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AMERICAN

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

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December 3, 2005

Father Victor Cimperman, left, was the featured speaker at the traditional annual St. Nicholas Evening with Bishop Edward Pevec, right, sponsored by the Slovenian American Heritage Foundation, on Friday evening, Dec. 2 at Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe, Ohio. It snowed all day and night, holding down the usually large crowd. The pleasant gathering marked the beginning of the Christmas holiday season. (Photo by PHILIP J. HRVATIN)



Left to right, Patricia, and Katherine Clarke at the wedding of Brian Potter and Ann Dolgan Potter (center). Elizabeth and Shannon Clarke are at the right in the photo. The Clarke sisters, members of the bridal party, are the daughters of Townsend and Patricia Ipavec Clarke of Cleveland Heights, Ohio.



Slovenian Junior Chorus Youth Circle No. 2 SNPJ performers at their autumn concert on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2005 in Slovenian Society Home in Euclid, Ohio.

(Photo by TONY GRDINA)



Stefani Kurbos with bread for the bridal table in the "Slovenian Folk Wedding" performed by the Slovenian Junior Chorus, Youth Circle No. 2 SNPJ in Slovenian Society Home on Nov. 13. (Photo by TONY GRDINA)



Stan Mejač Orchestra plays at Tony Petkovsek's Polka Party on Thursday, Nov. 24. More photos and story on page 8.

(Photo by TONY GRDINA)

Slovenian Gas Supply Okay

Slovenia's natural gas supply from Russia, which dropped by a third on Monday due to a gas price dispute between Russia and Ukraine, has been fully restored by Tuesday, Slovenian gas company Geoplin said in Ljubljana.

Natural gas accounts for about 15% of energy supply in Slovenia.

-Phil Hrvatin

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No. 1

January 5, 2006

Slovenian Movie Marathon

Enjoy a rare opportunity to see movies from Slovenia. Three films by rising Slovenian filmmaker Damjan Kozole will be shown in one evening, Tuesday, Jan. 10 at the Cleveland Cinematheque in University Circle.

Kozole's funny/sad movies have proven popular with Slovenian audiences and at festivals around the world. This is the first showing of all three films in the town with more Slovenians anywhere outside of Slovenia. Slovenian film expert Joe Valenčič will introduce the movies:

"*The Fatal Telephone*" follows two young filmmakers whose hopes for making their first movie depends on a crucial phone call.

"*Remington*" tells of a convict who breaks out of

jail and tries to flee to America in a red convertible with his girlfriend.

"*Stereotype*" chronicles the strained relationship between a woman and her artist boyfriend whose dreams of fame and fortune seem remote. Slovenian pop singer Roberto Magnifico won Best Actor for his starring role.

The triple feature begins at 6:30 p.m. with a ten-minute intermission between each film. All movies are in Slovenian with English subtitles. Admission is \$10 for all three films (members \$7). Free parking.

The Cinematheque is in the Cleveland Institute of Art theater, 11141 East Boulevard in University Circle. For more information, call (216) 421-7450.

Thought for the Week

If you consider there have been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theater of operations during the last 22 months, and a total of 2,112 deaths, that gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000.

The rate in Washington, D.C. is 80.6 per 100,000. That means you are about 25% more likely to be shot

and killed in our Nation's Capitol, which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, then you are in Iraq.

We can come to this conclusion - We should immediately pull out of Washington, D.C., now.

--Joe Snyder

Horrors of War on Slovenians

by RUDY FLIS

To tell this story completely, I must go all the way back to my childhood, to when I was waiting for my brothers to return from WWII, and, fortunately, they did. Then came the letters from Europe, from relatives of my mom and dad in Yugoslavia. My mom was from Celje and I do not know where my dad was from. All I remember about where my dad came from is that my mom said the letters from his village said all the adult male population had been killed in the war and that his village was badly damaged. One of his brothers died at Dachau Concentration Camp, and the other was shot with other men by a German firing squad as his wife and children were forced to watch.

Not until years later, as an 18-year-old soldier in the U.S. Army of Occupation in Germany, in February of 1953 did I begin to realize how horrific war was. The town of Heilbronn, Germany, where I was stationed for 18 months, was pretty well bombed out. Some of my buddies made fun of the German people and called them "Krauts," while they reminded me of my mom, dad, uncles and aunts, who emigrated to America in the early 1900s. The German people were an industrious people with ambition who

were quickly rebuilding their war-torn cities, building the super highways.

Behind Wharton Barracks, was what the Germans called a hill, which I called a mountain. Every morning we marched up there with rifles and packs to the rifle range to play soldier. As we walked through the countryside way up on top of that thing we called "Old Baldy," on some days we would pass a "DP" camp, where men, women and children lived. They had fled Communism, and could call nowhere "home." What was their crime? Why didn't those poor people have a place of their own? The "DP" camp was off limits to all G.I.'s, no ifs, and, or buts.

Each time I walked past that camp, my heart went out to them. I yearned to go home to be with my family and Therese. I knew eventually I would return home. How could these displaced persons yearn? They had no idea where they were going. These folks were called "DP's" most times in a derogatory way. They were looked down upon. They were losers to people who did not comprehend the trials and tribulations suffered by these people who chose to give up all their wealth, positions and often their lives just to escape the tyranny of the ruthless Communist dictators who slaughtered millions around the world.

For years I have admired our refugees from Slovenian and WWII. I have friends who I can only look up to, who went through all of the above and much more. My daughter Monica, my only "Slovenian daughter," gave me a powerful book to read as a gift for Christmas. Its title is "Slovenia 1945" by John Corsellis / Marcus Ferrar. Memories of Death and Survival after World War II, publisher I B Tauris & London, 6 Salem Road London W2 4BU, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010 www.ibtauris.com

I cannot fathom the cruelty leashed on the Slovenian Domobranci by the Slovenian communists. If it were me, I doubt I could overcome such brutality. How could such a beautiful and peaceful countryside hide all that blood that flowed from helpless young men slaughtered needlessly?

Monica bought the book at Borders in Strongsville. It's powerful reading. I don't know the cost, but it describes all sides of the conflict, even the Commies. It's hard to believe a country can be split in such a way that father, son, brother, and neighbor could do such evil to their own.

God Bless America and all our troops around the world and a Happy New Year to all.

Archbishop writes to British PM About Slovenian Massacre after war

The following is a letter from the Archbishop of Westminster to the Honorable Tony Blair, MP, in London concerning Slovenians killed by the communists after WWII:

11 October, 2005

Dear Prime Minister,
I write from Rome at the Synod of Bishops where two Catholic archbishops from Slovenia have approached me with regard to a book to be published later this month (October) which documents a tragic occurrence in the British zone of Austria in May, 1945. The authors of

the book, John Corsellis and Marcus Ferrar, wrote to you on 16 September.

Some 12,000 Slovenian Catholic soldiers who had fled the arrival of the Communists by taking refuge in Austria were boarded by the British onto a train, supposedly bound for Rome, but in fact destined for Slovenia. When the soldiers arrived, they were massacred.

The archbishops would most appreciate from H.M. Government an acknowledgement that this tragedy took place, and possibly some gesture of regret. I un-

derstand from them that this would do much to heal a grievance that continues to be vivid in the minds of many Slovenes, and which no doubt therefore adversely affects our country's image in their minds.

I do hope you will give the matter your consideration.

With kind wishes,
/s/ Cardinal Cornac
Murphy O'Connor
Archbishop of Westminster

Thanks to Monsignor Franci Petrič of Slovenia for submitting this information.

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Lakefront Taxes Irk Frank Mlakar

by GEORGE MILLER

(Nov. 28) -- Frank Mlakar's children and grandchildren gathered last week for what may be their last Thanksgiving dinner at his longtime lakefront home in Millcreek (PA).

Mlakar, 74, fears he and his wife may be forced to sell their cottage in the 4100 block of Lake Front Drive because of skyrocketing property taxes.

The latest blow came this year when the Millcreek township School District appealed his assessment, or taxable value of his property, as too low.

As a result of the appeal, the Erie County Board of Assessment Appeals increased his assessment from \$220,900 to \$400,000.

Mlakar is among the owners of more than 40 lakefront homes who are seeing their taxes soar because of assessment appeals filed in 2005 by the school district.

Mlakar's tax bill will be up more than 80 percent in 2006 to more than \$8,300.

His school taxes alone have gone from \$883 in 2002 to \$2,759 in 2003, as a result of the countywide reassessment, and to \$5,500 in

2006, as a result of the school district appeal.

Mlakar, who retired in 1997, said he was able to pay the increase from the 2003 reassessment because he landed a part-time job two days a week.

He doesn't know what he is going to do now, other than possibly sell or get another part-time job.

He acknowledged he could probably get a pretty good price by selling his home, but he doesn't want to be forced to move.

"It's been our dream house," said Mlakar, who has owned the property since 1965 and has lived there year-round since 1989.

Overall, the school district challenged the assessments of more than 200 properties throughout the township. It won about three-quarters of them, increasing the district's revenue in 2006 by more than \$340,000, according to county records.

Robert E. Glowacki, president of Assessment Evaluation Inc., who did appraisals for the Millcreek School District in the appeals, said the school district this year focused on lakefront property, mobile home parks and

properties in the very southwest portion of the township. "They (lakefront properties) were just off the charts under assessed," he said.

The school district has been challenging property assessments since 1994.

In 2000, the state Supreme Court, in a precedent-setting ruling, upheld the school district's right to challenge the assessments. The court said government entities can engage in what is known as "spot assessment."

Mlakar, the Millcreek cottage owner, plans to voice his objections to his new assessment to the Millcreek School Board.

He said he bought his property for \$18,900 in 1965 at a time when there was little interest in lakefront property because the lake was "dead" and because the cottage was run down.

Since then, the lake has been cleaned up and people want to live there now.

"That's the reason the value has gone up," he said.

While other cottage owners have second homes and may not be concerned about rising taxes, he said he is.

"I really don't want to sell it," Mlakar said. "We're being forced to sell."

Euclid Pensioners Club

Christmas will soon be upon us.

Let us take this time to elaborate on Euclid Pensioners Christmas Dinner and Dance held on Dec. 7. It was quite well attended, despite the gloomy and snowy, cold wet day. Can't hold these members down.

The festivities started with a delicious sit-down dinner prepared by Jose Cerer, and oh, boy, it was great. Later, we happily danced to the music of Al Batistelli. Much to our surprise, the button boxers Kenny Zalar and Kathy Hlad joined Al in playing polkas and waltzes. They are always willing and ready to play. In between the dancing, the club held a raffle to make our day exciting. A jolly time was had by all.

Before continuing, the Euclid Pensioners Club announced the election of officers for 2006. They are: Lori Sierputowski, President; Jackie Ulle, Vice President; Carolyn Janezich, Recording

Secretary; Lillian Pugel, Financial Secretary and Membership; and Elsie Frank, Treasurer.

As we look forward to the New Year, our president, Lori Sierputowski, who by the way is doing a fantastic job as president, has in store great outstanding entertainment for our up-coming meetings in 2006.

A reminder to our club members that there will be no meeting in January, but we will see you on Wednesday, Feb. 1st.

Also, would like to mention that at all our meetings "Happy Birthday," and "Happy Anniversary" are sung by the members.

The club is taking this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

To our members, may your Christmas bring peace, joy and happiness.

--Carolyn Janezich,
Recording Secretary

St. Vitus Altar Society Party

How did we make the transition into the year 2006 when just yesterday it was Sunday, Dec. 12, 2005.

Was it all just a dream? Perhaps, but in it we, so vividly see the ladies scurrying through the snow, from the 10:30 Mass to the School Auditorium where awaiting them was an afternoon of merriment, fun and laughter.

The auditorium was decked out in all its holiday finery. The guests were greeted by the wonderful ladies of the Board.

Gifts (like the Magi before) were brought to be 'raffled' big and little. There were plenty, and of course, many happy recipients.

The festivities began with the group singing Christmas Carols while Father Boznar blessed the Manger. Special thanks to Zalka Likozar for preparing and setting up the crib scene. It was beautiful.

Father Cimperman was called upon to lead the group in prayer before the feast. One look at the serving table and you knew there was "magic" in the air. There were Santa's helpers in the kitchen. What a spread. You name it, it was there. Lip smacking good.

That was not all, the "sweets table" was a sight to behold. Even Fr. Cimperman, who is very diligent about his diet, could not resist a couple of goodies. And our dear pastor, his love of chocolate was satisfied.

A very strange sight, yet happy to behold, was to see two special ladies who are usually always behind the scenes, cooking up a storm, sitting at the table as guests.

Linda Plečnik and Sophie Mazi. It was our pleasure to entertain you for a change. By the way, if you were wondering who that nice looking man who was seated next to our dear pastor was, it was none other than Matt Plečnik, Linda's husband. It was strange to see him sitting quiet so long. He is usually working up and around, never sitting down.

Then came the annual presentation of the St. Vitus Altar Society's Christmas gift. It was presented by President Ivanka Matic to Father Boznar who accepted it with a "gleam" in his eye; a check in the amount of \$10,000. It was the culmination of a lot of krofe sales and hard work by the ladies of the Altar Society. The gift will go toward the roof.

We were then entertained by the young ladies of the 9 a.m. Choir led by Louise Strauss with some Slovenian and English Christmas Carols. Thank you one and all for a lovely musical interlude. It really added to the Christmas spirit.

It was then time to part, to say 'so long until next year when we can do it again.'

May this year be one of Good Health, Good Fortune, and Peace.

Special greetings from the Board of St. Vitus Altar Society: President: Ivanka Matic; Vice President: Gabriella Kuhel; 2nd VP: Mitzi Košir; Treasurer: Nevia Avzlahar; Secretary: Helena Perčič, and outgoing Secretary: Julia Smole. Thanks for your years of service, Julia.

The Research Institute, *Studia Slovenica*

The Republic of Slovenia's Department of Archives has released a new book in its series: "A Detailed Guide to the Archives of *Studia Slovenica*" [Ljubljana, 2005, 148 pages, illustrated]. The photographs illustrate samples of documents and display several persons linked to the archived material. The index lists and describes the archive's 125 collections and repositories that represent approximately 1,000 archival boxes of material.

The collections vary significantly in size. Among the larger is the LIGA Collection (*Liga Slovenskih Amerikancev*/League of Slovenian Americans), held in 81 boxes, and the collection of material from the refugee camps in Austria and Italy [59 boxes]. The material of SLS (*Slovenska Ljudska Stranska*/Slovenian People's Party) politicians represents the largest repository [127 boxes].

The preliminary work was done by a professional archivist from the Republic of Slovenia's Department of Archives, Ms. Andreja Škofljanec, who for the past 6 years has spent one day per week in organizing this archive. Her preface in the book explains her methodology in organizing this mate-

rial. The archivist followed archival standards, but various problems surfaced while cataloging, because the material is so diversified in type, historical age, and geographic source. The archivist occasionally devised some novel solutions to resolve some of these cataloging problems.

The preface by Janez Arnež, the director of the Research Institute *Studia Slovenica*, describes the varied routes that led him to this archival material and its ultimate destination in Slovenia, to the Institute of St. Stanislav, where *Studia Slovenica Research Institute* is based.

The Ministry of Culture in the Republic of Slovenia, at the suggestion of the Department of Slovenian Archives, proclaimed in 2002 that the archival material preserved by the *Studia Slovenica* was a private archive. This was the first instance in Slovenia and to this day, the only public announcement of this private archive. The book emphasizes the utter importance of collecting and storing material that needs to be preserved. This has extra significance for material about Slovenian immigrants that is in grave danger of disappearing permanently.

This material represents the Slovenian cultural heritage that survived outside the borders of the native country of Slovenia. How tragic is the fact that so much of the documentation on the lives and labors of Slovenians in the USA has been destroyed. It is critically important that anyone who has correspondence (letters, photographs, documents), newspapers, programs for plays, concerts, etc. ensure the preservation of such material for posterity by donating it to the *Studia Slovenica Institute* instead of throwing it away.

