

**OCTOBER 3-5, 2003**

**MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!**



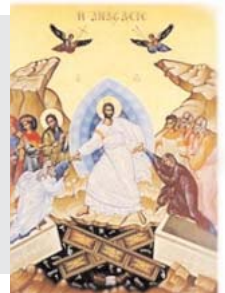
**13TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
BURLINGAME  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- 2 - President's Message
- 3 - Diaspora Participation:  
    Drafting New Constitution
- 4 - Belgrade Office
- 5 - Vienna Offices
- 6 - SUC sets up Serbian Civil Rights Union
- 7 - Kosovo Defense Fund
- 8 - War Crimes
- 9 - Embassy Report, Canada
- 9 - Blago Fund
- 10 - Member Profile
- 10 - Book Review
- 11 - San Francisco Chapter Announcement

**CHRIST IS RISEN!  
INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**ЋĐĚŃŌŃ ĀĬŃĚĐĀŃĀ!  
ĀĬ Ě ŃŌĚĬŌ ĀĬŃĚĐĀŃĀ!**



## SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS EMBARKS ON A PROACTIVE PROGRAM

There were many new developments since our last Bulletin and I would like to mention just a few of those.



The Prime Minister of Serbia was assassinated on March 12th. I wrote a letter of condolences to Dr Zoran Djindjic's family and Government of Serbia. At the same time we published an English press release for the audience in the US. It must be stressed that in the past, many within the Serbian Unity Congress membership as well as the Board, publicly or privately, voiced disagreement with certain policies of the Serbian government under the late Prime Minister. However, the Board's assessment was that, under the current circumstances, a positive statement focusing on Dr. Djindjic's achievements (and by extension those of his successors), would be a sensible approach to the whole new situation.

A number of serious meetings and discussions took place in March with regard to the Serbian Anti-Defamation effort. We have some new and enthusiastic people willing to work on this, and possibly create a Serbian American Civil Rights Union that would take over the important task of protecting the good Serbian name. At a time when we continue to see many movies, books, and other references that portray Serbs in the wrong light, we need to approach this in a very organized and professional manner, maximizing our currently limited resources.

Kosovo and Metohija remains the center of our attention. The best place to be vocal is in Washington and we are looking into specific, effective steps on how to improve our presence there. The creation of the Kosovo Defense Fund together with the Serbian American Congress will greatly improve our position.

To emphasize yet again the importance of Kosovo and Metohija, BLAGO Fund is looking into the creation of archives from Kosovo Monasteries. In addition to their priceless historical and cultural value, many of them are now the beacons of freedom and Serbian life in Kosovo.

Significant inroads are being made in our efforts to have representation of the Diaspora on the

Government committee for creating a new Serbian constitution. We need to make sure that the Diaspora is referenced in the new constitution as an integral part of the Serbian nation. By creating a committee of experts in US and Europe, we will participate, directly or indirectly, in the creation of the new Serbian constitution. We understand that the political situation in Serbia is not stable at the moment, however, getting the basic concepts in, and promoting them through the public, would give us leverage for any future changes.

The government of Serbia, has decided to form a new government agency called the "Agency for Contacts with Diaspora" in lieu of the Ministry of Diaspora which we have been very vocal in requesting. While we support better relations with the government and a more open approach to Diaspora issues, we still maintain that the issues of over four million Serbs who live outside the border of Serbia need to be addressed and resolved at a ministerial level. A Ministry has the decision making as well as implementing capabilities, unlike an agency which is simply an operational body of the government.

In February we decided to open a modest office in Vienna, with the goal of improving relations between the US and European diaspora, as well as creating a unified force of all Serbian diaspora regardless of its residency. Our Board member, Olga Danilovic, has been making significant progress in establishing the Serbian Unity Congress name in Europe.

We are committed to keeping you informed of our projects, involvements and progress. Your input is also welcome and most appreciated. As always our priority is increasing membership and fundraising, for if we are to continue the projects and programs we have undertaken, if we are to grow stronger and more influential in Washington and in Belgrade, we need resources. Your support has, over the years, kept the Serbian Unity Congress at the forefront of Serbian issues. We ask that you continue to work with us by encouraging other Serbs to become members, support us financially, and become more directly involved.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nenad Vukicevic".

Nenad Vukicevic  
President

## DIASPORA PARTICIPATES: DRAFTING NEW CONSTITUTION OF SERBIA

Serbia is preparing for one of the most significant steps to formally be confirmed into the community of European nations. All political parties in Serbia have agreed that the new Constitution must be drafted and passed during the present calendar year. To this end a new Constitutional Commission was established to draft legislation for instituting reforms to the current Constitution. Serbia's Minister of Justice, Vladan Batic, was appointed President of the new body.

