

- SNF National Sports Tournaments
- Local Lodge Affairs
- Church Functions
- Serbian Singing Federation
- Serbian Orthodox Choral Association

*A complimentary service of the  
Serb National Federation and the American Srbobran*

*\* denotes the first time an event is listed*

## 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

**SSF FESTIVAL**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
May 23-25

**SOCA FESTIVAL**  
Chicago, Illinois  
May 30 - June 1

**HTC NIKOLA TESLA  
MENS CLUB PICNIC**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
June 1

**ST. NICHOLAS  
ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**  
Steelton, Pennsylvania  
June 1

**ST. ELIJAH MOTHER'S CLUB  
TEA AND TREASURE BASKETS**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
June 7

**MORAVA SUMMER FOLKFEST**  
San Diego, California  
June 13 - 15

**ASERB  
SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET**  
East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
June 14

**ST. ELIJAH MEN'S CLUB PICNIC**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
June 14

**\* LODGE 64  
FATHER'S DAY PICNIC**  
Biddle, Pennsylvania  
June 15

**\* ST. GEORGE  
65th ANNIVERSARY**  
Midland, Pennsylvania  
June 15

**ST. SAVA YOUTH  
CONFERENCE**  
Phoenix, Arizona  
June 25 - 29

**AMERICAN SERBIAN CLUB  
RADIO SHOW PICNIC &  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
July 5

**SERBIAN GOLF OUTING**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
July 12

**SNF THREE DAY WEEKEND**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
July 18-20

**SERBIAN FESTIVAL**  
Columbus, Ohio  
July 26

**HOLY RESURRECTION  
SUMMER FEST**  
Steubenville, Ohio  
July 27

**SERBIAN-AMERICAN  
CLUB PICNIC**  
Steelton, Pennsylvania  
July 27

**ST. ELIJAH 100th ANNIVERSARY**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
August 2 - 3

**KOLO TEA PARTY**  
Phoenix, Arizona  
August 9

**ST. ELIJAH MEN'S CLUB PICNIC**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
August 9

**\* SAVA TOMICH  
MEMORIAL GOLF OPEN**  
Muskego Lakes CC, Wisconsin  
August 16

**ST SAVA 59TH SERBIAN DAYS**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
August 22-24

**\* ST. GEORGE ANNUAL PICNIC**  
Midland, Pennsylvania  
September 1

**ST. SIMEON 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY & GOLF**  
Chicago, Illinois  
September 12-13

**SSS ST. ELIJAH  
CONCERT WEEKEND**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
September 13 - 14

**ST. ELIJAH FALL  
FOOD FESTIVAL**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
October 4 - 5

**ST. NICHOLAS SERB FEST**  
Steelton, Pennsylvania  
October 18

**ST. ELIJAH  
50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
Merrillville, Indiana  
October 19

**ST. ELIJAH SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
November 1

**ST. GEORGE  
90TH ANNIVERSARY**  
Hermitage, Pennsylvania  
November 8

**V. REV. N. LUNICH  
RETIREMENT BANQUET**  
Joliet, Illinois  
November 9

**V. REV. LUNICH  
RETIREMENT RECEPTION**  
Joliet, Illinois  
November 9

**HOLY TRINITY CHOIR  
TURKEY TROT**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
November 21

**ST. SAVA  
100TH ANNIVERSARY**  
Merrillville, Indiana  
November 21 - 23

**ST. ELIJAH  
THANKSGIVING PLAY**  
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania  
November 23

## Lecture on Operation Halyard



Unveiling the bust of Draza Mihailovich at the SNF Home Office are George Martich, former president of the SNF, Col. Carl Walpusk and His Grace Bishop Mitrophan (Photo courtesy of George Topich)

by Milos Rastovic

PITTSBURGH, PA - On April 25th, at the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral here, the Holy Trinity Men's Club "Nikola Tesla" sponsored a lecture "Operation Halyard" presented by Milana K. Bizic. The church hall was crowded with people anxious to hear about the rescuing of 512 American airmen in 1944 behind German occupied lines in Serbia in what was called Operation Halyard.

Ms. Bizic emphasized the crucial role General Draza Mihailovich and his forces had in this operation. In August 1944, American airmen were returning from a bombing mission in Eastern Europe when they were shot down in enemy-occupied territory in Serbia. General Mihailovich with his troops rescued and safely returned about 600 Allied soldiers including 512 American airmen. The whole operation of rescuing American pilots was completed in December 1944. Ms. Bizic recognized some of those who participated in Operation Halyard including George Vujnovich, Nick Lalich, Jibby Jibilian, the Maksimovich brothers, and George Musulin.

