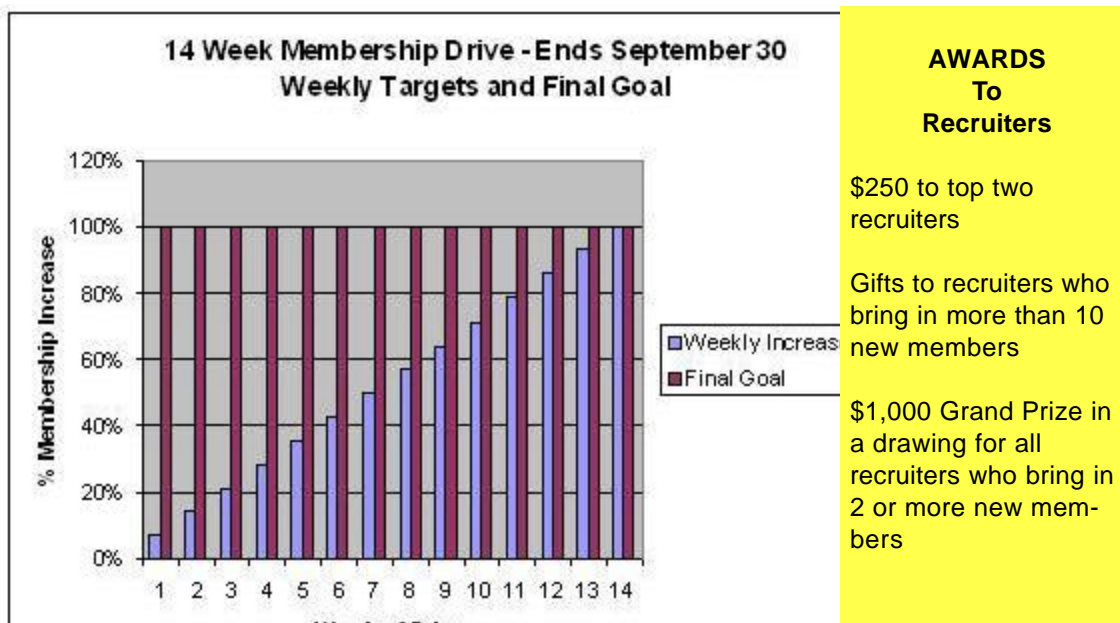


### SUC starts a major membership drive

**GOAL: Enhance the voice of Serbs**  
**Double our membership by September 30th**



#### IN THIS ISSUE

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 2  | From the President     |
| 3  | Washington Office      |
| 4  | Washington News        |
| 5  | Belgrade News          |
| 6  | 14th Annual Convention |
| 7  | Membership Drive       |
| 8  | News                   |
| 9  | Diaspora               |
| 10 | Profile                |
| 11 | Education              |
| 12 | Culture                |

**Next Convention**  
**October 21 - 24, 2004**



See page 6 for more information



Dear Friends,

This May was a very busy month for us in Washington. As you will see from our Washington page, the resolution proposed by Senator Voinovich

"condemning the ethnic violence in Kosovo" passed unanimously in the US Senate. It is worthwhile noting that Senators Biden, Lugar and Lieberman supported this from the very beginning. Very nice, indeed.

However, a virtually identical resolution proposed by Rep. Burton was stalled in the House International Relations Committee, apparently due to some objections raised by Representatives Lantos (CA) and Engel (NY). Both of them belong to the Albanian Issues Caucus in the US Congress. In my letter to many members of Congress on this issue we stressed the following:

*While other foreign policy priorities understandably continue to dominate the headlines, the Kosovo issue remains to be of great relevance for US interests, and in need of a unified and clear response from all levels of the US Government. We invested taxpayers' money, moral authority and prestige, and it's directly related to our nation's ongoing quest for international stability, security and war on terror. At stake are not only priceless cultural gems of Western civilization, but above all core values of civilized conduct that we have undertaken to uphold and protect in this region of the world. Otherwise, in the clear words of former UN Envoy to the Balkans, Carl Bildt, "giving in to violence today would give a powerful incentive to the ethnic cleansers of tomorrow. It is a principle as dangerous in the fight against ethnic violence as it is in the fight against terrorism. It risks betraying everything we have stood and fought for in the region for more than a decade." Or as President Abraham Lincoln once said, "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men."*

Our Washington Office has been extremely busy in presenting relevant information to members of Congress on the destruction carried out in March and our message that they support the resolution and the guiding principle of Standards Before Status adopted by the international community for Kosovo. Andy and Ivana continue to increase our contacts with members of government, think tanks and the Serbian community.

Our members have been informed and have become activated on this issue. SUC members in the districts of the Congressional representatives on the Subcommittee on Europe have been calling and mailing their messages to their representatives. We are being heard and our plan is that we will continue to be heard more effectively and more frequently. Our presence in Washington has become indispensable in our ability to protect the interests of our community here and in the homeland. By raising awareness of the Kosovo issue

among members of Congress we are allowing them to assess the merits of this resolution, and the rights of Serbs in general. Greater understanding of the reality on the ground is already gaining a growing support in Congress.

It is critical for our membership to continue to urge their representatives to get acquainted with the endangered situation of Serbs in Kosovo and support efforts to protect them and other minorities there. We believe it is in the American national interest to support peace and stability in the Balkans.

In addition to these efforts, we are also working on ways to help people in Serbia in more concrete ways. Our fundraiser for Kosovo efforts of the BLAGO Fund is in full swing. If you want to donate, please do so now. By supporting our efforts in monasteries Sokolica and Decani, we will be able to save and promote our heritage not only throughout Serbian lands, but also worldwide. Concurrently, the BLAGO Fund recently announced the completion of the project of archiving Monastery Gracanica. Please visit our BLAGO web site for more information.