Serbian diaspora from Europe and America was invited to participate in the Commission's work. The response was overwhelming. The SUC Belgrade office received a number of letters from leading Serbian diaspora organizations in Europe and America, expressing readiness to take part in the process of creating the supreme legal document of the land. Responding were the Serbian-American Congress, Serb National Federation from Pittsburgh, Serbian National Defense from Chicago, **Serbian Unity Congress**, as well as the Association of Serbian communities in Austria and the Conference of Diaspora Council in Switzerland. The European effort was initiated and coordinated by SUC's Europe Rep Olga Danilovic.

Austrian Serbs see formulating the Constitution as "certainly the most important task not only of the state of Serbia, but for the Serbian nation as a whole". Serbs from Switzerland believe that "the time has come for real changes, and for the resurrection of a democratic and welcoming Serbia that will accept the Diaspora as an integral part of its population, with all its rights and responsibilities.

The Serbian-American Congress stressed that "today, there are around 4 million Serbs living outside of Serbia. We all have different and multiple ties to her; we consider her our Homeland, of which we are an economic, cultural and spiritual part. Our relatives live there, we own land there, things close to our hearts are there: the welfare and progress of Serbia".

Ms. Slavka Draskovic, Director, SUC Belgrade, forwarded these letters to the Commission, and met with its head, Minister Batic, who expressed a deep understanding for the Diaspora proposals, and pledged his personal support. Ms. Draskovic has been invited to follow the work of the Commission and provide input to its members.

The President and governing Board of the Serbian Unity Congress issued a press release, stating that "our desire to participate in the drafting of this important document was duly noted, and met with support and understanding. We expect that the Commission will include among its findings the recommendation to include expatriate participation in its own work, as well as that of its expert consultants. For our part, we from the Diaspora are prepared to form expert teams to take part in this important task that stands before the Constitutional Commission."

The Diaspora initiative received excellent coverage in the Serbian media, with leading newspapers (Politika, Borba) and news agencies (Tanjug) commenting very favorably on these proposals, and the popular Belgrade Radio "Together Tonight" program featuring an interview with Mr. Batic and the SUC Vice President, Edita Kronic.

---

## ANNOUNCEMENT



### **Pavle Aksentijevic, painter and singer Another masterpiece of Art on our website**

We are pleased to announce another addition to our website's Art collection. Dragoslav Pavle Aksentijevic is the most famous Serbian performer of old spiritual music (pojanje), including the oldest work of Isaija and Kir Stefan. He is also renowned icon painter with his work presented in many monasteries and churches in Serbia and Montenegro.

Many icons and songs can be found on the following URL:  
[http://www.serbianunity.net/culture/art/Pavle\\_Aksentijevic/](http://www.serbianunity.net/culture/art/Pavle_Aksentijevic/)

Please visit his exhibition and, if appropriate, send us a feedback on it.

## PLANNING THE GRACANICA PROJECT WITH BISHOP ARTEMIJE



The Serbian Unity Congress BLAGO program is continuing its work archiving treasures of Serbian heritage represented by historic monasteries in Serbia. To date we have completed 3 such archives (see [www.serbianunity.net](http://www.serbianunity.net)). The next monastery archiving project is the great Monastery Gracanica in Kosovo where our team plans to start on-site work in June. As in the other archive projects a virtual tour of Gracanica will be available for viewing on our web site. Bishop Artemije (Radosavljevic) of the Orthodox Diocese of Raska-Prizren and Kosovo-Metohija met with the SUC staff at the Belgrade Office in April to discuss the arrival of the experts from America and the regulation of their visits to Kosovo.

## COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DIASPORAS

Our office in Belgrade is undertaking a special comparative analysis that will assess the experiences of diasporas of other democratic countries. The objective of the study is to determine the most ideal model for a constructive Serb Diaspora role in the future of the homeland. Special attention was given to the countries that have widespread and numerous diasporas. As part of this analysis the Belgrade staff met last month with the First Secretary of the Italian Embassy, Valeria Biagiotti.

## STUDENICA FOUNDATION HOPE FOR THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

On April 4, Mrs. Slavka Draskovic Jovanovic, Director of the SUC Office in Belgrade presented new Studenica Foundation scholarships to ten students who are war orphans from Republika Srpska. The scholarships were in the amount of 3,000 US dollars each. Also present were the representatives of RS Ministry of Labour and Veterans Welfare and of the Studenica Foundation in Belgrade.



