



**Serbian-American Alliance of New England, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 381850, Cambridge, MA 02238-1850, USA  
[www.sane-boston.org](http://www.sane-boston.org)

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# 2000 Annual Report

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© 2000 Miodrag M. Cirkovic, *Index Radio Theater*, Cambridge, MA, 5/26/00

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*Serbian-American Alliance of New England is a Massachusetts incorporated non-profit organization with a federal tax exempt status 501(c)3. SANE is a registered public charity.*

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## LETTER FROM THE SANE PRESIDENT

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*Dear SANE members,*

I write this, actually, knowing how the story goes until July 2001. Under the circumstances, I don't mind going back to 1999. Weren't we astounding? Weekly vigils in downtown Boston; two trips to Washington; media interviews; fund-raising for Serbian Relief, refugees and hospitals; and visits to local representatives of the U.S. Congress. All of this was organized and led by a long-time SANE board galvanized by four-year president Gordana Todorov. This good, exhausted group retired in October 1999. To fill out their term for the next 14 months we elected two veteran directors, Mimi Gregory and Barbara Gruber, and new directors Ana Trbovich, Jovan Boskovic, Mirjana Petrovic, and me.

Remembering October 1999, all nerves and anguish, I can easily recount the inventory before SANE:

Yugoslavia had become "home" to the largest refugee and displaced population in Europe, nearly one million people. Half of these refugees had been without homes since 1995 (or earlier) when they were expelled en masse from the Krajina region of Croatia and from Bosnia. The other half were newer victims: Serbs, Roma, Gorani and Albanians who fled from Albanian extremists in Kosovo while NATO troops looked on.

Yugoslavia's refugees and natives suffered together without provisions for their most basic needs. For many there was simply no shelter, heat, food or medicine. Hospitals, ill-equipped and damaged by NATO bombing, struggled to cope with normal care; a flu epidemic in 2000 turned deadly. New illnesses arose, from stress, malnutrition and, likely, poisoning left by the bombing, including depleted uranium. Crops not affected by soil contamination withered in droughts. Despite an obvious humanitarian nightmare, the United States continued to impose comprehensive sanctions on and deny aid to Yugoslavia.

Through Humanitarian Aid programs, SANE contributed a full container of clothing, warm bedding and medical supplies to Serbian Relief in December 1999, and followed this in July 2000, in a joint effort with the St. Sava church, with a half-container load of additional aid. We continued

fundraising and contributions for hospitals, orphans and refugees, our largest efforts going toward a hospital in northern Kosovo. We helped AmeriCares coordinate a shipment of nearly 1 million pounds of dried beans to Yugoslavia. Asked for our position on sanctions by the Department of State in January, SANE submitted a statement in writing: Lift sanctions completely and unconditionally. Our members followed this with a letter-writing campaign to local representatives of Congress.

As ever, there was the maddening onslaught of contemporary lies and historical revision. America's long-time Serbian allies were thoroughly demonized. Yugoslavia, the most ethnically diverse and developed nation in Eastern Europe, had been literally destroyed by its "friends." Americans were then easily led astray as billions of their tax dollars supported a NATO "peacekeeping" effort which oversaw the destruction of medieval and religious world treasures in Kosovo and the ghettoizing, kidnapping and murder of minority Serbs, Roma and Gorani.

SANE's educational efforts included continued individual letter writing to the media and government and a comprehensive redesign and content overhaul of our web site. On the first anniversary of the bombing we rejoined old friends from our 1999 gatherings, the Park Street Vigil, to protest sanctions and illuminate the truth about Yugoslavia. In April our members attended a gathering of Yugoslav politicians speaking at Harvard, and publicly challenged their merits. SANE contributed financially to an updated release of the award-winning documentary "The Avoidable War" by George Bogdanich, which would later be broadcast on Canada's History Channel.

SANE's cultural events – a summer picnic, several dances, and a performance by a comedy troupe from Belgrade, Radio Index Theater - all benefited both the spirit of our community and our aid programs.

In the background, SANE's board struggled with the administration of an organization which, due to an outpouring of generosity from both our community and many new American friends in 1999 had, for the first time in its history, just crossed an accounting threshold for federal tax reporting. We better appreciated what Kiyoshi Igusa, SANE's previous

treasurer, accomplished alone for years, and then promptly hired a professional accountant to prepare our government filings. Everything was in order.

