

FROM SNF GENERAL MANAGER

Cissy M. Rebich



Greetings from sub-zero Pittsburgh:

While you read this issue, we sincerely hope that you are packing for the SNF Mid-Winter Golf Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona. I had the good fortune to speak to SNF Golf Director Nicky Lubich recently and he gave me an update on the weather predictions for February 20-22: balmy mid-70's Fahrenheit. Wow! If you haven't made your reservations, what are you waiting for? A great time is guaranteed.

I am going to be taking a brief hiatus from writing this column, but you can expect me to be back in true form by the April 2, 2014 issue! While we transition some duties at the Home Office, file our 2013 Annual Reports, organize the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Annual Dinner, and I move to my new home in Pittsburgh, you will continue to have an abundance of photographs and news from SNF members all over the US and Canada. And I will look forward to providing you with a description of SNF and other Serbian events again in the spring.

For this issue, we are fortunate to have Milos Rastovic available to report on his recent visit to the Big Apple to attend the second Tesla Memorial Conference. Here he is:

Building the Tesla Curriculum

by Milos Rastovic

The Tesla Science Foundation of Philadelphia held the second Tesla Memorial Conference on January 11, 2014, at Manhattan's New Yorker Hotel where Nikola Tesla lived his last years. Scientists, engineers, innovation experts, artists, and Tesla enthusiasts gathered together to give honor to Tesla's life and legacy. The conference was dedicated to "Building the Tesla Curriculum," i.e., adding Tesla's work to the curriculum and educational plans on a global basis.

Ashley Redfeam-Neswick, principal of Tacony Academy in Philadelphia, was committed to building the Tesla curriculum in schools, with the Inventors' pledge: "If we can dream it, we can imagine it. If we can imagine it, we can create it." She says: "We have initiated the process by starting to infuse a culture of Tesla at the Rhawnhurst Campus. We have started a Tesla after-school club. This year, our Invention Convention will be about the inventions of Nikola Tesla as inspired in artistic format. We are not only inspiring a generation of inventors, we are also building a support team of marketers, teachers, and other careers that will believe in the inventor's spirit."

According to Redfeam-Neswick, the Tacony Academy started constructing the Tesla curriculum, which will be implemented by administrators in cooperation with the Tesla Science Foundation, which will feature the following: a Tesla Club, individual lessons and mentor biographies, and lesson plans, which will be adapted for multiple grades and aligned with Next Generation science standards, Pennsylvania state standards, and the Tesla community.

Aleksandar Protic, President of UNESCO Club at Sorbonne University and founder of the Tesla Memory Project, spoke of his experience with implementing education about Tesla at the Sorbonne. In 2010-2011, students had an opportunity to learn about Tesla in

three disciplines: physics, French and English literature, and English language. He announced that an international congress, "Nikola Tesla: The History of the Future" will be held September 19 - 21, 2014 in Belgrade, which will gather Tesla experts from different scientific disciplines from physics and engineering to religion and medicine around the world.

Dr. W. Bernard Carlson, professor of science, technology and society at the University of Virginia, published a book, *Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age*, in which he distinguished the importance of Tesla's work, as well as his private and public life. He explained Tesla's "idealist" approach to inventions and his communication with the public through illusion.

After the conference, Bajaga, a Serbian rock musician from Belgrade, gave a concert in the crowded Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel. Bajaga amused his fans as they stood up from their chairs and danced and cheered his music. He sang "Moji drugovi" ("My Friends") as well as other popular songs from his career. After the concert, although Bajaga was busy with his fans, he consented to give me a short interview regarding his support to the Tesla Memorial Conference.

Q: As a great admirer of Nikola Tesla, do you find more inspiration in his work or his personality?

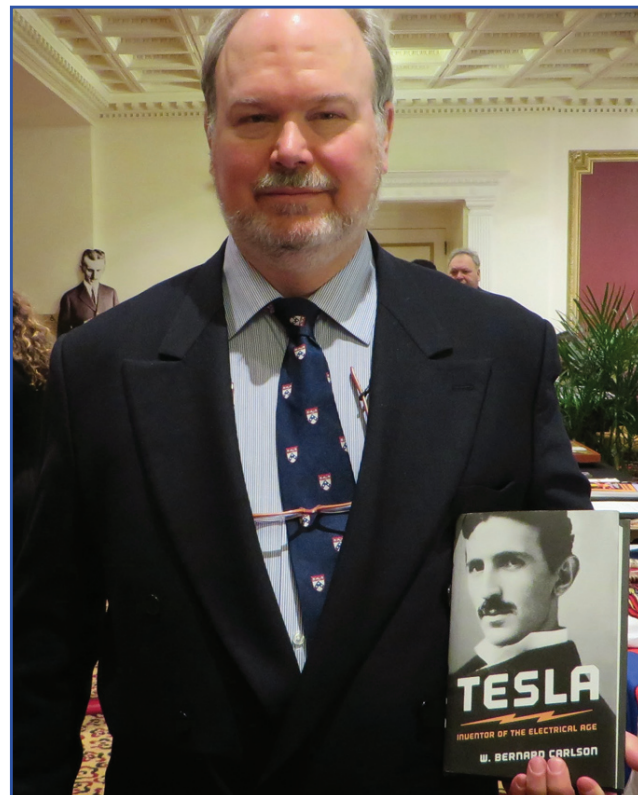
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Milos Rastovic with Dr. Carlson



Ashley Redfeam-Neswick, Principal,
Tacony Academy Charter School, Philadelphia



Dr. W. Bernard Carlson Ph.D, Professor,
University of Virginia



Milos with Bajaga at the Tesla Conference



Bajaga of Belgrade in performance



Bajaga, Serbian popular musician in performance

► NEW MEMBER

SNF Lodge #99 "Jedinstvo" of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, welcomes one of its newest members with the addition of Olivera "Liv" Smith. She is the daughter of Liz and Mark S. M. Smith of South Orange, New Jersey, and was born on her Grand Deda Dusan Terzic's birthday, October 2. Her proud family include Deda Branko and Baba Judith of Vienna, Virginia, and uncles Branko, George, and Alexander.

