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The Fascinating City of Ljubljana

by LASZLO BUHASZ
Toronto Globe and Mail

On a sunny Friday afternoon recently, Slovenska, the Slovenian capital's main commercial street, was closed to traffic for four blocks so hundreds of high school students could celebrate their graduation.

Dressed in T-shirts emblazoned with "Matura," they blew whistles, performed a choreographed, kilometer-long dance and sang the national anthem while thousands of spectators clapped in encouragement. For the rest of the day, the dozens of outdoor cafes and restaurants that spill their tables onto Ljubljana's cobbled streets on both banks of the Ljubljanica River overflowed with newly minted graduates.

It was a scene that captured not only Slovenia's hopeful national pride but perfectly evoked the laid-back, youthful character of its small, attractive capital.

One of Europe's newer and smaller nations, Slovenia has its head in the towering Julian Alps to the north and its toe in the Adriatic Sea to the south. Roughly the size of Wales with a population of two million, it is nestled between Austria, Hungary, Italy and Croatia with geography that ranges from alpine highlands and lush fertile valleys to the karst lowlands of its 47-kilometer-long coast on the Istrian Peninsula.

Despite its attractions — as well as the brief flurry of attention it received in Western media when it was the site of the first face-to-face summit between George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin in 2001 — most North Americans would be hard-pressed to locate the country and its capital on a map.

Fortunately for savvy travelers, it has yet to register a significant blip on Western tourism's radar screens. While its admission recently to the European Union may usher in a greater number of tourists, the

country remains a perfect Central European destination for visitors tired of battling crowds and congestion of places such as Prague, Vienna and Budapest.

Slovenia escaped the clutches of a disintegrating Yugoslavia in 1991 after a 10-day "war of liberation" fought against a half-hearted attack by Belgrade's Serb-led army. Relatively untouched by the wave of violence and ethnic hatred that washed over the region for more than a decade, Slovenia's transition to independence and its reattachment to Western Europe was as natural as it was relatively painless.

Predominantly Roman Catholic, ethnically almost 90 per cent Slovenian and long controlled by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Slovenia was never comfortable being lumped in with the fractious Orthodox and Muslim Balkans to the south. Since the end of the Second World War, it was the most economically advanced of the six Yugoslav republics cobbled together by Josip Broz, better known as Tito.

By 1990, with only 8 per cent of the former Yugoslavia's population, it accounted for 20% of its gross domestic product, 29% of its exports and 25% of imports. Culturally cohesive, highly educated and economically progressive, Slovenians hit the road to nationhood at a running pace.

Ljubljana (meaning "beloved" in Slovenian and pronounced lyooblyah-na), with a population of about 270,000 augmented annually by some 30,000 university students, is by far the country's largest city and is the crucible of Slovenian history and the center of the country's political, economic and cultural affairs. Delightfully walk-able, easily explored in three or four days, its central location also makes it an ideal base for day trips to the country's other attractions.

Stroll through the old-quarter streets of this compact capital and the layers of

its modern history easily reveal themselves.

While human settlement here dates back to the Copper Age marsh dwellers — who were, in turn, followed by Illyrians, Celts, Romans and finally Slavs — the settlement became more widely known and firmly rooted after it came under the control of Austria's Hapsburg dynasty in the 14th century. Then known as Laibach (a name it would keep until 1918), it was turned by the Hapsburgs into an important trading center and fortified with a castle that managed to repel the Turks in the 15th century.

The city was leveled by an earthquake in 1511, and many of the pastel-colored churches and mansions a visitor sees today are examples of the baroque architecture that was in style during the period of rebuilding in the 17th and 18th centuries. New construction after another earthquake in 1895 contributed the handsome art nouveau buildings that survive, including the Grand Union Hotel and the facade of the Urbanc building.

During Hapsburg rule, Ljubljana became the center of emerging Slovenian nationalism, fueled by the works of poets and writers such as France Preseren, Ivan Cankar and Fran Levstik. In a country where poets are heroes, it's not sur-

prising that literature continues to thrive. Publishing houses turn out almost 2,000 new titles a year in the Slovenian language and some translated works are said to sell more copies here than they do in their original language.

Slovenia also claims to have more writers per capita than any other country in the world, even more than Iceland, a nation famous for the number of its scribblers.

"We all write poetry here," a university student told me. "We call it our national disease."

What better place then, to begin a walking tour of Ljubljana than Preseren Square?

The square, really a circular convergence of five roads, is dominated by the rose-colored facade of the 17th century Franciscan Church of the Annunciation and a large monument to Preseren, the country's most revered poet and nationalist hero. The heart of the city, it is the spot where the new city on the river's left bank reaches across to the old quarter below Castle Hill. From May to November, the steps at the base of the poet's statue, and the entire square for that matter, becomes a favorite hangout for the city's youth, and visiting backpackers.

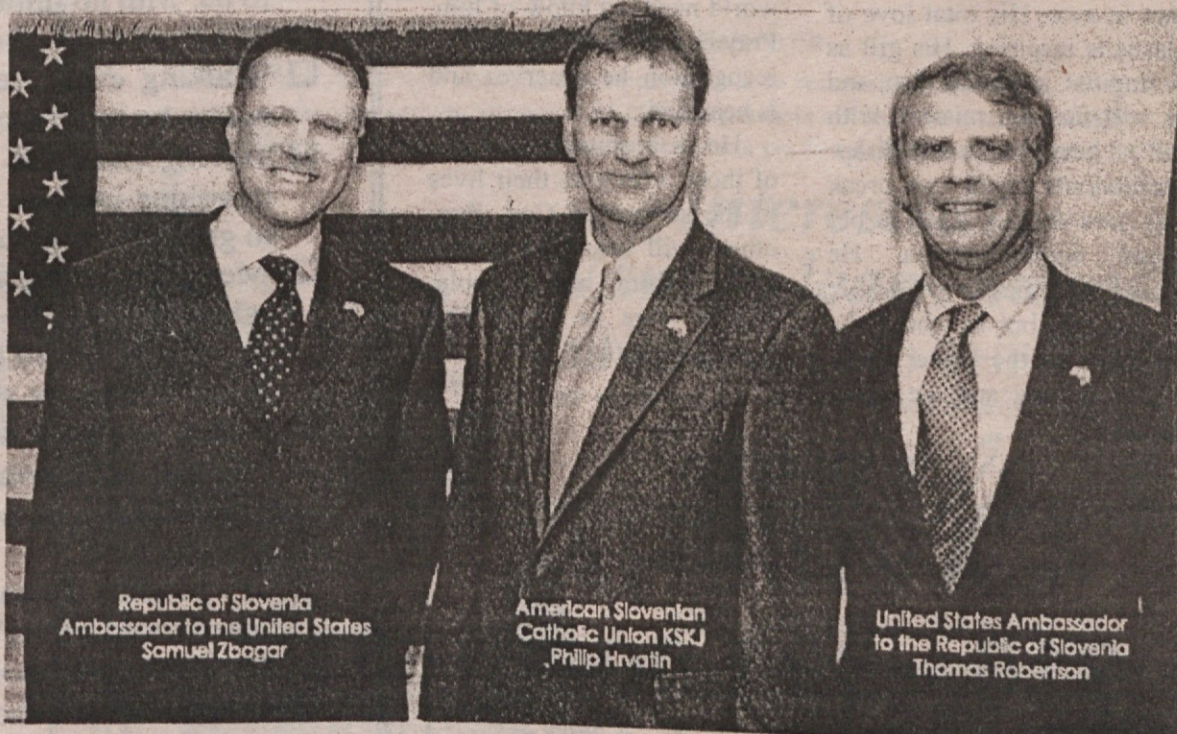
When the Preseren monument was unveiled in 1905, its proximity to the

church outraged the city's bishop. He called the statue "shameless," and demanded that the "lascivious" bare-breasted muse, hovering above the poet's head, be removed. To the city's credit, it wasn't.

From Preseren Square, you cross the Ljubljana on the Triple Bridge, the city's best-known landmark. An older bridge was remodeled in 1931 by Joze Plecnik, who widened it by adding two angled lateral bridges for pedestrian traffic. Plecnik, an architect and design genius little known outside Slovenia, was to Ljubljana what Gaudi was to Barcelona, leaving his mark on countless buildings, squares and boulevards throughout the capital. For architecture buffs, the local tourist office offers half-day walking tours to admire his secessionist, neoclassical and even Byzantine contributions to the cityscape.

One of Plecnik's better-known creations is the elegant, neoclassical Market Hall, a colonnaded covered market hugging the curving right bank of the river between the Triple and Dragon bridges. Housing a long series of meat and fish shops, bakeries, cafes and ice cream vendors, it faces Vodnikov Square, a bustling place filled with the stalls of produce, flower and craft vendors.

(Continued on page 3)



Republic of Slovenia
Ambassador to the United States
Samuel Zbogar

American Slovenian
Catholic Union KSKJ
Phillip Hrvatin

United States Ambassador
to the Republic of Slovenia
Thomas Robertson

Republic of Slovenia Ambassador to the United States Samuel Zbogar, left, United States Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia Thomas Robertson, right, and stockbroker Phil Hrvatin, center in Cleveland, Ohio on Friday, Sept. 17.

Printing Change

There will be NO American Home newspaper printed the first week of October — Thursday, Oct. 7.