Whatever SANE did or did not do in 2000, the end of that year saw substantial change in the political life of Serbia and the U.S. There was a rising counterpoint of media attention to the gross criminality in Kosovo, the plight of Kosovo's Serbs and other minorities, the effects of the bombing on all Yugoslavs, and the misconduct of the West in its war against Yugoslavia. In October, Yugoslavs changed their government by supporting one man they believed in, hopeful and contrary to outside scheming. In January, U.S. sanctions against Yugoslavia were finally lifted.

This brings us to a new time, beyond my official role in SANE. Can everything and nothing change? Our post-bombing inventory, the detailed misery of Yugoslavia's people, seems untouched. But recently, I had the privilege of working on a project started in

late 1999 and now finally being realized: SANE's production of the Kir Stefan Srbin Choir CD. These young women, who came of age during Yugoslavia's latest destruction, sing the music of 500 years of Serbian survival. Listening to them, I cannot feel pessimistic.

Since its founding SANE has proved the rule of chaos: one butterfly flutters on a distant shore...one letter to the editor, one shipment of blankets, one hospital with new medical equipment, one sampling of beautiful Serbian culture...and the weather changes somewhere. One candle lights the darkness. I know this sounds trite, but I believe it is true. It is why I joined SANE. With thanks to SANE's founders, Gordana Todorov and you all,

Never give up,

*Stephanie Neale Niketic*  
*SANE President, October 1999-November 2000*

## **SANE BOARD**

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- Stephanie Neale Niketic, President
- Mimi C. Gregory, Vice-President
- Jovan Boskovic, Vice-President for Humanitarian Aid
- Mirjana Petrovic, Treasurer (Treasurer until March 2000, Board member full-term)
- Barbara Gruber
- Ana S. (Mitrovic) Trbovich

SANE Board established four functional committees:

- Culture, Chair Barbara Gruber
- Education, Chair Ana S. Trbovich, Co-Chair Mimi C. Gregory
- Humanitarian Aid, Chair Jovan Boskovic, Co-Chair Mirjana Petrovic
- Membership and Alliances, Chair Stephanie Niketic

SANE Web Designer: Dusan Koljensic for [visualwaste.com](http://visualwaste.com)

SANE Web Administrators: Jelena Popovic and Irina Stojanovic

Pavle Medunic, SANE member, acted as SANE Treasurer from March 2000 until January 2001, due to Mirjana Petrovic's move to California.

*For more information about SANE projects described in this bulletin or about the ongoing SANE projects, please see <http://www.sane-boston.org>.*

## **EDUCATION**

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### **1. NEW SANE INTERNET PRESENTATION**

*SANE Education Committee* presented a new SANE website to its members in April 2000. In addition to keeping SANE members and friends updated regarding ongoing events and projects, this Internet presentation also includes an important archive of articles on the Yugoslav crises in Kosovo and Metohia, Bosnia, and Krajina, which our community is encouraged to use to educate friends and colleagues on Serbian issues.

Furthermore, the new website contains tips on how to write a letter to the editor or an op-ed article, as well as send information to investigative journals such as Project Censored. Finally, in 2000 we encouraged all to fill in the 2000 Census so that our opinion as a community would be more valued.

## 2. SANE STATEMENT ON SANCTIONS AND HUMANITARIAN AID

The following SANE statement was delivered at a Serbian diaspora meeting with the US Department of State and the National Security Council in early February 2000, where SANE was NOT officially represented:

### *SANE Statement on U.S. Economic Sanctions and Humanitarian Assistance in Serbia and Montenegro*

SANE, the Serbian-American Alliance of New England, is an all-volunteer, registered charitable organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the culture, human rights, freedom, democracy and free enterprise of Serbians and Serbia.

Our members are Serbian-Americans, other former Yugoslavs concerned about the heritage and homeland they share with Serbians, and Americans of different backgrounds who are concerned about the crisis in Yugoslavia and the U.S. role in it.

SANE's position on U.S. economic sanctions against Yugoslavia is that they be lifted completely and unconditionally. The sanctions are inhumane and work against freedom, democracy and free enterprise in Serbia.

