

REFLECTIONS

SUMMER GOLF – For many players, the SNF Summer Golf Tournament is kind of a midway point in the good weather months and an annual highlight of playing golf with fellow Serbs. This year, of course, it had to be canceled due to concerns for the spread of Covid-19. However, there's an option out there and it's in Cleveland, Ohio. Our newest **SNF Lodge #79 Nikola Tesla** is sponsoring their first annual golf outing on Saturday, August 29. Play will take place at Briarwood Golf Course in Broadview Heights, Ohio. More info for registration can be found on our front page.



BRIARWOOD

PERSON OF THE YEAR – In Cleveland for the Lodge #79 outing, you will also have the opportunity to meet **Simo Kraguljac** who is the 2020 SNF Person of the Year. Simo, a fixture at St. Sava on Wallings Road, was the driving force behind the newest lodge of the Serb

National Federation. Read more about this remarkable man and why he is being honored, not only by his local lodge, but by the SNF, in the article on the front page. The official presentation will take place on the day of the lodge's first golf outing, **Saturday, August 29** at Briarwood Golf Course in Cleveland. If you don't play golf, plan on coming to meet with and congratulate Simo.

THIS YEAR'S HONOR – Talking about the Person of the Year Simo Kraguljac, the usual site for making the announcement, SNF Three Day, had to be canceled to comply with restrictions and safety measures due to the virus. Simo got the news that he was selected through a video conference call during the Lodge #79 meeting on Sunday, July 12. Simo's wife **Andjelka** did, however, know about the honor in advance and was in on the surprise. We were impressed with her ability not to disclose the good news, and she responded, "I know how to keep a secret!"

TRAILER IS OUT - IFC Films has released the first trailer (what us old folks used to call a "preview") for "Tesla," the new biopic that will chronicle the life of our famed scientist Nikola Tesla. **Ethan Hawke** is playing the iconic scientist. According to the studio, the film defies convention. There will be much on the history surrounding Tesla and his complicated and contentious relationship with Thomas Edison. Michael Almereyda



ETHAN HAWKE

wrote the screenplay and is directing. Put **IFC Tesla** film in your search engine and check it out.

THANK-YOU TIME – We recently heard from **Vesna Dragicevic** of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who is submitting a story about the graduates of St. Sava School there. We are happy to know people out there in every community who, like Vesna, are willing to take the time to send in articles on happenings in their neck of the woods. We frequently hear from **Christina Tepsich** in Youngstown, Ohio, who does a great job keeping Y-town news in the Srbo. We need more of you! Write to us by snail mail or email, but, write! There are a lot of stories in our churches, lodges, schools and towns and we need you to get them in the paper. Thanks!

Stay in touch,
Sandi Radoja - sradoja@snflife.org

Stacie Bishop Leaving Serbia Desk

by Milos Rastovic

On June 18, the Serbian-American Leadership Conference sponsored a virtual reception to honor Stacie Bishop, Senior Serbia Desk Officer at the U.S. Department of State. After serving for two years at the Serbia Desk of the U.S. Department of State, she will assume a new position in the office of Office of Nordic, Baltic, and Arctic Affairs.

The event began with both anthems of the United States and the Republic of Serbia performed on guitar by Nemanja Ostojic, Associate Adjunct Professor of Guitar at the University of Indianapolis. He has performed in 19 countries on four continents. Neno Djordjevic moderated and thanked Ms. Bishop for her service with a high degree of professionalism, wishing her the best in her continuing diplomatic career. SALC President Aleksandar Djuricic thanked everybody for participating and especially thanked Ms. Bishop for her help and inspiration in building the SALC. Fr. Vasilije Vranic of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church in Washington, D.C., thanked her for helping the Serbian-American community.

Marina Schwabic, President of the American-Serbian Association for Prosperity, talked about her organization in California, which was established two years ago. They have had 18 events with thousands of attendants last year. She stressed that the Serbian-American Diaspora is the third pillar of the Serbian-American relations besides two Governments.

His Excellency Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Repub-



lic of Serbia to the United States, emphasized the role of Ms. Bishop in developing the relations between the United States and Serbia, saying that Ms. Bishop was the "best asset in the U.S. Department of State" in advancing relationships between both countries. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she worked together with the Serbian Embassy in Washington, D.C. to organize flights of American citizens from Belgrade to the United States.

His Grace, Bishop IRINEJ of Eastern America, founder of SALC in 2000, presented Stacie Bishop with a Hierarchical Grammaton, citing that the recognition being bestowed upon her was "for all she has accomplished as she completes two years of rotation as Senior Serbia Desk Officer at the United States Department of State in Washington, D.C., where she was instrumental in bringing the State Department and the Serbian-American community closer together by facilitating meetings and opening lines of com-

munication." His Grace also offered his profound expression of respect and appreciation to Ms. Bishop, a Greek Orthodox Christian, praying that the Lord will grant her many more fruitful years of dignified service in diplomacy; and he expressed collective best regards for her future as she assumes her new role as Deputy Director of the Office of Nordic, Baltic, and Arctic Affairs.

Ms. Bishop thanked all for their touching words and all the people with whom she collaborated in the last two years. "If I learned anything over my two years at the Serbia Desk it is that Serbs and Serbian-American people are some of the most gracious and warmest people in this world."

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