Liv is pictured here being held by her Kuma Natalie Visnick, as her father, Mark, and Kuma Katie Visnick look on. Father Alex Micic performed the Christening ceremony at St. Luke's in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Liv and welcome to the SNF!



A.S. 'NEW' FORMAT MARKS ONE YEAR

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Last year, we explained, "To navigate the change, we had to rethink content of the paper to make up for the lesser space. Over the next several issues, we will be experimenting with creative ways to get as much news (if not more) into fewer pages. Sorry puzzle lovers but space-grabbing inserts such as the crossword and Sudoku are history."

All of these changes went a long way to bring you a much better paper. "We appreciate the cost-saving efforts of the SNF Board and the General Manager because we always want there to be an *American Srbobran*. And we hope you feel the same way, too," I said at the time.

Your opinions and ideas mean a lot to me. I have heard a lot of excellent feedback, both positive and negative, over the last year. It's helped me to tweak things along to meet your expectations. I hope you will continue to write to tell me your thoughts on the *American Srbobran*. It's your paper, after all.

Thanks for reading,

Sandi Radoja, Editor
English Section



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A: I find inspiration in both Tesla's personality and work. It is a great pleasure for me that this event is happening at the New Yorker Hotel where Tesla lived. I cannot believe that I sleep at the same hotel as Tesla and that I was at the same Hall where Tesla celebrated his birthdays. I think that Tesla is a man out of history, he looks like an alien, but he is a Serb. We do not know what is greater: his work or his personality. It is a great pleasure for me that I participated at this event in organization of the Tesla Science Foundation. I think that this event will be better in the future. I came to New York to support this project, and I am glad that I helped.

Q: Do you very often come to New York?

A: I do not come very often to New York, but I played three or four times with my band and it was always very good. This concert was done for my pleasure. I hope that I will this or next year come here for another concert. We would be delighted to have a concert in Pittsburgh.

Q: Your song, "Moji drugovi" ("My Friends"), is some kind of anthem of the Serbian diaspora. Is there some differ-

ence in playing this song in Serbia and abroad?

A: Yes, this is an unofficial anthem of the Serbian diaspora. I am very glad that this song is very well accepted in Serbia and the diaspora. We played this song from Alaska to Australia, and everywhere it was well accepted. In Serbia, the song is well accepted because it is a good song!

Moji drugovi ("My Friends")
Moji su drugovi biseri rasuti
po celom svetu
i ja sam selica
pa ih nekad sretнем у лету

Да `л је то судбина
ил ко зна шта ли је
кад год се сретнемо
уек се залије
уек се заврши
с` неом од наших песама

Moji su drugovi
jestoki momci velikog srca
i kad se piје i kad se љуби
i kad se пуца
горе од Аљаске до Аустралије
кад год се сретнемо уек се залије
уек се заврши
с` неом од наших песама

Refrain

Да смо живи и здрави још година сто
да је песме и вина и да нас чува Бог
да су најбоље жене увек поред нас
јер овај живот је кратак
и прозуји за час

За моје другове
ја молим ветрове за пуна једра
путеве сигурне, а ноћи звездане
и јутра ведра
да `л је то судбина ил ко зна шта ли је
кад год се сретнемо
уек се залије
уек се заврши
с` неом од наших песама

Refrain 2x

Moji su drugovi biseri rasuti
po celom svetu
i ja sam selica
pa ih nekad sretнем у лету

Да `л је то судбина
ил ко зна шта ли је
кад год се сретнемо
уек се залије
уек се заврши
с` неом од наших песама

Bajaga

On Sunday morning, at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy at St. Sava Cathedral

on West 25th Street in New York, Very Reverend Djokan Majstorovic led a pomen dedicated to memory of Nikola Tesla. Aleksandar Slavkovic and I then presented a lecture titled "200 Years of Serbs in the United States" at the church hall, which was crowded with visitors, curious to hear about Serbian history in North America, including the history of the Serb National Federation. Slavkovic, who wrote *The Immigrant. The Judge Fisher Story*, spoke of Djordje Sagic, later known as George Fisher, who embarked at the port of Philadelphia. After Sagic's initial emigration, more than one million Serbian immigrants arrived in the U.S., settling initially in and around the cities of Pittsburgh and Chicago. I talked about the importance to Serbian immigrants of protecting their cultural and ethnic heritage in their new land and about Sava Hajdin and the foundation of the Serb National Federation in Pittsburgh. Serbian immigrants throughout their history have given a unique contribution in the sciences, business, politics, arts, sports, and the military to the United States and the rest of the world. At the end of the lecture, everyone was invited to celebrate at "200 Years of Serbs in the United States," which will be held on Vidovdan June 28, 2014, in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA.