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AMERICAN HOME



AMERIŠKA SLOVENIAN MOR

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Janša Speaks to Cleveland Slovenians

Address of his excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Janez Janša at Slovenian National Home on Saturday, July 8:

Fellow Slovenians, Dear Friends of Slovenia,

Before coming here I stopped at Cleveland City Hall, one of the venues of the Cleveland Slovenian Days. I find it amazing how Cleveland has captured the sentiment shared by Slovenians around the world as we celebrate 15 years of the independent state of Slovenia. On the other hand, this comes as no surprise given the role you have played in the historic project that reached its peak 15 years ago.

We Slovenians, both living within and outside Slovenia, knew exactly what we wanted back then. We could not have known, though, what awaited us on that path. Yet we did not hesitate in treading upon it. The stakes were high, but so was our morale. United and resolute, we stood against the odds of destiny. We declared independence and were immediately called to defend it. We wanted international recognition, but it took a lot of knocking to open all the doors. All along we had staunch allies within the Slovenian community here in the United States. You were tireless spokesmen for the Slovenian cause, and we want to express our sincere gratitude for all your support in this critical period of our history. It will never be forgotten.

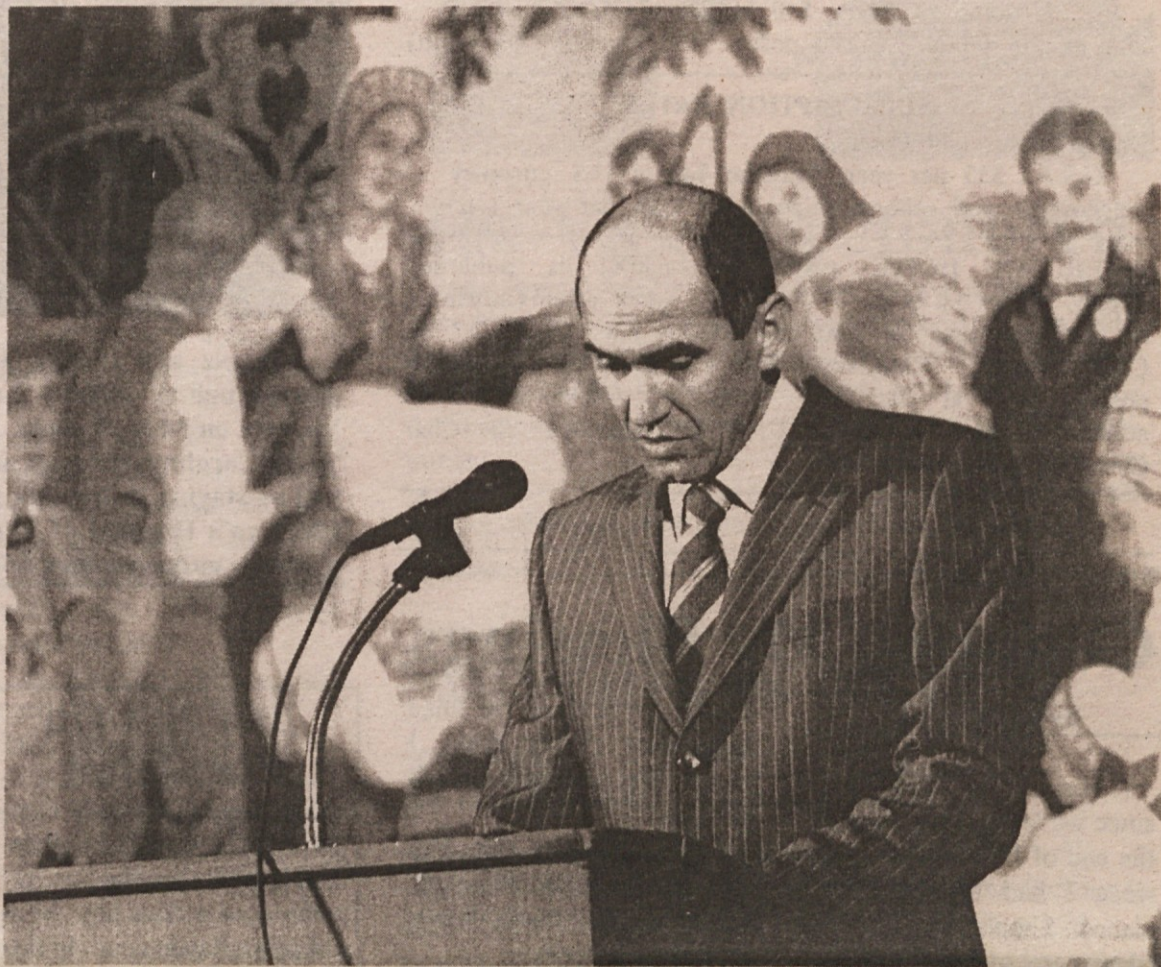
The story of Slovenia's success is your story, too. In the first 15 years of its statehood, Slovenia has come a long way. We are full members of the prestigious Euro-Atlantic clubs – NATO and the European Union. It was the people of Slovenia themselves who decided to join them. NATO, within which

the transatlantic alliance with the USA is of special importance, is the highest guarantor of our security. Never in our history has our security environment been so stable.

The European Union is a unique undertaking, grounded in the principles of free cooperation and integration among European states. Political and economic criteria for accession provided helpful guidance on the path of our own transformation. We met them all. Two years after accession, support for EU membership among Slovenians remains high. As does our reputation within the European family of nations. Like the nine other countries of the Union's last enlargement, we sit at the same table on an equal footing with other European states. However, it will be Slovenia, as the favorite of this enlargement, who will be first to take over the EU presidency in the first half of 2008. It is a huge challenge for a country of 2 million people to guide policies which affect the lives of almost half a billion Europeans from 27 nations.

At the beginning of 2007 we will also be the first among the 10 new Member States to adopt the single European currency, the euro. When traveling to Europe after the 1st of January, 2007, you might find yourself using euro coins that have Triglav or other Slovenian symbols engraved on them. This and some further steps of integration will improve the everyday life of Slovenians and open new possibilities in trade and doing business. However, we have never been under the illusion that accession to any international organization releases us from responsibility for our own well-being.

We have done very well so far. Our GDP has risen by almost 60% in the last 15 years. Our economic growth



Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša speaks at the Slovenian National Home in Cleveland (Photo by PHIL HRVATIN)

has been stable and above the European average, which means that a great deal of catching up has been done. We now stand at 80% of the European average. It is important that this progress has not been made at the expense of the social welfare of our citizens.

We must not allow ourselves, though, to be lulled into complacency. We must continue to strive for higher, bolder goals. We already have examples of excellence. Slovenians are at the cutting edge in branches varying from the automotive, pharmaceutical, light aircraft and sailing industries to the development of new materials and fast-growing information technology. We want to make the Slovenian business environment open and initiative-friendly, so that others can follow these examples.

Slovenia offers opportunity to you, too. Open to foreign investment, with the coming second round of privatization of once state-owned companies, we will welcome foreign partners on an equal footing. We want to deepen economic cooperation with the U.S., and the Slovenian community in the States is a natural partner in this respect.

Among the Slovenians who could not fulfill their ambitions in their homeland and decided to try their luck in the USA, there were some of the finest sons and daughters of Slovenia. Many of you had success across the Atlantic but did not forget those who stayed back home. Packages with a US postage stamp meant the promise of a different, better world to many of them. Some emigrants returned and brought back fresh capital, new experiences and, what was most important, a genuine entrepreneurial spirit which the former regime tried to suppress. We hope their children and grandchildren will recognize new opportunities to express this spirit in modern Slovenia.

We can strengthen cooperation in this and other fields on the model of successful cultural cooperation. You are doing an excellent job here in Cleveland. *Slovenski narodni dom* represents a piece of Slovenia, not only as a cultural center but also as the most visited meeting point for Slovenians living in the USA. We want to express special thanks to the organizations located in *Slovenski narodni dom* for their dedication in keeping the Slovenian cultural heri-

itage, language and thus Slovenian identity alive here in Cleveland.

Cultural exchanges such as last year's performance of *Pevski zbor Korotan in Cankarjev dom*, which I attended, are of great importance for keeping our connection firm. Handing our tradition and heritage over to the younger generation is our common task. This is why we are happy to host seminars for emigrant teachers of the Slovene language in Slovenia. We hope that the eight of them attending the seminar this year will bring fresh knowledge to Cleveland.

Fellow Slovenians, dear friends of Slovenia,

We are pleased to see how vibrant the Slovenian community in Cleveland is. It is also a source of pride seeing how friendly and grateful the city is to you. Banners in the streets reading *Cleveland Celebrates the Slovenian Community*, the Slovenian flag and the exhibition in City Hall are only the most visible signs of this special relation. It was great to hear that you had all joined forces in preparing the Slovenian Days in Cleveland. Mutual understanding is the best gift you can give Slovenia for its birthday.

Newspaper Schedule

The next and 3rd issue of Ameriška Domovina in July will be dated July 27th.

In August, the American Home will be dated Aug. 10, 17, and 24.

In September the American Home will be printed on Sept. 7, 14, and 21.

AMERICAN HOME AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

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AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA (USPS 024100)

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Dr. Rudolph M. Susel – Slovenian Editor

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Frank J. Lausche, Paul Kosir

NAROČNINA:

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No. 21 July 20, 2006

Counting My Blessings

by RUDY FLIS

It seems like a long time since we last got together. At the end of June it was a year since I had my knees replaced. Should have had it taken care of much sooner, as I move freely about, and painless, and I had expected to go to my grave with sore knees.

I play golf, work around the house, and stairways I take in stride. A year ago, it wasn't so. I drive to Columbus non stop, and am able not only to stand, but to walk with ease to my appointment after that long ride. I don't dance, jump loops or kneel at this time, but receive zero

distress calls from the knee department of my brain. I accept it as a miracle. Thank you, Lord.

You might say that I'm from the over the hill gang. Life is full of wonderful surprises for all to enjoy.

All through my life, people around me have taught me to always count my blessings, which are many. I stand on the review stand, as my blessings parade by, a great feeling with loads of smiles, which gives me little or no time to complain. And then I pray, "Please God, bless and watch over our troops, guide our leaders toward peace, and please God, bless America."

There is "love" and "venison" in Slovenian

News from Rezonja Wines

Rezonja Wine Cellars, SONOMA, CALIF. – It has been a while since I have sent you – my friends – an update on my winery.

After an extremely rainy (record rain fall) winter, the sun has decided to shine upon the vineyard and encourage "bud burst" to strengthen the vines to again produce award winning grapes. Yes, I mean "Award Winning." I am very proud to announce that for the second year in a row, my cabernet sauvignon received a Silver Medal in the San Francisco Chronicle wine competition. For this reason, I have decided to share the first of these Silver Medal winners – my 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon, at a special rate

of \$275.00 plus shipping and handling. There is a limited supply left so if you are interested, please contact me. This offer is only available by the full case (12 bottles). Because the laws in Ohio have changed, I am now able to ship directly to you. Please check my website for more winery information: www.rezonjawinecellars.com or call me direct 707-431-1449.

I look forward to hearing from you. I also extend an open invitation to come see me on my mountain top winery. I can guarantee you will feel like you have come to Slovenia.

Dobrodošli & živijo.

--Steve Rezonja



Matevz and Ivanka Tominec of Cleveland, Ohio, attended the graduation of their granddaughter Hillary Lockemer from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia on May 20, 2006. Also attending were parents Maggie and Bob Lockemer of Cary, North Carolina and aunt and uncle Ivy and Joe Monahon of Aiken, South Carolina. Hillary will be staying in Norfolk for the next three years to complete a pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. Following residency, she plans to pursue a pediatric endocrinology fellowship. Congratulations!

You cannot make a crab walk straight – Bob Hopkins

Last Bird-Flu Zone Lifted

Slovenia's National Center for Disease Control decided to abolish the last remaining 10-kilometer bird-flu surveillance zone. In this zone around the city of Maribor, the first case of bird flu in the country was discovered.

It also wants to enforce measures throughout Slovenia on breeding poultry in penned spaces, giving them food or water in enclosed areas or in such a way that would prevent contact between wild and domestic birds.

A total of 44 confirmed bird flu cases were reported in the country this year, all in wild birds.

Where Were the Flowers?

Eighty-two Years Old Today.
I am at Hospice for a short time to stay.
Received a bouquet of flowers today.
Anxious to know what the card will say.
From your husband, Happy Birthday.

Where were the flowers since our Wedding Day?
Where were the flowers on my Birthday?
Where were the flowers on our Anniversary Day?
Where were the flowers on Mothers Day?
Where were the flowers on any day?
Yes, where were the flowers on any day?

--George Knaus
July, 2006

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS by John Mercina

WORDS OF WISDOM (Sent by a friend, author unknown)

- "Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco."
- "Never kick a cow chip on a hot day."
- "There are two theories to arguing with a woman...neither works"
- "Never miss a good chance to shut up."
- "Always drink upstream from the heard."
- "The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket."
- "Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment."
- "If you are riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then, to make sure it's still there."
- "Letting the cat out of the bag is a lot easier than putting it back."
- "If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."

American Slovenians in Action

by STANE KUCHAR

Part IV

(WRITER'S NOTE: Parts I and II described what occurred just prior to the Republic of Slovenia seeking to separate itself from the then socialist federal state of former Yugoslavia as well as the initial beginning of the Slovenian American Council. Part III was the beginning of the United Americans for Slovenia, an ad hoc committee formed to urge the United States to formally recognize Slovenia as an independent and democratic country.)

By July 3, 1991 the United Americans for Slovenia (UAFS) had been formally established as an "Ad Hoc" Committee, meaning that UAFS was to work for a specific purpose and then dissolve once the stated goal had been achieved. Membership on the UAFS was initially for representatives of various organizations, fraternals, parishes, etc. This was slightly changed as individuals eventually were allowed to join. But the primary purpose was to have representation of organizations from northeast Ohio; and then from across the USA.

A decision was made by UAFS when informed of the work that the Slovenian American Council was and had been undertaking to contact representatives in the U.S. Congress and President George Bush (Sr.) via a "packaging" information kit. The kit and information would be mailed to the U.S. Congress representatives, President Bush, and nearly 1,200 American Slovenian clubs, organizations, fraternals, etc., in the USA. This work was completed on Independence Day, July 4, 1991. At the same time a specific publication of the *American Home / Ameriška Domovina* (AD) had been printed and was included in the information kit. This work was performed by publisher James Debevec and his staff along with wife, Madeline Debevec. By the end of the day all the work was completed by volunteers of UAFS.

Matjaz Jančar, Cleveland Yugoslav Consul General, finally had a change of mind on which government he wanted to represent so that on July 5, 1991 he left the Yugoslav government by declaring himself, "A citizen of the Republic of Slovenia." In hindsight, this event should have occurred much sooner as the winds of change had already been set in motion by May, 1989.

Nonetheless, Mr. Jancar was now officially a citizen of Slovenia. he lost his diplomatic accreditation and was unemployed. As such, he soon returned to the Republic of Slovenia.

By July 10, 1991 the European Community was finally able to negotiate a cease-fire with the eventual start of the Yugoslav Army to withdraw from the territory of Slovenia. This eventually led to the "Brioni Agreement," a document signed on the Brioni islands, located near Pula, Croatia, on July 7, 1991 by and between representatives of the Republic of Slovenia, former socialist state of Yugoslavia and the European Community of nations. The agreement essentially stopped the fighting between former Yugoslavia and Slovenia with a "cooling" period of three months that both Slovenia and Croatia would not continue their respective independence work during this time (90 days). All Yugoslav Army troops left Slovenia by the end of September, 1991.

Meetings continued by representatives of UAFS on a weekly basis during July, 1991. There were two individuals who helped spur activities toward recognition of Slovenia by the USA. The first was by Dr. Peter Millionig. Dr. Millionig was born in Celovec, Austria to a Slovenian émigré and native Slovenian from Celovec (Writer's note: Celovec is called *Klagenfurt* in German and is the capital city of the province of *Carinthia*, known as "*Koroska*" in Slovenian). Dr. Millionig had Masters and Doctorate degrees, in addition to a law degree from the University of Vienna.

