch with the Internet. But, they're back! Check out the SNF official website and stay in touch with the Home Office www.serbnatlfed.org. Email for the temporary headquarters snf@serbnatlfed.org

ST. BASIL PARISH HONORS COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS



Pictured from left to right are: Nick Radovancevic, Education Director, Marko Savatic, Very Rev. Father Milan Savich, Keith Eigenraugh, and Dusanka Obradovich Scalzitti

St. Basil Serbian Orthodox Church in Lake Forest, Illinois honored their first class of graduating seniors who are college bound on June 12. These students started in church school in 1997 when the church was first founded. Many were involved in Sv. Sava programs, folklore group, altar boys, and SNF basketball for the past eight years.

Marko Djuric is graduating from Maine South in Park Ridge, Illinois, and will attend New York University.

Keith Eigenraugh is graduating from Warren High School in Gurnee, Illinois, and will study accounting at Northern Illinois University. He was in the National Honor Society and had a leading role in the theater group.

Jonathan Foster is graduating from the Copenhagen International School in Denmark where he has lived for the past 2 years. He will be attending New York University where he will study film and pursue his love of the theater.

Marko Savatic is graduating from Libertyville

High School and will attend the University of North Dakota, where he will study air traffic control. He was a member of the water polo and swim teams, TV club, and academic decathlon.

Dusanka Obradovich Scalzitti is graduating from Vernon Hills High School and will attend Illinois State University to study education. She was a member of the leadership and environmental clubs and swim team.

Graduating from 8th grade are:

Jelena Mandic from Grayslake Middle School

Kyle Manolovic from Deerpath Middle School

Alex Maragos is graduating from Edison Regional Gifted Center in Chicago

Alex Saniuk from Wood Oaks Junior High School

St. Basil Serbian Orthodox Church is very proud of all our graduates and hopes that they will continue their Serbian Orthodox traditions throughout their lives.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE BRKICH TRIPLETS? HAVE YOU HEARD OF THEM?

BY PROTA DRAGOLJUB C. MALICH

Some of our parishes have heard the Brkich Triplets, Vera, Slobodan and Nada, of who two are blind. They are young teenagers, now 15. Nada and Slobodan were blind from their infancy. Not properly regulated oxygen in their incubators made them blind. But this blindness, thank God, is only a physical blindness. They two together with sister Vera have a very rich and far seeing spiritual vision. The people in our parishes of Boston, New York City, Monroeville and Hermitage Pennsylvania and Cleveland, Ohio know this for they have heard rich and unique spiritual and Serbian ethnic program sang by their angelic voices, indeed very, very beautiful voices. The songs and the melodies that they sing are rich, unique, old Serbian and new Serbian, and most truly inspiring. They transfer your heart and soul into the songs. I know it for the fact about Monroeville, but I have heard the same thing from other places they appeared - there was no dry eyes in the audience. INVITE THEM to your parish. That will be the best positive inspiration for your people, and especially the young ones. Needless to say you will help secure the funds for their trips to Boston, Massachusetts for periodic exams, evaluations and certain procedures done to improve their, so far gained degree of the peripheral vision. But these people earn their support. Please do not worry how your people will respond, and how much you will collect. Invite the people to hear them and leave the rest to God and the people. To read more about the triplets see Mim Bizic's article in Srbobran of February 16, 2005 and my article in May 18th edition.

TRIPLETS ARE COMING BACK TO THE STATES

WE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE DONATIONS FOR THEM - We wish you to know that the Brkich family is coming back to Boston this summer for control exams, evaluations, and doctors' decisions on what the next step will be. They will be available for program the second half of July and during the month of August 2005. In conclusion we ask you all, fellow Serbian Orthodox Christians, to identify with the Brkich triplets and help them in their struggle. Send your donation for them. Make your check out to the St. Nicholas S.O. Church and mail it to the attention of Father Dragoljub C. Malich, 2110 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, PA 15146. Earmark your check -Brkich Triplets. If need be you can call me at 412-372-4454.

VERY IMPORTANT - In addition we ask you to do yourself, and the people in your parish, a big spiritual favor, to invite the Brkich Triplets this summer to give you their rich and uniquely positive and inspiring program. You will truly be glad you did it. One important suggestion. Advertise it well and make every effort to have the young people attend along with their parents.

Thank you all and God bless you all.

SRPSKA NOC

American Serbian Club

South Side, Pittsburgh, PA

www.americanserbianclub.net

July 22

No music -
Srpska Noc
on vacation

July 29
Aug 5

Selo
T-Rroma -
First time at club
(www.trroma.com)

Aug 12
Aug 9
Aug 21

Junaci
Sudbina
8th Annual
Golf Outing
Radost

Aug 26

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD STICK UP FOR FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES

Below is a letter written by Sister Mim Bizic to Congress voicing her urgent attention to the issue of limiting tax exemptions for Fraternal Benefit Societies. Sister Mim followed up on President Dan Pyevich's recommendation to make her voice heard. President Pyevich requested that this excellent letter be printed as an example to our readers to copy and send to their representatives in Congress:

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I read in the AMERICAN SRBOBRAN, a newspaper that is currently celebrating its 100th year of existence, that the Joint Committee on Taxation is recommending limiting the tax exemption of fraternal benefit societies.

I urge you to please do NOT support this loss of tax benefits to fraternal societies that are already hurting so badly. This would probably sound a death knell to those organizations like the Serb National Federation members who are strong Americans, yet wish to hold onto their ethnic heritage, and to keep valuing all of the things that made new immigrants to this shore into great Americans. These would include a strong sense of family, religion, and devotion to education in our case. Right now, we all feel a part of a larger family of those striving to succeed in America. When one person earns a doctorate degree in Chicago, we're cheering in Pittsburgh or San Francisco! We read about the older generation passing on and learn that it's up to us to preserve all that those people held dear: Freedom, Liberty, Love, perpetuation of Serbian culture and history.

The Americans of Serbian descent have made many contributions to the world with well-known scientists like Nikola Tesla and Michael Pupin, many others who helped create the NASA projects. There have been famous film makers like Peter Bogdanovich, book publishers like Harcourt/Brace/Jovanovich, politicians such as Senator George Voinovich or former Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley, movie actors like Karl Malden and the list could be endless into all aspects of American society.

I recently retired from the Quaker Valley School District in Sewickley, but not before earning honors in my field of Education from The Smithsonian as a National Honoree, Group W Westinghouse, Pitt and KDKA, many national awards, multiple years from Apple Computer Company for integrating Computers into the School Curriculum, Woman of the Year Awards from my community of Sewickley not once, but twice. I've also worked for the Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce, where I served as a speaker for their National Creativity Conferences.

Thank you, Mr. Murphy for all of the sacrifices you make to try to make our country the best it can be. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of you and your staff members of behalf of your constituents.

Milana ("Mim") Bizic
Moon Township, PA 15108



U.S. EMBASSY BELGRADE REDESIGNS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

The U.S. Embassy Belgrade introduced its newly redesigned website July 1. The redesign was inspired by a Department of State initiative to bring consistency to the look of U.S. Embassy websites worldwide. It includes aesthetic and navigational improvements and expanded content and is intended to facilitate user access to the wealth of resources offered on the site. The Embassy's web address remains: <http://belgrade.usembassy.gov>

The website is a key resource for citizens of Serbia and Montenegro who are looking for information on anything related to the U.S., whether through its own sources or links to other sites. The site contains information on how to obtain a visa, including online visa application forms; job opportunities at the Embassy; Embassy programs and events; news relevant to the bilateral relationship; resources for U.S. citizens, and more.

Of particular interest is a new section entitled "The U.S. Partnership for Progress with Serbia and Montenegro". This section provides visitors with information on how the many ways the U.S. government is working hand in hand with Serbia and Montenegro to build a more prosperous future for its citizens -- from assistance projects to promoting foreign direct investment and creating jobs to protecting Serbia and Montenegro's rich cultural heritage.

The site includes a new search capability which allows users to quickly find information from our archives, as well as a "contact us" section that will allow visitors to send email messages to the Embassy.



CONTRIBUTION to the SNF Scholarship Fund

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____ to the Serb National Federation Scholarship fund in order to aid SNF students seeking a higher education through the award of annual scholarships.

Your Name _____
Lodge No. _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____

Checks should be made payable to the SNF Scholarship Fund and mailed to
**SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
One Fifth Avenue - 7th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

Your name and contribution amount will be printed in the **American Srbobran**. Please include any message or memorial information below:

- This contribution is in memory of
Message:
- Please accept my contribution but do not print my name in the *American Srbobran*.

Contributions to the SNF Scholarship Fund are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

73rd Annual Serbian Day Picnic

Sunday, July 24, 2005 • Begins at Noon

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church • 53 Laird St., Youngstown, Ohio

Entertainment provided by: Libby's "Zenski" Tamburitians 12:30pm – 3:30pm
&

Velibor Drobniak Orchestra 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Traditional Food: Chicken Paprikash (beginning at 11:30)
Roasted Lamb and Pork, Grilled Cevap (sausage) dinners,
Homemade Doughnuts and Pastries

Also: Raffle, Plenty of refreshments, Games for children

Everyone Welcome! More info: 330-799-7736



The Music of Rada



Rada Jandrich Neal's CD, *Second Steps* include some of her best, original piano compositions. Romantic music that is filled with a rich timbre that only the piano can produce.

Rada's compositions have a full, round palate, using chord progressions that are delicately balanced with rich undertones and subtle harmonics. Music that is very romantic and warming to the heart, with just a touch of spiciness and fun.

Rada's CD contains original compositions, written for the piano with other instruments occasionally added, and performed by Rada herself.

Order online at www.pianopassions.com

CD cost is \$15 plus \$1.50 S&H

Songbook is \$15 plus \$1.50 S&H

CD/Songbook is \$25 plus \$3.00 S&H

Lodge News

LODGE 64 - IRWIN, PA

Lodge 64 Napredak of Irwin, PA will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2005, 6:00 PM, at the Serbian Club in Biddle, PA. All members are urged to attend!

--Tim Matovich, President
--Ana Maystorovich, Secretary

CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION

Only a few weeks left until the SNF Summer Golf Tournament in Niagara Falls, and we want to remind you to continue the celebration at the American Serbian Club in Buffalo (Riverside, NY) at the "Survivors' Party." Bring our thirst, appetite, and tambura if you have one! More details at www.serbclub.us or write to mail@serbclub.us.

KOSOVO'S SPIRITUAL LEADER WRITES TO BISHOP MITROPHAN OF EASTERN AMERICA

To His Grace, the Rt. Rev. Mitrophan Kodic
Bishop of Eastern America

Your Grace,

These days, in the course of the May Sabor, we received from you, through the Patriarchate in Belgrade, your esteemed donation in an amount totaling \$21,710.00 US dollars, earmarked for the needs of our people in Kosovo and Metohija.

This help from you evidences that you follow, and that you are well acquainted, with the hardships and suffering through which our people in Kosovo and Metohija are going in the last six years. Our people in their entirety, and especially these in Kosovo and Metohija, find themselves in a very difficult political, moral and especially material situation, as you already well know.

In this type of situation, we who still exist in Kosovo and Metohija, await our greatest help and mercy from God and our glorious and sainted ancestors. But also embraced is every moral and material help and support from our brethren -- be they here or those dispersed throughout the world -- as well as from other peoples and humanitarian organizations, who through their donations and shipments are attempting to ease our sufferings.

We endeavor to disperse and direct every contribution that is sent through Us via our Raska-Prizren Diocese to those who are most in need.

This assistance which comes from you is especially dear to us, for this is proof that living on in your heart is knowledge and feeling for the meaning of Kosovo and Metohija for every Serb no matter where he finds himself. Especially the meaning of our monasteries in Kosovo and Metohija. The portion of your contribution that you earmarked with specific intentions was received with great thanksgiving, and will be strictly used according to your wishes. We, our priests and monastics, as well as all of our people, continue to live in especially difficult conditions. Thus, every assistance and every form of support and comfort is for us of great importance. Your help will ease the hardship and pain of the children who have been left parentless, it will wipe away tears from the face of many poor children, and it will help them to carry on in the holy territory of Kosovo and Metohija. Thus, on our behalf, as well as theirs, we once again thank you from our hearts.

For You, Your Grace, and also for all those who in whatever manner helped so that this assistance could be gathered and reach us, for all who therefore think of us here, help us, and speak out for us, we desire all of the lasting and eternal mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ, greeting you with prayers,

Your brother and servant in the Lord Christ,

+ARTEMIJE
Bishop of Ras-Prizren and Kosovo-Metohija
June 11, 2005, at Monastery Gracanica

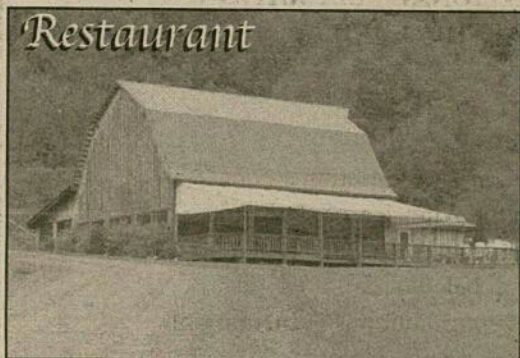


The Golden Anchor

The Golden Anchor offers Luxury Log Cabins, Accommodations and Fine Dining Enjoyment overlooking the famous Dolly Sods Wilderness Area in beautiful Canaan Valley, West Virginia.



Log Cabins



Restaurant

Owned by Ron Cvetican, a fellow Serb formerly of Aliquippa, PA. Come for a getaway and enjoy the Serbian hospitality - discuss old times and perhaps enjoy music. Mention this ad and receive a special deal.

Golden Anchor Log Cabins & Golden Anchor Restaurant
Box 15-B - Route 32 South - Canaan Valley, WV 26263
304-866-CRAB / 304-866-2722
visit our website for more details goldenanchorcabins.com

American Srbobran Classifieds

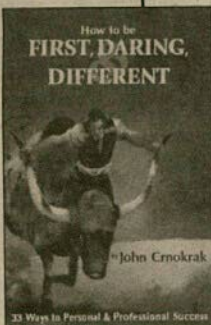
MUSIC

Mirko Roknich new CD
 "Enjoy Medleys"
 \$15 + \$2 S&H
 Mirko Roknich
 2700 N. Beach Rd.
 E-205
 Englewood, FL 34223

FOR SALE

"How to be First, Daring,
 & Different"
 Book by SNF member
 John Crnokrak
 Send \$19.95 + \$4.95 S&H
 per book
 (\$27.95 Canadian) to:
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 3809 MINERAL
 POINT RD
 MADISON, WI 53705

Mention the SNF
 and the author
 will personally
 sign your book
 Mention the SNF
 and \$8.00 will be
 donated to the
 SNF Scholarship
 Fund



ILLINOIS



HOUSE FOR SALE IN LANSING

Lovely 3 bdrm 2 bath
 brick & aluminum ranch
 with finished basement
 only 5 min. to Serbian
 Church. Large kitchen,
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 smokehouse & BBQ
 facility, \$159,500.
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 Coldwell Banker
 1-708-334-1962
 Phyllis.Callahan@cbexchange.com

FLORIDA

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 house, Venice
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 Beach
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 with
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 Olympic-size pool,
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 remodeled, newly
 furnished, many
 amenities and lovely
 décor. Only 10 min.
 from Warm Mineral
 Springs; 15 min. from
 Serbian Church in
 North Port, FL. Contact
 Bob 941-485-9157 OR
 rcemovich@yahoo.com



FOR SALE

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"Cooking with Love
 & Memories"
 Send \$10
 + \$2 S&H
 St. George Circle of
 Serbian Sisters
 4021 Elm St. East
 Chicago, IN 46312

COOKING

With Love & Memories



Circle of Serbian Sisters
 East Chicago, Indiana

CALIFORNIA

Real Estate

Bernadette Skaljac
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 Serving all San Diego County
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 1-866-676-0303

Join the SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION today!

Rates are based on ads of 5 lines or less, and 10 lines or less.
 For inclusion in the Classifieds, complete the form below and mail or fax to Sandi Radoja, 1255 Blue Bell Trail, Schererville, IN 46375 Fax 801-515-4724 or email to sradoja@sbcglobal.net.

Rates: 5 lines for 12 issues for \$60, 5 lines for 24 issues for \$100, 10 lines for 12 issues for \$80, 10 lines for 24 issues for \$150

Place the following advertisement in the American Srbobran Classified section (Please type or print):

STATE _____

CLASSIFICATION _____

FIVE LINES TO READ:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____

INDICATE ONE: Run the ad for 12 issues

Run the ad for 24 issues (one year)

Payment enclosed (make checks payable to American Srbobran).

Charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard

Card number _____

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More than a miracle' follows son's decades of grief Retired priest from Parma to see father named saint

Reprinted from *The Plain Dealer*
Sunday, May 15, 2005
David Briggs
Plain Dealer Religion Reporter
Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro

Do you believe in miracles? The Rev. Vasilije Sokolovic does. And more.

The retired priest from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma will say his final prayers this morning for the father he barely knew in life, a parent murdered six decades ago this week by Communists who dumped his body in a shallow, unmarked grave. The atrocity took a loving dad from a small boy, and left a legacy of sadness of not knowing his father's final resting place.

But after today, Sokolovic will never again have to pray for his father.

He and millions of other Orthodox faithful can pray to St. Budimir of Dobrun -- as the Rev. Budimir Sokolovic will forever be known -- to intercede with God on their behalf.

A Serbian Orthodox Church, exercising its freedom after years of oppression, today will canonize Sokolovic and 29 other martyrs of World War II in a historic service at a rebuilt monastery in Herzegovina.

The Rev. Vasilije Sokolovic, who nearly died in 2000 after a heart attack left him comatose for weeks,

marvels at what he considers the divine plan that has turned decades of suffering into everlasting joy.

"Only God. Only God," a smiling Sokolovic said at a dinner with family and friends in a restaurant overlooking the Sava River in the Serbian capital. "Believe me, this is more than a miracle. Unbelievable."

Budimir Sokolovic was born in 1910 in the village of Tegare. His father ran a small hotel, but Budimir completed his seminary training at age 21 and became the 41st generation of priests in the family. He was the parish priest in Dobrun from 1936 until he and his family were taken to a concentration camp in 1941. They were released as refugees to Serbia a few months later, and Budimir later was the chaplain to the high command of the non-Communist Serbian resistance group known as the Cetniks.

The last memory the son has of his father is as a 6-year-old boy in 1944. The father rode on horseback into the Serbian village of Milanovac, scooped up the young Vasilije and his brother Vladimir and assured them: "You are my life."

For more than six decades after his father's murder, through his struggle to become a priest in a land that sought to wipe out his father's memory and following the heart attack that left him close to death, Sokolovic has held on to his father's words.

Last week, the memories started to flow together as Sokolovic returned to his homeland, traveling through Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

When his father died, the young Sokolovic could not even mourn. His mother taught him to deny any relation to the priest for fear that he, too, would be killed by the Communist regime in Yugoslavia. The pain of denying his father publicly was almost unbearable.

But on Thursday, in a free Serbia, Sokolovic led family in singing a prayer at a restaurant. He proudly celebrated his father's pending sainthood surrounded by his brother, his wife, his son and daughter, a grandchild, and relatives and friends stretching from Northeast Ohio to his homeland.

On Friday, his 67th birthday, Sokolovic dressed in his priestly attire to sing at the 16th century Tronosa Monastery, which was restored after it was burned and looted by the Nazis. Gently flowing water bordered the landscaped grounds overlooking the Drina Valley, where nuns worked quietly in the garden as children blessed themselves as they entered the building.

En route to today's service, reminders of the tragic history of the land could be found everywhere, from bombed-out buildings in Belgrade, to rows of vandalized houses across the border in Bosnia-Herzegovina abandoned by victims of the ethnic tension that still makes some areas unsafe for religious minorities.

But even this is being overcome, and St. Budimir of Dobrun will play a small part today. Serbian Orthodox leaders will canonize their 30 newest saints in the restored Zitomislic Monastery, which was blown up in the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The monastery will be consecrated in the same service, as part of the region's commitment to respect and rebuild Muslim, Catholic and Orthodox holy sites.

On his own pilgrimage, Sokolovic has crossed several age-old religious and nationalist borders. Saturday, he stopped at a cemetery in Forca in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where his grandfather and his father's brother are buried. There, with his wife, daughter and grandson at



his side, he sang the hymn "May their memory be eternal."

Earlier in the day, the family stopped at a cemetery near the village of Miljevin, where his father was executed. Later, Sokolovic returned to the village with his family to pray for his father, whose burial spot is unknown.

"I felt so bad knowing he was a priest, and buried without priests, like an animal, thrown away."

Now he and his family can go anywhere in the world, and pray to St. Budimir, a man who today will be recognized by the Orthodoxy as having led a life so holy there is no doubt he is in heaven. It is the closure Sokolovic has sought.

"He knows where his father is now, definitely," says Deacon Milan Medakovic of St. Sava in Parma. "He's joyful."

But Sokolovic's wife, Zorine, believes there may be more to the story.

She never met her father-in-law, but she has prayed every day of her married life for his eternal rest and care.

"I've always felt he accepted me," Zorine Sokolovic said. "Everything I heard of him was he was a loving person."

She already has begun to switch from praying for Budimir to praying to him. As she looks back, she wonders if her father-in-law already took care of them when her husband came out of his coma.

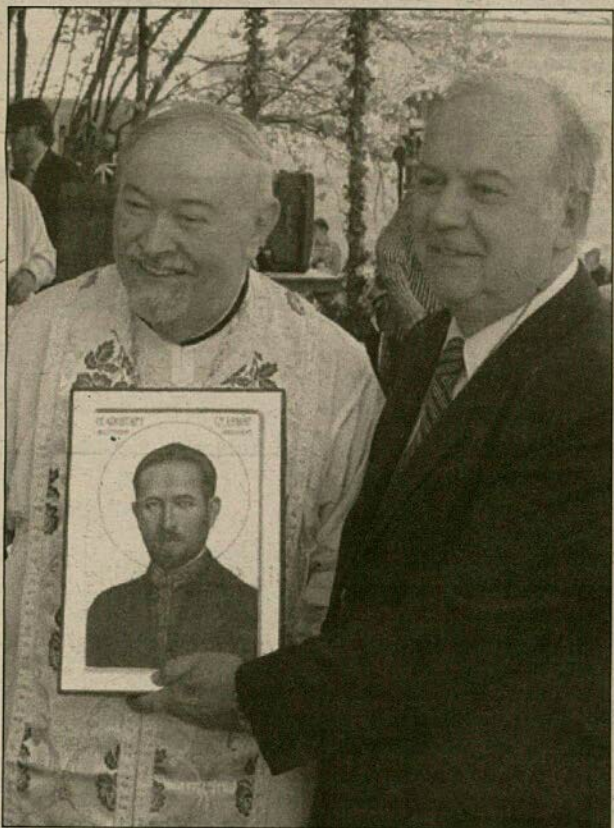
"How do I know who did the miracle?" she asks herself. "Who's to know? Was he there for us?"

Her husband is sure of it. "Definitely," Sokolovic said. "All my life I have felt he saved me."

Sokolovic said he thinks this will be his last visit to his native land. But his soul is at peace, he said.

"When this whole thing is over, I'm not afraid to die," he said. "Whatever time God gives me, I am thankful to God for everything because I lived long enough to realize and see my father as a saint."

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:
dbriggs@plained.com
216-999-4812



CALIFORNIA AWAITS TAMBURASI

It's tamburitza time!!! Members of our Southern California lodges are preparing to welcome tamburitza music fans from across the continent, as they plan activities for the 2005 Tamburitza Extravaganza in September, at the Marriott L.A. Airport Hotel, 5855 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles (hotel reservations: 800-228-9290 or 310-641-5700). Here are some the exciting plans for our guests:

Wednesday (Sept. 14) afternoon, a tamburitza boat cruise of the harbor, followed by dinner at famous Ante's Restaurant (price, \$50). Thursday (Sept. 15) morning, a trip to Warner Bros. Studios for the VIP Tour (price, \$45). Reservations for these activities must be made in advance, so please make checks to ziviLA Tambura, and send to Fran Pehar, 2648 Mary St., La Crescenta, Calif. 91214.

The Tamburitza Extravaganza proper begins on Thursday night (Sept. 15). Our souvenir program book and admission to all Tamburitza Extravaganza events, Thursday night through Saturday night, September 15-16-17, are available via the discounted, all-events ticket package (price, \$115), or separately: Thursday's Dance/Social (\$10); Friday's day-long Kolo Party, featuring six kolo instructors (\$10); Friday's Concert I (\$20); Friday's Tamburitza Breakout Sessions (\$20); Saturday's Concert II (\$20); Saturday's Hall of Fame Banquet (\$45); Saturday's Tamburitza Breakout Sessions (\$20); program book (\$5). To purchase all-events ticket packages or to reserve your place or table at the Hall of Fame Banquet, or to buy any event tickets individually priced, make checks to ziviLA Tambura, and send to Fran (address above).

A Survivors' Party (separate admission) will begin at noon and for those who haven't had enough, on Monday evening, Sept. 19, our guests will be able to enjoy dinner and mariachi music at La Fonda.

Los Angeles loves tambura music, and we look forward to hosting you at the 2005 Tamburitza Extravaganza!! For further information, telephone Tom Yeseta, general chairman, at 818-954-1597; e-mail zivila.tambura@earthlink.net; visit our web site www.zivilatambura.com.
Adele Chadwick, Lodge 185

UPDATES NEEDED WHERE ARE YOU?

The SNF Home Office receives a lot of undeliverable mail and is requesting an update on the members listed below in alphabetical order. Lodge officers are urged to update records on any members in their respective lodges who may be on this list. If you know someone on this list, please have them contact the SNF at 800-538-7372 or email snf@snfonline.org. Thanks!

| LODGE # | NAME | LODGE # | NAME |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| 37 | Baka, Carol Sue | 200 | Mileusnic, George, Jr. |
| 171 | Batalo, Milo | 74 | Nemanich, Joseph A |
| 108 | Berkey, Brian C. | 200 | Nikloich, Branko |
| 108 | Bronza, Bronko | 19 | Nisevich, Charles |
| 89 | Colton, Nikolai Andre | 19 | Nisevich, Deborah A. |
| 166 | Compton, Jelica | 19 | Nisevich, Dorothy D. |
| 101 | Cumming, Mildred | 19 | Nisevich, Milan, Jr. |
| 98 | Everest, Shelley | 76 | Radakovich, David |
| 23 | Kain, John M. | 32 | Raysich, Ljubica |
| 40 | Kosanovic, Deanna | 98 | Ristovski, Zlate |
| 158 | Kovacevich, John D | 171 | Trbovich, Robert G |
| 95 | Kovack, Jelena | 142 | Vucurevich, Sophie |
| 19 | Krispinski, Lyn | 23 | Woodrow, Brian Thomas |
| 200 | Lazarevic, Mirjana | | |
| | Martich | | |
| 166 | Mihaljevic, Louis H. | | |

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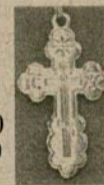
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Serbian Easter in China, Two Days in a Row!

"Proud to be Cradle Orthodox, Glad to be Home!"

by Milana Karlo Bizic

One of the first things I did when I got home from China from what has to have been one of the best and cheapest vacations in the world, was to check my email. A bulk message was there from George Mrvichin of California, wishing all of his Serbian friends from across the USA, "Happy Easter, Hristos Voskrese!"

George asked in his email if anyone remembered when he/she were young and broke eggs on Easter Day. Of course we remembered! This Serbian Easter, sisters Rose, Alexandra and I were on our way home from the international city of Shanghai to Beijing to NY's JFK airport, but before leaving, we made sure we acknowledged our own heritage.

The two weeks previous, we had toured **Beijing** city, visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden Palace Museum, the Emperor's Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, We loved climbing part of the Great Wall that is the only man-made object visible from space whose length extends 4,500 miles (which would be like crossing the width of our country and half way back again!) We also toured the Ming Tombs from the Ming Dynasty. We visited a Pearl Factory, Jade Factory and Cloisonné Factory. Everywhere, everywhere, there were cranes building new apartments, hotels, buildings, bridges, roads, etc.

From there, we flew to **Xi'An**, the ancient capital city for 11 Chinese dynasties. That's where the tomb of Emperor Qin (CHING) Shi Huang and the awesome 7,000 Terra-Cotta Warriors and horses are. This was just incredible to see. Like 3 football fields long and 2 football fields wide (at least!) and that's just for one area; there are several! (Over 700,000 people worked on this for years!) We saw an acrobatic show one night and the next night we saw a magnificent performance of 30+ singers/dancers doing the History of the Tang Dynasty show. I know all of this will be a part of the Olympics 2008, which they are really preparing for with a lot of zest and zeal! The people are very friendly, always smiling and making you feel so special and important ALL THE TIME! They're masters at this. EVERYONE! Smiling, smiling, bowing and smiling! In Xian we also visited the Lacquerware factory, where Rose bought a four panel screen with ten inlaid white jade egrets she had shipped home.