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No. 37

September 23, 2004

REFLECTIONS BY RUDY

Saintly Bishop Baraga

by RUDY FLIS

A few weeks ago I received the "Baraga Bulletin" with all its instructions on Baraga Days this year. This issue had so many interesting articles about Bishop Baraga and his accomplishments; some very important occasions in this great missionary's life.

When finished with the Bulletin, I telephoned Elizabeth Delene and let her know the enjoyment I experienced from the articles I read. I promised her I would mention it and Baraga Days in the next issue of *American Home*. It's my hope Elizabeth is a forgiving soul. *Mea Culpa*.

When I read, when I think and when I write of this amazing servant of God, I am in awe. His total love of Jesus is inspiring. His gift as a linguist, a scholar also, and a will that his mission with all its heartbreaks and disappointments could not break his love for his flock is beyond comprehension. He could have had an easy life in Europe, but he chose the missions of the Upper Great Lakes region, and we know the rest.

On one of Bishop Baraga's return trips from Cincinnati to his missions, he went to Sandusky, Ohio to board a ship which went across the lakes. I often wonder if he traveled to what is now Rt. 4 through Ohio. Rt. 4 is very close to our Mother of Sorrows Shrine near Bellevue, Ohio and not all that far from Norwalk, Ohio where St. John Neumann once traveled. St. John Neumann came to America after reading about the experiences of Bishop Baraga.

Each time I travel Rt. 4 or cross it, I think of Bishop Baraga, the one who did such extraordinary acts of love for his flock. And I wonder, am I crossing the path he traveled for God?

What a wonderful example this man was and is. The world needs to know of him. Pray he may soon receive the recognition he deserves and is beatified.

He is a shining example of those who give their lives in the service of God. Pray others will hear of him and benefit from his example, and be sure to read "The Baraga Bulletin."

Jim's Journal

By Jim Debevec



Living during this time of modern conveniences (computers, remote controls, etc.), I found myself pumping my own gas. I wondered whatever happened to the wonderful gas station attendants who not only pumped the gas, but washed your windows, checked your oil and made sure you had air in your tires. They also knew about automobiles. You could ask them the most detailed questions about cars and they would give a well-informed answer. Today, there is only a cashier, who doesn't even know how to give directions to the airport, a mile away.

During these election times folks are wondering where all the jobs went. Well, they went everywhere else. I called a company about an erroneous bill. I couldn't understand a word the lady said. I inquired as to her whereabouts. She wouldn't tell me. Finally, after beating around the bush for a while, she admitted to being in Calcutta. Not Calcutta Street near Euclid Beach, but in Calcutta, India. Why am I talking to someone in India about a matter in Cleveland?

You call some company, you get an answering machine. Noting is so irritating as hearing, "If you know your party's number dial it now, if it's about a payment, dial 22, if it's about the

product, dial 34, if it's about service dial 99. I wait for an operator. After a while, I am disconnected. This is a modern convenience? Phooey.

Getting back to the service station. Notice they are listed as SERVICE stations, in the phone book, but offer NO service. You need a can of oil? Put it in yourself. The price of gas is going up to around \$2.00 a gallon because they claim there is a shortage of oil, and the demand is so great.

Fortunately, I know how to lower the price. Don't use so much gas, and the price will go down because then the supply will be greater than the demand.

How do you reduce the demand? Simple. - And here is where my Slovenian common sense comes into play - you either cut out most of the traffic lights, or synchronize them.

Day after day, I sit in front of a light, one of 10 to 20 cars in line, waiting for it to change. Waiting, waiting, waiting. How many cars cross through the intersection? Maybe one car, or none. You don't need a light there. Think of all the gas wasted by having your engine running while the car is not.

Do we need so many traffic lights? Absolutely not. As a reporter, I sat in city council meetings and saw how the traffic lights are deemed necessary. The mayor says, "We have a grant of \$40,000 from the state to put in a traffic light in our city."

A citizen stands up and says, "We don't need another light."

The mayor says, "If we don't spend this money, we

lose it."

Council passes the ordinance to put up an unneeded traffic light just so someone else doesn't get the money. And it is NEVER taken down.

Timing traffic lights is another positive move the cities throughout the United States could do. When I was young, my father used to brag he could drive from Five Points to work at E. 61st and St. Clair or all the way to downtown Cleveland without stopping for a light. What happened?

Two weeks ago I read an article in the paper from someone who complained about the bad timing of lights in his city. The engineer replied that they put up one extra traffic light and that threw the entire system out of kilter. But they said they would replace it as soon as possible, in over a year.

I drive through Rockefeller Park and admire the Slovenian Cultural Garden and the rest of the beautiful Cultural Gardens. All the green spaces and trees and stone walls make for a truly magnificent place, one of the most beautiful locations in the Nation. They were built by people from the time of the Depression and maintained to this day by caring people.

In a time of synthetic modern conveniences it is a genuine pleasure to realize there are still PEOPLE who cherish the beauty of this earth and the contentment of their fellow humans.

Thanks to all the people who genuinely care.

It's Cool To Be Slovenian!

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS

by John Mercina

U.S. Navy Psychiatrist's List of "Things that were good" about Iraq
(Received from a friend who knows the author)

- "Sunset over the desert...almost always orange"
- "Sunrise over the desert...almost always red"
- "Being allowed to be the kind of clinician I know I can be, and want to be, with no limits placed and no doubts expressed"
- "But most of all, the United States Marines, our patients"
- "Walking every day, and having literally every single person who passes by say 'Hoorah, Ma'am'"
- "Having them tell us, one after the other, through blinding pain or morphine-induced euphoria... 'When can I get out of here? I just want to get back to my unit'"
- "Meeting a young sergeant, who had lost an eye in an explosion...He asked his surgeon if he could open his other eye...When he did, he sat up and looked at the young Marines from his fire team who were being treated for superficial shrapnel wounds in the next room...He smiled, laid back down and said, 'I only have one good eye, Doc, but I can see my Marines are OK'"
- "My friends...some of them will be lifelong in a way that is indescribable"
- "My patients...some of them had courage unlike anything I've ever experienced before"
- "My comrades...some of the things witnessed will traumatize them forever, but still they provided outstanding care to these Marines, day in and day out, sometimes for days at a time with no break, for 7 endless months"

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Life in the Refugee Camps

1949

By Anton Zakelj, translated and edited by John Zakelj

(Continued from last week)

Saturday, June 25, 1949

Cilka still does some leather sewing for Copi, a nearby shoemaker. He sold me new soles so I could fix my own shoes, and changed me only 7 shillings (in the store I would have paid 22).

Sunday, June 26, 1949

I went walking in the woods this afternoon with Cilka and Janko. Janko ate wild strawberries with great pleasure.

Monday, June 27, 1949

We received a telegram from our friend Silva, that she will come visit us next Wednesday.

Rev. Roman (Malavasic) made us extra copies of our birth and wedding certificates. We have been waiting for emigration papers from the N.C.W.C. for 3 weeks now. Other people who do not have a sponsor like we do have already received their papers.

Wednesday, June 29, 1949

I got the mail distribution done by 11:15 and then newspapers by noon. In the afternoon, I took the train to Leoben to meet our friend Silva. She brought two suitcases full of wonderful things for us: potica, lard, cherries, pants for me, an outfit for Janko, and a dress for Cilka.

For the entire month, I received 355 shillings in tips for delivering mail. Although the job has no official pay, the tips add up to more than I could make if I had one of the camp jobs. Mrs. Cerar gave me more than anyone else, in the hope that I will deliver her mail first.

Cilka and I continue to use our income as before: 1/3 for immediate expenses; 1/3 for our families in Slovenia; and 1/3 for savings. We use much of our savings to buy lace that people make in the camp, because we think we will be able to sell the lace wherever we go.

Monday, July 4, 1949

At 1 p.m., we said farewell to the first refugees from our camp to leave for Chile. There were 216 in the group, including Anton Tisel and his wife Martina, and Jerič with his family.

Tuesday, July 5, 1949

Hundreds of new people arrived in our camp, all bound for Australia.

Wednesday, July 6, 1949

A large group - 542 people - left our camp today for Australia. There were many Slovenians among them, including Lakajnar, Soko and others.

Friday, July 8, 1949

This evening we went to a meeting in the Slovenian reading room. Rev. Malavasic had bad news for us. Very few of us will be allowed to go to America. Argentina will again begin accepting applications, but we don't know when.

We received a large gift of food and clothes from American Catholics. Rev. Malavasic and I were chosen to do the distribution.

Our friend Karl and his family went to Kapfenberg today to continue the application process for America.

(To Be Continued)

St. Mary's Benefit Dinner

St. Mary's (Collinwood) Altar Society benefit pork and chicken dinner will be held on Sunday, Oct. 3 in the new parish hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Remember, there are no steps to ascent or descend to get into this auditorium.

All are welcome.

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Ljubljana . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Flanking the square, opposite Market Hall, is the enormous Cathedral of St. Nicholas, named for the patron saint of the fishermen who once worked the river. It was built between 1701 and 1708 and the interior is an extravaganza of gilt and marble in the most ornate of baroque styles. The cathedral's two main entrances feature sculptured bronze doors created in 1996 to mark the 1,250th anniversary of Christianity in the country and were blessed by Pope John Paul II when he visited Slovenia that year.

From the cathedral, it's an easy walk to Town Hall on Mestni Square, one of the older squares in the city. Surrounded by grand houses once owned by the wealthiest local burghers and aristocrats, the square's focal point is the Fountain of the Carniolan Rivers symbolizing Slovenia's three main waterways: Ljubljana, Sava and the Krka. In the Town Hall itself, an arcaded courtyard is often a venue for art exhibitions and small concerts.