SANE's position on U.S. humanitarian assistance is that it be greatly increased to address both the needs of the province of Kosovo and Metohia, including the security and welfare of its minority citizens, and the needs of the nearly 1,000,000 refugees and all civilians in the rest of Serbia and in Montenegro. In particular, there is an urgent need to alleviate all civilian suffering due to the scarcity of shelter, heat, food and medicine as well as the damage to civilian infrastructures and the environment caused by the NATO air campaign against Yugoslavia.

*SANE Board Members: Stephanie Neale Niketic, Jovan Boskovic, Mirjana Petrovic and Ana Mitrovic*

## 3. LIBRARY PROJECT

Enriching local and university libraries is another way to contribute to public awareness. SANE Education Committee suggested the following books, available on the Internet:



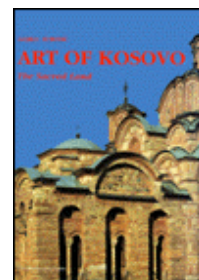
◆ **Nato's Empty Victory: A Postmortem on the Balkan War –**

By Ted Galen Carpenter, ISBN: 1882577868. Cato Institute, January 2000. Paperback \$7.96.

◆ **Kosovo Crisis: A Study in Foreign Policy Mismanagement** – By Vojin Joksimovich, ISBN: 1882383109, Graphics Management Press, December 1999; Buy the book through SANE for \$23.00.

◆ **Kosovo** – By William Dorich. ISBN: 1882383001. Kosovo Charity Fund, January 1992. Graphics Management Press, P.O. Box 241811, Los Angeles, CA 90024. \$100 Hardcover.

◆ **Art of Kosovo: The Sacred Land** – By Gojko Subotic. ISBN: 1580930069. Monacelli Press, Inc. Nov. 1998. Hardcover \$42. Highly recommended!



*Art of Kosovo*

## 4. LECTURES (organized or coordinated by SANE members)

◆ 19 April 2000, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University: His Excellency, Igor Davidovic, Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the United States;

◆ 25 April 2000, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University: “Yugoslavia: Prospects for Change” Conference – officially organized by the Kokkalis Program for Southeastern Europe and by the Organization of Serbian Students Abroad (OSSI), some of whose members are also SANE members. Following the conference, many of the participants, including Crown Prince Alexander, were dinner guests at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church of Boston.

◆ 24 October 2000, World Affairs Council, Boston: Dr. Steven L. Burg, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Political Science at Brandeis University and Dr. Vojin Joksimovich, Author of “The Kosovo Crisis, A Study in Foreign Policy Mismanagement” – “The Balkans In The 21st Century: Policy Challenges For Two New Presidents.”

## 5. DOCUMENTARY: "YUGOSLAVIA: THE AVOIDABLE WAR"

This two and half-hour film (Best Social Documentary, 1999 New York Independent Film Festival) documents misguided intervention in the Balkans. Following 1999 screenings at the Fletcher School and the World Affairs Council, it was shown at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, in March 2000 and at Tufts University in November 2000. In addition, SANE has made a \$1,000 donation towards the production of new 2000 version of the film that includes the NATO bombing of the FR Yugoslavia.

You can order the film by sending a check or money order (\$29.99) to:

Frontier Theater and Film, Inc., P.O. Box 869, New York, NY 10021.

## 6. ARTICLES AND OP-EDs (pertinent to Serbian issues)

- ◆ "What will become of Serbia?," By Ana Mitrovic, © The Harvard Crimson, 3/2/00.
- ◆ "Is Milosevic Finished?" By Srdjan L. Tanjga, © The Harvard Crimson, 09/19/00.
- ◆ "Yugoslavia: Reflecting on a Revolution", By Ana Trbovich, © The Boston Globe, 10/08/00, Sunday Edition, Focus Section, D1.
- ◆ "Dayton Peace Conference 2000", By Ana S. Trbovich, © The KSG Citizen, Harvard, 12/18/00.
- ◆ "Law and Morality of Use of Force: Kosovo Intervention", By Ana Mitrovic, © Journal for the Study of Peace and Conflict, 2000-2001 Annual Edition: ISSN 1095-1962.