We flew from there to Shanghai, but not before visiting **Hangzhou**, considered the most beautiful city in the world by Marco Polo, and then visited the Pagoda of the Six Harmonies which was built in 970! We also enjoyed seeing the workings of a silk blanket factory, a tea factory and also a silk rug factory outlet. We took the advice of friends back home who warned not to leave China without a silk blanket, and Rose & Sandy even carried an extra one home for Michelle Bobik's wedding!

We cruised the scenic West Lake built by hand 900 years ago (they ALWAYS had the man power!) and visited a tea orchard where we purchased very expensive green "Emperor's Tea," tea that doesn't usually get to world markets, but is saved for home consumption. A few days later, we took a bus ride to **Suzhou**, called "the Venice of the East." Another boat ride was on a part of the 2400 years' old Grand Canal, etc. We also visited a Silk Embroidery factory, where the exquisitely executed pieces might cost thousands of dollars! Needless to say, we didn't buy any.

We took a bus trip back to Shanghai, but on the way, spent a few hours in charming **Zhouzhaug**, a fishing village of more than 1,000 years history, with old architecture. They have a bridge that looks just like Mostar's. Another canal boat ride, and some great little purchases were ours!

In **Shanghai** we visited famous museums, the wonderful Bund harbor, and did LOTS of shopping before coming home. (We had to purchase more suitcases!)

Although the trip home was long, Long, LONG!, being Serbian helped us survive it. Before leaving our hotel in Shanghai that May 1st morning, we took 3 hard-boiled, brown-colored eggs from the breakfast buffet and had a "war" saying "Hristos Voskrese!" Who would be the first to "break the tomb?" Our Ruzi held the champion egg!

We had to fly from Shanghai back to Beijing. Then from Beijing, after many seemingly endless hours of being in the air, the TV monitors announced that we were crossing the International Dateline. Flying over the Arctic Circle, it was May 1 all over again. We were renewed! We snapped to attention. In our four-across airplane seats, the three of us clasped our intertwined hands, smiled knowingly to each other, and sang quietly, "Hris-to-os, Vos-kre-e-e-se....!" Proud to be "cradle" Orthodox, glad to be home!

P.S. We traveled with Champion Holidays tours from NY. Tremendous first class hotels, excellent food, four wonderful tour guides. I'd go again tomorrow!

P.P.S. Many times I thought about the kind Chinese poet friend of our Sasha and Krinka Petrov, who helped acknowledge the plight of the Serbs and Kosovo. Thank you!



Alexandra Karlo Nolan, Rose Karlo Gantner, and Milana Karlo Bizic at the Badaling Gate of the Great Wall

SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF EASTERN AMERICA

DIOCESAN DAYS 2005

AUGUST 6 & 7

AT ST. SAVA CAMP, SHADELAND

His Grace Bishop Mitrophan invites faithful from around the Eastern Diocese to attend the 2nd annual Diocesan Days gathering at St. Sava Camp, Shadeland, PA.

"Called to be Orthodox"

This year's theme is "Called to be Orthodox." Saturday's afternoon program will feature three persons who have answered God's call to be Orthodox in their own lives, each in his own way. Fr. Gerasim, Abbot of St. Herman of Alaska Monastery in Platina, California, (Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Western America) and Fr. Damascene, an author and Brother of the same monastery, will reflect on their journey to Orthodoxy and their own experience of monasticism. They will be joined by Peter Jon Gillquist, also a convert to Orthodoxy. He writes, records and performs his original works, which weave Orthodox theology, poetry and music together.



Sunday event's will begin with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by the groundbreaking for the new dormitory. A picnic featuring barbecued lamb and pig and other delicacies will follow.

Festivities will continue with the traditional program featuring the campers from Tammie Week and more music from Peter Jon Gillquist.

The picnic will continue into the evening with Serbian music for dancing and listening.

More information, including a listing of area hotels, is available at the website of the Eastern Diocese; www.easterndioecese.org or by contacting your local clergy.



At the end of the afternoon's program, the clergy will be available to hear confessions before Vespers. Singing responses at the evening service will be guest choir Tsar Lazar Chorus.

The evening will conclude with a concert featuring performances by Peter Jon Gillquist and Tsar Lazar, which promises to be an engaging blend of traditional and contemporary music.



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THE LEGION OF MERIT, THE MIHAILOVICH MEDAL, FINALLY COMES HOME

In years past, and in the years that followed, the circumstances just didn't seem to lend themselves to the fulfilling of this simple request.

The **Legion of Merit** in the degree of Chief Commander was bestowed upon the late General Dragoljub Draza Mihailovich of Yugoslavia by President Harry S. Truman in 1948, two years after General Mihailovich was executed by the Yugoslav communists. It was awarded to General Mihailovich posthumously in acknowledgment of and appreciation for "organizing and leading important resistance forces against the enemy which occupied Yugoslavia, from December 1941 to December 1944. Through the undaunted efforts of his troops, many United States airmen were rescued and returned safely to friendly control. General Mihailovich and his forces, although lacking adequate supplies, and fighting under extreme hardships, contributed materially to the Allied cause, and were instrumental in obtaining a final Allied victory." Though he didn't live to receive or even know of this honor, 57 years after the award was conferred upon him, an American delegation was in Serbia on May 9, 2005 formally returning the Medal back to the homeland that the great General had fought and died for. It was an appropriate day, for May 9th was the day the world marked as the anniversary of the end of World War Two and the defeat of Nazism and Fascism.

The Americans who attended the quiet ceremony in Belgrade were Major George Vuynovich, the chief of O.S.S. Bari, Italy; O.S.S. Radioman Arthur Jibilian, the last surviving member of the Halyard Mission; rescued U.S. airmen Lt. Colonel Charles Davis, Clare Musgrove and Robert Wilson and members of their families.

The presentation of the Medal took place in the private home of a Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy. No government dignitaries were present. The Medal was given by the airmen to Dr. Gordana Mihailovich, General Mihailovich's daughter who graciously accepted the award.

Why did it take so long? Obstacles and excuses permeated the diplomatic cover-ups as the honor began evolving from its very inception immediately after World War Two.

The obstacles surrounding the official and public recognition of the awarding of the **Legion of Merit** to Mihailovich in the degree of "Chief Commander" essentially revolved around two issues:

One: The United States establishment did not want to offend or alienate the new communist regime of Yugoslavia, headed by Josip Broz Tito and

Two: There was no viable person to whom the medal could be presented.

For these two reasons, not only was no publicity given to the award back in 1948, it was also kept classified for 20 years. Even though it was finally "declassified", due in large part to the efforts of U.S. Congressman Edward J. Derwinski, the award remained stored away ever since. It remained in possession of the U.S. State Department until 1978 when it was given over to the United States National Archives, where it remained safely stored in "The Vault", a highly secured area of the Archives designated for some of the most valuable historic material. Upon learning this, I was glad that it had at least remained safely stored away all that time and had not been lost or damaged or destroyed.

For years, Yugoslavia was under the control of Marshall Tito, thus release of the medal was not considered, for it would have "offended" him and his regime. Though no longer in power and no longer alive after 1980, thus seemingly eliminating the first conditional obstacle set forth in releasing the Medal, for years after his death Yugoslavia remained under the control of the Party faithful, again a situation not lending itself to the release and proper presentation of the Medal.

Then came the shredding of Yugoslavia as a sovereign nation with the onset of the wars over the course



Jibby's last day in Yugo — pictured is Jibby kneeling in the front left, Captain Nikola Lalich is in the middle rear standing, others are unidentified.

of the 1990s and beyond. Because of the "tensions" and conflicts this created between the ethnic groups in the former Yugoslavia, again it seemed futile to try to accord a public honor upon a commander who was Serbian. Given the way in which the Serbs were demonized over the course of the last decade, how many "officials" were willing to look past the fact that General Mihailovich, though Serbian, had nothing to do with what was happening fifty years after his death in his homeland?

Then, finally, Serbia began to stabilize and slowly evolve as being more "democratic". A new administration came to power that appeared to be amenable to working with the Americans, despite the tensions that arose between the two countries over the course of the 1990s. Serbia had always considered America a friend and an ally in the past. General Mihailovich was an embodiment of that loyalty. There were definite signs that the climate, at least in Serbia, would be far more receptive, or at least tolerant of, an "official" honoring of General Mihailovich.

With regard to the second conditional obstacle — that no viable recipient was available — General Mihailovich has a grandson, Vojislav, and a daughter, Gordana, both still living. Vojislav Mihailovich, an official of the Serbian Renewal Movement, had formally asked the U.S. State Department to release the Medal and present the award in 1994, eleven years

continued from page 1

ago, at the height of the ethnic wars in the former Yugoslavia. The request was denied. Vuk Draskovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Serbia and Montenegro and leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement Party in Serbia then repeated the request in August of 2004, this time asking former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to intervene.

Unaware of this request and separate from the efforts of those in Serbia, I wrote and sent an appeal to the head archivist of the United States in September of 2004 to consider releasing the Medal while at least some of those whom had been part of the great story were still alive. I respectfully explained why the time was right and why there should be no more excuses for keeping it hidden away. This appeal was then referred to the U.S. State Department. Then all we could do was wait.

Somehow, though, I had a real good feeling about the prospects of the release.

When it all came through, the only thing that barred the deserved jubilation for such a long overdue event finally happening was the fact that it was kept so low-key, so quiet. I strongly felt that any such requests should be kept quiet as this was the most effective way to prevent sabotage of the ongoing efforts and progress being made, but once done, the quiet continued, with only a few token mentions and descriptions of the event in the media. This I was not able to understand.

I was to learn that due to 'political considerations' regarding ongoing negotiations with regards to the situation in the former Yugoslavia and concern for the reaction of various non-Serb ethnic groups, there was to be virtually nothing done to attract attention to this event.

Radioman Arthur Jibilian, "Jibby", in his respectful way, described his reaction to this mandate:

"The day before the presentation, we were told by the Embassy that the presentation would have no publicity and no political overtones. The medal was from the "American people (airmen) to the Serbian people." This lack of publicity disturbed me immensely. GENERAL MIHAILOVICH SAVED OVER 500 AMERICAN AIRMEN, for heavens sake. The American people need to know this!!

Having said this, I realize that I am not privy to ALL the information available to our government. I must have faith and trust that our representatives are doing what is best for our country. I take solace in the fact that history is (usually) an evolution and the facts of General Draza Mihailovich's contribution to the Allied war effort will be duly recognized and his name and reputation cleared."

Embodied in this Medal is a story of heroic and noble magnitude. It reflects a truthful accounting of who General Mihailovich was and what he did that is not tainted by years of embedded historical propaganda and disinformation perpetuated by historians who haven't dug deep enough and who write only what's been repeated over and over again, and by those in whose interest it has been to invalidate and discredit General Mihailovich.



Davis, Jibby, Musgrove and Wilson on the hills of Pranjani, Serbia May 9, 2005.

The medal doesn't just address the magnificence of the great rescues of Allied personnel in 1944, it directly credits General Mihailovich with being of service to the entire Allied cause throughout the war, and that cannot be forgotten.

He was a believer in the ideals of freedom and democracy. He was not a political man. He knew and understood his people and was loyal to both them and the democratic Allies in whom he believed. When the Nazis attacked and occupied Yugoslavia in April of 1941 and the government and army surrendered, making Yugoslavia yet another of Hitler's successful conquests in Europe, Draza Mihailovich opted not to surrender, but to fight. With him he took only 80 men into the mountains of Ravna Gora, Serbia where he and his Serbian Chetniks were the first to raise a successful resistance to the Nazi forces in occupied

continued on page 10

Europe. This resistance would have far-reaching implications on the outcome of the entire war. The Allies, bigger and stronger than he and his guerilla fighters and the peasants who nourished them, would come to owe much of the success of the Allied campaign against Hitler to these simple people.

Mihailovich made his position clear to the Germans: "I demand," he told them, when the Germans attempted an armistice, "that the German troops evacuate my country and then the peace will be restored. As long as a single enemy soldier remains on our soil, we shall continue to fight... Our fighting spirit is based on the traditions of a love for liberty and our unflinching faith in the victory of our Allies."

The enemy did not evacuate. Mihailovich was good to his word. Severe and cruel Nazi reprisals began against the innocent Serbian civilian population in order to stop the resistance. Because he was a compassionate man who loved his people, Mihailovich was compelled to alter his means of fighting the enemy in order to spare the lives of the innocents. He and his fighters would prove very adept at the sabotage campaigns that were crippling to the Nazi war machine. Ultimately, Hitler would be forced to keep several of his divisions in Yugoslavia just to fight the guerrilla resistance that had by now grown in number and foiled his plans for an easy conquest of Serbia. The ultimate consequence of this would prove fatal for the German Army.

Because Hitler was forced to keep several of his divisions in Serbia, his plan for the invasion of Moscow was delayed in 1941. The delay proved to be critical, because by the time the German forces would finally approach Moscow, the brutal Russian winter had set in, and that was a force the Nazis could not overcome. Had the German forces not been delayed by the Serbian resistance in Yugoslavia, Moscow may well have fallen and the course of history would have been much different.

As pivotal as this was in the eyes of those whose lives General Mihailovich and his Chetniks affected directly, a feat was later accomplished that was even more important.

During the course of the Allied bombing campaigns of the Ploesti oil fields in Romania, Hitler's only supply of oil in the Summer of 1944, hundreds of Allied airmen were shot down by the Germans. Over 700 of these airmen, 500 of them Americans, would end up on Serbian territory. There they would be nursed back to health by the Serbs loyal to Mihailovich, who at great risk to themselves, would shelter, feed, and protect these men who were foreigners on their soil. Ultimately, these airmen, to the very last one, would be returned to their homes and their families as a result of evacuations that stand as the greatest rescue of American lives from behind enemy lines in the history of warfare. It was a grand rescue under extreme duress for they were surrounded by the occupying Nazi forces. 500 American young men would return home to become husbands and fathers and later grandfathers who would tell their children and grandchildren the story of how their lives had been saved so many thousands of miles away by a man named Draza Mihailovich.

One of those men was the late Major Richard L. Felman who did not live to see the release of the Legion of Merit medal. In his address at the Halyard Mission celebration on May 31, 1994 in Chicago, Illinois, an event that was part of the U.S. Department of Defense week-long commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day, Major Felman recounted the personal battle that followed the end of World War Two:

"After the war was over, as you know, we turned over the government of Yugoslavia to the communists. They seized upon the opportunity to capture Mihailovich, and in March of 1946, Tito announced to the world that they had captured Mihailovich and were putting him on trial as a war collaborator.

The immediate response was that the airmen he had rescued ran to the newspapers, saying 'How can this be?' I have a book here, a thousand newspaper clippings from 1946 of airmen in the newspapers asking 'How can this be? How can this man who saved our lives be a war collaborator? We want to go to Belgrade. We want to testify on his behalf. This man saved our lives.

"You know as well as I do, I don't have another fifty years to fight for a cause as American as the American flag, the Star Spangled Banner, and the Bill of Rights. Gratitude. American gratitude. That's all we want, for 500 American lives."

Major Richard L. Felman, U.S.A.F.
May 31, 1994

We don't want to be presumptuous and say we want to interfere in your internal affairs -- but, the government of Yugoslavia was charging him with being a collaborator. How could he be a collaborator? Our lives were a testimony that he wasn't! So, we don't want to judge him, we just want to present testimony that our lives were relevant to the charges of collaboration.'

So we flew to Washington. We chartered a plane from Chicago, called it 'A Mission for Mihailovich.' There were 22 of us Allied personnel. We were met by congressmen and senators, and we petitioned the State Department to send a diplomatic note to Yugoslavia to request permission to appear at his trial, presenting evidence relative to the charges of war collaboration. The State Department sent two notes to the Belgrade Court. The response from the Belgrade Court was this:

"Mihailovich will be given a fair trial, but we have enough legal evidence to convict him, and he will be shot."

At that point, we almost gave up. We couldn't appear.

After the Belgrade court turned us down, we formed the "Commission of Inquiry" in New York. Testimony was presented at the Commission of Inquiry in May of 1946. It was presided over by some of the most prominent jurists in the United States. We accepted testimony from all of the American Intelligence officers and airmen. The findings were sent to the Belgrade Court in the interest of international justice. The Belgrade court ignored it, and on July 17, 1946 they executed Mihailovich and threw his body in an unmarked grave.

Now once that happened, put yourselves in our position. What do we do now? The man was executed -- murdered is a better word -- so what do we do now? Thank God, along came the Honorable Edward J. Derwinski.

Twenty years after Mihailovich was executed by a communist firing squad, Edward Derwinski came up -- he was investigating this for years -- he came up with the fact that in 1948, two years after Mihailovich was shot -- Secretary Derwinski came up with the information that President Truman, on the recommendation of General Eisenhower, who knew better than anyone else, that President Truman awarded posthumously the Legion of Merit in the Degree of Chief Commander, to General Mihailovich for his material contribution to the Allied victory. Mind you, this is the highest award the United States government gives to a foreign national. This award was given two years after the communists shot him as a war collaborator. For the first time in the history of this country, because of the "behind the scenes" activities in Washington, this award was kept secret. The first time in history, one of the highest awards was kept secret! The State Department finally admitted -- well, 'we did not want to release this because we did not want to offend the communist government of Yugoslavia.' This is in an actual document! So, it's okay to offend the Americans, but don't offend the communists!"

Major Felman would go on to express further frustration with the fact that the non-Serb ethnic groups in Yugoslavia were always a consideration in whether or not publicly honoring and thanking General Mihailovich would be "officially" allowed. He related how it felt to read the letter he received from a U.S. official in February of 1990, declining Felman's appeal for a public display of gratitude. In

this letter, Major Felman was told that *'we appreciate what you are trying to do but the petition for Mihailovich is being denied, because of the opposition of the Yugoslav government and the opposition of certain [ethnic] groups in Yugoslavia.'*

"I broke four windows when I got that letter. In my wildest dreams, I never thought I would live to see the day when a committee of the United States Congress would allow an ethnic group to interfere in our internal affairs. Besides that, and this is the important thing, it sets a frightening precedent that the legitimate requests of American citizens are denied by the United States government on the basis that they might upset a foreign government."

(It is important to note that Felman received this letter before the break-up of the former Yugoslavia and before the wars of the 1990s began.)

"After trying all these years, I will never accept the fact that, during World War II we risked our lives and watched our buddies get their arms, legs, and heads blown off so that ethnic groups could tell us what we could or could not do in our own country."

Former congressman and U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward J. Derwinski was also present as a featured speaker at the Halyard Mission commemoration on May 31, 1994 and emphasized just how deeply rooted in secrecy the Legion of Merit award remained and how much insult was added to injury after the honor was posthumously conferred on Mihailovich. Though he did not give himself enough credit, we may never have known about the award without Mr. Derwinski's efforts.

"... It was immediately classified. The reason was that the officials in the United States State Department didn't wish to offend Mr. Tito's government. It remained classified for twenty years, until we finally managed to get the Defense Department to finally acknowledge that this award had been conferred upon General Mihailovich by President Truman.

That started, what I call, the revival of legitimate history in studying the role of Yugoslavia in World War II. ...if it hadn't been for the resistance of the Yugoslav government, the Nazis would have had far greater resources for their invasion of Russia, and the entire tide of the war may have changed if they weren't pinned down by General Mihailovich and his men, and their power siphoned off because of this, which led to their ultimate failure in Russia.

That's hardly ever mentioned, because we went through that terrible period, and the airmen can tell you, when they were rescued one of the things they found out was that they weren't supposed to discuss it. After all, our propaganda machine, the propaganda of the Allies, was already 100 percent in favor of Tito.

Perhaps this lies at the core of why it took so long to release the Mihailovich medal. No doubt that the prospect of opposition from the various ethnic groups and political entities not amenable to honoring

continued on page 30



Jibby in the Museum on Ravna Gora

"My Thoughts..."

A Personal Conversation
with Dan Pyevich
SNF President

continued from page 1

L #7), Treasurer Sister Linda Jovanovich (McKeesport L #1), and Secretary Sister Valarie Tassari (Pittsburgh L #6), are to be congratulated for all their dedicated service these past five years since the SNF Folklore Federation's inception. Because of their leadership, the federation is on sound footing and is poised to become even larger and more meaningful. The baton was passed to the new officers, who are: President Sister Vranesevic, First VP Sister Christine Krcadinac (Waukegan L #74), Second VP Sister Jovanovich, Secretary Sister Dessa Mrvos (Pittsburgh L #6), and Treasurer Brother George Davic (Monroeville L #7). This Board will work under the guidance of Folklore Federation Executive Director and SNF Education and Cultural Department Director, Brother Dragan Kovacevic. We wish this new Board all the best in their quest to build on the great accomplishments that were achieved since the federation's inception.

WHO WAS THERE

After final practices earlier in the day, all performing groups assembled on Saturday for their 3 P.M. performance at Steubenville High School. The auditorium was an excellent facility, and thankfully it was air-conditioned. The following ten groups performed:

Holy Trinity Folklore Ensemble *Jedinstvo*, Pittsburgh, PA
Srpski Biser, St. Petersburg, FL
 St. Nicholas Serbian *Tamburitzans*, Monroeville, PA
 St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Folklore Group *Srbija*, Warren, OH
 Beaver Valley Junior *Tamburitzans*, Aliquippa, PA
 St. Basil of Ostrog Serbian Orthodox Church Dancers, Lake Forest, IL
 Folklore Ensemble *Srbadija*, McKeesport, PA
Avala Folklore Ensemble, San Marcos, CA
Srbija Folklore Group, Cleveland, OH
 Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox *Tamburitzans*, Steubenville, OH

Each group performed in turn and strictly adhered to the time restrictions for its performance. The costumes were magnificent, and there was a smooth and orderly transition when one group exited and the next group took over. The thing that was most striking to me was the overall improvement in the performance as a whole from prior years. There was no weak group, and EVERY one was well organized and choreographed, much to the delight of the most appreciative audience. As if this weren't enough, all of the approximately 250 performers gathered onstage to render a Grand Finale, under the direction of Brother Danny Capuzzi. It indeed was a most impressive and fitting way to close a truly magnificent afternoon, and by the time this entourage had finished its rendition of *Oj Srbijo Mati*, I'll guarantee you that there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

BACK TO THE HALL

It was then back to the Cultural Center to partake of its "always delicious" food and enjoy the music provided by the Balkan Serenaders, which includes SNF members Brother Mel Evanovich (McKeesport L #1), Brother Nick Jovanovich (Aliquippa L #100), Brother Bob Susnjer (Aliquippa L #127), and *Sudbina*, with Brother Randy Lugares (McKeesport L #1). Despite almost two days of continuous dancing, the kids weren't ready to give up yet, and it was a delight to observe them dancing well into the evening.

Regrettably, after having already spent a full week in

Pittsburgh, I had run out of both energy and clean underwear, and I took an early Sunday flight back to the White House East in Illinois. So I missed the picnic that was held the next day at Weirton's fabulous picnic grounds on King's Creek RD. However, I was told that things didn't let up a bit, and a delightful time was had by all. Music was provided by a 100% SNF ORCHESTRA, *Drustvo*, which is composed of Brother Jim Kordesich (Pittsburgh L #6), Brother Mike Kovacevic (Ambridge L #188), Brother Nenad Radulovich (Niagara Falls L #363), Brother Dave Silianoff, (Monroeville L #7), and Brother Greg Volitich (Freedom L #252).

FIVE CONSECUTIVE TIMES

While all the dance groups gave an excellent account of themselves, I would like to single out several. Three groups are deserving of special recognition for having performed at all five festivals. They are *Srbija* of Cleveland, Ensemble *Srbadija* of McKeesport, and St. Nicholas of Monroeville. A special welcome is also extended to our two newest groups that performed, *Avala* from San Marcos and *Srpski Biser* from St. Petersburg. Along with *Srbija* of Warren that was making its first festival appearance, we hope that this is the first of many more annual performances by these talented, first-time groups.

The story behind the *Avala* group is most interesting and should serve as a fine example for not only all of our folklore groups, but for our Serbian organizations as well. While some groups complain that finances restrict them from traveling and performing extensively, you won't hear such talk from these hard-working youngsters from California. Just look at their most recent past and future travel itinerary: a tour of Serbia last year, air travel to this year's festival, and a tour of Australia next summer. I'm told by Lilly Pantovich, *Avala's* director, that the costs are funded almost entirely from the group's fundraising activity. Not only do the efforts of these hard-working youngsters pay for travel, they also provides for an impressive array of costumes and *Avala's* tradition (this year's festival included) of leaving a generous cash donation at every venue in which it performs. My hats off to Ms. Pantovich, and I am hoping that *Avala* will serve as a positive influence for our other groups so that they similarly will be able to perform whenever and wherever they choose.

MANNERS PREVAILED

I must also commend our young performers on their excellent behavior, both at the festival venues and at the hotels. They were extremely well mannered and represented their communities very well. This doesn't happen by accident, and I also wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the leaders from each group. Finally, I applaud the outstanding hosts from Steubenville/Weirton and thank Festival Co-Chairpersons, Sister Martha Zatezalo (Aliquippa L #23) and Brother Nino Karas (Weirton L #78), for so ably orchestrating this huge undertaking, and I ask them to personally thank every member of their festival workforce for all their efforts in bringing about this most enjoyable and successful event.

An added benefit of the SNF Folklore Federation Festival is the fact that it gives our young people a chance to socialize and to network with youngsters from all over the country. Shouldn't every Serbian Orthodox parish community take advantage of this opportunity? If your local folklore group is currently not a SNF Folklore Federation member, please encourage its enrollment. It is both relatively inexpensive, particularly when one weights the benefits of both participating in the annual festival and receiving the boundless expertise of SNF Education and Cultural Department Director, Brother Dragan Kovacevic. Each member group is entitled to an annual, individual workshop from Brother Kovacevic, and I have received glowing reports from member groups as to how much Brother Kovacevic's input has helped them.

This was a little more detailed summary than I would normally have given, but while attending this year's

event, I was struck by its importance and significance to the Serbian community. I feel that the SNF Folklore Federation and its associated Festival thus far have not received the proper degree of recognition that they deserve. For over 104 years, the Serb National Federation has been at the forefront in promoting Serbian culture and traditions. I can think of no better way to insure that this important process perseveres for many more generations than by what was taking place before me in Steubenville: hundreds of our kids performing authentic dances from every area of the former Yugoslavia where Serbs existed and in native costume. We must not allow this important work to diminish, and we must support the SNF Education and Cultural Department and its associated SNF Folklore Federation at every opportunity.

NEXT YEAR LAKE FOREST

If you haven't witnessed a SNF Folklore Federation Festival, please do yourself a favor and make it a point to attend the Sixth Annual Festival that will be held June 16-18, 2006 at St. Basil of Ostrog Serbian Orthodox Church in Lake Forest II. While you're at it, please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the SNF Education and Culture Department Fund. If our generation drops the ball, it will be lost forever, and what will our founding pioneers think?

While addressing the festival audience in Steubenville, I reminded them that it is not possible to have a SNF Folklore Federation or other SNF events without the existence of a Serb National Federation, and I encouraged everyone to not take our *Savez* for granted and support it at every opportunity. There are certainly countless ways that one can do this, but in closing, I would like to mention two of the best ways.

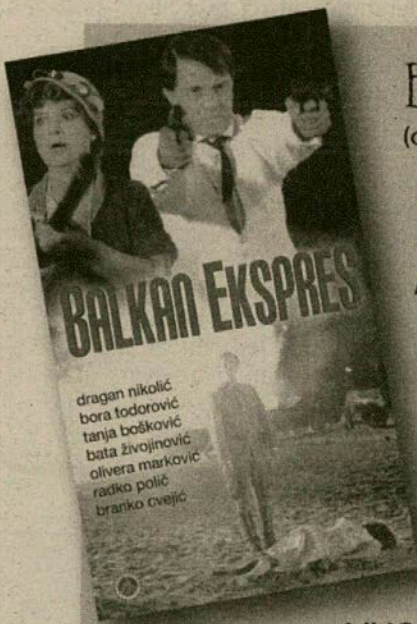
BIG HEARTS

First, I am happy to report that we are still receiving donations to our SNF Fraternal Fund, and I sincerely thank all of you that have contributed and fervently hope that the flow of vital contributions continues. Thankfully, our lodges have answered my plea for support, and two more have come forward since the last issue: *Sv. Djordje* L # 97, Joliet, IL, and *Gusle* L # 192, DeKalb, IL. Certainly, every donation, whether from an individual or a lodge, is most important; so heretofore, I have made a point to avoid citing any single donation. But I feel obligated to give special recognition to the very generous donation given from our DeKalb lodge. Despite being one of our smallest lodges, these proud Serbs came forward with what is by far the largest donation yet in this solicitation - a whopping \$2000! You have my humble thanks and a heartfelt ZIVELI!!! Your unexpected level of generosity leaves me overwhelmed and speechless (not an easy task) and has inspired me to give my third donation to the fund. I hope that it will have a similar effect on many of you.