Vujnovich was born in Pittsburgh, and was the head of the Office of Strategic Services in Bari, Italy. Ms. Bizic said that Vujnovich organized "the greatest air rescue of the war. In the summer of 1944, U.S. bombers targeted the Romanian oil fields in Ploesti that supplied the German war machine. They flew from Italy and across Yugoslavia to get there. But Luftwaffe fighters and flak from anti-aircraft guns took a fearsome toll, and many shot-up planes never made it back. Crewmen had to bail out over Serbia, trapped behind enemy lines and dependent on villagers to hide them from the Germans. 'We didn't lose a single man,' said Vujnovich..."

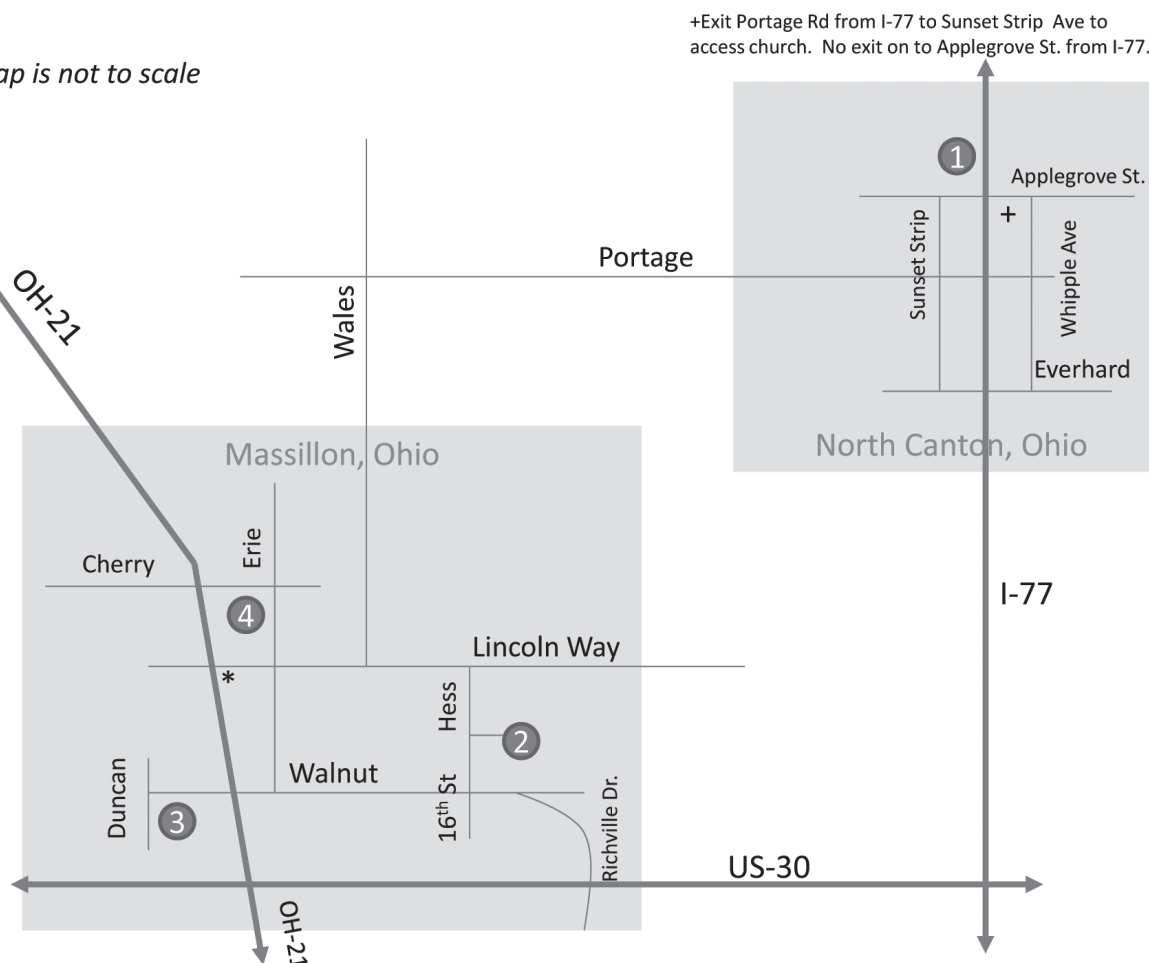
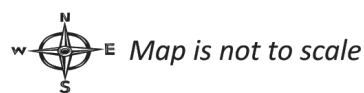
Major Musulin was an officer of the Office of Strategic Service and naval intelligence services. He was born in New York and raised in Georgetown, PA. Major Musulin parachuted into General Mihailovich's headquarters in 1943 and 1944. Ms. Bizic said that when he parachuted on August 2, 1944, he directed the airmen to finish the airstrip: "Because of the terrain, it would be only 700 feet long, barely