As our cultural heritage plays an important role in development of the Diaspora, I need to acknowledge a special effort by the Vancouver and San Francisco chapters. For several years, the "Cika Jova Zmaj" literary award for our youngsters is being organized with a full support from the local communities. We can only hope that this example will be accepted in other chapters across US and Canada.

Those who participated in our convention in San Francisco last fall, probably remember the delightful young folk dancers from San Diego. Led by our IAB member, Ljiljana Pantovich, the group gave a spirited performance of a variety of Serbian dances. I was pleased to learn that this June, they will be traveling to Serbia to participate at a folk dancing competition. Good luck to them. Being there is a great success for Disapora.

Finally, if you are near Chicago or Washington, and have registered for voting abroad in the upcoming Serbian presidential elections, please do so - acquaint yourself with the candidates, and follow further instructions for the day of elections. Either way, this represents a remarkable achievement of the Diaspora, and a good start that promises to be improved over time.

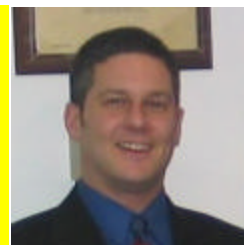
Nenad Vukicevic  
President





## The Serbian Unity Congress Washington Office

As we are becoming more integrated into various Washington government and institutional activities we are able to help our membership to exercise their constituent rights to be heard.



### Representing Serbs in Washington

In May we informed you about the status of two resolutions (Senate Res. 326 and House Res. 596) that condemn the March violence that was orchestrated by the Kosovo Albanians against Serbs and non-Albanian minorities. We are pleased that the Senate Resolution was passed. This means that the Senate sends a strong condemnation of Albanian violence against the Serbs without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. However, an exact resolution in the House is still sitting in the Europe Sub-committee.

The SUC has recently joined a working group with the Senate Conference on Religious Liberty. The first meetings were hosted by Senator Santorum (Pennsylvania) to create a new forum in which Serbs can present information on the religious persecution of Serbs by Kosovo Albanians.

### Changing The Mood in Washington

The recently appointed Foreign Minister of Serbia & Montenegro Vuk Draskovic arrived to Washington on an invitation by the Secretary of State, Collin Powell. Following the successful talks at the State Department, we accompanied the Serbian Foreign Minister at a press conference and during discussions at the Woodrow Wilson Center. The Foreign Minister Draskovic emphasized the importance of maintaining close and friendly ties to the United States—a bond that was formed by fighting side by side in two World Wars and through the rescue of hundreds of US pilots on Serbian territory during World War II. He noted that

it was Serbia's "historical destiny" to join the United States and the global alliance against terrorism. Before leaving Washington for talks at the UN, Minister Draskovic was received by Senators Chuck Hagel (Nebraska), Richard G. Lugar (Indiana) and Congressman Chris Smith (New Jersey).

The SUC Washington office was also invited to the swearing in ceremony of the new U.S. Ambassador Michael Polt to Serbia & Montenegro. Following the swearing in by Secretary Powell, the new Ambassador stressed to the SUC that the Diaspora must play an important and increasing role in Serbia & Montenegro's transition.

### Mobilizing a Serb Response

In order to strengthen our voice in Washington, the SUC mobilized its members residing in the Congressional districts of the House Europe Subcommittee in regards to the House Resolution 596. The message sent to the Subcommittee members is powerful and we will continue to report these efforts. The SUC strongly believes it will be you the members that will be key to the success in defending issues on Capitol Hill, and the SUC will continue mobilizing its membership base for other issues in the future.

In addition to the Kosovo issue, the SUC is monitoring the Albanian Unitas organization activities in Montenegro and the rights of ethnic Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia - Herzegovina. We will keep you informed!

Andy Verich, Washington Director

### INTERVJUI I RAZGOVORI: Voice of America

Endru Veric o Kosovu i americko-srpskim odnosima, Branko Mikašinovic, 04 May 2004, 20:15 UTC

**E.V.:** Zbog rata u Iraku i rata protiv terorizma, Kosovo sada ne zauzima istaknuto mesto na politickoj bini Vašingtona. Medjutim, Kongres srpskog jedinstva se postojano zalaže za srpsku stvar i nastoji da koliko toliko održi pažnju Kapitol hila o tom pitanju. Kao organizacija koja ima svoje predstavništvo u Vašingtonu, mi pomažemo srpskim delegacijama pri posetama SAD, uključujući, recimo, nedavnu posetu vladike Artemije. Kroz posete srpskih delegacija i razgovore sa zakonodavcima u Kongresu, mi smo uspeali da dobijemo informacije kojih Beograd nije bio ni svestan u odnosu na nedavne događaje na Kosovu. Mi smo, između ostalog, uspeli da uticemo i na formulisanje rezolucije 326 o Kosovu, kojom se osudjuje nasilje protiv Srba i ne albanskih manjina u toj pokrajini.

**B.M.:** Kakvo je sadašnje raspoloženje u Vašingtonu, posebno u Kongresu, u odnosu na Srbiju i Crnu Goru?

**E.V.:** Raspoloženje se promenilo i ono je povoljnije. Pocetkom 1990-tih uglavnom se bacala krivica na Srbe zbog problema u bivšoj Jugoslaviji. Medjutim, sada se po prvi put, na primer, u rezoluciji 326 Srbi tretiraju kao žrtve, a ne kao agresori, što je svojevrsan presedan kako u Senatu, tako i u Predsednickom domu. Pored toga, americki politicki establišment je uocio nedostatke u aktivnostima svetske zajednice u toj pokrajini, posebno u odnosu na rad UNMIK-

a. Nasilje na Kosovu je u velikoj meri doprinelo ovom zaokretu americkice politike.