SALES RESULTS COMING

Secondly, we plan to honor our valuable individual members who are supporting the SNF in another very important way, the enrollment of new members. With the close of June business, I am in the process of tabulating the final Sales Production Lists for the past year, and the results will be posted in the next issue. As in the case of donating to the Fraternal Fund, this is a way that each member can significantly help the SNF. I'm sure that every one of you knows many individuals in your circle of family, friends, and *Kumovi* that are not SNF members. It is very easy - just call the SNF Home Office toll free at (800) 538-7372 and provide us with their birthdates and contact information. We'll do the rest. Of course, we can also provide you with the appropriate forms if you wish to be the enrolling agent yourself. Either way, please help us and make your "circle" a 100% SNF circle.

I anxiously write this in anticipation of our 3 Day weekend, and I hope that I will be able to report next issue that it was a resounding success with participation by thousands of appreciative SNF members.



Balkan Express

(comedy)

Director: Branko Baletić

At the beginning of the World War II a group of con artists and thieves decides to pose as musicians in a band called "The Balkan Express". Their talents are put to the test when a German officer falls for the singer in the group, and they decide to use him to obtain important ID papers. But life is never easy. When a ten-year-old Jewish girl needs help in hiding from the Nazis, the group not only decides to protect the girl, but joins forces with the resistance to get rid of the several Nazi officers.

VHS

Digitally Remastered
Voted the ten best Serbian films of all times.

Serbian Language (English Subtitle)

Rated **R**



March to Drina

(epic drama)

Director: Žika Mitrović

Beginning of the World War I, Serbian Army is facing overwhelming Austro-Hungarian Army. Through personal stories of Serbian officers and soldiers and remarkable battle scenes, one of the most prominent Serbian film directors tells an epic tale about one nation's survival and eternal struggle. Based on true events, the film depicts the first winning battle of the Allies won by the brave Serbian people determined to protect Mother Serbia.

VHS

Digitally Remastered

Serbian Language (English Subtitle)

Rated **PG**



How I was Systematically Destroyed by an Idiot

(satire)

Director: Slobodan Šijan

European student protests of 1968. A revolutionary who idolizes Che Guevara with a small group of followers, comes up against a mass of protesting students at the University of Belgrade. The revolutionary finds himself in a wrong time at a wrong place. From the director of "Ko To Tamo Peva" -- a film voted the best Serbian film of all times.

VHS

Digitally Remastered

Serbian Language (English Subtitle)

Rated **R**



We are not Angels

(comedy)

Director: Srđan Dragojević

This cynical comedy features a battle between good and evil. The tale centers around a teenage fashion student, Marina, and a free willing swinger, Nikola. After their one-night stand, which he does not remember, the spaced out girl finds herself pregnant. Marina will do anything to convince Nikola into a marriage, using her friends to devise a series of crazy plots.

VHS

Digitally Remastered

Comedy that made a turning point in the Serbian cinematography

Serbian Language (English Subtitle)

Rated **R**

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| Balkan Express | \$12 | \$15 | | |
| March to Drina | \$12 | \$15 | | |
| How I was Systematically Destroyed by an Idiot | \$12 | \$15 | | |
| We are not Angels | \$12 | \$15 | | |

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SNF EVENTS CALENDAR



2005

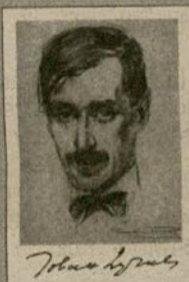
July 27-3064th Summer Golf ~ Niagara Falls, ONT
 June 16-186th Annual Folklore Federation Festival
 October 7-960th Bowling ~ Pittsburgh, PA

2006

38th Midwinter Golf ~ St. Petersburg, Florida
 67th Basketball ~ Windsor, Ontario
 65th Summer Golf ~ Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 61st Bowling ~ Schererville, Indiana

ПЕСМЕ СУНЦА, ЛУБАВИ И СМРТИ: Изабране Песме
 SONGS of the SUN, LOVE and DEATH: Selected Poems

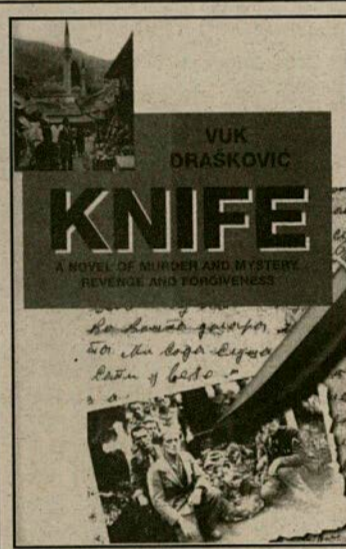
Јован Дучић Jovan Dučić



JOVAN DUCIC – “Songs of the Sun, Love and Death”

... The poems selected for this edition, which commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of his death, represent his finest work. In the last analysis, Ducic will be judged not by polemical articles and poems but by the exquisite poetry and process of his earlier periods.

A BILINGUAL EDITION



VUK DRASKOVIC – “Knife”

Set in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1942 when a genocidal civil war was fought in Yugoslavia simultaneously with the Nazi aggression against it during WWII; and set twenty one years later in 1963, when a young man goes in quest of his roots, **Knife** is at once a mystery, a family history and the story of a people.

Vuk Draskovic is one of Serbia’s greatest novelists, and **Knife** is one of his most powerful novels.

STONE LULLABY KAMEHA УСПАВАЊКА

Selected Poems A Bilingual Edition

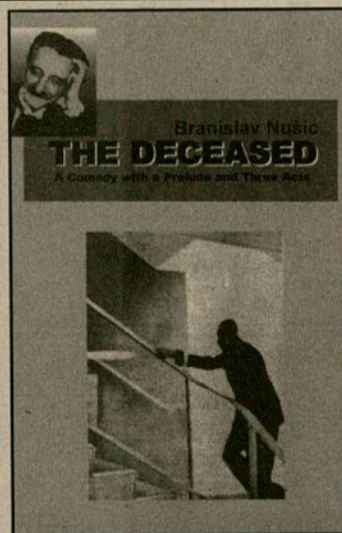


Stevan Raickovic

STEVAN RAICKOVIC - “Stone Lullaby”

Stevan Raickovic... found his voice as a young man, and it has not failed him since. But although he reaches rhetorical pitches of great suggestive power, he is never tempted to excess. A poet for whom poetry is a way of life, and who does not rise to speak unless he has something to say, *Raickovic* is restrained in his use of poetic expression.

A BILINGUAL EDITION



BRANISLAV NUSIC – “The Deceased”

... **The Deceased** is a comic masterpiece that possesses all the artistry of **The Importance of Being Earnest** as well as indomitable verve of **The Producers**. It not only deserves its place on the bookshelf, but stage production too...

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SSF Festival 2005 All Photos by Mim Bizic



1 - Part of the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir Hosts up close and personal!

2 - Working hard at the Serbian Club on Saturday evening, counting all that change! The Pittsburgh Church members were all out in full force to help their Choir Hosts!

3 - Shirley Cencis directs the S.S.S. Gracanica Choir of Windsor, Ontario with "Vinska Pesma" and two lilting versions of "Pozdravi Ga Sokole" and the nostalgic "Ima Dana" before finishing with a Byzantine Chant of Psalm 135-136.

4 - Ella and Ron Cvetican of West Virginia, share a happy moment with Alexandra Karlo Nolan of New Jersey. Ron and Rella own the Golden Anchor Cabins that are frequently advertised in the SRBOBRAN. Barbara Topich and her Committee did a fine job on the ad book. One of the most loyal sponsors is always MYLAN Labs!

5 - The S.S.S. Stevan Sijacki, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Choir under the leadership of Milena Walker. The Honored Church Choir also brought rave reviews for their responses in Pittsburgh's Holy Trinity Cathedral for Liturgy the next day, even after a fun-filled evening at the Serbian Club and Sokol Hall!

6 - Nikola Manojlovich directs the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Choir of Mississauga, Ontario. It's always wonderful to have these dedicated Serbs with us!

7 - "What did I tell you? They are simply AMAZING!" Bob Topich says about his young wards in the Holy Trinity Junior Choir!

8 - The always upbeat "Kosovo" Men's Choir of NE Ohio wowed the audience again. This time with songs from Sribje and a Tongue-twister "Kolo iz Aleksandrova."

9 - V.Rev. Fr. Dragoljub Malich, Mim Bizic congratulate the SSF Veteran singer, Bob Chuk.

10 - Slobodan receives much applause for his choir's wonderful performance, as USUAL!

11- Marco Doncic brought the house down with his magnificent TENOR solo. Everyone kept asking for a CD of his rendition. No Irish tenor was any better than our own Marco, performing with the Tsar Lazar Male Choir of which he is the director.

12 - The STARS of the 2005 Festival, Pittsburgh Jr. Choir, directed by Bob Topich. "If you know the notes to sing, you can sing most any-thing....Us...klik-ni-mo s'ljubav-o" and the audience was enthralled! The children received a standing ovation for their performance, especially after singing 4 or 5 verses of the familiar hymn dedicated to St. Sava, and ending with perfect Serbian diction of a verse that roughly translates to, "And we, your children, on this side of the Ocean, with Serbian names and Serbian blood will keep your name forever!" Wow!!!!

13 - Robert Chuk of Canada receives his 50th year SSF pin from SSF President Donna Medich, while a smiling Shirley Senic, SSF Executive Secretary, looks on.

14 - A bow from the director, Dr. Millard Golusin and much appreciated applause from a delighted audience! "Great job, Ravanica!"

15 - Midland sang Songs from Vojvodina and "Tamburica" by Aleksa Shantich. That Evy Adams was present shows her dedication to the choir and the love she had for her father. Although he passed away and would only be buried the next day, Evy was there as a living monument to him and his love of everything Serbian!

Get your copy of the new novel Down Grove

Buy at your local bookseller for \$14.95

When the badly beaten body of a mentally disabled man named Buddy Karamarkovich is found in the alley behind the Croatian Club on Grove Avenue, the police try to pin the murder on a young ethnic gang leader. After it becomes apparent he's not guilty, detective Nukes Budash is called upon to either solve the murder or cover up the botched case.

Grove Avenue is a place to hang out, socialize, and have fun. It's about jokes, laughter, and having a good time. Buddy Karamarkovich was a popular figure on Grove—which is exactly why his murder doesn't make sense.

Budash's investigation leads him down mysterious pathways, both physical and personal, where he learns astounding facts about the scrupulous behaviors and residents of his rough hometown of South Lorain. He is drawn up and down Grove Avenue, desperately trying to piece together clues leading to red feathers, molestation rings, and ancient rituals.

In the heart-pounding, hold-your-breath finale, Budash must harness all of his mental and physical strength to bring the real criminal to justice and avoid becoming the next victim.

A NOVEL
RICHARD ALLEN KULICS
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
ALBERT T. KULICS

Down Grove



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Or contact your local SNF Lodge representative

**CAN'T AFFORD IT?
YES YOU CAN!**

Tough times usually mean a decline in charitable giving. It's no different for the Serbian Orthodox Church than it is for United Way or the Red Cross. In a slow economy, people tend to give less.

But the needs of the church continue, even during economic downturns, and in many cases become greater. How can you help? What's the answer?

EASY ANSWER

In the spirit of the Serbian church's movement toward stewardship, the Serb National Federation has developed an easy way for people to make significant charitable contributions to their church, receive a tax break, support the SNF, and preserve Serbian heritage, culture, and traditions - *through an insurance policy.*

"Let me give you an example," said Steve Balach of Duluth, Minnesota, SNF insurance consultant:

A 50-year-old male wants to leave \$10,000 to his church, but a lump sum donation is not practical. For an annual **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** premium of only \$273 (less than \$75 paid quarterly) on a SNF policy with the church as beneficiary, this gift of \$10,000 is achievable.

"In this way, the church is the owner and beneficiary of the policy, and this man knows that on his death the church will receive the gift, a gift which only cost him \$273 a year." The entire \$273 is **deductible** on his federal tax return; and at the same time, the SNF is enriched by a new member or the additional insurance.

DON'T LIKE ANNUAL PAYMENTS?

In the same scenario, the 50-year-old male may choose to make a lump

sum payment of \$3,480 for a paid up \$10,000 policy with the church as beneficiary. Because the owner and beneficiary (church) is a non-profit, the premium can offer a tax break. The policy would then remain in place until his death, at which time the church would receive his \$10,000 gift.

"Not everyone is insurable," said Balach. "If an individual were uninsurable, the SNF offers annuities with a minimum deposit of \$250, again, making the church congregation owner and beneficiary."

SNF President Dan Pyevich loves the idea. "Purchasing an insurance policy is a unique way of contributing to the future of your church," said Pyevich. At the same time, the SNF is benefiting and the individual is receiving a tax break.

Looking back over the past few years only, think of what it could have meant to your church community if just half of the parishioners that passed on would have made such a generous and practical investment in the future of the church and the Serb National Federation. "Our church would have been \$70,000 richer at least," said one Midwesterner.

For more information and absolutely no obligation, complete the simple form below. Brother Balach will contact you with details.

Take the first step to being a steward to the Serbian Orthodox Church. Help perpetuate Serbdom through the Serb National Federation and the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The SNF encourages Serbian Orthodox parishes to reprint this article and coupon in their bulletins.

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Official Organ of
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НАЈСТАРИЈИ И НАЈВЕЋИ СРПСКИ
ЛИСТ У АМЕРИЦИ
ИЗЛАЗИ ДВОНЕДЕЉНО
Званични орган
СРПСКОГ НАРОДНОГ САВЕЗА

АМЕРИКАНСКИ СРБОБРАН

VOL., MMIV, 16524.

СРЕДА, 20. ЈУЛИ 2005.

АМЕРИКАНСКИ СРБОБРАН (USPS 023-400)

One Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

О значају Фолклорног савеза СНС-а

Председник Пјевач је присуствовао 5. годишњем фестивалу Фолклорног савеза нашег СНС-а, који је био одржан 24-26. јуна. Домаћин је била ЦШО Светог Васкрсења из Стубенвила/ Виртона и та заједница је у складу са својом дугогодишњом традицијом опет осветлала себи образ као изузетан организатор. А и све остало, што је неопходно за овакав фестивал, било је такође на изузетном нивоу.

У петак увече одржан је плес добродошлице у изванредном Српско-америчком културном центру у Виртону, а свирали су на опште задовољство чланови нашег Савеза и групе "Јунаци" браћа Капузи, Дан и Стеван (Ранкин СДД бр. 163) и брат Џастин Гринвалд (СДД бр. 6. из Питсбурга). Читаоци

сестра Линда Јовановић (МеКиспорт СДД бр. 1), и секретар сестра Валерија Тасари (Питсбург СДД бр.6). Сада дужност преузимају нови руководиоци: председник сестра Вранешевић, први потпредседник сестра Кристина Крчадинац (Вукеган СДД бр. 74), други потпредседник сестра Јовановић, секретар сестра Деса Мрвош (Питсбург СДД бр. 6) и благајник брат Ђорђе Давић (Монровил СДД бр. 7). Овај Одбор ће да ради под надзором извршног директора Фолклорног савеза и директора Одељења СНС-а за Образовање и културу Драгана Ковачевића. Председник им свима упућује поздрав са жељом да наставе са успесима које је Фолклорни савез имао од оснивања до данас.



ове рубрике знају да је председник посебно задовољан када су музичари чланови нашег Савеза и када они свирају на забавама у савезној организацији. Због начина на који су играчи већ у петак заиграли било је очигледно да ће њихово извођење и следећег дана оправдати највиша очекивања.

Председник је присуствовао састанку Одбора Фолклорног савеза у време, рано у суботу, када је почео фестивал. Окупио се велики број гледалаца, а програм је изводила већина фолклорних група учлањених у Савез. У публици је било присутно и око двадесетак вођа тих група, који су свој посао обављали врло професионално. Пошто је очигледно да сви они највише воде рачуна о интересу младих извођача, све вође група заслужују похвалу за своју љубав и посвећеност.

Признање, наравно, заслужују и досадашњи чланови одбора, председник Мајкл Малић (Милвоки СДД бр. 99), први потпредседник сестра Дона Вранешевић (Дјукејн СДД бр. 76), други потпредседник сестра Жанета Прибанић (Монровил СДД бр. 7), благајник

После преподневних припрема све групе су у суботу поподне имале иступ у Високој средњој школи у Стубенвилу. Публика, просторија и клима уређаји су били одлични, па успех није изостао. Учествовале су следеће фолклорне групе:

Јединство, Питсбург, ПА, црква Свете Тројице;

Српски Бисер, Ст. Петерсбург, ФЛ;
Српске Тамбурице, Монровил, ПА,
црква Св. Николаја;

Србија, Ворен, ОХ, црква Св. Илије;
Бивер Вели Јуниорске Тамбурице,
Аликвица, ПА;

Играчи српске православне цркве Св. Василија Острошког, Лејк Форест, ИЛ;

Србадија, МеКиспорт, ПА
Авала, Сан Маркос, КА
Србија, Клиланд, ОХ

Тамбурице православне цркве Св. Васкрсења, Стубенвил, ОХ.

Истичући да су све групе одговориле свим постављеним задацима, председник Пје-

- Пренето на 22 -

СНС слави и награђује своје најистакнутије чланове

На овогодишњим 3 српска дана у Питсбургу две жене су добитнице највећих признања. Сама та чињеница да су награде дошле у руке наших сестара заслужује највећу похвалу.

Ана Берић је добитница престижног признања - личност 2005. године СНС-а. А Илеани Попов припала је награда за изузетну службу.



Сестре Ана Берић и Илеана Попов

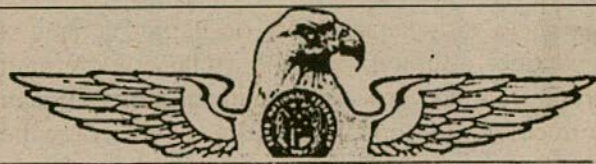
Ана Берић

Ана Берић Мајгетер, из Јангстауна, Охајо, данас у пензији, дипломирала је на Кен стејт универзитету. Каже да је почела као учитељица првог разреда основне школе, а затим није стала у напредовању, да би на крају постала универзитетски професор. Она је велики присталица високог образовања и увек је желела да помаже младима да стекну универзитетску диплому. "Требало ми је неко време да остварим своју замисао. Размишљала сам годинама о оснивању фонда за школарине, али морала сам да видим како то да урадим." Када се све сложило на прави начин, сестра Ана је из Јангстауна стигла у Савезну канцеларију са својим прилогом.

СНС годинама додељује стипендије, али сестра Ана је желела да учини нешто посебно. Она је основала стипендију за "трећу годину" и поклонила је значајну суму сопственог новца за ту сврху како би се школарине додељивале сваке године. "Већина студената - каже она - не знају шта желе да постану на првој, чак ни на другој години студија. Желела сам да школарина значи више за њих када је добију на трећој години". Ана сматра да је то најбоље време да им се помогне јер онда доносе важну животну одлуку.

Сестра Ана је чланица СНС-а откад зна за себе. Времена се мењају и у њеном Јангстауну, па и у СНС-у, не увек набоље. Све

- Пренето 19 -



АМЕРИКАНСКИ СРБОБРАН

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The American Srbobran Editorial Staff reserves the right to limit space size of advertisement and news articles submitted. Due to the range of activities covered by the American Srbobran, and the large geographical scope involved, it is with regret that items must be curtailed on occasion.

Professional discretion will be used in condensing submitted material when space is at a premium.

АКТУЕЛНОСТИ

Приређује Б.М.

Бранко Терзић на Форуму за ефикасно коришћење енергије

Један од водећих светских стручњака за енергетику, амерички Србин из Вашингтона, Бранко Терзић, председавао је на 16. годишњем Форуму за ефикасно коришћење енергије, одржаном у центру Роналд Реган у Вашингтону. Главни говорник на Форуму је био председник Џорџ Буш. Бранко Терзић је председавао на панел дискусији под називом - Ургентност за ефикасно коришћење енергије - којем су присуствовале стотине директора разних енергетских компанија и владини функционери који се баве енергетским питањима. У форумском билтену Бранко Терзић је представљен као глобални експерт за питања енергетике и стручњак са високом репутацијом у својој фирми Deloitte and Touche.

Опроштајни пријем за амбасадора Игора Давидовића

У име српске заједнице у Вашингтону господин Ђорђе и госпођа Мира Јовановић приредили су опроштајни пријем за амбасадора Босне и Херцеговине, Игора Давидовића. Он напушта Вашингтон после више од пет година. Изузетно способан и од српске дијаспоре уважан и вољен, Давидовић, који је из Бања Луке, постигао је под незавидним условима значајне дипломатске резултате, које је и завични Вашингтон поштовао. На пријаму су били и др Бранко Микашиновић са супругом Снежаном, Бранислав Живојиновић, као и неки чланови амбасада Србије и Црне Горе и Босне и Херцеговине.

Младић или Европа

Утицајни амерички сенатор Џозеф Бајден, један од коспонзора резолуције о Сребреници у америчком Конгресу, рекао је да Србија, ако не изручи бившег војног лидера босанских Срба

генерала Ратка Младића Хашком суду, не треба да рачуна на европску интеграцију.

Референдум у Црној Гори

Уколико се одржи референдум о независности Црне Горе, држављанима Црне Горе, који живе изван Црне Горе, уставом је гарантовано да имају право да гласају. Велики број Црногораца живи у Србији и жели да гласа на референдуму, што би свакако задало ударац сецесионистичким снагама Мила Ђукановића и Филипа Вујановића. Министар спољних послова Србије и Црне Горе, Вук Драшковић, рекао је да су "Србија и Црна Гора увек биле заједно" и да "оне морају бити заједно и ако не буду заједно".

За Косово план 3-4

Шеф дипломатије Србије и Црне Горе, Вук Драшковић, изјавио је да се нада да ће се међународна заједница одредити за компромисно решење, односно за српску формулу - више од аутономије, мање од независности. Оно што је својевремено било понуђено Србима у Хрватској, такозвани план 3-4, сада би могло да се понуди Албанцима за српску мањину на Косову. У супротном, сматра Драшковић, Косово ће довести до балканизације Европе, уместо да доведе до европеизације Балкана.

Независно Косово - само силом

Србија сматра да је независно Косово могуће само силом, противно вољи Србије. Србија је спремна на компромисно решење које је предложио министар иностраних послова Вук Драшковић, познат као план 3-4, по ранијем плану за Србе у Крајини. Све што је противно вољи Србије, рекао је Драшковић, изазваће дестабилизацију и у Србији, и на Косову, и у Албанији, а и у западној Македонији, Босни и Републици Српској. То би довело до огромних турбуленција, које нису потребне ни региону ни Европи. Драшковић је истакао да ће процес придружења Србије и Црне Горе Европској Унији бити настављен јер Европа не може да живи са неком црном рупом или европским гетом усред старог континента.

Независност Косова не одговара Војводини

Решавање питања статуса Косова одразиће се на стање етничких односа у Војводини и на укупну ситуацију у региону - рекао је Владимир Илић, представник невладине организације Центар за развој цивилног друштва. Он је указао да ће независно Косово допринети додатној фрустрацији српског становништва у етнички мешовитим срединама и смањити овлашћења покрајинских органа. Затим се поставља питање употребе службеног језика, што је први елемент који доводи до одсуства потребе интегрисања мањине у ширу заједницу, као што је то био случај Албанаца на Косову.

Први корак

Слика је симболична, на носилима лежи амерички војник, девојка са повређеном ногом. Она је чврсто обгрлила своју пушку М 16, а прву помоћ јој пружа амерички војник који нема ни шлем ни панцир, а све то надгледа војник Србије и Црне Горе са шлемом и панциром. Нема шта, озбиљно смо схватили прву заједничку вежбу наших оружаних снага и Кфора на територији уже Србије. Мали корак за Америку, велики за Србију, но за амбијент југа Србије и укупног стања безбедности на том простору то је несумњиво добар потез и

релаксирајући догађај. Јер, војске које су не тако давно биле противници, сада блиско сарађују. Коначно, и једнима и другима циљ је мир на територијама где су базирани.

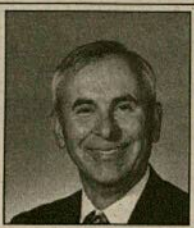
Одјеци

Против стварања квазидржаве

Покушај учесника међународног скупа да покрену дијалог и изнесу другачије мишљење и вредносне ставове о будућем статусу Црне Горе, уколико се одржи референдум на којем држављани те републике који живе у Србији не би имали право да се изјашњавају о статусу те републике, потпуно је игнорисан од црногорских власти и медија који су под њиховом контролом и који су на непримерен начин осули "паљбу" на организаторе и госте овог скупа "Црна Гора на почетку 21. века". Преносећи новинарима своје утиске, један од организатора овог међународног скупа, спољнополитички уредник америчког часописа "Хронике", Срђа Трифковић, истакао је да је изненађен агресивном кампањом и негативном реакцијом црногорских власти на покушај бившег амбасадора Канаде у Југославији Џејмса Бисета, професора међународних односа на Шајнер универзитету у Тексасу, Роналда Хачета, стручњака за међународно право са Родоса, Панајотиса Харитоса, председника Извршног одбора Покрета за заједничку државну заједницу СЦГ, Славенка Терзића, и потпредседника тог покрета Шћепана Ушћумлића да аналитички и аргументовано укажу на штетне последице евентуалног одржавања референдума у Црној Гори, који би, по мишљењу појединих учесника овог међународног скупа, био илегалан ако би црногорска власт ускратила право држављанима ЦГ да се изјашњавају о државном статусу те републике. Грчки стручњак за међународно право Харитос рекао је да је држављанство везано за личност а не за територију и да оно не може бити ограничено променом места боравка. "Чињеница је да је данас Косово и Метохија под привременом управом Уједињених нација и са правним поретком Србије, а најгора ствар коју Црногорци могу да ураде у овом тренутку, путем евентуалног референдума, јесте растурање државне заједнице СЦГ" - истакао је овај грчки професор, рекавши да би ова подела могла да доведе до "дипломатски" погрешних тумачења одредби Резолуција Савета безбедности. Канадеки професор међународних односа Бисет указао је да уколико Европска унија и Америка пресуде да је Космет испунио стандарде, онда можемо бити песимисти што се организације референдума тиче, с обзиром на то да се међународна заједница (под тим се подразумева ЕУ и САД) није изјаснила против организовања референдума о независности ЦГ, по нејасним правилима црногорске владајуће коалиције. У сваком случају, како је истакао Славенко Терзић, питање референдума није питање односа Србије и Црне Горе, већ црногорске владе према својим држављанима који живе изван те републике.

Н. Ковачевић

Дан Пјевач: Моје Мишљење ...



- Пренето са 17-

вач је био највише импресиониран напретком које су све групе показале у односу на ниво претходних година.

А као да је и све то било недовољно, на крају је свих 250 играча учествовало у великом и импресивном великом финалу под вођством Дана Капузија, да би још на крају овог фантастичног културног догађаја одјекнула песма "Ој Србијо, мила мати"!

А све се затим наставило и у поменутом културном центру у Виртону. Тамо су свирали познати ансамбли америчких Срба, "Балканске серенаде" и "Судбина", у чијим се саставима такође налазе чланови нашег Савеза: Мал Евановић, Ник Јовановић, Боб Шушњар и брат Ранди Лугараш из "Судбина".

Како је председник већ био провео у Питсбургу целу недељу, морао је да пропусти недељни пикник у Виртону, а по српским пикницима Виртон је иначе чувен.

Помињући све лепе ствари које је чуо у вези са тим пикником, председник се осврнуо и на присуство и учинак нових фолклорних група, из Флориде ("Српски бисер") и Калифорније ("Авала"). А прича о "Авали" је посебно занимљива, Док се сви жале да њихову делатност ограничавају финансијске неприлике, ови млади из Калифорније, уместо да се жале, својим трудом остварују праве подвиге. Прошле године су гостовали у Србији, ове године су дошли на фестивал у Охајо, а идућег лета се пакују за турнеју по Аустралији. Директор групе Лили Пантовић уверава председника да се сви трошкови покривају новцем скупљеним на активностима везаним за попуњавање фондова. И тим новцем не плаћају само путне трошкове, него обезбеде довољно новца и за раскошне српске фолклорне костиме. А традиција групе "Авале" укључује и донације приликом учествовања. Председник је замолио директорку да лично свим члановима ове вредне групе пренесе његове поздраве и честитке на великом успеху.

Важна стране делатности Фолклорног савеза је и у томе што се младим играчима пружа могућност дружења са вршњацима са целог континента. Зар не мора свака наша српска црква да користи такву прилику? Ако неке фолклорне групе нису чланице нашег Савеза, треба да се учлане. Свака група има право на вежбање са Драганом Ковачевићем. Председник, на основу многих извештаја, закључује да је Ковачевићев утицај веома користан и веома важан.