In the last 7 years the Studenica Foundation has awarded grants to more than 500 students, published numerous books as well as scientific research and doctoral theses, organized many literary competitions,

and supported data base development for the Serbian Students' Association and the Association of Serbian Composers, helped in the publication of the Orthodox Primer for first grade and organized the open competition "100 years of Hilandar" in which all primary and secondary schools from Republika Srpska participated.

Headquartered in San Francisco Studenica is a private foundation founded to advance and improve education in Serbia, Montenegro and Republika Srpska. Founders are SUC members, families of Miroslav Michael Djordjevich, foundation president, along with families of Vidak Celovic and Boro Vukovich.

## CYRILLIC ALPHABET FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The National Council for Serbian Language and Alphabet held its first press conference in March where it presented the results of its first project regarding the implementation of its Charter principles: Cyrillic as the standard alphabet of the Serbian people; discontinuation of the equal treatment of two alphabets; and recognition that both jekavian and ekavian dialects have equal standing in public and official use. Members of the Council include the **Serbian Unity Congress**, the Foundation of Vuk Karadzic, Yugoslavian Multimedia Association, Rastko project, and many other associations and organizations.

For its first project, 14,000 signatures were collected



for a petition to Microsoft, protesting the localization of the Windows XP operating system to the Latin alphabet for the areas of Serbia and Montenegro.

Present were representatives of the Council member organizations and numerous journalists. Dejan Cvetkovic, manager of Microsoft for Serbia and Montenegro, not present, sent a letter stating that Microsoft intends to present Windows XP Professional with a Serbian interface in both Latin and Cyrillic alphabets.

**VIENNA OFFICE OPENED**



At the Board meeting in Washington, in February, Board members decided to expand SUC activities into other countries and agreed to open an office in Vienna, Austria. Board member

Olga Danilovic who has already been representing SUC in Europe was appointed to head the office. All documentation for opening the office has been submitted to the Austrian authorities with final approval expected by the first part of June.

For the last 1 ½ years Ms. Danilovic has worked on building SUC alliances with other Serbian Diaspora organizations in Austria, France, Romania and Switzerland. She has met with other Serbian diaspora organizations throughout Austria to encourage the establishment of a joint Diaspora organization in Austria to facilitate the participation of these organizations in the Congress of European Serbs.

The efforts have borne fruit. The Swiss Diaspora Assembly plans to create a separate body for cooperation with SUC-Austria. The Austrian organizations voted to create a national Diaspora body of organizations to be named Association of Serbian Communities of Austria. Through a Vienna office and Ms. Danilovic's efforts and vision, SUC is taking a

leadership role in Europe.

A lawyer with experience in constitutional law, Ms. Danilovic travelled extensively to urge Austrian and Swiss organizations to take an active role in the preparation of the New Serbian Constitution. The idea was accepted by the Conference of Diaspora Council in Switzerland and the Udruzenje srpskih zajednica u Austriji (Association of Serbian Communities of Austria). Their letters were submitted to the SUC Belgrade Office, which has become the central point of coordination for Diaspora input into this process.



The SUC Vienna Office and the Serbian Orthodox Church jointly sponsored (for the Serbian community in Vienna) a special presentation by Canadian journalist Scott Taylor of his books *Inat* (on Kosovo) and *Diary of a Civil War* (on Bosnia & Herzegovina). Scott Taylor compiled research for these books firsthand from inside Yugoslavia following NATO's occupation of Kosovo. The evening was very successful with many people attending and received coverage in the Serbian media.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

<p><b>U.S. CUP WATER POLO WORLD CHALLENGE</b></p>	<p><b>MAY 15-18, 2003</b></p> <p><b>See Serbia &amp; Montenegro's water polo team</b></p>
	<p><b>Preview of the 2004 Olympics in Athens</b>                  Avery Aquatic Center at Stanford University                  To order tickets call 1 800 STANFORD  <a href="http://www.uswaterpolocup.com">www.uswaterpolocup.com</a></p>

*Tragedy of Kosovo Serbs*    **DO THESE MATTER?**    *Defamation of Serbs*

**BEING PROACTIVE: FOCUS ON ANTI-DEFAMATION AND KOSOVO**

As the situation affecting Serbs in their homeland has changed so has the role of SUC. The Board of the Serbian Unity Congress recently approved two major efforts that are now underway to reflect the new role.

The two programs adopted target defamation of Serbs and the safe return of Kosovo Serbs to their homes. The effects of the anti-Serb satanization campaign of the 90's continue with misinformation and disinformation still ongoing. What was previously in newspapers only is now omnipresent in books, educational material, movies and more. Such representations do influence policy against Serb interests. Kosovo Serbs are either homeless or prisoners in their own homes with little hope in sight.