We must realize that all this material which is preserved and professionally catalogued, is a valuable source of information for future historians who will write about all the places in the world where Slovenians and their descendants lived and worked. Undoubtedly this archive will also aid any individual doing genealogical research.

Please direct correspondence or donations to this post box address:
Studia Slovenica
p.p. 28
1210 Ljubljana - Šentvid
Slovenia

e-mail to:
studia.slovenica@guest.arnes.si

MLAKAR Walks Down Memory Lane

by RAY MLAKAR

First and foremost, here is wishing all of our readers a Happy New Year and here is hoping it brings you all "Good Health."

I hope Santa was good to all of you. before I get carried away, got to let everyone know that one of my astute readers of the American Home did send me a Choo-Choo Train for Christmas even though it was only a picture of one. What can I say, a picture is worth a thousand words. At least I know that I can keep this Choo-Choo Train on its tracks. Thanks again to my reader who sent it. Some folks know how to keep an "old man" like me happy.

Not to be outdone, I must acknowledge thanks to none other than Sue and Andrew Cashen from Madison, Ohio and these thanks are being sent on behalf of Happy Harry (Ray's Cairn Terrier). What can I say to the Cashens except to say they made Happy Harry exceptionally happy. The postman rang the bell and handed me this box and I can't believe that "Harry" somehow knew it was for him. He was all over me to get at the box. "Hold on Harry; the box is addressed to me."

When I opened it, it was wrapped in Christmas paper with Harry's name on it and so I gave it to him. He lost no time in ripping the paper off and he strutted around the house with that ball like there was no tomorrow. He took on the chair and was about to get some "shut eye," but he kept one eye open with his paw firmly on the ball. He takes the ball to bed with us and come 8:30 in the morning, he bounces that ball off my head in bed. With him and his ball, I don't need an alarm clock.

So again, thanks to the Cashens for making Harry believe there is a Santa, but then I am a firm believer, too, for one of our readers did bring me a Choo-Choo train, even though it was only a photograph.

Can't forget to acknowledge our thanks to my sister Irene for she dropped by early Christmas Eve to drop off gifts for Harry again. He made out like a bandit, but then Irene did not forget me. She had a pocket size photo of Harry and took it to a store where they embossed his photo on a coffee mug. I could not believe it. Now I can have a mug of coffee and a mug of Harry all in one. She also got me a special calendar with huge photos of the various Cairn terriers. Needless to say they are both

in a special place above my computer.

I was about to tell Irene what I wanted done to these when I pass on, but she knew. She said, "I know you want these placed in your casket." I give her reminders from time to time and keep adding to the list, and before long I feel they will have to bury me in a railroad box car because I don't want to leave anything behind that means anything to me, and that includes the photo of the "Choo-Choo Train."

I guess the highlight of my so called "Blue Christmas" was attending Midnight Mass at our traditional Catholic Church, St. Therese. One had to be there to appreciate it. The church was decorated to no end and it was acknowledged in the bulletin that the decorating of the special flowers on the altars was done by the surviving families of deceased members of our parish.

The young men of our parish as well as some of the older members have to be congratulated on the efforts they went through to decorate the entire church, for they had to get up on some very tall ladders to hang all the green boughs and wreaths. There were 18 altar boys serving Mass. In fact there were two sets of three brothers, each serving the High Mass. The altar boys all wore red cassocks with white lace surplices.

When they marched into church, it was dark with the exception of the candles lit on the main altar. They proceeded to the stable to place the infant Jesus in his manger as they sang, "Silent Night, Holy Night." We truly felt like we were all there in Bethlehem celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

The entire church was kept in the dark until the priest got to the main altar and was about to read the epistle when the main altar was then flooded with lights. I am sure the entire congregation hated to see Mass end. To me, attending Midnight Mass is my highlight of truly celebrating the birth of Jesus. "Peace on earth to men of good will." We all pray for peace so that our men and women can come home from Iraq.

I tried to sleep in but needless to say, "Happy Harry" woke me at 08:30 a.m. with his new bouncing ball on my head. I tried to keep busy to keep my mind occupied living through another Christmas without Josephine and I can't say that time makes it easier. I kept busy for there was a lot of ironing to do which helped pass the time.

In the evening about 8:30,

I was about to turn in since Harry got me up early when the phone rang and I was wondering who was calling me so late. It is said that God never closes a door that he doesn't open a window. And he did then for on the phone was my friend Bob Wooten, the young man who always helps me with the computer. He says, "What are you doing?" "About to go to bed," I said. He said, "Hold on, I'm coming over." I said, "Not tonight." He said, "Open the door, I am in your driveway." (He was calling from his cell phone). It seems even Harry knew who I was talking to for he gets very excited when Bob drops by.

I opened the door and he said, "Ray I am not stopping. I have the family in the car but wanted to drop something off for you." He handed me a huge shopping bag and was out of sight in no time. I opened the bag and could not believe it. He brought enough covered dishes to feed me from then until New Year's Day. There was nothing that they left out. Without a doubt, both he and his wife's heart are bigger than both of them put together. I had not eaten all day with the exception of me making fried eggs for the first time in ages that I had in the morning and had a roast beef I was going to prepare but never got around to it. Now I had enough on the various plates to keep me in food for the days ahead.

They did not stop there, for in the bag was the New Video Disk of Daniel O'Donnell of his "Encore Concert" he sang in Branson with him singing over 20 enchanting songs. Guess Bob knew that Daniel O'Donnell was my favorite. I stayed up until the wee hours of the night listening to him sing.

To our many readers all I can say is if you truly enjoy good singing, be sure to get yourself of the "Daniel O'Donnell Branson Encore Video Disk." It contains music, singing you will never tire of listening to. To the Wooten and all the others I have mentioned in my column, thanks for making this "Old Man's Christmas" one that I will remember and not as "blue" as I had anticipated.

Well, Ray, don't you think you wrote enough because it is time to close with a joke to keep everyone's spirit up. I guess in telling this joke is to get the idea across to really "Thank God" for all he has given us, but think "Joe" in this joke doesn't get it.

Joe was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting

and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up drinking Tequila. Miraculously, a parking space appeared. Joe

looked up and said, "Never mind Lord; I found one."

In closing a reminder to thank God for what we have, and pray that God continues to give all of our readers Good Health in the New Year. God bless you all.

Balinca Club News

Our annual meeting and social will take place on Sunday, Jan. 15 at Waterloo Slovenian Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. We look forward to seeing all our members, whether you balinca on a team or are just club members. For balinca players there is a sign-up sheet posted. For non-players, please call me at 440-943-7212 before Jan. 10 if you plan to attend. The luncheon cost is based on a per person basis.

We are very pleased to report our club is doing well. We have organized a new, daytime, fun league and need more players. There are no dues, no prize money and just 50 cents a game. Because we are in the process of getting organized, the scheduled thus far has been informal. However, by the beginning of the new year, the teams will be in place.

We play every Wednesday at 1 p.m. EXCEPT the second Wednesday of each month, which allows our players to attend the Holmes Pensioners (recycled teenagers) meeting. Joe Stimac volunteered (with a little pressure) to be in charge and is doing a wonderful job. If you are interested in playing, we welcome you. Call me at the above number.

In addition, Brian Polantz has organized a more experienced men's league which will also begin playing in January. Brian also is working with the Hall Board on improvements to our balinca facilities. I believe this brings you up-to-date on our activities. Merry Christmas and may the New Year be filled with good health, good friends and peace on earth.

Joke from Phil Hrvatin

A hip young man goes out and buys the best car on the market, a brand new Ferrari FXX. It is also the most expensive car in the world, and it costs him \$500,000. He takes it for a spin and stops at a red light.

An old man on a Moped, looking about 90 years old, pulls up next to him. The old man looks over at the sleek, shiny car and asks, "What kind of car ya' got there, sonny?"

The young man replies, "A Ferrari FXX. It cost half a million dollars."

"That's a lot of money," says the old man. "Why does it cost so much?"

"Because this car can do up to 320 miles an hour."

The Moped driver asks, "Mind if I take a look inside?"

"No problem," says the owner. The old man bends over and looks inside. "That's a pretty nice car," the old fellow says, "but I'll stick to this Moped."

Just then the light changes, so the guy decides to show

the old man just what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds, the speedometer reads 160 mph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It gets closer. He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly, WHHOOOSSHH, something whips by.

"What can possibly be faster than my car?" the young fellow asks himself. Amazed, he realizes it's the old man on his Moped.

Astounded, he floors the gas pedal and takes the Ferrari all the way up to 320 mph. Not 10 seconds later, he sees the Moped bearing down on him again. All of a sudden the Moped plows into the rear end of the Ferrari. The young man stops and jumps out and unbelievably the old man is still alive. He runs up to the mangled old man and says, "My gosh, is there anything I can do?"

The old man whispers, "Unhook my suspenders from your side-view mirror."

Hospitality is Highlighted
in Slovenia

Lausche Foundation pledges \$100,000 to Pristava

Slovenska Pristava Hall Renovation Update (*Fourth in a series of updates.*)

On October 22, The Frances and Jane S. Lausche Foundation generously pledged \$100,000 toward the construction of a new social hall at Slovenska Pristava in Harpersfield, Ohio. A grant for \$25,000 was received with the pledge to fulfill the \$100,000 commitment over a four year period. As a result, the new hall will be named in honor of the late Frank J. Lausche, known to many as "Ohio's Lincoln." The Foundation, administered by James and Madeline Debevec, and John Urbancich, has suggested the new building be named "Lausche Lodge."

Frank J. Lausche is Ohio's most renowned Slovenian serving as a judge, the first Slovenian Mayor of Cleveland, Governor of Ohio for an unprecedented five terms (and the first Catholic governor of Ohio), and a U.S. Senator for two six-year terms. The Lausche Foundation has always been a generous benefactor of Slovenska Pristava and we are extremely grateful for this outstanding commitment.

Construction of the new hall progresses daily. Work continues on the new hall despite the recent inclement weather. The masonry work on the hall and the partial basement was completed and expertly led by Joe Grcar and a group of volunteers. The floor over the partial basement was also completed. This past weekend carpentry work on the walls of the building has started. Within the next two to three weeks the structural steel should be in place, weather permitting. There remains much to do, but the progress already made makes us all optimistic and eager for more. There have been many volunteer hours invested in this project so far. To those of you who have already helped, we thank you from our hearts. We hope that we can continue to count on our volunteers to keep the costs of this project down. It's absolutely wonderful and inspiring to see so many people working elbow-to-elbow toward a common goal that will mean so much to so many people. Volunteers, thank you again! We will continue to post pictures of the progress of construction on our website: www.slovenskapristava.org

As of December 9th, we have received donations from 314 individuals (or groups) for a total of just over \$230,000.

Additional money that is pledged but not received is

NOT reflected in this total (including \$75,000 to come from the Frances and Jane S. Lausche Foundation.) Those members (and friends) who have not yet made a pledge or donation are kindly asked to do so as soon as possible. Letters were recently mailed again to all members who have not yet donated nor indicated their intention to donate or pledge. We kindly ask that everyone respond to these letters, even if you cannot make a donation at this time.

Donations can be sent to Slovenska Pristava, c/o Frank Zalar, 2886 Istra Lane, Willoughby Hills, OH 44092.

The following is a list of donations received from October 17th thru December 9th. We would like to thank the donors for their generosity. (Any additional pledged monies are not shown.)

Maria Bajc \$250 in memory of Lojze Bajc

Ann Cendol \$100 in memory of Ivana and John Cendol

Peter and Mary Ann Domanko \$500

Vera Foreman \$250

Mike Frank \$500

Ernie Luzar \$500

Helena Nemec \$250

August Pust \$250

Maria Rezonja \$200

Mike Rus \$1,000

Branka Santha \$100

Stella and Darrell Saylor \$250

Eric and Mary Ann Stansky \$100

Janez Svigelj \$500

Viktor and Nezka Tominec, \$100

Apolonia and Joe Zakelj \$200

Frank Zalar \$100

Nicholas Zitnik \$1,000 in memory of Druzina Zitnik

Tom and Margaret Znidarsic \$2,500 in memory of Joseph Kristanč and Joseph Znidarsic

The Frances and Jane S. Lausche Foundation \$25,000

Marie and Rudy Pivik \$500

Branko and Angela Radey \$200

Marko Cerne \$150 in memory of Mate Roesmann

Anonymous \$350

Edi and Milena Gobetz \$500 in memory of Joze Martelanc, Jernej Slak, Janez Varsek, Maks Ovnica and Mate Roesmann

James and Madeline Debevec \$1,000 in appreciation of Frank Kogovsek, Stane Rus, and ALL Pristava volunteers.

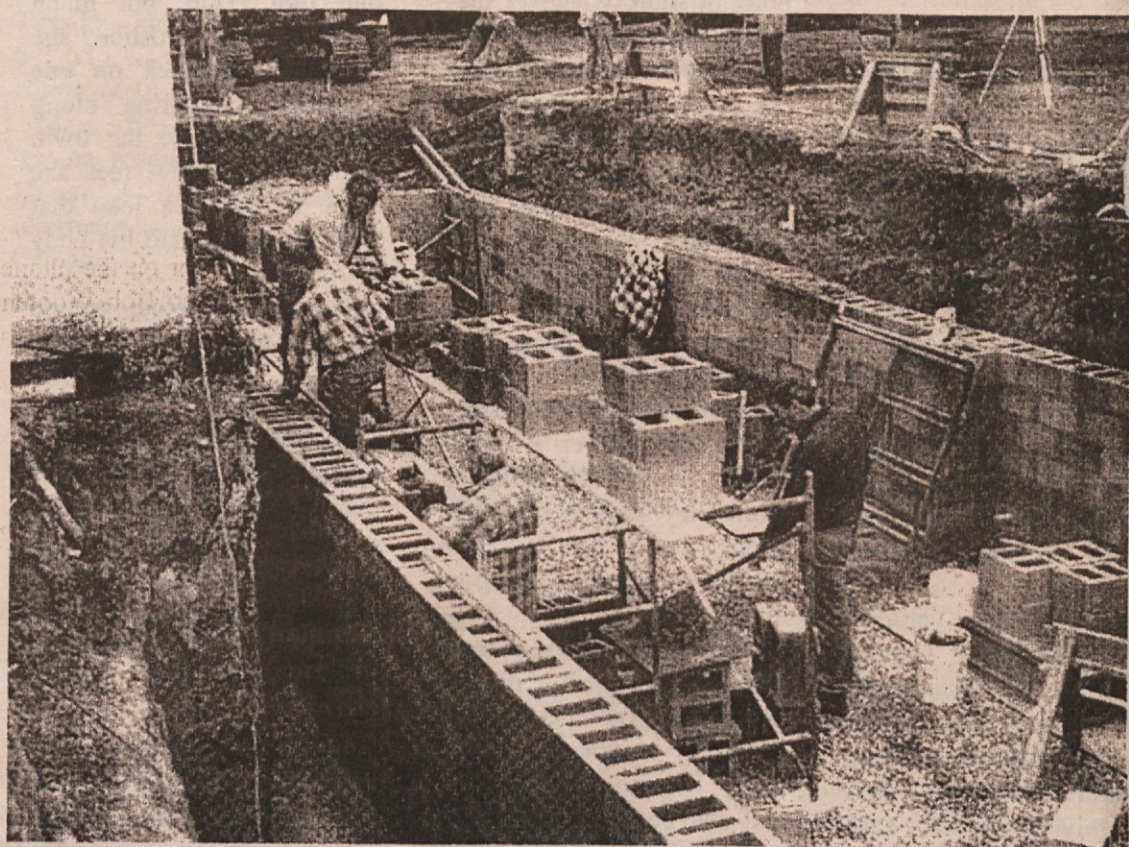
Mark and Martina Jakomin \$500

Andrew Stupica \$250

James Omahen \$500

Robert and Rhonda Zakrajsek \$500

Louis Prijatelj \$250 in memory of Eleanor Prijatelj



Joe Grcar, Joe Cerer, Stane Rus, and Branko Pisorn work on the masonry of the partial basement at Slovenska Pristava. (Photo by TONY CERER)