Between Mestni and Levstikov Square to the south, another cobbled square - really not much wider than a pedestrian street - is the heart of historic Ljubljana. Many of its old buildings now house cafes, restaurants, bars, jewelry stores and antique shops.

Each structure and narrow lane here seems to have a story and its worth going on a walking tour organized by the local tourist office to hear them. One of my favorites is the one about the ro-coco Schweiger House at No. 11A. The stone Atlas supporting its single balcony has a finger to his lips. Legend has it that it was to remind passersby that, in German, Schweiger - the name of its original owner - means a person who doesn't talk much.

Aside from this stretch, the most pleasant place to be on a sunny afternoon is at one of the outdoor tables on Cankarjevo, a riverside stretch on the right bank that seems to sprout a café or restaurant from every second building. It's a favorite haunt of the thousands of university students in the city.

On the new town side of the river, the winding paths of Tivoli Park provide a great place to take a morning walk. Filled with flowers and shaded by ancient oak trees the baroque mansion was once the palatial home of a Slovenian army field marshal. Today, it houses the International Center of Graphic Arts.

No visit to the city is complete without a climb to Ljubljana Castle, the dominant feature of the city. It has been built, destroyed and rebuilt since its construction began in the 12th century during the dominion of the Spanheim Carinthian dukes.

The castle's courtyard, with a café, gift shop and stage area, is often used for concerts and performances, and is one of many venues during the annual Ljubljana Summer Festival. In its 52nd season, this year's festival features a rendition of *Car-men* by Moscow's Helikon Opera Theater, concerts by the NKH Symphony Orchestra from Tokyo, and performances by artists ranging from Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu to American jazz musician Wynton Marsalis.

The castle watchtower is also an ideal place from which to appreciate the beauty of both the city and the surrounding countryside. The red-tile roofs of central Ljubljana fan out from below the hill to woody suburbs and the foothill valleys of the towering snow-tipped Julian Alps. From here it's easy to see why Slovenia has been called 'Europe in Miniature.'

Thanks to Cleveland attorney John Prince for submitting this article.

SWU Meeting

Members of SWU #25 will meet at St. Vitus Village on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 1:30 p.m.

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4 **Mrakar Walks Down Memory Lane**

by RAY MLAKAR

Well, as you may have guessed I am back only due to the fact that I keep my distance from Prancer and Dancer and the rest of Santa's herd. Looks like fall is back, but I guess that it can be attributed to the after effects of the Hurricane Ivan down south, but fortunately we have not had the devastating effect of the storm as they are going through. The southerners have had their share of tremendous losses.

Before I go on, it was good to see Carol Koritnik's recipe in the American Home last week. She gave readers her delicious secret Coconut Potica recipe. Carol is a fellow Slovenian and I see her at church every Sunday, and over the past year, from time to time she has brought me some of that delicious Coconut Potica for it goes without saying that you do not run into that kind of Slovenian pastry too often. It is especially good eaten while it is still warm. If you hold it for the next day, you can wrap it in foil and place it in a toaster oven for a fast warm-up and then it will taste like it just came from the oven. When it comes to the various poticas, nobody can beat the Slovenians.

It was sad to read in the paper that the Lorain, Ohio Slovenian Home was closing which is a difficult decision to make on their part for I am sure it has held a lot of memories for all the fellow Slovenians in that area, and as we look over the past, other Slovenian National Homes have closed also. Unfortunately, the old-timers are getting too old for the work involved in maintaining them and, the younger Slovenian generation fail to follow in their footsteps.

Well, time to get back to the column and back to the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Warrensville Township where I finished up my 33 years with the U.S. Government. It goes without saying that at times working with them, they were really trying on my nerves and I certainly have smoked my share of cigarettes, but yet as I look back and wonder how I ever go thru it all, I have to laugh at some of the antics for at times they were like the Three Stooges all wrapped up in one.

When I was assigned to that center from the Garfield Hts. Armory, they lost no time in giving me the added duties I had at the old Armory which varied from time to time. Aside from being responsible for the maintenance of the building, submitting work orders for the

various repairs, I also had to contend with the signing of contracts for the use of the facility by outsiders. But I guess that made me all more busy from day to day for even though it was a new facility, it seemed there was always repair job orders I had to submit to get things repaired. Most of the repairs was handled by a crew out of Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio.

It goes without saying that back then the Draft was on, and a lot of the young lads were joining the U.S. Army Reserve to refrain from getting drafted. Guess the biggest thorn in my side was seeing those ding-a-lings refrain from getting their hair cut. In a lot of cases they would wear hair nets or wear their hair in an up sweep under their fatigue caps. The one Saturday I sent one of those dudes up to the shopping center three times to get his hair cut and the third time I sent him up I said if he comes back without a close cut, I'm going to go up with him. Guess that did the trick.

Perhaps the second thorn in my side was the mess hall cooks. They were supposed to follow what was known as the Master Menu. But they always tried to cook something that was not much work. They had their own Army Field Ranges to cook on, but they tried quite often to use the Center's facilities in which we had a regular stove.

One day they were going to have baked potatoes and by chance I happened to pass the Center's kitchen and I noticed they had a chair propped up against the oven door and I went in to see why. I pulled the chair away and the oven door flew open and out rolled well over a bushel of whole potatoes wrapped in tin foil. I said, "You can't do that. The civilian stove was not meant to shove well over a bushel of potatoes into. Understand?" For some reason, they just did not like the idea of using the Army field range and they found themselves a 55 gallon drum they sawed in two and loaded with charcoal and threw the potatoes in there.

"Lord are you listening? These kids need help." They said, "Ah, what's the difference Mrakar, as long as the potatoes get baked." I got news for you cool cats, the regular army bases don't cook or bake using 55 gallon steel drums cut in half. I asked them, "Do you think the cooks at Fort Knox, Fort Eustis, Fort Leonard Wood cook on 55-gallon steel drums?"

Back in those days, we

were appropriated a certain amount of funds to purchase the food we were to use on the weekend drills. They were to purchase them from regular supermarkets, but the Warrant Mess Officer we had always preferred to buy from Kroger's, and I soon found out why. It seems that whenever you purchased five dollars worth of groceries, you got a free dish and within a year they had loads and loads of blue and white dishes. I told the commander that if we ever get a surprise inspection from one of the staff out of Columbus and they seen the men eating out of blue and white China dishes instead of metal mess gear, we would have a lot of explaining to do.

Well, that ended the China deal. It seems that only created more problems for they did not want to eat out of metal mess gear and would skip out of their meals to go to the nearby fast food restaurants and invariably take a much longer lunch hour than called for.

Unfortunately, we did not have a Catholic chaplain assigned to our battalion and so we had to let the men go to the Catholic civilian church up the road and most of them did not want to ride in a two-and-a-half-ton truck and would drive their own cars to church.

Although the church was just a mile or two away, when they left you could kiss them goodbye until after lunch. I told the commander that could not be tolerated for they were missing too much of the training. After a few months, it was worked out with the support group to have their Catholic Chaplain come to our drill to hold Sunday-Mass. We did have a Protestant Chaplain assigned but for some reason there were not many who attended his services, even though he was a fine chaplain. Invariably he would sit at my desk and tell me his problems and I would tell him mine which all had to do with the Reservists. He'd always pat me on the back and say, "Ray, God never promised that the road to heaven would be

smooth." I guess we all have to do penance.

Will, I will continue on them in the future, for their antics never seemed to let up, but now it is time for a few jokes. I might add that I received this joke by express mail. (computer from my fellow brother Mrakar in Erie, PA.)

A lady walks into a drug store and tells the pharmacist she needs some cyanide. The pharmacist said, "Why in the world would you need cyanide?" The lady explained she needed it to poison her husband. That's against the law. I'll lose my license;

they'll throw us both in jail and all kinds of bad things will happen, the pharmacist said. "I cannot sell you cyanide."

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife. The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "Well now, why didn't you tell me you had a prescription."

With that, it is time to say Auf Wiedersein, but in the meantime may the Good Lord bless and watch over all of you and keep you in good health, which is our greatest asset.

David Kushner Admitted to Deaconate

Congratulations to Mr. David Kushner, St. Mary's (Collinwood) parishioner who is a second-year member of the Deaconate Formation Program for the Diocese of Cleveland. On Saturday, Sept. 25, at 6 p.m., in Holy Family Church in Parma.

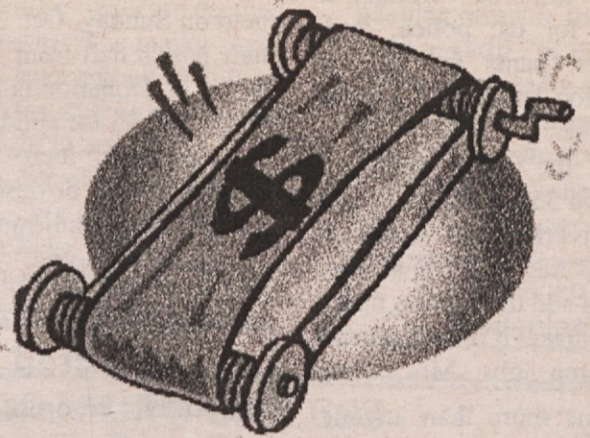
David will be formally admitted to Candidacy. That is the first formal step in David's preparation for the

Sacred order of Deacon. By this Rite, the Church officially recognizes that he has completed the first year of preparation and both he and the church agree to his continued formation toward his deaconate ordination, which will take place in three years.