**B.M.:** Kakva je vaša procena sadašnjih odnosa između SAD i Srbije i Crne Gore?

**E.V.:** Americka spoljna politika je slicna kretanju velikog morskog broda -- spora je ali dostiže. Odnosi između SAD i Jugoslavije 19990-tih nisu bili najbolji. Ti odnosi su se sada promenili iz nekoliko razloga: prvo--teroristicki napadi na SAD, 11 septembra 2001, godine su promenili globalni kurs americkice spoljne politike, pa i u odnosu na Balkan. Svedoci smo novonastale vojne saradnje između SAD i Srbije i Crne na najvišem nivou. Visoki srpski vojni funkcioneri, a i državni i verski zvanicnici, dolaze u posetu Vašingtonu, dok se u okviru programa "Partnerstvo za mir" obucavaju oficiri nižeg ranga u americkim vojnim akademijama. Vojna saradnja, na primer, doprinosi i daleko tešnjim bilateralnim odnosima između Srbije i Crne Gore i SAD. Pored toga, očekujem unapredjenje ekonomskih odnosa između dve zemlje. Brojne americkice firme koje su ušle na tržište bivšeg Sovjetskog Saveza i drugih istočnoevropskih zemalja pripremaju se za ulazak na tržišta Srbije i Crne Gore, pošto uocavaju mogućnosti za dobre ekonomske i poslovne aktivnosti od obostranog interesa.



**May Events in Washington**  
**Reflecting an increasing focus on Serbia and Montenegro with SUC involved**

**EVENTS ON CAPITOL HILL**

**Minister Vuk Draskovic**

*Press Conference on Capitol Hill (Voice of America), and Discussions at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, Washington, DC. (www.voanews.com)*

**May 10** - Vuk Draskovic, Foreign Minister of Serbia and Montenegro discussed the future of relations with the United States and the ongoing events in Serbia and Montenegro. Draskovic emphasized that Serbia - American relations go back to the last two World Wars, and that Serbia is also a willing U.S. ally in the War Against Terror. Draskovic also stressed the need for Serbia's integration into NATO's Partnership for Peace and eventually, NATO itself. Draskovic also noted Serbia's strong historical ties with Russia and thanked Russia for its immediate help to Serb refugees in Kosovo following the March violence.

**Swearing in of Ambassador Polt**

**May 13** - Secretary of State Colin Powell swore in the new Ambassador to Serbia & Montenegro Michael Polt at the State Department. Amongst the guests were members of the State Department, Ambassador Ivan Vujacic (Serbia & Montenegro) and the SUC Washington office. In addition to the growing partnership between Serbia & Montenegro with the United States, Secretary Powell stated that the U.S. has emerged as the largest investor within Serbia and will continue to develop economic ties between the two countries. In addition to building a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous future, Powell commented, "President Bush and I join the citizens of Serbia and Montenegro in anticipation of the day when their country is fully integrated into the Euro-Atlantic community and the circle of democratic nations."

**Senate Conference on "Religious Liberty"**

**May 20** - The first meetings were hosted by Senator Santorum (PA) who invited the SUC and other representatives of various religious groups. During the discussions, Senator Santorum announced that various U.S. Senators will adopt various countries or regions as their own project to examine the persecution of its religious minorities. At present, Senator Brownback has expressed interest in Kosovo and the persecution of the Serbian Orthodox. This new forum will allow the Serbs to present their side of religious persecution by the Albanian Kosovo leadership in Kosovo and elsewhere.

*The Senate Conference is made up of 51 Senate Republicans and its mission is to inform its members and the media the opinions and policies of Senate Republicans. Senator Santorum chairs this conference and is focused on religious liberty. Following the March attacks in Kosovo against Serbian Orthodox Church, and following the meetings held with the SUC and His Grace Bishop Artemije, the Senate Conference seek to end such persecution and to hold the perpetrators accountable.*

**WASHINGTON FORUMS**

**at the Woodrow Wilson International Center**

*The Woodrow Wilson International Center is a nonpartisan institution, engaged in the study of national and world affairs. It provides neutral forums for dialogue in which the SUC and Embassy of Serbia & Montenegro periodically participate in order to convey a Serbian view and establish contacts among scholars, policymakers, journalists and business leaders. May forums are cited below. For more information visit their website: [www.icg.org](http://www.icg.org)*

**The Return to Power of Nationalist Parties in Croatia and Serbia: What Does it Mean?**

**May 12** - Mieczyslaw Boduszynski, Lecturer, University of San Diego presented a case that Croatia and Serbia are the largest and most important of the successor states of Yugoslavia and that developments there are crucial to the stability of the entire Balkan region. He stressed that both Croatia and Serbia held key national elections and both saw the return to power of coalitions dominated by nationalist parties. He defined nationalist parties as how anti-western they are. However, our Washington Office and local SUC chapter members and representatives of the Serbia & Montenegro Embassy countered this debate with arguments disputing that Serbia's government is anti-western. Mr. Boduszynski acknowledged the efforts of the Kostunica government and criticized Croatia for its failures to allow Serb returnees back to Kraijina.

**Congress and U.S. Military Interventions**

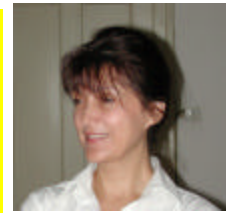
**May 17** - David Abramowitz, Democratic Chief Counsel, House International Relations Committee, and various scholars on Congress and foreign relations presented cases for intervention in Kosovo. The SUC discussed with Mr. Abramowitz the lack of success and current disaster of the 1999 intervention in Kosovo. We explained that the impact on the Serb population and relations with the United States if the House International Relations Committee remains silent on condemnation of the Albanian violence against Serbs during the March program would have consequences. This would send a message that the Albanians can achieve their goals through violence and appear to the Serbs that the International community is only one-sided.

