

TESLA'S PEOPLE CONFERENCE 2015



Djordj Matkovic, Serbian Ambassador to the United States



Dr. John Peter Maher, Professor Emeritus, receiving an award presented by Zvezdana Stojanovic-Scott, General Secretary of the Tesla Science Foundation



David Vuich receiving an award from Sherry Kumar, Mistress of Ceremonies



Mano Divina and the Divine Hand Ensemble performing the concert



Father Djokan Majstorovic of the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sava in New York with Nikola Lonchar, President of the Tesla Science Foundation



Obrad Kesic and Drina Rajic, Republika Srpska Office for Cooperation, Trade and Investment in Washington, D.C. with Zvezdana Stojanovic-Scott, General Secretary of the Tesla Science Foundation, center



Milos Rastovic accepted a Certificate of Appreciation as the Serb National Federation was recognized for its contributions to preserve Serbian ethnic and religious identity in the U.S.A. With him are Sherry Kumar, Mistress of Ceremonies, and Zvezdana Stojanovic-Scott, right



Milos Rastovic offered a lecture on Serbs in America over the last 200 years

TESLA'S PEOPLE CONFERENCE 2015

by Milos Rastovic

On July 10 – 11, 2015, the Tesla Science Foundation sponsored a celebration of Nikola Tesla's birthday and Tesla's People conference in Philadelphia, PA. The celebration of Tesla's birthday was held at Independence National Historical Park, where both the Declaration of Independence was signed and United States Constitution was written. Nikola Tesla was a Serbian-American scientist, inventor, engineer, and researcher, who made great contributions to scientific and technological development. His most important inventions were the rotating magnetic field; the induction motor; the Tesla coil; the polyphase system of generators, motors, and transformers; wireless communication, robotics; remote control and many other inventions that we could not imagine our contemporary life without. Today, Tesla's birthday on July 10th is an officially recognized day in Philadelphia.

At Independence National Historical Park, the Tesla Science Foundation presented some of Tesla's inventions. Guests at the park had an opportunity to learn more about Tesla's inventions and enjoy demonstrations of his devices. Many young people gathered for the concert at the park and enjoyed music until well after midnight.

On Saturday, the Tesla's People conference was held at the Ethical Society of Philadelphia, and was dedicated to improving the relationship between the Serbian homeland and the Serbian Diaspora. Nikola Lonchar, President of the Tesla Science Foundation, invited guests to participate in a panel discussion at the conference. Djerdj Matkovic, Serbian Ambassador to the United States, stressed the importance of collaboration between Serbia and the Serbian Diaspora in order to obtain greater benefits for both. Obrad Kesic, Director of Republika Srpska Office for Cooperation, Trade and Investment in Washington, D.C., said that we celebrate Nikola Tesla, a man who deserves all gratitude. "The question is: What can we do to preserve his heritage? He sacrificed himself for the benefit of all people. Tesla was always proud on his origin. Our ancestors gifted us a heroic heritage and we have to preserve that heritage by being more active in public life as Mihajlo I. Pupin had been. Pupin was very politically active. Tesla and Pupin are examples who show us that we cannot live apart from the world. Based on our shared cultural heritage, we have to improve the relationship between our homeland and America. When we work together, the success of one is the success of all." Zeljko Mirkovic, movie director, presented his documentary "Tesla's People," which he began filming last year. He stressed the importance of the project in order to show our past, present, and future. Production of his documentary project is ongoing.

As always, the Serb National Federation continues to make vital contributions to the Serbian-American public and promote Serbian interests in North America through its historically long-running *American Srbobran* newspaper—first published in 1906. I gave a lecture about Serbs in America throughout the past 200 years, the Serb National Federation itself, and Serbian demographics in North America.

Nebojsa Malic, a journalist living in Washington, DC, said that Serbs need to actively lobby for their cause in the countries they live, if nothing else because our enemies have been doing just that for years, and usually to our detriment. "Lobbying doesn't mean just prowling the corridors of power, but also representing the best of Serbian culture to the people of our host countries," Malic said. "Millions of Serbs living around the world have the power to be cultural ambassadors and are an enormous asset in fighting anti-Serb propaganda. While the Diaspora can and should do more in that regard, Serbia should not undermine its efforts by giving away the game before it even begins," Malic noted. "For a while there it was like the building of Skadar: what we erect during the day, official Serbia tears down by night," he said of Serbian activism after October 2000. "How could

we fight the enemy, when we were being undermined by our own?"