Congratulations to David, his wife, Marie, and sons Matthew and Sam.

--St. Mary's Church Bulletin

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Review of Metod Milac Book

Resistance, Imprisonment, and Forced Labor: A Slovene Student in World War II (Studies in Modern European History, Vol. 47) by Metod M. Milac

Book review by
MICHAEL F. ANTOLIN

FORT COLLINS, COLO.
-I give this book 5 stars.

The holocaust in Europe during the years of World War II, from 1939 to 1945, resulted in the deaths of approximately 50 million people, most of them civilians. Some of this is approximate because the killings began earlier and continued after these dates, with many of the names and places forgotten. That this tragedy befell millions of Jews is well known, that political prisoners of the Nazis were placed in concentration camps and left to starve is well known, and the "collateral damage" to civilians from bombs and bullets gone astray (or not) is mostly accepted.

What seems to have been forgotten is that these were in fact people who had families, hopes, dreams, and aspirations, and that the affected peoples were of virtually all nationalities in Axis-occupied Europe. This memoir by Metod Milac, which describes how he survived WWII in Slovenia (then part of Yugoslavia), reminds us that the holocaust of WWII created civilian victims of terror that came during the night, uprooted them, and left them to fend for themselves as best they could.

This riveting book describes the life of a boy who was 17 years of age in 1941 when the German armies invaded his home in the alpine region of northern Slovenia where it borders Austria. The narrative ends 10 years later with his emigration from the displaced persons camps in southern Austria to the United States in 1950.

I have to admit to being more than a casual reader, as my parents and other relatives similarly left Slovenia and came to Canada and America after the war. Many relatives survived the war and stayed in Slovenia, and their tales echo those told by Milac. I have heard scattered bits of the stories of Italian concentration camps where political prisoners starved (e.g., my father), students being expelled from closed universities (both parents), men shipped off to forced labor camps in Germany (uncles on both sides of the family), starvation (all of them), and executions of political opponents by the vicious communist Partisans

(my grandfather).

In Milac's book, I read these events described in vivid detail, with memories of places and people enhanced by painstaking research. The young Milac had

the misfortune of being caught in all of these: deportation from his home by German occupiers, laboring for the Partisans in the hilly regions of southeastern Slovenia, surviving an Italian concentration camp on the isle of Rab in the Adriatic, imprisonment by the Gestapo and forced labor in the Auschwitz death camp in Poland (where the murders were rumored, but not known until after the war), and the brutal execution of his older brother Ciril along with more than 12,000 other refugees from southern Austria when the British army "repatriated" them into the hands of the Partisans in May of 1945, after the Nazis surrendered.

In many ways, this is an awful tale. But Milac has a flair both for gruesome details and for seeing the best in people he met or came to know. For instance, he describes the lice, bedbugs, dysentery, and damp cold of his prisons. But he also describes the humanity and decency that somehow failed to be extinguished by the misery. Love of music provides a thread that weaves together and raises up these people caught in the direst of circumstances.

I was constantly struck by

the chance meetings that transported Milac into and out of his various troubles. The most memorable character is his friend Hinko

Spendl, who leads a ragtag group out of Poland back to Slovenia by a highly improbable route. The description of a young family starving in eastern Poland, where the Slovenian fugitives find shelter and leave the last of their bread, again reminds us that in war the youngest suffer the most.

The book is also published in the native Slovenian language, under the title "Kdo solze nase posusi: Dozivljaji slovenskega dijaka med drugo svetovno vojno" (Who dries our tears: adventures of a Slovenian student during the Second World War). This title points to one of the Slovenes' most abiding traits: their deep Slavic sentimentality. But this memoir reads like an adventure. The story is alive, without rank sentimentality, without self pity, and mostly without condemnation of individuals.

Nonetheless, Milac reminds us that at least some of the misery suffered by Slovenes was perpetrated by other Slovenes, and that unleashing the hounds of hell in war inevitably causes civilian bystanders to suffer, intentionally or not. Lasting peace and justice will require the dogged determination of humanity to rise above this plight. Milac's book shows us that determination.

A Prayer for our National Elections

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord,
Not only of individuals, but of nations and governments.

We thank you for the privilege
Of being able to organize ourselves politically
And of knowing that political loyalty
Does not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law,
Which our Founding Fathers acknowledged
And recognize as higher than any human law.

We thank you for the opportunity that this election year puts
before us,

To exercise our solemn duty not only to vote,
But to influence countless others to vote,
And to vote correctly.

Lord we pray that your people may be awakened.
Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation,
Their response to you requires that they be politically active.

Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a
sect fleeing the world.

But rather a community of faith renewing the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

--Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

For further information, go to ww.priestsforlife.org

Submitted by Tony Lavrishia

Animals in the wild are always off on some errand. They have appointments to keep. It's only we humans who wonder what we're here for.

--Bob Mills

Roast Beef

Mom's roast beef is the best in the whole world, and I'm not just saying it because she is my mother. My friends have begged for her to make it for them (they offer to work for food!). Again, it isn't the ingredients necessarily, but the technique.

Ingredients:

Square cut beef or rump roast
Onions
Celery (optional)
Carrots (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste
Flour and cold water for gravy



Kim Ann

Directions:

The secret to making the best roast beef is in the browning of the meat. You need literally to brown each side until it is almost burned (this seals the meat and gives you the base for the gravy). Add the onions and other optional vegetables, and keep adding water, as it browns. When all sides are browned, cover and put into the oven at 350 for about 2 hours (estimate for a 4-5 lb. roast).

When you take the meat out, let the roast cool slightly on a platter before slicing.

To make the gravy, heat the drippings and whatever vegetables are in the pan until they boil. Stir in the cold water and flour mixture to thicken, stirring constantly until it boils and thickens. Mom always then sliced the beef and returned it to the pan in the gravy. Serve with mashed potatoes or on sandwiches with relish.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh

Our Family and Friends Recipes



Slovenian Potato Salad

5 lbs. red skin potatoes
2 small onions chopped
Parsley chopped (to give the salad color)
Salt and pepper to taste
Crisco oil
Wine vinegar to taste

Cook potatoes with skins. Drain. Peel off skins and slice. Add remaining ingredients. Mix and refrigerate overnight.

--Emilee Jenko

Euclid, OH



Getting a Car Loan

Before going to Europe, a businessman drove his Rolls Royce to a downtown New York bank and went in to ask for an immediate loan of \$5,000. The loan officer, taken aback, requested collateral and so the man said, "Well then, here are the keys to my Rolls Royce." The loan officer promptly had the car driven into the bank's underground parking for safe keeping and gave him \$5,000.

Two weeks later the man walked through the bank's

doors and asked to settle up his loan and get his car back. "That will be \$5,000 in principal and \$15.40 in interest," the loan officer said. "While you were gone I found out you are a millionaire. Why in the world would you need to borrow \$5,000?"

The man smiled. "Where else can I park my Rolls Royce in Manhattan for two weeks and pay only \$15.40!"

We thank Philip Hrvatin for this chuckle.

Dr. Zenon A. Klos

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Big Polka Event in Girard

Dear polka lover,

On October 16, a historic event is going to be held at the Avon Oaks Ballroom in Girard, Ohio. The Avon Oaks Ballroom has promoted polka music for the last 53 years. It is now 100 years-old and an unforgettable night of music, dancing, entertainment and memories is being planned to celebrate its birthday.

Blast from the past. Built in 1904, the Avon Oaks Ballroom was the crown jewel of the former Avon Park Amusement Company. The dance pavilion, as it was first known, was extensively remodeled in 1950-1951, re-opening on April 4, 1951 as The Avon Oaks Ballroom. The Steve Garchar Orchestra played that night.

The SNPJ Golden Eagle Lodge 643 of Girard, Ohio had several noteworthy events at this site. On July 4, 1941 they held the Second Annual Ohio SNPJ Day at the Avon Park dance hall as it was then known. 3,600 people attended the dance/picnic. Two orchestras, eight hours of dancing, numerous accordion players, and nine busloads of polka music fans from out of town were in attendance. Frank Zeitz, chairman of the SNPJ supervisory committee, was the main speaker at this event. In 1964, Girard hosted the record-breaking National SNPJ Bowling Tournament. The Saturday night social dance was held at the Avon Oaks Ballroom with attendance topping 600.

Throughout the past 53 years the Avon Oaks Ballroom has been the place to go on a Wednesday or Sunday night. Polka and waltz music has been provided by the best bands in the Akron, Canton, Youngstown and Pittsburgh areas. Pecan, Vadnal, Spetich, Zagger, Bass, Champa, Umeck, Kobal, Trontel, Fedor-

chak, Sinchak and Vallos have put smiles on the faces of guests. The list goes on and on. So many great dancers doing what they love best on the best dance floor in the country.

The ballroom is currently for sale and who knows what the future holds for this historic building. When it sells, it may be used for anything but a dance hall.

So many young people met their life partners dancing at the Oaks. Others have become inseparable friends. So many good times. Will there be many more?

Will it remain a ballroom or will it be used as a church? Maybe it will be divided into offices or used as an antique market, no one knows.

However, what we do know is on October 16, a 100th birthday celebration will take place. Bob Kravos and The Boys In The Band will play from 8:00 to midnight.

