

SPECIAL HONORS FOR ✠DONITZA TRBOYEVICH WILLIAMS

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During her childhood, her family owned a tavern that was frequented by working men. She worked odd jobs in the neighborhood whenever possible, she worked in a dry goods store, and was also paid for working in the tavern so she could save her money for college. One day in the tavern, as she sat on a stool listening to conversations of the men, she was intrigued by one gentleman who was discussing "investments." Anxious to learn how money grows with speed, she began asking this man about such things. We don't know the conversation that took place or why the man was so deeply impressed by this young woman's interest, but he made a gift to young Donitza of two shares of stock.

She practiced an investment discipline with those two shares of stock and held on to them for her entire life. It was Standard Oil. After dividends, splits, additional purchases, and inevitable growth, her investment experience morphed

into Exxon stock which was significant enough to fund the Donitza and Paul D. Williams Scholarship Fund by the time she died.

Donitza was a graduate of the University of Minnesota. She earned a B.S. in Education and taught at Pine Island and Keewatin, MN. During the summers she earned her M.A. from Columbia. In 1943 she joined the Navy, where she met her first husband, Lt. Cmdr. William King Yarnall. The couple married in 1948, but Yarnall succumbed to cancer at age 35 in May 1950. He was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Eventually she met and married Captain Paul Darwin Williams in 1959. She achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander before in 1964. The couple made their permanent home in the East but would frequently winter in Arizona. By 1981 they retired to live in Sun City permanently. They would often escape the oppressive summer heat of the desert by spending time near friends in Mon-

tana. It was there they learned about and became avid supporters of the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation. They also developed a new friendship with Jim Soft who served as president of the Foundation from 2002 through 2012 and worked with constituents for over 45 years. The friendship continued throughout Donitza's life. "They were wonderful people," said Soft, having worked with Paul and Donitza for over 30 years.

Paul died in 2002, and Donitza eventually decided to live in a facility where she would have readily available assistance. She died November 28, 2018, at the age of 104 and is buried next to Paul in the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona.

Donitza's journey through life took her to nearly every corner of the world but Donitza never forgot her Serbian roots. She was a member of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Phoenix and SNF Lodge #40 Kosovo and a loyal sub-

scriber to the American Srbobran. "She would see the pictures of those handsome young men and beautiful young women in the Serbian paper every year, the scholarship winners, and it really impressed her," said Jim Soft. With that in mind, she consulted with her advisors regarding her financial investments and estate planning and decided to offer scholarships of higher amounts. "She wanted to set aside enough funds to hopefully fund \$10,000 annual scholarships for SNF students...we were proud and honored to have helped her make that happen," he added.

Donitza Dorothy Trboyevich Yarnall Williams was an extraordinary woman who led a remarkable life during which she took many decisive steps that have made a positive difference for others; not the least of which is the affect she has had on young Serbian students who are awarded the Donitza and Paul D. Williams Scholarships.

-str.

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On the Occasion of 140th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Serbia and the United States

NEW TIME, NEW CHALLENGES

By Srecko Stojkovic
Reprinted from *Ilustrovana Politika*

The Serb National Federation (SNF) from the United States is the sponsor of an international contest for the best essay on the relationship between the Serbian Diaspora and the Homeland. Prizes of \$10,000 are provided for the three best student essays.

On this occasion, we are talking with Miloš Rastović, the Cultural Outreach Coordinator of the Serb National Federation (SNF). This organization has been perpetuating a long Serbian tradition in the United States. The SNF was created at the beginning of the 20th century to provide Serbian immigrants protection at work and financial security for their families. In 1901, Sava Hajdin from Pittsburgh traveled to New York to support Nikola Tesla, already a recognized scientist, for founding such a society. With Tesla's support, Hajdin founded the Serbian Orthodox Federation Srbobran and became its first president. At the 1929 Convention, this Federation united with Sloga, Sloboda, and Svesna Srbadija and became the Serb National Federation. Mihajlo I. Pupin became its honorary president, and Nikola Tesla succeeded him in this position in 1935.

"Since 1906, we also have been publish-

ing the *American Srbobran*, the oldest Serbian continuously published newspaper on the American continent," says Miloš Rastović. "This year is the 140th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between the United States and Serbia, which were established on October 14, 1881. The Serbian Diaspora actively participated in building those relations, and today both the Serbian Diaspora and the Homeland are facing new challenges in building contemporary ties."

As part of the occasion, the SNF is the sponsor of an International Contest to Award \$10,000 in prizes (thanks to an anonymous donor) for the best essays regarding the relationship between the Serbian Diaspora and the Homeland. "We want to encourage students to think about new opportunities that will improve the relationship between the United States and Canada, on the one hand, and the Republic of Serbia, on the other. It should especially encourage young people living on American soil to think about their country of origin and what they could do to improve the relations between the Serbian Diaspora and the Homeland. We will give three awards: \$3,500 to a graduate student, \$2,500 to an undergraduate student, and \$2,500 to a high school student. Additionally, products worth \$500 are provided for non-SNF Members," according to Ras-

tovic.

