

RUSSIA

2021

- The exhibition *Return of the General: 145 Years since the Arrival of Russian Volunteers in Serbia*, authored by prof. Dr. Alexei Timofeyev, was opened in the Pavilion at the Fortress. The exhibition shows the common Serbian-Russian history and the role of Russian volunteers in the liberation of Serbia from the Ottoman Empire in the Serbian-Turkish wars in the second half of the 19th century, which was followed by the recognition of Serbian independence at the Berlin Congress. The exhibition contains illustrations, photographs, maps, documents from the personal archive of General M. G. Chernyayev, the leader of the Russian volunteer movement, which are kept in the Department of Written Sources of the State Historical Museum in Moscow. The organizers of the exhibition are the City of Niš, the Gallery of Contemporary Fine Arts, the National Museum in Niš in cooperation with the Embassy of the Russian Federation and the Russian House in Belgrade, as well as the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.
- The wreath-laying ceremony at the Monument to the Fallen Red Army Soldiers, the planting of trees in the newly opened and reconstructed Crveni Krst Memorial Park marked the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany's attack on the Soviet Union in World War II. In memory of this date the Russian Center for Science and Culture Russian House in Belgrade, in cooperation with the City of Niš, organized a special program. After the ceremony the exhibition by Moscow Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 under the title *We Will Defeat the Enemy; The Victory Will Be Ours* was opened. Letter

of Gratitude to the City of Niš from Russian House for the support in organization was received by Deputy Mayor Dušica Davidović and individual letters of thanks were handed to the President of the City Assembly Boban Džunić as well as to the members of Niš City Council Nenad Stanković and Adriana Anastasov.

- The exhibition *60 Years since the First Human Flight into Space* was opened in the Niš Synagogue, organized by the City of Niš, the Society of Serbian-Russian Friendship Naisus Niš and co-organized by the National Museum of Niš. The photographs for the exhibition were provided by the Russian corporation Roscosmos. It will forever be remembered when Yuri Gagarin flew into space on April 12, 1961.
- The Victory Day over fascism was marked in Niš by laying wreaths at the Monument to the Liberators of Niš on the main city square and at the Monument to Soviet Soldiers Killed in the Niš Incident, as well as by short artistic program. 50-meter-long St. George's ribbon, a symbol of victory over fascism, was displayed at the Ambassador Hotel on the main city square. The monument to Soviet soldiers is dedicated to Soviet soldiers who died in the Niš incident, on November 7, 1944, when the American aviation bombed a Red Army troops moving along the Niš-Aleksinac road. The monument with the engraved names of the killed Soviet soldiers was erected in 2015. The celebration of the Day of Victory over Fascism began on Saturday in front of the City Hall with a broadcast of a concert from the Russian House in Belgrade, continued on Sunday morning with a military parade from Moscow and a broadcast from the Russian House in Belgrade, and ended on Sunday evening with fireworks.

- The exhibition of Russian literature was opened in Stevan Sremac National Library in cooperation with the Russian humanitarian mission with the aim of reviving interest in the country's literature and nurturing the Russian language. The director of the Russian House in Belgrade Yevgeny Alexandrovich Baranov spoke at the opening of the exhibition. More than 1,000 titles of the most important works of Russian literature, available to the library, will be available to fans of the written word in the premises of the Russian Corner.

- The international Russian-American male choir of the PaTRAM Institute will be a guest of the City of Niš in June 2021 performing spiritual Russian Orthodox music. The mission of PaTRAM Institute is to foster the authentic and original splendor of Russian Orthodox choral music together with its astounding spiritual depth, in both the English and Slavonic languages. The PaTRAM Institute Male Choir will perform a 5-city concert tour in beautiful Serbia and the Republic of Srpska. Maestro Vladimir Gorbik will conduct the 60 member Male Choir, hailing from the United States, Canada, Australia, Serbia and Russia. Very special venues have been chosen for this exciting project. The director of the PATRAM Institute, Tatiana Geringer, announced the recording of a new CD with the works of Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff in the Monastery of St. Demetrius in Divljana.

- On the day of Saint Sava, the day of the Balkan Cossack Army, the ataman of that association, Vojislav Vidaković, and his associates met with Niš City Mayor

Dragana Sotirovski, who informed them about activities to preserve the Cossack tradition and develop cultural cooperation between the two fraternal peoples. Cossacks participated as volunteers in the wars for the liberation of Serbia from the Turks, and about 4,000 Cossacks were buried in the vicinity of Vitkovac.