Dr. Millionig was appointed in October, 1990 by then Executive Council of the Republic of Slovenia to be the "Official Representative" for Slovenia in Washington, DC. His purpose was to continually inform the general public, primarily representatives of the US Congress and the White House, why Slovenia should be a sovereign and independent country.

During July 27 and 28, 1991 Dr. Millionig visited northeast Ohio and met privately with Slovenian American Council and USAF as well as the general public appearance at *Slovenska Pristava* in Harpersfield, Ohio. He continued to provide good and effective counsel for Slovenia in this task until the first Slovenian ambassador to the USA, Dr. Ernest Petrič, was appointed. But the real ground work to

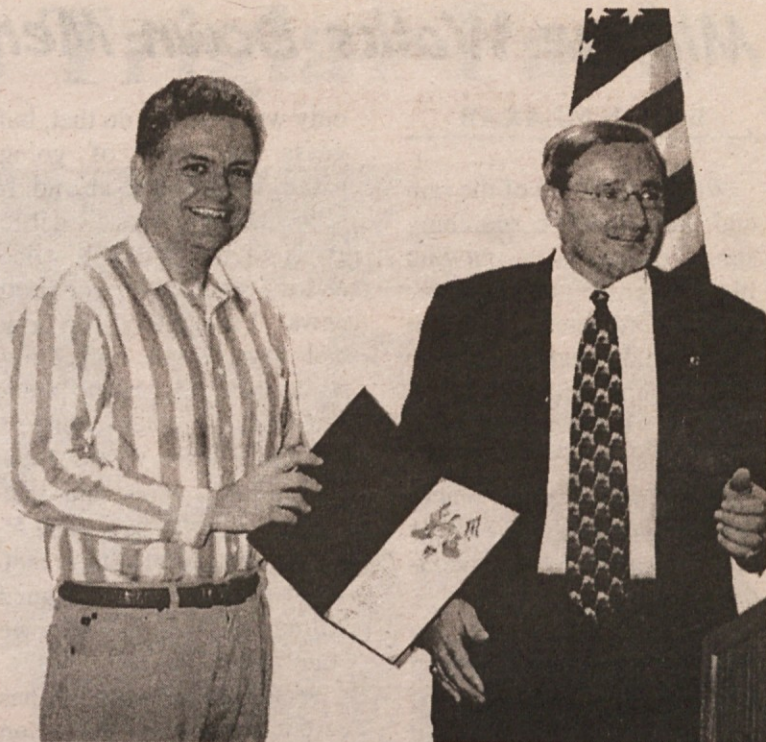
establish ties and contacts were performed by Dr. Millionig.

The second individual was Archbishop Alojz Šuštar, archbishop and metropolitan of the archdiocese of Ljubljana. Prior to being appointed and installed as the archbishop of Ljubljana, Archbishop Šuštar was secretary for the European Conference of (Catholic) Bishops. He made numerous contacts with leading religious as well as civic and government officials across Europe during his time as the secretary for ECB. When the time came for support from the European Community, one of the first countries in Europe to recognize Slovenia's right as a sovereign country was the Vatican, followed by a host of Western European countries. This was something that USA government officials, especially the White House, could not ignore.

In August, 1991 a radio marathon was hosted by Tony Petkovsek Jr. and the American Slovene Radio Club. This action and that of mail-outs completed in July, 1991 as well as the weekly publication and news articles by the *Ameriška Domovina* enabled over \$30,000 to be raised and used for the specific purpose to have Slovenia recognized as an independent country by the USA.

At the same time the Slovenian American Council had a major campaign underway so that by August 12, 1991 over \$128,000 had been raised to support Slovenia. Canadian Slovenians raised over \$219,000 while Australian Slovenians raised over \$34,000. The combined efforts of SAC, Canada, and Australia Slovenians was over \$388,000 raised and forwarded to Slovenia via the Slovenia community in the province of Carinthia to help the Slovenian government, primarily for relief work.

NEXT: Part V: Recognition of Slovenia is achieved in the USA.



Joe Valencic honored

State Representative Kenny Yuko presented Euclid resident Joseph Valencic with a commendation from the Ohio House of Representatives. Valencic showed three Slovenian films over a three week period at the Euclid library in connection with the celebration of 15 years of Slovenian independence. Yuko said, "Several people commented after the presentation that it is about time Joe was given credit for all he does to promote Slovenian culture. It was long overdue."

Slovenia is NOT a Balkan Country

Editor (of *The Washington Times*)

In the late 1980s and the early 1990s, I was privileged to write invited articles about Slovenians for *The World & I*, an impressive publication of the Washington Times Corporation. The editors were always courteous and open-minded. I, therefore, deeply regret the recent misunderstanding concerning *the Washington Times* (July 8) label of Slovenia as a Balkan nation and of our highly esteemed Prime Minister, Janez Jansa, as a Balkan leader.

Slovenia is an alpine country and foreign writers and journalists usually compare it to Switzerland or Austria. The fact that it is geographically and culturally a part of Central Europe and is not a Balkan country has been emphasized by several leading scholars, including Robert Lee Wolff in his de-

finitive book, *The Balkans in Our Times* (1956, p.15).

With extremely few exceptions, the Slovenians in their native land as well as those of us who live in the United States find the application of the Balkan label to Slovenia incorrect and regrettable. We wish to be correctly considered as a progressive, self-respecting nation of Central Europe, while Slovenians in America are also proud of their many contributions to the USA and of the fact that, according to the latest U.S. Census, the Slovenian Americans are among scores of the American ancestry groups, the group with the smallest percentage of its members living in poverty.

--Edward Gobetz, Ph.D.
Director of Slovenian Research Center of America, Inc.



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4 *MLAKAR Walks Down Memory Lane*

by RAY MLAKAR

Well, we got rid of the rain and substituted a scorching sun. The grass is growing like there is no tomorrow and unfortunately, the hot and humid weather is here which I am sure is difficult on all of us. The best place to be is inside, but with the price of gas, one cannot drive to escape to get to the malls where there is air conditioning.

Before I go on, my heart-filled sympathy to the Rob Royer family on the loss of Rob, whose funeral was held on Monday, 3 July, 2006. Those of us on the West Side are familiar with Rob for he was the President of the West Park Slovenian Home and without a doubt contributed endless hours along with many others for the success of the National Home. Fortunately, thru his efforts and those of many others, the West Park Home has been thriving successfully with its Friday night polka dances featuring the big polka bands.

Speaking of the National Home, as a member of SNPJ Lodge 257, I along with the members, wish to welcome the members of SNPJ Lodge Delavec 1544 on merging with our lodge. You are most welcome and we will ensure that you enjoy our quarterly meetings, for without a doubt, we have a friendly bunch. But then when one has the Piviks among us, everything is joyous.

Secondly, I wish to personally thank the many readers and friends who for over the past month have sent me Get Well Cards, and most of all, their prayers which at this time mean more to me than anything I can think of. Thanks to the Piviks to their calls to the home, but being short of "wind" it is very difficult for me to talk at any length on the phone.

Thanks to Donna and her daughter Connie Ohman for their prayers and Mass offerings and can only hope that the Good Lord hears their pleas. Even got get well wishes from the other side of the Alps, North Madison, Ohio, from Sue and Andrew Cashen. Here is hoping they are all moved now and settled down.

My many thanks to the parishioners of St. Theresa's Catholic Church for their card with the numerous parishioners signing it. It feels darn good to know that one is remembered. Of course, there is always Mimi Stibil who calls now and then to fill me in to let me know what is happening in and around the west and east side. She really gets around the various activities and can

only wish I could do that, but guess my days of going places is coming to an end. It seems the only place I get to go is to the doctor's office and it seems it is never good news. Fortunately, on my bad days, I got my caring sister Irene to get me there and back. I often wonder, pray tell, what would I do without her. It is said that God never gives us a cross to bear unless he sees to it that we have an assigned "Simon" to help us when we stumble and fall.

Speaking of Irene, she has certainly used the recipe on the Cottage Cheese Dumplings and those who have tried it said it is the best dish ever. Once you start eating them, you don't stop until the pan is empty. Just last week I happened to mention to Irene that I had to get some baking flour for making more dumplings and the other day when I got up and came into the kitchen, there sitting in the middle of the table was a huge plastic container of "flour." She had to have tip toed in during the night and dropped it off. She is truly a "God send." I was telling her I did not know how I was going to scrub the kitchen floor and she says have no worries. I don't get on my hands and knees either any more for if I get down I can't get up, and the next morning, there she was in my kitchen with what they call a "Swifter." What can I say? God made many things and when he made the "swifter," God had me and all us old folks in mind. Swifter is small and can get in tight places. Simply fasten a paper towel to the bottom of the swifter, squirt a little "Fantastic" on the towel and swish it around the floor like you were doing the polka. In no time you can eat off the floor. I know Happy Harry does. He checks the floor constantly to see if I drop some food. Now that I think of it, where was the swifter some 55 years ago when I was in the Army and we had "GI parties" on Friday night. Those of us who were in the military can remember being down on our hands and knees with a GI brush scrubbing the barracks floors.

It seems whenever I look around and I am down, really down, and wonder what next, as sure as God made green apples, there is Irene beside me. The other night after sun down, I attempted to get to the back yard and get at the weeds, sitting on a lawn chair and low and behold, right beside me was Irene, stuffing all the weeds into huge bags. Goes without saying that the "cross" is heavy, but then it is a consolation, knowing Irene is

there, and for that I am extremely thankful to God. In spite of how hopeless things may seem, you can rest assured that God is always at our side, to see us through all difficult times.

Well, enough talking about our difficulties, and time I start closing this column with a joke for I want my readers to remember I have not lost my sense of humor. I have to admit I got this joke from none other than my faithful brother, Frankie Mlakar from Erie, Pa.

An old Italian Mafia Don is dying. He calls his grandson to his bedside. "Grandson, I wan you to listina me. I wanna for you to take my chrome plated .38 revolver so you always remember me."

"But Grandpa, I really don't like guns. How about you leave me your Rolex watch instead."

"You lissina me. Somma day you gonna be runna da business; you gonna have a beautiful wife, lotsa money, a big home, and maybe a couple of bambinos. Somma day you gonna come home and maybe find your wife inna bed with another man. Whatta you gonna do? Pointa to your watch and say 'Time's up?'"

With that, time to close and me to get ready to make some dumplings. What can I say, George Bush, eat your heart out. In the meantime May the Good Lord bless and watch over all of you and when you face difficult times, may the Good Lord insure he has a "Simon" helping you.

NEW QUIZ

by James V. Debevec II

Last quiz:

This TV show aired an episode in 1972 with Ron Howard and Marion Ross about a guy in the 1950s who had a girl suddenly become interested in him because his family bought a TV. This skit became the launching pad for "Happy Days." What was the name of the TV show?

Thanks to **Rudy Sterk**, manager of St. Vitus Village, who correctly answered, "Love and Happy Days" from the program, "Love, American Style."

New quiz:

The Seneca Indians never used the word Allegany to describe their "Beautiful River." Instead, what word did they use in referring to what is now known as the "Allegany River?"

Send answers to Jim ah@buckeyeweb.com or mail to Jim, American Home, 6117 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103.

Offering Historical Slovenian Music

In an earlier *American Home* article I described the problem of productively disposing of collections of Slovenian language books. In the case of deceased or elderly Slovenians, the problem may actually be larger in terms of the diverse content of their estates or archives. A variety of items may be involved including:

- Historically significant documents such as letters, fraternal society items, birth, death and immigration documents,
- Medals awarded for military service or fraternal society participation,
- Musical instruments,
- Sheet music, phonograph records, 8-track, cassette and other forms of recorded music,
- Photographs, home movie films and other recordings
- Picture post cards, and
- Written material from personal archives.

While it may not be desirable or feasible to preserve all the above items, the history that such items describe may have considerable value to interested persons and institutions. For example, the Slovenian Women's Union has encouraged its branches to be on the alert for material that have special historical significance, and has encouraged branches to preserve

them. They also have a museum at their headquarters. The University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center has interest in a broad range of material that pertain to ethnic immigrants to America. The Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, IL also has interest in preserving things related to our culture.

Heirs or living holders of items such as listed above, hopefully will be alert to their potential historical significance and make inquiries with groups or organizations that might welcome receiving donations – or even purchasing items.

I have been assisting an elderly friend in productively disposing of his archives, and have had some success in donating or selling (on his behalf) a variety of different items. A current item with which I am dealing is his collection of more than 100 long playing phonograph records from Slovenia. The collection includes: choral groups, classical, religious and pop music. All are in excellent condition. I would like to sell the collection as a group and invite inquiries to:

Rich Terselic
9003 Harris St.
Frederick, MD 21704-7828
301 - 874-2446 or email:
rat@tidalwave.net

--Rich Terselic

Fruity Green Salad

Very light and refreshing. A nice change of pace.

Ingredients:

- 2 heads Bibb lettuce (aka Boston lettuce)
- 2 cans drained mandarin oranges
- dried cherries
- slivered almonds
- some light (center) curly endive (the yellow part)

Dressing:

- 2 T + 2 t raspberry vinegar
- 1½ t poppy seeds
- ¼ C sugar
- 1 T minced onion
- ½ T dry mustard
- ½ C olive oil

Combine all the salad ingredients in a large bowl. In a food processor, process the first 5 ingredients of the dressing, and drizzle the olive oil in as it processes.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh

Our Family and Friends Recipes

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News from Milwaukee's Triglav Park

by HELENCA FROHNA

MILWAUKEE, WIS. -- Just as the seasons continue to change, our lives are also changing. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that someday I would be writing articles for the Ameriška Domovina.

My name is Helen Frohna (Coffelt) and I have been a member of Triglav all my life. I can speak and read the language but I am very sad to say that writing in Slovenian is rather hard for me; therefore, as I embark on this daunting task, it makes me very sad that I am not able to write these words in our mother tongue.

The Slovenian language is so beautiful and I, for one, would not like to do an injustice to it. You may ask, then why write? Well, as with many organizations, the members of Triglav Park are getting older and it is time now for the next generation to take charge of our future and the future of our children. I would like the readers to know what is happening in Milwaukee, even if it is written in English. And so, before I begin with the news from our small corner of the Slovenian community, I would like to gratefully thank Mrs. Mara Kohman for all her many years of writing witty, touching articles for Triglav. Over the years, she has made us laugh, cry and remind us of all the wonderful times we have spent at Triglav Park with dear friends, traditions, and customs. Mara, we wish you the best of health and happiness and I hope that I will be able to continue the fine job you always did.

First of all, we would like to extend to the family of Mr. Jakob Modic our deepest sympathy, especially to his loving and caring wife, Ivanka. God called Jaka to his heavenly home on May 11th, where he now joins the many Triglavani who went before him. May God rest his soul.

Triglav started the season with the annual Mothers' Day Program on Sunday, May 21st in the Dom. Triglav's third generation is growing quickly and starting busy lives for themselves and so the numbers this year were on the small size. Just the same, we feel this tradition is important, not only for our mothers here on earth, but especially to honor our Heavenly Mother, Mary.

Kathy Kaye welcomed all mothers on this their day, and reminded us that "Daily prayer is necessary for a successful life." With that being said, Mr. Menchak led us in

prayer, the Litanije to the Blessed Mother. We were then delighted with a poem read by Becky Kaye in Slovenian, followed by Katie Kaye singing a most beautiful aria in Italian, *Vergin, Tu'tt Amore*. The highlight of the afternoon was when our oldest member, Dari Strmsek, who is only 94 years old, with such expression, enthusiasm and clarity, entertained us all with the well-known poem, *Zakonska Mati*, written by France Prešeren. In closing, each mother received the traditional red carnation.

Spominski Dan (Memorial Day) surprised us with unusual weather. Temperatures were in the 90s, a big difference from past years when we were cold. It was wonderful to see many old friends from Chicago, including our special friend Fr. Goršič who celebrated Mass for us.

After Mass, the program began with Franjo Mejac welcoming all to Triglav to once again remember and pay our respects to all who had to endure such hardships, especially the Dombanci. Mr. Jože Rus and Mr. Lojze Gregorich with deep conviction reminded us all of the pain and suffering that was inflicted on many Slovenian families during the terrible war. Even if you did not understand Slovenian, the mere sound of their voices echoing their passion had to touch you and remind you of the importance of this day.

