

FROM SNF GENERAL MANAGER



Brass plaque on the door of Room 3327, New Yorker Hotel, Manhattan



Room 3328, New Yorker Hotel, Manhattan



View from Room 3328, New Yorker Hotel



SNF Administrative Assistant Milos Rastovic, Vuk Jeremic, President, United Nations General Assembly

Greetings from Pittsburgh:

We hope that your Sveti Sava celebrations were joyful and that they left you with renewed appreciation for our American Serbian children's skills in learning and performing "deklamacija." We hope, also, that you are enjoying the new color format of the *American Srbobran*. Let us know what you think about our somewhat smaller, but "in-color" Srbo-jet.

Marking the 70th anniversary of the passing of Nikola Tesla, who died on Christmas Day, 1943, the Tesla Science Foundation, Nikola Lonchar, President, sponsored a Tesla Memorial Conference at the New Yorker Hotel in New York City, January 5-7, 2013. According to its promotional announcement, the world's brightest minds, scientists, engineers, alternative energy entrepreneurs, innovation experts, artists, and a myriad of Tesla enthusiasts gathered for the three-day extravaganza to honor Tesla's legacy. The forum included a diverse collection of Tesla-related lectures, presentations, discussions, and documented evidence of growing interest and recognition of Tesla's contribution to the 20th and the 21st Centuries. The weekend was focused on the promotion of the message, "Why Tesla Matters."

Since, of course, this particular weekend involved Badnji dan and Bozic, it wasn't possible for me to take the time to travel to New York City to cover this important event for the *American Srbobran*, but we found a willing volunteer reporter: our SNF Administrative Assistant, Milos Rastovic. Here is Milos' review of the weekend's seminars and festivities:

"WHY TESLA MATTERS"

How interesting a choice for the Tesla Science Foundation to assemble the conference here at the New Yorker Hotel, one of the City's most famous landmark buildings, rich in history and nostalgia and located on the corner of Eighth Avenue and 34th Street. Nikola Tesla actually spent the last 10 years of his life here (1933-1943) and he died in Room 3327, which was part of his suite of rooms and is marked today with a brass plaque on the door.

At check-in, after signing my name on the New Yorker Hotel's registration, I was given a card key to Room 3328. I wheeled my bag over to the elevator, got out on the 33rd floor, walked down the hallway, and was dumbfounded to see that this



Nikola Lonchar, Tesla Science Foundation



Entertainment by Grachanitsa Folklore Group, Boston

room was also a part of Tesla's living quarters, which at the time consisted of a bedroom and a study room.

So, how did I feel waking up in the very room where Nikola Tesla exercised his scientific and spiritual genius? Elated, privileged, and inspired, just to name a few in the mixture of emotions I experienced.

From the beginning of the conference, I learned that the Tesla Science Foundation's goal is to promote the life and legacy of Tesla by raising awareness of his many contributions, giving opportunity to current and future inventors to work together through educational programs, meetings, and public events. Executive Director Marina Schwabic pointed out that today we cannot imagine life without Tesla, who gave us more than 300 inventions and theories. His legacy includes many mysteries, controversies, and questions, for which we continue to search for answers, she said.

David Vuich, Honorary Chairman of the event, welcomed the participants by saying, "Tesla



Proto Djokan Majstorovic, parish priest of Saint Sava Cathedral, Manhattan

roamed these very halls for many years, and his spirit may be among us as we speak." The Tesla Science Foundation is committed to seeing the momentum continue in order to honor Tesla for his many contributions to society, and to promote his legacy, he said.

Vuk Jeremic, President, United Nations General Assembly, said

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that Tesla embodies one of the most positive features of the Serbian national identity, which will help the Serbian people find their place in the world today.

There was a variety of invited guests and presenters, many of whom said how privileged they were to participate in the conference. Filmmakers Milan Knezevic and Joseph Sikorski spoke about Tesla and film, young Tesla enthusiast Kyle Driebeek played a musical instrument using electric waves, and Marko Popovic discussed Tesla and robotics. Some of the people and organizations recognized as recipients of Tesla Spirit Awards included the following:

1. Tesla Historical Shrine Award, the New Yorker Hotel.
2. Ingenious Fundraising Award, Matt Inman, Oatmeal.com, who raised enough money to purchase Tesla's laboratory in Long Island, New York for the future home of the Tesla Science Museum.
3. Institutional Heritage Award, Tesla Museum in Belgrade
4. Tesla Lifetime Award, Dr. Ljubo Vujovic

At the closing of the conference, Proto Djokan Majstorovic, (SNF member and supporter) parish

priest of Saint Sava Cathedral (another New York landmark building) invited all conference participants and guests to attend Badnji Vece festivities, Liturgy, and a parastos dedicated to the memory of Nikola Tesla. It was as appropriate ending to the weekend as all those in attendance sang "Vjecnaja pamjat" to the life and legacy of Nikola Tesla, one of our great Serbian treasures.

Milos Rastovic

*Hope to hear from you!*  
Cissy  
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Kyle Briebeek plays a musical instrument by using electric waves



Preparing Saint Sava Cathedral for parastos



Badnji Vece at Saint Sava Cathedral, Manhattan



Nikola Lonchar, Vladimir Jelenkovic, Dr. Ljubo Vujovic, Milos Rastovic, Milan Knezevic

MARS NA DRINU ROCKS UN

On January 14, new year's day on the Julian Calendar, a concert was performed at the United Nations by the Viva Vox choir. It was a celebration of the opening of the 67th session of the U N General Assembly over which Vuk Jeremic of Serbia presides.

The singing of Mars na Drinu or the Drina March sparked an unexpected reaction by those identifying themselves as victims who suffered an insult with the performance. In response to the outrage, Jeremic defended the choice and made it clear that such criticism was deeply offensive to the Serbian people. He released this official statement a few days following the event. --str.

On Monday, January 14th, 2013, the first day of the traditional Orthodox New Year, a memorable concert was held in the Plenary Hall of the UN General Assembly, in celebration of our 67th session.

In its wake, some outrageous

claims have been put forward. With solemn respect for all the victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia, these malicious misinterpretations of the song performed as an encore - "Marš na Drinu" ["Drina March"] - focus on its alleged misuses during the tragic conflicts. They represent regrettable attempts at twisting the meaning of our musical gift offered to the world last Monday, and are deeply offensive to the Serbian people.



and Chet Atkins. Its positive effect on the distinguished international audience this past Monday is yet another testament of its artistic greatness.

We decided to share this song with the world, with a clearly stated accompanying message of reconciliation for present and future generations.

In Europe, there is a tradition of finishing New Year's concerts with popular marches, transformed into a message of peace. It is the case with the Radetsky March at the end of Vienna concerts, and so was it in New York with the "Marš na Drinu" last Monday.

Despite this unfounded attack, we will continue with our heartfelt efforts to promote reconciliation in the Balkans and throughout the world.

-Vuk Jeremic, President United Nations General Assembly

FALLOONS STUDYING IN UK

SNF Lodge 170 members Elena Falloon and Danny Falloon, both SNF Scholarship recipients in the past, are currently studying in the United Kingdom. Danny, a sophomore at William and Mary College in Virginia is attending Hertford College, Oxford for governmental studies. Elena, is in the Masters Program in International Diplomacy, Oxford Department of International Development, Queens College, Oxford. Elena and Danny are the daughter and son of Juliana (Stamenkovich) and William Falloon. Congratulations to the entire Falloon family and keep us updated on all your progress.



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