2020

- A working meeting was held with the co-director of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Center, Andrey Mamchenkov. As Niš City Mayor Dragana Sotirovski emphasized Niš lacks one operational center for responding in emergency situations, and in that area, the advisory assistance of the Serbian-Russian humanitarian center would be welcome. Mamchenkov conveyed to the mayor the readiness of the Center to provide the city with all the help in forming a city operational team, which would have at its disposal the capacities, potentials and the possibility of training in the Center.

2019

- Andrey Manchenkov, former deputy head of the National Emergency Management Center of the Russian Federation Ministry of Emergency Situations, is the new co-director of the Russian-Serbian Humanitarian Center. The new Russian-Serbian Humanitarian Center co-director was introduced today at the reception with Nis City Deputy Mayor Milos Bandjur at City Hall, and the meeting was attended by Vladimir Solovjov, Head of the Department for International Cooperation of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations. Manchenkov stressed that there was

a firm conviction of the Russian side in the further successful work of the center and in the introduction of new elements in its work

- Russian choir Chapel of Boys and Young Men of the Sverdlovsk State Children's Philharmonic Orchestra from Yekaterinburg, led by artistic director, Friedrich Weisheim, held a festive concert in front of a packed hall of the National Theater in Niš. The performance of one of the most famous choirs of this type in the world was made possible by the Company NIS.

- International Conference Opportunities for Expanding Economic Cooperation between Russia and the Balkan Peninsula within the Current Political Situation was held at the Regional Chamber of Commerce in Nis, organized by the Balkan-Russian Economic Forum with the support of A. M. Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Support Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the City of Nis. The aim of the conference was to create the platform for the exchange of knowledge, information and contacts in order to expand trade and investment, which was also in the spirit of the intentions of the interstate Serbian-Russian commission for economic cooperation and technical development, which intended to increase trade between Serbia and Russia.

- The delegation of the City of Nis participated in the Second International Forum of Old Towns in the Russian city of Ryazan, which was held under the auspices of the Committee of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the

Ryazan region. The requirement for participation in this Forum was that the city was over 500 years old. The main topics of the Forum were architecture, history, cultural heritage, theater, photography and gastronomic tourism, and the first session of the Association of Old Towns was held during this event. Representatives of the City of Nis participated in the work of the Forum on three topics – possibilities and directions of cooperation of ancient cities, Nis cultural heritage during its two thousand years of existence and implementation of measures for the improvement of squares, river banks, streets, pedestrian zones, parks and other public areas. The organizers pointed out that the holding of this Forum should serve to strengthen and develop cultural links between cities, regions and countries.

- About 700 representatives of rescue units from Serbia, Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Northern Macedonia, Hungary, Turkey, Cuba and the Russian-Armenian Humanitarian Center stayed in Nis as part of the International Field Exercise on Disaster Consequence Management Serbia 2019 organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation. Representatives of rescue units demonstrated training and equipment for operation in cases of extraordinary circumstances and natural disasters during three days in several locations in Nis and the surrounding area.
- On the occasion of the Victory Day over Fascism, a choir quartet from the Russian city of Perm visited Niš. At the City Hall, artists from Perm were received by Deputy Mayor prof. Dr. Milos Bandur, who on this occasion presented to the guests from Russia an artistic painting

with symbols of Emperor Constantine, born in Nis.

2018

- Exactly 10 years ago Russian specialists started demining the terrain and runways of the Nis airport. A memorial plaque was unveiled at the airport terminal on this occasion. The ceremony was attended by the city's officials and the cultural attaché and the first adviser to the Russian Embassy – Mr. Alexander Nikolaevich Konanihin. In addition to cluster bombs, Russian specialists also discovered four aircraft bombs, five mortar mines, seven anti-aircraft cannon bullets and one detonator, and some parts of the arsenal dating back to World War II. More than 704,000 square meters were inspected at and around the airport. The government of the Russian Federation then approved \$ 6 million in aid for the demining of the Nis airport. This memorial plaque is the sign of gratitude of the citizens of Niš for their expert work on removing the remaining bombs from the airport.
- The professor of the Moscow Theological School of the Holy Trinity – St. Sergius Lavra and the head of the library of the Moscow Theological Academy, the abbot Dionysius Shlyonov presented his new poetic collection of religious and theological poetry “The Power of the Imperial Endeavour” at the City Hall in Niš. The promotion was organized by the City of Nis and the Cultural Center of Nis, within the 55th Nis Book Fair.
- Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic attended the opening of the annual meeting of Serbian Neurosurgical Society as a Joint meeting with Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society attended by a large number of world renowned