**"Kosovo & Serbia: What Now?"**

**May 20** -The United States Institute of Peace held discussions on the causes of violence in Kosovo and its future. Members of the International Crisis Group, presented their arguments to the SUC, Serbia & Montenegro Embassy, journalists and to the State Department. The explanation for the violence was Albanian frustration over the status of Kosovo. The Serbia & Montenegro Embassy pointed out that security is essential in Kosovo and not independence.



## The SUC Belgrade Office continues to work to increase Diaspora participation in the homeland



### Serbian Unity Congress and Presidential Elections In Diaspora

Only 10 020 Serbian citizens from 58 countries in Diaspora applied for the upcoming presidential elections in Serbia. The estimated number of Serbs in Diaspora is between 2 and 4 millions.

Journalists from almost every media were calling the Serbian Unity Congress Belgrade Office during the month of May to find out SUC's perspective on the low Diaspora voter registration. Ms. Slavka Draskovic, the Director of Serbian Unity Congress Belgrade Office, gave interviews to approximately 30 TV stations through out Serbia and Republika Srpska, as well as newspapers, Politika, Danas, Glas javnosti and participated in many polls and discussions in Serbia.

Our Director stated that the Diaspora is thankful for the opportunity to vote, othat interest is huge, and that the small number of voters is a consequence of certain technical shortcomings. Amendments to improve the election law are necessary in order to allow voting by mail. Since the election law provides for voting only in the diplomatic and consular offices, most of Diaspora is unable to exercise its voting rights because they live outside of cities where diplomatic and consular offices are located. Also contributing to the low registration is the poor information campaign by our diplomatic and consular offices, mostly due to lack of funds. Finally, and perhaps the main reason lies in the fact that less than 10 percent of Diaspora has a Serbian citizenship and is eligible to vote. Accordingly, a higher participation could be achieved by simplifying the procedure to obtain Serbian citizenship.

### Citizenship & Military Duty Exemption

The Serbian Unity Congress works closely with various Ministries in Serbia, regarding different issues, the closest and most frequent being with the Ministry of Diaspora. The newly established Ministry strives to implement certain activities in which SUC cooperated and contributed. They include:

As a first official act of the Ministry's, Minister Vukcevic, submitted to the Parliament a draft of the Citizenship Act, which should simplify the procedure for Diaspora to obtain citizenship.

Another cooperative project was the proposed change to the Military Duty Act that would allow an exemption for military duty for Diaspora (a suggestion by Ms. Sofija Skoric, the Vice President of SUC). It would allow for both the voluntary service and an option to buy out the term of duty by making a payment to the Military's modernization fund. The buy out amount currently discussed is somewhere between 5 to 10 thousand euros. Journalists participating in the public debate regarding the proposed change consulted frequently the SUC Belgrade Office on the issues.

### Science, Technology, And Sport

The SUC Belgrade Office and the Ministry of Education and Sport continued their coordinated efforts to bring the team from Serbia and Montenegro to the Children Olympics in Cleveland, Ohio. Everything is proceeding according to schedule; our young basketball players and their coach are all set for the Cleveland dialy "Plain Dealer", its CEI Mr. Maceski, and the Olympic Committee to take over in New York City. It is due to Mr. Maceski's efforts that this wonderful event is taking place.

### Business Networking Through SUC

As part of the sponsorship program, started last year, the Belgrade Office of the Serbian Unity Congress started a number of marketing efforts during this year. Beginning February, we are using marketing efforts to promote activities of the Serbian Unity Congress, to attract donors from Serbia among those who understand the importance of Serbian Unity Congress and what we do.

The project is designed only for recognized and reliable companies in their respective industries. We gave the opportunity to those companies to advertise on our Bulletin and our web site.

The Marketing Manager of Serbian Unity Congress Office in Belgarde, Jelena Zdravkovic, contacted over 50 companies during February. There was an immediate response by the majority of those cotacted expressing their willingness to cooperate.

We are pleased to have received the endorsement letters from last year donors OMNI STOCK and ZEPTEK BANK. WESTERN UNION is also interested to continue cooperation. We are looking forward to having a sucessful sponsorship program in 2004.

# 14th Annual Convention Of Serbian Unity Congress

October 21 - 24, 2004

Washington, D.C.



**Washington Marriott**  
 1221 22nd Street NW  
 Washington, DC, 20037, USA  
 Phone: 1 202-872-1500 Fax: 1 202-872-1424  
 International Toll-Free: 1-800-228-9290



## A new Feature: Serb Day in Congress

This year we are introducing a new feature to the convention to build on the presence and success of our Washington Office and enable our members to visit their Congressmen and women on Capitol Hill - Serb Day in Congress.

As October will be a very busy month for our politicians due to the upcoming November elections, most representatives will be in their districts by each Friday. In order to be able to meet our representatives in Washington, we are scheduling the Serb Day in Congress for Thursday, October 21st. The morning will start with a Congressional Breakfast, followed by visits to your representatives' offices during the day.