Bob's saxophone/clarinet player is Norm Kobal who played at the Avon Oaks on April 6, 1951, two days after its grand opening. Norm played in his father's band, Stan Kobal and The Airliners. Making a special appearance will be button box accordionist extraordinaire Jake Zagger of Hermitage, PA.

In addition to the polkas and waltzes, the Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Youngstown will showcase 100 years of dances done on the wonderful maple dance floor.

This truly will be a Blast from the Past. Don't miss it. For information or table reservations phone 330-545-2454.

--Frank Macek
Girard, OH

Coming Events...

Sept. 24-26

Bishop Baraga Days, L'Anse-Baraga area of Michigan.

Friday, Sept. 24

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., featuring Eric Noltkamper.

Saturday, Sept. 25

Newburgh Slovenian National Home #2, 3563 E. 80th St., Cleveland Moonlight Bowling, 7 p.m. Donation \$25 couple which includes bowling, prizes and full meal. Reservations call Tony at (440) 243-4062 or Katie (440) 842-9218.

Wednesday, Sept. 29

First Slovenian Sausage Festival, 1 - 8 p.m. at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, OH. \$6 advance; \$7 at door. Nine polka bands. Tickets at Polka Hall of Fame Gift Shop, 605 E. 222 St., Euclid, OH.

Friday, Oct. 1

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland (216) 941-3224, from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., featuring Tony Fortuna.

Sunday, Oct. 3

Slovenian Women's Union of America presents Slovenian Heritage Festival at SNPJ Farm on Heath Rd., Kirtland, OH. An 11:30 a.m. Polka Mass with Fr. Pizmoht and the Joey Tomsick Orchestra. Festival from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Advance \$2, at gate: \$3. Children under 12 admitted free.

Sunday, Oct. 3

San Francisco Slovenian Grape Festival 12 noon to 7 p.m. at Slovenian Hall (2101 Mariposa St.).

Sunday, Oct. 3

Dinner sponsored by St. Mary (Collinwood) Altar Society from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 children under 12. All welcome.

Sunday, Oct. 3

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, 21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid, OH Festival with food, prizes, games.

Wed., Oct. 6

Slovenian Pensioners of Euclid holds Poor Man's Reverse Raffle at Recher Slovenian Home. Doors open 12 noon, lunch at 1 p.m. Grand prize \$500. Plus entertainment. For tickets \$10.00 call (216) 486-3522 or (440) 449-5643.

Friday, Oct. 8

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland (216) 941-3224, from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., featuring Bob Kravos.

Sunday, Oct. 10

Koline dinner (Retirees of Slovenska Pristava.)

Sunday, Oct. 10

Collinwood Slovenian Home Musicfest honoring Fred Ziwich. Festivities be-

gin at 1 p.m. Free admission.

Friday, Oct. 15

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland (216) 941-3224, from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., featuring Fred Ziwich.

Saturday, Oct. 16

Sweetest Day Anniversary Dance, Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair. Doors open 6 p.m. Buffet dinner. Music by Jeff Pecon Orchestra. \$30 couple. (\$3 discount with copy of wedding photo).

Saturday, Oct. 16

St. Lawrence Alumni & Friends Reunion Dance. Mass 5:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church celebrated by Bishop A. Edward Pevec. Slovenian Home doors open at 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets \$7, at door \$8. Music by Joe Novak and Friends from 6:30 to ? Reservations call (216) 475-7946 or (440) 243-0312, or (216) 341-6136

Saturday, Oct. 16

100th anniversary dance at Avon Oaks Ballroom in Girard, Ohio featuring Bob Kravos and The Boys in The Band from 8 to midnight. For information call 330-545-2454.

Sunday, Oct. 17

St. Mary's School Alumni (Collinwood) Annual Banquet following 12 noon Mass.

Friday, Oct. 22

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland (216) 941-3224, from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., featuring Eddy Rodick.

Friday, Oct. 22

Alpine Evening at St. Mary's Parish Community Center featuring Gregor Avsenik and the Ansambel Gregorji from Begunje (Gorenjska), Slovenia beginning 7 p.m. Kitchen features wienerschnitzel sandwiches. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 students.

Saturday, Oct. 23

Stajerski - Prekmurski Klub Veselo Martinovanje, 6:30 p.m., Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave. New generation band. For tickets call 440-256-6716 or (216) 531-4817.

Sunday, Oct. 24

Newburgh Slovenian Home, E. 80th St., Annual Clambake catered by Maple Hts. Catering. Serving 2 - 4 p.m. Music by Joe Novak 4 - 7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 24

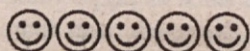
Bethlehem, PA Annual Heritage Day, 1:30 p.m. in social hall of St. Joseph's R.C. Church, 417 E. 5th St.

Friday, Oct. 29

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland (216) 941-3224, from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., featuring Wayne Tom-

HAPpy

News



Fall weather seems to agree with people, we had a good turn-out! There were 179 HAPpy "youngsters" present, chatting up a storm.

Our guest speaker Eva Bradley, RN, BSN, CDE, spoke on diabetes: signs, symptoms, and coping methods. There is no cure yet, but the disease CAN be slowed down, or even prevented. Very interesting topic. And the nice lady paid NO attention to our pastry-laden snack table.....

After Pledge of Allegiance, we quietly said farewell to Frank Robinson, late Gus Petelinkar's brother-in-law; and Caroline Stefancic, a very vibrant personality. May they both rest in God's peace.

Ann Eichler sent cheery cards to Vida Hoffert, Caz Kozinski, and Angeline Kuhel. Get well soon, friends, you are missed! Vida is now residing at Gateway Nursing Home, and will be glad to have visitors.

Numerous birthday people were serenaded with melodious "Happy Birthday". Wishing you many, many more!

Happy Anniversary was sung to Lillian and John Dombrowski, 54 Yrs; Fran and Matt Kajfez, 50 yrs; June and Frank Kalamasz, 57 yrs; Evelyn and Mike Pipoly, 34 yrs; Alba and John Plutt, 54 yrs; Vida and Tom Schied, 45 yrs; and Jennie and Carl Schultz, 56 yrs. There was some serious smooching going on.....

Thanks again to Myra Jerkic and this month's helper Bill Wujnovich, for running the 50/50 raffle, and doing a great

job. Myra will be off for a while; she's having her dancing feet adjusted. Best wishes for you health, Myra!

Fran Kajfez reminded people about trip deadlines. Amish tour is straight ahead; we gather at C.E. Orr arena at 7:45 AM. Seneca-Allegheny trip for Oct. 19, is filled, but as always, there is a waiting list. That trip is truly a great deal. There are a few (3) places available for the Nashville trip. Better call Fran right away!

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers for 2005-2006 term. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the October meeting. Election will be held in November. There is a new candidate for the treasurer this year: Louise Fujda really decided to "retire", after many years of terrific service to the club. What an example to follow!

Speaking of elections: make sure you are registered to vote, and then exercise your right (and the PRIVILEGE), and VOTE! If you don't vote, then don't gripe.

We'll be entertained by Bob and Shelly Orlandi in November, sponsored by George Knaus. Thanks, George, we can all use a laugh.

Make a note on your calendar: our December party is on the 1st Wednesday, December 1, the only day we could persuade Julie Zalar to cook for us. Happy days are here again!!!!!!

Abyssinia.

Good ol' HAP.

For those who are pessimistic about the economy, I say, "Don't be economic girly men."

--Arnold Schwarzenegger



Beverly Valencic Seeks Seat in Ohio House District 7

Beverly Valencic was born and raised in Collinwood and Euclid. She was educated at Beaumont School, Miami and Bowling Green State Universities, and was a doctoral candidate in urban education at Cleveland State University.

Her friends say she is "driven." Others refer to her high level of motivation. Some call her a "doer," a "mover and shaker," one who is always where "it is happening." A recent Plain Dealer article cited her as "out and about." Another adjective can be added to her name, "Doctor" - a Doctor in Education, that is, having earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Education after serving 32 years as a public school educator.

Beverly is of Slovenian descent, the daughter of the well known active Slovenian immigrant Steve Valencic and his wife, Shirley.

Beverly attended Memorial School in Cleveland for kindergarten. The following schools completed her elementary education: St. Peter's (Cleveland), St. Williams (Euclid), and St. Jerome's (Cleveland).

Dr. Valencic graduated from Beaumont School for Girls in 1969. Her college experience began at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Terre Haute, Indiana. She graduated in 1972 from Miami University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. In 1974 She completed her Masters degree in Education from Bowling Green State University.

Dr. Valencic started her educational career as a French and Social Studies teacher in Tiffin, Ohio. She continued her teaching career in Marietta, Ohio, serving as a school counselor. Her career took the pathway

to Sterling, Illinois, where she returned to the classroom teaching French and Social Studies and began working in the Special Education field of the Gifted and Talented.

When Dr. Valencic returned to the Cleveland area she served in the capacity as a Gifted Supervisor for the Cuyahoga County Educational Service Center in the school districts of Brooklyn and Independence. Beverly was hired by the Euclid City Schools as an Assistant Principal at Forest Park Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary. Dr. Valencic was principal at Euclid's Glenbrook Elementary.

In 1999 Dr. Valencic joined the team of educators in the mayor controlled school system, the Cleveland Municipal School District. Beverly served in the roles of Director, Principal, and Counselor. She currently is the Dean of Students at Forest Hills Parkway School.

Dr. Valencic also adds the title of politician to her resume. In 1999 she was elected as City Councilwoman at Large for the City of Euclid.