Matt Mejac then read the English version of what happened back in those dark years. The program ended with all voices, young and old, joining together in the singing of "Moja Domovina."

Throughout the park, much laughter and conversation could be heard, for the winter months had been long and there was much catching up to do.

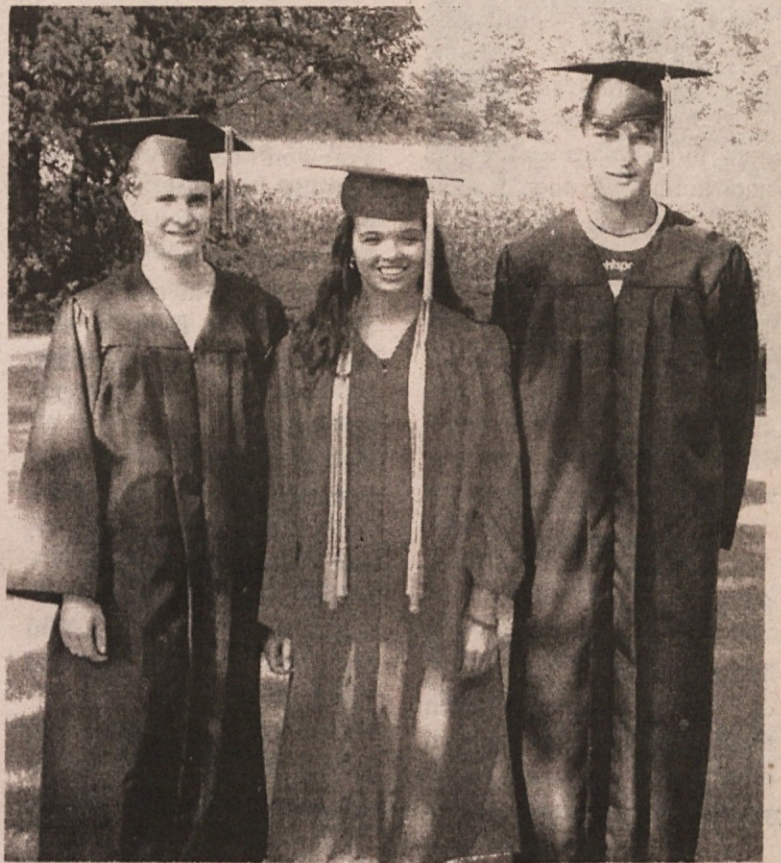
We would like to send congratulations to our high school graduates and we wish them much success as they continue with their education and dreams. Kathryn Kaye will be going on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study genetics; Alex Mejac has chosen Milwaukee School of Engineering to pursue his engineering degree; Eric Rozina has plans to continue working on his landscaping business; Bradley Sagadin will be attending the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee to study communications; and finally, Leigha Yaklich is off to the University of Wisconsin-

Green Bay to major in Business and Finance. Good luck to you all.

All too often we forget those who are too old or sick to join us at Triglav. I would like to ask all to try and remember these members in your prayers or maybe with a friendly call, visit, or perhaps drop them a card. You will be surprised how this can make a person happy. Let them know they are still remembered.

We look forward to another wonderful summer at Triglav park. Wednesdays are Senior Citizen days; all are welcome to come up to the park, play a little balinca, have a drink with your friends, and enjoy the beauty of the park. For dates of this year's picnics and other related news, check our website at www.triglavpark.com

Until next time, I wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer.



Left to right, Bradly Sagadin, Kathryn Kaye, and Alex Mejac.

HAPpy

Very patriotic-looking bunch of HAPpy people gathered for our Flag Day meeting June 14. Red, white, and blue colors bloomed all around.

A speaker from the Hospice of Western Reserve was expected, but got lost on the way. Will be interesting to hear, how one gets lost between E. 185 St. and Holmes Ave. Where's a Triptik when one needs it?

We greeted many new members: Richard Cesen, Edward and Olga Glicker, George and Anita Hook, Victor and Veronica Koncilja, Robert and Judy Morel, Charles and Marie Penko, Joyce Plemel, and Anthony and Florence Strazisar. Welcome to our HAPpy (and good) group! We wish you lots of new friends, and happy times.

Sunshine Lady Ann Eichler sent cheery cards to Marie Agh, Mary Blatnik, Louise Fujda, Matt Kajfez, John Kristoff, Alba Plutt, Grace Sechnick, and Christian Verch. We wish everyone a truly speedy recovery! It was good to see some of them back with us. Mary Blatnik is at home, and doing much better. But keep those cards and prayers coming!

Fran Kajfez reported 188 HAPpy "youngsters" (Recycled Teenagers) in attendance, and only 16 still on the waiting list. Matt Kajfez collected \$8.50 for missing badges. Wow, we can have klobase again soon.

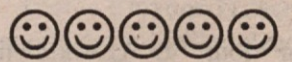
Amish trip participants, report to Orr Ice Arena by 7am on July 28. Peaches, here we come! Paddleboat Picnic cruise at Three-Rivers, PA, departure is at 7:30 am from Orr Ice Arena, and returns about 8:30 pm. There is a waiting list for this trip. Pocono Mts. Resort tour, Tue-Fri September 19 - 23, still has a few places available. Call Fran: 440-944-3697, to sign up.

Myra Jerkic's helper for the 50/50 raffle was cousin Rose Weber. As always, another fine job. Thank you, ladies! Many thanks also to hard-working Ed and Ruth Morel, and their kitchen crew, as well as Frank and Ruth Korelec for innovative bartending. We are well-fed and "watered" at every meeting.

Our picnic July 12 will be history by the time this hits the presses. Hopefully we'll be able to report a success. Of course, with dedicated folks like Matt Z., and Helen and John K., plus many others, it can't miss!

Federation Pensioners picnic will be on Wednesday August 30, at SNPJ Farm off Chardon Rd. \$13.00 pp includes dinner,

News



dance, and admission!!!! Call Matt Z., he may still have some tickets left. Frank Moravchik will play from 2:30 - 6:30 PM. Admission only, for the dance, is \$4.00 pp. Senior discount!

We serenaded a goodly group of birthday celebrants. Wish you many more happy, healthy years!

June is definitely the wedding month. Happy Anniversary wishes go to Vera and Joe Droblich, 53 yrs; Mary and Jim Fumich, 35 yrs; Irene and Stan Gulick, 60 yrs; Elsie and Chuck Jacobs, 64 yrs; Emile and Frank Kerze, Jr, 56 yrs; Vickie and Jim Kozel, 57 yrs; Ruth and Ed Morel, 52 yrs; Dorothy and Tony Spendal, 52 yrs; and Josephine and Harry Tomsich, 58 yrs. God bless all of you with health and happiness!

Cleveland area has been celebrating Slovenian Days all through June, and into July, in honor of Slovenia's 15 years of independence. Part of the celebration was a Slovenian flag-raising June 23 in Columbus. A large busload of area Slovenians, led by Slovenian Consul Dr. Zvone Zigon, went down for the festivities. Many HAP members were on board, including Frank and MaryJane Hiti. They received special recognition at the State House, since their son and daughter-in-law designed the artistic "Slovenia" banners, hanging at Holmes Ave. Slovenian Home, St. Mary's Church, and along St. Clair Ave - St. Vitus area. (They were honored the week prior) Congratulations!

The Slovenian flag was raised in front of the State House, after singing both our American and Slovenian anthem. Lovely ceremony; even the steady rain did not put a damper on it. Lots of umbrellas were raised with the flag... Enjoyed a tour of the State House afterwards; what a lot of history! It's presently undergoing restoration, but still a lot to see. Worth taking a special trip in the fall, when the work is completed. Luncheon stop at Columbus's historic Schmidt's Sausage House and Restaurant was enjoyed by all the travelers. A very special "Thank You" to Dr. Zigon, for treating everyone to dessert and beverage! We had a rollicking good time on the way home, entertained by jokes, sing-alongs, and accordion music. A little "Slovenian spirit" didn't hurt, either....

The Old Fogey.

6 Short Notes from Emilee



Michael "Mickey" Sadowsky
July - 2004

Hi, Mickey;

Just dropped in to say hello. Although you aren't on earth to hear. Even though you're in heaven with God now. In our hearts you'll always be near.

Love you,
Rikk and Emilee
RJ EJ

Have you attended any of the Slovenian affairs for the 15th anniversary of freedom for Slovenia? It ran thru June.

Our tour to Greektown casino in Detroit was a blast, especially on the bus going home. A few lucky winners were in our midst, but I wasn't one of them. We were entertained with a video furnished by Edmund Turk all about St. Mary's in Collinwood. Fr. John Kumše is pastor. The video was produced in 1996. It was so interesting for one hour. I plan to call the rectory to see where it can be obtained. Well, I did call Joanne at the rectory and she said it was out of print. So we are out of luck. I was hoping to get the info and pass it on to our readers. I will ask Edmund Turk if I can get a copy from his copy. As yet I haven't reached him. Plenty of individuals speaking on the video in Slovenian and English, and many photographs of long ago. I love it.

Then as I said, the ride back home was so delightful. Singing with our leaders, Josephine Strauss, Joe Avsec, and Tony Baznik. So many old time tunes and we all chimed in. It was so much fun and so much together-

ness. We didn't care about the storm which was very frightening. I don't know how our bus driver held it together. Join us next time. You won't be sorry. Pete and Jeanette Ruminski, our tour guides, are the very best.

Get well wishes to Eleanor Rasper (St. Vincent Charity Hosp.), Marie Belle is now convalescing at home. Keep Ed Arhar in your thoughts and prayers.

July birthday wishes: Frank Sadar, Slovenian artist Erika Zulic, Eleanor Rasper, Jeff Vidmar, Jennie Woods.

July wedding anniversaries: Ray and Lil Novak, Ben and Barb Cartmell, Paul and Eleanor Rasper.

Our Wednesday bingo session at the Slovene Home for the Aged was fun. Danny Reiger, our caller, makes all the residents laugh and he is a great "LOUD" caller. We had guests: George Knaus and a resident friend Louise Jagodnik. They thoroughly enjoyed the session and we invited them to return. We served cake and punch after the session. Mmmm, good. We are still playing in the Laurich Room as the dining room isn't completed. I took a peek at the dining area and you've got to visit the SHA and observe the reincarnation. It is beautiful. You will be surprised. Absolutely gorgeous. Saw Mrs. Rozman from St. Vitus, a resident of the home, during rosary hour. She looked very fit and happy.

The SWU #25 would like to get together. Please call me at (216) 261-3427 and let me know when we can get together to discuss the future of #25.

St. Vitus summer picnic was on July 16 at Slovenska Pristava.

Tony and Dorothy Spendal celebrated 52 years of wedded bliss.

Happy Birthday to Marty Sintic. A long time friend. Have a great day.

Congrats to Fran Churney of WELW radio who does a "bang up job" with dedications every Sunday A.M. Dale Bucar is the host and both do a wonderful job.

Sandy's Frozen Whip, lo-

cated on Lake Shore Blvd., received honorable mention in the P.D. as being one of the great whip and ice cream places in the area. Our own Lou Clernt is the "whipper upper." Stop in and say Hi, and put your tongue to the whip. You won't be sorry. Delish.

Get well wishes to Florence Unetich Luce who had slight accident. Also get well to Angie Zabjak who had surgery. Saw her at the fish fry on Waterloo and she is in good shape and as perky as ever. Both are kitchen angels at SWH. Speedy recovery.

You had to be there... you didn't miss it... I hope not. It was a musical entertainment gala at SNH for the 15th anniversary of Slovenia's freedom. Singers galore and fantastic food by the carload and very sumptuous with Mrs. Julie Zalar at the helm and her very efficient goddesses of good. Tony Petkovsek, Dick Russ and Mojca Slak as the M C's. Zvone Žgon spoke on the 15th anniversary. Check the entire American Home for photographs by Tony Grdina and Phil Hrvatin.

I had a surprise call from Irene Dupak, sister of Ray Mlakar, A.H. writer. She made my cheese struklje and had to call to praise the recipe. We talked awhile; she kept me up-to-date on Ray's progress. Glad you both enjoyed the struklje. My treat. My best to Ray. Speedy recovery. God bless.

Sat with George Knaus while enjoying the fish fry at SWH. He told me a great story. No space to re-tell it now, but capture George one day and make him tell it. It is so inspiring. Thanks, George.

Just heard about Denny Bucar's birthday. Many happy returns and good health to you from all.

Just a little saying to end this column.

There are good ships and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea. But the best ships are friendships. And may they always be.

Your friend always,
With much love,
--Emilee

Coming Attractions

Sunday, July 23

St. Vitus Slovenian School picnic at Slovenska Pristava. Mass at 12:30 followed by pork roast meal. Dinner is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Live music, raffle and children's games.

Sunday, July 23

Dance at SNPJ Farm hosted by Spartans Lodge 576 featuring Joe Novak & Friends.

Sunday, July 30

Breakfast time at Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Ave from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eggs, sausage, bacon, juice, hash browns, toast coffee. Donation \$6.

Sunday, July 30

SNPJ Lodge #158 Loyalties annual picnic at SNPJ Farm on Heath Rd., in Chardon, OH. Slovenian sausages, chicken dinners, plus pig roast. Dinners \$7 served 1 to 3 p.m. Music by Captains' Crew.

Wednesday, Aug. 2

50-50 Raffle, 7 p.m. at Slovenian National Home Co., 3563 E. 80 St. \$10 admits two. Includes sandwiches, chips and pop.

Sunday, Aug. 6

Primorski Club picnic (Tramontana) at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Aug. 6

Chicken Barbeque & Dinner at SNPJ Farm featuring Wayne Tomsic Orchestra.

Saturday, Aug. 12

Pristava Picnic (Tramontana)

Sunday, Aug. 13

Picnic by retirees at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Aug. 20

St. Mary's parish picnic at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Aug. 20

Dance hosted by V Boj Lodge 53 at SNPJ Farm featuring Ray Polantz Orch.

Saturday, Aug. 26

Kres annual performance at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair, Cleveland.

Saturday, Aug. 26

Polka Hall of Fame Annual Sausage Festival at Slovenska Pristava from 1 to 9 p.m. Advance tickets \$6 at Polka Hall of Fame (216) 261-3263, or \$7 at door.

Sunday, Aug. 27

Dance hosted by Comrades Lodge 566 at SNPJ Farm featuring Joey Tomsick Band with Phil Hrvatin tootin' his own horn.

Wed., Aug 30

Federation of American Slovenian Senior Citizens clubs annual picnic at SNPJ Farm on Heath Rd. Dinner served 1 p.m. by Julie Zalar. Music by Frank Moravcik Orch. 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Dinner, admission and dancing \$13. Tickets call (216) 481-0163 or (440) 943-3784 before Aug. 24.

Sat./Sun. Sept. 2-3

Weekend celebration for the official opening of new hall at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Sept. 3

Dance hosted by SNPJ Farm featuring Joey Tomsick Band.

Monday, Sept. 4

Labor Day Dance at SNPJ Farm featuring Joe Grkman & Wayne Tomsic Bands

Sunday, Sept. 10

St. Vitus Altar Society traditional Chicken and Roast Beef Dinner in auditorium.

Sunday, Sept. 10

SNPJ Ladies Dance & Goulash Dinner featuring Eddie Rodick Band.

Sunday, Sept. 10

Day at the Races presented by Collinwood Slovenian Home. Admission \$6 includes sandwich, soft drinks and beer. Horses available for \$10.

Sunday, Sept. 17

Wine festival (Stan Mejac Ansambel) at Slovenska Pristava.

Sept. 23-24

Baraga Days in Calumet, Michigan: -- **Saturday, Sept. 23** - Slovenian Mass 4 or 4:30 in St. Paul Church, 301 8th St., followed by social in parish hall. Musical concert honoring Bishop Baraga in Calumet Theater 7:30 or 8 p.m. Theater built in 1900. -- **Sunday, Sept. 24** - 1 or 1:30 p.m. Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Calumet followed by banquet and annual Baraga Association meeting at Michigan Technological University Ballroom, Houghton, MI. Banquet tickets \$20. Roast pork dinner.

