

SND HOSTS IMPORTANT GATHERING



SND President Dragan Vujosevic



H.E. Nikola Selakovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

by Milos Rastovic

On January 8, 2022, the Serbian National Defense of America hosted a meeting in its Home Office with representatives of some Serbian-American organizations, distinguished individuals from the Chicago area, and representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. H.E. Nikola Selakovic, Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arnaud Gouillon, Director of the Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region, and H.E. General Counsel Damjan Jovic were present. Representing the Serb National Federation

was Milos Rastovic, Cultural Outreach Coordinator.

SND President Dragan Vujosevic warmly welcomed the guests. In his opening remarks, he stressed the importance of strengthening the ties between the Serbian-American Diaspora and the Homeland. "The SND was founded by Mihajlo I. Pupin, Serbian-American Scientist and Inventor in 1914. Pupin sent 20,000 Serbian-American volunteers to defend Serbia against the Austro-Hungary invasion in World War I. He collected \$550,000 and delivered it to Serbia in 1917, including military equipment

and medical supplies..." He also mentioned Pupin's contribution to protecting the Serbian borders at the Paris Peace Conference thank to his relationship with US President Woodrow Wilson. He concluded by saying that Nikola Tesla was the best Serbian scientist who came to the United States, but Mihajlo I. Pupin was the best Serbian benefactor.

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From left are H.E. Damjan Jovic, H.E. Nikola Selakovic, and Mr. Arnaud Gouillon



SND President Vujosevic presenting a recognition to Arnaud Gouillon

"Serbian World" Establishing Cultural Diplomacy

by Milos Rastovic

When I attended the January 8 event hosted by the Serbian National Defense in Chicago, as Cultural Outreach Coordinator of the Serb National Federation, I introduced the project "Serbian World – Speak Serbian So the Whole World Can Understand You" in front of all the distinguished guests. The project's main idea, "Serbian World," is to systematically promote Serbian culture in the United States and the world by establishing a department of Cultural Diplomacy within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Raising awareness of Serbian culture can improve or change the image of Serbia through the eyes of the public. Joseph Nye, Political Scientist from Harvard University, formulated "soft power" as a

tool by using culture, science, and sport to promote a country and its national interest. The effect of «soft power» influences public opinion and diplomacy.

Promotion of the Serbian culture should be one of the priorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Smaller nations by number can compete with larger ones through culture, science, and sport. Therefore, the project "Serbian World" should be the joint effort of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, State institutions of the Republic of Serbia, non-

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profit organizations and societies, the Serbian Diaspora throughout the world, distinguished individuals, and others who are interested in promotion and developing the Serbian culture in the United States and the world.



Milos Rastovic presenting a gift to Arnaud Gouillon, Director of the Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region



Milos Rastovic presenting a gift to H.E. Nikola Selakovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia

“Serbian World” Establishing Cultural Diplomacy

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The “Serbian World” is founded on a positive experience in promoting cultures of the United States, Russia, China, Israel, Ireland, and others. Culture in those countries became one of the priorities in promoting their countries and national interests. This project would strengthen ties between the Serbian Diaspora and Homeland. The motto of the project is “Speak Serbian So the Whole World Can Understand You” («Причај српски да те цео свет разуме»).

Some inserts of the project include:

- The Foundation of common fund between Serbian-American organization such as the Serb National Federation with the Serbian Government. The purpose of the fund is to give scholarships to American students with Serbian ori-

gin to study Serbian language, culture, and tradition in Serbia over the summer;

- Exchanging American students with Serbian universities;

- Opening Serbian Cultural Centers in the United States;

- Organizing Movie Festivals and promoting Serbian movies throughout the United States;

- Initiate a week or month of the Serbian culture in many towns in the United States;

- Financial support of Serbian studies at the U.S. universities;

- Gifting the books and DVDs about the Serbian culture, history, and tradition to public and university libraries and

archives. The Serb National Federation gifted the DVD “Tesla Nation” by Zeljko Mirkovic to many public and university libraries in the United States and the world;

- Digital promotion of the Serbian culture such as learning the Serbian language on the Internet;

- Translation of Serbian distinguished novelists and writers to English and other languages, and giving their books to important libraries in the United States and the world. Organizing literary events in those institutions to promote Serbian culture;

- The digital connection among Serbian cultural institutions and the cultural institutions in the United States and the world such as the Library of Congress;

- Supporting the movie “Tesla Nation” by Zeljko Mirkovic. The first screening of the film about Serbian-American achievements in the United States will be on Cleveland’s PBS TV in the United States. We hope that the movie will also be screened to other PBS stations in the United States.

