



ROCKVILLE, MD - The Serbian-American vocal music ensemble "Serbiana" held a magnificent concert on September 18, in the Music Hall of Montgomery College in this Maryland suburb of Washington DC. The concert, organized and moderated by Musicologist and Adjunct Professor of Music Sanja Grujic Vlainic featured folk and traditional songs and music from Serbia and the Balkan region. The program included selections of Serbian Orthodox Sacred Chants by Stevan Mokranjac and songs from various regions of Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and Vojvodina.

The standing room only concert was followed by a reception with a selection of Serbian delicacies. It was an opportunity to showcase the best of Serbian

and Balkan tradition in music and food. The vocal ensemble "Serbiana" was established in 1996 with the aim of preserving Serbian folk chants and Serbian indigenous folk music. They have performed at numerous venues in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, New York and Pennsylvania. Its artistic director, Gordana Balac, has degrees in voice, music theory and a MA in music psycho-therapy. Members of the ensemble are Miroslava Jovanovic, Dragana Koprivica, Maria Mladenovic, Dragan Koprivica, Milos Koprivica and Branislav Djolovic.

The concert was also a fundraiser for the Serbian American Medical Association (SAMA) with a total of \$650 collected that evening. SAMA was founded two years ago as a non-profit and

non-political organization, which works to improve health care in Serbia and cooperation between present and future generations of physicians in Serbia and in the United States. The organization has so far completed two very successful projects worth more than \$35,000. Through its fundraising activities, it has financed the renovation of a male patient ward in the Dr. Laza Lazarevic Psychiatric Hospital in Belgrade and the installation of air conditioning units in the Neuro-Surgical Hospital in Belgrade, and in hospitals in Cacak and Kraljevo. The focus of upcoming projects is on improving pediatrics/neonatology wards in several hospitals in Serbia, and on increasing cancer screening in remote areas.

SAMA consists of volunteers of all

professions, mostly from the Washington DC area. They are hoping to expand membership throughout the United States, Serbia and beyond, and invite all who are interested in this noble cause to join them in humanitarian activities. The situation in medical institutions in Serbia is dire, and every donation goes a long way. What is unique about SAMA operations is that its work is transparent. A detailed description of the organization and its activities can be found on its website: [www.serbianama.org](http://www.serbianama.org). SAMA welcomes all donations, which are fully tax-deductible. Donations can be made through the website or by check mailed to: Dr. Ivan Aksentijevich at 4660 Kenmore Avenue, Suite 1018, Alexandria, VA 22304. SAMA board members also welcome suggestions about future activities and projects.

## ► OBITUARY

**VERA ROKNICH** of Hobart, Indiana passed away peacefully at the age of 75 with her loving family by her bedside.

She was born on March 17, 1938 to Drago and Desanka Kicanovic who preceded her in death in 1988. She came to Gary, Indiana, in March 1957 where she met and married her loving husband Eli on September 28, 1957, after a short courtship. They had three children, Simo (Sam), Nada (Nadine) and Nevenka (Nancy). She was a full-time mom who raised her children to be honest, caring, compassionate and considerate to others. They regularly attended St. Sava Church and Sunday School. She loved her Orthodox faith and church and attended many of its social functions. Her faith in God and her family was most important to her. She adored her four grandchildren and always looked forward to spending time with them. She was a kindhearted woman with love for her family, Kumovi and friends.

Vera was a lifelong member of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana, and it's Circle of Serbian Sisters. She was a very dedicated member of King Peter II Lodge 16 of the Serb National Federation, and she volun-



teered every time over the years to work in the kitchen for the lodge picnics. She is survived by her husband of 55 years Eli (Ilija) Roknich, children Sam (Natalie) Roknich, Nadine (Dragan) Djordjevic, and Nancy Roknich; grandchildren Ilija Roknich, Natalie and Alexandra Djordjevic and Andrea Beric.

Funeral services were on Saturday, September 14, at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church where over 70 people attended. Very Rev. Marco Matic officiated. She was laid to rest at Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville. Milena Ivanovic, President of the Circle of Serbian Sisters along with several Kolo members prepared a delicious funeral luncheon at the church hall and also gave a beautiful eulogy at the gravesite. At the daca, Vera's son Sam delivered a heartfelt eulogy, "Nasa Mama" which brought tears to many eyes.

Vera was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and a brave, caring woman with a generous heart. She will be fondly remembered and dearly missed. May her memory be eternal – Vecnaja Pamjat!

*Submitted by daughter Nadine Djordjevic, Vice President, Lodge #16*

## RECIPE

### MILWAUKEE'S 1983 CEVAPCICI

1 lb. ground chuck  
1/2 lb. ground pork  
1/2 lb. ground lamb  
1 teaspoon paprika  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 cloves garlic, chopped fine  
1 teaspoon baking soda

Combine all ingredients and mix well with hands. Shape into small cylinders about 1 by 2 inches. Broil on charcoal grill about 8 minutes on each side or until well done. Serve with finely chopped onions.



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