## 7. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (pertinent to Serbian issues)

- ◆ "Failure in Kosovo," By Micheal Pravica, Letters, © The New York Times, 2/8/00.
- ◆ "U.S. Ally in Kosovo," By Micheal Pravica, © International Herald Tribune, 3/14/00.
- ◆ "Setting Record Straight on Kosovo," By Stephanie Neale Niketic, © The Daily News, Newburyport, MA, 5/24/00.
- ◆ "European Defense Opinion," By Micheal Pravica, © International Herald Tribune, 6/1/00.
- ◆ "The first casualty of war", By Micheal Pravica, Letters, © The Guardian (London), 8/16/00.
- ◆ "Clinton risks Balkan chaos with Montenegro scheme," By Micheal Pravica, © The Washington Times, 9/3/00.
- ◆ "Democracy despoiled," By Micheal Pravica, © The Boston Herald, 10/4/00.
- ◆ "Post-Slobo Serbia," By Miljana Bovan, © The Boston Herald, 10/00.

### **The Boston Globe**

June 15, 2000

LETTERS

#### **Globe Has Downplayed Kosovo Revelations**

Although there have been many new revelations about how the Clinton administration misled and manipulated the public to support its war in Kosovo against the Serbs (including, recently, a documentary on Canadian TV that questions the circumstances of "Racak massacre," which was used as a pretext for US bombing), somehow these facts never make headlines in the Globe.

I find it sad that the Globe never referred to SANE (the Serbian-American Alliance of New England) in the course of its coverage. Instead of informing the public as objectively as possible, you appear to be content to spoon-feed your readers with propaganda from Washington.

Irina Stojanovic, Arlington

## 8. SERBIAN NEW ENGLAND COMMUNITY IN THE MEDIA

- ◆ "Tomic's take on 'Camino Real'," By Maureen Dezell, © The Boston Globe, 4/7/00.
- ◆ "Yugoslavia's Rocky Road to Free Markets," By Kevin Cullen, © The Boston Globe, 10/16/00.
- ◆ PBS Scientific American Frontiers: Never Say Die, 01/25/00

## 9. COMMEMORATION OF THE NATO BOMBING OF YUGOSLAVIA

In addition to a spiritual commemoration at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, several Boston peace organizations, under the umbrella of Park Street Vigil Committee for Peace and Human Rights, organized a “Rally in Remembrance of Bombing of Yugoslavia” on March 25, 2000. SANE President, Stephanie Neale Niketic spoke at the rally, as did John Schushardt, friend of SANE and founder of Veterans for Peace.

## CULTURAL & SOCIAL EVENTS

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### 1. SANE COFFEE AND CAKE IN PROVIDENCE

SANE Board Member, Barbara Gruber hosted a coffee and cake gathering at her home in Providence on March 19<sup>th</sup> for SANE members and friends who live in Rhode Island.

### 2. SANE FUNDRAISING PARTY FOR KOSOVSKA MITROVICA

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, SANE organized a fundraiser for Kosovska Mitrovica. Over 150 people came to this Spring Dance and around \$2,200 net was raised.



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### 3. INDEX RADIO THEATER PERFORMANCE

On 26 May 2000, SANE brought one of the most popular Serbian theater groups to Boston. This humanitarian performance took place at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cambridge, MA. All the proceeds (\$1,330 net) benefited the Kosovo and Metohia refugees.



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### 4. SANE PICNIC

On 18 June 2000, SANE held its annual summer picnic in the Arsenal Park in Watertown, attracting over 70 people. Around \$1000 net was raised for SANE humanitarian activities.

### 5. SANE FALL DANCE

SANE hosted its Fall Dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Wakefield, MA on 7 October 2000. This social event and a fundraiser gathered over 100 people, and around \$1,200 net was raised for SANE charitable activities.

### 6. “KIR STEFAN THE SERB” PROJECT

In 2000, SANE began working on the “Kir Stefan – the Serb” project, having accepted to become the producer of the first CD by this award-winning young women’s choir from Smederevo, Serbia, Yugoslavia.