Saturday, Sept. 23

Slovenian National Home Co., Newburgh, 3563 E. 80 St., Cleveland, Wine and Cheese, 6:30 p.m. Music by Al Battistelli from 7:30 to 10:30. Donation \$15. Call (216) 662-3339,

Sunday, Sept. 24

Slovenian Grape Festival, parade and dance at SNPJ Farm featuring Joey Tomsick Band.

Friday, Oct. 6

3rd Annual Alpine Evening at St. Mary's (Coll.) Guest Ansambel Spev from Slovenia.

Saturday, Oct. 14

St. Lawrence School & Friends Reunion Dinner-Dance. Mass 5:30 in St. Lawrence Church by Bishop A. Edward Pevec. Nash opens at 6:30. Donation \$15. Music by Joe Novak. Reservations call (440) 243-0312.

Sunday, Oct. 15

St. Mary's (Coll.) School Alumni dinner in new school center.

Sunday, Oct. 22

Annual meeting of Slovenska Pristava.

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Death Notices

ROBERT L. ROYER, SR.

Robert L. Royer Sr., age 72.

Beloved husband of the late Marian (nee Walgus); dearest father of Robert Jr. (Faith), Steven (Colleen), John (Beth), Teresa Robertson (Dave), and the late Michael; dear grandfather of Danielle, Robert III, Molly, Joseph, Veronica, Jennifer, Christine, Alex, Elise and Michael; beloved brother of the following deceased: Mary, Edward, and Margaret.

Mr. Royer was a U.S. Navy Korean War Veteran.

Funeral Mass was Monday, July 3 at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Strongsville. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery.

The family suggests contributions to the St. Joseph Church Building Fund, Strongsville.

JAMES "JIM" CHERNE SR.

James "Jim" Cherne Sr., age 70. Beloved husband of 45 years to Janet (nee Ryder); dear father of Kevin, James Jr., and Anita; father-in-law of Terri; grandfather of Douglas and Rachel; great-grandfather of one; brother of Betty and the following deceased: Ronald and Kenneth.

Mr. Cherne was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War.

Friends were received at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Cleveland on Thursday from 4-8 p.m. where services were on Friday at 9:15 a.m. and at St. Robert Church at 10 a.m. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

CATHERINE "TINA" FIGGIE

Catherine "Tina" Figgie (nee Subel), age 52.

Loving teacher and friend to those at Patrick Henry Middle School. Beloved mother of Susan Ann, Harry E. IV, and Katie Figgie; dearest sister of Rick Subel; loving friend of Annie Gos-pich, Liz Watkins, John Cari and Sue Subel.

The family would appreciate contributions in memory of Tina to the Cleveland Public Schools, 1380 E. 6th St., Cleveland, OH 44114.

Funeral service was on Friday, June 30 at Our Lady Chapel at Gilmour Academy at 3:30 p.m. Interment private, Lakewood Cemetery.

CIRILA SLUGA

Cirila Sluga (nee Kuret), age 85, of Stanford, CT, formerly of Euclid, Ohio. Wife of the late Bogoslav; beloved mother of Leo (Kathy) of SC and Robert (Sally) of CT; cherished grandmother of Robert J., Matthew, Emily and Robert M.; sister of two deceased; and aunt of Jack Avcin and Frances Alic.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 29 in St. Vitus Church. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

Family received friends at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills on Wednesday, June 28 from 6-9 p.m.

FRANCES SIMONCIC

Frances Simoncic (nee Krivec) passed away on Wednesday, June 21, 2006.

Beloved wife of the late Otto; dear mother of Pat Sauvain, Ted and Dennis; loving grandmother of Michelle Katic, and Paul Sauvain; great grandmother of Nicole, Bryan, and Stephen Katic; sister of Chuck (Agnes) Krivec; sister-in-law of Leo (Camille) Simon; aunt of many nieces and nieces.

Prayer service was at the funeral home Monday, June 26 at 9:45 a.m. with the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary church, 15519 Holmes Ave., Cleveland. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

Friends called at the Brickman-Didonato Funeral Home, 21900 Euclid Ave., Euclid from 4-7 p.m. Sunday, June 25.

JOHN H. SAMSA, JR.

John H. Samsa, Jr., age 63. Beloved husband of Nancy (deceased); loving father of John III (Shelley), Jeff and Jason; grandfather of Sydni, C.J., and Jaden; son of John Sr. (deceased) and Jean; brother of Laura (Robert, deceased) Mills and Ronald (Donna); uncle of many.

Friends were received at the Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Thursday, June 22 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m., where services were held Friday at 10 a.m. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

Comment

"Keep up the good work and may God bless you."

--Frank and Eleanor Zernic
Highland Heights, OH

LOIS FLORJANCIC

Lois Florjancic (nee McGarvey), age 81. Beloved wife of Paul; dear sister of Ken Spieth of California; dear cousin of Joan Jandra and Bernice Agar; many nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Cleveland on Wednesday, June 28 from 2-8 p.m.

Funeral parlor service was on Thursday, June 29, at 10 a.m. Burial in Brooklyn Hts. Cemetery.

Arrangements by Golub Funeral Home (216) 391-0357.

In Memory

Thanks to Pat Walton of Mentor, OH who submitted a \$25.00 donation in memory of her wonderful father John Kovacic. She writes, "My dad, John Kovacic was proud of his Slovenian heritage and agreed with, "It's in every S'LOVE'nian."

Large Donation, in Memory

Thanks to John Žakelj of St. Paul, MN for the \$300 donation given in memory of his father, Anton Žakelj. He writes, "My father was so proud to see his story published in the Ameriška Domovina. His final years were very difficult for him, but he always looked forward to every edition of the Ameriška Domovina.

"Thank you for everything you do to keep our Slovenian culture alive, and special thanks for all the original material you publish. I particularly enjoy reading Ray Mlakar, Joe Glinsek, and Rudy Flis."

Donation

Thanks to Jennie Tuma of Wickliffe, OH who submitted a \$25.00 donation.

In Loving Memory



Loretta Ann Slapnik

25th Anniversary

Born June 16, 1931
Died July 11, 1981

Sadly missed by
Family

In Memory of Carl Schultz

I wish to thank the kind person who put Carl's obit in the paper and especially that he had it in the Slovenian section.

There is a story about the Slovenians. I met Carl in my Junior year at the Nursing School Dance. Of course it followed with a date and a second date. I said to him, "I'm Slovenian." He knew the Slovaks, Polish, Hungarians living in the area but never met a Slovenian. Well, he found out after we married, and my mother thought there could be no one like my father. After three months of marriage she said she has a son-in-law like my Dad.

Well, from that time on and especially after retirement, we got involved with different organizations and

enjoyed the friendship of many.

We enjoyed the tour of the American Home printing plant. Carl worked for the Hungarian paper while he was in school and made labels. He talked about his visit ever so often.

I couldn't believe it, but received over 100 sympathy cards. Money for the Hospice, Slovenian Home for the Aged, and St. Mary's new parish center. Received a card from Milwaukee, from a fellow who was in the military service with Carl in the 1940s.

Carl was a very easy person to get along with, well liked and a gentleman. I was lucky to have met him. We had good 60 years to share.

--Jennie Schultz
Euclid, OH

In Memory

Thanks to Ed Harbie of Seven Hills, OH who brought in a \$20.00 donation in memory of his wonderful wife, Julie C. Harbie.

Donation

Thanks to Brigita Mejak of Cleveland, OH who renewed her subscription and added a \$30.00 donation. She writes in Slovenian, Thanks for all you do keeping the paper going and especially the Slovenian mother tongue.

Large Donation

Thanks to United Americans for Slovenia for their very generous \$500 donation.

In Memory

Thanks to Gary L. Gorsha of Seattle, WA who renewed his subscription and added a \$15.00 donation in honor of his late mother Sophie Rogish (Roglič) Gorsha (Gorše).

Donation

Thanks to Nezka Tomc of Euclid, OH for the \$20.00 donation.

SHA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following residents of the Slovene Home for the Aged who were born in the month of July:

7-04 -- Eleanor Hausrath, age 95, born in Cleveland

7-06 -- Sarah Cornett, 78, born in Mesopotamia, Ohio

7-07 -- Vida Hoffert, 93, born in Slovenia

7-07 -- Domink Janez, 78, born in Slovenia

7-13 -- Albert Mason, 74, born in Cleveland

7-15 -- Jack Zorc, 98, born in Cleveland

7-17 -- Alice Lally, 88, born in Cleveland

7-17 -- Mary Sesek, 88, born in Lorain, Ohio

7-19 -- Marie Bratush, 85, born in Illinois

7-19 -- Rose Christopher, 79, born in Cleveland

7-19 -- Edith Kincaid, 81, born in Cleveland

7-19 -- Mary Piks, 85, born in Cleveland

7-22 -- Jessie Campbell, 77, born in West Virginia

7-24 -- Maureen Zorko, 57, born in Cleveland

7-28 -- Stephania Miezín, 86, born in Cleveland

7-31 -- Mary Kostansek, 82, born in Cleveland.

In Loving Memory



Anne Slapnik
Born: Oct. 8, 1907
Died: Aug. 26, 2003

Sadly missed by
Family



James Slapnik
Born: July 18, 1908
Died: July 5, 1956

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The life and times of Joseph Mihevc

May 1945 – June 1948
My Journey as
a refugee

(Continued)

Many plays were presented in barrack 14 – the auditorium, and I participated in two of them. Choir practices, which continued after hours, were moved from the woods into a room in the barracks and the concerts continued until we were moved to Spittal in November, 1946. The choir also went on an outing to Grosslockner in September, 1945 and performed at the camp in Kelenberg, where we had to go across the Drava River by boat. There was also an outing to Gosposvetsko fields. All of the above we were able to accomplish despite the low food intake.

When we received our trade diplomas, we arranged a display of our achievements; however, we slept beside our displays because we feared that the communists would come in and destroy our display and sabotage our efforts. One morning, the Austrian police arrived in the camp and nobody was allowed to leave the cabins. We were suspected of harboring Nazis. All the men were searched for the Nazi tattoo on our upper thigh, but the accusations of the Slovenian party proved to be false.

Our camp at Peggez was one of the main targets of the secret police and we were often the subjects of various searches. Perhaps the Slovenian party could not understand that there could exist some intelligence in the camps, especially when young people were being educated there. Mr. Lozar composed a special song to commemorate this situation. He sang it over the camp microphones when the Americans announced that the secret of the atomic bomb had been stolen. It went something like this:

The secret of the atomic bomb was stolen.

Most likely it was us who stole it.

The investigation will come soon.

They'll look for the culprits

In Lienz and in Spittal.

There were many speeches and classes among the various refugee groups, which caused considerable competition. I was very surprised one day when a friend approached me with the directive to attend a special speech in order to stop it. To me it was unthinkable to do such a thing to others who were in the same situation as we were and I firmly refused



January, 1946 – The choir in Peggez

to participate.

Religious life was also very active and the weekday and Sunday masses were very well attended. The singing of the choir contributed to the enjoyment of the mass. The priest was Father Gregor Mali. There were some in the camp, however, who were not interested in participating in plays, festivals, outings, choirs or church activities, but their lack of interest did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who did become involved.

The Slovenian secret police opened a repatriation office in the camp in 1946. Their propaganda encouraged us to return voluntarily to Slovenia, and the English, who assured us that it was safe to do so, supported this initiative. Food rations were reduced to stimulate interest in repatriation. Some people did opt to return to Slovenia. Those who did so were met at the border by guards and "escorted" home. However, many of these people "disappeared" and never made it back to their home town. Four individuals from my cabin returned home to Slovenia, were met at the border by these guards and actually

locked me in the room, climbed overhead under the roof, opened one of the ceiling panels and poured a bucket of water over me. The women in the cabin did not appreciate these pranks.

We took turns in the barracks helping the cooks peel potatoes. In our barrack, we were fortunate to have women in the next room who were assigned this task. Once they decided it was "payback" time. They waited by the door with a blanket. When they saw the figure of the commandant of the barrack approaching, they covered him with the blanket and beat him up. They did not realize until it was too late that they were beating the high school teacher by mistake. Some of the women were beating up their own teacher.

To Be Continued)

Slovenians R Us

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Camp drivers, mechanics, Dr. Mersol and camp commander F.C. Charners and Assistant Corsellies

made it home alive, where they were handed over to the police department for interrogation. One of these lucky ones was Mile in Rakek, whom I visited on my latest trip back to Slovenia in the 1990s.

Despite the uncertain future and the various hardships of camp life, there were some interesting experiences. Once, I went to visit one of the girls in the next room. Then, some of my friends (Knavs and Bavdek) played a trick on me. What they did was they

St. Vitus Slovenian School Annual Summer Picnic

St. Vitus Slovenian Language school will have its annual summer picnic on Sunday, July 23 at the Slovenska Pristava in Harpersfield.

The picnic will begin with a Mass at 12:30 p.m. Following Mass, there will be a dinner of pork roast. Tickets for the dinner will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. There will also be a pasta dinner available for the children.

Tickets can be purchased on the day of the picnic or from any Slovenian school parents.

In the afternoon there will be a raffle with many great prizes and children's games. This year the picnic will also have live music for your entertainment, performed by the Veseli Godci.

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Slovenia's Marvelous Gift of Freedom

by A. EDWARD PEVEC
Auxiliary Bishop of
Cleveland



Bishop Edward Pevec

Homily delivered at 1 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the 15th Anniversary of Slovenia's Independence in St. Vitus Church on Sunday, June 25.

History clearly reveals that God has graced many small and sometimes almost unknown nations with the marvelous gift of freedom. This afternoon we pause in the business of these days to offer prayerful thanks for the independence of our Slovenia, that truly previous gem of a nation that graces our world.

The entire world seemed very startled when this comparatively tiny country declared its independence on June 25, 1991. It happened with suddenness and determination, with a minimum of bloodshed and with the strong arsenal of faith and conviction that human dignity and national freedom were worthy of any struggle, no matter how difficult.

No longer would there be the stifling of the hopes and dreams these hardy people had endured for centuries. The quest for freedom that had burned in the hearts of so many for so long was over. Many strong, remarkable, and courageous patriots of the past had reddened the soil of Slovenia with their blood, but it was their spirit that engendered a people who were willing to risk life itself for the freedom of their families and co-patriots. The end of this struggle came so swiftly and unexpectedly that some American newscasters were not even sure where Slovenia was or how to pronounce it.

We leave it to historians to chronicle this event in great detail. Some of you here this afternoon can name names, describe places, and summarize in great detail this life-giving event. Others of us can only relish the final outcome. The freedom for which our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents prayed and hoped, finally became a reality and for that we humbly come to thank our God for his goodness to Slovenia.

The freedom of any nation or any individual is never a mere human accomplishment. To believe otherwise is foolish. Reliance on human efforts alone inevitably leads to failure. Nations that considered themselves to be great with leaders who proclaimed themselves great were toppled when their grandeur was not recognized as a divine gift.

A great nation is determined not so much by its size or military might, but by its ability to care for all its people. True greatness springs from a sense of vision of the greater good and the acceptance of the dignity of all human beings. True greatness stems from the ability to forgive hurts, even those which may have been very painful. True greatness comes from the ability to learn from mistakes. True greatness comes from the humble recognition of one's own weaknesses and limitations, and from a total unquestioning trust in God's loving grace and providence. True greatness and genuine national pride come from acting justly, loving tenderly, and walking humbly with our God.

We hear from the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy that God's chosen people who were being brought into a land full of springs and fountains, wheat and barley, vines and fig trees – a land where they would lack nothing – that they were to be mindful that the Lord selected them and showed them his favor. "Be careful," Moses warned them, "not to forget the Lord your God by neglecting his commandments and decrees... 'Never were they to think that it was by their own power and strength that they obtained this land. What they had were gifts from a loving and caring God, and what we have are gifts from a loving and caring God. It is for this reason that we leave our homes, halls, and auditoriums to celebrate Slovenia's independence with this Mass here in St. Vitus Church.

We are grateful for all that has happened during the Cleveland Slovenian Days these past three weeks and we look forward eagerly to all that is yet to come. We feel that in so many ways we are God's chosen ones – that the nation of Slovenia was truly gifted by the Lord with a freedom that has been an exemplary sign to all the world, especially to nations who are still victimized by oppression in all its various forms. We have heard stories and may even have memo-

ries of what once had been, and we rejoice in the freedom that has become a reality. We certainly are God's chosen ones, and we hope to bear with one another, forgive one another, and love one another in Christ's peace, as we were reminded by St. Paul in today's second reading.