### CONVENTION PROGRAM

|                        |                             |   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Thursday<br>October 21 | <b>Serb Day in Congress</b> | Congressional Breakfast<br>Congressional Visits   |
| Friday<br>October 22   | <b>Economic Forum</b>       | General Session<br>Lunch with special speakers (\$75)   |
|                        | <b>Cultural Evening</b>     | Dinner and Exclusive Kosovo<br>Cultural Heritage program (\$85)   |
| Saturday<br>October 23 | <b>General Session</b>      | Morning: Special speakers/panels<br>Lunch with special speaker (\$55)<br>Afternoon: Special speakers/panels |
|                        | <b>Gala Banquet</b>         | Dinner, Keynote Speaker<br>Entertainment (\$125)  |
| Sunday<br>October 24   | <b>General Session</b>      | SUC Business<br>Noon - close of business  |

*Reserve your hotel rooms before September 30th to receive discounted rate for the Serbian Unity Congress' convention: \$119 (+ tax 14.5%) per night.*

#### October 2004

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1  | 2  |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## Register now! (818) 902-9903

**Special Delegate Registration - \$275** - Full General Session, Friday Dinner Program, Saturday Lunch and Saturday Gala Banquet, Delegate Convention package.

Become a **SPONSOR** of this convention or **ADVERTISE** in the the convention commemorative book. Increase the visibility of your family name and/or business. For additional information, please call (818) 902-9903

## Serbian Unity Congress Launches Membership Drive

The Serbian Unity Congress is starting a membership drive which will last until September. Over the last year our work has become ever more focused and the results have been wonderful. Most notably, since we fully activated our Washington Office, both the legislative and executive branches of our government in Washington are asking the Serbian Unity Congress for our ideas and for our greater involvement. On the cultural side, our electronic archiving of the greatest Serbian cultural/religious treasures

including Gracanica and Decani monasteries in Kosovo have given the world a permanent record (superior to anything available to date) of Serb history in our historic lands. The work of our Belgrade office in promoting the rights of Diaspora have been directly responsible for the establishment of the Ministry for Diaspora and the most recent Diaspora participation in Serbia's presidential elections

### Rising to the Challenge

In promoting the human rights of Serbs we have risen to the challenge. We are activating our membership through our Bulletin, our web site and direct communication with our Washington Office. We have been able to inform our members about events in Washington that affect us and our people and allow you, our members, to talk to your representatives in an informed, focused way about what we want, what needs to be done for peace and stabil-

ity in the Balkans and for the good of our people because the two are one and the same.

Informed about violence against Serbs and other minorities in Kosovo in March, our members in specific congressional districts called, faxed, emailed and met with their congressional representatives and staff to ask their support for the protection of human rights of minorities in Kosovo.

### Ensuring Continued Success with a Membership Drive

The benefits of our presence in Washington to the future interests of our people are immeasurable. Our voice has been heard and it needs to be heard in greater numbers. We must expand this work and we must increase our membership and involve more caring Serbs in this effort. Increasing our effectiveness through our Washington Office means increasing our operating costs. This month we are starting a membership drive, which will last until September 31st. A more detailed letter enclosed with this

Bulletin explains the drive and provides a form for you to fill in and participate in the drive. The success of this drive and of Serbs' ability to be successful in promoting the rights of our people in all the areas of the former Yugoslavia depends on our readiness to help both with our voices and our financial contributions. We are hoping to achieve the three major goals below with this drive. An awards program (see below) is now underway.

### GOALS OF THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**Double our Membership by September.** Each of us can bring in at least one extra member. This is easy. You can gift a membership or simply talk to your friends, show them our Bulletin, tell them to see our website, [www.serbianunity.net](http://www.serbianunity.net) and encourage them to join.

**Update our Membership Data Base** We need everyone's current information. Much of our phone and fax data is out of date and we do not have emails for most members.

**Increase our Funds** We are appealing to all members to consider donating what you can in one sum or a monthly sum of \$10 or more. We hope that our members keep in mind the generosity of our adversaries in supporting their goals of maintaining a negative image of the Serbs who contribute much, much more.

### AWARDS To Top Recruiters of New Members

Special awards will be given to members who bring in the most new members. Both new memberships that are gifted and those paid by new members as a result of recruitment count. (Those whose memberships expire during June - October of this year will not qualify as new members.) Awards will be announced October 23 at the Convention Gala Banquet in Washington, DC.

**\$250 Cash Award**

**Other gifts**

**\$1,000 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING!**

**To each of top two recruiters**

**Recruiters of 10 or more new members**

**All recruiters of 2 or more new members will be entered into the drawing**

## Presidential results force runoff election in Serbia-Montenegro

Misha Savic, Associated Press

BELGRADE, SERBIA-MONTENEGRO, June 14-- A nationalist supporter of ousted President Slobodan Milosevic got the most votes but not enough for a majority Sunday in Serbia's presidential election, forcing a runoff against a pro-Western reformist candidate in two weeks.

Tomislav Nikolic of the ultranationalist Serbian Radical Party got 31.62 percent of votes cast, ahead of Boris Tadic of the Democratic Party with 27.93 percent, according to official projections from Serbia's State Election Commission.

None of the contenders got more than the 50 percent required for immediate victory, the commission said after processing data from what it called a "reliable sample" of 10 percent of all ballots.

Nikolic, who has pledged to stop extradition of Serbs to the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, said he was confident he would end up victorious.

"I am going to win," he said. "Tadic can't possibly garner any more votes, and I will be the president."

The runoff, to be held June 27, could go Tadic's way if at least some of the remaining contenders -- 15 took part in Sunday's race -- endorse him and help the Balkan republic's proclaimed aim of joining the European Union.

### TURNOUT - 19:00

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Central Serbia withouth Belgrade | 39,5 %        |
| Belgrade                         | 44,5 %        |
| Vojvodina                        | 46,7 %        |
| Kosovo                           | 31,6 %        |
| <b>Total Serbia</b>              | <b>42,3 %</b> |

"These are crucial times for Serbia," said Tadic. He urged "all pro-democracy groups" to support him in the runoff.

Sunday's balloting was Serbia's fourth attempt to elect the head of state since 2002. Previous elections failed because less than half of those eligible cast ballots. That requirement has been dropped. The election commission estimated Sunday's turnout at 46 percent.