John and Dana Leonard \$1,000

Paul Ferkul/Perkins Family \$1,000 in memory of John and Julie Ferkul

Antonia Lamovec \$1,000 in memory of Viktor Lamovec

John Lamovec \$1,000 in memory of Viktor Lamovec

Ivan Tomc \$500

John and Mary Ann Semen \$500 in memory of Mary Semen and Karl Druzina

Mirko and Amelia Maslac \$500

John and Mary Kozina \$500

E. M. Kapore \$25 in memory of Joseph Klaus

Marguerite Poropat \$25 in memory of Joseph Klaus

Anton and Maria Adamic \$300

Dan Grdadolnik \$250

Andy and Kim Grdadolnik \$250

Mateja and Paul Grdadolnik \$250

Rob and Mary Grdadolnik \$250

Frank Gobec \$1,000

Lojze Burjes \$500

Josef and Irena Rus \$1,000

Phil Hrvatin \$500

Jean Krizman \$1,000 in memory of Emil Krizman

Marko Vovk \$500

Ciril Zagar \$300

John Skerl \$200

Igor Frank \$300

Belokranjski Klub \$500

St. Vitus Lodge #25 KSKJ \$500

John and Terry (Mohar) Young \$500

Nada Shimko \$250

Luba Hennies \$250

John Oreh \$250

Ludmila Odar \$500 in memory of Miro and Milka Odar

Kristjan Sedmak \$500

Antonia Dolenc \$100

Anton Dolenc \$100

Joe Cah \$200

Stephen Koren \$100

Joe Urancar \$500

Sandra (Grcar) Finazzo \$250

Nick Zitnik \$1,000

Marie and David Kushner \$100

David Hocevar \$525 in memory of Matija Hocevar

Jerome Grabner \$304, 2nd donation (total \$1,000)

Margie and Robert Leden

\$250 in memory of Frank Kastigar

Julie and Joe Tromba \$100

William Gabriel \$500

Report submitted by:
--Stan Krulc Jr.,
Publicity Committee of
Slovenska Pristava

Bayuk Chosen Best in Finance

BELGRADE, Dec. 23 – Slovenia's Andrej Bajuk has been chosen as the best financial minister of 2005 for Europe by *The Banker* magazine, a prestigious publication of the Financial Times Group, a Slovenian party member said in Ljubljana last Friday.

Bajuk, leader of the ruling coalition member New Slovenia, earned the award through his contribution to Slovenia's euro changeover preparations and his fiscal policy and tax reform efforts, his party said in a statement, adding that the names of

award winners in 2005 are to be published in the January issue of *The Banker*.

Slovenia, a member of the European Union since May 2004, wishes to introduce the euro on Jan. 1, 2007, along with Estonia and Lithuania.

In his New Year's message on Friday, Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa said his country has enjoyed months of economic growth while achieving the lowest inflation rate in its history and fulfilling the demanding criteria for eurozone membership.

--Philip J. Hrvatin

Debevecs Mark 62nd Anniversary

Congratulations to Bob and Elaine Debevec of Madison, Ohio who will be celebrating their 62nd anniversary on January 14.

The handsome couple were married in Roswell, New Mexico, shortly before the aliens arrived. From there they served out the war in Yuma, and other Air Force bases in New Mexico. Then they moved back to Cleveland to celebrate the birth of their first born, Carl, who is now a practicing attorney in Northern California.

They also have two daughters, Barbara and Diane.

Roster fees due

Clubs, lodges and all other organizations wishing to have their roster listed in the American Home at various times during the year should please submit their \$30.00 yearly fee to American Home, 6117 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103. Be sure to include your roster for 2006.

Listed organizations will also have first preference for publicizing and reporting on their events.

FOR SALE

Slak Button Box Accordion, keys: C, F, B-flat – with traveling case -- \$1,500. Call 1-440-582-9322

Burden of Carrying School Books

by JOE GLINSEK

Right through high school, I would have been ridiculed as a sissy if I carried my school books in any way other than casually; in my hand, at arm's length. Boys seemed to know these rules by instinct. One kid tied his books with a leather strap and gripped the loose end of the belt. That didn't seem too far off the rule, yet he never lived it down. Girls usually held books against their chest with one or both forearms. OK for them, but a no-no for boys.

Book bags were strictly taboo. Even girls seldom carried these flat little satchels. If a boy was foolish enough to carry a book bag, it wouldn't survive the first day. Only a pencil case would have attracted louder jeers.

On my morning walks these days, I pass clusters of kids waiting for their school bus. Without exception, boys

and girls alike, there's not a book in sight: whatever they carry is in a backpack. These vary from big to huge, and are rarely worn where they belong: on their back, a strap over each shoulder, and belted at the waist to keep them snug.

Though backpacks are evidently cool, wearing them properly isn't. Most kids sling both straps over one shoulder and, for balance, mimic the Tower of Pisa. Others sit on the backpack while they wait, then use the straps for a handle. Both methods promote bad posture.

Just the other day, a local chiropractor wrote about future spinal problems for kids wearing backpacks incorrectly. It came as no surprise, and maybe the article was inspired by existing complaints. Early onset scoliosis? Nobody wants that.

My walking isn't nearly as brisk as it used to be, but I often see a tiny girl that I

could pass while hopping on one foot. Thin, not much taller than a yardstick, she lugs her backpack on one shoulder, staggering along the sidewalk like the town drunk. Every few feet she stops to adjust a load that must be at least half her body weight.

This kid is either getting way too much homework, or is doing lots of extra-credit stuff. Her pack is big enough for a Himalayan expedition, and she has the worst pack-to-kid ratio of any I see on my walk. It's none of my business, but I've wanted to ring the doorbell and tell her mom to buy a folding luggage cart. Oops, they're probably not cool.

Backpacks are the uniform of the day for school kids. Maybe loose books, carried in hand, are cause for ridicule today. What's cool today becomes nerdy tomorrow. I can't keep up.

Things You Don't Know

Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.

Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.

Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower' because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the capitol letters were stored in the top of the case and the regular letters were stored in the bottom or lower part of the case.

There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple, and silver.

Leonardo da Vinci invented scissors. Also it took him 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.

Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.

Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.

There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.

The name Wendy was made up for the book Peter

Pan; there was never a recorded Wendy before.

A tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion will make it instantly go mad and sting itself to death.

The mask used by Michael Myers in the original movie "Halloween" was a Captain Kirk's mask painted white.

The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law, which stated you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was the Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.

Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it. It's the same with apples.

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying, unless you were spanked for stealing the gum.

The glue on Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher.

Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from Public Libraries.

--Phil Hrvatin

Right to Life March

St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Holy Name Society will sponsor a bus trip to Washington, D.C. for all those who wish to join in the Right to Life March.

The bus will leave St. Mary's on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 9 p.m., and return on Monday night, Jan. 23rd.

For more information or to reserve a seat on the bus, please contact Lou Koenig at 216 481-0800.

Krofe Sale

St. Vitus Altar Society will hold a krofe and noodles sale on Saturday, January 14 in the school social room.

Shrine Breakfast

French Toast Breakfast at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, 21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid, OH after the 8 a.m. Mass until 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5. Donation \$5.00. Breakfast includes French toast, sausage or bacon, juice and coffee.

Tony's...

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7:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. Sat

We love the Slovenian people. We want more of them as our customers.

Coming Events...

Sunday, Jan. 8

Palacinka breakfast in St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) new parish center from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Donation is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. Breakfast includes eggs, sausage, crepes, and a beverage.

Sunday, Jan. 22

St. Mary's (Coll.) annual lunch in parish hall beginning at 11 a.m. Pork and chicken on menu. Prices \$12 adults, \$6 children. Take outs available.

Saturday, Jan. 28

Pristavska Noč at SNH on St. Clair, Cleveland.

Sunday, Feb. 5

French Toast Breakfast, 8

a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, 21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid, OH 44117. Donation \$5.

Feb. 17 - 25

Slovenian Ski Trip to Austria. \$1525 from Cleveland, \$1399 from New York. Reservations call Ivan Kamin (718) 424-2711.

March 19 - 26

Annual Slovenian ski trip to Steamboat, Colorado. Call John Kamin at (718) 424-2711, or weeknights at (212) 691-5551 or (518) 734-5515 weekends.

Saturday, April 29

Zarja Spring Frolic Concert at Slovenian Society Home in Euclid, Ohio.

Chocolaty Shortbread Cookies

¼ cup sugar
½ cup margarine or butter, softened
½ cup shortening
1 tsp. vanilla
1 egg
2 ¼ cups all purpose flour
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa
½ tsp. baking powder
sugar

Heat oven to 325 degrees. In large bowl, beat ¾ cup sugar, margarine and shortening until light and fluffy. Add vanilla and egg; blend well. Stir in flour, cocoa, and baking powder; mix well. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten slightly with bottom of glass dipped in sugar.

Bake at 325 degrees for 8 to 13 minutes or until set. Cool for 1 minute, remove from cookie sheet.

Makes 3 dozen.

--Brother Richard

Gilmour well seasoned recipe book

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Death Notices

ANN LEKAN

Ann Lekan (nee Jesenko), age 84, beloved wife of the late John F.; dear mother of Regis (Sandy) and Jack (Diane); loving grandmother of Michael, Matt, Katie, Johnny, Dan, and Kelly; daughter of Jacob and Anna (nee Zakelj) (both deceased); sister of Myron (deceased), and Ruth Abbott (Eugene); cherished aunt and great aunt.

Ann was a member of and reporter for AMLA Lodge #26. She was a supporting member of Slovenian American National Art Guild.

Mass of Christian Burial was in St. Francis de Sales Church (State and Snow Rd.) on Monday, Dec. 19 at 9:30 a.m. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery.

JENNIE RIBARIC

Jennie Ribaric (nee Fabian), beloved wife of the late Sylvester; dear mother of Beverly Snodgrass (Joseph), Raymond (Andrea), Kathleen Gray (Bob) and James (Dolores); grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of nine. Daughter of Matthew Fabian and Mary (nee Legan) (both deceased); sister of Margaret Munley and the following deceased Mary Kastelic, Sophie Papesch, Frances Dernyar, Tillie Kurtinaitis, Julia Fabian and Raymond Fabian; dear aunt and great-aunt.

Funeral Mass at the Fortuna Funeral Home, 5316 Fleet Ave. Services were at St. Lawrence Church. Interment Calvary Cemetery.

ANTON TESKAC

Anton Teskac, age 75, husband of Teresa (nee Kurbos); father of Slavko, Annie (Frank) Sterle and Felix Teskac; grandfather of Danielle and Frankie; brother of Andrej and Stefan Teskac (both deceased), Marija Kordic and Anica (Felix) Kurbos.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 30 at St. Vitus Church. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

Family received friends at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills, OH on Thursday, Dec. 29 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

EDWARD H. DEBENJAK

Edward H. Debenjak (12-20-1921-12-08-2005) was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He also lived in Willowick and Hudson, Ohio. He then moved to Summit View, 825 Runyan Drive, Apt. D-1, Chattanooga, TN. He went to be with the Lord on Dec. 8, 2005.

Mr. Debenjak is survived by his wife, Alyce, and daughters Debbie Adorni, Barbara McFarland, and Cynthia Kedrowski; and seven grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was held in St. Augustine Church in Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

MILAN ZUDIC

Milan Zudic, age 83. Beloved husband for 58 years of Ana. Loving father of Maria Kobal, Nevja Avzlahar (husband Drago, deceased) and Mirko (wife Ann). Dearest grandfather of Alex Kobal (Heidi), Erik Kobal (Nadia), Michael, Michelle, Daniel and great grandfather of Joseph Kobal. Dear brother of Stefi Rosen of Australia, Joe of Canada and the late Maria and Zeljko of Croatia. Dear brother-in-law, uncle, great uncle and cousin of many.

The family suggests contributions be made in Milan's memory to Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185 St., Cleveland, OH 44119, or the charity of your choice.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Christine Catholic Church, E. 222 St., Euclid. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

SARINA SAMOCHIN

Sarina Samochin (nee Giovaninni), age 78, passed away on Dec. 29, 2005 at home with her loving family beside her.

Beloved wife of the late Alexander; loving mother of Marie Antoinette (deceased), Antonio (Gina) Samochin, Anna Marie (Ronald) Luzar, Diana (Lawrence) Federici, Sandra (Jeffrey) Jaskiel; dear sister of five; dear grandmother of Stacey, Alex, Andrea, Sarah, Ronny, Vance, Emily, Dominique, Ryan and Jacob.

Sarina battled cancer with great courage and was an example to us all by her unwavering faith and concern for others. She was a devoted parishioner of St. Vitus Church in Cleveland for over

47 years; and dearly loved her community.

Family received friends Tuesday, Jan. 3 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Zak Funeral Home, 6016 St. Clair Ave.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 10 a.m. in St. Vitus Church. Interment in All Souls Cemetery.

In Memory

Thanks to **Elsie B. Zaletel** of Haiku, Hawaii who added a \$15.00 donation in memory of **Batich and Zaletel Families**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Flori M. Zazula** of Wickliffe, Ohio who renewed her subscription and added a \$30.00 donation. She writes, "Here is hoping you continue to thrive as one of the reasons that all Slovenians past, present and future continue to exemplify the "LOVE" in Slovenian. Enclosed, please accept a token of my appreciation in memory of **Florian, Mary and Silvo Sekne**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Rose Turovsky** of Wickliffe, OH who submitted a \$15.00 donation in memory of her husband, **John**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Olga Dorchak** of Sagamore Hills, OH who donated \$15.00 in memory of her mother, **Jennie Gerk**.



IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of our beloved wife, sister, aunt and cousin

Kathleen Cesen



who passed away on January 6, 2003

No pen can write, no tongue can tell our sad and bitter loss, But God alone has helped so much, to bear our heavy cross.

Her Loving Family:
RICHARD, husband
FRANK, brother and wife PAT
Nieces, Nephews and Cousins,
Brothers-in-law, and sisters-in law.

In Memory

Thanks to **Anna Marinch** of Las Vegas, NV who donated \$10.00 in memory of her husband, **Al Marinch**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Tony Vogel** of Euclid, OH who donated \$15.00 in memory of his wife, **Mary Vogel**.

In Memory

Thanks to **Olga Kalar** of Euclid, OH who donated \$15.00 in memory of her husband, **Ludvik Kalar**.

Donation

Thanks to **Ed and Milena Gobetz** of Willoughby Hills, OH for their \$30.00 Christmas donation. They write, "Thank you for American Home newspaper. - It's one of the most significant gifts to the Slovenian American community! - May the Spirit of Christmas with its peace and Joy abide with you through the year."

Large Donation

Thanks to **Anonymous** of Chagrin Falls, OH for the \$100.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to **TABOR**, Wickliffe, OH for the \$25.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to **Steffie Jarem** of Concord, OH for the \$25.00 donation.

Large Donation

Thanks to **Pensioners Club of Slovenska Pristava** for the \$100.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to **Mary Zimperman** of South Euclid, Ohio who renewed her subscription and added a \$15.00 donation. She writes, "Because I subscribe to the American Home, I am delighted to know how very active our Slovenians are in the United States and Canada. I appreciate the current news about the Republic of Slovenia. Thank you for your commitment to the Ameriška Domovina."

