

SERBFEST IN BOSTON Dancing, Food, Hospitality



From left, SNF Staff Members Danijela Barac, Aleksandra Slavkovic, and Milos Rastovic at the marketing table



Serbian Folklore Ensemble Gracanica from Boston



by Milos Rastovic

BOSTON, MA – On September 17 – 18, 2022, the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church sponsored its cultural event, the SerbFest, in Cambridge, the heart of Boston. Since 2007, the festival has been organized to support the church’s mission. On behalf of the Serb National Federation, Aleksandra Slavkovic, Danijela Barac, and Milos Rastovic were present at the weekend event.

The local Serbian-American community worked tirelessly to prepare for the event. All guests could feel the incredible energy and enthusiasm of the parishioners

to help their church and promote their tradition and heritage to its neighbors. A majority of young and highly educated Serbian-Americans volunteered for both days.

The SNF Staff set up its exhibition and marketing table which was in a great location thanks to V. Rev. Aleksandar Vljakovic, spiritual leader of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church. The prime location in front of the church was a great help to the SNF. Local community members stopped by to learn more about SNF activities, financial products, and cultural programs. “We were proud to enroll new members at the festival and expand

our work in this area,” said Aleksandra Slavkovic.

Father Aleksandar welcomed everybody and expressed his wish that they all enjoy the festival. Christopher Tehlirian, Master of the Ceremonies, explained the tradition of the event and cultural program. The audience was able to enjoy the amazing performances of the Serbian Folklore Dance Ensemble Gracanica and St. Sava Church Youth Ensemble from Boston; St. Stephen’s Tamburitians of Lackawanna, NY; the Children’s Choir of Maine; and Nemanja and Jovana Zivanovic’s mini-concert. The guests danced traditional Serbian kolos with

the excellent sound of Orchestra Pobeda from Pittsburgh, PA. They enjoyed every moment of the music and dancing.

During the cultural program, Milos Rastovic, SNF Cultural Outreach Coordinator, spoke of the Serb National Federation mission, how to obtain membership, and about the cultural and athletic activities: “Founded in 1901, the Serb National Federation is the oldest Serbian-American Fraternal Benefit organization in the United States providing secure life insurance and retirement plans to its members. The SNF makes notable

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75TH ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT, ALIQUIPPA



Team Grubich Girls



Team Junior Bowlers #1



Team Junior Bowlers #2



Team Lightning Strikes



Team Radar Serbs



Fr. Bojan's Brigade



Canton Pinseeker



Flying Cevaps



Team Pin Pals



Team Serbian Turkeys



Men's Team Champions— Team Pin Pals



Men's Runner up— Team Sveti Ilija

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contributions to the higher education of its members through the SNF Scholarship Program and supporting Serbian Orthodox Churches, children's camps, athletic, cultural, and social events, all of which promotes Serbian ethnic and cultural traditions. Since 1906, the American Srbobran, the official publication of the SNF, is the oldest continuously published Serbian newspaper in North America." Rastovic invited guests to join and participate at the SNF athletic and cultural events.

There was a video presentation about

Serbia at the church and a church tour with Father Aleksandar. During the tour, he provided historical information about the St. Sava Church and Serbian Orthodoxy.

Guests could buy souvenirs and eat traditional Serbian food such as cevapi, sarma, salads, potatoes, and other Serbian specialties, including delicious tortas and cakes. Many children enjoyed bounce houses, slides, arts and crafts. "I have not seen so many children for an event in any other Serbian-American community in the United States as I saw there. This fact gave me confidence about the bright future prospects of the Serbian-Ame-

rican community," said Milos Rastovic. As a long-standing SNF member, Father Aleksandar presented more information on the SNF mission to his parishioners during Sunday's service. After Liturgy, the festival continued with more traditional Serbian food, music, and folklore dancing. Many guests made new friendships as did the SNF Staff.

St. Sava church was bought and renovated with basilica-style stone in 2005. From that time, the St. Sava church became the center of the Serbian-American community in the Boston area by preserving Serbian Orthodox heritage through educational and cultural programs.

All eight members of Father Aleksandar's family are SNF members. We hope that other people will follow his path, as he is an inspiration to join and participate in SNF activities.

It was enjoyable to be a part of the festival and strengthen the bonds among Serbian-American communities. This bond can substantially impact the SNF's effort to become an umbrella organization with all Serbian-American communities within the United States.

See you at the next festival!



V. Rev. Aleksandar Vlajkovic opening the Serbfest with the Orchestra Pobeda



St. Stephen's Tamburitza and dancers of Lackawanna, New York



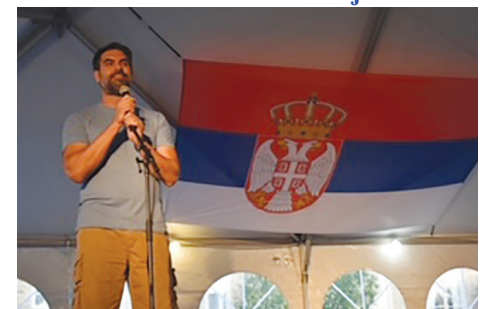
St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church tour with V. Rev. Aleksandar Vlajkovic



V. Rev. Aleksandar Vlajkovic, left, and Christopher Tehlirian preparing cevapi



Children's Choir of Maine



Christopher Tehlirian, Master of the Ceremonies



Stephen's Tamburitza and Dancers of Lackawanna, NY



Fun for the younger crowd

Photographs by Milos Rastovic & St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, Boston, MA