### Election Results Estimation

|                              |                 | Serbia total     |             |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
|                              |                 | votes            | %           |
| <b>Voters</b>                |                 | <b>6,532,263</b> |             |
| <b>Turnout</b>               |                 | <b>3,117,339</b> | <b>47.7</b> |
| <b>invalid ballot papers</b> |                 | <b>37,472</b>    | <b>1.2</b>  |
| <b>valid ballot papers</b>   |                 | <b>3,079,393</b> | <b>98.8</b> |
| 1                            | Lj. Arandelovic | 10,246           | 0.3         |
| 2                            | V. Batic        | 16,338           | 0.5         |
| 3                            | I. Dacic        | 112,405          | 3.6         |
| 4                            | M. Drecun       | 17,414           | 0.6         |
| 5                            | D. Dordevic     | 5,193            | 0.2         |
| 6                            | B. Ivkovic      | 12,672           | 0.4         |
| 7                            | M. Jovic        | 4,288            | 0.1         |
| 8                            | J. Karadordevic | 63,991           | 2.1         |
| 9                            | B. Karic        | 602,342          | 19.3        |
| 10                           | D. Marsicanin   | 413,935          | 13.3        |
| 11                           | Z. Milinkovic   | 5,030            | 0.2         |
| 12                           | T. Nikolic      | 939,695          | 30.1        |
| 13                           | B. Pelevic      | 13,878           | 0.4         |
| 14                           | M. Risticovic   | 9,513            | 0.3         |
| 15                           | B. Tadic        | 852,230          | 27.3        |



SUC Bulletin - Editor: Mirjana Samardzija

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 & Montenegro, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela and USA.

## DIASPORA VOTER REGISTRATION

Only 10 020 Serbian citizens from 58 countries in Diaspora applied for the upcoming presidential elections in Serbia. Voting polls will be open only in places where at least 100 voters have registered. Consequently, 30 voting polls in 18 countries will be open. Approximately 8500 voters will vote in Diaspora on June 12th or 13th, depending on time zone.

Citizens of Serbia will vote for President in Austria, Australia, Macedonia, U.S., Canada, Italy, France, Germany, U.K., Russia, Belgium, Netherlands, Libya, Kuwait, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Greece, and Switzerland. In the remaining 40 countries where citizens of Serbia live, less than 100 people registered. The estimated number of Serbs in Diaspora is between 2 and 4 millions.

### Diaspora Transfers Important For The Serbian Economy

At the recent conference on "Migration and Development - Cooperation with Diaspora as a New Road to International Development", Mr. Radovan Jelasic, the Governor of the National Bank of Serbia, announced that Diaspora transfers represent only 6.6 percent less than total value of Serbia exports. There are 3.5 million people with Serb origin living abroad, while 1.5 million of these have Serbian citizenship. According to the official data of the Belgrade government, 400 000 people are temporarily employed abroad. Individual Diaspora transfers have a key role in the Serbian economy and last year alone those transfers amounted to \$2.74 billion.

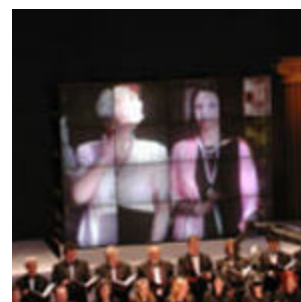
Mr. Jelasic stated that \$910 million reached Serbia through formal channels last year, of which \$780 million came through foreign banks and \$130 million through Western Union (which operates in 190 states). The majority of Diaspora favors "informal ways of sending money to Serbia" as giving the money to their friends and cousins, bus drivers that are operating the lines to Serbia or employees of tourist agencies that organize travels to Serbia. The Governor pointed out that there are whole regions in Serbia

that depend on foreign transfers, which reduce poverty in these regions. Also, the Governor stated that the money from Diaspora is a significant source of investment, especially in the very important sector of small and middle companies.

The organizer of the Conference, GTZ, a German organization for technical cooperation, together with German government, is financing and implementing development and reconstruction projects in countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

### Sofija Skoric, SUC VP, Receives Award For Helping Establish Ministry of Diaspora

Sofija Skoric, the Vice President of Serbian Unity Congress, received an award for her efforts in establishing the Ministry of Diaspora. The award was received at the 2004 Braca Karic Foundation Award ceremony recognizing individuals for their contribution to building of peace, humanitarian activities, cooperation and friendship between nations. The award ceremony was held on May 24th at the National Theater in Belgrade. The newly formed Ministry of Diaspora nominated Ms. Skoric for this award.



This year, awards were also granted to: Mr. Emir Kusturica for achievements in arts and culture, Ms. Sanda Raskovic for humanitarian activities, building of peace, cooperation and friendship (a shared award with Ms. Skoric), Mr. Jugoslav Vlahovic for media, Mr. Vasilije Krestic, a member of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences, for research and development, and Mr. Radisa Vuckovic for economy and agriculture.

The Braca Karic Foundation Award program was started in 1998. Some of the previously awarded include: Patriarch Pavle, Danilo Bata Stojkovic, Jovan Cirilov, Peter Handke, Bojana Lekic, Branko Tujanjac, Zivojin and Vojin Djordjevic, and Ljubivoje Ljuba Tadic.

## One Year Anniversary of the Loss of Our Friend Mile Perisic



On the occasion of the first anniversary of the passing away of a greatest friend to the Serbian Unity Congress and Diaspora as a whole, Miodrag Perisic and the posthumous publication of a book of his essays "The Angel of History and Daily Works", the Zvezdara Theater organized a gathering in his memory.