neurosurgeons. The global theme of the meeting was Spine Surgery in 21st Century – Current Concept, Controversies, and Perspectives. The scientific program covered all treatment aspects of surgical pathology of the spine, from basic to innovative. The Congress is being organized in Nis in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Clinical Center Nis, and it is organized as joint meeting of the Association of Neurosurgeons of Russia, Russian Association of Spinal Surgeons and Serbian Neurosurgical Society in conjunction with Croatian Society for Spine Surgery. The Congress of Spinal Neurosurgery is organized under the auspices of the president of Republic of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic.

- The reception for the high delegation of the State Fire Protection Service University from St. Petersburg, which is part of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations, was held at Nis City Hall. The guests from Russia were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor Milos Bandjur on the behalf of the Nis City. The delegation of the University was led by the Major Eduard Cizikov, who in 2014 led the Russian rescuers during the floods in Obrenovac and Igor Osipchuk the Rector of this university. In a friendly conversation with the representatives of this elite Russian higher education institution, the possibilities for cooperation in the field of education have been considered.
- Nis City Deputy Mayor Milos Bandjur met with the prominent Russian actors who were staying Nis during the manifestation Days of Russian Film. Artists from Russia used the opportunity to socialize with film lovers and respond to journalists' questions, and after the press

conference held at Nis City Hall the hosts and guests visited Nis Fortress. The Festival is held at Cinema Vilin Grad.

- The guests of the City of Nis on the occasion of celebrating city festivities – the Day of the Holy Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena were the representatives of the twin City of Kursk from Russia, Mr. Maslov Yevgeny, a councilor of the Kursk Assembly and a member of the Construction Committee and Mr. Yevdokimov Dmitry, also a councilor in the Kursk city council and the chairman of the Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises and the innovation policy of the Kursk regional assembly.

2017

- The cooperation agreement was signed in the City of Kaluga between Nis and this Russian city. The agreement signed by the Deputy Mayor Milos Bandur involves establishing direct contacts between local authorities and non-profit organizations, improving economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation, cooperation in the field of agriculture, culture, art, youth policy, sports and tourism, development of investments and innovative activities, as well as creating favorable conditions for establishing comprehensive contacts between the representatives of our two cities.
- Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic and his associates met with H.E. Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Serbia Alexander Vasilevich Chepurin and talked about continuing and fostering traditionally good friendly relations with the Russian people, as well as cooperation between the City of Nis and the Russian City

of Kaluga. The two officials attended the ceremonial opening of the premises of the Society of Serbian-Russian Friendship *Naisus* and the First International Festival of Traditional Russian Drinks which was organized at Officers' Mess Building in Nis.

- The fifth anniversary of the foundation and work of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Center (SRHC) in the City of Nis was marked, and on this occasion the international forum, with guests from the Russian Federation, Armenia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Hungary, was organized. The Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Center is an intergovernmental humanitarian non-profit organization situated in the City of Nis, established on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Russian Federation on April 25th, 2012 in order to provide humanitarian emergency response in Serbia and other Balkan states. The following tasks are lying upon this unique Center: – participation in activities for the prevention and elimination of emergency situations, including firefighting; – humanitarian assistance to people affected by emergencies; – implementation of joint projects and programs in the Republic of Serbia and other Balkan states, including projects and programs for humanitarian demining; – training and skills development activities in the field of prevention and elimination of emergency situations; – testing and demonstration of firefighting and rescue technologies. So far, the Center has participated in providing assistance and in the elimination of emergency situations on the territories of the Republic of Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia.

- Secondary Legal – Business School from Nis recently hosted the Russian students and teachers from St. Petersburg. During their stay in Nis the guests from Russia will participate in several activities, but also tour the historical sites and natural attractions of the region. The reception was organized at Nis City Hall for guests from Russia hosted by Nis City Deputy Mayor Milos Bandjur. During the talks, the students of the ancient Russian city pointed out that they enjoyed their stay in Nis and that they were welcomed by true hospitality. The cooperation between Secondary Legal – Business School from Nis and the school from St. Petersburg has been going on for several years, and during these exchange tours, the students have the opportunity to exchange experience and get acquainted with the culture and tradition of the two friendly nations.
- Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic attended the draw for the matches of the Davis Cup between Serbian and Russian teams which would take place in the Sports Hall Cair in Nis from February 3rd to February 5th.