*The "Anti-Hate" Campaign*

**SUC SETS UP SERBIAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION**

The Serbian Unity Congress has set up a task force with the purpose of developing the SUC anti-defamation program via a vehicle called the Serbian American Civil Rights Union. SUC hopes to set up a financing mechanism, the SUC Legal Defense Fund, LDF to enable SACRU's work. The premise of these efforts is that disinformation, hate and group libel directed against persons of Serbian background is not only uncivil and immoral - but also illegal under American law.

The hateful charges and characterizations made against "the Serbs" by certain media and political figures in the United States constitutes a calculated effort to de-humanize by labeling an entire group of people based solely on their ethnic background. In our view, such conduct is fundamentally un-American because it derogates from the respect for the individual personhood of each US citizen, which is enshrined in US law and norms. Thus, hate speech against the Serbian people - whether spewed by political figures or on Internet message boards - by its very utterance inflicts substantial injury on individuals to whom such words are directed. US courts have held that the First Amendment does not protect such language, in certain circumstances.

Although the level of anti-Serbian hate has substantially decreased recently we Americans of Serbian descent continue to live with the legacy of hate. It surrounds us in libraries, on the Internet, in the media and in political discourse. The goal of the SUC's Legal Defense Fund is to organize a campaign of shame against these hate-mongers and to challenge such content by all means possible, including those

recourses available through the American courts. Our goals include the following:

- ◀ operate as a "watch-dog" organization and monitor, collect and expose hate speech in every public forum in the United States;
- ◀ to facilitate a public campaign against hate speech by mobilizing letter-writing and other efforts by Serbs
- ◀ to educate the American public about Serbian Americans and their invaluable contributions to American life in every field -- to show how inaccurate hate-speech is.
- ◀ to inform the public and US policy-makers on the vital importance of having a stable, prosperous and democratic Serbia as the economic heart of South East Europe. This objective is fundamentally in the US interest and therefore deserves strong support of the United States government.

In the coming weeks, the SUC will be finalizing a dedicated team of attorneys and other specialists to form the core of this effort. We anticipate having a presence on the World Wide Web in the coming months to facilitate the collection, exposition and prosecution of hate speech. In the meantime, be vigilant and note those instances of hate that you may come across. You will be able to notify the SACRU team of these instances by calling a phone number as well as emailing us. We will notify you of both in the next Bulletin. If you have an interest in participating in SACRU please call the SUC Central Office at (818) 902-9903.

*The new SUC Kosovo Defense Fund*  
**PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF KOSOVO SERBS**

The Serbs of Kosovo are facing a tragedy that is perhaps unparalleled in their history. It is a problem that we who take the security of our everyday lives for granted cannot possibly fathom. More than 100,000 Kosovo Serbs who have been driven from their homes are unable to return and those who stayed behind cannot step out of their homes without fear that they will not return alive. Every day there are new attacks on children being bussed to school, old people killed working in their fields (because they dare to try), shooting at UN personnel protecting them. Until safeguards are in place for Serbs to return to their homes and live in peace, no containers of food, clothes or medicines will solve their problem.

In June, 1999 the United Nations adopted UN Resolution 1244 calling for the establishment of an international security (KFOR) and civilian UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to allow for and guarantee the right of all refugees to return to their

homes in safety and, through a specified list of steps it was mandated to institute, to safeguard the human rights of all of Kosovo's population. The result to date however, has been a major failure.

The Serbian Unity Congress has been addressing the problem formally and informally for some time. Further pursuit of this matter can produce results. The effort requires focus and money. The Serbian Unity Congress has built credibility with policy makers as a professional and responsible source of information on subjects dealing with Serbs. Various Board and non-Board members have developed solid relationships with policy makers based on trust and respect. SUC is planning to expand this focus with an emphasis on the destiny of the Serbs of Kosovo. We are setting up the Kosovo Defense Fund as the financing mechanism through which these efforts' costs will be covered. Your help is going to be critical. If you care, we need your help.

## U.N. BRANDS KOSOVO REBELS TERRORISTS

PRISTINA, Serbia and Montenegro (Reuters) - Mid-April Kosovo's U.N. governor Michael Steiner took the unprecedented step of branding an Albanian rebel group a terrorist organization after it said it was behind a bomb attack on a railway in a Serb part of the province. This classification means that members of the Albanian National Army (ANA) can be jailed for up to 40 years. The move suggests that Western officials are starting to take ANA more seriously, dismissed until recently by some diplomats as little more than a band of criminals.