Председник објашњава да се на питању Фолклорног савеза задржао овако детаљно зато што мисли да је његов значај за српску заједницу велики, а да, нажалост, ни Савез ни његови фестивали нису оцењени на начин који заслужују. Српски народни савез је за 104 година активности предњачио у промовисању српске културе и традиције. Председник мисли да не може да буде бољи начин да се тај важан

процес сачува и настави кроз још много генерација него управо на начин који се пред њим одигравао у Стубенвилу: стотине наших најмлађих су изводиле аутентичне игре из свих крајева бивше Југославије где су живели Срби и били су обучени у аутентичне фолклорне костиме. Не сме се дозволити да тај значајан рад ослаби и зато се мора подржавати и Одељење СНС-а за образовање и културу и с њим повезан Фолклорни савез.

А ко није присуствовао овом фолклорном фестивалу, нека учини себи услугу и забележи да ће се 6. годишњи фолклорни фестивал одржати у Лејк Форесту, ИЛ, од 16. до 18. јуна 2006, у цркви Св. Василија Острошког. И док том фестивалу присуствујете учините донације, ослобођене такси, нашем Одељењу за образовање и културу. Ако наша генерација испусти ову шансу, она ће бити прокоцкана заувек, на нашу срамоту пред српским пионирима на овом континенту, оснивачима наших националних, верских и културних установа и друштава.

Председник наглашава да је у свом говору предочио присутнима у Стубенвилу да је немогуће да се одрже Фолклорни савез и догађаји у организацији СНС-а без постојања СНС-а. А подршка СНС-у може се пружити на безбројне начине.

Међу разним начинима председник Пјевач овом приликом јистиче два. Први, донације Братском фонду СНС-а. Председник истиче да је срећан да се процес те помоћи наставља и захваљује свима који су у њему учествовали и још учествују. Друштва одговарају позитивно на председников апел, а најновији даваоци су друштва Св. Ђорђа бр 97. из Џолијета, ИЛ, и Гусле, бр 192 из ДеКалба ИЛ. Ово друго друштво, мада једно од најмањих савезних друштава, дало је до сада далеко највећи прилог - 2000 долара. Њима председник упућује своје смерно ХВАЛА и срдечно ЖИВЕЛИ! Величина те донације је председника одушевила и оставила без речи (што није лако постићи). И подстакла га да и сам, по трећи пут, приложи своју донацију. Председник се нада сличној реакцији и од других.

А други је начин, наравно, регрутовање нових чланова Српског народног савеза. Резултате тог важног процеса одржавања Српског народног савеза у животу и спремног за значајна дела наши читаоци могу да прате у детаљима у Енглеској секцији нашег листа. И не само да прате него да у том процесу и учествују. А да би то чинили најбоље, могу питањима за савет и помоћ да се обрате нашој Савезној канцеларији на бесплатан телефон: (800) 538 -7372.

Председник Пјевач је по доласку на 5. годишњи фестивала Фолклорног савеза СНС-а сео за компјутер да напише своју редовну рубрику за број нашег листа од 6. јула. Из разлога који се најбоље могу назвати техничким, његов текст није стигао на време да би га укључили у тај број. Зато скраћени резиме те рубрике, без свга оног што је било везано за 3 српска дана у Питсбургу, објављујемо у овом броју.

Председник Пјевач, очигледно, ни када присуствује некој културној активности нашег

савеза не заборавља једну од наших највећих мука: број америчких Срба учлањених у наш Савез. Велика је то мука јер председник Пјевач не престаје да упозорава да не само културне активности нашег Савеза, какав је фолклорни фестивал којем је присуствовао и о којем пише у својој новој колумни, него и сам опстанак сто и четири година древног СНС-а зависи од броја америчких Срба сврстаних у његове редове. Зато је то упис нових чланова питање над свим питањима, мајка свих наших питања, питање шекспировско - били или не бити.

Било је врло стимулативно, пише председник, бити сведок узбуђења и ентузијазма наших дивних младића и девојака и он обећава да ће о свему томе писати за следећи број (председник је као што видимо своје обећање испунио на прави начин). У међувремену, желео је да упозори на неколико ствари за које је још увек прави час.

Прво, председник поздравља значајан напор уписивача у мају јер уписивање нових чланова значи крвоток нашег савезног организовања. Само кроз такав напоран рад могуће је наставити са активностима као што су фолклорни фестивал, Одељење за културу, школске стипендије и спортски турнири.

Велика је била активност садашњих и бивших чланова Извршног одбора, као што су брат Џон Ловренски (Лос Анђелес СДД бр. 95), брат Ели Грубишић (Џолијет СДД бр. 97), брат Ђорђе Топић (Питсбург СДД бр. 6).

Поред њих у разним категоријама истакли су се још сестра Ана Џулилија (Кливленд СДД бр. 15), брат Стеван Стојановић (Милвоки СДД бр. 99), сестра Кристина Крчадинац (Вукеган СДД бр. 74) и сестра Александра Славковић (Питсбург СДД бр. 6).

Председник подсећа на још један догађај који се одржава ускоро после 3 српска дана у Питсбургу, а то је голф турнир на Нијагариним водопадима 27-30. јула. Голфери имају још времена да се за сва питања обрате Доли у савезној канцеларији. Учесници турнира не треба да забораве да се турнир одржава на канадској страни па би требало да са собом понесу крштеницу или пасош за прелазак границе.

Донације за Братски фонд СНС-а и даље су пристизали у време када је председник Пјевач писао свој текст, па он наводи имена друштава која су послала новчане прилоге:

Просвјета СДД бр. 19, Кампбел, ОХ;
Краљевић Александар СДД бр. 23
Аликвица, ПА;

Српска Победа СДД бр. 121, Џонстаун, ПА;

Св. Илија СДД бр. 151, Чисхолм, МН;
Братска Слога СДД бр. 172, Ст. Луис, МО.

И, на крају, председник позива чланове Савеза да преузму акцију код својих представника у Конгресу и Сенату како би се спречила једна, по наш Савез и све братске организације погубна акција Удруженог комитета за таксе. Предлог је да се елиминише ослобођање такси за прилоге тим организација. Ако се ова иницијатива усвоји, биће то тежак ударац и нашем Савезу, до кога нам је свима изузетно стало.

Помени као опомена

Поводом комеморативних скупова који су се обележиле 10. годишњице страдања муслиманских жртава у Поточарима и српских у Братунцу, из Информативне службе Српске православне цркве 11. јула је јавности упућен апел да ови помени треба да буду трагична опомена свима и на свим странама.

Уз објашњење да нас вера опомиње “да схватимо да свакодневна логика није једини закон нашег овоземаљског живота”, као и да нас обавезује на љубав према својим ближњима, у саопштењу за јавност СПЦ се наглашава жеља да “у име наше Цркве изразимо своје најискреније саучешће над страшним страдањем народа сребреничког краја”. Уз напомену да се “ова велика народна несрећа обележава на два места, у Поточарима и у Братунцу”, у апелу из Српске патријаршије се тврди да “оба ова помена, обе комеморације - једна страдалим Бошњацима, друга страдалим Србима - имају један те исти карактер и јединствену функцију - да буду, истовремено, помен и опомена. Помен свима који су убијени у страшној ратној олуји, од 1992. до 1995. године. “Опомена да су ратни сукоби, мржња и освета, донели свима само огромна, неизмерна страдања, која остају као мучно и непреболно наслеђе несрећном потомству”.

“Јер, међу нама нема више нечијих очева, мајки, браће, сестара, деце и унука, суседа и пријатеља. Прекинути су - на најстрашнији начин - нечији дани, планови, надања и снови... Сви морамо да осетимо, макар за тренутак, сав тај бол растанка, сву неописиву тугу, све оно што стоји иза јецаја породице, иза дечјих суза, иза јаука и занемелости. Свако од нас мора да, својом вољом, у име чојства и човештва, осети и тугу, и бол, и кајање, и саучешће, и сапатњу. Али пре свега и изнад свега: молбу - упућену људима и молитву - упућену Спаситељу, да се то више никада и ни због чега не понови”, каже се у поруци која је упућена из Српске православне цркве.

Уз “молбу и молитву да се ове две народне туге у будућности више не раздвајају - ни у два различита дана, ни на две различите стране”, из СПЦ се захтева да се “поводом овога страдања више не подижу опасни политички зидови који призивају даље сукобе и освету”, и да се “не одвајају, тако острашћено, смрти и страдања ‘једне’ и ‘друге’ стране”, као ни да “комеморативни скупови више никада не буду догађаји ‘високог безбедносног ризика’ за било кога”.

“Молимо се, пред Богом и људима, да се коначно прекине крвави ланац нових страдања. Молимо се, гласом сапатње и покајања, у име свих жртава, да се оваква страдања више никада не понове. Молимо се за све оне који су страдали у Сребреници, у Братунцу и на свим другим стратиштима последњег рата. Молимо се за све оне којих више нема међу нама, за све оне чије нам страдање остаје као трагични помен и опомена”, каже се у апелу којим се СПЦ огласила поводом комеморативних скупова у Поточарима и Братунцу.

Да се зла никад не понове

Поводом обележавања десетогодишњице од трагедије у Сребреници, Његова светост патријарх српски Павле, у име Српске православне цркве изразио је молитвено и

Сребреница

Српска православна црква:

“Опомена да су ратни сукоби, мржња и освета, донели свима само огромна, неизмерна страдања, која остају као мучно и непреболно наслеђе несрећном потомству”.

искрено саучешће породицама свих пострадалих, “молећи се Свевишњем Богу да се зла ратних страдања више никада не понове на овим напаћеним просторима”, саопштила је Информативна служба СПЦ.

“Црква одлучно осуђује сваки злочин и подсећа да се ниједан злочин не може оправдати несрећама које нам други наносе. Злочини који су почињени у Босни и Херцеговини, као и на другим просторима бивше Југославије, дело су оних неодговорних људи који су безумно узели у своје руке право да пресуђују другима. То нису дела иза којих стоје читави народи и вероисповести. Стога је и обавеза народа у име којих су чињени злочини, да се јасно и недвосмислено дистанцирају од злочинаца и покажу људску солидарност са жртвама рата, без обзира на њихову етничку или верску припадност”, каже се у апелу патријарха Павла, уз позив верницима Српске православне цркве “да мирно и достојанствено проведу дан помена у Поточарима и у Братунцу, у сећању на све жртве пострадале у ратном безумљу, с молитвом да Господ пружи утеху свима који су изгубили своје ближње у трагичним ратним сукобима”. (М. Кубуровић)

Сребреница - упечатљив симбол страдања

Свет се, одавањем поште жртвама, подсетио на, по свему судећи, најстрашнији догађај у грађанском рату који је донела трауматична дезинтеграција бивше СФРЈ: на трагедију у Сребреници. Догађај који је окарактерисан на много начина: као геноцид, масовно убиство, масакр, највећи злочин на тлу Европе од Другог светског рата... Како год, међутим, описиван, несумњиво је да је реч о великом злочину и великој трагедији и нема никакве сумње да је, као стратиште, Сребреница постала упечатљив симбол националистичког безумља, етничке мржње и монструозне политике. То је 11. јула потврдио број људи који се окупио, али и ниво високих званица које су се поклониле жртвама и у својим изјавама осудиле злочинце, обећавајући да ће бити изведени пред лице правде. Минутом ћутања пошту жртвама Сребренице и свих других злочина који су почињени у прохујалим ратним вихорима на овом тлу одала је и Скупштина Србије.

У име Србије, сенима страдалих покљонио се председник Борис Тадић. Његов одлазак био је храбар и политички мудар чин, упркос ризицима које подразумева и могућим поделма које ће изазвати, чак и међу његовим присталицама. Тадић је са мало речи, али доста аргумената, објаснио овај свој чин: да покаже како се грађани Србије односе према ратним злочинима почињеним над бошњачким народом и да укаже на дистанцу између грађана и злочинаца од које, како је је с правом констатовао, зависи будућност Србије.

Главна порука комеморације на десетогодишњицу, уз нужно освртање на прошлост, ипак је била окренута будућности. Готово

заједнички садржалац у изјавама званичника био је да се они за које се с великим разлогом верује да су злочинци морају ухватити и да им се мора судити, чиме би се постигла два циља. Први - да злочин не може да прође без казне - и други, да се индивидуализовањем кривице уклони стигма колективне одговорности. Најзад, не мање важна порука јесте да се будућност и заједнички живот не могу градити на освети, него на владавини права и закона. То је демократија која би, да ју је на овим просторима било, ток историје сигурно учинила другачијим.

Злочин у Сребреници није једини почињен на овим просторима током деведесетих, нити су Бошњаци једине невинне жртве. Али постојање других злочина и других жртава не умањује овај са којим, као и свим другим, морамо да се суочимо како би се једном заувек прекинуо зачарани круг зла који већ толико дуго обујмљује Балкан.

У центру Сава приказан филм “Истина”

У препуној великој дворани Центра “Сава”, уз присуство многих јавних личности, а међу њима и Његове светости патријарха Павла, 10. јула је приказан документарни филм “Истина” о злочинима почињеним над Србима током ратних сукоба деведесетих година.

Филм је дуго најављивала Српска радикална странка, а циљ његовог приказивања је, како је наведено у најави, “да покажемо свету како су нас монструозно убијали, масакрирали и протеривали са огњишта само зато што смо Срби”. У истом тексту је, међутим, речено да Срби “осуђују све злочине које су починили појединци из нашег народа”.

Обраћајући се присутнима пре пројекције филма, заменик председника српских радикала Томислав Николић је рекао да “ми у Србији морамо да осудимо све злочине, и оне који су направили припадници нашег народа”. Он је тим поводом поменуо Братунац, Сребреницу, Кљечку, али и многа друга необележена места.

Мотив приказивања филма Николић је означио овим речима: “Натерали су нас, многи из света, многи из Србије, многи Срби, хтели би да нас неизбрисиво жигосу као варваре”. “Ми Срби нисмо злочинци, не могу да нас уплаше, само се Бога бојимо”, била је његова порука на скупу на којем је Александар Вучић претходно прочитао писмо Војислава Шешеља.

Лидер радикала је поручио из Хага да су Србија и српски народ у великој опасности, “јер хоће да нам отму Републику Српску и Косово и Метохију”, а “неки наши политичари и медији им помажу у томе”. Јер, што горе по Србију, то боље по њихове џепове поручио је Шешељ. “Моји саборци и ја били смо први који смо осудили оне који су чинили злочине. Све можемо да опростимо, али не и да заборавимо”, написао је на крају Шешељ, а читање његовог писма прекидано је аплаузима.

Документарни филм “Истина” је приказао снимке стравичних злочина почињених над припадницима српског народа, од којих су свакако најстрашније биле сцене у којима су поједини Срби прво приказани као заробљеници које муче и малтретирају припадници муслиманских јединица, а одмах затим их

сликају као убијене.

Неке од таквих сцена радикали су приказали раније, када је мучен, затим убијен Раде Роговић из Санског Моста (његова супруга и ћерка биле су у Центру "Сава", али су напустиле дворану пре приказивања филма). Приказано је и заробљавање и мучење, а затим и тренутак после убиства четворице Срба у шуми код Крупе на Уни. Њих су, како је наведено, мучили и ликвидирали припадници муслиманске специјалне јединице "Хамза" у чијем саставу су били и муџахедини. Један од њих, Абдул Резис, их је заклао.

Цео филм иначе прати страдање војника некадашње ЈНА од Словеније, преко Хрватске до БиХ. Приказано је мноштво изнакажених лешева, пронађених на стратиштима око Госпића, код Карловца, Пакраца, на Возући, код Сарајева, у селима у околини Сребренице, у Тузли. Приказана су убијена и рањена деца... Чули смо и сведочења заробљених војника, припадника хрватских паравојних формација, па и оних који, завезаних очију, причају како су клали заробљенике. Један од њих је испричао како је заклао двоје деце од петнаест година, са повећима на рукама, у Вуковару 1991. године.

На једном филму види се како муслиманска војска пали велику фотографију Радована Караџића Из сале се тада чуо узвик: "Не дај се, Рашо!", и аплауз.

Крај филма био је посвећен српским страдањима на Косову и Метохији. Приказани су злочини УЧК у Кљечки, уз сведочење једног од егзекутора убистава. Види се и Рамуш Харадинај у униформи.

На крају, видели смо познате сцене за време бомбардовања СРЈ, са страдалим цивилима и порушеним кућама. Неки нису дочекали крај филма, изашли су из дворане. На крају се чуо аплауз, али људи су се разишли у тишини.

Велико интересовање

Поред патријарха Павла и великог броја припадника српских радикала, организатора приказивања филма, скупу у Центру "Сава" присуствовали су: Лука Караџић, брат Радована Караџића, Смиља Аврамов, Брана Црнчевић, оперска певачица Јадранка Јовановић, глумица Лидија Вукићевић (водителј програма), кошаркаш Милан Гуровић, затим Исидора Бјелица и Небојша Пајкић, новинарка Милијана Балетић, певач Бора Дрљача... Приказивању филма присуствовали су потпредседник ГО СПС Жарко Обрадовић и посланик ДСС Драгољуб Којчић, али представника других странака, а ни владе није било. (Б. Р.)

"Злоупотреба злочина"

Либерално-демократска фракција Демократске странке осудила је као "покушај политичке злоупотребе страдања Срба у Босни и Херцеговини", документарни филм "Истина" Српске радикалне странке.

"Присуство патријарха Павла овом скупу представља доказ да Српска православна црква пружа подршку онима који би својом погрешном политиком довели до трагедије на простору бивше Југославије", наводи се у саопштењу. ЛДФ је оценила да се уместо злоупотребе српских жртава у дневно-политичке сврхе морају осудити злочини које су починили

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припадници српског народа, како би Србија стекла право да то исто очекује од осталих народа бивше Југославије.

"Злочин у Сребреници при коме је у три дана убијено 8.000 људи представља типичан пример геноцида. Српско друштво мора јасно и недвосмислено да се одреди према злочину у Сребреници и да се једном заувек одрекне про-тагониста политике која је до тог злочина довела", саопштила је ЛДФ. (Бета)

Осуда свих злочина

Извршно веће Војводине усвојило је "Закључак о осуди ратних злочина на просторима бивше Југославије поводом десетогодишњице злочина у Сребреници" којим се "осуђују сви злочини почињени током ратних дешавања на територији бивше Југославије и одаје пошта жртвама тих злочина - Бошњацима, Србима, Хрватима, Албанцима и другима".

Претња смрћу из Чикага

Премијер Републике Српске Перо Букејловић примио је из Чикага писмо у којем му се прети смрћу, потврдио је агенцији Бета портпарол владиног Бироа за односе са јавношћу Златко Јурић.

"Писмо је стигло из Чикага пре два дана и у њему се наводи да је премијер Букејловић осуђен на казну смрти стрељањем", рекао је Јурић. Писмо је написано у виду судске пресуде у којој се наводи да је "веће састављено од судије Марка Качавенде, као председника суда, и судија поротника Јована Говедарице и Симе Јовића, 24. јуна премијера РС Перу Букејловића осудило на казну смрти стрељањем због сарадње са српским непријатељима".

У наводној пресуди пише да се "осуђени Букејловић, као и други изроди српског народа, ставио у службу непријатеља против свог народа". У писму се додаје да је "пресуда коначна и без права жалбе", а да ће бити извршена "када за то буду погодне околности". Писмо је написано руком, латиничним писмом.

Јурић је рекао да је писмо прослеђено на увид полицији РС и америчкој амбасадни у БиХ. (Бета)

Што није могла Скупштина учинила је влада Србије.

Председник Србије Борис Тадић отпутовао је у Поточаре на обележавање 10-годишњице ликвидације готово осам хиљада сребреничких Бошњака са компромисом у торби који пресликава стање свести и однос политичких снага у Србији. Са ставом на коме су се - од часа емитовања филма о егзекуцији шесторице младића - ломила копља у српској политичкој јавности. Влада је, заправо, пресудила тиме што је злочине у Сребреници (над Бошњацима) и Братунцу (над Србима) ставила у исту равну, одредивши се за општу осуду "свих злочина у грађанском рату на просторима бивше Југославије".

За став који од самог почетка овдашње полемике заговара власт и њој - бар што се тиче односа према ратној прошлости - блиских радикала и социјалиста. Избегла је одговоре на

многа непријатна питања, а у Поточаре послала поруку која, истини за вољу, одудара од амбиције међународне заједнице да се 11. јул обележи сећањем на жртве највећег злочина на простору Европе после Другог светског рата.

Чини се, ипак, да ниједна од три некад зараћене стране не одустаје од својих погледа на природу међусобних ратова, етничког чишћења и ратних злочина, ишчекујући да "она друга" попусти. Истовремено, ни међународна заједница, која је преузела (не)формално покровитељство над овим просторима, није отишла предалеко у утврђивању праве и пуне истине. Хрватска не би хтела да у било ком облику буде умешана у догађаје, историјат и расплет сребреничког покоља, како се не би отворила сећања и на њене ратне окршаје са Бошњацима. Још мање да већ сутра започне процес помирења којим би се релативизирала њена тужба против СРЈ, односно СЦГ, за агресију. Сарајево, пак, чека да међународни (политички и судски) форуми верификују њено становиште да је БиХ била жртва бруталне агресије и етничког чишћења, чак и геноцида, па зато, као и Загреб, не намерава да повуче тужбу против Београда. Србија, на коју и једни и други сваљују кривицу за ратове, опет, свим силама настоји да побије те оптужбе, избегне евентуално плаћање ратних репарација, одбацује тезе да су у Хрватској и БиХ вођени ратови за територије, инсистира на ставу о грађанском рату три народа, негира постојање било каквих геноцидних планова према другим народима, опстаје, другим речима, на Милошевићевој тврдњи да "Србија није учествовала у ратовима". Ставови све три стране су толико укопани да чак ни евидентна нормализација међусобних државних и економских односа није битно утицала да истина о недавном балканском крвопролићу добије какав-такав реалан епилог. А признање да је у Сребреници за само неколико дана јула 95. у осмишљеној и организованој "кампањи" почињен масовни злочин, који је у неким хашким пресудама већ добио квалификатив геноцида, превелики је терет који овдашњи политичари напосто не желе да понесу (М.М.).

Председник Тадић: људски разлог за одлазак"

"Идем у Сребреницу да одам пошту невиним жртвама злочина који се тамо догодио. Идем да бих као председник Србије показао како се Србија односи према ратним злочинима почињеним над бошњачким народом. Први је разлог људски и не треба га много објашњавати. Други разлог су грађани Србије. Ми нисмо стајали иза злочина. Морамо показати дистанцу између грађана и злочинаца. Од тога зависи будућност Србије. Трећи разлог је неопходност успостављања пуног поверења и сарадње земаља нашег региона. Идем у Сребреницу мислећи о регионалној сарадњи и одговорности за све оно што се десило на простору бивше Југославије. Морамо прекинути зачарани круг зла на Балкану. Истина, учињени су многи злочини према српском народу и осуда тих злочина је нешто што се само по себи подразумева. Међутим, врлина и снага је осудити злочин почињен у наше име према другом народу. И зато идем у Сребреницу"

Ограничена слобода Балканска Ал каида СНС слави ...

- Пренето са 17 -

Марек Антони Новицки, омбудсман за Косово и Метохију, који већ четири године борави на територији јужне српске покрајине, објавио је пети годишњи извештај за период од 1. јула прошле године до 30. јуна ове године, а за то време издао 22 коначна извештаја. Како је на скорашњој конференцији за новинаре, одржаној у Косовској Митровици казао, извештај приказује сажету процену ситуације људских права на Космету, а садржи развој и догађаје у правном сектору, преглед правосуђа, стање људских права и мањинских заједница у покрајини, потешкоће и невоље са којима се суочавају расељена лица унутар и изван Космета као и перспективе за њихов повратак, скорашње догађаје везане за нестала лица, квалификације везане за питања својинских права, судбину присилних повратника, практичне последице људских права услед лоших односа између Унмика и Владе Србије, као и, како је нагласио, "поглед у питања неадекватних механизма за заштиту људских права на Космету и улогу омбудсмана".

- Нажалост, Унмик и привремене комитетске институције досад нису посветиле потребну пажњу правном хаосу. Још увек постоји општа забуна о томе који су закони применљиви а који нису, док, с друге стране, до сада није основано високо судско тело које би издавало обавезујуће одлуке о овом питању - рекао је Новицки и нагласио да том недостатку доприносе недовољне плате, недостатак потребног броја судија, због чега "судство пати" и не може да има улогу коју би требало.

"Чланови неких мањинских група нису у могућности да приступе судовима због ограничене слободе кретања, док пуни имунитет који је Унмик доделио себи и свом особљу представља општу забрану права на приступ суду свим особама на Косову и Метохији".

Овај пољски адвокат, који се већ четири године углавном бави заштитом мањинских заједница на Космету, а којем се приписује да је наклоњен српској заједници, истакао је да, иако је дошло до малих побољшања у вези са статусом мањинских заједница, ипак Срби и Роми још нису у могућности да се увек слободно крећу по територији покрајине.

- Што се тиче српске и ромске заједнице, ограничење могућности да се слободно крећу изван својих енклава отежава им приступ здравственим установама и судовима, а често им се не дозвољава да обрађују земљу и да своје производе изнесу на локално тржиште.

Услови расељених лица, која живе унутар и изван Космета, и даље веома лоши у погледу људских права, а нагласио је да "расељена лица ромске заједнице која живе у камповима на северу Косова и Метохије, већина је изложена ризику да буде отрована отпадним материјама рудника "Трепча". Што се тиче расељених лица у Србији и Црној Гори, и тамо је ситуација далеко од задовољавајуће. Док онима који су се вратили у покрајину недостају основни услови. Новицком мандат истиче 31. децембра, а Унмик прети укидањем положаја омбудсмана у покрајини.

Б. Радомировић

Ехо лондонских експлозија одјекује на Балкану. Тај хук ће се још дуго чути и биће један од кључних фактора за предстојећа политичка и безбедносна дешавања у региону. Др Радослав Гађиновић, виши научни сарадник, експерт за безбедност и борбу против међународног тероризма, сматра да евентуално упућивање војних снага СЦГ у војне мисије у свету може бити један од пресудних чинилаца по безбедност земље.

- Војска СЦГ може да учествује у мировним мисијама у свету једино по захтеву УН. Евентуално слање наших снага безбедности у састав окупационих снага био би преседан у историји српске државности. Амерички и британски војни удари по неким исламским земљама без мандата УН директно су допринели освети исламистичких терористичких организација, а мета су вероватно и друге државе које учествују у тим војним акцијама - каже Гађиновић

Да ли је онда догађај у Лондону за наше политичаре довољан разлог да преиспитају могућност слања наших безбедносних снага у мировне операције?

- Бојим се да наша политичка елита одбрани и безбедности земље даје маргинални значај. Тотално је разбијен систем безбедности, просто не постоји цивилна заштита. У ванредним приликама сада се не зна ко шта треба да ради. Неопходно је зато хитно формирање савета за националну безбедност, који ће координирати систем безбедности и заштите грађана Србије.

Воде ли трагови Европске Ал каиде ка Босни и Косову и Метохији?

- Европска, или "бела Ал каида" заправо је покрет у чије ћелије не могу привирити ни најмоћније обавештајне службе у свету. Своје активности она је одавно испољила на територији Албаније, БиХ, КиМ... То потврђује и пример из 1995. године када је Осама бин Ладен боравио у Албанији. Тада је, на заједничком састанку којем је, поред осталих, присуствовао и Рамуш Харадинај, договорено успостављање ћелија Ал каиде на КиМ. На Космету терористи приводе крају завршну фазу терористичке обуке, након које се распоређују у многе светске метрополе да "чекају посао".

Постоје озбиљне индиције да су терористичке акције у Лондону извели терористи - "босански ђаци". Зашто САД толеришу њихово присуство на Балкану?

- То питање неко озбиљно треба да постави Билу Клинтону. Садашња америчка администрација свесна је ужасне политике својих претходника и надам се да ће брзо испољити активности на плану борбе против тероризма на Балкану и поред веома јаког албанског лобија у америчком конгресу.

Од исламистичких и албанских терориста, који су учили "занат" на КиМ, Албанији и БиХ, угрожена је и територија САД.

Можда је недавна балканска турнеја шефа ЦИА почетак тих активности?

- Верујем да јесте.

Јесмо ли ми потенцијална мета исламских терориста (независно од евентуалног одласка наших трупа у мировне мисије) због предстојећег решења статуса КиМ и могуће ревизије Дејтонског споразума?

- Албански терористи су се тренутно при-

- Пренето на 24 -

се мења, али мада број чланова опада, љубав за Српски народни савез и све оно чему је Савез служио и служи, остаје иста.

Илеана Попов

Илеана Попов из Виндзора, Онтарио, прва је добитница управо основане награде за изузетну службу. Награда се додељује да би се одало признање ранијим руководиоцима СНС-а. Награда која се додељује личностима године по правилу заобилази савезне руководиоце. А Извршни одбор сматра да треба управо њима да се ода признање јер су међу њима често неки од најбољих и најпреданијих наших чланова. Сестра Илеана је служила у Надзорном одбору за време председниковања Душана Љубенка. Али она је почела да служи нашем Савезу много пре него што је постала руководиоца. Њен отац, познат као "чика Пајо", био је оснивач савезног друштва у Виндзору. "Мој отац је позвао Бранка Пекића и рекао му да постоји друштво, Југословенска круна, у Виндзору, али да има 12 чланова који желе да оснују још једно друштво - Српску круну. Пекић је прво рекао да Виндзор није довољно врлик да има два друштва, али је чика Пајо био упоран. "Следећа ствар је била да је он у Србобрану прочитао наслов - "Ново друштво у Виндзору". Чика Пајо је служио као руководиоца друштва док није напунио 80 година, а онда су чланови сматрали да је нормално да она, Илеана, настави тамо где је њен отац стао.