2016

- The representatives of the Russian delegation from Rostov and the Kozak businessmen association met the Nis Deputy Mayor Prof. Dr. Milos Bandjur and his associates and discussed the potentials of Nis and the region for the establishment of economic cooperation, especially in the field of agriculture. This is only the first in a series of meetings to be organized in order to connect Russian and Serbian agricultural producers in order to increase the export of domestic products to the Russian market, in accordance with the required standards. In

our region, 60 000 households are engaged in agriculture. One third of the territory occupies agricultural land and most is under wheat, while only 12% is intended for fruit and vegetable production. Nis City Deputy Mayor Prof. Dr. Milos Bandjur said that the City of Nis was ready to support any form of cooperation with Russian businessmen.

- The delegation of the City of Nis visited twin city Kursk, in the Russian Federation, to celebrate the Day of this city. A special occasion for this visit was the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between Nis and Kursk
- The Day of the City of Nis and Serbian Culture was celebrated within the Festival of the Twin Cities in the Russian city Belgorod. In the foyer of the Belgorod Drama Theater M. C. Scepkin, which has been collaborating with the National Theater of Nis for seven years, a thematic exhibition of photographs "The Shadows of the Old Niš" by Nis photographer Davorin Dinic was presented. The film about Nis was screened and cultural and artistic evening was held with students from Serbia studying at the Belgorod College of Arts and Culture.

2015

- Ambassador of the Russian Federation Alexander Chepurin and Nis City Mayor Zoran Perisic opened the Days of Russian Children's Film Festival. The festival program envisages the screening of 15 animated, 2 feature and 4 documentary Russian films. Days of Russian Children's Film in Serbia "Fairytale of Childhood" are held within the framework of the social project "Russians in the Balkans". The festival is organized with the financial

support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and with the organizational support of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Serbia, the Russian House in Belgrade and other partners.

- Nis City Deputy Mayor Ljubivoje Slavkovic and the member of Nis City Council Milos Bandjur met with the representatives of friendly cities of Kursk and Belgorod who were in Nis on the occasion of celebrating the days of city patrons.

2014

- The 20th Annual Conference of the International Public Fund for the Unity of Orthodox Peoples was held in Niš on the topic “State-Church-Society: Historical Lessons and Perspectives”. The conference lasted for three days and the priests of Orthodox churches and numerous local and foreign theologians and theorists of religions took active part in the work of the Conference.
- The representatives of the Russian side of the Serbian – Russian Humanitarian Center handed over the keys to 10 Lada Niva ATVs to the Serbian side as part of their assistance to this Emergency Response Center.
- The delegations from the cities of Belgorod and Kursk visited Nis to celebrate the days of the City of Nis patrons and continued good cooperation that was formalized by the signing of Twinning and Cooperation Agreement with Belgorod and the unveiling of a memorial plaque in the street, which would in future be known as

Kursk Street.

- In June 2014, the Cooperation Agreement between the City of Niš and the City of Belgorod (Russian Federation) was signed. Even before the Agreement was signed, there has been an active cooperation between the Clinical Center of Niš and the Regional Hospital of Belgorod, as well as between the medical faculties of the two cities, between the theaters of Niš and Belgorod and the universities of Niš and Belgorod. Areas of cooperation would be focused on housing and communal services, urban planning, local economic development, industry and technology, culture, education, information systems, tourism, sports.

2013

- With the concert of the choir of the Sretensky Monastery in Moscow on January 17 at the National Theater in Niš the celebration of the 17th anniversary of the Edict of Milan signing began. The Sretensky Monastery Choir, an internationally renowned spiritual choir with a tradition of six centuries, in addition to singing twice a week in liturgies in monasteries and temples, has performed at various events around the world, and has toured Serbia several times.
- The delegation of Russian businessmen led by Ms. Olga Belkova, the owner of a consulting firm representing Russian businessmen interested in investing in Serbia, visited the City of Nis. During the meetings special attention was paid to investments in agriculture that could be realized through the construction of greenhouses.

