

IT'S NEARLY HERE

PITTSBURGH, PA – Final preparations are underway for Three Day Weekend including the 100th Serbian Day at Kennywood Park. A schedule of events for the weekend including Kennywood appears on page 14 of this issue.

3-DAY HALYARD MISSION MOVIE SCREENING

In addition to the “regular” activities, the 3-Day Committee will host and sponsor a movie screening of the Halyard Mission to kick off the weekend. The documentary reviews the mission that rescued 500 American Airmen shot down in the former Yugoslavia during World War II.

The screening will take place on Friday July 15 at 1:30 at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, the crown jewel of

Pitt, in room 324. Following, guests are invited to tour the historic Nationality Rooms located on the first floor of the Cathedral.

The Halyard Mission Foundation, a group organized last year to educate and commemorate this important piece of American History, created the documentary. The movie explores the mission from the perspective of American Serb George Vujnovich, OSS officer who helped execute the rescue.

Lt. Colonel John Cappello, Daniel Sunter and Bojan Dragicevic from the Foundation will be present for a discussion of the documentary. Cappello served as the US Air Force Attache at the US Embassy in Belgrade from 2007-2010. During this time he visited the famed airfield on numerous occasions and realized the need to commemorate this portion of US

military history.

This is a rare opportunity to review the significance of the Halyard Mission and speak with members of the Foundation. By holding this event Friday afternoon, attendees will have plenty of time to arrive at the boat dock for the 7:00 departure.

IT'S IN THE NUMBERS

3 Days. 100th Serbian Day. 7 Folklore Ensembles. 9 Bands. 1 Choir and the Halyard Mission Documentary Screening. July 15, 16 and 17 in Pittsburgh.

The Serb National Federation anxiously awaits your arrival for the biggest SNF celebration in 15 years.



The Basic Principle

by Laza Kostic

by Milos Rastovic

The City Library “Karlo Bjelicki” of Sombor, Serbia published a book *The Basic Principle (Osnovno nacelo)* by Laza Kostic, the most distinguished Serbian poet, writer, philosopher, and translator. The English edition of this book was published in April of this year, while the critical edition in the original language (Serbian) was published last year, in 2015.

Laza Kostic was born in Kovilj, Serbia in 1841. He finished high school in Novi Sad and Pest (Budapest), and earned his Ph.D. at the Law School of Pest University, Austro-Hungary. He worked as a professor, journalist, and lawyer, and was later involved in political life in Serbia and Austro-Hungary. He was one of the most educated Serbian writers and polyglots--speaking seven languages (Greek, Latin, English, Russian, Hungarian, German, and French). According to many critics, he was the most important figure in the Serbian romantic poetry.

Dr. Predrag Cicovacki, Professor of Philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, initiated the republishing of the book *The Basic Principle*, and he translated it into English language.



Laza Kostic, Serbian Poet and Philosopher (1841 – 1910)

This is a fundamental and unique philosophy book in Serbian philosophy, and esthetics. The book was presented at the Serbian Reading Room in Sombor on October 15, 2015 by Dr. Predrag Cicovacki, Dr. Sasa Radojicic, Professor of Philosophy and Poet, and Vladimir Jerkovic, Director of the City Library of Sombor and



Laza Kostic and his love Lenka Dundjerski

the Serbian Reading Room. Dr. Cicovacki also delivered a lecture “Laza Kostic: Polyglot, Cosmopolitan, Philosopher” in the Gallery of Contemporary Arts of the City Museum of Sombor, during the exhibition dedicated to Laza Kostic “Legacy of Laza Kostic Homeland Collection – Fine Arts of the City Museum of Sombor.”

According to Dr. Cicovacki, in the book *The Basic Principle* Kostic is mocking traditional philosophers from Ancient Greece to Kant and Hegel because they

are “too serious” i.e., they are so intellectually engrossed into abstract ideas and detached from real life, that they would not be able to choose between two equally big piles of hay like Buridan's famous donkey who allegedly starved to death¹ (12, 14). They are “too serious” because their thoughts are detached from their heart. Kostic chooses the heart as the starting point of his philosophy and

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¹ “This is the situation of famed Buridan's Ass, named after philosopher John Buridan (1300-1358): a donkey finds himself halfway between two equally big and delicious piles of hay. Because he lacks a decisive reason to choose one pile over the other, he cannot decide which one to eat, and eventually starved to death.