ANA wants to unite ethnic Albanian lands in the Balkans. ANA claimed on its Web site that it was

behind the bomb attack designed to cut the railway connecting "occupied" parts of Kosovo with Belgrade. Two suspected bombers were killed.

Steiner said the bombing was aimed at killing "a large number of innocent civilians and damaging public property." U.N. police spokesman Barry Fletcher said the remains of two people were found by a bridge, damaged in Saturday night's explosion near the town of Zvecane in northern Kosovo. He told Reuters "We believe they were the people who were setting the explosive device". He said three people were detained in connection with the incident, adding they were from an ethnic Albanian-populated area near the divided flashpoint town of Mitrovica.

ANA has in the past claimed responsibility for attacks in south Serbia's Presevo Valley east of Kosovo and in Macedonia, both gripped by ethnic Albanian insurgencies two years ago.

**Web Page of the Month**  
**BBC News in Serbian**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/serbian/>

**BBC SERBIAN.com**

## ICTY Expands Its Net

**THE CELEBICI APPEAL DENIED**

In Oct. 2001 the ICTY issued sentences in the first trial for atrocities committed against Serb civilians in Bosnia, the Celebici case. The defendants Hazim Delic, Esad Landzo, Zdravko Mucic were sentenced respectively to 18, 15 and 9 years for their roles as commander, deputy commander and guard of the Celebici prison camp. They all appealed the judgement.

On April 08, 2003 the appeals chamber of the ICTY issued a second judgement, dismissing all of the defendant's appeals. The initial sentences for Delic, 18 years; Landzo 15 years and Mucic 9 years were confirmed. In a few months they will be transferred to one of nine European countries that have signed an agreement with the ICTY to permit convicts to serve out sentences.

**FINALLY: NASER ORIC NABBED**

April 10, 2003 SFOR troops arrested Naser Oric in Tuzla. The following day he was flown to the Hague tribunal. The ICTY indictment against Oric was confirmed on March 28, 2003.

Oric commanded the Bosnian Muslim army in the Srebrenica region during the war. His troops pillaged Serb villages surrounding Srebrenica, killed Serb civilians during 1992-93. The charges against Oric are based on criminal responsibility, total of 6 counts of murder, cruel treatment, wanton destruction and plunder. At his initial appearance before the ICTY on April 15, 2003 Oric pleaded not guilty to charges.

**CROATIA FEELS THE HEAT**

Carla Del Ponte was in Zagreb this week, pressuring I Racan for more cooperation with the ICTY. Del Ponte wanted the Croatian authorities to locate and arrest general Ante Gotovina, who is indicted for his role in Krajina in 1995. Since the indictment was unsealed in July 2001, Gotovina has been in hiding. April 17, 2003 the Croatian government declassified documents relating to their late defense minister Gojko Susak. The ICTY prosecution requested these documents.

## REMEMBERING

**WHAT WE MADE POSSIBLE:  
FIRST INDICTMENT FOR WAR CRIMES  
AGAINST SERBS**

The first indictments to be issued for war crimes against Serbs occurred in 1996. At a time when the War Crimes Tribunal was seen as overwhelmingly biased against Serbs, investigators could not enter Yugoslavia or Republika Srpska to interview Serb witnesses and victims making investigations impossible.

Granted that these attempts were minor. However, the Serbian Unity Congress recognized the opportunity and gave financial support to efforts by its members to enable such investigations. The support made possible the locating of witnesses outside of Serb territories and working with and financing of other war crime documentation groups in Yugoslavia and Republika Srpska allowing them to function.

The indictment was the first official international acknowledgement of Serbs as victims of war crimes. Without this financially small but critical support from SUC, the first (and for long the only) indictment for crimes against Serbs in the Celebici Case, would not have been possible. Only the Serbian Unity Congress had the foresight to understand the potential and significance of the opportunity to seize it.

**An interesting footnote** - During work on the Celebici case SUC members received a request for assistance by a Tribunal investigator who was trying to gather evidence in Bosnia against Naser Oric. He had been thwarted in his work by the unwillingness of Serb officials in Republika Srpska to provide information that could have led much earlier to the indictment and arrest of Oric. Their position was that they did not recognize or trust the Tribunal. No efforts by SUC members were able to alter that policy then. Thus the world waited 7 years to see this war criminal indicted and arrested.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!  
SUPPORT THE **SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS**  
BECOME A MEMBER  
**SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS**  
(818) 902-9903

**REPRESENTING SERBIAN CULTURE  
SUCCESSFUL EXHIBIT OF  
SERBIAN ICONS**



During April 16 and April 24, 2003 the Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro in Canada presented fifty original works by the Serbian icono-artist Mrs. Rada Vucinic with the theme of Virgin and Child at the "Icons" exhibition at the Galerie Montcalm, Gatineau City

Hall in Gatineau. Past exhibits in the Galerie Montcalm have featured the most prominent Canadian and international artists. Mrs. Vucinic's icons have enriched the art collections of several Orthodox Monasteries, European and North American galleries as well as numerous private collections around the world.