Presenting their comments were Serbia's great playwright Dusan Kovacevic, and poet Matija Beckovic. Academic Dragoslav Mihailovic and poet Borislav Radovic discussed the new book. Many warm reflections were shared of Mile's friendships and the everlasting impact Mile the writer, publisher, literary critic left on the field of literature and his legacy as an incorruptible co-founder of the Democratic Party, a representative to Parliament and ambassador to Canada.

Mile's family -- wife Zaneta, daughters Milena and Danica -- and many friends in all fields came together to commemorate a great man and friend. SUC representatives joined Mile's friends to share in the memories.

## SUC Children Carry on the SUC Tradition Aleksandra Odzakovic (Sasa)

When fourteen year old Milanka Ristic from Lipljani, Kosovo heard that Serbian- American children want to write to them because they are interested in learning about their lives, she started to cry. She said " It is so nice, they remember us, they are so busy, and yet they remember that we are here!" These words have taken on an even more important and urgent meaning after the horrible events of March 17,18 when Albanian hordes went on a rampage to destroy everything that has any meaning to Serbs.

After the events of March Aleksandra Odzakovic (Sasa) became even more determined to expand SCUP (Serbian Children Unity Program) and enlist even more children to become involved. Sasa is thirteen years old, was born in America, and although she speaks Serbian fluently, she cannot read or write the language of her ancestors. Sasa's mom is Edita Kronic, Vice President of SUC, and has encouraged both Sasa and her sister Teodora to learn about their Serbian heritage since they were very young.

The SCUP idea came about when one of Sasa's teachers, a US army officer in the reserves, who had been stationed in Kosovo, organized an after school activity at the Bridgewater Middle School, in Bridgewater, New Jersey where Sasa, attends 8th grade. The officer invited kids to join a Pen Pal Club, as a part of the National Program sponsored by the variety of divisions of the USA army positioned in Kosovo. The original intention of this club was to initiate friendships and student exchange programs between American students and the unfortunate children of Kosovo and Metohija. According to this teacher, the objective of the program was "...to create understanding about Kosovo and spread the word of equality among people." Sasa attended the first meeting, thinking that this was a great idea. She had heard much at home about Kosovo but wanted to know more and liked the idea of having a pen pal friend there. But when the list of names was handed out, she realized that amongst more than seventy participants from Kosovo, none had a Serbian sounding name. All were Albanian kids. When Sasa asked why Serbian children were not included in the program, the officer-teacher responded that their troop came into contact only with the Albanian population and that he never even met a Serb while in Kosovo. She could not understand how equality or justice could be promoted if you are representing and supporting only one side of the population while ignoring the other. Sasa was not satisfied with this unfairness and one-sided approach of the program. After discussing this with her parents and other teachers in the school, she decided to initiate a similar one program, which would focus on the forgotten Serbian children of the Kosovo.

SCUP is a children's program, which is completely run and organized by Sasa and her peers. The initial goal of SCUP is to set up a letter-writing exchange between Serbian American and Serbian kids from Kosovo, which will allow the kids to learn about each other's lives and form lasting friendships. This summer they also intend to organize a back yard fundraiser where they will collect money to buy computers for the schools.

The idea quickly gained momentum when Serbian Unity Congress decided to support SCUP as one of its programs. With help of a teacher in Lipljani, a priest of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and one doctor working in Kosovo, several schools were contacted and quickly over 100 kids from Kosovo, mainly from Lipljani, Gracanica and Gorazdovac, signed up for the program. The kids ranging from ages 8 to 16 were very excited about the program and were impatient to participate. They were touched that they are remembered and that they will now have new friends in the far off America.

Currently over sixty kids from USA have registered for the program. First letters from kids in New Jersey and California were delivered on March 20 to Fr. Radivoje Panic who has already hand delivered the letters to the kids in Kosovo.

Sasa's goal is to have all 100 kids from Kosovo matched up with Serbian American kids by the end of the school year in June. Before the program can be enlarged to other schools in Kosovo, it is necessary that Serbian children from United States take an initiative and join. Children from Kosovo are anxiously awaiting their letters.

To become a member of SCUP program, send questions or suggestions, please use e-mail address: [SerbCup@aol.com](mailto:SerbCup@aol.com) or get more information from [www.suc.org](http://www.suc.org).



## Saratoga Chapter Celebrates 200 Winners of CIKA JOVA ZMAJ Literary Competition



*Visnja Milojevic receiving an award from Radmilo Bozinovic*

On May 16, at St. Archangel Micheal's Serbian Orthodox Church in Saratoga, California, the SUC San Francisco chapter announced 10 winners in the annual Cika Jova-Zmaj Children's Literary Contest for the SF Bay Area.

For the second year in a row, participants submitted works in five age groups, covering topics designed to promote Serbian language skills along with heritage awareness. Prizes reflected the same philosophy, and were graciously sponsored by members Vladeta and Snezana Marjanovic of Pleasanton. The contest was initiated a couple of years ago by the SUC Vancouver chapter with the intent of stimulating local winners to further compete on a national level, with the SF

chapter being first to follow their lead. We hope the trend continues!

The winners of the 2004 Saratoga competition are: Mirko Macura, Stefan Milosavljevic, Tamara Pantic, Filip Bozinovic, Katarina Milosavljevic, Stefan Vukicevic, Sonja Gajic, Milena Milojevic, Visnja Milojevic



## Books Donated to University of Berkeley

San Francisco Chapter members, Desa Wakeman and Jasmina Vujic, donated as Board members of the American Serbian Women's Caucus, made a very special donation of books to University of California at Berkeley, UCB. They met in May with the Executive Director of the Berkeley Program in Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEES), Barbara Voytek to present their donation of a number of scholarly books. The books cover subjects including the Balkans, the region's Byzantine and Ottoman heritage, as well as some contemporary academic analyses of current

events. These books are now available for viewing at ISEES (260 Stephens Hall) and include *The Sacred Land: Art of Kosovo* (Gojko Subotic) and *Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557)* which is the catalogue of the ongoing exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

These books are being kept at the Institute for the time being and can be studied there if you contact Barbara Voytek in advance (bvoytek@socrates.berkeley.edu) (510) 643-6736.