From our vantage point in the United States of America, a nation under God, where independence has been cherished for almost 230 years, we rejoice with the people of Slovenia who have now enjoyed their God-given rights of national and individual freedom for 15 years. With them and for them we thank our God.

How many times we've read and heard the words that were proclaimed in our Gospel reading this afternoon. Almost two thousand years ago our gentle Lord sat down on a mountain side and taught his disciples some important lessons that must have surprised them.

To a people who have known slavery and subjugation and for whom the hope of personal and national liberty lay in the hope of a messianic takeover, Jesus provided an unexpected pattern for living. It was not the mighty or the powerful who were blessed. Blessed were those who were poor in spirit, who were sorrowing, who were lowly, who hungered and thirsted for holiness, who showed mercy, who were single-hearted, who were peacemakers, and yes, blessed were those who were persecuted for doing what was right and honor-

able. A message from our gentle Savior who taught then and who teaches now that we who are his creatures have to look beyond the difficult times in life and strive to live as those who have been called to live in his peace. Knowing that above all we are God's children; we are to dedicate ourselves to thankfulness.


Our prayer today is one of deep and humble gratitude. We know that unless we trust in God, all our efforts are in vain. In us there is darkness, but with God there is light. When the world around us looks bleak and feels hopeless, we know that God is there even in his seeming absence. Though we may be feeble in heart and may drift from our resolve, our God is always strong and reliable.

We pray that the memories of past wars and struggles may strengthen our efforts

for peace. May the memory of those who have died inspire us to provide greater service to the living. May the memory of past destruction move us to build for the future.

We pray that God may continue to lead our precious Slovenia from the emptiness of death into a fullness of life, from stifling oppression to life-giving freedom, from the darkness of falsehood to the brightness of truth, from despair into hope, from fear into trust, from hatred into love.

We ask God to bless those who have gone before us who have given us the Slovenian heritage of which we are so proud. May God bless those who still journey with us and who promote our Slovenian heritage. May God bless our world that all people, without exception, may live in the freedom of the children of God.




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Dr. Gobec says thanks for recognition

On Friday, July 7, 2006, Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša presented a Certificate of Recognition from The Government of Slovenia, Office for Slovenes Abroad, to the President of the Slovenian Research Center of America, writer, and historian, Dr. Edi Gobec, in honor of his 80th birthday at 9:30 p.m. at a private dinner in the Slovenian Room of St. Vitus Village in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Gobec has written a thank you response for the American Home in Slovenian, and English. What follows is the English text:

Thank you, Consul General Dr. Žigon and Prime Minister, Mr. Janša for your kind recognition which I gratefully accept on behalf of

my wonderful wife, all associates of the Slovenian Research Center of America, and all friends of our research, educational and publication activities.

Allow me to now say only a few words in Slovenian, and then we will have a nice surprise for the Prime Minister in English... (Slov. text)

... Let me now say also in English how very proud we are of Mr. Janša, a foremost dissident and political prisoner under communism, then our brilliant and courageous defense minister in 1991 when the communist Yugoslav army brutally, but unsuccessfully attacked our tiny Slovenia, and who is now Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia. A Slovenian American who literally rose higher than

anyone else, a distinguished yet very humble gentleman of many records, the most highly educated American astronaut, Dr. Jerry Linenger, dedicated his book *Off the Planet* to our esteemed guest with the words: "Prime Minister Janez Jansa:

"Slovenians from around the world are so proud of the courage you have displayed to make Slovenia the great nation that it is today. thank you, sir, for all your sacrifice – we all appreciate it and honor you for the dignity you have displayed through the very challenging times.

"With great admiration and sincere respect, Jerry."
(Slovenian text.)

10 Archaeologists Discover Much in Slovenia

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, JULY 20, 2006

It has become a tradition at this time of year for Slovenian archaeologists to present interesting discoveries from the previous year. They were presented rather symbolically at Turjaška palača, the palace in Ljubljana that houses the City Museum and under which the remains of a Roman road were discovered several years ago. This year archaeologists called the public's attention also to sites in the highlands that bring new evidence about the lives of our ancestors.

The presentation of archaeological excavations served several purposes. It presented the conclusion of work begun in previous years, pointed to numerous international projects in which Slovenian archaeologists have been involved, and brought attention to several new sites, said Irena Lazar, PhD., president of the Slovenian Archaeological Society.

Last year excavations took place at approximately 40 sites in Slovenia.

Archaeologists did excavations on the site of the former Šumi factory in the very center of the city, where they focused on a part of Emona insula. Their findings date from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD.

The Ljubljanica River, where new Mesolithic underwater findings were recovered, has also been hiding many treasures; one of the most interesting pieces was a part of the sheath of a Celtic sword.

Two very valuable sites were in the surroundings of Ljubljana: Pržanj and Kamna Gorica, where archaeologists happened upon the remains of an early medieval settlement from the 7th and 8th centuries. Many ceramic objects, simple wooden things, and the remains of a metallurgical plant were unearthed.

The Dolenjska region was also very rich in findings. Excavations were resumed at Kapiteljska njiva and the archaeologists there came across a richly decorated central female grave marked with stones and containing several women's decorative objects said Irena Lazar.

Archaeologists completed excavations at the motorway near Brežice and at the Ribnica site known as ancient Romula.

In recent years, archaeologists have discovered a number of interesting findings in the area of Celje, or ancient Celeia. Last year they found the remains of an ancient wooden bridge connecting the banks of the Savinja

River, two Roman temples on the banks of the river, and the remains of a Celtic sacred place, in the southern part of the town, a Roman burial site with 50 graves. This year's findings originate from the 18th century, from which the newly discovered road also dates.

Very interesting and well-preserved findings also come from Idrija, where the remains of a sacral building were found.

Archaeological excavations in the high mountainous regions belong among the most interesting. "This year we have had many reports from this area, with excavations under way in Krvavec, Pertovč Mountain near Tolmin, and other places. The archaeological finds date from the Stone Age, Prehistory, and Antiquity to the medieval period," explains Ms. Lazar.

These excavations from the mountainous regions prove that settlers not only found the lowlands hospitable; higher-lying areas, too, were accessible enough in all historical periods. Last year, the remains of ceramics and stone tools and the traces of pails were found in the mountains.

--Sinfo

National Exposure

It is good to know that more than 50% of the people who signed up as new subscribers to the American Home come from outside of Ohio. That increases the paper's national exposure.

--J.T.

Euclid, Ohio

Comment

"Enjoy reading the American Home newspaper. Keep up the good work."

--Joyce Plemel
Euclid, OH

Donation

Thanks for the \$5.00 donation from **Joe Peresutti** of Cleveland. He writes, "Enjoy reading the paper."

Donation

Thanks to **Louis and Sylvia Lončar** of Concord, OH who sent in a \$25.00 donation.

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Thanks to **JoAnne and Michael Polutnik** of Sheffield Village, OH for the \$50.00 donation!

Donation

Thanks to **Matila Simcic** of Franklin, WI who sent in a \$32.00 donation.

For 'Tiskovni sklad'

Thanks to **Frank and Helen Jeglic** of Wadsworth, OH who renewed their subscription and added a \$65.00 donation for the "Tiskovni sklad." They write, "You certainly help us stay in touch with the Slovenian community. Do keep it up."

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Interesting

Editor

Thank you for the interesting stories and for keeping us informed about events in the Slovenian community.

--Tom & Sonja Kolaric
Kirtland, OH

In Loving Memory

of our loving wife, mother, and grandmother



Maria Jarc

July 5, 2004

In our hearts your memory lingers,

Sweetly, tender, fond and true.

There is not a day, dear mother,

That we do not think of you.

Wife of Anton
Mother of Catherine & Erica
Grandmother of Alex and Aiden

In Loving Memory

of the 15th Anniversary of the passing of



Amelia (Molly) Vogel

(nee Kozina)

who died July 22, 1991

A million times we've needed you,

A million times we cried,

If love alone could have saved you,

You never would have died.

In life we loved you dearly,

In death we love you still,

In our hearts you hold a place No one else can ever fill.

Sadly missed by:

Tony and Andy (sons)
and Vogel and Kozina families

In Loving Memory

of the 6th Anniversary of My Sister



Sophia Opeka

Died July 25, 2000

REMEMBERANCE IS LOVE...

Missing and Remembering you, Sophia

Sadly Missed by

Sister - Ann
Relatives and Friends



Janez Janša in George Bush v Beli hiši

J. Z.

(STA, 10. VII. 2006)

Washington – Ameriški predsednik **George Bush** se je v Beli hiši po pogovoru s slovenskim premierom **Janezu Janši** zahvalil za prijateljstvo in za vodstvo ter dejal, da sta imela odličen pogovor.

Bush je dejal, da resnično ceni pogumno odločitev za pomoč dvema mladima demokracijama Afganistanu in Iraku ter cenil, da lahko slovenski prispevek tam pomaga k napredku.

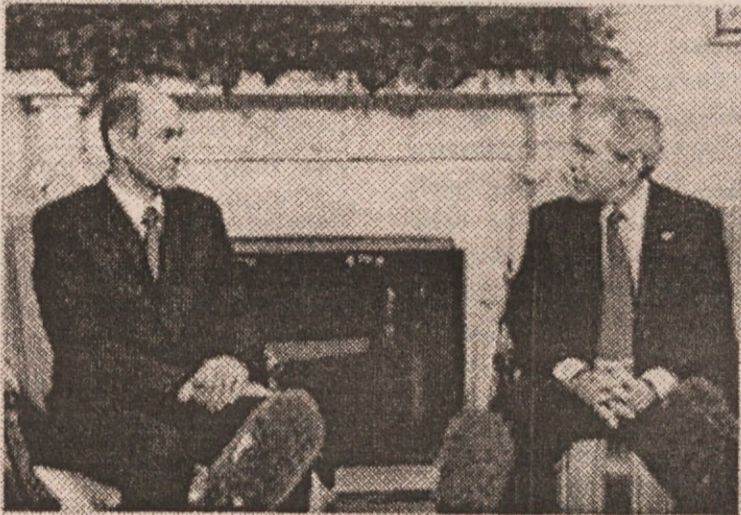
Janša se je gostitelju zahvalil za gostoljubje in dejal, da se veseli novega Bushovega obiska Slovenije v prvi polovici leta 2008.

Ameriški predsednik se je Janši zahvalil za poročanje o položaju v slovenski soseščini in premiera ocenil kot človeka z jasno vizijo in razumevanjem položaja, kar jim bo pomagalo pri sodelovanju.

Bush je dejal tudi, da se s toplino spominja "spektakularnega obiska prelepe države" Slovenije in da je po vrnitvi rojakom dejal, naj si res ogledajo ta "zanimiv košček nebes".

Glede Slovenije je menil, da je predvsem pomembno, da ima čudovite ljudi. Bush se veseli sodelovanja z Janšo, ki lahko izboljša življenja ljudi v obeh državah in tudi drugje po svetu, kjer se ljudje borijo proti zatiralskim vladam.

Janša je dejal, da je bil razgovor zelo pristen in zanimiv in da se z veseljem spominja Bushovega obiska Slovenije ter izrazil hvaležnost za lepe besede o njej in njenih ljudeh.



Omenil je, da je Slovenija od Bushovega obiska poslata članica zveze NATO in se je amerškemu predsedniku zahvalil za podporo na tej poti.

Na pogovoru so se mu zdeli posebej zanimivi ameriški pogledi na položaj na Zahodnem Balkanu, pri čemer je ugotovil, da z ZDA delijo poglede glede evropske perspektive držav tega območja.

Janša je dejal tudi, da je Slovenija zelo resen partner v zvezi NATO in čuti zavezo, da pomaga tudi drugim državam, da dosežejo podobno, kot je uspelo njej.

Na koncu je še omenil, da je Busha znova povabil v Slovenijo v času predsedovanja EU, ko bo tam potekalo vsakoletno vrhunsko srečanje ZDA-EU.

Pred srečanjem Bush-Janša je visoki predstavnik administracije dejal, to ne bo srečanje velikih najav ali sporazumov, ampak bo šlo za izmenjavo mnenj o skupnih izzivih, s katerimi se soočata obe državi v soseščini Slovenije in po svetu. Ameriška administracija ceni premiera Janšo, Bush pa se "rad srečuje z voditelji, ki

sprejemajo težke in prave odločitve za svoje države".

Govorila sta tudi o energetskih vprašanjih

Janša je pogovor med njim in Bushem ocenil kot zelo prijeten in dejal, da mu je Bush govoril o položaju v zvezi s Severno Korejo, na Srednjem vzhodu in v Iraku.

"Gre za informacije iz prve roke, ki jih zelo cenimo in nam bodo pomagale pri pripravah na predsedovanje EU," je dejal Janša, ki je Busha povabil v Slovenijo na vrh EU-ZDA v prvi polovici leta 2008.

"Dejal je, da ima tako dobre vtise o Sloveniji, da se bo z veseljem udeležil srečanja."

Energetsko vprašanje je zajelo precejšen del pogovora med Bushem in Janšo, kamor spada tudi slovensko predsedovanje Svetu guvernerjev Mednarodne agencije za jedrsko energijo (IAEA).

"Eno od ključnih vprašanj na tem položaju bo Iran, zato sva temu namenila kar nekaj pozornosti," je dejal Janša in dodal, da je tudi slovensko stališče, da mora mednarodna skupnost tukaj ostati enotna in

da je to ključno, da se zadeva reši z diplomatskimi sredstvi. "Seveda pa se bo Slovenija na čelu IAEA srečala tudi s problemom financiranja oziroma proračuna in upamo, da bomo na podlagi dobrih izkušenj z reševanjem podobnega problema znotraj OVSE tudi to vprašanje rešili."

Na vprašanje o naftovodih čez slovensko ozemlje, je Janša odgovoril, da sta z Bushem govorila o "diverzifikaciji" energetskih virov, kar je ključnega pomena za ZDA in EU, ter znotraj EU tudi Slovenije.

"Tukaj imamo enotno stališče. Oboji smo odvisni od tujih virov in je to strateško vprašanje. Strinjala sva se, da bi bilo lažje rešljivo, če bi imela EU enotno energetsko politiko. Žal tega še ni in zato bo to vprašanje ena od ključnih prioritet slovenskega predsedovanja EU leta 2008," je dejal Janša.

Glede konkretnih plinovodov ali naftovodov pa je Janša dejal, da gre za izvedbene stvari, ki so nujno potrebne, da se pride do zanesljive oskrbe in Slovenija bo po svojih močeh sodelovala ob upoštevanju visokih standardov varovanja okolja.

Glede tekmovanja med ZDA in Rusijo okrog energetskih interesov, pa je Janša dejal, da je Rusija pomemben vir energije za Evropo in nikoli ne bo nihče povedal, da naj se Evropa temu viru odpove.

"Pomembno je, da to ni edini vir, da energija ni uporabljena kot sredstvo političnega pritiska," je dejal Janša.

Janša in Bush sta govorila tudi o položaju v Iraku in se strinjala, da je potrebno čimprej spraviti na noge iraške varnostne sile. Janša je dejal, da je Slovenija v Irak poslala inštruktorje, kar je bila zavestna odločitev v skladu z odgovornostjo do zveze NATO.

O Zahodnem Balkanu pa je bilo govora o Kosovu, kjer imajo ZDA in Slovenija, po Janševih besedah zelo podobne poglede.

Precej časa sta namenila tudi Bosni in Hercegovini, ki je po Janševih besedah eden težjih problemov v regiji.

"Bushu sem zelo jasno povedal, da je v slovenskem interesu, da ZDA ostanejo na Balkanu zaradi

(DALJE na str. 15)

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Piknik Slovenske šole—

To nedeljo ste vabljeni na vsakoletni piknik Slovenske šole pri sv. Vidu. Piknik bo na Slovenski pristani, ob 12.30 pop. bo sv. maša, takoj nato bo servirano kosilo, ki bo za odraslo osebo \$12, za otroka pa \$6. Ob 5h pop. bodo igre za otroke, sledil bo še srečolov za lepa darila. Za ples in zabavo ob igral ansambel Veseli Godci.