Mr. Yves Ducharme the Mayor of Gatineau, and Ambassador Miodrag Perisic opened the exhibit where the Ambassador presented the Mayor with a gift to Gatineau's "Hall of Nations" art collection -- a reproduction of a very famous 17th century Serbian icon, with the image of the Virgin and Child, originating from the town of Pec in Serbia's province of Kosovo and Metohia. Ottawa's diplomatic community, prominent members of the cultural and art commu-

nities as well as the general public attended. An impressive success: 70% of the art available for sale was sold.

The inspiration for the exhibition is consistent with other cultural programs sponsored by the Embassy in Canada and directed by the tireless Mrs. Zaneta Djukic Perisic, wife to Ambassador Miodrag Perisic. Mrs. Perisic is a scholar and long-time researcher at the Ivo Andric Foundation in Belgrade. She has published a number of books, including two works on Ivo Andric.

Mrs. Perisic delights in the opportunity to show sides of Serbian culture and history with which her host country Canada is not familiar and of which she is very proud. The icon exhibition is part of her personally defined mission to show the rich aspects of



Serbian culture and in this modest way help to change the perception of her people, its capabilities - a people she believes deserve to be valued as an integral part of European culture whose traditions are valuable parts of the general European Christian tradition. The theme of icon painting was selected because it is a predominant and most authentic part of the Serbian Orthodox heritage. It is also a theme with a universal meaning and appreciation.

**BLAGO Fund**

**EXPANDING BLAGO'S TREASURES**

SUC's Blago program has been widely acclaimed for its accomplishments and as an exemplary model of the invaluable Diaspora role in preserving the treasures of Serb heritage. There is a great need for more Blago work. In order to expand its activities, its sources of support, both expert and financial, also need to be expanded. To this end, a number of steps are being undertaken. Blago has begun the formation of an international advisory board of experts as well as forays into building alliances with other organizations and institutions who share an interest in the preservation of cultural heritage of the world.



The first member of the Blago International Advisory Board is Dr. Kathleen Maxwell, Associate Professor of Art History at Santa Clara University with a specialization in the ancient and medieval Mediterranean roots of Western art. Other experts are being sought including top Serbian byzantologists and the responses have been very positive. We will keep you posted as the Advisory Board evolves.

Much of the work toward expanding the reach of the Blago program has been pursued by San Francisco Chapter

members Mirjana Misic and Desa Wakeman Tomasevic. They have contacted Serbian byzantologists building an interest in the idea. They also began work a year ago on the possible exhibitions of Serbian medieval art with a major San Francisco art museum receiving serious interest. Mirjana Misic has met with officials of the various institutions in Serbia who would provide items for such an exhibit. Our two members also established and maintain communication with the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York, which will be presenting the largest ever US exhibition of Byzantine art in 2004. This exhibit will show art from all the Balkan countries (Serbia and Montenegro included), and other countries with a Byzantine history.

During the recent symposium "The First Flowering of Byzantium" held in April in San Francisco, SUC members met with both Drs. Kathleen Maxwell and Helen Evans (curator of Medieval Art at the Metropolitan). Nenad Vukicevic explained the Blago program including a special presentation of the monastery virtual tours completed to date. Both experts remarked on the excellent quality of the work. Topics included the possibilities of Blago's contribution to the Metropolitan's 2004 Byzantine art exhibit as well as our role in the continuation of the Serb portion of that exhibit to other cities.

**"OF LOVE EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY -  
INSPIRED BY FRAGMENTS OF OLD VELLUM"  
"Zapis Danilovog učenika i druge price"**



By Viseslav Simic; Translated by Kosara M. Gavrilovic; Illustrations by Dusica Savic-Benghiat; Published by Serbian Literary Company, Toronto, Canada; 2001; 148 pages.

**"Of Love Earthly and Heavenly"** is a remarkable literary recreation and dazzling psychological reanimation of the

twelve fascinating and enigmatic historical personalities from the highest ranks of medieval Serbian royalty and aristocracy, caught in the intense conflicts and dilemmas of their secular as well as ecclesiastic, dramatic, ecstatic and anguished inner lives and turbulent and destructive storms of their people's tragic history. It is superbly translated into English by the eminent philologist, linguist and poet Kossara M. Gavrilovich, richly illustrated by the acclaimed painter and classical mythologist, Dusica Savic-Benghiat and beautifully produced and published by the Serbian Literary Company of Toronto under the first-rate editorship of Sofia Skoric.