Large Donation

Thanks to **Bob and Gerri Hopkins** for the \$100 donation. They write, "Please accept this donation for the excellent job you do. We especially enjoy the proverbs from your esteemed philosophers such as Bob Mills, Ray Mlakar, and Rudy Flis."

Donation

Thanks to **Agnes Tercek** of Hudson, OH who donated \$10.00 in memory of her husband, **Al Tercek**.

Donation

Thanks to **Gloria Pust** of Euclid, OH who donated \$25.00 to the Ameriška Domovina.

Donation

Thanks to **AMLA Lodge #9** for the \$45.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to **Saint Christine Church** of Euclid, Ohio for the \$50.00 donation.

Donations

Thanks to the following for their generous donations to the Ameriška Domovina:

Anton and Bernarda Veselic, Bainbridge, OH -- \$15.00

Stefanija Vidmar, Perry, OH -- \$15.00

Naçe Omahen, Euclid, OH -- \$15.00

Anthony Pozelnik, Cleveland, OH -- \$15.00

Anton Vegel, Euclid, OH -- \$15.00

Pauline Burja, Euclid, OH -- \$15.00

Josephine Jurkovic, Euclid, OH -- \$5.00

Maria Rus, Euclid, OH -- \$5.00

Bernie Sajovec, Cleveland, OH -- \$10.00

Maria Hull, Lakewood, OH -- \$15.00

Antonia Lamovec, Richmond Heights, OH -- \$15.00

Milena Stropnik, Willoughby Hills, OH -- \$5.00

Theresa Percic, Painesville, OH -- \$15.00

Lillian and Ernest Centa, Euclid, OH -- \$15.00

John Berkopec, Euclid, OH -- \$10.00

Valeria Cekada, Euclid, OH -- \$10.00

Frank Wurzer, Cleveland, OH -- \$5.00

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Boardman and Bob Jenovic of Wickliffe while the waltz winners were Nancy and Bob Kadar of Seven Hills, Ohio and runner-up couple Nancy Glass of PA and Potsy Jenovic of Willowick.

The Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show XVIII was aired on WELW 1330 on Monday, Jan. 2 from 3 p.m. on, and eventually will be on Adelphia Cable as well as be available at the Polka Hall of Fame. "Cleveland the Polka Town," and "Let's Have a Party" were permanently enshrined as all time greats plus lifetime achievers Ron Sluga and the late Gary Seibert of California. The Trustees Honor Roll this year included New York's Adam Barthalt, the late Betty Rotar, Lou Sadar, and Wisconsin's Gene Tebo.

The annual award categories recognized the following as top vote getters: The SNPJ Slovene National Benefit Society for Cultural / Heritage; Ed Ostray for Support / Promotion; Chris Hibbs as Best Vocalist; Ron Sluga, Mark Habat, and Mike Grkman for Sideman; Bob Kravos Boys in the Band for Band of the Year; and a tripleheader for Fred Ziwich taking Musician, Button Accordion, and Recording of the Year.

Kollander World Travel, a division of AAA Travel, handled all Marriott Hotel reservations which recently underwent an over \$10 million dollar renovation in all of its rooms. This was the 16th year the polka extravaganza took place in downtown Cleveland.

Making it all happen was a dance committee known as the Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club managed by Alice Kuhar and the American Slovenian Polka Foundation whose president is Cecilia Dolgan.

Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter. --Izaak Walton

From coast to coast and throughout North America they came to the annual Thanksgiving Polka Party for three consecutive nights at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Cleveland to make merry and also partake in the awards show in Euclid, Ohio from Nov. 24 through Nov. 26.

Twenty different bands entertained along with the renown cowboy and country ensemble - "Riders in the Sky" out of Nashville featuring Slovenian accordionist Joey Miskulin, known as the "Cow Polka King." They were headliners for the Tony Petkovsek holiday celebration and the Polka Hall of Fame. It was the 42nd consecutive event commemorating our 44 years on daily polka radio on WELW 1330 AM and 247PolkaHeaven.com.

The Canadians from all of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan numbering close to 200, were the largest contingent in addition to polka followers from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Illinois, Colorado, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, New York, Michigan, Arizona, Indiana, Florida, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and all of Ohio and greater Cleveland. A small group also came from the Netherlands.

Of the many prominent people in attendance was the Slovene Consul General based in Cleveland, Zvone Žigon, plus State Representative Kenny Yuko, Judge Ron Suster, and Cleveland City Councilman Michael Polensek. Channel 3 news director Dick Russ was also a presenter at the show and arranged extensive coverage on television.

Top trophy and prize winners for the Plain Dealer dance contest were in the polka category - Dennis and Beth Uhlik of Canada with runner-up Claire Kolat of



Joey Miskulin, left, in his Noša along with "Riders in the Sky"



At left is Tony Petkovsek, and center is Lou Sadar who was placed on the Trustees Honor Roll of the Polka Hall of Fame. Right is Cecilia Dolgan, President of Polka Foundation. (All photos by TONY GRDINA)



Michael Benz of Kollander World Travel/AAA

Come to Pristavska noč

Traditional Pristavska noč will be held on Saturday, January 28 in the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland. Starting time is 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m.

Entertainment for listening and dancing pleasure will be by Veseli godci.

For reservations call Elizabeta Zalik (216) 486-0660 or Metka Zalar at (440) 943-3844. Members and friends are cordially invited.

St. Mary's Slovenian School Annual Lunch

St. Mary's Slovenian School will host its annual lunch on Sunday, January 22nd at St. Mary's Parish Hall on Holmes Avenue in Collinwood.

The menu will include pork and chicken. Serving will start at 11 a.m. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Take out orders will be available.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance from St. Mary's Slovenian students and faculty.

Palacinka Breakfast

A palacinka breakfast will be served in St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) parish hall on Sunday, Jan. 8th from 8:30 to 12 noon. Donation is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.

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If You Can't Live Without Me, How Come You Ain't Dead?

If the Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know It's Me.

How Can I Miss You -- If You Won't Go Away?

I Liked You Better Before I Got to Know You.

I Still Miss You Baby, But My Aim is Getting Better.

I'm So Miserable Without You, It's Like You're Still Here.

My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend And I Sure Do Miss Him.

Her Teeth Were Stained With Tobacco Juice, And Her Shoes Was, Too!

Submitted by:
--Phil Hrvatin



Host Tony Petkovsek, left, and Slovenian Consul General Zvone Žigon.



- VESTI IZ SLOVENIJE -

Slovenija tudi prizadeta zaradi "plinskega" nesporeduma med Ukrajino in Rusijo - Nov naftovod naj bi šel skozi Slovenijo

V zadnem času poteka hudo nesoglasje med Ukrajino in Rusijo glede cene, ki naj bi jo plačali Ukrajinci za dobavo ruskega zemeljskega plina. Rusija hoče ceno povišati kar za štirikrat, Ukrajinci se pa upirajo. Tako so Rusi začeli zmanjševati količino plina, ki ga pošiljajo po plinovidu, ki gre skozi Ukrajino in plin dostavlja tudi številnim zahodnoevropskim državam. Ker mora plin skozi Ukrajino, je nastala mednarodna kriza, saj so mnoge evropske države močno odvisne od plina.

Precej odvisna je tudi Slovenija. Po poročilu agencija AP naj bi bili tako Slovenija kot Hrvaška prikrajšani za 30 odstotkov, Srbija pa celo za 50 odstotkov. Plin prihaja preko Madžarske, ki pa dobiva 40 odstotkov manj.

Časopis *Financial Times* pa je poročal, da bo pet držav podpisalo ta mesec sporazum, po katerem bodo sodelovale v gradnji 1500 km dolgega naftovoda od Romunije do Italije. Slovenija, skozi njo bo šel naftovod, bo v projektu skupaj z Italijo, Romunijo, Srbijo in Hrvaško. Projekt naj bi stal kar 2,4 milijarde dolarjev. Poročilo bi stal kar 2,4 milijarde dolarjev. Poročilo pa poudarja, da bo treba pred sporazumom še več odprtih vprašanj rešiti.

ZDA menijo, da Slovenija ne potrebuje več mednarodne gospodarske pomoči

Po poročilu v *Wall Street Journalu* zagovarja ameriško zakladno tajništvo stališče, da Slovenija, Estonija, Češka in pet drugih držav, ki so sedaj članice Evropske zveze, ne potrebujejo več gospodarske pomoči, ki jo daje Evropska banka za rekonstrukcijo in razvoj. Ta banka je bila ustanovljena deloma z ameriškim denarjem, da bi pomagala državam, ki so izišle iz komunizma, prevzemati sistem privatnega kapitala oz. kapitalizma. Ta pomoč naj bi ne več bila potrebna in ZDA zagovarja, da naj bi ta

program v omenjenih državah končali vsaj do leta 2007.

Janez Janševa vlada okrepljena za šene enega ministra - Jožeta P. Damijana

Jože P. Damijan je postal minister brez listnice, njegove dolžnosti pa bodo zelo pomembne, saj je prevzel vodenje službe za usklajevanje in spremljanje izvajanja strategije razvoja Slovenije. Tako bo odgovoren za nadziranje izvajanja gospodarskih in socialnih reform. Vlada je pač v zadnjem času objavila in predstavila parlamentu zelo obsežne reforme tako gospodarstva kot socialnega sistema, te reforme pa bodo prizadele davkoplačevalce, upokojece itd. Zaradi obsežnosti predlaganih reform je nastala tudi močna opozicija, predvsem levičarske stranke so proti. Ankete javnega mnenja kažejo določeno hiranje priljubljenosti vlade, menda so tudi znotraj vladajoče koalicije težave, predvsem v zvezi z DeSUSom, ki dobiva največ svoje podpore ravno med upokojevcem in je vedno pripadala predvsem levi opciji.

Praznovanje dneva samostojnosti in enotnosti

Dne 23. decembra je bila slavnostna seja državnega zbora ob dnevu samostojnosti in enotnosti, po njej pa je bila v Gallusovi dvorani Cankarjevega doma še osrednja državna proslava. Slavnostni govornik na slovesnosti je bil predsednik državnega zbora France Cukjati. Isti dan popoldne je bila v ljubljanski stolnici sv. Nikolaja slovesna sv. maša za domovino.

Ameriški veleposlanik predaval na temo demokracije in pravnega reda

Dne 20. decembra je na mariborski univerzi ameriški veleposlanik v Sloveniji Thomas B. Robertson predaval na temo (v angleškem jeziku) *Democracy and the Rule of Law*. Robertson služi v Sloveniji od septembra 2004.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Božični koncert—

Božični zbor župnije Sv. Vida bo imel svoj koncert to soboto, 7. januarja, ob 5.30 zvečer, takoj po popoldanski sv. maši za praznik Sv. treh kraljev. Po koncertu bo srečanje v avditoriju. Prostovoljne prispevke bodo sprejemali pri vhodu v cerkev. Vsi lepo vabljeni!

Zopet med vami—

S to številko AD začnemo še eno leto izhajanja, po našem štetju leto 108.

Novi grobovi

Anton Teskač

Umrli je 75 let stari Anton Teskač, mož Terezije, rojena Kurboš, oče Slavka, Annie Sterle in Felixa, 2-krat stari oče, brat Andreja in Štefana (oba že pok.) ter Marije Kordic in Anice (Felix) Kurboš. Pogreb je bil 30. decembra v oskrbi Cosicevega zavoda na Chardon Rd. s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Vida in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Milan Zudic

Umrli je 83 let stari Milan Zudic, mož Ane, oče Marije Kobal, Nevije Avžlahar in Mirka, 5-krat stari oče, 1-krat prastari oče, brat Štefi Rosen, Jožeta ter že pok. Marije in Željka. Pogreb je bil 31. decembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Kristine in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču. Družina priporoča darove v pokojnikov spomin Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185 St., Cleveland, OH 44119.

Matilda Naglič

Umrli je 84 let stara Matilda Naglič, mati Joann Naglič, stara mati Vesne Naglič, teta mnogih v Sloveniji in Hrvaški, hčerke že pok. Marije, roj. Križnik, in Antona Ogrizek, polsestra Franca Ogrizek, Antonije Stengl in Katarine Konecnik, pol sestra Marije Brunsek. Pogreb je danes s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Patricija v Thompsonu, O.

Walter Lahowe

Umrli je 91 let stari Walter Lahowe, mož Fanny, roj. Poje, oče Joyce Toth in Terryja, 6-krat stari oče, 3-krat prastari oče. Pogreb je bil 22. decembra v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Jeroma in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

(DALJE na str. 16)

Zajtrk pri M. Vnebovzeti—

To nedeljo, 8. januarja, ste vabljeni na zajtrk s palačinkami in klobasicami, ki bo v župnijski dvorani pri Mariji Vnebovzeti. Serviranje bo od 8.30 do 12. opoldan. Dar je \$7 za odrasle in \$4 za otroke. Pridite tudi Vi!

Kosilo Slovenske šole—

Slovenska šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti bo imela in vas vabi na letno kosilo, ki bo v nedeljo, 22. januarja, v farni dvorani pri M.V. Serviranje se bo pričelo ob 11. dop., cena kosilu je pa \$12 za odrasle in \$6 za otroke. Kosilo se bo tudi lahko vzelo domov. Nakaznice imajo učitelje(-ice), dobile se bodo tudi pri vhodu na dan kosila.

Krofi in rezanci—

Oltarno društvo župnije Sv. Vida bo imelo prodajo krofov in rezancev v soboto, 14. januarja, v društveni sobi ob običajnem času. Pridite!

Pristavska noč 2006—

Tradicionalni ples in zabava "Pristavska noč" bo letos 28. januarja v SND na St. Clairju. Pričetek bo ob 6h zv., večerja bo deljena ob 7h. Za ples in zabavo bodo poskrbeli Veseli godci. Za rezervacije, pokličite Elizabeto Zalik na 216-486-0660, ali pa Metko Zalar na 440-943-3844. Člani in prijatelji SP lepo vabljeni!

V današnji AD—

Danes boste našli na notranjih strani kar več lepih člankov o pok. Stanetu Šušteršiču, poročilo o smrti našega dolgoletnega nekdanjega iz kanadske Alberte g. Pavleta Kvedra ("Pak"), in pregled preteklega leta v clevelandski skupnosti izpod peresa dr. Edija Gobca. Pa še kaj več drugih stvari.

V podporo listu—

Klub upokojevcem Slovenske pristave je listu AD poklonil \$100. Slovenska pristava sama je darovala \$60. Neimenovani iz Euclida je daroval \$200, prav tako neimenovani iz Chagrin Fallsa pa \$100. Franček Toplak iz Chardona je poklonil \$100. Primorski klub je daroval \$100, isto vsoto je poklonil tudi Belokranjski klub. Folklorna skupina Kres je darovala \$50, kar sta storila tudi American Slovene Club in St. Vitus Alumni. Janez Dejak iz Gates Millsa nam je poslal \$100. Za vso tako velikodušno podporo: hvala!



SESTAVNI DEL EVROPSKE ZVEZE JE TUDI SLOVENIJA - Sredi decembra je bila v prestolnici EU Bruslju konferenca šefov držav te 25-članske skupnosti. Udeležila sta se je slovenski premier Janez Janša in zunanji minister Dimitrij Rupel. Na fotografiji so z leve Jack Straw, angleški zunanji minister, Rupel in Janša, nato pa angleški premier Tony Blair, ki je bil hkrati do konca leta kot predstavnik Anglije predsednik zadnjih šest mesecev Evropske zveze. To predsedujočo funkcijo bo imela tudi Slovenija in sicer v letu 2008. Predsedovanje EU se pač menja med državami po vsakih šestih mesecih.

EDI GOBEC

Willoughby Hills, O.