"Није то тешко ако се има у виду колико има тренера и менаџера у кошарци овде. Али је важно да сви они буду стални чланови СНС-а, а не само да би играли кошарку. Свима је потребно осигурање, а ми морамо да помажемо СНС".

Због оваквог става сестра Илеана је на врху уписивача чланова за последњих седам месеци. "Рекла сам да ме не награђују на овај начин. Сматрам да је то нешто што свако треба да ради, да подржава СНС". Али председник Пјевач није желео да је овог пута послуша.

Он сматра да треба "одати признање људима који су учинили екстра корак. А сестра Илеана и сестра Ана учиниле су тај екстра корак. Оне сматрају да је СНС посебан и да треба урадити нешто да се он сачува. И зато заслужују да буду награђене и да им се срдачно честита за све што су урадиле и што настављају да раде.

Приближава се 100 година

"Американског Србобрана".

Постаните и ви слављеник претплатом на најстарији српски лист у расејању, а најстарији уопште без прекида у излажењу

“Пут слободе - прича судије Фишера”



- Наставак из прошлог броја -

"Идите својим кућама, браћо," човек их посаветова. "Овај рат је завршен."

"Где ћете ви?" Тома упита.

"На запад. Преко планина, преко Дрине. Можда на југ, до обале, до Црне Горе или Далмације, не знам. Можда ћемо тамо имати више среће."

"То је дуг пут," Ђорђе примети. Човек се намршти на тренутак, али му се туга и разочарање вратише још брже. Жена је тихо плакала поред њега.

"Улице су пуне лешева. Све смо оставили у граду," она зајаука. Човек је загрли и нареди коњима да крену. Коњи ногу пред ногу прођоше поред ратника без рата док деца извириваше између ствари, желећи да их боље виде.

"Срећно браћо," рече избеглица, завршавајући случајни сусрет. Запрега се изгуби иза једне шљиве, водећи породицу у неизвесност Европе деветнаестог века.

"Идемо," Ђорђе рече својим саборцима.

"Ма куда, човече?" - Перо упита.

"За Турцима," узврати Ђорђе.

"Ја мислим да је време да се иде кући, браћо... Млади сте. Сачувај те се за неке боље дане... Ја идем у планине. Време је да нађем жену и децу", рече Перо, окрену свога ата и изгуби се иза брда.

После неколико сати јахања на југ, што даље од Београда, Ђорђе и Тома схватише да им треба да смишљају куда ће даље. Када приметише један велики, стари храст покрај пута, одлучише да застану. Дупља у телу дрвета је била довољно велика за обојицу да се угодно сместе у њој. Сјახаше и склонише се у дупљу.

"И шта сад?" - Тома упита, посматрајући коње како мирно пасу. Тако су спокојни, помисли у себи.

Ђорђе извуче икону из џепа, стави је на крило и удуби се над напрслином у дрвету.

"Нисам те звао да ми се придружиш", коначно рече Тома.

"Сад је касно, зар не?... Ђорђе?"

"Зашто морамо да убијамо и да нас убијају зарад неких основних ствари као што је слобода?" - Ђорђе промумла себи у браду, са погледом фиксираним на икону.

"А? Ма шта то причаш, Ђорђе! Јеси ли добро, Ђорђе?"

"Шта рече?"

"Обећао сам митрополиту да ћу те вратити у богословију."

"Већ смо причали о томе. Ја не идем назад", Ђорђе одговори.

"Немој бити смешан. Не можемо овда остати заувек."

"Не можемо ни у Аустрију. Чуо си оног мученика. Ако пређемо реку, ухапсиће нас као револуционаре. Немам намеру ни да трулим у Аустријском затвору нити да се бијем против Наполеона."

"Шта предлагаш?" - упита Тома.

"Какав ти је грчки?"

"Доста добар. Хеј, добио сам десетку на испиту."

"Пођи са мном", поче Ђорђе изненада да моли свог пријатеља. "Ићи ћемо на запад, па ћемо онда из Босне назад у Аустрију."

Ђорђе дубоко уздахну, свестан тежине питања које се спремао да постави. "Хоћеш ли са мном за Америку?"

"Шта?"

"Хоћеш ли са мном за Америку?"

"Куда?"

"У Америку. Глуп ли си?"

"У Америку?"

"Да! У Америку! шта ме гледаш тако?"

"Друже мој, ти си мало скренуо. Мора да је од туге..."

"Реци ми за једно место на овој целој кугли земаљској где можеш да живиш као слободан човек, где нема империја, ратова... Једно место где се Богом дато право сваког човека на снове и срећу не доводи у питање? Једно место!"

"Уф, не знам. Зашто мислиш да би у Америци било другачије?"

"Дадох ли ја теби оно писаније о америчкој повељи независности пре него што сам отишао? Прочита ли?"

"Па, јесам..."

"И?"

"Шта мислиш?"

"Слушај, Ђорђе. Папир ко папир! Речи ко речи! Речи! Све то звучи дивно, али живот није тако слadak. Нема таквог места на земљи, чак ни у Америци. Колико се сећам, тамо имају робове. Како је то различито од ових наших шума? Само други султан са другим поданицима."

"Не знаш шта причаш. Америка је слободна. Људи су слободни. То је земља прилика и снова."

"А робовласништво?"

"Ма, то је грешка. Док ми овде седимо и причамо, они већ раде на томе да се тога реше. Убеђен сам у то."

"Превише верујеш у људски род, мој пријане. Кладим се, само кад би могао, и ти би имао робове!"

"Е, баш си блесав! Ја, никада, веруј ми, никада, никада, никада не бих наметао своју вољу другом људском створу!"

"Али би убио човека?"

"То је друго. Са разлогом. У самоодбрани. Забога, Томо, борили смо се за слободу. Против тираније, ропства!"

"Би ли ти опет убио?"

"Да се одбраним - да, да одбраним слободу - да. Хоћеш ли ти са мном у Америку или нећеш?"

Тома се придиже, обиђе око дрвета и упери прстом у свог пустиловног другара. "Да те не знам боље..."

"Види, назад у Аустрију не можемо. И да можемо, ја не могу да станем пред митрополита после свега што се десило. Он од нас више нема користи. Можемо да останемо овде, да постанемо хајдуци", а лице му се измени у

болни смешак. "Ја сам већ доста убио! Исувише за следећих пет живота. Заиста, желим да идем негде где нема рата."

"Ти си стварно пошашавио!"

"На годину, две, док се Аустријанце не смире, а онда ћемо назад кући, као слободни људи, као грађани Америке."

Тома само мрдну главом у неверици.

"Видећеш велико море" - Ђорђе рече молећиво и диже се.

"Не могу да верујем!" - Тома узвикну.

"Одлично. Идемо!" - Ђорђе рече и крену ка коњима.

"Он је заиста полудео, ал' шта је ту је!"

- Тома промумла, узне дизгин и пође за својим побратимом у авантуру њихових живота.

- Крај одломка -

Награда “Богородица Тројеручица”

Лауреати Андреј Вознесенски
и Амфилохије Радовић

Фондација “Иванка Милошевић” из Чикага доделила је своју престижну међународну књижевну награду “Богородица Тројеручица” двојници православних књижевних стваралаца, руском, Андреју Вознесенском, за 2004. годину, и српском, Амфилохију Радовићу, за 2005. годину. Лауреати су проглашени у Чикагу, у Српској народној библиотеци, задужбини Милуна и Наде Николић, и носиоци су потпуно равноправних признања.

Ово угледно признање за 2004. годину припало је Андреју Вознесенском (1933), великом руском песнику друге половине 20. века, “који је својим делом допринео очувању лиричности руске поезије од бесмисла социјалистичког реализма.”

За 2005. годину награда “Богородица Тројеручица” додељена је Његовом високопреосвештенству митрополиту црногорско-приморском, зетско-брдском и скендеријском, егзарху свештеног трона пећког, господину Амфилохију (1938) који је “постао и један од највећих мислилаца васколике православне цркве и хришћанства уопште.”

Награда се, одлуком утемељивача, додељује у славу пресвете Богородице Тројеручице, за добробит православних народа и православног песништва, а у спомен на Иванку Милошевић, ученицу петог разреда Латинске школе у Чикагу, коју су у десетој години уморили агенти југословенске комунистичке тајне полиције, 19. јуна 1977. године у Чикагу.

Претходни лауреати били су Матија Бећковић (2001), Стеван Раичковић (2002) и епископ Атанасије Јевтић (2003).

Награде ће Андреју Вознесенском и Амфилохију Радовићу бити уручене на јесен, на свечаној академији у Београду.

Р. С.

**Писмо преосвештеног
епископа
рашко-призренског и
косовско-метохијског
Артемија
пресвештеном епископу
источноамеричком
г. Митрофану**

Ваше Преосвештенство,

Ових дана, током мајског Сабора, примили смо од Вас Ваш цењени прилог у износу укупно 21.710 ам. долара, намењених потребама нашег народа на Косову и Метохији.

Ова ваша помоћ је доказ да пратите и да сте добро упознати са невољама и страдањима кроз које наш народ на Косову и Метохији пролази у последњих шест година. Наш народ у целини, посебно овај на Косову и Метохији, налази се у веома тешкој политичкој, моралној и посебно материјалној ситуацији, као што је вама добро познато.

У таквој ситуацији ми, који још опстајемо на Косову и Метохији, главну помоћ и милост очекујемо од Бога и наших славних и светих предака. Али нам је добродошла свака морална и материјална помоћ и подршка од браће наше, било овдашње или оне расејане по свету, као и од других народа и хуманитарних организација, које својим прилозима и пошљкама покушавају да ублаже наша страдања.

Сваку помоћ која је упућена преко нас и наше Рашко-призренске епархије настојимо да распоредимо и упутимо онима којима је најпотребнија.

Посебно нам је драга помоћ која долази од Вас, јер је она доказ да у Вашем срцу и даље живи сазнање и осећање о значају Косова и Метохије за сваког Србина, ма где се он налазио. Поготову о значају наших манастира на Косову и Метохији. Ову Вашу помоћ, коју сте нам доставили са конкретном наменом, ми смо примили са великом благодарношћу и биће стриктно употребљена према Вашој жељи. Ми, наше свештенство и монаштво, као и наш народ, још увек живимо у изузетно тешким условима, те је за нас од велике важности свака помоћ и сваки начин подршке и потпоре. Ваша ће ублажити невољу и бол деце који су остали без својих родитеља, убрисати сузу са лица многих сирочића и помоћи им да опстану на светим косовско-метохијским просторима, те Вам Ми у име своје и у име њихово од срца још једном најтоплије благодаримо.

Вама, Ваше преосвештенство, а и свима који су на било који начин допринели да се ова помоћ сабере и стигне до нас, свима, дакле, који на нас овамо мисле и свесрдно нам помажу, желимо сва непролазна и вечна блага од Господа нашег Исуса Христа, уз молитвене поздраве.

Ваш у Господу Христу брат и саслужитељ, епископ рашко-призренски и косовско-метохијски + Артемије.
11. јуна 2005. год. ман. Грачаница

Амбасадори нашег народа у Америци

Његова светост патријарх српски господин Павле примио је у придворном храму Светог Симеона Мироточивог протојереј-ставрофора Драгана Велеушића са око 150 парохијана храма Светог Саве и чланова фолклорне групе "Шумадија" из Милвокија у америчкој држави Висконсин. Његова светост је гостима пожелео добродошлицу у земљи њихових предака и у првом дому наше Цркве и нашег народа.

Он је рекао да се радује што ће моћи да посети многе српске светиње и да упознају богато наслеђе наших предака и изразио жаљење што неће моћи да виде најлепше храмове који су на Косову и Метохији, где је сада стање тешко, народ страда, а велики број цркава и манастира порушен и спаљен.

- Имајте на уму да сте амбасадори нашег народа где год да се налазите. Према вашем понашању и делању оцењује се и ваш народ. Будите добри суседи и добри грађани земље у којој живите и радите - поручио је патријарх Павле.

У име свих парохијана храма Светог Саве из Милвокија, Његовој светости је захвалио протојереј-ставрофор Драган Велеушић, и уручио последњу рату од 15 хиљада долара, за друго по величини звоно на храму Светог Саве у Београду, чија је укупна вредност 80 хиљада долара. (И. Л)

Епископ рашко-призренски Артемије повукао тужбу против четири земље ЕУ

Епархија рашко-призренска и званично је повукла жалбу Међународном суду правде против четири европске земље због тога што нису заштитиле српске светиње на Косову и Метохији, објављено је на сајту Српске православне цркве. Додаје се да је о повлачењу тужбе епископ рашко-призренски Артемије обавестио Синод СПЦ.

Тужба суду у Стразбуру била је поднета против Немачке, Италије, Француске и Велике Британије ради "правне заштите и праведне накнаде штете нанете православним храмовима и другој имовини СПЦ на Косову и Метохији од стране албанских терориста и екстремиста од 1999. године".

Српска православна црква је оценила да је тужба била резултат "оправданог протеста" епископа Артемија због "свега што се дешава са српским народом и светињама на Косову и Метохији". Српска црква је изразила очекивање да ће међународна заједница повлачење тужбе схватити као "знак поверења и добре воље" и предузети "енергичније мере" на заштити српског народа и осталих мањина, као и православних светиња.

Према ранијим саопштењима СПЦ, од доласка међународних трупа у Покрајину 1999. године уништено је или општењено близу 150 православних цркава и манастира, од којих су неки изграђени још у средњем веку.

(Бета)

Балканска Ал каида

- Пренето са 22 -

тајили због предстојећих активности на решавању коначног статуса КиМ. Међутим, они стално одржавају тензију. Најновијим експлозијама у Приштини шаљу поруку међународној заједници да терористи на КиМ постоје и да се та чињеница мора узети у обзир.



Др Радослав
Гањиновић

Исламистички терористички покрет у БиХ, повезан са екстремним Муслиманима, такозваним селацима, улаже максималне напоре на ревизији Дејтонског споразума. Вехабистички покрет је тамо у великом замаху, а то не види само Педи Ешдаун. На КиМ су од доласка међународних снага безбедности до краја 2004. године вехабисти финансирани изградњу чак 160 џамија.

Мислите да је Србија способна да се супротстави евентуалним терористичким ударима, нарочито после слабљења војне силе СЦГ?

- Ако су терористи изненадили моћне системе безбедности Америке и Велике Британије, шта онда рећи о Србији, чије границе још нису дефинисане, а неке политичке елите најрадије би желеле Србију без војске. У Србији се дешава тотална разградња војног система безбедности. Чини се да је тренутно партијска одређеност одлучујући фактор за постављење и унапређење војног кадра, што отупљује оштрицу професионализма у војсци и ствара је мање ефикасном. Активност разградње Војске СЦГ будно прате албански терористи и тако припремају стратегију за евентуалну акцију. У садашњим околностима, по мом мишљењу, драстично је нарушен систем безбедности у Србији и питање је да ли би она била способна да заштити своје територију и грађане од евентуалних масовних терористичких удара. (Александар Апостоловски)

Спекулације без основа

Наводи сајта www.debka.com, за који важи да је близак израелским безбедносним службама, да је експлозив коришћен у терористичком нападу у Лондону Ал каида купила у Србији, неистинити су и без икаквих основа, незванично се сазнаје у Безбедносно информативној агенцији. Исто тако наводи да су британски експерти дошли специјалним летом у Београд, како би донели експлозив на вештачење, нису истинити.

Стручњаци БИА, уважени међу колегама у свету, анализирали су трагове експлозива после терористичких напада Ал каида у Мадриду. На основу њих утврдили су да је тада употребљен експлозив за каменоломе, а не за руднике, како се до тада сматрало. У питању је разлика значајна за осветљавање техничких детаља злочина који је проузроковао пад владе Шпаније и повлачење њених трупа из Ирака. (Д. Т.)

Culture & Heritage

Dragan Kovacevic, SNF Cultural Director

The First Belgrade Singing Society *Prvo beogradsko pevacko drustvo*

Founded 1853

The Society was founded on January 1st, 1853, and continually exists to these days cherishing Serbian national tradition.

The rich history of the Society, which is also a history and genesis of European modern music in Serbia of nineteenth and twentieth century, records many memorable moments. One of them was when, a hundred years ago, the Choir sang in front of one of the greatest European rulers, German Czar Wilhelm II. Another was in 1995, when the Choir, gave performance in Berlin Dom Kirche Cathedral Church, and sang in front of a two thousand people audience. The performance, in words of German press, 'raised the Germans to their feet'.

At the end of the nineteenth century the Choir performed in front of the Russian Emperor Nikolai The Second, Turkish Sultan Abdul-Hammed II, Bulgarian Emperor Ferdinand, Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph, Montenegrin King Nikola The First. Conducted by *Stevan St. Mokranjac*, the Choir sang in Russia at the celebration of 900 years of Orthodoxy, while in 1987, the Choir sang at the thousandth celebration as the only choir not from Russia. The Choir gave benefit concerts, funded studies of talented musicians, and helped out poor students,

warriors of the Liberation Wars and poor people of Berlin. The Choir won the First prize in Budapest in 1937, conducted by Predrag Milosevic. European press wrote about the Society as of one of the best Choirs of that time. *Special honor for the Society were the crowning ceremonies of Serbian rulers and the enthronizations of Serbian Patriarchs at which the choir sang regularly. Society's patrons were Serbian Kings, and since 1945, Serbian Orthodox Church and Serbian Patriarch took over this role.*

Under *Stevan St. Mokranjac*, whose work stretched over three decades, the Society founded the first music school in Serbia, where Mokranjac was both principle and educator. Since 1896, the Choir has been singing at Sunday services and on Orthodox holidays in Cathedral Church in Belgrade and in the Patriarchate Court Chapel. Until 1945 the Society was the official protocol Choir of the Royal Palace and His Majesty the King.

Over the centuries, Society's conductors were the

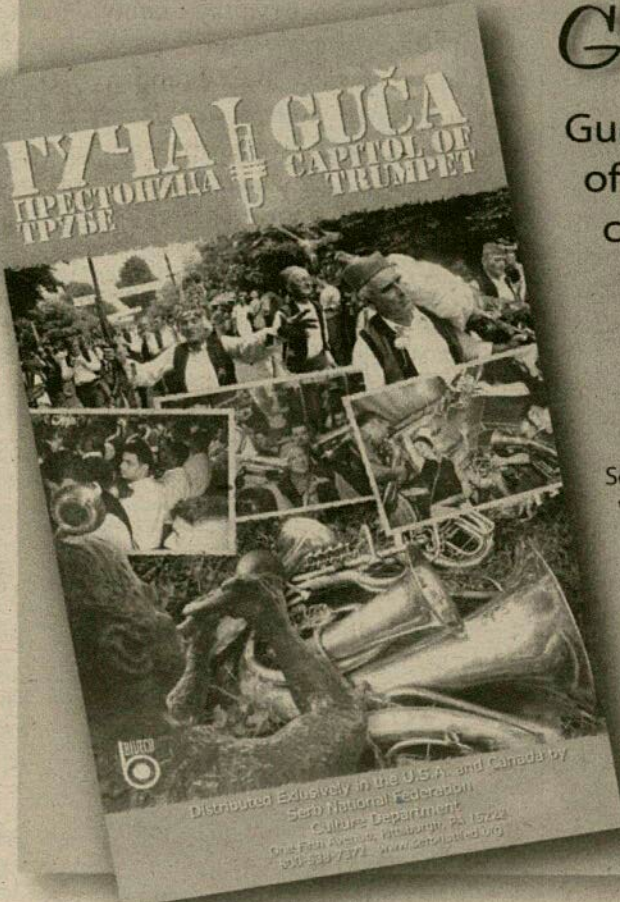
most significant composers in Serbian music: *Kornelije Stankovic, Josif Marinkovic, Stevan St. Mokranjac, Stanislav Binicki, Davorin Jenko, Kosta Manojlovic, Lovro Matasic, Stevan Hristic, Dimitrije Stefanovic, Miloje Milojevic, Predrag Milosevic, Vojislav Ilic, Aleksandar Gavanski, Svetolik Pascan-Kojanov, Georgije Maksimovic, B. Cvejic, A. Vujic, B. Sudjic, V. Milosavljevic, D. Ljubojevic, D. Jovanovic.* Today, Mrs. *Svetlana Vilic* is the choir's conductor.

Over the past one and a half-century, the choir's repertoire cherished both secular and religious music, both in terms of performance and composition. On foreign tours, the program was mostly oriented to national heritage, while in Belgrade, the Choir performed world known vocal-instrumental pieces, in many cases premiere performances in Serbia, including G. Verdi's "Requiem", Handel's "The Messiah", W. A. Mozart's "Requiem" etc. Such program orientation is also maintained today, although the main axis of performing activities lies in Serbian and Slavic national spiritual heritage.

New Exclusive Project of SNF Culture & Education Department

Guča - Capitol of Trumpet

Guča, a small town in Central Serbia, becomes the world capital of brass bands every August. Three days of brass band competition, celebration, and joy of life are now captured in this 90-minute documentary. Feel the atmosphere of Serbian carnival, learn about a piece of Serbian Culture Heritage and enjoy powerful music.



Serbian Language, Subtitled in English
VHS, Hi-Fi stereo

Supported by:
Serbian Ministry of Culture,
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Serb National Federation

| | SNF Members | Non-members | Quantity | Sub-total |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| Guča: Capital of Trumpet | \$12 | \$15 | | |
| S/H (per item) | \$4 | \$4 | | |
| Total | \$12 | \$15 | | |

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SNF Serbian Folklore Federation Celebrates its 5th Anniversary

During the weekend of June 24 – 26, 2005 the SNF Serbian Folklore Federation held its annual festival in Steubenville, Ohio. This annual event was extra special this year; it was the fifth anniversary of the Folklore Federation. Ensembles as far as California and Florida performed in this unique event. In fact, ten folklore groups participated; they are St. Basil Serbian Orthodox Dancers of Lake Forest, IL, Srbija of Cleveland, OH, Avala of Warren, OH, Jedinstvo of Pittsburgh, PA, Srbadija of McKeesport, PA, St. Nicholas Serbian Tamburitzans of Monroeville, PA, Avala of San Marcos, CA, Srpski Biser of St. Petersburg, FL, Beaver Valley Tamburitzans of Aliquippa, PA, and our hosts the Holy Resurrection Tamburitzans of Steubenville, OH.

On Friday evening, a Welcome Dance took place at the beautiful Serbian American Cultural Center in Weirton, West Virginia. Music was provided by the popular Orkestar "JUNACI" of Pittsburgh, PA. Here many of the groups registered, began making plans for the weekend, and had a chance to dance their favorite kolos.

Srpski Biser of St. Petersburg was quite disappointed, because they had a late flight into town and were unable to attend the Welcome Dance. To make them feel welcome, a few of the guys from Ensemble Srbadija and Beaver Valley Tamburitzans got together and went to the hotel to greet the Floridians with their beautiful Serbian music. After singing outside the hotel for awhile, everyone gathered in a hospitality room and continued to dance and sing until the wee hours of the night.

Bright and early, representatives from each group gathered for the Federation's Annual Meeting. This meeting was a very productive one. All the officers gave their reports, old and new business was tended to, and hosts for the next festival was announced; it was noted that the St. Basil Serbian Orthodox Dancers of Lake Forest, Illinois will host the 2006 Festival. Elections of officers took place. The newly elected officers are: Donna Vranesevic – President; Christine Krcadinac - 1st Vice President; Linda Jovanovich – 2nd Vice President; Dessa Mrvos – Secretary; and George Davic – Treasurer. Board of Directors will consist of Michael Malich, Valarie Tassari, Dan Jovanovich, Janet Pribanic, and Dr. Dan Pyevich.

Following the meeting, all the participating groups met at the Cultural Center to practice for the finale. Here everyone had a chance to meet and mingle with each other. Dragan Kovacevic, Executive Director of the SNF Folklore Federation, led the practice and worked until he was sure that everyone was



The finale with almost 300 children on stage singing "Oj Srbijo Mati!"

ready to perform that afternoon.

After practicing, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and then headed for the hotel to get dressed for the "big show".

At three o'clock in Steubenville High School, the show began. Donna Vranesevic welcomed everyone to this Fifth Anniversary Show. She introduced Fr. Merick, SNF President Dan Pyevich, and the Master of Ceremony Ellis Cannon of "Pittsburgh Sports Report", FM News Talk 104.7. Ellis was the perfect MC. He made the show move along smoothly, and his comments and stories were very interesting and entertaining.

Each of the ensembles provided the audience with a beautiful array of Serbian songs and dances from the areas of Sumadija, Vranje, Banat, Pirot, Bosna, Nis, Pomoravlja, Stare Planine, and much more! This was truly a magnificent show of Serbian culture at its finest.

Once all the groups performed, the finale began. As the curtain opened, the St. Nicholas Tammies of Monroeville began playing "Mars Na Drinu" under the direction of Danny Capuzzi. Over 260 children dressed in Serbian costumes were introduced by Valarie Tassari. Once each group was introduced, everyone began to play and sing "Oj Srbijo Mati". What a sight! From the youngest performer of three years old to the oldest of 21 years, everyone sang

with much pride. The audience applauded and screamed. Many of the people had tears in their eyes. It was touching to see so many of our Serbian youth preserving the culture of our forefathers. What a beautiful tribute to their ancestors.

Special thanks goes to Dragan Kovacevic for creating this beautiful finale, and a "big hvala" to Danny Capuzzi and Mr. Danny Kukich for arranging the music. These three gentlemen are greatly appreciated by all.

After the program came to a close, everyone headed back to the Cultural Center for dinner and dancing. Music was provided by the Balkan Serenaders and Orkestar "Sudbina". The Balkan Serenaders provided dinner music and sang a lot of the "good ol' tunes"; while Sudbina provided the kids with their favorite kolos. The dance floor was packed, and everyone danced and danced and danced. It was a great evening!

On Sunday morning, Divine Liturgy was served at Holy Resurrection Church in Steubenville. After Liturgy, Father Merick welcomed everyone who attended this year's festival.

From there everyone traveled to the Kings Creek Picnic grounds in Weirton. "Drustvo" of Pittsburgh provided the entertainment for the afternoon. Our hosts served delicious food such as barbecued lamb, roasted chickens, haluski, and much more! It truly was an old fashioned picnic.



Thanking Dragan one more time is Folklore President, Donna Vranesevic. Looking on are the co-chair hosts from Steubenville, Ohio: Nino Karas and Martha "Dolly" Zatezalo.



Dragan receives congratulations from the SNF Folklore Committee

It was great to have first time participants from Avala of San Marcos, California, Srpski Biser of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Avala of Warren, Ohio. These groups were awesome. Their performance on Saturday was breathtaking, and we feel like we have known them forever.

It was noted that Ensemble Srbadija of McKeesport, Srbija of Cleveland, and St. Nicholas of Monroeville have performed in all five festivals. Their dedication to this Federation is greatly appreciated.

We were glad that Jedinstvo of Pittsburgh and Beaver Valley Tamburitzans of Aliquippa joined us once again. They were unable to be with us at last year's festival, but their return performances were outstanding. We're glad you are back, and we hope that you will participate in next year's festival!

A "BIG THANK YOU" goes out to our hosts, the Holy Resurrection Tamburitzans. Their hospitality was unbelievable. Everything was perfect, and we thank them for the great memories that we will always have of the 2005 Festival. Chairpersons for this magnificent event were Martha & Mark Zatezalo and Nino & Milena Karas – thank you for everything, we appreciate your hard work and dedication to our Serbian youth.

Also, special thanks goes to St. Basil Serbian Orthodox Dancers for offering to be our 2006 hosts. We are looking forward to traveling to Lake Forest and spending a weekend with all of you.

Even though our organization is a fairly new one, we are proud of our accomplishments. We have:

- begun to preserve and elevate the rich culture of the Serbs
- enlisted over 400 new members in the SNF in the past five years
- created a network for Serbian youth with the same interests
- have united 18 folklore groups from across the country
- provided an archive of music, lyrics, etc. for our member ensembles
- sponsored five annual festivals

The Executive Board of the SNF Serbian Folklore Federation would like to publicly recognize the Serb National Federation for their continued support. We would like to thank them for investing in the Serbian youth of this federation. With continued support, these young people will be the future leaders of our Church communities and Serbian cultural organizations.

Last but not least, please mark your calendars for June 16-18, 2006 when we all plan to meet again in Lake Forest, Illinois for even a bigger festival!

Any folklore groups that are interested in learning more about the SNF Serbian Folklore Federation should contact Mr. Dragan Kovacevic at 1-800-538-7372.