Pristavski upokojenci—

Mesečni sestanek Kluba upokojencev Slovenske pristave bo v sredo, 26. julija, ob 1.30 pop. na Pristavi. Vsi člani lepo vabljeni. V nedeljo, 13. avgusta, bo letni piknik, o njem najdete vse podatke v dopisu na str. 12.

Primorski klub vabi—

Primorski klub vabi na svoj letni piknik, ki bo v nedeljo, 6. avgusta, na Slovenski pristani. Pričetek bo s sv. mašo ob 12.30 pop. Hrana in pijača se bo začela servirati po maši, za ples in zabavo bodo igrali in peli gostje iz Slovenije – ansambel Tramontana. Prišli bodo še rojaki iz Pittsburgha in Toronta. Vstop bo prost.

Dobrodolni piknik—

V soboto, 12. avgusta, bosta Slovenska pristava in društvo št. 226 KSKJ Kristus Kralj sponzorirali piknik na Pristavi, katerega prebitek bo v korist SP. Pričetek bo po 5. uri, večerjo bo pripravila Sofie Mazi, cena bo \$13 na osebo, za rezervacijo pokličite Elizabeto Žalik na 216-537-1941. Za zabavo bo igral ansambel Tramontana iz Primorske, Slovenije.

Seznanjajte naše
bralce z aktivnostmi
vaših društev

Janez Janša in Dick Cheney o usklajeni energetski politiki

Nastop na Ameriški gospodarski zbornici

M. B. / G. P.

STA, 11. julija 2006

Washington – Premier **Janez Janša** se je zadnji dan obiska danes (11.VII.) srečal s podpredsednikom ZDA **Dickom Cheneyjem**, predstavnik ameriškega kongresa ter Ameriške trgovske zbornice, ki so skupaj s predstavnik ameriških podjetij izražali precejšnje zanimanje za vlaganje in sode-

(DALJE na str. 16)



Generalni konzulat Republike Slovenije v Clevelandu

Sporočilo za javnost

Predavanje veleposlanika Samuela Žbogarja v City Clubu v Clevelandu

V petek, 7. julija 2006, je veleposlanik Republike Slovenije Samuel Žbogar na tradicionalnem petkovem forumu v Mestnem klubu (City Club Friday Forum) predaval na temo Situacija v Jugovzhodni Evropi – pogled iz Slovenije (The Situation in Southeast Europe – A View from Slovenia).

Pred polno dvorano (okoli 250 sedežev) je veleposlanik Žbogar najprej orisal pomen 15-letnice slovenske osamosvojitve in opisal uspešnost te države, ki – vpeta med Italijo, Avstrijo, Madžarsko in Hrvaško – leži na križišču različnih kultur, jezikovnih skupin in celo klimatskih območij.

Med drugim je opozoril na uspešno vključitev Slovenije v EU in NATO ter na skorajšnji prehod na poslovanje z novo valuto – Eurom in bližajoče se predsedovanje Republike Slovenije EU v prvi polovici leta 2008.

Opozoril je, da so vsi ti dosežki dokaz uspešnosti slovenske zunanje in notranje politike ter gospodarstva.

Predavanje je nadaljeval z orisom situacije predv-

sem na območju držav nekdanje Jugoslavije. Pri tem je poudaril vodilno vlogo Slovenije kot posrednika med omenjenim območjem in državami razvitega Zahoda, EU, pa tudi ZDA.

Ocenil je stanje v vsaki od držav, pri čemer je največ pozornosti namenil BiH in Srbiji. Situacija v BiH je označil kot zelo zapleteno in problematično, saj tri etnične skupnosti še niso uspele najti skupnega jezika, ki bi zagotovil normalno delovanje te države.

V primeru Srbije je veleposlanik RS izrazil zadovoljstvo nad mirnim potekom odcepitve Črne gore, hkrati pa opozoril na malodušje, ki prevladuje med Srbi, ter neproduktivnost razraščanja skrajno nacionalistične politike, ki se očitno ne zaveda resnosti situacije, tako v ekonomskem smislu kot glede vprašanja Kosova.

Veleposlanik Žbogar odkril obnovljeno spominsko ploščo v središču Clevelanda

Po predavanju je veleposlanik Žbogar v parku

nasproti Mestne hiše odkril obnovljeno spominsko ploščo, na kateri znani slovenski zvezni senator, guverner in župan Clevelanda Frank J. Lausche priča o tem, da je Thomas Jefferson črpal ideje za pisanje ameriške deklaracije o neodvisnosti tudi iz zapisov o tradiciji ustoličevanja karantanskih knezov.

Ploščo, ki jo je pred leti postavila, zdaj pa obnovila slovenska ustanova Slovenian American Heritage Foundation, je veleposlanik odkril skupaj z generalnim konzulom v Clevelandu dr. Zvonetom Žigonem ter predsednikom SAHF Tonijem Hitijem.

Na priložnostni slovesnosti sta zbrane poleg veleposlanika Žbogarja nagovorila mestna svetnica slovenskega rodu Joe Cimperman in Michael Polensek. Oba sta izrazila zadovoljstvo nad intenzivnim proslavljanjem 15-letnice slovenske samostojnosti v juniju, Polensek pa je poudaril pomen ohranitve generalnega konzulata v Clevelandu za slovensko skupnost in prepoznavnost Slovenije v tem delu ZDA.

Obisk predsednika vlade Republike Slovenije Janeza Janše v Clevelandu in Enon Valleyju

Kot višek "slovenskega" dogajanja v Clevelandu je v večernih urah 7. julija iz Slovenije prispela vladna delegacija na čelu s predsednikom vlade RS Janezom Janšo in ministrom za zunanje zadeve dr. Dimitrijem Ruplom.

Predsednik vlade si je ogledal **slovenski cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in sv. Vida**, kjer sta ga sprejela župnika Janez Kumše in Jože Božnar.

V zavetišču za starejše Slovence St. Vitus Village je Janez Janša izročil dr. Ediju Gobcu, vodji Slovenskega raziskovalnega središča v Clevelandu, ob njegovem 80. rojstnem dnevu priznanje Urada vlade RS za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu.

Po Gobčevem zahvalnem nagovoru je tudi predsednik vlade v krajšem nagovoru med drugim poudaril pomen pomoči slovenskih izseljencev pri mednarodnem priznanju Slovenije, nato pa se je rokoval z navzočimi stanovci, najprej z najstarejšo, 101 leto staro prebivalko zavetišča.

Naslednji dan (8. julij)

Pristavski upokojenci vabijo na svoj letni piknik

CLEVELAND, O. – Ker *Ameriška domovina* ne izhaja redno vsak teden, je prav, da že danes vabimo na naš piknik, ki bo drugo nedeljo v avgustu na Slovenski pristavi. Prišel se bo s sv. mašo ob 12. uri opoldne. Daroval jo bo č.g. Franci Urbanija iz Argentine. Po maši bomo servirali okusno kosilo, ki ga bodo pripravile naše pridne članice z go. Julko Zalar na čelu. Tudi za zabavo bo preskrbljeno, saj se naši člani muzikantje lahko merijo z vsako grupo, ki jo druga društva vabijo iz Slovenije.

Dobiček našega piknika gre za novo dvorano na Pristavi. V osemnajstih letih, kar naš klub obstoja, smo darovali Pristavi že več kot 45 tisoč dolarjev. Več tisoč dolarjev od dobička na naših kolinah smo pa darovali za slovenske ustanove tukaj v Ameriki, v Sloveniji in v Argentini.

Pred petnajstimi leti smo tudi kot klub in kot posamezni člani prispevali za kampanjo za osvoboditev Slovenije. Se še spomnite, kako smo na Slovenskem dnevu na Slovenski pristavi sprejeli predsednika prve vlade samostojne Slovenije Lojzeta Peterleta? S kočijo, v spremstvu konjenikov, narodnih noš, smo ga pripeljali na našo Slovensko pristavo.

Kako lepo je obiskal naš Orlov vrh in spominsko kapelico Marije Pomagaj. To je namreč

prvi spomenik, ki smo ga postavili in to že pred 42. leti vsem slovenskim žrtvam druge svetovne vojne, predvsem žrtvam komunistične revolucije.

Letos smo vsi tako lepo sodelovali pri vseh slovesnostih petnajste obletnice samostojnosti Slovenije. Vsa čast generalnemu konzulu RSlovenije dr. Zvonetu Žigonu, da je vse to tako lepo organiziral. Z govorom dr. Žbogarja, slovenskega veleposlanika v Washingtonu, ki ga je imel v Cleveland City Clubu, pa nismo bili prav nič zadovoljni. Slovenija ni več na Balkanu.

Bili smo pa resno razočarani, da se predsednik sedanje slovenske vlade, Janez Janša, ni ustavitil na Orlovem vrhu, ko je obiskal Slovensko pristavo. Baje to ni bilo na protokolu. Kdo je sestavil protokol? Najbrže gospod Rupel. Za novega zunanjega ministra bi predlagal dr. Žigona. Je mlad, pošten, sposoben – in zna biti prijatelj vsem.

Bog živi Slovenijo, našo rodno domovino! Hvala Bogu in Mariji Pomagaj, da smo lahko ponosni, da smo državljani Amerike.

Člane Kluba pristavskih upokojencev pa resno prosimo, da na naš piknik povabijo vsak vsaj dva prijatelja ali gosta. Čim več nas bo, tem lepše bo!

Frank Urankar

Predsedniku vlade Republike Slovenije gospodu Janezu Janši v pozdrav

Izredno čast imamo, da vas v Ameriki še bolj spoznamo, vas, ki ste za dobro vse gorečnik, nekoč preganjan oporečnik, potem obrambni še minister, strateg pogumen, vnet in bister, ki ste Slovenijo obranil, jo v zarje nove vedno dramil.

Zdaj kot predsednik bolj pomladne vlade ohranjate, poživljate svobode, demokracije zaklade. Mož, ki njegov pogum nikdar ne mine, ste tudi v svetu in v mogočni Beli hiši sedaj predstavnik naše ljube domovine.

Želimo zdravja, sreče vam in smeha ter vedno mero zvrhano uspeha. Srčno pozdravljen tu med nami danes, iskreni, zmožni rodoljub naš, Janša Janez!

Ameriški Slovenci

Deklamirala Stephanie Kurbus, Cleveland, St. Vitus Village, 8. julija 2006.

se je delegacija na **delovnem zajtrku** sestala z zveznim senatorjem srbsko-slovenskega rodu Georgeom Voinovichem in clevelandskim županom Frankom Jacksonom.

Janez Janša si je v spremstvu senatorja Voinovicha in župana Jacksona ter mestnih svetnikov Cimpermana in Polenska ogledal umetnostno-arhivsko razstavo v rotundi Mestne hiše, ki je bila odprta za časa "Slovenskih dnevov v Clevelandu".

Predsednik vlade je v izjavi za medije med drugim izrazil zahvalo županu Jacksonu, ki je omogočil postavitev razstave ter druge "slovenske" dogodke v rotundi, pa tudi

to, da na kupoli mestne hiše v čast 15-letnici slovenske samostojnosti že dober mesec plapolala slovenska zastava.

Poleg tega je orisal uspešno 15-letno pot Slovenije, ki je pred dvema letoma vstopila v EU in NATO in bo v kratkem povzela Euro ter predsedovala EU kot prva od novih članic.

Tako predsednik vlade Janša kot senator Voinovich sta se zavzela za učinkovito reševanje predvsem perečih vprašanj prihodnosti Srbije in BiH. V Slovenskem narodnem domu se je Janša srečal z okoli 40 predstavniki slovenskih druš-

(DALJE na str. 13)

RESOLUCIJA

Slovensko-ameriškega sveta vladi in parlamentu Republike Slovenije

Spoštovani!

Ko Slovenke in Slovenci doma in po svetu slavimo 15-letnico proglastitve neodvisnosti Republike Slovenije, Slovenski ameriški svet, krovna organizacija Slovencev in Slovencev v ZDA, ki so ves čas podpirali in tudi sami vodili boj proti komunistični vladi za demokratično Slovenijo ter pomembno prispevali k uspehu tega boja s podporo demokratični opoziciji pri prvih svobodnih volitvah v Sloveniji po drugi svetovni vojni aprila 1990, z žalostjo ugotavlja, da:

1. slovenska država in njena vlada še vedno nista obsodili zločinov komunistične partije in njenega režima vse od leta 1941 pa do leta 1990;

2. da ni poskrbela za primeren pokop pomorjenih, objavo njihovih imen, vrnila pomorjenim čast, njihovim svojcem pa se opravičila;

3. še vedno ni povrnila vsega po krivici zaseženega imetja, ali popravila nešteti krivic;

4. ni razveljavila krivičnih obsodb, posebej še pokojnega ljubljanskega škofa dr. Gregorija Rožmana;

5. ni uvedla v šolah stvarno predstavljanje slovenske zgodovine, posebej od konca prve Jugoslavije dalje;

6. ni pozvala politične emigracije in slovenskih izseljencev po vsem svetu, naj se vrnejo domov in pomagajo graditi in ohranjati slovensko neodvisno državo.

Slovenski ameriški svet upa in pričakuje, da bosta vlada in parlament Republike Slovenije sedaj, ko je ta članica Evropske zveze in NATO, našla dovolj volje, poguma in čuta za poštenost, resnico in pravico, da bosta zamujeno čim prej storila in s tem odprla vrata lepši in boljši bodočnosti slovenskega naroda in njegove neodvisne države.

Cleveland, 29. junija 2006.

Za Slovenski ameriški svet

Rudi Kolarič

prof. Vinko Lipovec

Maruša Pogačnik

Sporočilo za javnost

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 12)

tev, klubov itd. ter vidnejšimi ameriški Slovenci.

V veliki dvorani tega doma je predsednik slovenske vlade nato nagovoril okoli 400 Slovencev. Zahvalil se je za pomoč pri prizadevanjih za mednarodno priznanje Slovenije pred 15 leti ter pohvalil številne dejavnosti ob letošnjem praznovanju 15. obletnice državnosti Slovenije. Orisal je uspešno pot Slovenije in ob tem poudaril, da RS še nikoli ni bila tako varna kot danes.

Janši je dobrodošlico prebrala Mary Ann Vogel, himni in dodatno pesem pa je zapel kombinirani zbor Korotan - Fantje na vasi.

V nadaljevanju obiska

v Clevelandu si je delegacija ogledala Slovensko pristavo in tam tudi obedovala.

Pot je nadaljevala v **Enon Valley**, kjer je Janša nagovoril okoli 800 navzočih članov SNPJ in druge obiskovalce, Muzeju kulturne dediščine (Slovenian Heritage Museum) pa je ob njegovi 30-letnici izročil priznanje Urada vlade RS za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu.

Dogodka sta se poleg delegacije iz RS in predsedstva SNPJ udeležila tudi predstavnik Slovencev iz Lemonta (Chicago) Janez Vidmar ter predsednik KSKJ Rudi Krašovec iz Colorada. ■

Iskanja korenin bo čedalje več

Dr. Edi Gobec je ameriški Slovenec, častni profesor sociologije na kentski univerzi ter ustanovitelj in vodja Slovenskega ameriškega /raziskovalnega/ inštituta. Njegova skrba za slovenstvo je pohvale vredna.

ANA MÜLLNER

Tednik DEMOKRACIJA
Ljubljana, 6. julij 2006



V Clevelandu se bodo te dni končali Slovenski dnevi, ki so trajali dober mesec in katerih namen je bila proslavitev 15. obletnice osamosvojitve Slovenije. Kako ste jih doživljali v slovenski skupnosti?

Kot že marsikateri veličastni Slovenski dan v Clevelandu smo tudi letošnje doživljali v veliki ljubezni do Slovenije in predvsem polni veselja in navdušenja, da je Slovec končno na svoji zemlji svoj gospod.

Doslej je vsak Slovenski dan trajal samo en dan, letošnji pa so potekali dlje kot mesec dni in so bili po ideološki sestavi sodelujočih in občinstva bolj pisani, zato pa je razen pri petju prvič prevladovala angleščina. Bili so velika manifestacija slovenske zavednosti in duha in izreden uspeh tudi za pobudnika, novega generalnega konzula dr. Zvoneta Žigona.