Clevelandski Slovenci v letu 2005

S hvaležnostjo do Boga in vseh, ki z ljubeznijo in požrtvovalnim delom ohranjajo in bogatijo slovensko versko, narodno in kulturno dediščino, se poslavljamo od preteklega leta. V Clevelandu, ki je včasih užival sloves drugega največjega slovenskega mesta, žal pušča to leto tudi nekaj bolečih vrzeli. Tako je utihnil Jadran, eden naših najstarejših zborov. Z nekoč zelo plodnim delom so prenehale Progresivne Slovenke. V bližnjem Lorainu pa so zaradi spremenjajoče se soseščine zaprli Slovenski narodni dom.

Tudi smrt je iztrgala iz naših vrst več zaslužnih narodnih delavcev, med njimi Betty Rotar, predsednico Jadrana in eno vodilnih delavk SNPJ; dr. Mateja Roessmanna, bivšega predsednika Slovenske pristave in do smrti predsednika Slovenskega ameriškega sveta; in dr. Staneta Šušteršiča, ustanovnega predsednika zbora Korotan in vodilno osebnost slovenskih radijskih oddaj v Clevelandu in Washingtonu, D.C.

V preteklem letu pa smo doživeli tudi mnogo veselega in spodbudnega. Mnogim ostaja v nepozabnem spominu zlasti Korotanov obisk Slovenije, ko so begunci in njih otroci ob 60-letnici pokoljev z več lepo uspelimi koncerti počastili spomin svojih pomorjenih sorodnikov, prijateljev in vseh drugih žrtev komunističnega nasilja in istočasno pozdravili novo neodvisno Slovenijo.

Nepozabni so tudi veličastni Baragovi dnevi s programi v Slovenskem kulturnem vrtu in v župnijah Sv. Vida in Marije Vnebovzete, ob udeležbi številnih škofov in duhovnikov in množice rojakov in gostov.

Če le bežno pregledamo koledar, vidimo, da je bilo v letu 2005 v Clevelandu in okolici bogato razvejano versko, narodno in kulturno delovanje. Tako je 10. julija župnija Sv. Cirila in Metoda v Lorainu pod vodstvom zelo požrtvovalnega župnika dr. Pavla Krajnika slovensko obhajala stoletnico plodnega dela, medtem ko so v clevelandski sosešči-

ni Collinwood 12. novembra z evharistično pobožnostjo pod vodstvom priljubljenega slovenskega škofa Edvarda Pevca in neumornega župnika Janeza Kumšeta začeli s praznovanjem stoletnice še vedno močne slovenske župnije Marije Vnebovzete.

Ni skrivnost, da tudi Slovenci, ki živimo izven Republike Slovenije, zelo ljubimo slovensko pesem. Tisti, ki smo tako srečni, da smo farani naših prijaznih slovenskih župnij, poslušamo prelepo slovensko petje prav vsako nedeljo, bodisi pri Sv. Vidu ali Mariji Vnebovzeti in nekoliko tudi pri Sv. Lovrencu.

Poleg številnih nastopov raznih clevelandskih in "uvoženih" narodnozabavnih skupin, posebno navdušijo s svojimi bogatimi programi slovenski zbori. Tako smo 30. aprila uživali ob bogatem koncertu zbora Korotan (podal je dela Gallusa, Cigana, Kramolca, Gorenška, Radovana Gobca, Jenka in drugih), 29. oktobra pa na bogatem koncertu Fantov na vasi. Oba naša reprezentativna zbora nastopata pod taktirko za skupnost neprecenljivega Janeza Sršena.

Dne 30. oktobra je najstarejši clevelandski svetni pevski zbor Zarja pod vodstvom dveh poklicnih učiteljev glasbe, Doug Elersiča in njegove žene Barbare, podal pester dvojezični spored z izborom pesmi, ki so bile posebno priljubljene pred pol stoletja, torej namenoma nostalgični program.

Elitna Glasbena matica je ob praznovanju svoje 75-letnice pod vodstvom glasbenice Julie Tragon podala poleg skrbnega izbora slovenskih in ameriških pesmi še odlično izvajane odlomke iz oper, ki je z njimi pred desetletji z izjemnimi uspehi nastopala na domačih in tujih odrih. Zastopani so

bili skladatelji Smetana, Verdi, Mascagni, Schubert in Bizet.

Dne 3. decembra pa nas je Slovenska šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti navdušila z dr. Grzinčičevo opero Miklavž prihaja pod vodstvom izjemno zaslužnega glasbenega pedagoga Rudija Kneza in njegovega sodelavca Janeza Nemca. Dan pozneje smo uživali igro izgubljene zvezdice svetovidskih šolarjev pod vodstvom izvrstne pevke in učiteljice Martine Košnik.

In koliko veselja smo doživeli ob bogatem nastopu 120 mladih plesalcev Folklorne skupine Kres dne 27. septembra! Takrat in skoraj na vseh drugih prireditvah, med njimi ljubkih materinskih proslavah, bogatih božičnicah Pristavskih upokojencev in potem še Korotana, Fantov na vasi, Lilije in Kresa, so bile sicer velike dvorane nabito polne. Dodajmo še tri čudovite božične koncerte naših priljubljenih cerkvenih zborov.

In še nekaj: odkar je v Ameriki, se domala vseh prireditev udeležuje tudi novi generalni konzul RS dr. Zvone Žigon s soprogo Ireno, kar je za našo slovensko skupnost res veselo presenečenje.

Slovenska pristava, ki nam v naravi nudi delček nepozabne Slovenije in zdaj gradi novo veliko dvorano (predsednik Milan Ribič); Pristavski upokojenci (predsednik Ivan Jakomin), ki pod vodstvom Vinka Vrhovnika vsako leto med drugim poskrbijo za priljubljene slovenske kolone; društvi Vestnik in Tabor, ki prirejata odmevne žalne proslave za pobite domobrance in druge žrtve revolucije; Misijonska znamkarska akcija, ki pod vodstvom Marice Lavriše-

(DALJE na str. 14)



Stanetu Šušteršiču v spomin tudi iz Slovenije

LJUBLJANA – Spoštovani g. urednik *Ameriške domovine*! Kot veste je umrl Stane Šušteršič, moj najboljši prijatelj. Bil je tudi prijatelj moje hčerke Anje, ki je bila prav tako njegova oboževalka. Napisala je kratek memorial o njem. To ni opis njegovega življenja, pač pa občutki mladine, ki jo je Stane imel rad in se ji je razdal. Prosim, če lahko v naslednji številki to objavite.

S spoštovanjem, Mihael I. Fock

Gospoda Staneta Šušteršiča sem spoznala prek svojih staršev, njegovih velikih prijateljev. Povabil me je v svojo Ameriko ter gostil v svojem stanovanju na Willard Avenue.

Spoznala sem enega najbolj priljubljenih Slovencev v Ameriki, ki je imel zelo veliko prijateljev ter občudovalcev tudi med različnimi generacijami v Sloveniji in tudi med visokimi politikami.

Zakaj je bil ta gospod, doktor znanosti, uspešen novinar radia Voice of America, strasten filatelist, odlični masker v gledališču, volonterski turistični vodič Slovencev po Washingtonu, fotograf, priložnostni ribič, zbiratelj plošč ansambla Slaki... tako zelo priljubljen? Zakaj nas te dni toliko njegovih prijateljev v Sloveniji in Ameriki, združuje bolečina ob njegovi smrti?

Razlogov je mnogo. Imel je težko mladost, vendar se o hudih stvareh ni nikoli pritoževal in tarnal. Raje se je predajal številnim dejavnostim, kjer je puščal svoj pečat in spoznaval nove ljudi.

Bil je izjemen organizator, rad je pomagal vsakomur, ki je njegovo pomoč potreboval. Ko internet še ni bil razširjen, je živel za novice iz Slovenije. Zanimiv članek iz Sobotne priloge Dela, je mimogrede poslal desetim ameriškim prijateljem. Rad je imel umetnost, dogodke, potovanja. In prav v vsem, kar je počel, je iskreno užival. Znal je biti prijatelj.

Le redki so ljudje, ki so tako priljubljeni, kot je bil gospod Stane Šušteršič. V naših srcih ostaja "Forever Young".

Anja Novak, Ljubljana,
predstavnica njegovih prijateljev
mlajše generacije



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Z Ameriško Domovino ste vedno na tekočem z dogajanjem v slovenskem svetu

Ne bo več njegovih nasvetov

Dr. Stane Šušteršič

In Memoriam

SYRACUSE, NY – S težkim srcem se zavedam, da ne bo nikoli več Stanetovih nasvetov, vzpodbujanj, pogledov nazaj, razgovorov o vsem mogočem, obvestil, in zadnjih novic iz njegovega okolja, iz Amerike in iz Slovenije. Dr. Stane Šušteršič je po Božji volji mirno zaspa in odšel od nas ob enajstih zvečer, enajstega decembra 2005. leta, v Washingtonu, D.C. oz. njegovi ožji bližini.

Težko je bilo se posloviti, saj za to ni bilo nobene prilike; vse je prišlo tako nenavadno, tako hitro, tako nepričakovano. Zadnjič sva govorila približno deset dni prej, govorila kot običajno o tem in onem. Zdaj pa kar naprej premišlujem, da se je takrat že zavedal svoje bolezni.

Nič ni omenil, le nekoliko je utihnil, ko sem ga ponovno povprašal, kdaj bo napisal kratko zgodovino slovenske kapelice v znameniti Washingtonski katedrali, za kar sem ga nagovarjal že večkrat prej.

Sredi zadnjega tedna pa na moj telefonski klic ni odgovoril. Tudi to ni bilo nič nenavadnega, običajno je poklical dan ali dva pozneje. "Tukaj Stane" – s tema dvema besedama se je vedno najavil za prijeten razgovor. Žalostna vest v ponedeljek, 12. decembra, me je globoko prizadela. Nikoli več ne bo njegovih nasvetov...

S Stanetom sva se prvič srečala januarja 1946. leta, ko smo se vselili v mestu Graz, v Avstriji, v študentovsko taborišče Hochsteingasse 37. Gotovo sva se spoznala že prej v Kepler Schule, vendar se tega ne spominjam. V begunskem taborišču za razseljene osebe, oziroma razseljene študente, pa so bili najini pogradi drug poleg drugega. Tako se je začelo dolgo poznanstvo in prijateljstvo, obema v vzpodbudo, vendar v večjo pomoč meni kot njemu.

Prvi koraki pravnega študija na graški univerzi niso bili lahki, posebno ne za nas na najnižji, prvi stopnji. Začetne izpite je bilo treba premo-

stru. Zaradi pomanjkanja znanja nemščine so se te težave še pomnožile.

Stane mi je bil od vsega začetka v pomoč – kot nekateri drugi – s svojim znanjem in izkušnjami pravnega študija pred leti na univerzi v Ljubljani. Vežala pa naju je nekoliko tudi bližina rojstnih krajev, on iz Maribora, jaz iz Prevalj. Tudi v tem sva našla nekaj skupnega.

Že v graškem študentovskem taborišču pa so bile Stanetove izkušnje študija na Dramatskem oddelku Glasbene akademije v Ljubljani vedno dobrodošle, posebno kadar je bila prilika predstavljati slovensko študentsko družino drugim narodnostim in avstrijskemu poslušalstvu. Na univerzi v Grazu je Stane dosegel doktorat pravne stroke.

Sprejem v Združene države Amerike sva dosegla oba, le da je on došel leto ali dve za menoj. Težko sem ga čakal in obljubljal pevkam in pevcem Pevskega zbora Korotan prihod še enega izvrstnega basista iz Evrope.

Na vsak način Stane ni razočaral, prav nasprotno, kot pevec, nekaj časa predsednik zbora, vsa leta do zadnjega dne pa vedno pripravljen prispevati s svojo pomočjo in nasveti. Tudi ideja, da napišem za zborovo deseto obletnico kakšno izvirno skladbo, je prišla od njega.

Najin ponovni razhod po nekaj letih bivanja v Clevelandu, Ohio, najprej njegova preselitev v Washington, D.C., in malo

pozneje moj odhod v Syracuse, NY, ni pretrgal najinih zvez. Kadar me je pot vodila kot knjižničarja v Washington, sem se vedno ustavil tudi pri Glasu Amerike, kjer sta mi Stane Šušteršič in Pavle Borštnik večkrat dala priliko za kratek intervju na slovenskih radijskih oddajah za Slovenijo.

Kot mi vsi, je tudi Stane imel svoje posebnosti, drugače ne bi bil tisti Stane, ki smo ga vsi poznali, sprejemali in upoštevali. Marsikaj bi brez njegove pomoči ne doseglo vseh daljnosežnih ciljev, ali pa vsaj upanj in pričakovanj.

S svojim delom si je prislužil pečat, ki ni bil vedno zapisan ali potrjen, bil pa je vedno prisoten, čeprav ne vedno priznan.

Dr. Staneta Šušteršiča je vseskozi odlikovala izredna nesebičnost in pripravljenost pomagati v vseh smereh. V svojih pogovorih na razne teme se nisva vedno strinjala, saj sva v življenju šla skozi različne izkušnje in živela med različnimi ljudmi in okoliščinami. Vsak razgovor pa sva končala z zavestjo, da sva nekaj dosegla, pomagala drug drugemu, posebno pa, da je prijateljstvo stalno trdno in zagotovljeno.

Zadnje počivališče je želel imeti v svojem rojstnem kraju, Mariboru. Naj zdaj tam v miru počiva.

Metod Milač
Syracuse, New York
1. januarja 2006



Stanetu Šušteršiču v slovo

Prijatelj Staneta Šušteršiča g. Ciril Mejač je imel ta poslovljni govor na sedmini, ko so se zbrali rojaki v Washingtonu. Nov je sicer le prvi odstavek. V angleščini je govoril Jim Chesnik. Dan po smrti Staneta Šušteršiča se ga je spomnila tudi ga. Alenka Richardson, dolgoletna sodelavka pri Glasu Amerike. Posredovane so tudi njene besede.

Ur. AD

◇ **CYRIL MEJAČ...**

STANE ŠUŠTERŠIČ

Pri pridigi med mašo zadušnico za Staneta Šušteršiča je Father Wadas, ki je maševal, skoraj izgubil glas, ker se mu je lomil – tako prizadet je bil zaradi Stanetove smrti. Prizadeti smo bili enako številni prijatelji, ki smo se udeležili pogrebne maše, posebno še, ko mu je Vladimir Pregljev zbor, katerega član je Stane tudi bil, zapel v slovo "Gozdlič je že zelen".

◇ Dolgoletni prijatelj Staneta in moj mi je rekel včeraj, da smo mi, mnogi izmed nas imeli neizmerno milost in veliko srečo, ko smo v letu strahote po komaj končani vojni zapustili Slovenijo. To velja v veliki meri tudi za našega Staneta. Bilo bi odveč razmišljati, kje in kako je on preživel prva povojna leta. Gre pa mu veliko priznanje, da je takrat v bedi in sila težkih razmerah uspel nadaljevati študij, ki ga je končal z doktoratom na univerzi v Gradcu.

Zapustil je Slovenijo, a ni nesel s seboj, tako kot mnogi, culo z rečmi, ki naj bi bile najbolj potrebne. S seboj je nesel dragocene posnetke slovenskih pesmi z Radia Ljubljane, ljubljanske ku-kavice, in med drugim

tudi domobranske pesmi, ki so jih prireditelji spominskih slovesnosti v Kočevskem Rogu primerno in z bolečino uporabljali kot klic iz globine, saj so jih peli fantje, ki so, ko so bili še pri življenju, z zanosom peli s slovenskim pozdravom: "Oče, mati, bratje in sestre". Kako grozotno sporočilo tudi današnjemu rodu.

Stane je odšel iz Slovenije, kjer je imel svoje korenine. Iz teh korenin je črpal, če ne svojo življenjsko moč, pač pa smoter svojih udejstvanj. Kjer se je ponudila prilika ali pa po lastni iniciativi, je ne samo ponudil svojo podporo, pač pa je vneto in zavzeto sodeloval.

