

HISTORY OF THE KOLO SRPSKIH SESTARA

Five years after the church was built, a meeting of twenty-eight Serbian ladies was held on June 8, 1928, with the intent to organize the first Kolo Srpskih Sestara of the St. George Church. Nadezda Cupkovich was instrumental in organizing this initiative. Rev. Mirko Vujesich was the parish priest and Nikola Colich church president. Petko Pejovich and several other church members were in attendance at this first historic meeting.

The first slate of officers were:

Danica Lubobratovich, President
Zorka Griak, Vice-President
Rev. Mirko Vujesich, Secretary
Sophie Mihich, Treasurer
Milica Griak, Member
Ana Dujanovich, Member
Nikola Colich, Chairman Auditing Board
Soka Bubalo and Teodora Bajich, Auditors

The Kolo's By-Laws were adopted at this first meeting and they officially adopted the name Kolo Srpskih Sestara (Serbian Sisters' Circle). The first regular meeting was held on July 8, 1928, recruiting 25 members. At their second meeting they already had a membership of 37 ladies. Plans were made for their first big picnic on July 22, 1928..

The Kolo experienced the struggles of a young church and a young organization. Unfortunately, as with the church records, some of the Kolo records are missing between the years 1928 and 1936.

On November 3, 1939, the Kolo was officially chartered as the St. George Serbian Church Kolo, "Knjeginja Olga". Its chartered officers were:

Sara Bogdanovich, President	Julia Colich, Vice-President
Rose Radulovich, Secretary	Violet Bastie, Treasurer
Helen Kurajlija, Financial Secretary	Julia Pilipovich, Chairman Board of Trustees
Dorothy Fluyeras, Trustee	
Mary Olbin, Trustee	

The treasury had no funds and as a result, sisters were compelled to donate toward projects in order to enhance the treasury. There were no funds to retain a janitor, therefore Kolo members alternated in cleaning the church and hall. Each member contributed toward expenses incurred in the charter incorporation as well as the new stationary with the new name of "Knjeginja Olga". These were times of hardship and sacrifices for the Kolo.

In January 1943, the name of "Knjeginja Olga" was dropped due to the war and up rooting of the Royal Family members in Yugoslavia. The Kolo was to be called St. George Circle of Serbian Sisters, without "Knjeginja Olga". Sv. Petka was selected as the Kolo's Patron Saint (Krsna Slava) and is honored by the Kolo in October of each year.

With God's help, the Kolo Srpskih Sestara united in its efforts to work diligently and faithfully for the betterment of the Holy Orthodox Church.

In the 1940's the Kolo Srpskih Sestara donated \$1,000 to the Iconostas Project. They were instrumental in raising funds for the parish home project. An important function of the Kolo is the furnishings and upkeep of the parish home, which continues as a Kolo responsibility to this day. The endeavors of the 1950's and 1960's supported the church in mortgage payments and furnace repairs. Some of the fundraisers during those times were "zabavas" (dances and play



Left to right: Saya Kovich, Marion Kovich, President Stella Delich, Violet Martin, Sophie Delich Herrick

productions), picnics, masquerade dances and queen contests.

In the early 1960's a major fundraiser for the Kolo was started and continues into the present...the Annual Bazaar. The Bazaar is held each year in November. To this day Protinica Zora's baked bread and famous tortes are remembered. Many projects ensued in the coming years. In 1960-61, the Kolo adorned our church with a stained glass window honoring Sv. Petka and Sv. Sava.

The 1970's saw the dream of a new church hall become a reality. The Kolo Srpskih Sestara purchased the entire kitchen of the new church hall. The new stoves, ovens, dishwashers, and utensils are the result of many hours of fund-raising and hard work.

In the 1980 and 1990's the Kolo supported the St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville. A lectern stand was purchased for St. Sava's church. The Kolo supported the children's camp at the Monastery and has sent counselors and children to attend over the years.

They generously sent a donation to the monastery for needed repairs. In addition, they have donated to the Golden Cross Fund that helps widows of deceased priests and to the Priest's Pension Fund. Other donations include: the Banja Luka orphans fund, refugee funds, and the restoration of the Statue of Liberty.

The children of St. George Church are foremost in the hearts and minds of the Kolo. The Sunday School has received supplies, and teaching aids such as the entertainment center - television, VCR, videos, and books.

Communion breakfasts are sponsored and prepared by the Kolo. Badnja Vece (Christmas Eve) Christmas parties with Santa's visits are remembered by young and old alike.

A primary function of the Kolo is to assist the church in any financial matters including the maintenance of church property. Donations have been made to the church for repair of the bell tower, stained glass windows, and remodeling of the old hall (in the early 1980s). The Kolo purchased for the church priest's vestments, and bought and repaired altar boy robes.



L to R: Steve Belich, Jean Belich, Martha Laine, Molly Fredrick, Marty Mirkovich

Throughout the years delegates were sent to the Midwest Federation Annual meeting, representing our Kolo. In 1974, Sarah Howard was elected as member of the Executive Council. Millie Belich was elected as Second Vice President in 1981. Simeona Nygren is currently serving as newsletter chairperson for Midwest Federation, having been elected in 1999.

In 1984 Sarah Howard received a Grammata from Metropolitan Christopher.

The Kolo Srpskih Sestara had many dedicated leaders and officers during its seventy years. Sarah Bogdanovich and later Julia Colich were both President. Millie Belich, who two years, received the title For the past 28 years, Millie worked with numerous

given the title of Honorary served as president for twenty-of Honorary President in 2003. was the catering manager and organizations.



Front: Pearl Misceovich, Past President, 50 Year Member,
Top, Left to Right: Marija Vucenich, 50 year member,
Millie Belich, Past President;; Saya Kovich, 50 year member.

The St. George Church is proud to honor the Kolo's Presidents who inspired over the years the younger generations to carry forward their founding dreams:

†Danica Lubobratovich	† Julia Colich
†Milica Zernich	†Julia Pilipovich
†Sara Bogdanovich	†Milica Griak
†Ruza Mrdja	Sonja Ulvi
†Dragica Fluyeras	Mary Ann Boyat
†Rose Radulovich	Sophie Colich
†Stoja Delich	Pearl Misceovich
†Molly Fredrick	Amanda Soberg
†Milka Kovich	Millie Belich
	Georgann Churchya

The future of the St. George Circle of Serbian Sisters depends on all of its members working together for the glory of our faith and our church. With open minds, open hearts and open arms, all must be welcomed to the embrace of the Kolo. In this way our future is guaranteed!

“Enter eagerly into the treasure house that is within you, and so you will see the things that are in heaven—for there is but one single entry to them both. The ladder that leads to the Kingdom is hidden within your soul. Flee from sin, dive into yourself, and in your soul you will discover the stairs by which to ascend.”

(St. Isaac the Syrian)

Mnogaja Ljeta! Zivili!!