Prior to her council tenure, Dr. Valencic was appointed Commissioner by former Mayor Paul Oyaski, to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Euclid.

Her political career is not over. Beverly is a candidate for the House of Representatives, District 7, representing the communities of Euclid, South Euclid, Richmond Heights, and the Collinwood area of Cleveland.

If you are a resident of these communities, Beverly asks for your support and vote on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2nd so that she may represent you in the Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

First Slovenian Sausage Festival

At last, you can answer whose Slovenian sausage is the best.

The Polka Hall of Fame's fall fund-raiser is a Slovenian Sausage Festival from 1 to 8 p.m., on Wednesday, Sept. 29 at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio.

Seven popular sausage makers will participate in the contest, and have their sausages sizzling at the Festival. The sausage shopkeepers are: Bill Azman, Frank Azman, Euclid Meats and Sausage Co., Krizman Meats, Maple Heights Catering, Old World Meats, and Raddell Sausage Co.

Tickets for the festival are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door. Each ticket purchaser will receive a ballot for his or her favorite sausage. The sausage maker with the most votes will be named the "People's Choice" winner.

In addition, five prominent people will serve as judges for two prizes. "Best of the Sausage Fest," and "Runner Up in Best of the Sausage Fest." The judges will conduct a taste test to determine the winner.

Each of the sausage companies will operate a food booth, so there will be a variety of delicious morsels for sale. A

sample plate of each of the sausages in the contest will be available at a nominal cost.

Home-baked strudels and pastry will be part of the festival, too.

Nine bands are on the entertainment schedule, with some great sounds. Tony Trontel and Jake Zagger will have a reunion band of the former Trontel-Zagger orchestra; the New Generation band with Dan Wojtila, Tony Klepec, Jr., and Bo; Eddie Vallus band; Lifetime Achiever Sam Pugliano and his orchestra; Ken Zalar and the Captain's Crew; Frankie Spetich and Magic City Showcase; The Buttonaires; the Northern Ohio Players; and an All Star band featuring Gaylord Klancnik and Ron Sluga.

Wayne Tomsic, chairman of the festival, is in charge and always does a super job of coordinating the food, music and details.

SNPJ is located off Route 6, three miles east of Route 306 on Heath Road.

The Polka Hall of Fame Gift Shop is located at 605 East 222nd Street has tickets for sale. For more information phone (216) 261-3263.

30th Slovenian Arts and Crafts

Everyone is invited to participate in our annual Art and Craft Show on Sunday, Nov. 14 at the Slovenian Society Home, lower hall, at 20713 Recher Avenue in Euclid, Ohio. Show hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with setups starting about 10 a.m.

Most exhibitors will have items for sale, but we also encourage those who only wish to have displays or to

demonstrate.

This show is open to everyone, members and non-members. There is NO fee for current members. Non-members pay \$10.

This year the show is being held the same day as SNPJ Circle 2's Fall Concert which is being held in the Upper Hall.

Refreshments will be served. No admission fee.

Show me a piano falling down a mine-shaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.

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8 Some Thoughts on the Elections...

Editor,

Normally, political campaigns shift into high gear in September. This year, however, the campaigns shifted into high gear months ago, especially for President of the United States and, in some states that have hotly contested races, the United States Senate. Why is there this extraordinary expense in money and time and effort?

The political pundits indicate that the economy, the war in Iraq, terrorism, gay marriage, and several other minor issues are the reason. The underlying reality is that it is a spiritual battle for the heart and soul of our nation.

America is in a state of rapid moral decline. Ten years ago, gay marriage was unimaginable. Twenty years ago, a sexually transmitted disease epidemic was unimaginable. Thirty years ago, 40 million abortions were unimaginable. Forty years ago, a 50% divorce rate was unimaginable. Fifty years ago, a casino outside of Las Vegas was unimaginable.

Clothing fashions are in a slow strip tease. A teen clothing vendor's catalogue went so far as to use nude models. Too many television commercials during sports events are nothing more than smut. Family friendly programs on TV are rare. Some video games promote evil. For example GRAND THEFT AUTO video game is about the player picking

up a prostitute, having sex with her, and then beating her to death with a baseball bat. This is a best selling game for children. In the United States, since 1996, at schools such as Columbine, Colorado, 46 students have been killed by fellow students and scores more wounded. Conscience and character are lacking in the marketplace as many employees of Enron, WorldCom, and other bankrupt corporations discovered.

Why is America in a state of moral decline? The reasons are numerous, and many are self-evident if we simply look around us and at ourselves. But there is another dimension to the matter - a spiritual one.

Imagine a spiritual dimension where there are two armies: an army of darkness representing evil and an army of light representing good. Unseen to us, they are waging a war. The forces battle back and forth. Presently, the forces of darkness are pushing back the forces of light. Why? How could that be? Isn't God in control?

Remember, however, that man has a free will. And, as goes the war in our lives, so goes the war in the heavens. Consider also the time spent praying and fasting. Compare it to the time spent entertaining ourselves. Is it a reasonable ratio? Are the forces of light getting the ammunition they need from

us to fight the war? The forces of darkness, on the other hand, are getting plenty of ammunition from us at the present time.

Blood sacrifices - the offering of an animal or human for spiritual intervention - have been part of the human tradition from time immemorial, whether it was a pagan rite such as the Aztecs offering human sacrifice or Abraham offering animals. In the Christian tradition, Jesus, God made man, was the only adequate blood sacrifice for our sins. By doing so, he ensured the final victory. Before the Final Judgment, however, the forces of darkness want to capture as many souls as they can. What sacrifice, then, empowers the forces of darkness? Would a human being, made in the image of God, be an adequate blood sacrifice? Would an unborn baby aborted for the purpose of birth control, aborted for the purpose of economics, aborted for the purpose of vanity, or aborted for the purpose of inconvenience be an adequate blood sacrifice to the forces of darkness?

How much power have the forces of darkness received from 40 million aborted babies in America? The evil can be measured by its fruit - the state of our moral culture.

Therefore, isn't the most important issue in this election abortion? And who controls abortion? The Supreme Court of the United States controls abortion. Some members of the Supreme Court are 84 and 79, and it is likely that in the next four years they will retire. Who appoints judges of the Supreme Court? The President of the United States appoints the judges of the Supreme Court "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate." And that is why this election is so important to elect a President and Senators who will appoint judges to the Supreme Court that respect human life by banning abortions.

Accordingly, please fast, pray the novena composed by Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life, register to vote, and vote to do God's will.

--Anton M. Lavrishia
Cleveland, Ohio

The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts life.

--William James

Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist but the ability to start over.

--F. Scott Fitzgerald

It does not take much strength to do things, but it requires great strength to decide what to do.

--John Mercina

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Sweetest Day Anniversary Dance

The Friends of the Slovenian National Home invites you to a special dance in honor of all past brides and grooms who were married in the Slovenian National Home. This event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 16.

This dance should bring back a lot of happy memories to all individuals and couples who celebrated their special day at our hall.

This dance is an invitation to all who may wish to join us on Sweetest Day.

To make this event even more memorable, invite your bridal party to join you and make this an extra happy celebration, one you will remember for years to come.

Doors open at 6 p.m. A light buffet dinner will be served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dance to the music of Jeff Pecon Orchestra. Cash bar.

Ticket prices include the light buffet and are as follows:

\$30 per couple or

\$27 per couple with a photocopy of wedding picture.

\$15 per person or

\$13.50 per person with a photocopy of wedding picture.

Please make your reservations in advance and include a photocopy of wedding so your picture will become a part of our Decades of Wedding Picture Collage that will be on display.

Also special prizes will be awarded for different categories, such as longest married, largest bridal party, couple with most children. Please note the year of your wedding.

Make your check payable to: Friends of Slovenian National Home and mail to: 6409 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103. For more information call (216) 361-5115.

Come and join your Friends for a fun-filled evening on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Dreams come true; without that possibility, nature would not incite us to have them.

--John Updike

Slovenian Women at US Tennis Open

by **KATARINA TEPEŠH**

NEW YORK, NY – At the US Open 2004 Tennis Tournament in New York, five women represented the Republic of Slovenia. They are **Tina Pisnik, Katarina Srebotnik, Tina Krizan, Mima Jausovec, and Ana Jerman**. During the opening ceremony, the Slovenian flag was flying in the wind carried by the color guards. "America the Beautiful" was followed by fireworks. The tournament lasted two weeks, from Aug. 30 - to Sept. 12.

Katarina Srebotnik won the 2003 US Open Mixed Doubles Championship. This year Katarina suffered some injuries and her rank dropped in Singles to No. 75. She also wanted to focus on Singles competition and therefore avoided competing in Mixed Doubles. Katarina reached the 2nd round in Women's Doubles and the 2nd round in Singles. She earned \$25,000 for playing in Singles and \$15,000 for Doubles. Her total career prize money exceeds \$1,450,369 for 23-year-old Katarina.

During the tennis match against Italian Silvia Farina Elia ranked No. 19, Katarina lost the match. She had 7 double faults in comparison to Silvia's 1. There were 21 unforced errors for Katarina versus 11 from Silvia. From tennis diehard fans there were shouts of encouragement "Come-on Katarina" but a lot more "bravissima" for Silvia.

Tina Pisnik, is ranked No. 51, the highest among Slovenian tennis players this year. During 2004 she earned \$105,903 plus \$14,000 at the US Open. 23-year-old Pisnik played in Single competition only and lost in the 1st round against American Jill Craybas 2-6 and 1-6.