Rad in vedno se je razdal za druge. Razen zase, tako mi je rekel nekdo, ki ga je tudi dobro poznal, Stane je bil radodaren preko vsake mere. Te radodarnosti smo bili deležni tudi mnogi izmed nas, ne le jaz sam.

Lepota slovenske pesmi, čast slovenskega imena, mu je bila pri srcu. To povesod, predvsem pa še pri njegovem poklicnem opravilu: radio. To

(dalje na str. 12)

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Stanetu Šušteršiču v slovo

(NADALJEVANJE S STR. 11)

že v Ljubljani, to v Clevelandu, in končno na Glasu Amerike, ki ga je na srečo in dobrobit nas vseh privedlo v Washington.

V svojem božičnem pismu meni, piše prijatelj takole:

"Stane je bil velik Slovenec po duhu in nam je lahko samo zgled po njegovi dobrosrčnosti in smo lahko samo veseli, da ga je Bog poslal v našo slovensko sredo, ne le za vodnika v Washingtonu, ampak tudi voditelja slovenskih ustanov v zdomstvu, ter tudi kaži-pot v slovensko samostojnost. V le-tem je bil v stalno podporo torontski Slovenski Državi."

◇

Stane je umrl, njegovo življenje se je izteklo v večnost. Vsaka smrt je vsem živim v opomin, da smo le začasni krmarji našega življenja in ne moremo zaustaviti barko časa, na katero nas je postavila božja previdnost.

Ta isti prijatelj in z njim jaz zaključujem z mislijo, da ko vsi potrebujemo tolažbe, naj nas tolaži naša Marija Pomagaj, ki ji je bil Stane zvest in vnet častilec, saj je ona zavetnica trpečih, žalostnih in potrlih src. Stanetu pa naj izprosi, da mu sveti Luč večnega življenja. Naj mu bo Bog dober plačnik!

- Cyril Mejač

Alenka Richardson ...

STANE ŠUŠTERŠIČ

Odprta dan in noč so groba vrata, a dneva ne pove nobena prat'ka. Ta Prešernova pesnitev se je izpolnila včeraj, ko je za vedno zatisnil oči naš ameriški kolega in prijatelj Stanko Šušteršič.

Stanko je bil rojen 24. oktobra 1922 v Studencih pri Mariboru. V Mariboru je tudi obiskoval klasično gimnazijo, ki pa jo je končal v Ljubljani, ker so Maribor zasedli Nemci.

V Gradcu, v Avstriji, je kasneje študiral pravo in dobil doktorat na tamkajšnji univerzi. Vendar je kmalu odšel v ZDA in to najprej v Cleveland, kjer je sodeloval pri slo-

venskih radijskih oddajah in bil aktiven pri zboru Korotan.

Kasneje se je preselil v ameriško prestolnico, kjer je postal redni sodelavec radijskih oddaj Glasa Amerike v slovenskem jeziku. Vodil je tudi filatelistično oddajo in je bil v Sloveniji poznan pod psevdonimom Janez Koren.

V Washingtonu je bil zelo aktiven v slovenski skupnosti in je sodeloval pri načrtih za gradnjo slovenske kapele Marije Pomagaj v ameriški baziliki Brezmadežnega Spočetja.

Z vso vnemo je podpiral prizadevanja za osamosvojitve njegove domovine in prizadevanja so se mu uresničila, ko je Slovenija dobila mednarodno priznanje kot neodvisna država.

Po upokojitvi je ostal v Washingtonu in je sodeloval pri raznih koncertih komornih zborov, ki so se ustavili v Washingtonu, kot so Gallus, Vasovalci, Ribniški oktet, Lek in drugi.

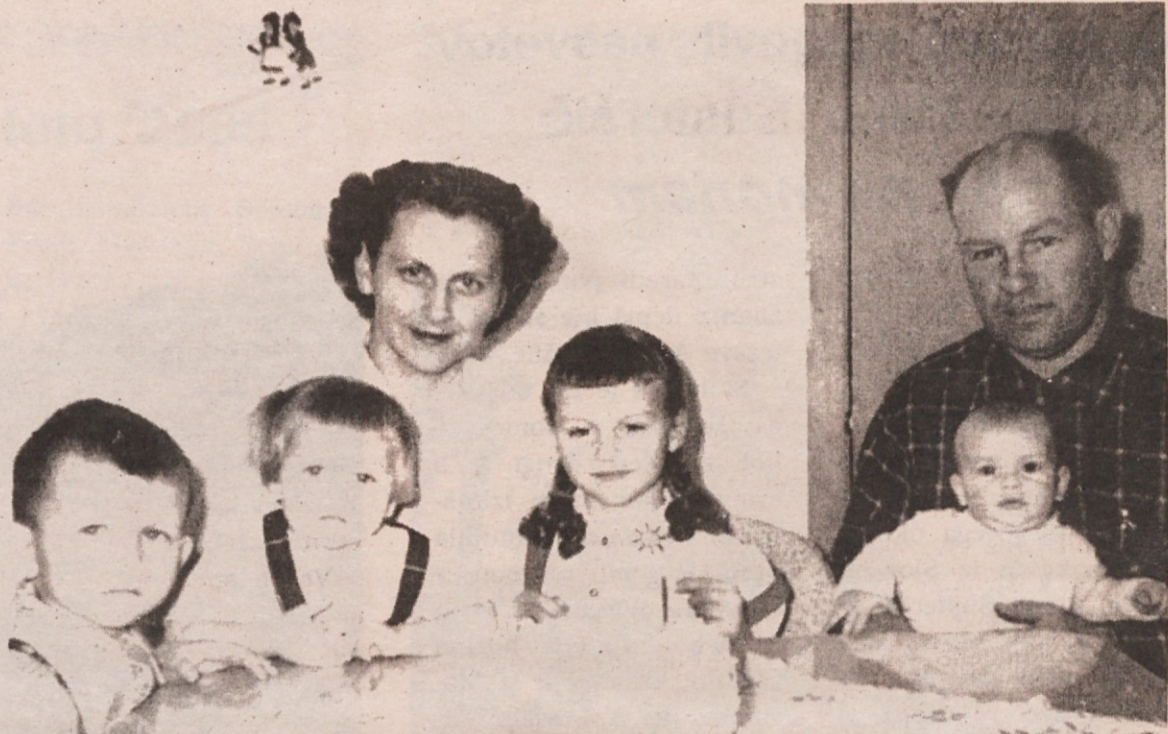
Vsem obiskovalcem iz domovine je razkazal ameriško prestolnico, ki jo je poznal do zadnjega kotička.

Stanko, kot smo ga vsi poznali, je ostal do kraja zvest Sloveniji in Ameriki, ki ga je sprjejala za svojega.

Zadnje dni je, kot da občuti, da se mu bliža konec, z veliko vnemo hitel s pisanjem božičnih voščilnic in je samo skromno, kot je on vedno bil, potožil, da ne ve, če bo prišel do pošte, da jih oddaj, saj je imel problem s hojo.

Skratka, Stanko Šušteršič je vedno sledil Kristusovi zapovedi: "Ljubi Boga in svojega bližnjega kot samega sebe". To je bilo njegovo geslo vse življenje in kot takega se ga bomo tudi spominjali. Bog naj mu poplača njegovo nesebično delo in mu v nebesih pokloni mir in večni pokoj. Naj počiva v miru.

- Alenka Richardson



PAVLE KVEDER s takrat (26. januar 1958) mlado družino sicer ob 6. rojstnem dnevu hčerke Alenke. Zadaž sta Pavle Kveder in žena Tončka, z leve so pa Tomaž (star tri leta in pol), Lejla (dve leti), Alenka (šest let), v očetovem naročju pa Gregi (4 mesecce).

Pavle Kveder, poročevalec s "Prerije", umrl: 1913—2005

CLEVELAND, O. - Pretekli četrtek, 29. decembra, je v Lethbridgeu v provinci Alberta v Kanadi umrl Pavle Kveder, dolgoletni dopisnik *Ameriške domovine* s "Prerije", star 92 let. Zapustil je odrasle, že poročene otroke Alenko, Tomaža, Lejlo in Grega, vse z družinami, in brata Janeza v Ljubljani.

Žena Tončka, rojena Schiffrer v Strazišču pri Kranju, mu je umrla v avtomobilski nesreči 15. junija 1966. Ostal je sam z mladoletnimi otroki. Pri težavnem in odgovornem delu njihove oskrbe in vzgoje sta mu stala ob strani soseda svak Francelj Šifrer in njegova žena Zvonka. Ti so prišli skupaj v Kanado delat "na peso" leta 1948. Pavle in Francelj sta se čez čas zaposlila v gradnji hiš, in zgradila tudi sebi lepa domova.

S pokojnim Pavletom sva se prvič srečala na gimnaziji v Ljubljani, kjer sem učil zgodovino in zemljepis, on pa telovadbo. Med vojno je bil pokojnik vodnik v eni izmed čet podtalne vojaške organizacije Slovenske legije v središču Ljubljane.

Ob koncu vojne se je umaknil z drugimi v Avstrijo, kjer ga je direktor begunske slovenske gim-

nazije v Spitalu profesor Marko Bajuk vključil v telesno vzgojno in športno dejavnost dijakov. Pokojni je bil eden redkih Slovencev, ki je končal telesno vzgojno visoko šolo v Beogradu.

Kot preje v Ljubljani se je pokojni Pavle z vso vnemo posvetil delu za mladino tudi v Spitalu. Od tam se ga z veseljem in hvaležnostjo spominja mnogo rojakov v Clevelandu in drugod po širnem svetu, ki so bili deležni te pokojnikove dejavnosti.

Kljub obilnemu delu v skrbi za svoje otroke, je bil pokojni dejaven v delu za skupnost med rojaki v Lethbridgeu, pa tudi drugod, saj je vzdr-

ževal pismene stike tako s prijatelji in nekdanjimi sodelavci v Sloveniji kot drugod po svetu.

Z zanimanjem je spremljal življenje v domovini, sodeloval v boju za njeno rešitev iz okovov komunistične diktature. Svobodo domovine in vzpostavilo neodvisne države Slovenije je dočakal, vendar svoje rodne domovine ni nikdar po svojem odhodu iz nje maja 1945 obiskal.

Pogreb pokojnega Pavleta Kvedra je bil včeraj, v sredo, 4. januarja, v Lethbridgeu. K večnemu počitku so ga položili poleg njegove pokojne žene Tončke. Naj v miru počiva sredi svoje "Prerije".

Vinko Lipovec

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SLOVENIJA PO DOLGEM IN POČEZ

- Skice iz današnje Slovenije -

II. del - konec

Šempeter

Tisti stari, ki ga je upodobil Juš Kozak in smo ga v življenju ohranjali tamkaj živeči. Danes naj bi to podedoval Trubar. Stara vijugasta šempeterska cesta, danes Trubarjeva, je skoraj zamrla. Od začetka ob cerkvi - vanjo ne moreš, ker so vrata zaklenjena - do vogala, kjer je nekdanj cvilil tramvaj na poti do mosta in je v vogalni hiši lekarnar Ustar pripravljaval zdravila, Rozmanova gostilna čez cesto je točila vino, ob dolgem zidu Polakove tovarne do Krištofove mlekarne in Musarjeve mesarije - tod smo hodili v šolo ali v mesto. Malo naprej so živeli Tomšičevi, tudi Tone, ko ni bil v zaporu.

Na drugo stran smo preko Hrvatskega trga zavili po Jegličevi mimo mestne hiše proti železnici. Nekdaj so bile tam Jegličeva, Škofova, Ilirska, pa škofijski vrt, ki je bil naše igrišče, na drugi strani proti Ljubljani pa šempetersko župnišče, tudi z vrtom in Plečnikovim zidom, za njimi šempeterska vojašnica z zapori in rakovo bolnico.

Kot vestni opazovalci smo otroci sledili, ko so gradili zatvornico na Ljubljani. Kot Marijanišniki se temu nismo mogli izo-

gniti: Lezli smo prek suhe struge Ljublanice in nosili domov sivo ilovico in jo gnetli v nerodne skulpture.

Zvone, Janez in Niko iz mestne hiše, Marijan iz Vrhovčeve, Andrej izpod klanca ob Šmartinski, Stane - poznali smo ga kot Culeta - tam od mestne hiše, nekajkrat so se nam pridružili še drugi, saj niso hoteli zaostajati. Samo Janez in Marijan sta še živa.

Sledili smo tudi, ko so prenavljali šempetersko cerkev in nam novo Vurnikovo pročelje ni ugajalo.

Po vojni so novi oblastniki ta svet spremenili. Najprej so dali cestam nova imena. Na škofijskem vrtu so zgradili stolpnice, da bi omililo dominantnost šempeterske cerkve. Le kaj bi bilo, če bi ob prelomu stoletja škof Jeglič uspel na tem prostoru zgraditi škofove zavode!

Župan Tavčar mu je to preprečil in zavodi so zrastle v Šentvidu - sto let je od tega -, nam je pa ostal vrt, ko smo se namestili v "novi hiši" nasproti župnišča, kjer je dotlej živel pisatelj Detela in kjer danes domujejo Žumrovi. Prav nič prijazno. Ko so nedavno tam v bližini še podrli Šarabonovo trgovino in zdaj

tam gradijo parkirno hišo, se je okolje še bolj "moderniziralo".

Vedeli smo, da na Ilirski stanuje večni popotnik Janko Mlakar, pa šolski inšpektor Jeglič, ter Dermastjevi - pri partizanih si je nadel ime Velikonja - na vogalu Pogončnikovih.

Domač, šempeterski svet, v cerkvi ji je dajal podobo mali Josip Demšar, spovednik, dočakal je 103 let - vsi smo ga poznali in cenili.

Obisk teh krajev je danes boleč. Življenje teče po drugih tirih.

Žale

Znance srečujem na Žalah. Tam so na nagrobnikih zapisana imena - ali se jim bom pridružil? - Letos so spominski plošči ob cerkvi med vojno in po vojni pobitih dodali 140 imen. Skupaj jih je preko tisoč.

Kakšna tragedija! Kaj bi vsi ti ljudje dali Sloveniji, če bi ostali pri življenju!

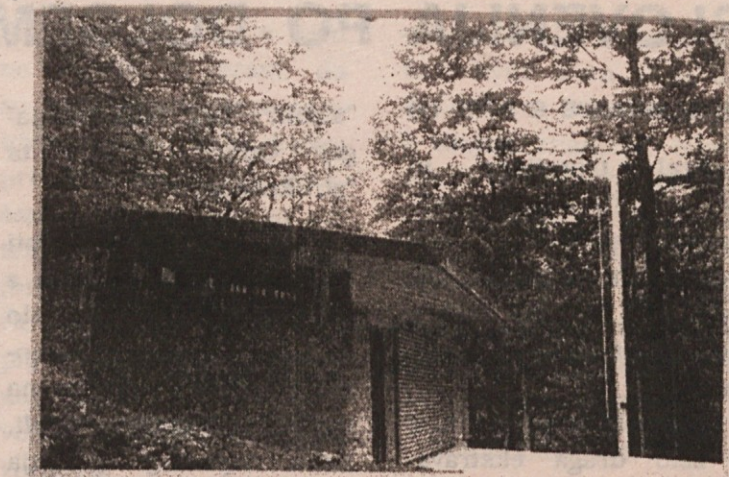
Na nagrobnikih na pokopališču je precej zapisov ljudi, ki so umrli zunaj, posebno v Ameriki. Na grobu Polakove rodbine so zapisani Remčevi iz Chicaga, pa tudi moj sošolec Jakob Remec, vrnjen iz Vetrinja in ubit pri Škofji Loki. Rajko Ložar je napisan na Ložarjevem nagrobniku nedaleč od Ehrlichovega in Tomčevega spomenika. Tudi Aleš Stanovnik ni daleč.