The Best of Obren Pjevovic

| | SNF Members | Non-members | Quantity | Sub-totals |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| Video | \$10 | \$15 | | |
| Double CD | \$15 | \$20 | | |

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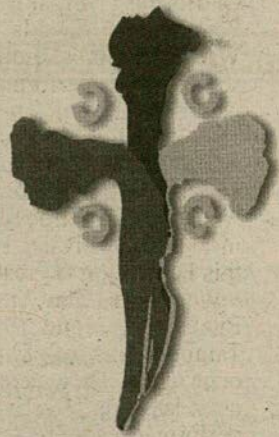
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CENTURY OF SERBDOM
IN AMERICA



SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
CENTENNIAL
JULY 2001

Those attending SNF 100 years celebration in Pittsburgh, July 21st 2001, re-lived the Serbian-American experience culturally, spiritually and socially. This historic celebration was the largest and most comprehensive event ever staged as a tribute to the rich legacy of Serbs and the Serb National Federation in America. If you missed the live performance now is opportunity to buy the Spectacular Video, CD and book at DISCOUNTED PRICES. (Limited quantity available)



The year 2001 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Serb National Federation's service to Serbs in North America. The centennial celebration was held on July 21, 2001 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. More than 150 singers, dancers and musicians tell a "story" of Serbian legacy on the American continent.* This video is a live recording of the centennial celebration program. The soundtrack is also available on compact discs by contacting SNF.

* Vocal number "Lastavica" courtesy of Svetlana Slavkovic
Video clip from 20th Century Fox film "Cherubs" courtesy of Michael Sudovic
Serb National Federation, One Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Tel. 412-642-SERB, Fax 412-642-1372 <http://www.serbnatfed.org>

SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
"CENTURY OF SERBDOM IN AMERICA" CULTURE DEPARTMENT
BY ANDY BRONKAJ, ZORAN ZDRNJA, MILUTIN LAZICH
BY VUK KANDIC, ANDY BRONKAJ
BY MARCO TRBOVICH, DRAGAN KOVACEVIC, VLADIMIR BRAJOVIC
BY DRAGAN KOVACEVIC

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| | SNF members | non-members | quantity |
|-------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Book | \$15 | \$20 | |
| CD | \$7 | \$10 | |
| Video | \$10 | \$15 | |

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Old Serbian
KITCHEN

PECAN PIE

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon bourbon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 purchased frozen 9-inch pie crust
- Whipped cream

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place baking sheet in oven. Stir butter and chocolate in heavy small saucepan over low heat until melted and smooth. Remove from heat; cool 10 minutes.

Whisk sugar and eggs in medium bowl to blend. Whisk in chocolate mixture, then bourbon, vanilla and salt. Stir in pecans (filling will be thick). Spoon filling into crust.

Place pie on baking sheet in oven. Bake until edges of filling puff and begin to crack and center is just set, about 30 minutes. Transfer pie to rack and cool completely. Serve with whipped cream.

Serves 8.

Elaine Mitrovich, Galveston, TX

Helpful Hints

Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.



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- Please accept my contribution but do not print my name in the American Srbobran.

Contribution for the SNF Cultural and Educational Fund are tax deductible to the full extent of the law

The next issue of the American Srbobran is August 3rd.
Articles are due by July 22nd.

SERB AMERICAN WRITERS ^{NO.} 106

by Vasa D. Mihailovich

NIKOLA A. KOSIC

Nikola A. Kosic was born in 1907 in the central Serbian town of Kraljevo. As an officer of the Royal Yugoslav Army, Major Kosic played a role in the coup of March 27, 1941, which brought down the government of Yugoslavia for signing the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany. The overthrow of the Pact brought on the German attack and the defeat of Yugoslavia in twelve days. Kosic spent four years in German POW camps, after which he immigrated to Milwaukee in 1951. He continued to fight for democratic causes and engaged in tireless activities, the most important of which was a radio program in Milwaukee, called Radio Hour, which he conducted for thirty years. It was one of the most important Serbian radio programs in the USA, by which Kosic informed his many listeners about events concerning their homeland and the diaspora, for example the church schism, which he opposed and received a letter of thanks from Patriarch German. Kosic wrote the majority of the pieces he read on the radio. He also contributed to diaspora newspapers,



gave speeches in colonies, and wrote a few books such as *Kralj Aleksandar I. Ujedinitelj* (King Alexander I. the Unifier, 1984) and *Vojvoda Zivojin R. Misic 1855-1921* (Voyvoda Zivojin R. Misic 1855-1921). It can be seen even from the titles of the books that Kosic's writings were topical, historical and, above all, highly patriotic.

The establishment and wide-reaching activity of the Radio Hour in Milwaukee, from 1952 to 1982, has an enormous significance for the history of the Serbian immigrants in America in the post-WWII period. In 1991 Kosic decided to return to Serbia after the political changes there. He was sent off by many friends at a dinner and a letter of gratitude by President George Bush was read. Kosic took copies and tapes of 1400 programs of the Radio Hour and donated them to the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences for future historians. He died in Cacak on November 10, 2004.

The excerpt from *King Alexander I*, offered below, gives a good indication of the patriotic spirit of Kosic's writing:

En route for important talks with a friendly partner, the Republic of France, King Alexander was assassinated on October 9, 1934, in Marseille. Enemies of Yugoslavia slammed a fatal bullet into the very heart of a man who personified the true soul of his own people. In plain language, his extinction became a house without a roof in his own country. Afterwards, no one could measure up to his strength of character.

King Alexander was the kind of person who would never capitulate in times of great challenge to one. He had no trust in the leadership of either fascism, nazism, or communism. And, for a fact, he would have never accepted those terms laid down at Munich or Teheran.

King Alexander shall go down in history as the most colossal of personages among all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Creator, in time and space, of the biggest nation the Serbs have ever succeeded in establishing throughout the centuries. His ideological prominence was greater than that of any other strong personality.

Voltaire once said: "To die for one's country is the duty of kings."

And King Alexander had died for his country

Translated by Ned J. Marich

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Total assets of the Serb National Federation at the end of March 2005 amounted to \$27,489,550.95.

The Serb National Federation reported that in the month of April the Federation enrolled 53 new members, re-entered 22, cancelled 54, had 0 matured endowments, and 19 died.

At the end of the month of April the Federation had 14,656 certificates with a total membership of 13,654 in good standing.

It was further reported that the Federation received \$99,417.90 and disbursed \$147,429.63.

Total assets of the Serb National Federation at the end of April 2005 amounted to \$27,441,539.22.

SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION Lodge Cash Receipts 04/12/2005 Thru 04/30/2005

| ODGE | CITY | AMOUNT PAID |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 005 | Pueblo, Colorado | 10.65 |
| 011 | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | 23.44 |
| 019 | Campbell, Ohio | 29.55 |
| 022 | Steubenville, Ohio | 11.20 |
| 023 | Aliquippa, Pennsylvania | 25.24 |
| 030 | Laasing, Illinois | 12.59 |
| 037 | Steelton, Pennsylvania | 27.89 |
| 052 | Lackawanna, New York | 7.86 |
| 054 | St Louis, Missouri | 24.89 |
| 068 | Farrell, Pennsylvania | 9.77 |
| 072 | Midland, Pennsylvania | 14.31 |
| 074 | Waukegan, Illinois | 4.54 |
| 078 | Weirton, West Virginia | 18.55 |
| 093 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | 31.66 |
| 094 | Billings, Montana | 14.27 |
| 097 | Joliet, Illinois | 65.57 |
| 099 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | 44.24 |
| 108 | Cleveland, Ohio | 31.12 |
| 116 | Chisholm, Minnesota | 1.86 |
| 117 | Bellwood, Illinois | 26.10 |
| 121 | Johnstown, Pennsylvania | 0.93 |
| 127 | Aliquippa, Pennsylvania | 25.42 |
| 143 | Canton, Ohio | 18.81 |
| 145 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | 25.42 |
| 163 | Rankin, Pennsylvania | 20.64 |
| 170 | Merrillville, Indiana | 39.65 |
| 171 | Schererville, Indiana | 104.27 |
| 179 | Las Vegas, Nevada | 22.00 |
| 188 | Ambridge, Pennsylvania | 23.45 |
| 195 | Chicago, Illinois | 22.06 |
| 208 | St Petersburg, Florida | 25.34 |
| 218 | Van Houten, New Mexico | 8.49 |
| 248 | Tonawanda, New York | 16.61 |
| TOTAL USA | | 35 \$ 788.39 |
| GRAND TOTAL: | | 35 \$ 788.39 |

**SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
FINANCIAL REPORT**

| Account Name | April 2005 | YTD 2005 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| 1ST YEAR NEW LIFE PREM | 995.44 | 9,531.70 |
| RENEWAL LIFE PREMIUMS | 16,061.61 | 71,166.24 |
| SINGLE PREMIUMS | 4,118.00 | 30,395.94 |
| ANNUITY & IRA DEPOSITS | 56,091.07 | 213,665.64 |
| PREMIUMS & ANNUITY | 77,266.12 | 324,759.52 |
| INTEREST ON BONDS | | |
| INTEREST ON BONDS | 69,178.88 | 448,373.14 |
| PREFERRED DIVIDENDS | 1,843.75 | -3,687.50 |
| DIVIDEND MERRIL LYNCH | 3,220.83 | 11,018.57 |
| GROSS INVESTMENT INCOME | 74,243.46 | 463,079.21 |
| PROFIT ON BONDS | | |
| PROFIT ON BONDS | -738.41 | 22,736.28 |
| PROFIT SALE LEDGER ASSETS | -738.41 | 22,736.28 |
| DEPOSIT AGREEMENTS | | |
| DEPOSIT AGREEMENTS | -53,222.68 | -505,240.11 |
| SNF ATHLETIC FUND | 215.00 | 215.00 |
| SNF CULTURAL FUND | -230.95 | -333.35 |
| CERTIFICATE OF LOYALTY | 100.00 | 450.00 |
| SNF FRATERNAL | 1,323.46 | 56,547.47 |
| TOTAL MISC. INCOME | -51,353.27 | -448,360.99 |
| INCREASE IN LEDGER ASSETS | 99,417.90 | 362,214.02 |
| DISBURSMENTS | | |
| DEATH BENEFITS | 40,853.99 | 70,554.61 |
| ACCIDENT & HEALTH | | 3,250.00 |
| ANNUITY PAYOUTS | 24,085.04 | 194,051.65 |
| CASH SURRENDER | 4,924.35 | 8,832.26 |
| TOTAL BENEFITS PAID | 69,873.38 | 276,688.52 |
| COMMISSIONS - LODGES | | |
| AGENTS COMMISSIONS 1st | 1,603.39 | 2,261.96 |
| AGENTS COMM RENEWALS | 622.24 | 1,143.43 |
| SINGLE PREMIUM | 747.09 | 1,516.17 |
| TOTAL COMMISSIONS | 2,972.72 | 5,390.21 |
| RENTAL EXPENSE | | |
| PAYROLL | 839.00 | 16,963.29 |
| HOSPITALIZATION | 1,862.48 | 5,293.89 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 675.98 | 1,037.22 |
| LEGAL FEES | 9,486.28 | 20,486.28 |
| MEDICAL ADVISOR | 400.00 | 1,600.00 |
| AUDIT FEES | 661.63 | 17,117.69 |
| ACTUARIAL FEES | 8,021.00 | 26,850.00 |
| CONSULTANT FEES | 2,314.24 | 8,344.66 |
| TRAVEL EXPENSE BOARD | 4,411.48 | 11,643.45 |
| POSTAGE SNF | 1,027.88 | 3,852.87 |
| TELEPHONE | 1,750.70 | 3,261.98 |
| TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT & | 786.45 | 1,347.42 |
| PRINTING & STATIONARY | 169.43 | 1,101.93 |
| COST & DEPR OF | | 3,000.00 |
| RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT | 205.07 | 838.28 |
| BOOKS & PERIODICALS | 46.90 | 346.90 |
| INSUR EXC ON REAL | | 1,003.00 |
| SUNDRY GENERAL | -636.00 | 74.00 |
| SUNDRY | 18.00 | |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES | 560.72 | 2,106.03 |
| SOFTWARE PROGRAMMING | 1,773.96 | 8,766.01 |
| DSL LINE & INTERNET | 189.95 | 759.80 |
| MAINTENANCE OF | | 672.82 |
| FRATERNAL ACTIVITY | | 1,325.00 |
| OLD AGE EXEMPTIONS | 46.79 | 187.16 |
| 2005 OFFICAL PUBLICATION | 5,118.16 | 7,140.63 |
| UTILITIES | 604.91 | 2,470.10 |
| OFF SITE STORAGE | 454.80 | 1,819.20 |
| BUILDING MAINT & | | 6,126.00 |

**SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
FINANCIAL REPORT**

| Account Name | April 2005 | YTD 2005 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| NATIONAL CITY BANK | | 12,734.72 |
| MERRIL LYNCH BROKER | 13,618.72 | 32,442.37 |
| TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES | 73,808.53 | 250,112.70 |
| STATE INS DEPT LICENSES | | |
| STATE INS DEPT LICENSES | 775.00 | 4,053.00 |
| TOTAL TAXES LICENCES FEES | 775.00 | 4,053.00 |
| LOSS ON BONDS | | |
| LOSS ON BONDS | | 156,504.29 |
| LOSS SALE LEDGER ASSETS | | 156,504.29 |
| DECREASE IN LEDGER ASSETS | | |
| DECREASE IN LEDGER ASSETS | 147,429.63 | 692,748.72 |
| TOTAL INC OR (DEC) IN L/A | -48,011.73 | -330,534.70 |

REVISED FOR MARCH 2005

**SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
FINANCIAL REPORT**

| Account Name | March 2005 | YTD 2005 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| 1ST YEAR NEW LIFE PREM | 5,257.37 | 8,536.26 |
| RENEWAL LIFE PREMIUMS | 21,800.73 | 55,104.63 |
| SINGLE PREMIUMS | 11,566.80 | 26,277.94 |
| ANNUITY & IRA DEPOSITS | 49,566.70 | 157,574.57 |
| PREMIUMS & ANNUITY | 88,191.60 | 247,493.40 |
| INTEREST ON BONDS | | |
| INTEREST ON BONDS | 116,035.62 | 379,194.26 |
| PREFERRED DIVIDENDS | | 1,843.75 |
| DIVIDEND MERRIL LYNCH | 3,761.65 | 7,797.74 |
| GROSS INVESTMENT INCOME | 119,797.27 | 388,835.75 |
| PROFIT ON BONDS | | |
| PROFIT ON BONDS | | 23,474.69 |
| PROFIT SALE LEDGER ASSETS | | 23,474.69 |
| DEPOSIT AGREEMENTS | | |
| DEPOSIT AGREEMENTS | 15,631.56 | -452,017.43 |
| SNF ATHLETIC FUND | -1,800.00 | |
| SNF CULTURAL FUND | 16.00 | -564.30 |
| CERTIFICATE OF LOYALTY | 100.00 | 350.00 |
| SNF FRATERNAL | 2,928.66 | 55,224.01 |
| TOTAL MISC. INCOME | 16,876.22 | -397,007.72 |
| INCREASE IN LEDGER ASSETS | 224,865.09 | 262,796.12 |
| DISBURSMENTS | | |
| DEATH BENEFITS | 10,100.00 | 29,700.62 |
| ACCIDENT & HEALTH | 2,300.00 | 3,250.00 |
| ANNUITY PAYOUTS | 29,554.94 | 169,966.61 |
| CASH SURRENDER | 1,571.49 | 3,897.91 |
| TOTAL BENEFITS PAID | 43,526.43 | 206,815.14 |
| COMMISSIONS - LODGES | | |
| AGENTS COMMISSIONS 1st | 658.57 | 658.57 |
| AGENTS COMM RENEWALS | 521.19 | 521.19 |
| SINGLE PREMIUM | 769.08 | 769.08 |
| TOTAL COMMISSIONS | 1,948.84 | 2,417.49 |
| RENTAL EXPENSE | | |
| RENTAL EXPENSE | 10,600.00 | 30,000.00 |

**SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION
FINANCIAL REPORT**

| Account Name | March 2005 | YTD 2005 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| PAYROLL | 15,492.06 | 16,124.29 |
| HOSPITALIZATION | 616.40 | 3,431.41 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 115.25 | 361.24 |
| LEGAL FEES | | 11,000.00 |
| MEDICAL ADVISOR | 400.00 | 1,200.00 |
| AUDIT FEES | 2,650.50 | 16,456.06 |
| ACTUARIAL FEES | 9,076.00 | 18,829.00 |
| CONSULTANT FEES | 3,048.00 | 6,030.42 |
| TRAVEL EXPENSE BOARD | 2,625.45 | 7,231.97 |
| POSTAGE SNF | 124.65 | 2,824.99 |
| TELEPHONE | 707.51 | 1,511.28 |
| TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT & | 560.97 | 560.97 |
| PRINTING & STATIONARY | 127.25 | 932.50 |
| COST & DEPR OF | 2,333.00 | 3,000.00 |
| RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT | 223.07 | 633.21 |
| BOOKS & PERIODICALS | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| INSUR EXC ON REAL | 903.00 | 1,003.00 |
| SUNDRY GENERAL | | 710.00 |
| SUNDRY | -18.00 | -18.00 |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES | 954.96 | 1,345.31 |
| SOFTWARE PROGRAMMING | 4,957.47 | 6,992.05 |
| DSL LINE & INTERNET | 189.95 | 569.65 |
| MAINTENANCE OF | 145.52 | 672.82 |
| FRATERNAL ACTIVITY | 225.00 | 1,325.00 |
| OLD AGE EXEMPTIONS | 46.79 | 140.37 |
| 2005 OFFICAL PUBLICATION | -193.40 | 2,022.47 |
| UTILITIES | 1,283.51 | 1,865.19 |
| OFF SITE STORAGE | 454.80 | 1,364.40 |
| BUILDING MAINT & | 332.00 | 6,126.00 |
| NATIONAL CITY BANK | | 12,734.72 |
| MERRIL LYNCH BROKER | | 18,823.65 |
| TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES | 58,281.71 | 176,304.17 |
| STATE INS DEPT LICENSES | | |
| STATE INS DEPT LICENSES | 925.00 | 3,278.00 |
| TOTAL TAXES LICENCES FEES | 925.00 | 3,278.00 |
| LOSS ON BONDS | | |
| LOSS ON BONDS | 107,083.96 | 156,504.29 |
| LOSS SALE LEDGER ASSETS | 107,083.96 | 156,504.29 |
| DECREASE IN LEDGER ASSETS | | |
| DECREASE IN LEDGER ASSETS | 211,765.94 | 545,319.09 |
| TOTAL INC OR (DEC) IN L/A | 13,099.15 | -282,522.97 |

**Serb National Federation
Membership And Insurance Report
04/12/2005 To 05/10/2005**

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Increased: | |
| NEW MEMBERS | 53 |
| REENTERED | 22 |
| TOTALS: | 75 |
| Decreased: | |
| CANCELLED | 54 |
| DEATHS | 19 |
| TOTALS: | -73 |
| NET RESULTS: | 2 |
| Membership | |
| Month Ending 03/31/2005 | 13,652 |
| Month Ending 04/30/2005 | 13,654 |
| RESULTS | 2 |
| Certificates In Force | |
| Month Ending 03/31/2005 | 14,653 |
| Month Ending 04/30/2005 | 14,656 |
| RESULTS | 3 |
| Insurance In Force | |
| Month Ending 03/31/2005 | 51,674,143 |
| Month Ending 04/30/2005 | 51,534,206 |
| RESULTS | -139,937 |

THE LEGION OF MERIT, THE MIHAILOVICH MEDAL, FINALLY COMES HOME

continued from page 11

General Mihailovich, a Serbian patriot and a true democrat, played into the decisions made as to how and when the Medal would be released. Ultimately, however, the paradox had to weigh heavily as to how could it be publicly acknowledged that such a high honor had been bestowed upon a man wrongfully accused, abandoned, betrayed and destroyed for mere political expediency. The hypocrisy of the betrayal of General Mihailovich by the Allies would then have to come to light and the political powers would have to be held accountable for the wrong decisions that were made and kept at a crucial point in our history.

I love the Mihailovich story. It has all the elements of a genuine and tragic drama. Most of the people involved never received the official accolades their efforts and their loyalty deserved. What stays foremost in my mind is the fact that General Mihailovich organized and facilitated the great rescues of the American and Allied airmen in 1944, long after he was abandoned by the Allied leaders and left to face the Nazi and Communist forces alone.

I can only begin to aspire to that kind of nobility of character and unselfishness. The Mihailovich story, no matter how tragic, will always serve as an inspiration to "do the right thing no matter what." And for him, the cost was great. He did the right thing from start to finish, having already borne the gross injustices of the charges being leveled against him and the extent to which those false and contrived charges were used to justify abandoning him for political expediency. It is noteworthy that upon the end of the war, Sir Winston Churchill, the Allied leader most responsible for the abandonment of General Mihailovich, ended up deeply regretting his decisions and policies. But by that time, the injustices and the errors in judgment could not be undone. And the great General was gone.

We cannot resurrect General Mihailovich. We cannot reverse history. But we can acknowledge the wrongs that were committed against him and honor him the way he deserves to be honored. I am so glad that Serbia seems to finally be on her way to publicly honoring one of her greatest heroes and one who gave far more than he ever got in return. I am happy, too, that some of those folks for whom this story is paramount in their lives have lived to see the Medal released, among them my father.

I am sad that so many of those for whom the release of this Legion of Merit medal would have meant so much are no longer with us and did not live to see this happen. So many of them were part of the story and lived it. Captain Nikola Lalich, Colonel Nick Stepanovich, Zvonko Vuckovich, Captain George 'Guv' Musulin, and so many others, among them veterans and survivors of the war who remained true Chetniks in their hearts to the end of their lives. I wish most of all that Major Richard Felman, who passionately and ceaselessly devoted the last fifty years of his life to the cause, had lived to make the visit to Serbia in May of 2005 to see the Mihailovich Medal finally come home. You can bet he would have ignored the directive to keep things quiet - he would have been shouting from the mountaintops. I hope that wherever he is, General Draza is right there with him and that they are celebrating together.

Our most sincere thanks go out to the airmen who did make the historic trip to Serbia in May for keeping the faith all these years and for never forgetting their debt of gratitude.



American delegation at the presentation of the Medal May 9, 2005 -- pictured are -- left to right --

1. Airman Clare Musgrove
2. His grandson Adam
3. Mrs. Wilson
4. Airman Robert Wilson
5. George Vuynovich
6. Airman Lt. Colonel Charles Davis
7. His daughter Barb Hudspeth
8. Arthur Jibilian
9. Arthur's wife Jo
10. Seated is Dr. Gordana Mihailovich

Map of the Niagara Falls area showing the route to the 2005 SNF Golf Tournament. The map includes the Niagara River, The Falls, and various roads such as QEW, McLeod Rd., Portage Rd., and Niagara Parkway. A legend identifies five locations: (1) St George Serbian Orthodox Church, (2) Legends on the Niagara, (3) Ramada Suites, (4) Comfort Inn, and (5) Aston Michaels Inn. Directions are provided for reaching these locations from the QEW and McLeod Rd.

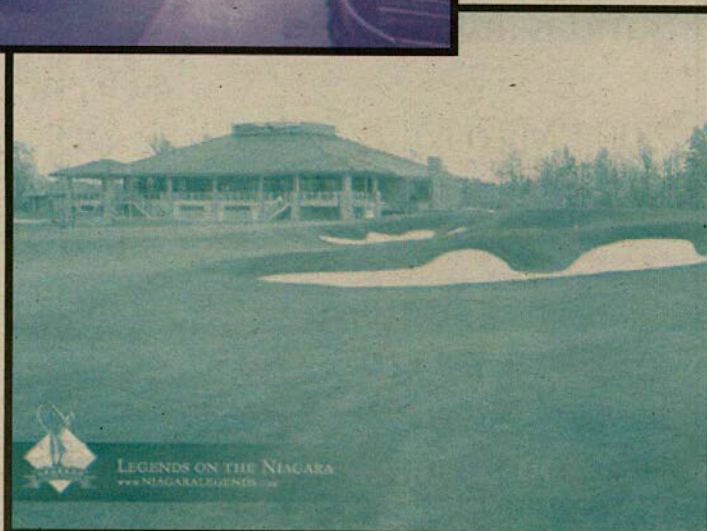
SNF GOLF UPDATE NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO



LEGENDS ON THE NIAGARA
www.NIAGARALEGENDS.com



LEGENDS ON THE NIAGARA
www.NIAGARALEGENDS.com



LEGENDS ON THE NIAGARA
www.NIAGARALEGENDS.com

As you all know by now the 64th annual SNF Summer Golf Tournament will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada. The St. George Serbian Orthodox Church congregation is hard at work preparing for this truly great week of fun and golf. You can visit our web site at www.stgeorgeniagara.com

The week will include a group trip for the Moms and kids to Marineland, one of Niagara's most popular attractions. This theme park has a wonderful aquarium that features a world renowned Beluga Whale exhibit and Killer Whale and Dolphin shows. Marineland is an amusement park which features the **Sky Screamer**, at 450 feet is the worlds highest triple tower ride, **Dragon Mountain** {the worlds largest steel roller coaster} a deer petting zoo and much, much more. More details including our discounted group rate will follow in future issues of the Srbobran. Please visit their web site at www.marinelandcanada.com

Of course the SNF Summer golf tournament wouldn't be complete without great food and great music. Our kitchen staff is preparing a delicious menu for the week including all your favorite Serbian dishes and a non stop Cevape grill. The music for the week will include for dancing **Orkestra Istina**, Toronto's own **Orkestra Srbija** featuring Mico Petrovic, **Orkestra Frula** from Toronto, and Tamburica music is being provided by **Orchestra Lira** from Detroit, and the **Sokoli Orchestra** from Lackawanna NY.

ADDRESSES & CONTACT INFORMATION

ST. GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
6085 Montrose Rd.
Niagara Falls
Phone 905-356-7636

LEGENDS ON THE NIAGARA
9233 Niagara Parkway
Niagara Falls
Phone 905-295-8585

RAMADA SUITES
7389 Lundy's Lane
Niagara Falls
Phone 905-356-6119

COMFORT INN
7514 Lundy's Lane
Niagara Falls
Phone 905-354-1849

ASTON MICHAELS INN
5599 River Rd
Niagara Falls
Phone 905-354-2727

US LIFTS REMAINING SANCTIONS AGAINST SERBIA

Serbia-Montenegro officials welcomed on Thursday the decision by US President George W. Bush to lift the last raft of sanctions remaining in place against the Balkan country.

The decree to grant Belgrade access to Generalized System of Preference, which was signed by Bush on Wednesday, lifts the sanctions imposed in 1992 against Milosevic regime and gives Serbia-Montenegro general trade preferences freeing a broad range of products from US import duties.

Serbia-Montenegrin President Svetozar Marovic sent on Thursday a letter of gratitude to President Bush, in which he described the decision as yet another proof of a continuous progress of the two countries' overall relations. He said

that Serbia-Montenegro saw in the United States a friend and a strategic partner in the political, economic, security and other fields.

Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said that the US decision represents an extraordinary boost for the promotion of the trade between the two countries. Serbian Economy Minister Predrag Bubalo said that the country has waited for five years to switch to a preferential trade regime with the United States, which, can be considered as the final lifting of the US trade embargo on Belgrade.

Trade relations between Serbia-Montenegro and the United States were normalized in November 2003, when Belgrade was restored to the category of most favored nation.

FRATERNAL FUND DONATIONS

| | |
|--|---|
| Dan & Donna Pyevich100 | Rose M. & Nicholas R. Kukich, Sr., Claymont, DE50 |
| Bratska Sloga Lodge No. 172, St. Louis, MO50 | Michael S. Babich, Seminole, FL50 |
| Eli E. Popovich, Windsor, ON, Canada ..200 | St. George Serbian Lodge No. 97, Joliet, IL200 |
| Donna Lou & Peter Raketich, Chandler, AZ50 | Serbian Society Gusle Lodge #192, DeKalb, IL2,000 |
| Bogoljub & Milka Tomich, Muskego, WI100 | John & Mira Mileusnic, Berkeley, IL50B] |
| Glenn & Mildred Zaloudek, Homer Glen, IL50 | |

CORRECTIONS

A few corrections to the July 6th article "The Year of Michelle:"

Marija Kordesich is SISTER to Millie Radovick, and her BROTHER-IN-LAW is Mike.

Photo: "Get us into the SRBOBRAN, too. It might be my only chance!" jokes Milo Winowich, as he pulls Robbie Stone in on the photo too. Next to Robbie and MILO is Mike Radovich, GABE TRBOVICH and Ray Popovich.

The next issue of the American Srbobran is August 3rd. Articles are due by July 22nd.