The enviably talented and truly inspired author of this masterpiece of literary historical reconstruction is Viseslav Simic, a brilliant young poet and novelist, whose original and inimitable contribution to Serbian and world literature has already elicited a number of well deserved and superlative critical reviews and tributes, including the *"Dusan Baranin"* award of the Serbian Literary Association (Srpska knjizevna zadruza) for the Best Historical Novel in 2001. As aptly noted by the distinguished Serbian poet, writer, literary critic, and president of the Serbian Writer's Association, Slobodan Rakitic, as much as Simic's stories "speak about our past, and our medieval people, they speak no less about us and our unjoyful present."

Review by: Dr. George Vid Tomashevich; Emeritus Professor of Anthropology; Buffalo State University College

\*\*\*\*\*

Both available for US\$ 25 (shipping & handling)

**"Of Love Earthly and Heavenly"**

Write to: Serbian Literary Company  
2045 Lakeshore Blvd. W., suite 2502  
Toronto M8V 2Z6 Ontario, Canada

**"Zapis Danilovog učenika i druge price"**

Write to: Simic  
P.O. Box 66236  
Washington, D.C. 20035

**ANOTHER SUC MEMBER HONORED BY  
PRESIDENT KOSTUNICA**



Mila Lazarevich-Nolan was born in the United States, and has devoted the majority of her life to Serbian causes and activities that focus on the preservation of Serbian culture and religion. Mila resides in New York with her husband Walter and has been an active member of Serbian Unity Congress for the past ten years, and served as the New York Chapter President.

In the past two years Mila has traveled regularly to Belgrade as the project-coordinator for the Yugoslav Medical Relief project, YMR, (under the auspices of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York), delivering many tons of free medical supplies and equipment to the failing health care system in the former Yugoslavia. Each container is valued at more than a quarter million dollars, yet Mila through her tireless work, resourcefulness and help from the Hellenic Medical Society of New York gets most of the medical supplies donated.

Mila would prefer to spend less time chasing money to pay for the shipping costs, (about \$3,500 to \$4,000) and more time working more closely with hospitals and donors to coordinate the medical needs.

Last year the YMR sent 8 medical containers valued at between 2-3 million dollars. Mila was inspired to undertake this worthwhile project after seeing the conditions at the Mother and Child hospital in Belgrade. Now a regular visitor to hospitals in former Yugoslavia, she observed "Newborns are dying at a rate of 3 times that of the rest of developed Europe for lack of proper health care. Cancer rates are soaring in areas hit hardest by the 1999 bombing. And suicide among the elderly is growing because there is little capacity to deal with complicated geriatric problems."

Healthwise, the people are facing the issue of their very survival. Unfortunately, international aid groups have refocused their attention to other world hot spots in Africa and the Middle East, away from the Balkans. Mila, has point people in Belgrade, but still takes care to supervise much of the activities herself. Her group works closely with the Ministry of Health in Serbia as well as U.S. Ambassador William Montgomery. In March, President Kostunica recognized Lazarevich-Nolan's efforts as coordinator of this project and its need, with a medal of achievement.

**Congratulations Mila!**



## San Francisco Chapter of the Serbian Unity Congress

announces

### **The CIKA JOVA ZMAJ Contest**

for children and youth of the San Francisco Bay Area

## SERBIAN HERITAGE 2003

The "Cika Jova Zmaj" contest was first organized in Vancouver (Canada) in 1999, by the local Serbian Unity Congress chapter, with a goal to include children of Serbian heritage from all over the world. Winners from this year's local contests will participate in the international competition, with the final award ceremony taking place at the Serbian Unity Congress annual Convention, to be held in San Francisco in October of 2003.