SERBIAN BAR ASSOCIATION GALA

PARK RIDGE, IL - On May 7, 2016 The Serbian Bar Association of America had its 24th Scholarship Gala at Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge, Illinois. The event included a cocktail hour, silent auction and dinner. The large group of attendees were entertained throughout the evening by Prazna Flasa Orchestra of Milwaukee. "It was a great evening," said Ted Potkonjak, member of the SBAA and SNF Board Member.

Sava Vojcanin served as the distinguished Master of Ceremonies. The invocation and closing prayers were led by V. Rev. Djuro Krosnjar of St. Basil of Ostrog Serbian Orthodox Church, Lake Forest, Illinois and V. Rev. Darko Spasojevic of Holy Reserection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Chicago.

The Serbian Bar Association has been awarding scholarships to Serbian-American Law students for almost a quarter century. In addition to the scholarships being awarded, the Association also uses the occasion to present honors to two deserving people each year. The Czar Dusan Award is presented to an attorney of Serbian descent honoring him or her for a distinguished career in the legal field. This year's recipient was Hon. Mark Brnovich, the Attorney General of Arizona. The Major Richard L. Felman Award is presented to an individual who may or may not be Serbian, one that has served and supported the Serbian Community. This year's recipient was Hon. Desko Nikitovic, former Consul General of Serbia in Chicago.

Additionally this year, the immediate Past President Stevan Krkljes was also presented with a plaque honoring him for his service to the Association during his tenure as president. It was presented to him by SBAA Treasurer Marnie Navarro.

The 2016 scholarship recipients were:

Past President's Scholarship-
Vania Aksentijevich, Boston College Law School

OstojicMemorial Scholarship-
Branka Cimesa, Cornell Law School

Jovan Mitrovic Memorial Scholarship-
Natasa Glisic, Barry University School of Law

Marko Duric Memorial Scholarship-
Petar Radujkovich, Emory University School of Law

Sasich/Kordich Memorial Scholarship-
Bogdan Jovic, Ave Maria School of Law

Serbian Bar Association Scholarship-
Andrija Stanojic, South Texas College of Law

Serbian Bar Association Scholarship-
Milena Crevar, The John Marshall Law School



From left, Desko Nikitovic, the Major Felman Merit Awardee; Emcee Sava Vojcanin; Attorney General Mark Brnovich, Czar Dusan awardee; and Serbian Bar Association President Marko Duric

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poetry, but not mere appearances or abstract ideas, as science and philosophy usually do.

Kostic's book, *The Basic Principle*, begins with the traditional philosophical questions: What is the root of life? Who am I? What am I doing here? How do I stand in this world and how does this world stand to me? Considering such traditional philosophical questions from Ancient Greek philosophy to Kant and Hegel, Kostic found the governing source of the world and all its things and events in one basic principle – that of "intercrossing." The inspiration for this principle Kostic found in the Ancient Greek philosophy, especially in Heraclitus. For Heraclitus, the basic principle is the unity of opposite powers (day – night, wet – dry, warm – cold, etc.). In the wake of Heraclitus' principle, Kostic determines "intercrossing" as the relationship of encountering and resolving the opposite powers. Harmony and symmetry are the two manifestations of this basic principle of "intercrossing." Kostic says: "Harmony is the synthesis of symmetry. Symmetry is the analysis of the harmony" (63). Symmetry and harmony are attached to each other, and they control each other. Symmetry is the balance of opposite powers. Harmony comprehends all differences in the one unique wholeness. For Kostic, from organic nature to the highest products of the human spirit such as arts and poetry, we can find harmony and symmetry in the "intercrossing" of the conflicting forces. Harmony and symmetry create a beauty. The root of Kostic's philosophical thought and poetry is based on uniqueness of beauty, which he found most aptly illustrated in the Ancient Greek tragedy and the Serbian medieval epics.

Kostic's fascination with beauty applied not only to his poetry, but also to his personal life. He fell in love in Lenka Dundjerski, the youngest daughter of his friend Lazar Dundjerski. He met her in 1891 when she was twenty years old. Kostic was thirty years older than she, and he was aware that their relationship could not succeed because of the age and social difference and as well as because of his relationship with the family Dundjerski.² Lenka was a young, attractive, and charming girl who had heard a lot about Kostic, and she had read his poetry before she met him. When Kostic met her, he was so enchanted he could not control his emotions. The rhapsody of his emotions he expressed in the first song dedicated to Lenka: "To Miss L.D." Lenka was hoping that Kostic will propose her, but the proposal never came. In-