Srdjan Aleksic, Lawyer from Nis, Serbia, said that the City of Nis – Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora organized a free Serbian language course through Skype. He stated that they would work on a project gathering members of the diaspora originally from Nis who might be able to help their hometown.

The early sessions concluded with a panel discussion about the proposal of the Declaration of Serbian Diaspora which Tesla Science Foundation initiated. Participants had an opportunity to discuss the proposal of the Declaration of Serbian Diaspora which had been held in Belgrade on June 2, 2015. After a productive dialogue between homeland and diaspora participants, the proposal was adopted by both groups and will continue to be finalized.

Tesla enthusiasts, authors, inventors, and educators dazzled the audience with their innovative work including Mark Passio's research about the misuse of Tesla's Scalar Wave technology and Ashley Redfearn's work on developing a Tesla curriculum for use in schools. Zvezdana Stojanovic-Scott and Samuel Mason recounted the Tesla Science Foundation activities over the past year in the U.S., Serbia and Turkey. Brian Yetzer talked about art and technology applied in education.

David Vuich, Honorary Chairman of the Tesla Science Foundation, talked about the Serbian-American Apollo System Launch Team. He stressed the following: "It has been over forty years that the world witnessed one of the greatest scientific achievements in our time, the landing of the Apollo Spacecraft on the Moon of which names of Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin, and Michael Collins were written in golden letters in the history of mankind. During the same period, the NASA Space Program was replete with Serbian engineers and scientists of which thirteen were the top executives of the Apollo Space Program responsible for the design, development, test, evaluation, construction and launch of the Apollo Spacecraft Command Module. Milojko (Mike) Vucelic was the Program Manager and Launch Director of the Apollo Team that included the following Serbian members of the North American Aviation/Rockwell Group: David Vuich, Danilo Bojic, Slavoljub (Sam) Vuich, Peter Galich, Milos Subatovich, and Paul Duich. On April 18, 1970, the Apollo 13 Mission Operations Team was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Richard Nixon." Vuich was given an award for his contribution to the Apollo Program by the Tesla Science Foundation.

Dr. John Peter Maher, Professor Emeritus from Chicago delivered the keynote address about the political position of Serbia in the world during the nineties and was awarded the Tesla Spirit Award for his lifetime dedication to the Serbian people and his ongoing struggle and dedication to develop a more accurate picture of Serbs in the media. On behalf of the Office of Republika Srpska, Obrad Kesic and Drina Rajic, received the Tesla Spirit Award, for their hard work to develop more positive relations between the Republic of Srpska and the U.S. and with Serbian communities within the U.S. The Serb National Federation also received an award for its contributions to preserve Serbian ethnic and religious identity in the U.S. Michael Miroslav Djordjevic was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mano Divina and the Divine Hand Ensemble performed their trademark concert of classical music and interpretations of modern songs using Tesla-inspired instruments delighting the audience such that they received several encores. After the concert, guests had an opportunity to socialize and meet each other.

Tesla's birthday festivities concluded the following Sunday morning at Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church where Father Milorad Orlic performed the service.



REMEMBERING METROPOLITAN CHRISTOPHER

The Serbian Church paused on August 24th to remember the late Metropolitan Christopher on the fifth anniversary of his repose. "Exactly five years ago, on the eve of the Lord's great Feast of the Holy Transfiguration in 2010 the great man and respected hierarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Christopher Kovacevic reposed in the Lord. He spent his last days at St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville. He lived in this monastery for over twenty years. He passed away in his room, on his bed, surrounded by his children and grandchildren. Memory eternal.

GOLF PHOTOS COMING SOON



Shown are, from left, Drags Marjanovic, Mitchy Zegarac, Petar Vranje, David Krajinovic, Andrija Dzeletovic and Tode Cosic. The group was having a fantastic time at the 74th Annual SNF Summer Golf Tournament in Windsor, Ontario, hosted by SNF Lodge #345 and Gracanica Serbian Orthodox Church. "It's these tournaments and meeting and enjoying great times with my friends from all over the USA and Canada that make me feel good!" said Andrija. Pete Vranjes was a guest player and took home a trophy, and now wants to join the Serb National Federation. "We had a great time on the beautiful golf course. I must say, Tode Cosic played very well, especially since he is 85 years young! He was in my foursome. We had a wonderful time." We love your enthusiasm, Andrija, and welcome Pete as a new member. Look for a complete report on the summer golf tournament coming soon.