The following groups for competition are recognized:

#### **Group 1 ( Preschool- Grade 2) - Fine Arts Contest**

Awards: First prize: \$30, Second prize: \$25, Third prize: \$20,

Topics: Place in Serbia that I like to visit

Person from Serbia dear to me

My favorite Serbian hero

Serbian celebration

#### **Group 2 ( Students Grade 3 -5) - Literary Contest**

Awards: First prize: \$50, Second prize: \$40, Third prize: \$30

Topics: What do I want to tell my school friend about Serbia

The event that I remember while in Serbia or related to Serbia

This proud Serbian name of mine

#### **Group 3 (Students Grade 6- 8) - Literary Contest**

Awards: First prize: \$80, Second prize: \$60, Third prize: \$50

Topics: I always look forward to seeing...(person dear to me from Serbia)

What do I say first about Serbia to my American friends

This proud Serbian name of mine

#### **Group 4 ( Students Grade 9-12) - Literary Contest**

Awards: First prize: \$100, Second prize: \$80, Third prize: \$60

Topics: Life and work of Nikola Tesla, and its influence on me, an American-Serb in US

Comparison of life of people my age here and in Serbia

This proud Serbian name of mine

All entries can be written in either Serbian or English, with a \$25 bonus for all Serbian language entries at each award level. **The contest due date is May 15, 2003.** All entries should be sent to the address below and signed with a code only, and accompanied another sealed envelope containing both the code and the competitor's name, address and telephone number. Send to:

---

Serbian Unity Congress, SF Chapter  
13245 Rhoda Drive, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
Attention: 'CIKA JOVA ZMAJ ' CONTEST

The award ceremony will take place of Jun 1, 2003 in Saratoga. Each participant will receive recognition for participation, book and chocolate at the final ceremony. For more information please call: Maja Milojicic at 650-424-8691, or Jelena Vukicevic at 650-961-5440.

**Part time Assignments Available**  
On Compensation and Voluntary Basis

**Editorial Board** needs monthly assistance in preparation of SUC monthly Bulletin, layout, editing to work with Editorial Board. Content will be provided. Applicants need experience in publishing newsletters, magazines, QuarkXPRESS software. Work to be done by phone and email.

**Development of PR Material** - SUC is developing marketing and PR material and needs assistance. Experience in marketing and PR. Compensation to be determined by individual assignments which can be one-time only or continuing.

**TO REPLY:** Please send your resume to:

Serbian Unity Congress  
P.M.B. 352  
17216 Saticoy St.  
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Or email to:  
members@serbianunity.net

**SUC Bulletin - Printed by the Central Office**  
**Jelena Kolarovich, Director**  
**PMB 352 - 17216 Saticoy Street**  
**Van Nuys, CA 91406**  
**(818) 902-9903 Fax (818) 902-9891**  
**jelena@serbianunity.net**  
**http://www.serbianunity.net**

Some articles provided in this Bulletin do not have the permission of the copyright by owner, but are being offered for comment, criticism, and research under the "fair use" provisions of the federal copyright laws.

The SUC Bulletin is distributed in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, BiH, Brazil, Canada, Montenegro, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Macedonia, Mexico, Norway, Peru, RS, Serbia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela and USA.

#### **CORRECTIONS**

We apologize to our readers for few mistakes that were made in our previous issue of the bulletin.

##### **Ispravka #249**

U vezi sa predlozima Kongresnih rezolucija HR11 i HR28 o "Nezavisnosti Kosova", na inicijativu Vasingtonskog ogranka SUC-a, grupa americkih gradjana srpskog porekla iz Vasingtona poslala je Komitetu za medjunarodne odnose Kongresa protesno pismo kojim se trazi da se te rezolucije odbace. U objavljenom pismu u biltenu SUC-a od 1 aprila potkralo se nazalost nekoliko gresaka-propusta:

- pismo nije poslato samo Chairman-u Komiteta Kongresa, H. Hyde-u vec su kopije direktno odnesene svakom pojedinacnom clanu (ukupno 49) Komiteta za Medjunarodne Odnose;
- svaki clan Komiteta dobio je i cover letter kojim se eksplicitno trazi da se glasa protiv predloga H. Hyde-a;
- osim typo gresaka, neke menjaju smisao: u pretposlednjem paragrafu (odstampanog teksta) stoji "... UN Resolution 1244 can not be fully implemented even after 3-5 years since..." ; treba da stoji: "... after 3.5 years..."
- umesto: "...grant wide authonomy to Kosovo without the framework of new democratic state of Serbia..." treba da pise: "... grant wide authonomy within the framework of new democratic state of Serbia..."
- poslednjem otstampanom paragrafu nedostaje kraj: "... that is oriented towards enetering the European Union."
- poslednji paragraf pisma je izostavljen i on glasi: "The proposed HR11 and HR28 supporting independent Kosovo are unjustified, badly timed and illconecived acts that would lead to short and long-term problems throughout the Balkans."

Correction - #249 p.10

*"Brotherhood and Unity" Revisited by, M. Petrovic*

*Third paragraph, last sentence: "Muslims and Jews were also found unacceptable in the survey, with figures of 40.9% and 34.5% respectively".*