stead, Kostic wrote a letter to his friend Nikola Tesla, Serbian-American scientist and inventor, trying to get him interested in marrying Lenka. Kostic thought that Lenka and Tesla would be a good match and that his strong emotions for Lenka would then go away. However, Tesla was only interested in science and inventions because he dedicated his life to them. On the other hand, Lenka was so in love in Kostic that she wanted to marry him alone. Because Kostic could not control his emotions toward Lenka, nor could he found any better resolution for their uneasy relationship, after four years of struggle he married his former fiancé and a woman who waiting for him over two decades, Julija Palanacki. They married in Sombor in 1895, and Sombor became Kostic's hometown for the rest of his life. Two months after his wedding to Julija, Lenka died in Vienna. Although her family stated that she died from typhus, there were many speculative stories about it. When Kostic heard about Lenka's death, he was so depressed and struck by this tragic death that Lenka began to appear in his dreams. His longing for Lenka resulted in him writing a poem dedicated to her. Inspired by beauty of the church Santa Maria Della Salute in Venice, he wrote what turned out to become the greatest love poem in the history of Serbian language, "Santa Maria Della Salute." He worked on this poem for the next 14 years and finished it a few months before his death. Kostic died on November 26, 1910 in Vienna. He was buried at the Great Serbian Orthodox Cemetery in Sombor.

Laza Kostic's philosophy and poetry express the uniqueness of his life and works. As Dr. Cicovacki mentioned in his Prologue, this book had been hiding for decades in the basements of various archives, and it has remained unknown even to the philosophical audience in Serbia. It had never been translated into any foreign language before, due to our fears that civilized Europeans may laugh at it. Dr. Cicovacki pointed out that we depreciate our own tradition although it contains many treasures we should be proud of --such as our magnificent Epic poetry of which the rest of the world knows almost nothing.

In order to know more and understand better Kostic's poetry, aesthetics, and life, you should read his philosophical treatise, *The Basic Principle*. If you are interested in this book, you can contact Dr. Predrag Cicovacki at the College of the Holy Cross, Department of Philosophy, Worcester, MA, 01610 or e-mail to pcicovac@holycross.edu. He will glad to send you a free copy of this book (in English or Serbian).

2 See: "Laza Kostic." Accessed May 31, 2016: <http://srednjeskole.edukacija.rs/>



COME TO THREE DAY

One of the talented groups you will see performing during Three Day Weekend July 15-17 is the St. Nicholas Tamburitza of Monroeville, Pennsylvania

The Basic Principle

• • • • • by Laza Kostic



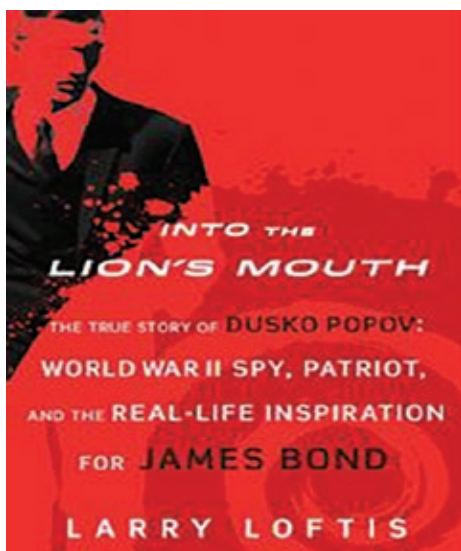
The Grave of Laza Kostic at the Great Serbian Orthodox Cemetery in Sombor | Laza Kostic is sitting on the Main Street in Sombor in Front of His House



from left to right): Dr. Saša Radojčić,
Dr. Predrag Cicovacki, and Vladimir Jerković



(from left to right) Zora Sipos, Dr. Predrag Cicovacki,
and Viktorija Uzelac at the City Museum of Sombor



POPOV IS BOND

If you didn't already know this, the real-life inspiration for Ian Fleming's James Bond was based on the incredible life of British double-agent Dusko Popov, a Serbian playboy who enjoyed an extravagant lifestyle during World War II. He made his way through the war serving the FBI, the British MI5 and MI6, and the German Abwehr.

If your friends don't believe it, tell them to get a copy of "Into the Lion's Mouth: The True Story of Dusko Popov," by Larry Loftis. It's a biography and a thriller full of all the things the world has come to love about Bond – espionage, danger, his amazing skills and charming personality.

Ian Fleming observed Popov first-hand as a great baccarat player in Portugal, which eventually inspired Casino Royal.

Other books on Popov include "Spy, Counter-Spy" and "Codename Tricycle."