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List your event. Send information to [sandi.radoja@comcast.net](mailto:sandi.radoja@comcast.net) or mail to Sandi Radoja, 1255 Blue Bell Trail, Schererville, IN 46375

# YOUR B'BALL INVITATION AND MAP



by Diane Pribich Costello

St George Serbian Orthodox Church of North Canton, Ohio, along with Nikola Tesla Lodge #223 and St George Lodge #143 invite you to join us in making the 75th Annual SNF Basketball Tournament a huge success. The dates are June 5, 6, and 7 with a church picnic on Sunday June 8, 2014 starting at 11:00 am. Please mark your calendars.

We are roasting lambs for the picnic on Sunday. Your lamb must be pre-ordered by calling our church office 330-494-2712 no later than May 30th.

Keep in mind that one of the venues for basketball, the Massillon Rec Center, has a lazy river and a baby pool available for our visitors for a reduced fee. Also, we are including reduced price tickets for visits to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton in the coaches pass packets.

Susie Ristic is taking pre-orders for custom designed tee-shirts for the tournament. She can be reached at 586-212-9258 or sekasue@hotmail.com.

## Lecture on Operation Halyard

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enough for a C-47 to use. On Aug. 9, 1944, a herd of cows fortuitously sauntered onto the completed strip just as German planes flew over. The pilots left, apparently thinking the runway was a farmer's field. That night, four C-47s made a harrowing landing, then the plane picked up loads of men and took off, barely clearing the treetops. More planes came the next morning, escorted by American fighters. A total of 272 airmen had been rescued in two days."

The plan of rescuing American airmen was the following:

August 9, 1944: 4 rescue planes from Pranjani  
August 10, 1944: 14 planes from Pranjani  
August 26/27, 1944: Pranjani  
August 27/28, 1944: Pranjani  
September 5/6, 1944: Pranjani  
September 17, 1944: Koceljevo  
November 1, 1944: Bunar airstrip  
Dec. 27, 1944: Final Evacuation – Halyard Mission out!

It was a great honor for all visitors to listen to Col. Carl Walpusk, a U.S. airman who directly participated in Operation Halyard. He described his personal experience in this operation. He stayed in Pranjani for 33 days. At the end of his talk, he made a great conclusion: "Chetniks risked their lives to save the U.S. airmen."

For his bravery, General Mihailovich was awarded the Legion of Merit by President Harry S. Truman. On March 29, 1948, President Truman said: "General Dragoljub Mihailovich distinguished himself in an outstanding manner as Commander-in-Chief of the Yugoslavian Army Forces and later as Minister of War by organizing and leading important resistance forces against the enemy which occupied Yugoslavia, from December 1941 to December 1944. Through the undaunted efforts

of his troops, many United States airmen were rescued and returned safely to friendly control. General Mihailovich and his forces, although lacking adequate supplies, and fighting under extreme hardships, contributed materially to the Allied cause, and were instrumental in obtaining a final Allied victory."

To know more about Operation Halyard, visit Mim Bizic's website: [http://www.babamim.com/wwii\\_draza\\_mihailovich\\_\\_operation\\_halyard](http://www.babamim.com/wwii_draza_mihailovich__operation_halyard).



## SNF 3-DAY: SAVE THE DATES

by Susan Hayden

Are calendars still marking holidays as **RED LETTER DAYS**? Those special dates with the bit of color tell us to pay special attention. When you turn the page or rip off the prior month, a red date starts building anticipation. Does this mean a day off or a special gathering? Particular foods? Seeing family and friends? Oh, the possibilities!

Take your red marker in hand and mark July 19, 20 and 21 as **RED LETTER DAYS** on every calendar you have (even the computer lets you highlight with color). This is the SNF 3-Day Weekend in Pittsburgh!

**Friday, July 18** marks the 98th Serbian Day at Kennywood Park. Ride the Thunderbolt and wave to family sitting in the Potato Patch. Hug friends and family as you meet throughout the day every time you round a corner.

**Saturday, July 19** is the boat ride on the Gateway Clipper Fleet. Help us rock the boat as we dance and revel along the rivers.

**Sunday, July 20** will be a traditional picnic offering great food, music, dancing and fellowship.

Watch the *American Srbobran* for more details on the weekend, including purchasing tickets for Kennywood and the boat ride. We look forward to seeing everyone on this **RED LETTER WEEKEND!**