Ameriški Slovenci ste odigrali pomembno vlogo med osamosvajanjem Slovenije ...

Upam, da smem vsaj v *Demokraciji* najprej nekoliko dopolniti vse premalo znano podobo o pomembni vlogi ameriških in kanadskih Slovencev pri razvoju slovenske državne misli, ki je doživela svoje udejanjenje v slovenski osamosvojitvi.

Več kot 50 let je najprej v ZDA in nato v Kanadi izhajal list, ki je že s samim imenom budil in utrjeval misel o slovenski neodvisnosti, to je časopis *Slovenska država*.

Ker sem že kot študent od leta 1952 sodeloval pri tem listu in je



ohranjen precejšen arhiv dopisovanja z uredniki, vem, s kakšnim idealizmom, požrtvovalnostjo in pogumom so po svojih rednih službah brezplačno garali za ideal neodvisne slovenske države in budili ter branili pred napadi in zasmehovanji slovensko državno misel.

Naj tu omenim le urednike *Slovenske države*: Mirka Geratiča, dr. Rudolfa Čuješa, Vladimirja Mauka, Luka Jamnika in dr. Avgušтина Kuka.

List *Slovenska država* je bila več kot pol stoletja osrednje glasilo slovenskega državnega gibanja, v njem pa so poleg prej navedenih urednikov izstopili dr. Ciril Žebot, dr. Ludvik Leskovar, dr. Mate Roesman, dr. Milan Pavlovčič, p. Kazimir Zakrajšek in župnik Anton Merkun, dr. Stane Šušteršič, profesorji dr. Kalist Langerholc, dr. Jože Felicijan, dr. Bogdan Novak in dr. Ciril Mejač, da omenim le nekaj najvidnejših.

Ko smo v Ameriki zvedeli za veliko stisko strank slovenske pomladi, je bil pod predsedstvom dr. Mateja Roesmana, enega stebrov slovenskega državnega gibanja, januarja 1990 ustanovljen Slovenski ameriški svet (SAS), ki je pritegnil vrsto organizacij in zavzetih posameznikov v Clevelandu in več drugih ameriških in delno tudi kanadskih mestih.

SAS je poskušal pomladnim strankam ponuditi vso moralno pomoč, pod vodstvom blagajnika Staneta Kuharja pa je zbiral tudi prepotrebna finančna sredstva. Tako jim je še pred prvimi svobodnimi volitvami v aprilu 1990 odposlal znesek skoraj 87 tisoč ameriških dolarjev, da so laže zmagale v sicer neenakem boju z ustaljenimi, dobro financiranimi levčarskimi ali rdečimi tekmeči.

SAS je seveda nadaljeval s svojim izrednim delom za osamosvojitve Slovenije in po njej za ameriško priznanje RS.

Pri vsem tem delu je imel neprecenljive zasluge zlasti list *Ameriška domovina*, katerega lastnik in glavni urednik je bil Jim Debevec, slovenski urednik pa dr. Rudolf Sušelj, ki je dan za dnevno brezplačno objavljaj član-

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Iskanja korenin bo čedalje več...

(NADALJEVANJE S STR. 13)

ke in prošnje SAS in drugih organizacij in posameznikov.

Tudi naše Slovensko ameriško raziskovalno središče je razposlalo na stotine pisem in telegramov v podporo Sloveniji v njenem boju za osamosvojitve in pozneje za priznanje RS v Ameriki in številnih drugih državah.

Med v začetku še zelo nevtralnimi odgovori ameriških politikov hranim pismo zveznega senatorja Metzenbauma, ki mi je že 28. februarja 1991 kot prvi vplivni ameriški politik jasno sporočil, da podpira slovensko in hrvaško neodvisnost.

Že 12. julija 1992 pa sem bil povabljen za govornika na vseameriško konvencijo mladih republikancev v Miami, kjer mi je z govorom "Myths and Facts about Slovenia" uspelo prepričati delegate in številne navzoče politike, diplomate in novinarje, da Slovenija zasluži ameriško in mednarodno priznanje.

Govor je delno ali v celoti ponatisnilo več listov. Uradni zastopniki RS v ZDA, Kanadi, Avstraliji in Novi Zelandiji pa so ga tudi predložili tamkajšnjim vladam v podporo svojih tehtnih pozivov za priznanje Slovenije.

Izredno pomembno vlogo za osamosvojitve in priznanje Slovenije je odigral ameriški koroški Slovenec dr. Peter Milonig, ki je bil v času Peterletove vlade prvi ura-

dni predstavnik Republike Slovenije v ZDA. V težkih letih 1990 in 1991 je izjemno požrtvovalno, elegantno in uspešno predstavljal slovenske demokratične interese v Washingtonu, na televiziji in z objavami v več vodilnih ameriških časopisih. Sloveniji je daroval ne le svoje talente in ogromno časa, ampak je vrsto aktivnosti financiral iz lastnega žepa.

Pozneje se je ustanovil še Odbor združenih Američanov za Slovenijo pod predsedstvom politika Edmunda Turka in s priljubljenim g. župnikom Janezom Kumšetom, ki pa se je kmalu umaknil iz odbora, kot blagajnikom.

Pobude in delo tega odbora smo ameriški Slovenci pozdravili in zavzeto podpirali.

Človeka pa se kar zavrti v glavi ob raznih številkah, ki jih navaja "koordinator akcije za leto 1991", naš nekdanji študent na kentski univerzi Joseph Valenčič, da "so dva tedna vsak dan zbrali 10.000 podpisov", skupno torej vsaj 100.000 podpisov.

Vsi drugi, ki smo zbirali podpise za priznanje RS ali v druge namene, vemo, kako težko in zamudno je to delo. Kar nemogoče si je predstavljati, kdo in na kakšen način bi lahko v enem dnevu našel, zbral in preštel 10.000 voljnih podpisnikov in bi se to dva tedna ponavljalo vsak dan.

Sicer svoj vajeni tudi drugih njegovih vprašljivih trditvev, npr. o začetkih slovenskega filma v slovenski skupnosti ali izjave ameriški novinarki Sullivanovi, da je večina ameriških Slovencev naklonjena novemu častnemu doktorju Kučanu, čeprav ga večina sploh ne pozna, drugi pa so ga odklanjali kot zadnjega vodjo slovenskih komunistov.

Kako pa po petnajstih letih ocenjujete uspešnost Slovenije?

Če upoštevamo vse gorje, ki so ga Slovenci doživeli med vojno in komunistično revolucijo, ob povojnem terorju in v desetletjih komunistične diktature, če pomislimo na strah, ki so ga VOS, OZNA in UDBA pognali Slovincem v kosti, in na otopelost premnogih zaradi politične nemoči skozi pol stoletja, če upoštevamo še monopol novinarjev kot "vojakov revolucije" v vodilnih medijih in na nasilje marksistične "ideološke čistosti", ki jo je dolgo zahteval partijski vodja tovariš Kučan, potem lahko samo občudujemo slovenske uspehe, osvoboditev izpod komunističnega enoumja, zmago Demosa leta 1990 in demokratičnih strank konec leta 2004.

Veselim se lahko tudi ugleda, ki ga danes uživa Slovenija v ZN, NATU, EU ter pri ustanovah in vladah številnih držav, od Vatikana, Nemčije in Rusije do ZDA, kjer bodo te dni v Beli hiši sprejeli predsednika vlade Janeza Janšo.

Slovenija napreduje in upamo, da bo ob budnosti in marljivosti rodoljubnih državljanov na vseh področjih napredovala tudi v prihodnje.

Ali lahko kljub temu, da se število Slovencev v ZDA z leti zmanjšuje in da najmlajše generacije ameriških Slovencev ne čutijo več trdne povezanosti z domovino svojih prednikov, v prihodnost gledamo z optimizmom?

Odgovoril bi pritrdilno. Najprej pa bi poudaril, da se število oseb slovenskega ali delo slovenskega rodu v Ameriki ne zmanjšuje, ampak se kot drugo ameriško prebival-

stvo stalno veča.

V knjižici "Slovenian and Slovenian Americans" sem nakazal, da se je število prebivalcev slovenskega rodu od leta 1910, ko jih je bilo po dotlej razmeroma najbolj zanesljivem štetju okrog 200.000, do leta 1990 sorazmerno s 170-odstotno rastjo ameriškega prebivalstva dvignilo na vsaj pol milijona. Govorimo o osebah, ki imajo enega ali več slovenskih prednikov.

Res je, da se slovenski delež ob porokah z neslovinci manjša, toda ob večji slovenski "bazi" moramo in moremo doseči čedalje več "Amerikancev", ki bodo spoznali in sprejeli svojo povezanost s slovenskim narodom in z našo lepo Slovenijo.

Če bo Slovenija postajala čedalje bolj znana kot prelepa in napredna dežela, bo tudi čedalje več iskalcev slovenskih korenin, obiskovalcev Slovenije in tudi oseb, ki se bojo raje priznavale za Slovence ali vsaj delne Slovence.

Med razveseljivimi znaki je tudi dejstvo, da se je po naših že osemkrat ponatisnjenih učbenikih predvsem v ZDA in delno v Kanadi, Avstraliji in drugod (če ne štejemo ponatisov lekcij v dveh glavnih časopisih *Ameriškem Slovcu* in *Prosveti*) doslej učilo slovenščine že nad 10.000 oseb.

To ne pomeni, da se je večina naučila slovenščine, je pa dokaz več, kako se rojaki in daljni rojaki razveseljivo zanimajo za slovenstvo.

In drug primer: Ameriška slovenska katoliška enota je ob svoji stoletnici (1994) natisnila in zastonj razdelila 10.000 naših knjižic "Slovenian and Slovenian Americans",

medtem ko je naša knjižica "Slovenian Heritage" v enem samem letu doživela tri natisne. Največ pa je nedvomno k slovenski prepoznavnosti v svetu pripomogla samostojnost Slovenije.

Kako ocenjujete odnost Slovenije do Slovencev, ki živijo zunaj meja domovine? Ali po vašem mnenju v zadnjih letih prihaja do pozitivnih sprememb ali bi država lahko storila več za svoje rojake?

Oboje je res: prihaja do izboljšanja in dalo bi se storiti še več in bolje. Gotovo prihaja do pozitivnih sprememb, saj so nam včasih prodajali predvsem jugoslovanstvo in rdečo "naprednost", zdaj pa je poudarek na veliko privlačnejšem slovenstvu in čedalje večji demokraciji.

Povezanost z domovino postaja ob dostopnejšem potovanju in internetu čedalje večja in kar nekaj vladnih in nevladnih organizacij prizadeva za boljše povezovanje vseh Slovencev v domovini, zamejstvu in izseljenstvu.

Izredno pomembni so čedalje številnejši obiski v Sloveniji, pa tudi preišljeni obiski v Ameriki. Tako je npr. ob tukajšnjih praznovanjih 15-letnice slovenske neodvisno-

(DALJE na str. 15)

V BLAG SPOMIN

NAŠIM LJUBLJENIM STARŠEM

15. OBLETNICA

34. OBLETNICA



ANA JESENKO

Umrla 31. julija 1991



JAKOB JESENKO

Umrl 12. julija 1972

Odkar sta odšla od nas,
počivata oba v miru
v mehki ameriški zemlji.
Bog Vama daj večni pokoj.

Žalujoči ostali:

Ann Lekan – hčer (pok.)
Myron Jesenko – sin (pok.)
Ruth Abbott – hčer
Eugene Abbott – tast
Vnuki, vnukinja, pravnuki in pravnukinja.

V BLAG SPOMIN

Ob 21. obletnici smrti
našega moža, očeta
in starega očeta



LOUIS MOLE

ki je zatisnil svoje blage
oči dne 26. julija 1985.

21 let Te zemlja krije,
v temnem grobu mirno spiš;
srce Tvoje več ne bije,
bolečin nič več ne trpiš.

Nam pa žalost srce trga,
solze lijejo iz oči;
dom je prazen in otožen,
ker Te več med nami ni.

Žalujoči ostali:

Frances – žena
Louis A. – sin
Arlene F. – hčer
Kathy – snaha
Shawn in Beth Marie –
vnuk in vnukinja
sestri v Sloveniji.

Euclid, Ohio, 20. julija 2006.

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Pozdravljen g. predsednik Janez Janša!

Odličen sin
dolenjskih gričev in dobrav,
jezer bleščečih in sinjih planin,
sprejmite naš slovenski in ameriški pozdrav!

Kako zelo veseli smo, da tu ste z nami
kako zelo ponosni, da smemo biti z vami!

Obujate prelepe nam spomine
na vse krasote naše ljube domovine,
na vse rojake, žive in pobite, mrtve,
na vseh pokojnih, živih žrtve,
na naših čudovitih gor kraljestvo,
na vseh Slovencev združeno občestvo.

Korajže in pokončnosti ste zgled,
ne mož samo, ampak možak,
ki ste v Sloveniji prebijal led
in nam pomagal stopiti v pomlad
izpod rdečega nasilja,
sproščeno, zopet polno novih nad.

Cenimo iz srca vaše trpljenje,
ki z njega vzkliho boljše je življenje.
Hvaležni smo za vaše neumorno delo,
za zvesto vztrajnost in pogum,
srce čuteče, bister vaš razum!
Želimo Vam iz dna srca,
naj ljubi Bog vam sreče,
zdravja in uspehov tisoč da!

Ameriški Slovenci
Cleveland, pri Mariji Vnebovzeti
Deklamirala Marija Sedmak, ml., 8. julija 2006.

Iskanja korenin bo čedalje več

(nadaljevanje s str. 14)

sti vse izredno navdušil
Slovenski oktet.

Podobno kot drugod v
izseljenstvu a smo žal
pri gledanju filmov iz
Slovenije skoraj vsi obža-
lovali, da so izbrali vse
premalo slovenskih in
vse preveč balkanskih in
prostaških.

Tudi dejstvo, da smo
v dr. Zvonetu Žigonu do-
bili prvega konzula, ki
redno obiskuje domala
vse slovenske kulturne,
verske in družabne pri-
reditve, potrjuje pozitivne
spremembe.

Skrbno pripravljeni
obiski slovenskih otrok v
Sloveniji domala vedno
vidno povečajo njihovo
narodno zavednost.

Skratka, če bomo pa-
metni in zavzeti na obeh
straneh oceana, smemo
pričakovati čedalje večje
in bolj razveseljive poziti-
vne spremembe.

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IZDAJAMO TUDI ZDRAVILA
ZA RAČUN POMOČI
DRŽAVE OHIO - AID FOR
THE AGED PRESCRIPTIONS

Nekoč ste dejali, da
ste tematiko slovenskih
izseljencev začeli razi-
skovati zaradi jeze nad
omalovažujočim odno-
som angleško govorečih
ljudi do Slovencev in
tudi drugih priseljencev.
Menite, da se je v tem
času odnos prebivalcev
ZDA do Slovencev spre-
menil?

Ne vem, ali je šlo res
samo za jezo ali predv-
sem za spoznanje, da ne
moremo in ne smemo
čakati, kaj bojo storili
drugi, ampak moramo
sami storiti vse, kar je v
naši moči. Ko sem si
kot študent leta 1951
poskušal z delom pri zi-
darjih zaslužiti dovolj de-
narja za jesenski vpis na
univerzo, nisem mogel
prepričati drugih delav-
cev, da imamo Slovenci
dosežke, na katere bi bil
ponosen vsak narod. Tu-
di knjižnice mi niso mo-
gle postreči s koristnimi
podatki.

Zato sem sam začel
preučevati Slovence in
njihove dosežke v Ameri-
ki in po svetu. Kmalu
so se mi pridružili zav-
zeti prostovoljni sodelav-
ci z domala vseh koncev
sveta, med njimi tudi
nekaj zelo naklonjenih
osebnosti iz Slovenije.

Po več kot 50 letih in
ob nenehni pomoči moje
žene Milene imamo zdaj
poleg drugega gradiva
kljub nagajanju in poli-
tičnim spletkam najboga-
tejše arhive o slovenskih
podvigih ne le za Ameri-
ko, ampak tudi za druge
dežele od Finske in Šved-
ske do Tasmanije in An-
tarktike.