After the meeting, I presented the book *Serb National Federation First 100 Years*, DVD “Tesla Nation,” by Zeljko Mirkovic, and the *American Srbobran* to H.E. Nikola Selakovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Arnaud Gouillon, Director of the Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region. We hope that this kind of meetings will continue in future to strengthen the ties between the Serbian-American Diaspora and the Homeland. ■



IMPORTANT NOTICE SNF BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Attention All Basketball Managers and Coaches

Membership in good standing in the SNF as of March 31, 2022, is required to participate as a player, manager, or coach in the 2022 SNF Basketball Tournament.

Deadline for entry into the 2022 SNF Basketball Tournament is May 1, 2022
PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE IMPORTANT DATES.

Baba Andja’s Diary 1947

A Glimpse of our immigrant past

by Milana (Mim) Karlo Bizic

Paul Mamual Belosh, my cousin, and I were always close, so it gives me great satisfaction and delight to share this glimpse of our immigrant history here. His birth October 18, 1947 was recorded by our grandmother Baba Andja Mamula. I was six years old at the time. Thanks to Baba Andja, we know exactly what transpired from the date of his birth to his Christening, when young Paul put on the Mantle of Christ. We know who was there to witness and celebrate. Baba Andja was an amazing lady to leave this record for us:

Saturday, October 18, 1947: At 2:57 PM, the doctor called me to tell me that my Marty (Martha Mamula Belosh) had a baby boy, thanks be to God Almighty, and that everything is OK. Now a great worry has been lifted from my head. I’m working here and the kids are running around. (Ronny and Marty An Zoroya and Milana -Mim Bizic). Nikola

(Papi!) is running around like a old Baba yelling, My Marty had a baby boy!» Paj (Uncle Pi-Paul Belosh) went to see them and said all is well when he came back home. My Rose (daughter Rose Mamula Zoroya) was here buying me lots of things I’ll need in the house. Then she and the kids went home. My house is empty without my Marty and the children.

Days passed They came home from the hospital at 1:30 PM on Oct. 25. In the meantime, Uncle Chappy came home from the Army too, for this great occasion. Baba baked the kolach for Sveti Petka which they celebrated a day early because it was a Sunday. Vladimir (Ronny) is taking the koljivo and Rose is taking the Slavski kolach to church. I’m sorry my Marty can’t go, but she’s still in bed, but thanks be to God, she’s doing well. Everyone is always coming or calling and asking for our Marty. Rose is going to see Peter. (Her youngest child in the hospital.) I’m getting dinner ready. I worry about everyone.

Tuesday, October 28, 1947: Gospodja Protonica and Queenie came. They brought such expensive gifts. We talked so beautifully. All my kids called.

Friday, October 31, 1947: Could you figure out what «Alefina» meant? It’s HALLOWEEN! The kids are preparing for Halloween. Marty dressed them so nicely. Queenie came at 2:00 with her mother. I was so happy. They brought lots of fruit and two jars of jelly. I went to the Mill Store (Pittsburgh Mercantile Store located 1 block away) for my Rose. At 8:00 we’re going to see the boy who died a tragic death. Saw lots of our friends at the funeral home.

Saturday, November 1, 1947: Marty’s working around the house and taking care of the baby. “It’s real cold outside. Today my Rose and Tom are going for our little Peter, to bring him home. He is as handsome and radiant as a rising dawn in Spring, thanks be to God, and what he had, passed. I cried from gratefulness. They all went home



Cousins Paul and Mim on the field of Pranjani, Serbia in 2019 at the 75th Anniversary of the Mission Operation Halyard