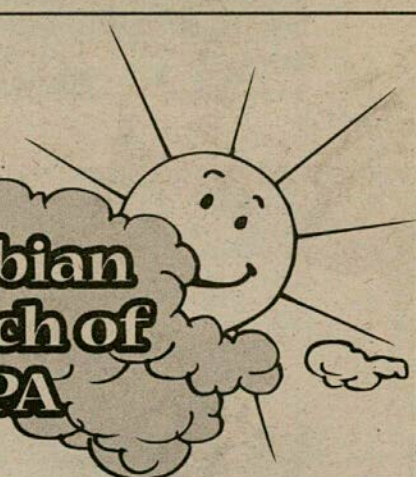
8th Annual American Serbian Club Golf Outing

- WHEN:** Sunday August 21st 10:30 A.M. (STRAIGHT TEE TIMES)
- WHERE:** Butler Golf Course, Elizabeth, PA
- EVENING:** 4 Man/Woman Shotgun Scramble
- COST:** \$70 per person
- INCLUDES:** Golf & Cart, Snack & Drink at the turn, Dinner, Prizes & Driving range use.
- DINNER:** At the American Serbian Club (Menu will come later)

Feel free to put your own team together and good luck. Directions can be obtained by calling the course at (412) 751-9121. We are asking that the money and foursome request be turned in by August 7th. Please send check payable to American Serbian Club to Milan G. Vukas 184 Macek Drive, Pgh, PA 15227. Call Milan (412) 884-9270 if you or your company is able to donate a prize. We look forward to seeing you all there.

PICNIC

Sponsored by
St. Nicholas Serbian
Orthodox Church of
Monroeville of PA



2110 Haymaker Road
Monroeville, PA 15146

Sunday July 31, 2005

2:00 PM to ?

4 Orchestras
DUNAV
SELO
RADOST
DRUSTVO

LAMB BY
DRAKULICH

Serbian Food in the kitchen

Come join us during our 100th Anniversary Year!



F

Fairmont Celebrates Slava



The Slava of the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Mission in Fairmont, West Virginia was celebrated on Monday June 20, 2005. The Mission is its fifth year of existence. His Grace Bishop Dr. MITROPHAN travelled to Fairmont to be present for the Vesper service, to officiate at the Blessing of the Kolach and Kolijvo and to address the faithful.

Father Deacon Dragoslav Kotic accompanied His Grace and became the first Serbian Orthodox deacon to serve at the Mission. Maria Masha Djonovich, a regular communicant at the Mission, was the honored Kuma.

Anna Yaremchuh greeted the attendees in behalf of the of the Mission and expressed appreciation for His Grace Bishop Dr. MITROPHAN and for all attending. Mary Trbovich and Wayne Kirby also were recognized for their support of the Mission.

Stan Brozik, Executive Board President of St. George Church in Carmichaels, offered greetings. Sonia Janson, Kolo and Choir President at St. George Church in Carmichaels, also offered greetings in addition to leading the responses at the service.

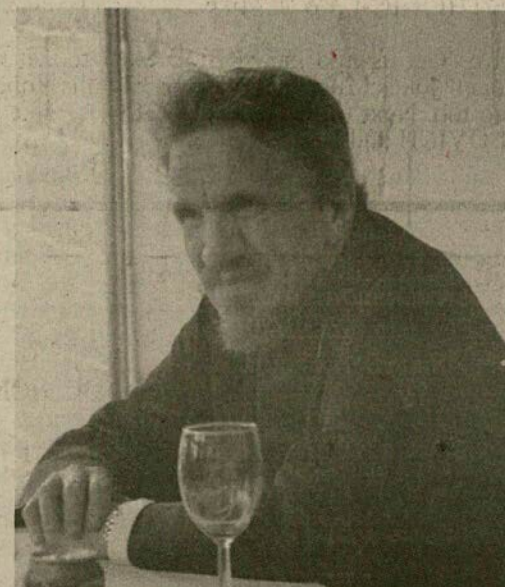
God has been good to the Holy Trinity Mission. Services continue to be held on a regular basis. The small group of faithful work hard to keep the Mission going. Several parishes and individuals in the Diocese have been supportive in different ways.



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SNF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Friday, April 15, 2005 beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the La Quinta Hotel in Pittsburgh.

Executive Committee members present: President Dr. Dan Pyevich, First Vice President Peter Borkovich, Esq., Second Vice President John Lovrensky, and Treasurer Steve Maslek. Secretary Nick Savich was absent.

The meeting was called to order by President Pyevich, at which time he led the group with the opening prayer. President Pyevich asked all to remain standing to commemorate all SNF members who passed away since the last meeting and specifically:

+ Paul Nikitovich, lodge #86 "Sv. Djordje", Chicago, IL, long time lodge officer and delegate to SNF Conventions.

+ Nikola Plecas, lodge #117 "Sv. Jovan Krstitelj", Bellwood, IL, long time lodge officer.

+ Nick Savich Sr., lodge #25 "Karadjordjevici", So. Chicago, former lodge officer, delegate to SNF Conventions, and the father of SNF Secretary Nick Savich.

President Pyevich provided the following reports as prepared by the office staff:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| January Annuity/IRA Deposits -- | \$55,240.14 |
| February Annuity/IRA Deposits -- | \$52,767.73 |
| March Annuity/IRA Deposits -- | \$49,566.70 |
| ANNUITY/IRA DEPOSITS | |
| TOTAL 3/30/05 -- | \$157,574.57 |

MEMBERSHIP AND INSURANCE

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Increases | |
| New Members | 195 |
| Reentered | 23 |
| Total | 218 |
| Decreases | |
| Cancelled | 144 |
| Deaths | 35 |
| Total | (179) |
| Net Results | +39 |

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Membership 12/31/04 | 13,613 |
| Membership 3/30/05 | 13,652 |

LODGE DELINQUENCIES:

As of 3/30/05, 15 lodges were in arrears a total of \$875.02.

President Pyevich began the meeting with a recap of activities since the last Board of Directors meeting:

• Because of new requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Merrill Lynch, the current SNF custodian, notified the SNF that it should seek a new custodian. Members of the Board of Directors were individually polled by President Pyevich and voted to enter into a Custodial Agreement with Bank of New York for the assets in the SNF Investment Portfolio as outlined in correspondence to all Board members from Treasurer Maslek. Though no longer custodian, Merrill Lynch shall continue to manage the SNF's assets. Brother Maslek stated that he hoped the new agreement could go into effect by July 1, 2005.

• Following the recommendations of our attorneys and the direction set by the Board of Directors at the last meeting, temporary space was secured at 938 Penn AVE, Pittsburgh, and a temporary

space agreement was signed with 938 Penn Associates, L.P. President Pyevich and Home Office Staff participated in this move that took place on February 24, and Home Office operations are currently being handled satisfactorily at the new location.

• President Pyevich reported that \$62,352.47 has been collected thus far in response to the SNF Fraternal Fund solicitation letter and that donations were still coming in. He stated that this most important drive will continue as long as there was support from the membership. He also planned to send out letters to those individual lodges that have not thus far sent in donations.

• As promised, President Pyevich and Sister Hredzak have actively encouraged 2004 Tournament Host colonies to send their 10% monetary obligation, and all but one colony have complied. President Pyevich promised to continue in this effort.

• President Pyevich warned that there appears to be a movement in Congress to limit the tax exemption for fraternal benefit societies. He promised to draw attention to this serious matter in the *American Srbobran*.

Jeffrey Myers of DeMarco and Negle LLP Law Offices entered the room to provide an update on the current case between the SNF and Phoenix Properties. As agreed upon, a Constructive Eviction motion had been submitted. However, the situation has changed in that a new buyer, Steratore Properties, Inc., has emerged and purchased the One Fifth AVE building on March 30. Unfortunately, there has been no correspondence in writing from the new buyer making it uncertain as to its future intentions. Brother Borkovich agreed to follow Mr. Myers' recommendation and draft a letter on behalf of the SNF Board asking for a meeting to clarify all pertinent issues and relationships. After a short question and answer period, Mr. Myers was excused from the meeting.

Brother Maslek was authorized to attend the 2005 Ongoing Education Seminar, sponsored by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh, on May 19-20 in Pittsburgh.

President Pyevich was authorized to attend a roundtable meeting with Senator Voinovich that will be held on June 3 and is sponsored by *The Plain Dealer*.

President Pyevich distributed copies of the Actuarial Valuation Report of the SNF Pension Plan for the year ending December 31, 2005 as prepared by McCready and Keene, Inc. The report disclosed that the plan was fully funded and no contributions would be required.

President Pyevich announced that the Serbian Singing Federation Festival will be hosted by Holy Trinity Cathedral of Pittsburgh on May 27-29, 2005, and he encouraged approval of a host request that an ad be placed in the commemorative ad book. Brother Borkovich moved and Brother Lovrensky seconded a motion that the SNF purchase a full page ad in the festival's commemorative book. Motion approved.

President Pyevich stated that a request had been received from Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago that the SNF place an ad in its 100th Anniversary commemorative book. Brother Lovrensky moved and Brother Borkovich seconded a

motion that the SNF purchase a full page ad in the commemorative book. Motion approved.

President Pyevich stated his concern regarding a promise made to the delegates at the last SNF Convention that a complete By-Laws revision would be drafted and submitted to all lodges for approval well before the next Convention. Brother Borkovich moved and Brother Maslek seconded a motion authorizing President Pyevich to form a By-Laws Committee and see that this task is completed as promised.

President Pyevich reported that the SNF Audit Committee met in the Home Office on April 5 and 6 and successfully completed an audit that covered the period July 1-December 31, 2004. He then distributed copies of the Audit Committee's report and a second hand-out of its recommendations to all Executive Committee Members present. Audit Committee Secretary, Sister Book, would be sending copies of these reports to the remaining Board members.

The meeting was then suspended on Friday at 11:55 P.M.

The Executive Committee Meeting resumed on Saturday, April 16, 2005 at 8:20 A.M. in the same location. All Executive Committee Members previously listed as present were in attendance.

Mr. Nick DePersis, of Bruce and Bruce Company, Consulting Actuaries, Pittsburgh, was in attendance to present the "Actuarial Report on 2004 Year of Operations". Mr. DePersis distributed copies of this report to all Executive Committee Members in attendance. President Pyevich stated that this report will be sent to all members of the Board.

Mr. DePersis emphasized the following points: 1) The SNF continues to meet the insurance needs of its members; Assets increased 8.8% to \$28.13 million; 3) The solvency ratio increase to 101.94%, meaning that the SNF holds admitted assets of \$101.94 behind every \$100 of liabilities. On this basis, SNF members should continue to have confidence that their claims will be paid when due; 4) Investment income increased due to increased assets and lower investment expenses; 5) Overall premium income increases in both annuities and in life insurance and the building of premium income must remain a very high priority for the Federation if it is going to generate profits and provide dividends.

Mr. DePersis ended by listing the three Recommendations/Conclusions from the report: 1) Continue to closely monitor and increase the spread on annuities; 2) Continue to monitor expenses whenever possible; 3) Continue to build on successful marketing programs because higher sales volumes on both life and annuity products are required.

After answering questions from Executive Committee members, Mr. DePersis left the meeting.

Brother Maslek then distributed hand-outs from Merrill Lynch entitled "Bond Portfolio Review" and "Portfolio Analysis - Allocation by Asset Class" that pertained to the SNF investment portfolio as of April 8, and April 1, 2005, respectively. He proceeded to give an overview of the portfolio's performance, and he noted that some of the lower yielding bonds had been sold and replaced by longer-maturing higher-yielding bonds. He cautioned that such a strategy is indicated as long as it does

not go to excess. He outlined the downside of a portfolio whose maturity went out too far and opined that we should be careful not to extend the duration of our current holdings any further out in time. President Pyevich added that he was pleased that several lower rated Armada Funds had been replaced by higher rated funds in the SNF Pension Fund portfolio.

Because of problems regarding the existing payroll checking account, President Pyevich had asked Brother Maslek to come up with alternatives and report his findings at the next meeting. To facilitate payroll payments, Executive Committee members followed Brother Maslek's recommendation and authorized Brother Maslek to complete the creation of a payroll account at National City Bank and to cancel the existing PNC payroll checking account.

President Pyevich outlined two proposals that had been submitted for Board review by Brother Balach, SNF Insurance Consultant. One dealt with the advantages of raising the minimum face value of new life insurance and the other described a program to convert Term to 25 policyholders to whole life policies. Executive Committee members felt that both proposals had merit and recommended that they be placed on the agenda of the next Board of Directors Meeting when it was felt the timing was more appropriate.

President Pyevich felt that there has been a favorable response to the recruiter recognition that has been done each month in the *American Srbobran* and would be continuing this initiative.

President Pyevich warned that there are an excessive number of lodges that are delinquent in handing over their lodge assessments. Brother Lovrensky volunteered to contact these lodges to rectify the situation.

President Pyevich then reviewed the Home Office personnel dynamics, and a detailed discussion and fine-tuning by the Executive Committee ensued.

President Pyevich then reviewed events that transpired at the 3 Day Planning Committee Meeting that he chaired on February 26. He voiced disappointment that there was very poor representation from the individual Tri-State lodges and by the fact that the only possible way that a picnic could be held on Sunday was to put it out for bid. President Pyevich voiced a very strong opinion that the SNF should emphasize the entertainment value aspect of the Friday and Saturday events that it was fully in control of and that top-level headline entertainment should be secured for these two days. Executive Committee members agreed with this approach, and Brother Borkovich moved and Brother Lovrensky seconded a motion authorizing President Pyevich to proceed with making plans for the Friday and Saturday programs. Motion approved.

Brother Maslek reported that no definite agreements had been secured thus far for either a group to run the Sunday picnic or with the American Serbian Club for the evening programs. Brother Maslek was encouraged (in conjunction with co-chairman Brother John Martich) to contact the one group that had submitted a serious response to the request for bids that had appeared in the *American Srbobran*.

Brother Borkovich passed out a draft of a letter that he had composed for submission to the American Serbian Club, as directed at the last Board of Directors Meeting, and which sought clarification of liability issues. President Pyevich volunteered to type the letter on SNF stationery and mail it to the club.

Brother Maslek moved and Brother Lovrensky seconded a motion that Sister Ann Maigetter, Lodge #237 of Youngstown, be designated as this year's SNF Person of the Year. Motion approved. President Pyevich will submit this nominee for approval by the Board of Directors.

Brother Maslek felt that it was too bad that many deserving former SNF Officers have not been recognized due to the longstanding tradition of excluding them from eligibility for Person of the Year.

Brother Maslek moved and Brother Lovrensky seconded a motion that a Distinguished Service Award be established on the same level as Person of the Year and be given to deserving SNF members with no restriction as to previous Board service. It was also moved that Sister Illean Popov, Lodge #345 of Windsor, be this year's award recipient. Motion approved. President Pyevich will submit this nominee for approval by the Board of Directors.

Brother Borkovich reported that John Milnes, our Canadian agent, has repeatedly assured that there is no merit to continued billing by Canadian authorities for back taxes and that he will clear up this matter. Because there has been no positive movement on this issue, Brother Borkovich distributed copies of a letter dated April 4, 2005 that he had sent to Mr. Milnes requesting that the matter be resolved within thirty days and that Mr. Milnes reply with an answer. Thus far, Mr. Milnes has failed to do so.

President Pyevich reported that the Ohio Insurance Department had renewed the SNF license in Ohio

through April 1, 2006.

President Pyevich reviewed feedback that had been received from the editors of the *American Srbobran* regarding how best to commemorate the newspaper's 100th anniversary that will occur in 2006. Executive Committee members agreed with the idea of having a special January 7, 2006 commemorative issue that would be printed on glossy paper.

Brother Borkovich reviewed revisions that had been drafted to the SNF Tournament Local Host Agreement.

Brother Maslek moved and Brother Lovrensky seconded a motion that the revisions in the SNF Tournament Local Host Agreement be accepted, be submitted for final approval by the Board of Directors, and be applied to all 2006 tournaments and to the 2006 Folklore Festival. Motion approved.

President Pyevich read off the list of colonies that had submitted bids to host tournaments in 2006.

Brother Lovrensky moved and Brother Borkovich seconded a motion to award the following tournaments:

1. 2006 Mid-Winter Golf - St. Petersburg, FL
 2. 2006 Basketball - Windsor, ONT
 3. 2006 Summer Golf - Milwaukee, WI
 4. 2006 Bowling - Schererville, IN
- Motion approved.

It was decided to inform members in the *American Srbobran* that bids will be accepted for all 2007 tournaments.

President Pyevich remarked about the problems associated after the SNF Basketball Tournament deadline had expired both with new members enrolling and those with lapsed policies requesting renewal. He offered examples as to how other fraternal dealt with the problem, and it was agreed to explore options at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

Brother Kovacevic, Director of the SNF Education and Culture Department,

entered the room and reported on the activities of his department. As part of his report, Brother Kovacevic announced that an advisory board had been formed and that it would soon play an active role in fundraising. The Executive Committee stressed the importance of this effort as related to the department's future.

It was pointed out by the Executive Committee that Brother Kovacevic should concentrate on increasing SNF membership among Folklore Federation groups and play an active role in the process of getting complete group rosters into the Home Office much more quickly than is now the case. Brother Kovacevic agreed to produce a timely report to the SNF Board as to membership enrollment in the Folklore Federation and the amount of insurance that this represents. He was also encouraged to address the concerns that had been raised by the Audit Committee in its most recent report. The Executive Committee also encouraged Brother Kovacevic to strictly weigh the merits of any cultural exchanges, publications, and recordings as to the degree of benefit that they will bring to the SNF. Brother Kovacevic was then excused from the meeting.

Executive Committee members approved President Pyevich's assignment of Brother Lovrensky to formulate a detailed job description for the Director of Education and Culture Department position and to draft a set of procedures for how the department transacts business.

President Pyevich recognized the fact that Brother Lovrensky had recently been elected Vice President of the Los Angeles chapter of Jedinstvo.

After President Pyevich led the Executive Committee in closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Fraternal Societies of Greater

- Pittsburgh
- Bruce and DePersis, Consulting Actuarial Services, Pittsburgh
- Father Thomas Kazich, Metropolitanate of New Gracanica
- Nicholas Murray, PA Insurance Dept.
- Stevan Zarin, Novi Sad
- Barbara Topich, Chairman, 2005 SSF Festival
- Ned Marich, Portage, IN
- Jeffrey Arnold, PA Insurance Dept., Market
- Surveillance Division
- Zurich U.S., Chicago, IL
- Ohio Department of Insurance, Columbus, OH
- Crawford & Co., Pittsburgh, PA
- John Wuchenich, Ph.D., Pittsburgh, PA
- Rhoades & Wodarczyk, Pittsburgh, PA
- Lodge #345 & Gracanica S.O. Church, Windsor, ON
- Lodge #208 & St. Sava S.O. Church, St. Petersburg, FL
- Nick Zec, Brookfield, OH
- United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA
- Lou & Marianne (Drakulic) Miholovich, Monroeville, PA
- PA Dept. of Labor and Industry Bureau of UC Benefits
- Dorothy Podbesek, Rillton, PA
- Maja Bjelogrljic, Novi Sad
- Dragana Todorovich, Belgrade
- McCready and Keene, Inc., Indianapolis, IN
- Alex Machaskee, The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, OH
- First Serbian Benevolent Society, Menlo Park, CA
- PA Dept. of Labor and Industry, Employees' Charge Section, Harrisburg, PA
- Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Chicago

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Pyevich
President

SNF CULTURE DEPARTMENT

p r e s e n t s

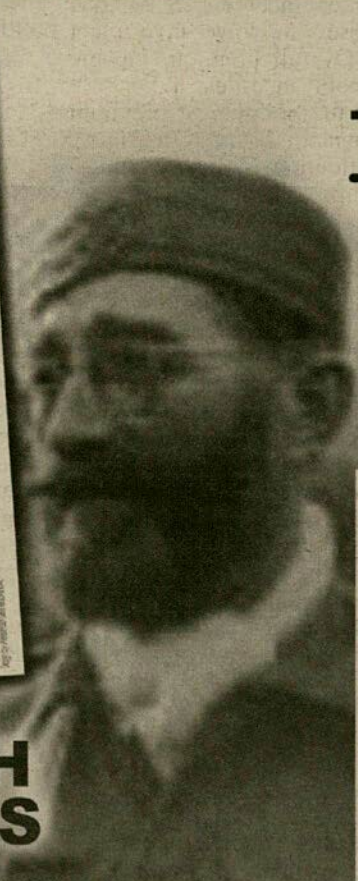
THE STORY OF RAVNA GORA

8 HOURS of TV serial

DRAŽA MIHAJLOVIC
and **ČETNIK** movement



РАВНОГОРСКА ЧИТАНКА
ПОВЕСТ СРПСКОГ ПОКРЕТА ОТПОРА
У II СВЕТСКОМ РАТУ
ТЕЛЕВИЗИЈСКА СЕРИЈА
У ОСАМ ЕПИЗОДА
THE STORY OF RAVNA GORA
Сценарио
УГЉЕША КРСТИЋ
Режија
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ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Prominent Serbian-Americans meet to discuss aid for ancestral home

by Robert Sberna

Courtesy of THE PLAIN DEALER, reprinted from 6-21-05



From left: Andy Verich, Washington director of the Serbian Unity Congress; Lt. Col. Frederick Peterson, USMC - Ret., Institute for Security Studies, UNLV; Sen. George Voinovich; Vojin Joksimovich, former president of the Serbian Unity Congress; Milan Puskar, founder, CEO and president of Mylan Laboratories; S. Baban Pesic, president of WiseFutures; and Alex Machaskee, president and publisher of The Plain Dealer. Also present, but not pictured, was SNF President Dan Pyevich.



Bill Salatic, former president Gillette North American



Desko Nikitovic, consulate general of Serbia & Montenegro

As Serbia struggles to rebuild its war-torn infrastructure, an increasing number of Serbian-Americans are taking an active role in supporting their ancestral country.

The Serbian-American diaspora - the community of Serb emigres and Americans of Serbian descent - is wielding its financial, political and intellectual clout to address the economic and social damage inflicted by the decade-long Balkan conflict.

Earlier this month, about 70 prominent Serbian-Americans attended a dinner meeting in Cleveland to discuss strategies for engaging the diaspora in the redevelopment of Serbia and Montenegro, the joint state that was established in 2003 as a successor to the Republic of Yugoslavia.

Plain Dealer President and Publisher Alex Machaskee, who hosted the event, noted that the U.S. views the post-war Balkan countries as a vital and important geopolitical region. "Serbia is the key country there and will continue to be so in the future," he said. "Because of our blood ties and our history, we can serve a constructive role in repairing the recently - and unnecessarily - strained misunderstandings between America and Serbia.

We can also help Serbia become more democratic, more stable and more prosperous. As a consequence, we will have a stronger and more reliable friend and ally in the Balkans. It is truly a win-win proposition."

In Serbia and Montenegro, the war's legacy is severe shortages of food and medical supplies, widespread unemployment and poverty, and a refugee population of more than 500,000.

Machaskee said the nation's ongoing transition from its nationalist past to democracy and a market economy has provided an opportunity for Serbian-Americans to establish and strengthen the bonds of trust between themselves and their motherland.

"We, as individuals, need to take an interest and stay abreast of what's happening in the Balkans," Machaskee told the gathering, which included U.S. Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio; former U.S. Rep. Helen Delich Bentley of Maryland; Desko Nikitovic, Chicago-based consulate general of Serbia & Montenegro; The Very Reverend John Zdinak, chancellor of the Midwest Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church of America; Milan Puskar, CEO of Mylan Laboratories; Bill Salatic, former President of Gillette North American; the present and past presidents of the Serbian National Federation and the Serbian Unity Congress; business people, educators, attorneys, clergymen, and representatives of Serbian media and cultural organizations from throughout the U.S.

The imperatives of the Serbian-American diaspora include "making it very, very clear that what happens in the Balkans is important to the security of the U.S. and the world," said Voinovich, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "We have to make sure that part of the world doesn't get neglected."

While he credited several U.S. government officials, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, for their knowledge of Serb issues, Voinovich said the diaspora can be an important force in shaping U.S. policy towards Serbia and Montenegro. "I really believe that the State Department and the Serbian-American diaspora are working together," he noted, explaining that the diaspora convinced State Department officials that former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic could be toppled. "The diaspora persuaded our government that Milosevic could be

had," said Voinovich. "If not for their efforts, we wouldn't have gotten rid of him."

The ouster of the Milosevic regime in 2000 removed key obstacles to positive change in the region. Now, said Voinovich, it's time for the diaspora to "step up to the table and do something to help our brothers over there."

Along with contacting legislators and U.S. government officials to raise awareness of Serbia's difficult economic conditions, Voinovich called for Serbian-Americans to pursue opportunities for joint business ventures and knowledge transfers. "One thing that we can do is set up academic exchanges between the U.S. and Serbia," he said "By bringing Serbian students over here, we'll be training the future leaders of Serbia and Montenegro. If we don't use the diaspora to do something for that country, we can say goodbye to its responsible leaders. The remnants of Milosevic will take over."

Voinovich recently became the first U.S. Senator to join the Congressional Serbian Caucus, a bicameral group focused on improving communications and increasing friendly relations between the U.S. and Serbia. "It would be a good idea for Serbian-Americans to learn which elected representatives are members of the Caucus and stay in touch with them," Machaskee suggested.

While Serbia's current leaders wrestle with the task of implementing their reform-minded agenda, the nation's strategic environment is complex, unpredictable and unstable, said S. Boban Pesic, president of WiseFutures, a global advisory network.

Noting that Serbia's economy is "mismanaged and underutilized and its leadership does not control its own decision making," Pesic said the Serbian-American diaspora can - and should - be engaged in its motherland's redevelopment.

He explained that an engaged diaspora could provide a wide range of assistance, including the enhancement of Serbia's global image, promotion of foreign direct investment into the country, and business development expertise.

Pesic also suggested the establishment of an institute for global governance as well as an open, participatory forum that would meet on a regular basis to deliberate and advise the Serbian government on cultural matters. Both the institute and the forum would be diaspora-sponsored and based in Belgrade (the capital of Serbia and Montenegro). The institute's purpose would be to educate and train Serbian and non-Serbian students, scholars, civil servants and public administrators in public policy and global business practices.

In the aftermath of the Balkan conflict, the Serbian nation has found itself dogged by a somewhat negative image, particularly in the West.

The key to correcting the misperception and fostering understanding of the Serbian people is through cultural awareness, said Dragan Kovacevich, executive director of the Department of Culture for the Serbian National Federation.

Based in Pittsburgh, Kovacevich explained that Serbian-Americans who want to help their native country can do so by sponsoring the cultural awareness projects. "The best way of diplomacy and learning who the Serbs are is through our art," he said. "To experience our dance and our music is to understand us. You can't separate a people's culture from its history."

Throughout dinner, the Continental Strings, a tamburitza ensemble including Machaskee, his son Lex, LuAnn Chmura, Patti Heckman and Steve Mraz, performed traditional Serbian songs. The music's evocative melodies and close harmonies expressed a proud national heritage.

"There's so much in the culture that's rich," Machaskee noted. "An engaged diaspora will help the Serbian culture and its institutions to survive. There are many ways to participate - whether it's considering investment opportunities in Serbia, supporting the Serbian Unity Congress or expressing your views in your local newspaper or the American Srbobran. It's time for us to assess and look forward in a constructive way."

SERBS IN AMERICA: MARY MARTINOVICH- HORNBACK

BY MIRA N. MATARIC - CALIFORNIA

Everybody is intrigued by Mary Martinovich-Hornback's age. The word is going that she is the oldest lady in the Serbian community of Los Angeles and the oldest member of Kolo Srpskih Sestara, always present as a permanent embellishing décor of both Serbian Orthodox churches, St. Sava in San Gabriel and St. Steven in Alhambra. For years she has given her personal time to serving God through serving people. Her love for people is nothing new, she scattered it freely all her life. She was born in 1908, but she looks decades younger, because of her youthful spirit. Her skin is fair, her hair silvery and always groomed, her petit, feminine body, slender and shapely, in motion, always active. She emanates powerful energy, physical and spiritual, standing for hours on her feet, cooking and baking, serving food, cleaning, selling lunch tickets and helping in many ways. If you stay for the meal after the Sunday service, you are in the parameters of Mary's work.

Most of Mary's work is invisible. She does not advertise it, too busy for self-praise. Beauty has been given to her as a gift, together with many talents.

"She walks in beauty, like a star..." said a famous English poet, long time ago. It fits her description perfectly. She looks like a model. She had been one, but that does not define her at all. A glamorous dark haired, dark eyed beauty with a tiny waist and high heels looks at us from her old picture album, as if she just walked out from a studio in Hollywood. But do not let your imagination stray in the wrong direction. She has been a hard-worker all her life, carrying several jobs at the same time. Her home looks like a museum of antiquities (1933 era), mostly with her own artwork: hand-painted porcelain lamps and miniatures, hundreds of china plates, Victorian and rococo dolls, paintings, children dolls in crocheted, knit or sewn clothes, stuffed animals and more.