### 7. OTHER SERBIAN CULTURAL & SOCIAL EVENTS (not organized by SANE):

#### ◆ Balkan Music Festival

Serbian group “Gračanica” participated at the annual Balkan Music Festival on March 11th. This ensemble, consisting of a Berklee College of Music student Snezana Stosic from Surdulica, an accordionist from Sarajevo, Slobodan Mitrovic, and a few other participants filled the festival viewers with joy and a desire to dance.

◆ **Balkan Tribes Concert at Bill’s Bar** took place on 10 May 2000 (see <http://www.balkantribes.com>).

◆ **First Annual OSSU-Boston Academic Reception** was hosted by Professor Marija Ilic for the Serbian students, professors, and other members of the Serbian academic community in New England.

◆ **Les Bacchaneles**, Serbian woodwind quintet recital performed at St. Cecilia Church in Boston, 5/25/00.

- ◆ **Rale Micic Quartet** entertained the audience with jazz at the Improv Boston Theatre, 5/28/00.
- ◆ **Mozart Choral Concert** in Chestnut Hill was organized to benefit the Decani Monastery Relief Fund for Kosovo, 10/29/00.
- ◆ **Experimental Cinema from Yugoslavia** was presented by “Video Balagan,” headed by two enthusiastic and gifted local filmmakers, Alla Kovgan and Jeff Silva, at the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline, MA, 12/14/00 (see <http://www.rex.opennet.org/low-fi/index.html>).
- ◆ **Educational Film Series** were organized by the MIT Organization of Serbian Students and the Harvard Serbian Society.
- ◆ **Serbian folk dance lessons** were offered each Wednesday evening in the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church hall by Djordje Koldzic.
- ◆ **Scripture and Serbian language** were taught each Sunday at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

## HUMANITARIAN AID

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© 2000 Mirjana Petrovic

### 1. WINTER CLOTHES FOR DESTITUTE BOYS

SANE raised \$2000 for the destitute boys from all over Serbia who live in a correctional facility in Nis. 33 winter jackets, 33 pairs of shoes and 33 pairs of warm socks were bought for the boys with this sum. There is still some money left from this fund, which will be used for buying jackets and shoes for the new boys coming to the facility.

### 2. 20-FOOT TRUCK OF HUMANITARIAN AID

On 8 July 2000, 20-foot truck of humanitarian aid departed for Serbia, Yugoslavia through the Serbian Relief, as a result of a joint effort by SANE and the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church of Boston. As always, we received help from all our members, and friends of SANE, including several Boston churches.



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### 3. FATHERLESS CHILDREN

In 2000, SANE continued its project to help for fatherless children who live in Aleksinac and Nis, Serbia, Yugoslavia, raising an additional \$6,545. The children’s fathers were killed in the wars in Slovenia, Krajina, Republika Srpska, and in the NATO bombing of FR Yugoslavia. Most of the children are originally from Croatia, F.Y.R. Macedonia, Bosnia, and Slovenia, but their mothers chose to move to the safety of Nis and Aleksinac after their husbands were killed.

### 4. MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE HOSPITAL IN KOSOVSKA MITROVICA

SANE raised \$5000 for a hospital in Kosovska Mitrovica through a successful Internet campaign and a fundraising dance. The funds were distributed in early June 2000. Thanks to our donation, the hospital was able to purchase a large amount of surgical supplies and other basic medical needs.

### 5. ANALYZER FOR THE “MOTHER AND CHILD INSTITUTE” IN BELGRADE

Additional \$1,000 were raised for the analyzer used for biochemical analysis of blood and urine for the Mother and Child Institute in Belgrade, Serbia, Yugoslavia.

### 6. AMBU-BAGS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE IN KOSOVSKA MITROVICA

In March 2000, SANE sent a box of ambu-bags for the Emergency service in Kosovska Mitrovica. The bags were donated by Dr. Ljiljana Grkovic.

### 7. AMERICARES BEANS SHIPMENT

SANE helped Americares coordinate a shipment of nearly 1 million pounds of dried beans to Yugoslavia.

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*SANE 2000 Annual Report was prepared by Ana S. Trbovich, Chair of the Education Committee, with contributions from Stephanie Neale Niketic, Mirjana Petrovic, Jovan Boskovic, Miodrag M. Cirkovic and Alexander M. Trbovich.*

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