We asked Rastovic, "What are cultural, athletic, and humanitarian events organized by the Serb National Federation?"

He said, In the last eight years, we have helped to collect and donate more than \$1.5 million to the Serbian Orthodox Churches, children's church camps, humanitarian organizations, cultural societies...Last year, we donated scholarships to students at high schools, colleges, and universities worth around \$78,000. We are currently working on promoting the theater play "Two Women and One War" with Marija Bergam and Vjera Mujović in the leading roles. Since 1936, the SNF has been organizing the longest running Serbian basketball tournament in America. Since 1917, the event "Serbian Day" was initiated by Mihajlo I. Pupin has been traditionally organized in Pittsburgh, PA. The SNF sponsors a Serbian Movie Festival at the University of Pittsburgh every year, which has become very popular; and from 2019 in Washington, D.C. and Boston, MA. We also sponsored the premiere of the movie "Tesla Nation" in 2019, as well as the event "Jasenovac: Unspoken Genocides and the Holocaust, 1941-1945" at the U.S. Congress in Washington, DC. Novak Djokovic, the Serbian Tennis Player,

also became an honorary member of the Serb National Federation in 2015.

The original article was published in Serbian by Srecko Stojkovic in Ilustrovana Politika.

*T
ranslation to English by Milos Rastovic*



**Sava Hajdin: Sava Hajdin,
Founder of the SNF**

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Serbian Cultural Garden

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DESANKA NEEDS ANOTHER HAT



A Bloody Fairytale

It was in a land of peasants
in the mountainous Balkans,
a company of schoolchildren
died a martyr's death
in one day.

They were all born
in the same year,
their school days passed the
same,
taken together
to the same festivities,
vaccinated against the same dis-
eases,
and all died on the same day.

It was in a land of peasants
in the mountainous Balkans,
a company schoolchildren
died a martyr's death
in one day.

And fifty-five minutes
before the moment of death
the company of small ones
sat at their desks,
and the same difficult assign-
ments
they solved: how far can a
traveler go if he is on foot...
and so on.

Their thoughts were full
of the same numbers
and throughout their notebooks
in school bags
lay an infinite number
of senseless As and Fs.
A pile of the same dreams
and the same secrets,
patriotic and romantic,
they clenched in the depths of
their pockets,
and it seemed to everyone
that they will run
for a long time beneath the blue
arch
until all the assignments in the
world

are completed.

It was in a land of peasants
in the mountainous Balkans,
a company of small ones
died a martyr's death
in one day.

Whole rows of boys
took each other by the hand
and from their last class
went peacefully to slaughter
as if death was nothing.
Whole lines of friends
ascended at the same moment
to their eternal residence.

NEW TIME, NEW CHALLENGES

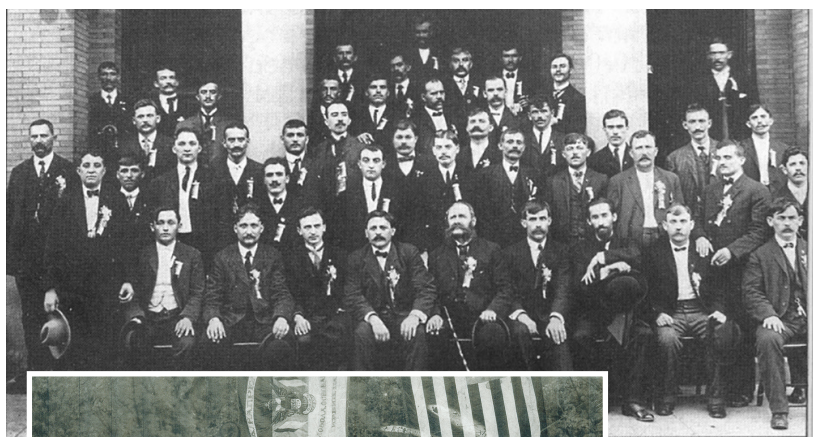


Nikola Jokic, Serbian Basketball Player of the NBA Denver Nuggets, at the SNF "Serbian Heritage Night" in Cleveland, OH on March 7, 2019

Kolo Dance of more than 500 people at Kennywood Park during Three Day Weekend in 2016



From left, Zeljko Mirkovic, Movie Director, Jack Dimich, Actor, and Milos Rastovic, Screenwriter, on way to the Landmark Theater in Washington, DC



Konvencija SNF, 1905: 4th SNF Convention in 1905



< Podmladak Srpskog narodnog saveza: Young members of the SNF in 1932