## Vlade Divac and IOCC Connect Kids in Serbia and Bosnia

*IOCC News* - In a new project, the Vlade Divac Group 7 Children's Foundation and IOCC are working to connect young people in Serbia-Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina through computers, helping them relate to one another after a decade of war.

The "Connected Kids" project will promote computers and computer literacy as a way to improve the quality of education in Serbian and Bosnian schools, create opportunities for adult education, and foster inter-ethnic understanding between Serbian and Bosnian students.

A \$230,000 project, "Connected Kids" will establish computer centers in 16 rural and suburban schools (eight in Serbia and eight in Bosnia); provide basic computer training and classroom support to 160 teachers and 800 students; and connect youth across Serbia and Bosnia through interactive, Web-based curricula. IOCC will establish a joint Web site for participating schools from Serbia and Bosnia, through which students will be able to share information across borders.

## Pupin Bust Unveiled at Columbia University, New York

By Jasmina Vujic

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Michael Idvorsky Pupin (Mihailo Pupin, 1854 - 1935) - the great Serbian-American, scientist, scholar and inventor, the Columbia University Physics Department unveiled the Pupin Bust on May 21, 2004, at the Pupin Physics Laboratories. The bust is the work of the world famous sculptor Ivan Mestrovic. Inscription on the bust reads: "To my friend Pupin from Mestrovic". The Pupin bust unveiling is a part of a year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of Columbia University. Another bust of Michael Pupin, the work of the renewed Serbian sculptor Drinka Radovanovic, that was presented to Columbia University in 2002 by Dr. Vojislav Kostunica, Yugoslav President, will be unveiled in the fall 2004 at the Engineering School at Columbia University.

The bust was Mestrovic's gift to Pupin. After Pupin's death in 1935, the bust was placed in the library of the Pupin Physics Laboratories, where it stayed almost hidden for 70 years. When Dr. Ljubo Vujovic visited the Pupin Physics Laboratory in March 2004, Lalla Grimes, administrative coordinator in the Physics Department, showed the bust to Dr. Vujovic and both instantly decided that the bust should be placed in the hall of the main entrance to the Pupin Physics Department to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Pupin's birth.

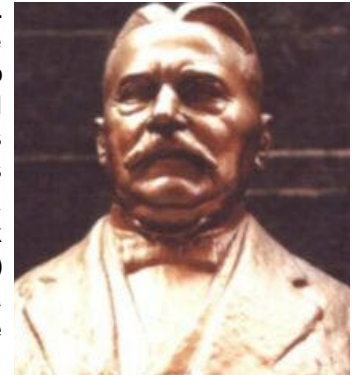
The celebration was attended by many guests: Roksanda Ninic (Serbia and Montenegro Mission to the U.N.), Irena Zubicevic (Croatian Mission to the U.N.), Zdenka Kardum, Consul General of Croatia in New York,



*Masters of the ceremony - Lalla R. Grimes, Administrative Coordinator Columbia Physics Department and Dr. Ljubo Vujovic, General Secretary Tesla Memorial Society of New York*

Milos Prica (Bosnia and Herzegovina Mission to the U.N.), a large number of professors and students from Columbia University, including Prof. Radmila Gorup and Prof. Lila Kalinic, members from the Serbian community in New York, as well as representatives of the Serbian Orthodox Church - V.Rev. Father Predrag Micic and Father Djokan Majstorovic. The masters of the ceremony were Lalla

Grimes and Dr. Ljubo Vujovic. After the bust unveiling, the film "From Immigrant to Inventor" about the life and times of Michael I. Pupin, was shown. The documentary was produced by the Tesla Memorial Society of New York (<http://www.teslasociety.com/>) in collaboration with Columbia University. The author of the film is Dr. Ljubo Vujovic.



The Serbian Unity Congress and the Serbia-Montenegro Embassy helped in publicizing this event.

Pupin was born in the Serbian Village of Idvor, then in Austria-Hungary, today in Serbia. He came to the U.S. in 1874. In his autobiography, *From Immigrant to Inventor*, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1924, he tells of his transformation into one of America's great electrical inventors. He graduated with honors from Columbia College in 1883, and earned his doctorate in mathematical physics at the University of Berlin in 1889. From 1889 to 1931 he was a professor at Columbia University. With Francis Bacon Crocker he established the Department of Electrical Engineering. He was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1904.

Columbia honored Pupin posthumously in 1935 by naming its 1927 physics building Pupin Hall. Today, the most prestigious prize of the Columbia's Engineering School is the Pupin Medal for Service to the Nation, established in 1958. Michael Pupin was a prolific electrical inventor whose many discoveries included devices widely used in telegraphy and telephony. He was a holder of 34 patents.

Everyone knows that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. Simplifying a bit, what Bell really invented was local telephone calls. It was Michael Pupin who made long distance and international calls possible and the gadget that enabled it was the inductance coil." - Dean Zvi Galil, School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University, in his speech when he accepted the Pupin bust from Dr Kostunica in 2002.

Pupin was a great Serbian patriot. He was one of the founders of the Serbian Academy of Sciences, Honorary Consul of Serbia during World War I in New York and also a member of the Yugoslav Delegation in the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. Michael Pupin aided in the creation of Yugoslavia with the help of his friend American President Wilson.

*More on the Pupin bust unveiling at Columbia and the photographs from the celebration can be found on <http://www.teslasociety.com/pbust.htm>*