Diplomas and letters of recognition and gratitude for her work and donations hang on the walls. Antique showcases are stacked with her detailed, hand painted miniatures of floral and fruit still life. Roses, roses everywhere: on plates, lamps, even her dresses. Floral arrangements and live plants. She touches lovingly her heavy, mahogany furniture (tables, shelves, grandfather clocks, a love seat), explaining how she bought, one by one, from her earnings. The love seat has a large afghan that she knitted. On her small, feminine feet, a pair of bright red, crocheted booties. Lacey doilies all around.

Retired and in her paid off home, with two stray cats and an abundance of blooming plants, Mary is comfortable and happy. She could move into a smaller apartment, but she loves her own home full of memories. Mary is a person who had never said no to a job offer, as a hostess in a big restaurant frequented by celebrities, in Sherman Oaks, a server in a night club, she was also a woman featured in the newspaper wrote for founding the union. All the workers had complained about the working conditions, only she did something about it. She giggles like a mischievous child, remembering: "They couldn't fire me, even though they wanted. Instead, they just wouldn't talk to me for three months."

Mary is a daughter of a Serb-Montenegrin immigrant, Martinovich. She laughs, remembering how kids teased her brothers, "Martinovich - son of a bitch," so they shortened their name to Martin, to circumvent it. The family portraits on the walls show tall, dark, handsome men, with beautiful eyes and

smiles, better looking than any known Hollywood star. Mary's younger sister died as a baby, of pneumonia. One of her brothers died as a young adult, under unclear circumstances.

In the living room, there is another, even older family photo, from the Old Country, with people dressed in traditional Montenegrin folk costumes. Then a picture of Mary's wedding, a dark-eyed beauty, in a white, majestic gown, looking as if she has just conquered the world. Her first wedding, later to become a "tough time," less because of the man, more of the general situation. The next two marriages widowed her. The husbands were quiet men, less efficient in earning the living than Mary. "They didn't take it lightly," Mary comments. Yet those are things a girl cannot know standing in a white gown, tiara and a long train. She is brimming with expectations of a perfect happiness.

Mary's mother had been one of the waiting wives whose husband had to make the money for the ticket. He came to the USA in 1901, she joined in 1907, Mary was born in 1908. Mary's mother was a mid-wife, although she never learned to read and write English. Mary graduated from a local, Los Angeles school, and started to work early. The only daughter she had, died early, a beauty like her mother, but she had been "miffed" when people thought they were sisters. Through all the hardship Mary kept her optimism and a captivating smile.

Her life has been good, she says. She traveled to New Orleans, enjoyed the French Quarter, music and dancing. She went on Caribbean tours, visited Austria, Turkey, China, Japan., mixing with rich and poor, but poor were more fun. While she was the hostess of the famous restaurant, a night club, and a model on the side, she met celebrities like Mary Pickford, General Patton, and even danced with Eisenhower three times. General Patton hugged her mother. "Kuku mene, sta je ovo?" she exclaimed, flabbergasted. Mary considered Patton "classy and straight-laced", Eisenhower "had personality and was adorable."

Mary can be better understood if you know the traditional values of Serbs and Montenegrins: honesty, hard work, discipline, high morals. She would not go into any follies (even with Hollywood so close). She still can remember her mother nagging about the right behavior for a woman: "Sedi lepo, nemoj to...nemoj to...muski nose gace, a zene kotule." Mary always had to be true to herself. Proud but unpretentious. That is her personal and national trade mark.

Serbs and Montenegrins were among the earliest settlers in California and the USA. They have been the salt of the soil. Mary has an almost masculine strength of character matched with a very feminine, sunny disposition of her ancestral land, always ready to meet challenges with a smile. Out of honesty, she informs me: she actually is not the oldest woman in this Diocese, Angie Radosh is two years older. As for men, there is Nicholas Bulaich, her friend and compatriot, who is only 90 (just publishing a book of his memoirs), and Chika Pera Smiljkovich, born in Beograd, 98 like her.

Some members of the "older generation," have left recently: Ozren Djukic (1916-2004), from Beograd, probably the last of the oldest generation of Yugoslav pilots in Diaspora, and Vule Jevtich, a bit younger, awarded by the President Kostunica. The youngest pilot defending Belgrade, on Easter of 1941, he shot three enemy airplanes before his started falling down in flames.

All of those outstanding people have belonged to the generation marking a turbulent but remarkable era full of significant changes. They will stay in the history as the builders of the bridges between the cultures, adding to the growth and enlightenment of the human family.

"OFF BROADWAY" THEATER AT NEW YORK'S ST. SAVA

An impressive, professional theater ensemble from Serbia presented a dramatic adaptation of Vuk Draskovic's novel, *Noc Generala (Generals' Night)*, for two performances: Friday, May 20th and Saturday, May 21st, at the Cathedral's Parish Hall, off Broadway and 25th Street. The audience's memories were stirred as the actors transported them back to 1946, to the prison and last night of General Draza Mihajlovic's life before his execution by Tito's communist regime.

The audience watched intensely as they witnessed two Generals, Draza and Slobodan Penezic "Krcun," his sadistic Partisan counterpart, exchange their particular philosophical views regarding the fate of the Serbian people and the nation of Yugoslavia. It was obvious from the outset that General Mihajlovic was doomed and, of course, with him the country he and his Cetniks fought to preserve. An alien and atheistic power was to grip the land for the next sixty years. Although a highly respected and courageous man, General Mihajlovic was not accorded the common courtesy expected of his equal, though an enemy. As a matter of fact, General Krcun behaved in every way as a cruel, vicious, and heartless barbarian. Overheard by a female member of the audience to the Partisan General: "You acted exactly as I envisioned a communist, and I was again terrified." It was chilling to project what life would be like for the people under this new regime. History would prove that General Draza's final words to his people were prophetic, as the country he once knew and fought for became enveloped in a dictatorial and foreign morass.

The acting in *Noc Generala* was superb. This ensemble of five characters on stage was carried out as professionally as any Broadway play. The role of Draza, played by Bosko Puletic, was uncannily characterized, both in appearance and behavior, as an intelligent, gentle man in a position of leadership, involved in a civil war against a powerful force and dedicated to the survival of his people. The Partisan General was brilliantly and authentically portrayed by Gojko Baletic as expected of a system and a man who has had a taste of power, and one determined to destroy the past and build a "utopian" society by annihilating a centuries-old religion and history.

The other three actors were uniformly fantastic. Tomislav Trifunovic played the role of an illiterate Serbian peasant, confused and torn between two ideologies and fighting for his life, which he eventually lost to his new communist enemy, was easily recognized as everyman in this bitter civil war. The nurse, beautifully characterized by Dragana Vranjanac, was assigned to General Mihajlovic by the communists to keep him partially sedated with drugs under the pretense of sparing his life by signing a confession stating he submitted to the new regime. A very sympathetic character, she committed suicide because she knew what she was doing was wrong. Draza Mihajlovic's wife, a strong, stoic woman who understood her husband and the tragedy that was to befall him and his beliefs, was realistically and compassionately depicted by Sonja Neimarevic. One cannot dismiss the superb technical support provided by Branislav Popmistic (toning) and Filip Markovic (lighting).

The author, Vuk Draskovic, wrote a commendable account of a tragic moment in the World War II history of the Serbian people. Though there were two major roles and three minor ones acted out in *Noc Generala*, all of the actors were equally and superbly professional. Taking into account the quality of the *Noc Generala* actors and others from our ancestral land who have performed on our "Off Broadway" stage throughout the years, it is evident that there are seemingly no bad actors in Serbia.

Old Balkan hatreds play out in court case

A class-action lawsuit charges the Vatican Bank with a role in the flight of pro-Nazi henchmen and loot from Europe after World War II

By Ron Grossman

Tribune staff reporter

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William Dorich

Like any new pope, Benedict XVI inherits some problems from his predecessor, among them sexual abuse scandals and a Catholic Church deeply divided between progressives and traditionalists.

Then there are William Dorich's accusations.

Dorich, a Los Angeles book publisher, is the force behind a class-action lawsuit against the Vatican Bank and the Franciscan Order.

Filed in a federal court in California, the suit alleges that immediately after World War II the bank--the financial arm of the Roman Catholic Church--helped fleeing members of a brutal, pro-Nazi regime in Croatia hide and launder millions of dollars worth of loot, including gold and jewelry taken from concentration camp prisoners.

According to Dorich and his lawyers, those riches were used to help the pro-Nazi henchmen slip out of Europe and escape to South America in 1945 and after.

Dorich, the son of a Serbian immigrant, recalled that dozens of his relatives were massacred by the Ustashe, a Croatian puppet government installed by the Nazis when they conquered the Balkans in the 1940s.

U.S. government documents of the period show that some Ustashe leaders and many of their financial resources made it to Rome during the chaos of the war's final months.

Alleged missing link

But Dorich and other plaintiffs take the chain one crucial step further: Their suit alleges that the missing link between the money's arrival in Rome and its apparent transfer to South America was the Vatican itself.

"From money stolen from the gold teeth of my relatives, the Vatican enabled Nazis to escape to Argentina," Dorich said.

In 2003, a federal judge dismissed the case, saying U.S. courts lacked jurisdiction. But this spring, that decision was reversed by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Deciding this sort of controversy is

exactly what courts do," a panel of the appellate court said in a 2-1 ruling.

The judges noted that the issues "ultimately boil down to whether the Vatican Bank is wrongfully holding assets."

It could be years before the case goes to trial or is settled. The defendants are considering appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court. And even if the plaintiffs proved the Vatican Bank played a role, that would not--of itself--settle the issue of who at the Vatican was involved or knew what was taking place.

Still, as the Vatican struggles with the role the church and its leading clergy played during World War II, the case sheds renewed light on the tangled ethnic and religious landscape of Eastern Europe--and the way in which ancient feuds and hatreds played out during the horrors of a modern war.

The events recalled in the case took place against the background of religious antagonisms that were still sparking violence and bloodshed in recent years, especially when Yugoslavia broke apart in the 1990s.

Serbs are predominantly Orthodox Christians and Croats are predominantly Catholics. Despite their long-standing antipathies, Serbs and Croats were linked together in the creation of Yugoslavia after World War I.

Settling old scores

Yugoslavia was dominated by Serbs, so when Yugoslavia was defeated early in World War II, Croatian nationalists saw the Germans not as conquerors but liberators. Ustashe military detachments fought alongside Nazi armies while settling old scores.

During the Ustashe regime, Orthodox Christians were subject to forced conversions to Catholicism. Serbian churches were looted and burned, sometimes with their congregations locked inside. In one such massacre, at a church in the village of Vojnic, 99 people were burned alive on April 17, 1942.

"Seventeen of the victims were my relatives," said Dorich, who visited the site.

According to Jonathan Levy, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys, the Franciscans were named as defendants because the political extremism of the period was fueled by religious hatred.

"Not everybody who collaborated with the Germans committed atrocities," Levy said. "But in the Ustashe movement, religiosity was wrapped up with fascism."

The lawsuit alleges that members of the Franciscan Order were allied with the Ustashe and participated in attacks on Serbs.

"Our official position is that there is nothing to the allegations," said Ronald Mallen, attorney for the Franciscan Order. "The other side ignores the fact that 'Brother Devil' was excommunicated."

That was the nickname given to Brother Miroslav Filipovic-Majstorovic by inmates of the notorious Jasenovac concentration camp, where tens of thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies perished. A Franciscan brother before becoming the camp's commandant, Filipovic-Majstorovic

was tried and hanged as a war criminal after World War II.

Other Ustashe leaders got away. When Germany's defeat became imminent in late 1944 and early 1945, high-ranking members of the Croatian government fled, some passing through Rome en route to escaping from Europe.

The military and political situation in Italy was chaotic. From day to day, it would be hard to say who was in charge. German troops were fleeing northward. Italian partisans led popular uprisings. Arriving Allied forces struggled to establish some sort of order.

Ante Pavelic, the head of the Ustashe government, and 1,500 of his followers made their way through Austria to Italy. They carried with them gold--estimates of its value vary widely from a few hundred thousand dollars to many millions, according to U.S. military reports at the time.

The route of the Ustashe leaders and treasure can roughly be traced through memos written by U.S. Army intelligence officers.

One 1946 memo on the Ustashe treasury said that "approximately 200 million Swiss Francs (about \$47 million) were originally held in the Vatican for safe-keeping" before being moved to Spain and Argentina. Like other documents of the time, that one is tantalizingly silent about whether "Vatican" meant the Vatican Bank or the papal city-state, a political enclave within Rome.

Author's detective work

A 1947 intelligence report noted: "Many of the more prominent Ustashe war criminals and Quislings are living in Rome illegally, many under false names. ... All this activity seems to stem from the Vatican."

Long classified and buried in military archives, those memos first came to light through the detective work of author John Loftus.

Once a Justice Department lawyer assigned to track wanted war criminals, Loftus had come upon documents suggesting that Catholic clergy had a role in the so-called Rat Line, an underground railroad that helped Nazis and their allies escape to Latin America.

Pavelic went to Argentina, he found. There the ex-strongman was supported by proceeds from the Ustashe treasury, which traveled the same route, according to a 1998 State Department investigation of assets stolen by Germans and their collaborators during World War II.

"From the character of the Ustashe regime and the nature of its wartime activities," that report said, "this sum almost certainly included some quantity of victim gold."

The State Department's investigation was belatedly instigated under congressional pressure, after parallel cases of looting of Holocaust victims' assets became a hot issue in the 1990s.

"The State Department knew about those documents for 50 years and did nothing," said Loftus, who later wrote of his discoveries in the 1992 book "Unholy Trinity."

He attributes the government's long

reluctance to investigate the affair to the fact that the American hands weren't clean, either. As World War II segued into the Cold War, U.S. and British officials were eager to recruit former Axis agents and willing to overlook their wartime records.

William Gowen, an Army intelligence officer stationed in Rome at the war's end, was the author of some of the newly surfaced memos. He was then barely out of his teens, but because he was fluent in Italian he found himself in the thick of an investigation of the Rat Line. He discovered that a Croatian Catholic monastery in Rome was sheltering a group of armed men, presumably former Ustashe operatives.

"We found out about the Ustashe treasury and knew it had been brought to Rome," Gowen said in an interview. "But where in Rome?"

Gowen said Ustashe funds eventually were transferred to Swiss banks, and then presumably to Latin America.

"The Swiss banks are famous for their secrecy. Once you have an account there you can send money anywhere, no questions asked," Gowen said. "But you couldn't just drive truckloads of gold, jewelry and other valuables across the Swiss border."

Money laundering charged

Accordingly, Ustashe loot had to be converted into currency that could not be traced, then transferred to Switzerland. The lawsuit alleges that the Vatican Bank was the perfect agent to perform that money laundering. Should the suit go forward, plaintiffs' attorneys will press the Vatican to open its archives in hopes of finding documents to cement their thesis.

Jeffrey Lena, an attorney for the Vatican Bank, declined to comment.

The Serbs' lawyers hope to mobilize public opinion, noting that there has been a pattern to similar suits on behalf of Holocaust victims and World War II slave laborers: After first denying the allegations and resisting the lawsuits, Swiss banks and German industries felt enough pressure to make an out-of-court settlement.

Attorneys for the defendants petitioned the full appellate court to overturn the finding of the three-judge panel, but their request was turned down in June. The Franciscans' attorney said that decision, in turn, will be appealed to the Supreme Court; the Vatican Bank's attorney said a Supreme Court appeal is under consideration.

Both defendants contend that the dispute doesn't belong in court but should be resolved by diplomacy, since the Vatican is not just a religious body but a sovereign state.

Mallen, the Franciscans' attorney, noted that under the law, his client can argue that the affair belongs to the world of diplomacy without conceding there is anything for diplomats to negotiate--without, that is, admitting wrongdoing.

Others, though, wonder if that argument might be too subtle for the court of public opinion.

"It's not exactly a plea of innocence, is it?" Loftus said.

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All Welcome for a traditional Serbian picnic!

+ Steve Enich

Steve Enich, Attorney, well known Serb from Milwaukee (Elm Grove), Wisconsin died at the age of 81. He was respected and loved by the Serbian Community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Steve was born in Minnesota. He graduated from Hibbing High School and Marquette University with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering. He received a Bachelor of Law degree in 1947 and Juris Doctorate in 1968 from Marquette University. While in High School he excelled at football, wrestling and track. He continued his football career at Marquette, playing in the 1945 College All Star Game and later playing professionally for the Chicago Cardinals. He was inducted into the Hibbing High School and Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. Steve was also a World War II veteran serving in the US Navy.

Steve was married to Irene Miller and they celebrated 53rd Marriage Anniversary. Steve and Irene were devoted and dedicated members of the St. Sava Cathedral in Milwaukee. The Holy Synod of Bishops bestowed upon him the Order of St. Sava First Degree, in 1989, the highest award ever issued to a layperson in the history of the Church.

Steve served as Milwaukee County Circuit Court Commissioner, Athletic Director of the Eagle's Club, Interim Administrator of Deaconess Hospital and was a Board member of the Florentine Opera. He donated four months of every year to charitable causes. He was also a member of numerous professional organizations and a frequent guest speaker at

seminars, conferences, schools, churches and community groups nationwide.

Steve was a kind person always willing to help his fellow men, especially to the Serbs. He was well versed in Serbian customs and traditions. He spoke Serbian fluently.

Steve is survived by his loving wife Irene, sisters Helen Kostelec of Joliet, Illinois, Mary Heffron and Rose Zubich, both of Hibbing, Minnesota, a sister in law Jeanne (Don) Furlong of Carmel, California and many nieces and nephews. Funeral Services were held in St. Basil of Ostróg Serbian Orthodox Church in Chisholm, Minnesota on November 16, 2004. Very Rev. Bogdan Zjalich officiated at the Funeral Services. Father Bogdan in his eulogy spoke of Steve's contribution to the Serbian Orthodox Church and to the Community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was recognized for his work by Church and civil authorities. Interment was at Maple Hill Cemetery in Hibbing, Minnesota.

God saw you getting tired,
and a cure was not to be,
so he put His arms around you
and whispered "Come with Me".
With tearful, eyes we watched you suffer,
and saw you fade away,
although we loved you dearly
we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
you're now at peaceful rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.
May his Memory be eternal!

Obituaries

+ Magdalena Petrovic Lodge #59

Magdalena Petrovic was born on February 4, 1930 to Stephan and Suzanna Fajsthamal in Zemun, Yugoslavia. Her brother Johan was born in February 1931. They were raised there until WWII broke out. Her father died when she was only two and brother just one year old.

Her mother remarried in 1935 to Edward Gaier, after which came her brother Anton, 1936; sister Louisa, 1938; sister Annamarie, 1945; sister Cathy, 1950; and baby brother Frank in 1953.

When Magdalena was five she had a paper route she completed before school. She only attended school until age 9 due to the war and the necessity of caring for her younger siblings so her mother could go to work. She had to cook, feed, bathe, and do other caretaking chores.

At the outbreak of the war, the family was living in German camps, where Magdalena met the husband Gligor Petrovic. They were married in 1948 after which a son Ljubo was born. At the end of the war, the entire family boarded a ship in Germany to sail to Australia. Her parents and siblings ended up moving to the United States. During the sailing on the ship, Ljubo became ill forcing them to disembark in Italy. Ljubo died at only 18 months of age. The couple later sailed to Australia in 1950.

After settling in Gilgandra, a daughter Milunka was born in February 1951. Magdalena worked on a farm after the birth of Milunka, they stayed there until 1955 and then moved to Sydney due to her health problems.

In June 1956 their second daughter Radmila was born. They purchased their first house in Guildford West, staying there for 4 years, then buying a bigger house in 1963 where they stayed until 1970, finally moving to Philadelphia with Radmila, Milunka stayed in Australia.

When Magdalena worked in Australia she worked hard and was a very honest and caring person. She always helped other people in need. She was working three jobs at a time and still managed to come home and cook, clean, and take care of her children. She was always involved in the building of the St. Sava Church in Flemington and also in St. George Church in Cabramatta. Magdalena also had time to make costumes for her daughters involved in the Kolo Group and the Church Choir.

In Philadelphia, she was involved in St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Kolo Srpskih Sestara. She also helped in the church's cooking events and was Kuma several times.

Magdalena worked for St. Joseph's Manor for 20 years when she retired early because of an accident that kept her from driving a car. She worked as a nurse's aide and then in the kitchen. Lastly, she worked as an activities aid. She was in the local paper one year for the 1976 American Bicentennial celebration and was acting as Betsy Ross. All the residents loved her. She always took the time to read to them, take them shopping, and to doctor's appointments. They also did arts and crafts, needlepoint, sewing, and more, to keep the residents entertained.

Magdalena lived a very hard, honest, and eventful life. She also had the stress of caring for her ill husband Gligor who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. She tried very hard to care for him until it was too much for her and she was forced to admit him to a nursing home in August 2004.

Then suddenly on June 8, 2005, Magdalena collapsed on the grounds of Holy Redeemer Hospital and suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. She was in hospice until early Monday morning June 20, 2005 when God called for her as her two daughters were at her side.

Sister Magdalena's funeral service took place on June 24. Rt. Rev. Proto Sinisa Jovic officiated. Eulogies were presented by her daughter Milunka Holland of Australia, representing her family on the life of their mother. Rose Kukich, spoke on behalf of the Serb National Federation Lodge #59 Dositaj Obradovich of Philadelphia and for the KSS St. Petka, the St. Nicholas Church Sisters, and spoke of her tireless work for the Kolo and church. Father Sinisa spoke in the name of the church and he too talked of her devotion to Kolo and church.

Our sister Magdalena was laid to rest at Forest Hills Cemetery. May her soul rest in peace. Memory eternal. Vecnaja pamjat.



SAINT SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IS PLEASED TO PRESENT ITS 23RD ANNUAL



2005 SERB FEST

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

NOON TO MIDNIGHT

SAINT SAVA SERBIAN HALL

4101 WEST 49TH AVENUE, HOBART, IN 46342

FOR INFO CALL CHURCH OFFICE (219) 736-9191

MIKE GALICH, GENERAL CHAIRMAN: MARCIE LASH & STANLEY GALICH, CO-CHAIRPERSONS

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ENJOY OUR HOMEMADE PALACHINKA (CREPES) • KROFNE (DONUTS)
CAKES • BREADS • COOKIES • NUTROLLS • TORTES
AND TRY OUR FABULOUS APPLE, CHERRY & CHEESE STRUDELS

NONSTOP SERBIAN MUSIC DAILY - 20 PERFORMERS

(12PM TO 11PM/LARGE HALL) FEATURING **RAJKO TOMICH'S ONE MAN BAND** and
Featuring From Toronto, Canada, Second Appearance (Fri. Sat. Sun.) **MIRJANA ZIVKOVICH**,
SMILJA ANDJELKOVIC, **SPIRO GVERO** & featuring **SLAVICA MOMAKOVICH** (SAT. SUN. 4PM)
MIRKO & FRIENDS (FRI. & SAT. 2-8PM) and **DUNAV Tamburitzans** (SUN. 2-8PM)

FINE SERBIAN MUSIC starring

DRINA TAMBURITZA ORCHESTRA (7PM TO MIDNIGHT/SMALL HALL/DAILY)

Mismo Tamburitzans (5-7PM/SMALL HALL/SAT. & SUN.)

Donnie G. Guernsey (2-5PM/SMALL HALL/SAT. & SUN.)

ART DAVIS (2-5PM/SMALL HALL/SAT. & SUN.)

SERB KOLO DANCING (7PM TO MIDNIGHT/PATIO) with

LINDA PAPPAS-WALLA guest singer with **SUMADIJA**

SUMADIJA ORCHESTRA (SATURDAY) and **UNITED SERBS** (FRIDAY & SATURDAY) and

CHRIS BAJMAKOVICH (FRIDAY)

OPENING BANDS • **JOJO'S BLUES TRAIN** (4-7PM/PATIO/DAILY) & **OPENING BAND**

GLOW (1-4PM/PATIO/SATURDAY & SUNDAY)

D.J. ICE AND D.J. SPAZ SAM CAPPAS PRODUCTIONS (7-12PM/FRIDAY/SATURDAY & SUNDAY/PATIO)

KAFANA John Derado (5-6PM/SAT. & SUN.) **Mitch Medich** (6-8PM/FRI. THRU SUN.)

Mile Popov (8-11PM/FRI. THRU SUN.)

Special Guests

Jerry Vernon & the Dune Country Band (5-6PM/SAT./LARGE HALL STAGE)

BINGO - JELLY BEAN THE CLOWN - GIFT SHOP - KAFANA - GOLF BANQUET/FRIDAY/1:30PM/SMALL HALL

GOLF OUTING MUSIC FEATURING MISMO TAMBURITZANS (1-5PM/FRI./SMALL HALL)

CARNIVAL - Short Line Amusements



DIRECTIONS TO SERBIAN HALL: Exit 165 at Hobart/Merrillville Ramp (61st Avenue). Travel East toward Hobart. Turn left (3rd light) onto Liverpool Road. Liverpool meets 49th Avenue (4-way stop), turn left onto 49th Avenue. Serbian Hall is 3 blocks on the left. During Serb Fest call Serbian Hall (219)942-2233.

SERB FEST MUSIC

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2005

| | | |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|
| MISMO TAMBURITZANS | SMALL HALL | 1:00-5:00PM GOLFERS ONLY |
| MIRKO & FRIENDS TAMBURITZANS | UNDER BALCONY | 2:00-8:00PM |
| RAJKO TOMICH'S ONE MAN BAND | UNDER BALCONY | NOON-11:00PM |
| with Canadian Vocalist Mirjana Zivkovich (afternoon) & Chicago Vocalist Smilja Andjelkovic (evening), featuring Slavica Momakovich (4PM) and Spiro Gvero (evening) | | |
| JO JO'S BLUES TRAIN | PATIO | 4:00-7:00PM |
| MITCH MEDICH | KAFANA | 6:00-8:00PM |
| MILE POPOV | KAFANA | 8:00-11:00PM |
| CHRIS BAJMAKOVICH | PATIO | 7:00PM OPENING BAND |
| UNITED SERBS | PATIO | 7:00-MIDNIGHT |
| DRINA TAMBURITZANS | SMALL HALL | 7:00-MIDNIGHT |
| UNITED SERBS | PATIO | 7:00-MIDNIGHT |
| DJ(s) ICE & SPAZ Sam Cappas Productions | PATIO | 7:00-MIDNIGHT/INTERMISSION |

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2005

| | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------|
| MIRKO & FRIENDS TAMBURITZANS | UNDER BALCONY | 2:00-8:00PM |
| RAJKO TOMICH'S ONE MAN BAND | UNDER BALCONY | NOON-11:00PM |
| with Canadian Vocalist Mirjana Zivkovich (afternoon) & Chicago Vocalist Smilja Andjelkovic (evening), featuring Slavica Momakovich (4PM) and Spiro Gvero (evening) | | |
| GLOW | PATIO | 1:00-4:00PM |
| JO JO'S BLUES TRAIN | PATIO | 4:00-7:00PM |
| JOHN DERADO | PATIO | AFTERNOON/INTERMISSION |
| DUNES COUNTRY BAND | LARGE HALL BIG STAGE | 5:00-6:00PM |
| MISMO TAMBURITZANS | SMALL HALL | 5:00-7:00PM |
| DRINA TAMBURITZANS | SMALL HALL | 7:00-MIDNIGHT |
| SUMADIJA Guest LINDA PAPPAS-WALLA | PATIO | 7:00-MIDNIGHT |
| DJ(s) ICE & SPAZ Sam Cappas Productions | PATIO | 7:00-MIDNIGHT/INTERMISSION |
| Kafana Artists JOHN DERADO/5:00-6:00PM MITCH MEDICH/6:00-8:00PM MILE POPOV/8:00-11:00PM | | |
| DONNIE G. GUERNSEY & ART DAVIS | SMALL HALL | 2:00-5:00PM |

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2005

| | | |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|
| DUNAV TAMBURITZANS | UNDER BALCONY | 2:00-8:00PM |
| RAJKO TOMICH'S ONE MAN BAND | UNDER BALCONY | NOON-11:00PM |
| with Canadian Vocalist Mirjana Zivkovich (afternoon) & Chicago Vocalist Smilja Andjelkovic (evening), featuring Slavica Momakovich (4PM) and Spiro Gvero (evening) | | |
| GLOW | PATIO | 1:00-4:00PM |
| JO JO'S BLUES TRAIN | PATIO | 4:00-7:00PM |
| JOHN DERADO | PATIO | AFTERNOON/INTERMISSION |
| MISMO TAMBURITZANS | SMALL HALL | 5:00-7:00PM |
| DRINA TAMBURITZANS | SMALL HALL | 7:00-MIDNIGHT |
| UNITED SERBS | PATIO | 7:00-MIDNIGHT |
| DJ(s) ICE & SPAZ Sam Cappas Productions | PATIO | 7:00-MIDNIGHT/INTERMISSION |
| Kafana Artists JOHN DERADO/5:00-6:00PM MITCH MEDICH/6:00-8:00PM MILE POPOV/8:00-11:00PM | | |
| DONNIE G. GUERNSEY & ART DAVIS | SMALL HALL | 2:00-5:00PM |