



AMBASSADOR VISITS SNF

H.E. Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the U.S. with SNF Board Members, staff and guests
story on page 10 and 11

ROYAL COUPLE HOSTED IN MIDWEST

During the last week of September 2016, Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine were the guests of several Serbian communities and organizations anxious to learn more about their charitable work.

Although the Royal Couple was unable to attend the Music on the Lake Cruise organized by the Associates Board of Lifeline Chicago due to a previous commitment on Saturday, September 24th, Princess Katherine communicated her deep personal regrets along with her very best wishes for a successful event. "You are amazing young women," she said to the six Associates Board members.

"Please keep up your wonderful work." Her message was reported to over 200 supporters and guests who boarded the Spirit of Chicago for the Lake Michigan Cruise from Navy Pier in Chicago.

On Sunday, September 25 the Royal Couple attended Divine Liturgy at St. Lazarus Cathedral-Ravanica in Detroit. Following church services, they were warmly received in the Serbian Hall where 150 guests heard Prince Alexander speak of the current situation in Serbia and Princess Katherine speak of the need to continue humanitarian work for those in Serbia and Republic Srpska who need it.

On Monday, the Royal Couple returned to Chicago where they toured the St. Sava Academy School at Holy Resurrection Cathedral on Redwood Drive. The Princess read a story to some of the students, who then later entertained the honored guests including His Grace Bishop Longin at a luncheon.

The St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral parish in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the site of a Wednesday tour and reception. "We are so honored to see both Serbian Orthodox Schools on this visit," said Princess Katherine. The Milwaukee visit was arranged by Cathedral Dean Very Rev. Dragan Veleusic and prominent members of

the Milwaukee Serbian community.

On Thursday, September 29th the Royal Couple was hosted by the Serbian Bar Association of America during a Welcome Night reception at the Gallery at Green River on Erie in Chicago. The 18th floor venue included an auction of valuable items which ultimately benefitted the Lifeline charity.

Finishing the Midwest Tour was a trip to Hammond, Indiana, on Friday, September 30th when the Royal Couple met with JJS Recycling owner and president, Misko Obradovic and other

continued on page 6



Lifeline Chicago Board Member Nenad Milenkovich, left, with Peter Gataric, Elvy Milenkovich and Stojan Bajich and the beautiful City of Chicago backdrop during the Music on the Lake cruise



Following Holy Liturgy in Detroit, the Royal Couple visited the library prior to the reception in the Serbian hall.



With His Grace Bishop Longin of Midwestern America, left, and the school children in Chicago

H.E. Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States, and Milos Rastovic, SNF Cultural Outreach Coordinator



From Left, Branko Terzic, Dane Medich, 1st Vice President of the SNF, and Milana Karlo Bizic



AMBASSADOR



Branko Mikasinovic, left, with Vera and H.E. Djerdj Matkovic at the American-Serbian Club with the Bajic Brothers Orchestra



H.E. Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the U.S, left, with Tihomir Japundza, Chef of the American-Serbian Club

by Milos Rastovic

PITTSBURGH, PA - On September 30, 2016, His Excellency Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States, visited the Serb National Federation Home Office for the first time. SNF member Branko Terzic, delegate of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia in the United States, accompanied His Excellency.

SNF staff, board members, and guests were delighted with the visit. In attendance at the welcome reception

were SNF Board members including 1st V.P. Dane Medich and Melicent Bielich, Home Office staff Cheryl M. Leydig, Natalie A. Wuchenich, Milos Rastovic, and others including Nick DePersis, Marlene Volitich and Dushie Mistovich, Milana K. Bizic, John and Joanne Wuchenich, Susan W. Parker, and Lance A. Medich.

After the usual protocol, H.E. Matkovic talked about his work and the mission of the Serbian Embassy. He was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States in February 2015. Previously

he served as First Counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Washington, D.C. from 2007 to 2011. In his welcome letter as an appointed Ambassador, he stated his mission will focus on strengthening bilateral relations with the United States and reinvigorating Serbia's ties with its diaspora.

Milos Rastovic gave His Excellency a tour of the SNF Home Office, the displayed collection of pictures and a brief discussion on SNF history. He was delighted to learn more about the history of the SNF and Serbs in

America. He accepted the SNF's gift of the book Serb National Federation, First 100 Years to commemorate his first visit to the SNF Home Office.

"I stressed that in the book he would find a trove of stories about Serbian life in America and the Serb National Federation, and hopefully, he will find it useful in his work representing Serbia regardless of where he may find himself in the world," said Rastovic. H.E. Matkovic expressed gratitude for this book and the nice reception in his honor and stated that he will continue working to

Dane Medich, 1st Vice President of the SNF, left, H.E. Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the U.S., and Milos Rastovic, Cultural Outreach Coordinator



VISITS SNF



Melicent Bielich, SNF Board Member, left, Dane Medich, 1st Vice President of the SNF, H.E. Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the U.S., Branko Terzic, SNF Member, and Milos Rastovic, Cultural Outreach Coordinator

strengthen the successful cooperation with the SNF.

First Vice President Dane Medich welcomed H.E. Matkovic on behalf of the entire Board. Following the reception were cheers for future successful cooperation. H.E. Matkovic was impressed with an ad hoc choir consisting of those present who sang "Ziveli" in his honor.

In the SNF Guestbook, H.E. Matkovic wrote the following:

"It is my great honor to visit the

oldest Serbian organization in the U.S. and get acquainted with the wonderful people who are doing a great job representing the Serbian cause far from the homeland and preserving Serbian history and tradition. I wish for successful work in the future and assure you that the Embassy will support your activities and cooperation with you in the future. - Thank you! H.E. Djerdj Matkovic"

In the evening, H.E. Matkovic with his wife Vera, Branko and Judith Terzic, Branko and Snezana Mikasi-

novic, and Milos and Vanessa Rastovic joined together at the American-Serbian Club where the crowd enthusiastically welcomed the Ambassador. "It was my honor to introduce His Excellency to the public and stress the importance of building bonds with the homeland," said Rastovic.

H.E. Matkovic expressed gratitude for the warm welcome from the heart of the Serbian community in Pittsburgh. Tihomir and Jelena Japundza served Serbian specialties such as cevaps and the Bajich Brothers of

Kansas City played Serbian music. Everyone enjoyed socializing and talking with the Ambassador, especially the many high school students who were in attendance and with whom H.E. Matkovic spent a good deal of time talking.

The SNF thanks Branko Terzic for initiating the event and looks forward to H.E. Matkovic returning soon to visit Pittsburgh and the SNF.