Tina Krizan competes in Women's Doubles only. Krizan reached the 3rd round and earned \$25,000. Born in Maribor in 1974, Krizan's easy smile and friendly manner makes her the most popular and adored among tennis fans. Her close friend Blake Spahn brought a contingent of family and friends to root for Krizan. Blake is learning the Slovenian language and loves to practice given an opportunity. "Je dobro, samo Slovenska gramatika je zelo teska... Slovenian language is fine, except for the difficult grammar," he says.

Among Krizan fans were **Marino Belich** and his son **Justin** from Massachusetts. Born in Slovenia, Belich

lived in Italy for 10 years before moving to the Bronx.

What is new in Slovenia concerning tennis? According to Krizan, the Slovenian Tennis Association will establish an international tennis tournament in **Portoroz** next year.

This year's US Open purse tops \$17.75 million and will potentially exceed more than \$19 million – the highest purse in sports as the top three men's and women's finishers in the US Open Series may earn up to an additional \$1.3 million in bonus prize money. For the 32nd consecutive year, the USTA is offering equal prize money to both men and women. All players also receive per diem payments to help with the cost of accommodations and other expenses.

Senior Tennis Legends

The international Masters invitational includes legendary champions such as Pat Cash from Australia, Jana Novotna from Czech Republic, Guillermo Vilas from Argentina, Virginia Wade from Great Britain, Lile Nastase from Romania, Stan Smith from USA and **Mima Jausovec** from Maribor, Slovenia. Mia won the French Open in 1977. At Wimbledon Mima was a finalist in Doubles. In total, Mima won five Singles titles including 1976 in Rome, 1976 Canadian Open, 1978 Hamburg German Open and 1982 Avon Los Angeles.

Mima cracked the top 10 on March 20, 1977 as No. 9 while she reached her career high as No. 6 on March 22, 1982. Her career prize money reached \$933,926.

Mima opened a tennis club in Zagreb. Demolished due to improper building permits, Mima moved to Slovenia.

Every year during the US Open the ITF or International Tennis Federation organizes the Junior Championships for Junior Girls and

Junior Boys to compete. The event provides the stars of tomorrow with plenty of opportunities to make their dreams of tennis glory come true.

In the world of international junior tennis, at least one Slovenian, 16-year-old created a buzz. **Ana Jerman** played in Junior Girls' Singles and Doubles, but lost both in the 1st round.

One of the regulars at the US Open is Donald Trump with his Slovenian fiancée **Melanie Knauss**.

Tennis players from over 50 countries, along with over 30,000 hours of international TV coverage in more than 160 nations - make the US Open a showcase for tennis with global reach.

According to the WTA or Women's Tennis Association www.wtatour.com, Slovenia has several other tennis players, including:

Maja Matevzic, who was unable to attend the US Open due to an injury. She is ranked No. 58. Maja has the fastest serve on record from all Slovenian players. At an US Open, Maja's serve was clocked at 182 kilometers per hour or 113 miles per hour.

Other professional tennis players were not qualified to compete at the US Open due to their rank. **Petra Rampre** is ranked No. 241, **Ajda**

I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food. -Phil Hrvatin

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PATTY SLUGA (Women's Interviews)
ED OSTRY (Guest co-host)

Brumen is ranked 723, **Sandra Volk** ranked 780, **Meta Sevsek** ranked 958, and **Svetla Bozicnik** is ranked 1082.

For the first time in nearly a decade, the U.S. Fed Cup competed under a new captain: Zina Garrison, who served as the squad's coach under Billie Jean King since 1999. She became the first African-American Fed Cup captain in the 41-year history of competition. Garrison, who just served as the U.S. Olympic women's tennis team coach, made a success-

ful debut as the 18th U.S. Fed Cup captain in April, when the team traveled to **Portoroz** to face Slovenia in the first round of the 16-team World Group. Venus Williams, Lisa Raymond, Laura Granville and Martina Navratilova strung together a 4-1 win over the Slovenian tennis squad of **Tina Pisnik, Katarina Srebotnik, Maja Matevzic** and **Tina Krizan**. The same group of the best tennis players represented Slovenia at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

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Brook revision perils Slovenian Gardens

Editor,

The enclosed article was published in the *Free Times* during the week of September 15-21. It concerns the proposed modifications to the Doan Brook and its surrounding WPA masonry walls. If the plan goes ahead as scheduled, it could mean changes to the Slovenian Cultural Garden. We may lose up to 60 feet of the lower garden (Grđina Amphitheater) to a naturalization process of the watershed that may, or more likely may not, work. Please realize that we will continue with all plans for the upper part of the Garden as the mitigation process will have no bearing on that portion of it.

The Doan Brook mitigation project comes at a time when the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation (CCGF) is working in earnest to have the chain of Gardens classified as a National Historic Landmark. Dismantling the stone walls and naturalizing the waterway will drastically change the overall significance of the Gardens and may be detrimental to that quest. The naturalization will not alleviate the challenges of flooding, but may present many more challenges to both the City and the Gardens. The new Doan Brook plan brings with it the need for more routine and time-consuming maintenance. Though the plan will bring a first round use of federal and city money into a Cleveland neighborhood, it does not have funds encumbered for continued maintenance of the new waterway.

On behalf of the Slovenian Cultural Garden Association, I am asking your readers, if so moved, to please send a letter of concern to either one or all of the following officials. Their voices do count and need to be heard. We thank you in advance for your efforts in preventing this ill-conceived plan of restoration.

Senator George Voinovich
317 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Stephanie
Tubbs-Jones
U.S. House of
Representatives
3645 Warrensville Ctr. Rd.
Shaker Hts., OH 44122

The Honorable Dennis J.
Kucinich
U.S. House of
Representatives
14400 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107

Mayor Jane Campbell
Cleveland City Hall
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

The Honorable Frank G.
Jackson
City Council President
601 Lakeside Avenue
Room 220
Cleveland, OH 44113

Mr. Joseph Cimperman
Mr. Michael Polensek
Ms. Sabra Pierce-Scott
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

Mr. Ernest Gubry
Federal Aviation Admin.
Detroit Airport District
Office
c/o Willow Run Airport
8820 Beck Road
Belleville, MI 44111

Mr. Alan R. Anaechka-
Nasemann
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Buffalo District Regulatory
Branch
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207

Mr. Reuben Sheperd
Director of Port Control
5300 Riverside Drive
Cleveland, OH 44135

I invite everyone to visit the Garden as the autumn splendor begins.

Yours truly,
Mary Ann Vogel
Chairperson
Slovenian Cultural
Garden Association

Natural History by MICHAEL GILL

East Boulevard and Martin Luther King Boulevard get more traffic, but Doan Brook is, and always has been, the organizing element at the heart of Rockefeller Park.

Some walls were built early last century to contain the winding stream and stop erosion, and along its banks, ethnic groups established cultural gardens to celebrate their contributions to the fabric of the city. Some of the gardens have fallen into dis-

repair, but others are well-maintained. Last weekend, the German Garden hosted One World Day, with a swearing-in ceremony for new U.S. citizens.

The gardens, like the walls of the stream, are elaborately built of stone. There are monuments, walls, benches, amphitheaters and walkways — a ceremonial mix of architecture and nature that makes those once-forgotten corners of the park feel sacred.

That mix is at the heart of a battle between two views of restoration. On one side, the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation would maintain and improve the historic plots with their irreplaceable stone, including walls that line the brook itself. The other — championed by the Cleveland Department of Port Control and occasioned by a state prescription for environmental penance — would restore the brook to an approximation of its natural state. The DPC is mandated to atone for wetland sins committed during the expansion of Hopkins Airport. That project buried Abrams Creek, and so they have to balance the damage with good deeds.

Keith Jones, executive director of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, says planning for naturalization of that portion of Doan Brook was underway at the same time as planning for Hopkins expansion, and he was happy that the city had a project ready and could keep the federal funds in Cleveland. The brook is a 2.5-mile, \$5.5 million piece of the total \$23 million remediation effort. The money comes mostly from the Federal Aviation Administration, with a small design contribution from the city.

After a series of public meetings and years of discussion, the naturalization of Doan Brook is at the "95 percent" design stage. The city expects to break ground in March.

But Doug Parras, president of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation, says "naturalizing" the urban stream — which involves dismantling much of the carefully cut, historic stone channel — diminishes the park's nationally significant historic value. He also says it would endanger the elaborate stone work in some of the gardens, though Jones says that issue has been addressed.

Indiana University professor of history John Bodnar testified to the historic significance of the gardens in a 2001 letter to Senator George Voinovich.



PLENTY OF CURVES WPA masonry along Doan Brook in Rockefeller Park.

"America is filled with monuments and memorials, but few exemplify the dream of peace and brotherhood as powerfully as this unique site on the East Side of Cleveland," he wrote. "I cannot think of another monument quite like it, even if we include Washington, DC itself."

The city seems to be very sensitive about the potential for controversy. Paul Moore is project manager for the city of Cleveland, but said he is not permitted to speak on the subject. He deferred to Hopkins spokesperson Pat Smith, who has been out of the office. Smith's calls were deferred to Candace McGraw. We left messages for both, but neither returned our calls.

A walk along the brook from St. Clair to Superior gives credence to Parras' concerns, but also shows what the city has done to answer them. A large, carved stone bench that must weigh several tons defines one end of the Ukrainian garden and is located just a few feet from the stream. While much of the stream bed will have walls removed and will be regraded, Jones says that wall will stay in place.