- One year after the opening of the Serbian – Russian Humanitarian Center in Nis a three – year plan for the development of the Center has been signed. The plan was signed by the Minister of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Puchkov and the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Ivica Dacic.
- The performance of the Belgorod State Academic Drama Theater “A Night on the Bright Street” was shown at the National Theater. This guest performance is realized through a long cooperation between Niš and Belgorod theaters, which involves the exchange of artists, participation in colonies, guest performances and the like.
- The Delegations of the twin cities of Kursk and Belgorod paid an official visit to the City of Niš, during the celebration of the patrons of the City of Nis – the Day of Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen.

2012

- The memorial plaque dedicated to architect Vsevolod Tatarinov, who designed the building of Nis National Theatre in 1937, modeled on the Munich Theater building, was unveiled at the National Theater in Niš. The memorial plaque was erected at the proposal of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Serbia, with the assistance of the City of Nis and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Niš.

- Following the official signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Center and the Statute at the City Hall in Niš, the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Emergency Center officially started operating. The agreement, signed by Interior Minister Ivica Dacic and Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Andreyevich Puchkov, legally regulates the work of the Center. The Center is intended for rapid response to fires, natural disasters and technological disasters, and in addition to Serbia, rescuers from this Center will cover the entire region from Croatia, Montenegro to Macedonia.
- Nis City Mayor Zoran Perisic organized the reception for Russian pilots who actively participated in firefighting at several locations in Serbia. More than 30 pilots from the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations participated daily in extinguishing the firestorms that threatened the people of western Serbia.

2011

- The concert of the Cuban Cossack Choir was held in the renovated hall of the Cair Sports Center. This concert was held as part of the ensemble's international jubilee tour. The sponsor of the guest appearance in Serbia and the general sponsor of the concert in Niš is "Yugorosgaz" a.d. The Yugorosgaz joint stock company donated this concert to the citizens of Niš and the whole of Southern Serbia in celebration of their fifteen years of work.
- The documents establishing the Regional Humanitarian Emergency Response Center were signed at Nis Airport "Constantine the Great". The documents were signed by

Serbian Interior Minister Ivica Dacic and Russian Federation Emergency Minister Sergey Shoygu. The center will be in charge of responding to natural and chemical disasters.

- The International Festival of Creativity entitled "Songs and Dances of the Nations of the World – Applied Arts", organized by the Non-profit organization "Agency for International Projects in the Field of Culture, Education and Sports" (IPCES) from Moscow, was held in Nis.
- The agreement on social and economic cooperation between the City of Nis and NIS a.d. Novi Sad was signed. The total amount of the financial assistance provided by NIS a.d. to the City of Niš by this Agreement amounts to 10,000,000 dinars, and is intended for the implementation of the Program and events on the territory of the city during 2011.

2008 – 2009

- The Protocol on Cooperation between the City of Nis and the Oil Company "LUKOIL – Beopetrol" AD from Belgrade was signed.
- The cooperation between the City of Nis with the Company for Construction of Gas Piping Systems and Transport of Natural Gas "YUGOROSGAZ" A.D. Belgrade on joint activities on gasification of Niš was concluded. The Protocol between the City of Nis and the Company "JUGOROSGAZ" A.D. was signed on continuation of gasification and construction of distribution network.

2007

- The Cooperation between the City of Nis and the Russian Center for Science and Culture "Russian House" from Belgrade:
- June 19, 2007, the agreement was signed on cooperation between the City and the Russian Center for Science and Culture in Belgrade on opening Russian Cultural Center in Nis.
- January 11, 2007, a joint statement of the Ambassador of the Russian Federation and the Mayor of Nis on the opening of the Russian Cultural Center was signed.

2005 – 2006

- Twinning of Nis and Kursk: In February 2005, the Mayor of Kursk sent the proposal to the City of Nis for twinning and official cooperation. On March 29, 2005, the Assembly of the City of Nis decided to accept the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation between the Towns of Kursk and Nis, and in May of the same year, the Government of the Republic of Serbia approved this Decision. On September 24, 2006, the Cooperation Agreement between the City of Nis and City of Kursk was signed. The aim of this Agreement is to strengthen and develop friendship and economic relations between cities, cooperation in the fields of industry, small and medium-sized businesses, science, culture, tourism and other areas.