Gotovo je tudi Amerika
v zadnjih 50 letih zelo
izboljšala svoj odnos do
neangleško govorečih iz-
seljencev, saj nas zdaj v
glavnem ne zmerjajo več
in tudi otroke v šolah
vse bolj navajajo k spo-
štovanju izseljenskih sku-

pin in k strpnosti.

Ko sem sam doživljal
zmerjanje in poniževanje
Slovencev, smo živeli v
časih, ko razen slik zlo-
čincev v vodilnih listih
nisi mogel zaslediti niti
ene slike kakega ugled-
nega črnca in je manjši-
ne dušila ponižujoča se-
gregacija.

Nekaj čudovitega v
Ameriki je, kako jo lah-
ko vsi pomagamo izbolj-
ševati in tudi sebi ali
vsaj otrokom zagotoviti
lepše mesto pod soncem.
Prav ta možnost spre-
minjanja na bolje je bistvo
pojma "The American
Dream" oz. ameriški sen.
(KONEC)

Janša in Bush v Beli hiši

(nadaljevanje s str. 11)

pozitivne vloge, ki so jo
doslej odigrale," je dejal
Janša.

Janša in Bush sta se do-
taknila tudi bolj lahkotnih
tem. Govorila sta o igranju
golfa, čemur se ni bilo mo-
goče izogniti že zaradi da-
rila Bushu na nedavni 60.
rojstni dan v obliki oblačil
za golf slovenskega podjetja.

Uradno darilo za Busha
je bil sicer kip lipicanca,
za katerega mu je Janša
razložil, da gre za kip ko-
nja, ki izvira iz Slovenije.

Janša za televizijo Fox o Severni Koreji in Iranu



Slovenski premier je v
Washingtonu opravil pogo-
vor za ameriško televizijo
Fox in pri tem v neposre-
dnem prenosu v angleščini
odgovarjal predvsem na
vprašanja o Severni Koreji,
saj ta ameriške medije tre-
nutno najbolj zanima.

Janša je menil, da je
najpomembnejše, da medna-
rodna skupnost pri sooča-
nju z grožnjami, kot sta
Severna Koreja in Iran, za-
vzame skupno stališče.

Voditelj televizije Fox je
Slovenijo predstavil kot za-
veznico ZDA v vojni proti
terorizmu, ki bo leta 2008
prevzela predsedovanje EU.

Janša je povedal, da sta
z ameriškim predsednikom
Georgeom Bushem med
drugim govorila o Iranu in
Severni Koreji in da ta
vprašanja zadevajo tudi Ev-
ropo, saj gre za skupno
grožnjo.

Na vprašanje, kako se
bodo na to grožnjo odzvali,
je Janša odgovoril, da sta
se z Bushem strinjala, da
je treba pri reševanju tega
vprašanja pripeljati Kitajsko
bolj v ospredje. "Kitajska
ima odnose s Severno Ko-
rejo in se lahko z njo po-
govarja. Mora prevzeti od-
govornost za položaj v svoji
soseščini," je dejal premier.

Janša se sicer ne strinja,
da bi Severna Koreja pred-
stavljala oblj neposredno in
nevarno grožnjo svetu kot
Iran.

"Sta približno na isti ra-
vni in mislim, da moramo
v mednarodni skupnosti raz-
viti skupno stališče za uk-
varjanje z obema grožnja-
ma. Če nam to uspe, po-
tem drugi ukrepi niso po-
trebni," je dejal Janša.

Paket spodbud, s katerim
skušajo stalne članice Var-
nostnega sveta ZN in Nem-
čija Iran prepričati, da opu-
sti svoj jedrski program, je
slovenski premier označil
kot dobrega, obenem pa
dodal, da se strinja s tisti-
mi, ki pravijo, da je po-
trebno ohraniti vse možno-
sti odprte.

Na vprašanje, ali bi Slo-
venija v primeru, če bi Ru-
sija in Kitajska v Varnost-
nem svetu ZN blokirali
sprejetje sankcij proti Se-
verni Koreji, pripravljena
sodelovati v koaliciji držav,
ki bi te sankcije kljub temu
 uvedla, je Janša odgovoril,
da je o tem še prezgodaj
govoriti.

"Če ne bo druge izbire,
pa smo pripravljeni podpre-
ti široko mednarodno koali-
cijo za odgovor na to gro-
žnjo. Upam, da bomo us-
peli v EU razviti skupno
stališče in da se bomo ob-
našali drugače, kot smo se
v primeru Irak," je dejal
Janša.

Na vprašanje, ali je zas-
krbljen zaradi odmikanja
Rusije od demokracije, je
Janša odvrnil, da ga to
skrbi, še posebej v prime-
rih, kot je podpora reži-
mov, kakršen je Lukašen-
kov v Belorusiji, kar je
slab znak za vso regijo. Iz-
razil pa je upanje, da Ru-
sija ni izgubljeni primer.

(Nato je Janša rekel, da
mora mednarodna skupnost
posvečati več pozornosti za
položaj v Rusiji ter odgovo-
ril še na nekatera druga
vprašanja. Ur. AD)

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Janez Janša in Dick Cheney

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 11)

lovanja v Sloveniji.

Janša se je danes pred odhodom v Slovenijo srečal še z ameriško državno sekretarko Condoleezza Rice.

Premierja sta spremljala tudi zunanji minister Dimitrij Rupel in slovenski veleposlanik v ZDA Samuel Žbogar.

O krepitvi gospodarskega sodelovanja med državama

Janša je dejal, da so na trgovinski zbornici govorili o krepitvi gospodarskega sodelovanja med državama, ki bi lahko bilo še boljše.

Slovenska stran je tako sogovornikom predstavila priložnosti v Sloveniji, ki so vezane na geostrateški položaj države, kar je dobro izhodišče za poslovanje v EU in na Balkanu. Na srečanju so bili prisotni predstavniki podjetij, ki že vlagajo v Sloveniji ali pa iščejo te možnosti, kot sta Goodyear in Harrah's, ter nekatera druga podjetja, ki razmišljajo o Sloveniji kot odskočni deski za poslovanje v regiji.

Slovenski premier je povedal, da je slišal veliko pohvalnih besed na račun slovenskega vstopanja v evroobmočje, kar državo dela še bolj privlačno za poslovanje.

Ameriške sogovornike so zelo zanimalo tudi napovedane reforme. Tudi ameriški predsednik George Bush naj bi se na ponedeljkovem srečanju z Janšo pošalil, da naj pridejo pomagati tudi njim, ko bodo delo z reformami končali doma.

Z Riceovo o razmerah na Balkanu

Pogovor z demokratskim senatorjem slovenskega rodu Tomom Harkinom (*njegova že pok. mati je bila rojena v Sloveniji, Harkin je eden najliberalnejših zveznih senatorjev in ponovno kandidira letos v Iowi za 6-letni senatni mandat, op. ur. AD*), predsednikom predstavniškega doma, republikancem Dennisom Hastertom, in dru-

gimi kongresniki ter Cheneyjem pa je bil politično obarvan. Kot je dejal Janša, so največ časa posvetili položaju v regiji.

Vprašanje razmer na Balkanu je bil prav tako predmet pogovorov z Riceovo, ki je imela pred srečanjem z Janšo na programu sestanek s srbskim premierom Vojislavom Koštunico, ki se bo (je) v sredo oglašil še pri Cheneyju. Janša je dejal, da imajo Američani zelo podobna stališča glede odprtih vprašanj v regiji.

Američane zelo zanima slovenska ocena položaja v Srbiji, vprašanje prihodnjega statusa Kosova, posledice odločitve Črne gore za samostojnost.

"Povsod so dejali, da naše mnenje zelo cenijo, ker poznamo razmere in smo bili pripravljeni prevzeti odgovornost za urejanje zadev. Slovenija je zelo angažirana in z naslednjim letom, ko bomo na Kosovo praktično poslali cel bataljon, se bomo zelo povzpeli med tistimi, ki prispevajo realne sile in sredstva.

Tako da smo tudi po tej plati kredibilen sogovornik," je dejal Janša.

Na pogovorih s Hastertom so bili prisotni tudi drugi kongresniki, med njimi demokrat James Oberstar iz Minnesote, ki je prav tako slovenskega rodu, na seznamu pa so bili še voditeljica demokratov Nancy Pelosi iz Kalifornije in nekateri drugi.

Janša je dejal, da so bile izrečene pohvale na račun *Mednarodnega sklada za razminiranje (ITF)* in tudi za druge ustanove, ki jih je Slovenija ustanovila za pomoč pri odpiranju evroatlantske perspektive državam zahodnega Balkana.

Tudi o kriznih žarišč po svetu

V razpravi so se dotaknili tudi kriznih žarišč po svetu in operacij, v katerih Slovenija in ZDA sodelujejo v okviru zveze NATO. Govorili so tudi o Sudanu.

Predvsem s podpredsednikom Cheneyjem pa je beseda tekla tudi okoli potrebe po usklajeni energetski politiki med ZDA in EU, kot tudi o potrebi po sprejetju skupne energetske politike v EU. Janša je dejal, da so Cheneyja in kongresnike obvestili o *Strateškem forumu Bled*, ki ga Slovenija organizira letos avgusta na temo kaspijske regije oziroma kaspijskega bazena.

Sodelovali bodo številni ugledni mednarodni politiki, gospodarstveniki in strokovnjaki za strateška energetska vprašanja. "Ta forum vzbuja velik interes in veli-

ka pričakovanja," je dejal Janša. Forum bo omogočil razpravo in izmenjavo mnenj ter idej o zagotavljanju energetskih virov Evropi iz kaspijskega bazena.

Janša s senatorjem Lugarjem o energetiki in Balkanu

Premier Janša se je v ponedeljek (10.VII.) v Washingtonu sešel s predsednikom senatnega odbora za mednarodne odnose, republikancem Richardom Lugarjem, s katerim sta govorila o energetiki ter položaju v Rusiji in na Balkanu.

Ameriške kongresnike zelo zanimajo razmere v Rusiji z energetskega in tudi notranjepolitičnega vidika. Janša opaža precejšnjo zaskrbljenost glede razvoja razmer v Rusiji, na primer glede utrjevanja moči sedanje oblasti. Hkrati pa priznavajo, da je Rusija zadnja leta tudi zelo pragmatična.

Prihodnost v zvezi s Rusijo zanima tudi EU, zato je pozitiven razvoj demokratičnih procesov izjemno pomembno strateško vprašanje, zaradi energije in zaradi ruskega vpliva na sosednje države, kot so Belorusija, Gruzija in Ukrajina.

"Rusija v veliki meri nezamenljiv vir energije za EU"

EU naj bi se v prihodnjih letih odločila, v kakšno smer bo šla njena politika do teh območij, pri čemer Slovenija zagovarja evropsko perspektivo za te države. Rusija bo pri tem pomemben sogovornik.

"Neizpodbitno dejstvo je, da je Rusija v veliki meri nezamenljiv vir energije za EU, ki bo v prihodnjih letih skušala izdelati enotno strategijo, kar je tudi interes ZDA," je dejal Janša.

Kot je dodal, si ZDA prav tako ne želijo, da bi energijo uporabljali kot politično orožje, kot je bilo to v primeru prekinitve dobav ruskega plina Ukrajini.

Slovenija si bo v času predsedovanja EU prizadevala za poenotenje evropske energetske strategije, pri čemer obstajajo različni pogledi in ideje, na primer glede uporabe jedrske energije ter glede novih naftovodov in plinovodov. Skupni imenovalec je, da so vsi zainteresirani, da je teh virov čim več.

Janša meni, da bo nekoč doseženo soglasje o gradnji novih plinovodov, ki bi zagotavljali oskrbo Evrope iz kaspijskega bazena in tudi plin iz Irana. Vendar pa je najprej potrebno na miren način rešiti iransko jedrsko vprašanje.

Zagotovila Janši, da se ZDA ne umikajo z Balkana

Glede Balkana je Janša

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1588. Nedeljsko jutro 9. julija ni bilo prijazno,

ker so se razprostirali temni oblaki in si pričakoval padavine. Počasi se je bližal veter in odpodil oblačno temino, da je posijalo sonce in nas grela. Prav prijetno popoldne se je naredilo.

Malo čez pol ene je bila darovana sveta maša za žive in pokojne misijonarje ter sodelavce, to na Slovenski pristavi, kjer je bil piknik Misijonske Znamkarske Akcije. Sv. mašo sta darovala lanska novomašnika častna gospoda Gregor Celestina in Miro Mari nič. G. Gregor je imel zelo poučno pridigo, kako smo podobni ljudstvu v dobi Jezusovega življenja na zemlji. Vsak se je lahko zamislil, kako sodeluje z milostmi v vsakdanjem življenju. Hvala vam, g. Gregor, za tako bogato in poučno reševanje našega vsakdana.

Po maši nas je čakalo kosilo in pridno smo praznili krožnike. Hvala vam vsem, ki ste nosile najtežji delež tega dne. Hitro se je vrsta pomikala, da niso bili čakajoči v nerazpoloženju čakanja. Mladež se je odpravila proti bazenu, starejši pa so se srečali s starimi znanci in tudi našli nova poznanstva. Kar hitro je minilo popoldne in že so se prvi odločili za povratek proti domu.

Lepo je bila založena stojnica s pecivom. Iskrena vam hvala, drage gospodinje, za vse prineseno, in tudi vsem vam za vse pokupljeno. Tudi stojnica z ročnimi deli je bila oblegana in marsikaj je našlo kupca. Še rožic ni manjkalo za prodajo; vsem prodajalkam in kupcem prav iskrena hvala za vse delo in kupčijo.

Hvala tudi vsem vam, ki ste prišli na piknik in dodali svoj prispevek za naše misijonarje, ki širom sveta pozabljajo nase in prinašajo veselje življenja v Kristusu-Bogu. Naj se nebeški blagoslov razgrinja nad vami vsemi, je naša iskrena želja!

V predzadnji *Ameriški domovini* je bilo objavljeno pismo pokojnemu očetu Petra Opeka, zdaj pa je prispelo pismo njegovega sodelavca g. Roka Gajška:

"Spoštovana! Oprostite, da prihaja potrdilo o prejemu daru tako kasno. Prilagam, da je Peter Opeka v redu prejel vaš dar, dar vaše MZA. Bog povrni za tako dragocen dar.

Prav iz srca se vam tudi zahvaljujem v imenu Jožeta Letonja. Dar ste poslali v Pariz. Jožeta Letonjo vam priporočam v molitev. Že eno leto je doma v Sloveniji, a je trenutno zelo hudo bolan (levkemija - krvni rak). Je v bolnici in ni izgledov, da bi premagal to zahrbtno bolezen.

Za Petra Opeka pa ste tudi verjetno zvedeli, da je v presledku dveh mesecev izgubil oba starša. Oče Alojz Opeka je umrl na Cvetni petek, 6. aprila, mama Marija Opeka roj. Marolt, pa sedaj 9. junija. Naj počiva v miru!

Peter je trenutno v Evropi. Bil je v Sloveniji, potem šel v Francijo. Te dni je v Monaku. Vrnil se bo za praznik sv. Petra in Pavla. Njega, vse njegove in vse družine Akamasoe vam toplo priporočam v molitev. S prav lepimi pozdravi, Rok Gajšek."

Ko vključujemo naše misijonarje in njihove soročnike v naših molitvah, vas prosim, da vključite tudi mojega moža Antona, ki je odšel po svoje plačilo 27. junija. Naj ga Nebeški Oče sprejme med svoje nebeščane!

Prav iskren misijonski pozdrav od vseh sodelujočih, in

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**CENE NIZKE
PO VAŠI ŽELJI!**

od ameriških sogovornikov dobil zagotovila, da se ZDA z območja ne nameravajo umakniti, sodelovale pa bodo tudi pri iskanju rešitve za status Kosova in dokončne rešitve za BiH.

Po Janševih besedah je eden od ključnih problemov vračanje beguncev, ki se ne uresničuje. Dokler to ne bo uresničeno, BiH ne bo dr-

žava, ki bi lahko obstajala kot samostojni subjekt in šla naprej v EU in NATO.

"Po naših ocenah bo vprašanje BiH zelo aktualno, ko bo dorečen status Kosova, in sicer zaradi zahtev, ki se pojavljajo v Srbiji po samostojnosti Republike srbske, in ker ustanove v BiH ne delujejo," je dejal Janša.