Malokdo opazi nagrobnik Lojzetu Dolinarju, ubitem ob Živkovičevem obisku v času diktature. Obiskovalce menda ne moti uglajeni nagrobnik avstrijskih Nemcev, tudi ne bolj zapuščeno grobišče Italijanov iz prve vojne. Zadene jih "Lipa sprave" nedaleč od teh, vendar je doslej preživela.

Spominska znamenja

Že nekaj let hodim na Teharje in v Kočevski Rog. Zato sledim novostim.

Nacionalni spomenik v Teharjih je zares spodoben, posebno, če ne po-



POGLED NA TEHARSKO KAPELO

znaš njegove zgodovine. Ob obisku verjetno koncem tedna ne zapaziš, kako tovornjaki odlagajo tone smeti kakih sto metrov od spomenika, in tudi ne vidiš, da je prostor, kjer so grobovi tamkaj pobitih, danes igrišče golfa in da za nasipom, ki prečka svet nekdanjega taborišča, še danes odlagajo industrijske odpadke. Zagotovili so mi, da je več kot deset metrov industrijskih odpadkov na krajih, kjer naj bi bili zakopani pobiti.

Menda je vse po predpisih. Mesto ima dovoljenje za odlaganje odpadkov, tovarne imajo pogodbe za odtakanje industrijske žlindre. Podjetje za golf ima pogodbo za uporabo zemljišča in nazadnje imajo tudi motoristi kontrakt za uporabo nezazidanega terena. Vse po predpisih. Pa me znanci sprašujejo, kam me moti v današnji Sloveniji?

V Kočevski Rog me je peljal moj brat že pred mnogo leti. Iz Kočevja mimo ciganskega naselja proti jamam pod Krenom. Pot je vedno ista, vtisi gotovo ne.

Že dolgo mi brat Tine zagotavlja, kje so verjetno jame z domobranci, kje naj bi bili Hrvatje in Srbi.

Bil sem tam, ko so ob jamah bile samo sveče in nekaj lesenih križev. Kasneje velik križ, danes obnovljen z novim podstavkom.

Grobišče je danes simbol slovenske nedoslednosti. Skrupucalo diletantskih podvigov, rezultat drobnjakarstva in koristolovstva. Nad samo jamo, v kateri si pred leti še videl bele kosti, je betonski spomenik, zgrajen pod "mentorstvom" Bajukove vlade, skoro na skrivaj, da bi se videlo, kdo je pri spoštovanju vojnih in povojnih žrtev zaslužen.

ro neopazna, vendar ne neskladna.

Letos se je tam blizu pridružila spominska plošča srbskih dobrovoljcev, prvih vrnjencev iz Vetrinja. Ob njih je danes nov spomenik, "drvarnica" z mozaiki patra Rupnika.

Kje so bili slovenski arhitekti in načrtovalci? Zgradbo sem videl lani, ko še ni bilo vse dokončano - in me ni prepričala. Videl sem jo spet letos ob slovesnosti za Vse svete. Vrata lahko odpreš samo napol, da vidiš le polovico zadnje stene, kjer so Rupnikovi mozaiki, vse je seveda temno, ker ni osvetljenja in oskrbniki ne premorejo majhnega generatorja za nekaj luči. V novembru je v Rogu že sredi popoldneva kar temno. Če nisi z nosom ob "svetišču", pač ne vidiš ničesar.

Zakaj pa naj bi videl kaj? Svet pred stavbo visi proti breznom, kam naj se obrneš? Upam, da bodo vse skupaj čez nekaj let podrli, če se ne bo samo zrušilo.

Kar kritičen sem bil, ko sem bral o "budističnem zvonu", kakor je videti na slikah od oblasti odobreni spomenik "žrtvam vojne in revolucije". Moram priznati, da je spomenik mnogo boljši, kot je bilo razbrati iz opisov. V gozdu nad Jendolom nad Grčaricami je v gozdu videti kot odsekano drevo. Če potkaš po njem, zadoni. Res ni ma križa, a marsikdo, ki je bil ubit med vojno ali po njej, ni tvegala življenja zaradi križa. Ali bi že ne bil čas, da se s tem sprijaznimo?

Slovenski prometni križ

Z načrtovalci prometne mreže po Sloveniji že leta nisem soglasen, ker sem se pač učil o prometnem omrežju v deželah po svetu in sem to

(DALJE na str. 14)

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SLOVENIJA PO DOLGEM IN POČEZ

Clevelandski Slovenci

(nadaljevanje s str. 10)

(NADALJEVANJE S STR. 13)

študiral teoretično in tudi po osebnih izkušnjah. Poznam predvsem svet Amerike in Zahodne Evrope, učil sem se tudi z izkušnjami drugod po svetu.

Slovenski prometni križ je zelo draga ekstravaganca, ki služi predvsem zunanjim klientom, v Sloveniji pa utrjuje prepad med razvitimi in nerazvitimi deli.

Prometni križ sloni na dominantnosti Ljubljane. Kljub temu, da bo še nekaj časa minilo, predno bo dokončana povezava med gorenjsko progno in ljubljanskim obročem. Celovška med Šentvidom in Dravljami je le prehodni koridor, potniška zadruga, dokaz slovenske trme, da ima Gorenjska samostojen kos slovenskega omrežja.

Če hočete izkusiti, kako so slovenske pokrajine med seboj povezane, se poskusite peljati od Novega mesta v Kočevje in v Ilirsko Bistrico ali Postojno. Napravite pot od Celja v Novo mesto ali iz Tolmina v Škofjo Loko. Zares boste danes skozi trojanske predore hitreje v Celju, ni se vam treba ustaviti za krofe vrh trojanskih klancev, a dolenska "magistrala" vas bo zavrla, če bo le malo dežja ali poledice.

Ali se res Slovenija ne bi smela vdati Hrvatom in povezati Maribor s Krapino, tudi do Madžarov ne bi smelo biti preveč uslužni, saj je dovolj, da je Slovenija po desetletjih na novo zgradila železniško zvezo proti Budimpešti. Medtem so madžarski tovornjaki desetletja obremenjevali slovenske ceste proti Kopru.

Na to me spominja slovensko zagotavljanje, da je treba dati besedo

"stroki". Bog nam pomagaj! Odkod prihaja ta "strokovnost"?

Če boste hoteli proti Gorici, se boste srečali s klancem od Razdrtega do Št. Vida, danes Podnansa, ter boste v bregu na meliščih Nanosa videli, kako napreduje gradnja avtoceste. Precej odsekov je že nared, celotna proga pa še ne. Ali bo burja počakala, da bodo na poti tovornjaki? Zanimivo bo vedeti, kako jih bo burja lovila na poti v dolino. Ali bodo takrat "strokovnjaki" priznali, da proga morda ni bila dovolj preučena?

Cestni križ je le križ in ne cestno omrežje. Svet ob avtocestah bo postal evropski z vsemi dobrimi in slabimi posledicami, le nekaj kilometrov od glavne ceste so bo pa razvoj še bolj upočasnili.

Samo zapeljite se v dolino Krke ali ob Poljanski Sori, tudi cesta v Kočevje ne kaže posodobljenja - razen slabo označenih obvoznic pri Ribnici ali samem Kočevju. Da ne govorim o cesti od Postojne proti Reki. Kaj je Hrvatska v resnici "nezaželjena sosedna"?

V BLAG SPOMIN OB OSMI OBLETNICI



ANGELA FUJS

Umrla 4. januarja 1998

Šopek rožic smo nabrali,
na gomilo tvojo dali,
zraven svečko smo prižgali
in v tišini s tabo pokramljali.
Le kdo pozabil bi gomilo,
v kateri zlato spi srce,
ki neskončno nas ljubilo
do poslednjega je dne.
Ko tvoje zaželimo si bližine,
gremo tja, v ta mirni kraj tišine.
Tam srce se tiho zajoče,
saj verjeti ono noče,
da te več med nami ni.

Žalujejo:

mož Frank
sin Edward z družino
sestra Frances Androjna
z družino in
brat Štefan Majc z družino.

◇
Ko se vozim po Sloveniji, le na hitro, skoro mimogrede, ko vidim, kako se polja spreminjajo v travnike, kako se nekdanj gola pobočja zaraščajo, kako se načrtne ali "nove" gradnje vrivajo v slovensko pokrajino, mi je žal, da moja podoba Slovenije postaja le spomin na svet, ki ga ni več.

Zato ne bi smelo nikogar presenetiti, kako na vprašanje, kje sem doma, odgovarjam. V nemškem avtomobilu, z ameriškim potnim listom, z nekaj tolarji z žepu, in vizumom za obisk Rusije, z zavestjo slovenskega rodu, a brez slovenskega državljanstva, ponovim vprašanje, o katerem sem pred desetletji pisal: Kdo smo? Kam grem, ko odgovarjam na vprašanje: kdaj prideš domov.

(KONEC)


ve, Knezovih in Nemčevih zvesto podpira slovenske misijonarje; Štajerski, Belokranjski in Primorski klubi s svojimi banketi in veselimi martinovanji; že kar mednarodna Polka Hall of Fame (predsednica Cilka Dolgan) in nadsto drugih verskih, kulturnih, bratskih in družabnih društev s svojimi pikniki, sestanki, dobrodelnimi kosili, nedavno konvencijo Slovenske ženske zveze, romanji in izleti ter miklavževanji in božičnicami bogatijo slovensko ameriško versko, narodno, kulturno in družabno razvejanost in utrjujejo slovensko narodno zavest.

Poleg slovenskih župnij pod vodstvom priljubljenih župnikov Jožeta Božnarja in Janeza Kumšeta k bogati slovenski žetvi ogromno pripomorejo naši dvojezični časopisi *Ameriška domovina* (urednik dr. Rudolph M. Susel in lastnik in angleški ured-

nik James V. Debevec) in *Amerikanski Slovenec oz. Glasilo KSKJ* (urednica slovenskega dela Mara Cerar Hull) in trije odlični radijski programi, ki jih vodijo Edi Mejač, Tone Ovsenik in Tony Petkovsek).

Precej clevelandskih rojakov z velikim zanimanjem prebira tudi lemontski mesečnik *Ave Maria* (urednik dr. Bernardin Sušnik), glasilo Slovenske ženske zveze *Zarja* (urednica Corinne Leskovar) in slovenski katoliški tednik *Družno* in po internetu posluša Radio Ognjišče. Člani bratske organizacije SNPJ pa prebirajo tudi dvojezični dvo-mesečnik *Prosveto*.

Da, dovolj je razlogov, da se s hvaležnostjo in zadovoljstvom poslavljamo od preteklega leta in z zaupanjem v Boga in zvestobo rojakov do slovenske dediščine z veseljem stopamo v novo leto 2006.



Blagoslovljene božične praznike in srečno novo leto 2006!
Vam želijo otroci, starši in učitelji Slovenske šole pri sv. Mariji vnebovzeti.

Blessings to you at Christmas and Happy New Year 2006!
from the students, parents and teachers from Slovenian School at St. Mary's

Kristina Ledvack
NICOLAS
Ritchie
KATI
Lucy
Adam
Gillian
Matjaž
Frank
JASON
Mia
Mick Pei
Adriana
Savana
Anica Nemec
Beth Clark
Olivia Vidmar
Billy Vidmar
Nada Rovane
Matthew Knez
Joey Carovac
Shawn Turk
Sammy Winslett
Kara Haselbusch
Dominic H.
Becca Clark
Andreja Marsic
Rachel Krevh
Joey Tromba
Abigail Koerwitz
Bridge + Koerwitz
Celeste Koerwitz

Marija Sedmak
Brianna Tramba
Claudia Krajncic
Martin
Mike A. Mena
Chris Friend
Becca Clark
Andreja Marsic
Elise Hart
Miranda
Michelle Slatinske
Rachel A. Hart
Marija Rovane
Daniel Grabnar
Gabriela Cerer
Joey Cerer
Niko Masic
Nick Randlett
Alex Black
Marina Dolinar
Stephanie Zephar
Vince Tramba
Jany Nemec
Tomaz Duzina
Kati Dolinar
Erica Duzina
maria Grabnar
Katja Slatinske

Joseph L. FORTUNA

POGREBNI ZAVOD
5316 Fleet Ave.
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Tel. 216-641-0046

Moderni pogrebni zavod.
Ambulanca na razpolago
podnevi in ponoči.

CENE NIZKE
PO VAŠI ŽELJI!

Prevrat v pravdi med Jožetom Bernikom in *Mladino*

Domobranska preteklost še ne pomeni sodelovanja z gestapom

Po mnenju višjih sodnikov je Mladina zaradi zapisa, da je bil Jože Bernik sodelavec gestapa, odškodninsko odgovorna – Okrožno sodišče mora razsoditi le še o višini odškodnine



Ljubljana – Potem ko je dr. Jože Bernik na ljubljanskem okrožnem sodišču dvakrat izgubil pravdo z *Mladino*, je v spor poseglo višje sodišče. Z vmesno sodbo je pritrnilo odvetnikoma Jožetu Hriberniku in Janezu Grudnu ter ugotovilo, da je *Mladina* zaradi zapisa o Bernikovem sodelovanju z gestapom odškodninsko odgovorna. Primer je vrnilo okrožnemu sodišču, slednje pa mora zdaj odločiti le še o višini odškodnine.



JOŽE BERNIK

"Najbolj me moti, da mi je *Mladina* pripisala sodelovanje z gestapom, ki naj bi me bil izšolal, in napisala, da imam nacistično preteklost. To ni res," je Bernik na sodišču pojasnjeval razloge za odškodninsko tožbo, s katero zaradi napada na čast in dobro ime zahteva pet milijonov tolarjev.

Medtem ko so okrožni sodniki njegov zahtevek zavrnili, saj je po njihovem mnenju odvetnik Stojan Zdolšek dokazal, da je *Mladina* imela utemeljen razlog verjeti v

resničnost navedb, je višje sodišče odločilo drugače.

Jeseni 1997 je bil Jože Bernik kandidat za predsednika države in *Mladina* ga je v člankih vzela pod drobnogled kot javno osebo, za katero se volivci še posebej zanimajo.

Bernik je bil med domobranskimi častniki in podčastniki, ki jih je vodstvo SLS oziroma domobranstva v začetku novembra 1944 poslalo kot

pomoč in okrepitev gorenjskemu domobranstvu. Po pisanju *Mladine*, ki se je oprla tudi na nekatere dokumente, je bil "med gestapovci izšolan domobranski propagandist".

Bernik je sodnikom zatrdil, da se ne sramuje dejstva, da je bil rekrutiran kot domobranec, vendar kot civilni uradnik v oddelku kranjskega domobranskega centra ni sodeloval v bojih. Prav tako ni imel orožja, uniforme ali čina. Res pa je januarja 1945 kot pozdravni govornik sodeloval na tečaju za propagandiste, vendar ni sodeloval z gestapom. Ta ga je februarja 1945 tudi aretirjal in do konca vojne je bil zaprt, nato pa je odšel v tujino.

Ker so bili domobranci sodelavci gestapa, Bernik pa je bil sodelavec domobrancev, je bil po logiki okrožnih sodnikov tudi sodelavec gestapa.

Višje sodišče se s tem ne strinja in pravi, da so to poenostavljene ugotovitve in da "suha logika pri tako občutljivih vprašanjih odpove, saj so potemtakem vsi domobranci (bili) sodelavci gestapa". Če bi bilo to res, bi skupaj z Bernikom že zdavnaj morali biti obtoženi vojnih zločinov proti človečnosti.

Kakor so odločili višji sodniki, je *Mladinin* zapis o Bernikovem sodelovanju z gestapom pretiran in predstavlja žalitev dobrega imena in časti. Na propagandnem tečaju, ki ga je organiziral gestapo, je sicer res imel pozdravni govor, vendar po mnenju višjih sodnikov zato še ni mogoče reči, da je sodeloval z gestapom. Ta besedna zveza ima namreč od 2. svetovne vojne izrazito negativen pomen in namiguje na vojni zločin.

Olga Cvetek

DELO, 10. dec. 2005

Vsem rojakom po svetu

Pismo novega državnega sekretarja Urada vlade Republike Slovenije za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu ZORKA PELIKANA...

Ljubljana, 1. december 2005

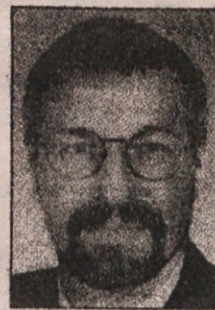
Spoštovani rojaki v zamejstvu in po svetu,

dragi prijatelji izven meja Republike Slovenije!

Naj gre ob začetku mojega mandata v svojstvu državnega sekretarja in vodje Urada Vlade RS za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu moja prva misel k Vam, dragi prijatelji, ki živite v zamejstvu in širom po svetu in dan za dnem, na različne načine, tkete in utrjujete vezi s Slovenijo. Dovolite, da Vas najpristrčneje pozdravim in hkrati izrazim željo po kar najboljšim sodelovanjem z Vami vsemi.

Danes niso pomembni razlogi ali okoliščine, zaradi katerih ste se znašli izven političnih meja matične domovine, niti ni pomembno, kako močno ste se čutili povezane s Slovenijo. Bistveno je to, da se med Vami in nami vzpostavi in poglobi odnos medsebojnega zaupanja in sodelovanja.

Mi, Urad Vlade RS za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu, smo tukaj zato, da Vam bomo pomagali krepiti stike s Slovenijo, da Vam bomo stali ob strani v Vaših prizadevanjih za Vaš boljši status, za boljšo vlogo v družbi, v kateri živite.



Za nas ste pomemben in nezamenljiv del sloven-

skega naroda naroda. Če tudi živite izven meja naše države, želimo, da bi s svojim znanjem, izkušnjami in zrelostjo čimbolj enakovredno sooblikovali slovenski narod in širšo skupnost. Prav tako smo veseli Vašega razvoja in uspehov v družbi, v kateri delujete in ustvarjate.

Republika Slovenija se je z vstopom v EZ in NATO in s skorajšnjim prevzemom Evra ter odprave mejne kontrole z ostalimi članicami Evropske zveze enakovredno vključila v družbo demokratičnih držav in tako uspešno zaključuje svoje desetletje in pol dolgo obdobje tranzicije.

Dosedanje dobre izkušnje sodelovanja med Slovenijo in Slovenci v zamejstvu in po svetu želimo seveda ohraniti, hkrati pa želimo skupaj z Vami iskati in graditi nove, današnjemu času in znanju primerne oblike delovanja.

Vlada Predsednika Janeza Janše je z imenovanjem državnega sekretarja in oblikovanjem posebnega Urada za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu potrdila svojo naklonjenost in pozornost do Vas, drage rojakinje in rojaki izven RS. Tudi priprava posebnega zakona, ki je prav sedaj v parlamentarni proceduri in s katerim želi Slovenija uzakoniti svojo tudi v ustavi zapisano skrb za Slovence po svetu, je temeljnega pomena za pravilno reševanje vseh odprtih vprašanj.

(DALJE na str. 16)

V Blag Spomin

Ob deveti obletnici smrti ljubega moža, očeta, starega ata, strica in brata

Mirota Celestina



Umrli dne 3. januarja 1997.

Tihe misli preteklih let povezujejo dragocene spomine brez konca neviden, neslišen si vedno med nami ljubljjen, odsoten, vedno drag in blag.

žalujoci:

žena Mari

sinovi: Peter (Barbie), Jože (Terri), Marko (Joanne), Andrej (Annette), Charles (Traci), in Tomaž

hčerka Mary Ann Krevh (Erik)

vnuki in vnukinje.

sorodniki v Ameriki, Kanadi in Sloveniji.

V LJUBEČ IN NEPOZABEN SPOMINI!

Ob dvaintrideseti obletnici, odkar je umrl na Mlakah v Beli krajini naš dobri, skrbni oče, stari oče in tast



JOHN F. SMUK

Njegovo življenje je ugasnilo 2. januarja 1974.

O, ko bi mogli moč skovati, ki bi prinesla nam nazaj obličja Tvojega milino in blagodejni Tvoj smehljaj.

V spominih svetlih in hvaležnih, v ljubezni lepi, Tebi zvesti, pa ostaneš, ata, Ti pri nas zdaj in slednji čas!

TVOJI ŽALUJOČI:

hčerki VIDA RUPNIK, MIMICA KRALJ
sinova MILAN in ANTONA — zeta in snahi
vnuki in vnukinje ter ostalo sorodstvo.

Cleveland, Ohio, 5. januarja 2006.

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1586. Kot ste že opazili, se je gdč. Sonja Ferjan

poslovala od pisanja te misijonske kolone. Skrbela bo še za bogoslovsko akcijo in sodelovala, kolikor ji bo mogoče. Hvala, Sonja, za vso skrb, sodelovanje, pisanje in vso pomoč, kar naj Ti povrne Nebeški Oče z zdravjem in potrebnimi milostmi v tem letu 2006, to žele hvaležni sodelavci MZA.

Pred božičnimi prazniki je bilo objavljeno pismo misijonarja p. Lovra Tomažina, ki deluje v Zambiji. Med prazniki je prišlo še eno pismo s prošnjo, da bi bilo objavljeno v *Ameriški domovini*, ker misijonar nima časa pisati vsem znancem in dobrotnikom v naši deželi in sosednji Kanadi. Pismo je prejela Celestinova:

"Dragi mi! Na lepi praznik Brezmadežne sem prejel pred 42 leti mašniško posvečenje v Argentini. Na ta dan sem sv. mašo daroval v zahvalo Bogu za duhovništvo, ki je poseben dar božji, in za vse milosti, ki smo jih prejeli vsi, ki z menoj sodelujete na ta ali oni način. 'Novomašnik bod' pozdravljen', pa so mi zapeli na tretjo adventno nedeljo 15. decembra, ki se imenuje 'Radujte se, Gospod je blizu' in je bilo res radovanje in veselje v Gospodu. Bogu hvala!

Na dan 12. decembra 2005 je bila številka 17.610 mojih sv. maš, to se pravi, da je bilo povprečno na leto 420-krat maševanje. Koliko je bilo razdeljenih drugih zakramentov, koliko je bilo pridig, učenje verouka, vodenje sestankov, duhovne vaje, rekolekcije, pogrebi, to pa ve samo Bog. Zgrajenih je bilo nekaj hišic, cerkvic in še kaj. Tudi na ta dan je bila sv. maša, hvalnica Bogu za vse delo v Njegovem vinogradu.

Zdaj v adventu smo v pripravi na božične praznike. Dela je veliko, a še daleč se ne da vse narediti, kar je potrebno. Večina 27 postojank bo imelo le eno sv. mašo v adventu. Tudi ne bodo imeli vse božične sv. maše, ker sva le dva duhovnika, razdalje pa velike. Dan pred Božičem bo božična sv. maša na dveh postojankah in prav tako tudi na sam Božič. Glavno je, da bo Jezus Zveličar rojen v srcih in družinah naših vernikov.

Vsem vam dobrotnikom, prijateljem, članom in članicam MZA želim veliko milosti v letu 2006. Vas lepo pozdravljam, se vam iskreno zahvaljujem, pošiljam Gospodov blagoslov in prosim, da me vključite in moje vernike v vaših molitvah! Vdani p. Lovro Tomažin."

Oglasil se je misijonar p. Janez Mujdrica, ki uči na učiteljski v Zambiji, s par vrsticami v pismu, da smo pred prazniki, in želi: "Jezus-Emanuel naj bo vedno z vami ter prisrčen pozdrav iz afriških daljav!"

S Agneza, karmeličanka (Mirna peč), se je tudi oglasila s par vrsticami: "Naša skupnost se zahvaljuje Bogu! 30. aprila je bila preoblečena s. Marija Terezija Deteta Jezusa in Božje ljubezni, 7. oktobra pa je vstopila kandidatinja Sandra. Gospod naj podeli obema milost vztrajnosti in rasti v duhu sv. matere Terezije velike.

Vam dobrotnikom in znancem želimo miru in polnost blagoslova Svete noči ter Marijino varstvo v prihodnjem letu 2006. Hvaležno pozdravljamo z zagotovilom molitve! S. M. Agneza Saje."

Zopet se je nabralo nekaj dobrotnikov, ki so prispevali v našo blagajno - v sklad za vse misijonarje:

A Ravnik (za Rev. L. Podgrajška) \$1000; M.S. Gradolnik (za p. Bregarja \$100, v spomin +K. Knez \$50) \$150. N.N. (v spomin +K. Knez) \$05; M.V. Vrhovnik \$50; Klub upokojencev Slov. pristave (za sv. maše za pok. člane) \$100; S. Oven (v spomin + sestre Mici) \$100; N.N. \$50; S. Ferkulj \$1000; M. Cendol (za 2 sv. maši za +K. Knez \$20, za vse \$30) \$50; S. Ferkulj (za domačo faro \$500, za vse \$1000) \$1500; S. Kosem (za Klarise \$100, za Rev. F. Petriča \$50) \$150; T.H. Gorše (za salezijanke v spomin +K. Knez) \$100; R.A. Knez (za Klarise) \$50; F. Merela \$200; J.F. Govednik (za Rev. L. Podgrajška) \$250.

Iskrena hvala vsem dobrotnikom za vse darovano. Bog vam povrne s svojim blagoslovom! Vsem čitateljem želim blagoslovljeno leto 2006 in vse lepo pozdravlja v imenu vseh sodelujočih

Marica Lavriša

1004 Dillewood Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44119

Dorothy A. Muhic, rojena Stalzer, vdova po Steveu, mati Stephena, Jamesa, Edwarda in Catherine Primisch, 7-krat stara mati, sestra Josepha in Normana. Pogreb je danes s sv. mašo v cerkvi Brezmadežnega Spočetja s pokopom na Kalvarije pokopališču.

Ann Lekan

Umrla je 84 let stara Ann Lekan, rojena Jesenko, vdova po Johnu, mati Regisa in Jacka, 6-krat stara mati, hčerka Jacoba in Anne (r. Žakelj) (oba že pok.), sestra Myrona (že pok.) in Ruth Abbott, teta in prate-ta. Pogreb je bil 19. decembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi St. Francis de Sales in pokopom na Sv. Križa pokopališču.

Jennie Ribaric

Umrla je Jennie Ribaric, rojena Fabian, vdova po Sylvestru, mati Beverly Snodgrass, Raymonda, Kathleen Gray in Jamesa, 10-krat stara mati, 9-krat prastara mati, hčerka Matthewa in Mary (r. Legan) (oba že pok.), sestra Margaret Munley ter že pok. Mary Kastelic, Sophie Papesch, Frances Dernyar, Tillie Kurtinaitis, Julije Fabian in Raymonda, teta in prateta. Pogreb je bil 19. decembra v oskrbi Fortunovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Lovrenca in pokopom na Kalvarije pokopališču.

Morris Debenak

Umrl je 87 let stari Morris Debenak, oče Maureen Cleveland, 2-krat stari oče, brat že pok. Josepha. Pogreb je bil 19. decembra v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s pokopom na pokopališču Knollwood.

John E. Bradac

Umrl je 55 let stari John E. Bradac iz Willowicka, sin Emila in Rose (oba že pok.), oče Michaela, brat Mary in Emily Bradac, zaposlen pri nekdanjem podjetju PMX v Euclidu. Kropljenje je bilo 18. decembra, podatki o pogrebu niso bili objavljeni.

William A. Bayuk st.

Umrl je 94 let stari William A. Bayuk st., vdovec po Sophie, roj. Kaucic, oče Carole Corrigan in Williama, 6-krat stari oče, 2-krat prastari oče, brat Olge Larson, Vere Bajec, Molly Snyder in Frances (vse že pok.), stric in prastric. Pogreb je bil 28. decembra v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču. Družina bo hvaležna za darove v pokojnikov spomin Slovene Home for the Aged Foundation, 18621 Neff Rd., Cleveland, OH 44119.

Z AMERIŠKO DOMOVINO
STE VEDNO NA TEKOČEM

- NOVI GROBOVI -

(NADALJEVANJE S STR. 9)

Sylvia Valencic

Dne 30. decembra je umrla 97 let stara Sylvia Valencic iz Doylestowna, O., prej živeča v Clevelandu in je bila faranka župnije sv. Jeroma, vdova po Paulu, mati Paula ml., Roseanne Zak in Pauline (vsi že pok.), 2-krat stara mati, 2-krat prastara mati, sestra Mary Steiner ter že pok. Antona, Stanleyja, Johna, Franka, Henryja, Louisa, Edwarda in Charlesa Polk. Pogreb bo v soboto, 7. jan., s sv. mašo dop. ob 11h v cerkvi Prince of Peace v Barbertonu, O., s pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču. Kropljenje bo v soboto v cerkvi in to od 10. dop. do pričetka sv. maše.

Edward F. Marincic

Umrl je 86 let stari Edward F. Marincic iz Graftona, O., zanj žalujejo sin Michael, hčerka Marianne Kurtz in vnukinja, veteran 2. svetovne vojne, zaposlen do upokojitve pri Eaton Corp. v Clevelandu. Pogreb je bil 29. decembra v Elyriji, pogrebne obrede je v pogrebem zavodu opravil Rev. John Seabold, župnik cerkve Brezmadežnega spočetja, sledil je pokop na Sv. križa pokopališču.

William J. Germ

Dne 25. decembra je v N. Ridgevillu umrl 94 let stari William J. Germ, rojen v Clevelandu, zadnjih 12 let pa živel v Elyriji, O., vdovec po Charlotte, oče Patricije Faust ter že pok. Williama in Roberta, 4-krat

stari oče, 6-krat prastari oče, 3-krat praprastari oče, brat Julie Germ ter že pok. Johna, Alberta, Jean, Mimi, Elsie in Pauline, zaposlen 25 let pri General Motors do svoje upokojitve l. 1974. Pogreb je bil 28. decembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi Brezmadežnega spočetja v Graftonu, O., s pokopom na Kalvarije pokopališču v Clevelandu.

Dorothy A. Muhic

Umrla je 86 let stara

Vsem rojakom po svetu...

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 15)

Skratka, kar nekaj razlogov imamo, da se lahko upravičeno veselimo novih možnosti za sodelovanje in medsebojno bogatenje. Tudi če ne bo šlo vse zmeraj gladko, lahko z dobro voljo in s pripravljenostjo do dialoga zaobidemo marsikatero oviro.

Ko se na tem mestu iskreno zahvalim svojemu predhodniku za ves njegov trud in delo, naj Vam ob koncu izrazim svoje resnično veselje, da bom lahko skupaj s svojimi sodelavci delal z Vami, in naj potrdim svojo največjo pripravljenost, da bomo lahko skupaj naredili nov korak v pravo smer. Zorko Pelikan

† V BLAG SPOMIN †



Anton Adamič
1899 - 1982

Pavla Adamič
1913 - 1997

Novo leto - čas upanja, želja
Nam pa čas grenkih spominov -
Večnega slovesa od Tebe, mama
Veselih dni praznovanja Tvojega rojstva, ata.

Na misel pride strica Karla skladba:
"Minil je dan trpljenja,
Prišel je dan vstajenja!"

Verujemo, da to v Bogu uživata!
Aleluja!

Otroci:

Pavla Dolinar, Mira Kosem in Tone Adamič
z družinami ter družina Veider