Parras says the bank without the wall will still suffer erosion, and notes that no maintenance is planned for the remaining walls.

Further down stream, the Russian and Slovak gardens have lawns for crowds to gather, giving purpose to their ceremonial stages. Those were to be regarded as wetlands, but Jones says that after hearing Parras, planners recognized their importance to the landscape. He says they also recognized that adding wetlands without rectifying sewer overflow problems would create health hazards.

The motivation to restore Doan Brook is not simply about restoring natural habitat, but also about drainage and flooding problems, which are rooted in the combined sewer system and the

huge number of rooftops, roads and parking lots that dump their water into it. A report by Case Western Reserve University calls the stone channel "elegant but undersized" for the resulting runoff, and says it is remarkable that the walls have survived as well as they have. The report, like another by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, addresses the brook as a storm sewer problem. In the neighborhood of grand homes above the gardens, combined sewer overflow problems translate into what resident Dorothy Adams calls "stench."

But whether naturalizing 2.5 miles of the stream will have any significant effect on sewer overflows, flooding or water quality remains questionable. The surrounding watershed remains densely urban, and roughly 30 to 40 percent of it is paved. That means 30 to 40 percent of the water that falls on the region doesn't soak into the land but runs through pipes to the stream. And the storm sewers and sanitary sewers are still combined.

Engineer Philip H. De Groot, Ph.D, contacted by the Cleveland Cultural Gardens to evaluate the plan, concluded that the flood reduction goals were not possible within the parameters of the project, and that erosion is likely. De Groot also stated that "the proposed restoration project will do nothing to alter the contamination originating from the urban environment. The claim that the water quality within the brook will significantly improve... is at best wishful thinking."

Parras is concerned that if De Groot is right about erosion, the city won't have the money to make any repairs, and doesn't plan to do so.

"They feel like they are making a lot of sacrifices to make us happy," he says. "The fact that this project even came along in this form illustrated to me that the city didn't know what they have in the gardens."

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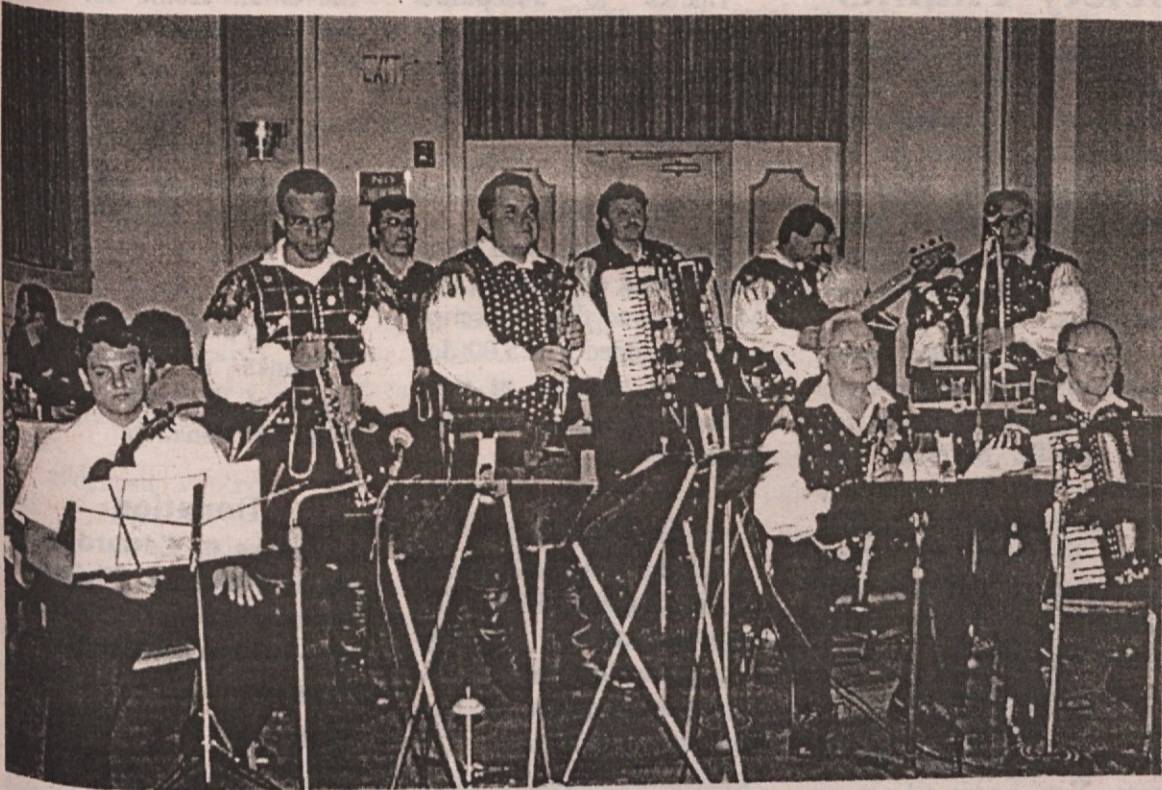
AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

Saturday, September 11 at Slovenian National Home in Cleveland

All Photos by Phil Hrvatin



Traditional Slovenian peasant wedding scene from Upper Carniola (Gorenjska). The bride is played by Lisa Ovsenik.



Talented musicians enhanced the performances with Slovenian music. They are, left to right, Josko Stepec, Viktor Tripodo, Miha Dolinar, Martin Marsic, Slavec Teskac, Pavle Jurkovic, Dusan Marsic, Tone Ovsenik, and Marjan Tonkli.



800 guests crowded into the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue



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Death Notices

ALBIN J. TERCEK

Albin J. Tercek, age 78, of Hudson, Ohio, died Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004 at Edwin Shaw Hospital in Springfield, Twp., Ohio.

Mr. Tercek was owner of the Tercek Company which did Administrative Service Consulting. He was a member of the Collinwood Slovenian Group and had his own band, the Al Tercek Orchestra.

He is survived by his wife, Agnes L. (Kosmerl) Tercek; daughter: Cynthia (Jack) Shimko of Charlotte, NC; sons: John (Linda) Tercek of Miami, FL, Mark (Amy) Tercek of Irvington, NY, Tom (Mary Virginia) Tercek of Hastings, NY; Charles (Jean) Tercek of Beverly Hills, CA, and Robert (Patricia) Tercek of Beverly Hills, CA; sister Josephine Zaman of Atlanta, GA; 15 grandchildren; and cousin Tonchka (John) Berkopcec of Euclid, OH.

Memorials may be made to St. Jerome Catholic Church, 15000 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44110 or to St. Mary's Church, 340 N. Main St., Hudson, OH 44236.

Arrangements by Johnson-Romito Funeral Home, 19 E. Main St., Hudson, OH where family received friends 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12.

Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Mary Catholic Church, 10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 13. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery in Hudson, OH.

EDWARD A. SINKOVIC

Edward A. Sinkovic, 85, former husband of Mary Sinkovic, dear father of Allan and Robert (Laura); grandfather of Tricia, Allan Jr., Scott, Tina, Tracey, David, Jason, Megan and Brandon; great grandfather of Brianna, Morgan, Madyson, Kylea and Logan; brother of Henry, Rose Seifert and Albert (deceased).

Retiree of National Acme Co. Mr. Sinkovic was a WWII Veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Funeral Mass was on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at St. Felicitas Church at 9:30 a.m.

Interment All Souls Cemetery.

Family received friends at the Jakub & Son, A Golden Rule Funeral Home, 936 E. 185 St., on Monday, Sept. 20 from 4-8 p.m.

Al Tercek, orchestra leader, polka drummer

by Richard M. Perry
The Plain Dealer

HUDSON, OH — Al Tercek, a Cleveland-style polka drummer who turned ethnic folk tunes into dance music, died Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004 at the Edwin Shaw Hospital in Springfield Township.

He led his own orchestra for more than 40 years, but as a teenager he played with the top names in polka, including Frankie Yankovic and Johnny Vadnal.

He also performed with ballroom bands including Russ Carlyle's. When he worked with disc jockey and promoter Bill Randle, he backed such stars as Tony Bennett, Elvis Presley, the Everly Brothers, Theresa Brewer and Johnny Ray.

Tercek made a number of records.

In the late 1940s, he was with the Tunemixers when Decca Records released the

group's version of the "Blue Skirt Waltz" about the same time Yankovic recorded it for Columbia. Tercek's group sold 700,000 copies of the all-time polka hit, but Yankovic's 2.5 million-copy blockbuster brought in more royalties.

In 1950, Tercek and Bill Wapotich produced "Annabelle," a hit that received one of Billboard's highest ratings ever for a Cleveland recording.

Albin J. Tercek, born in Cleveland 78 years ago, gravitated to the bandstand at the Collinwood Slovenian Home at an early age. By the time he graduated from Cathedral Latin School, he was in Vadnal's band.

He later provided the beat for hit recordings by Eddie Habat's Orchestra.

Tercek also was instrumental in launching a Brush High School trio that became national stars known as the Pony Tails.

St. Vitus Altar Society Thanks

by AGNES

If you missed the Annual Altar Society Dinner which was held on Sunday, Sept. 12 in the auditorium of the new St. Martin de Porres High School, (formerly St. Vitus Elementary School), you missed a "lot".

It all began on Saturday morning (very early) with Sophie Mazi and her kitchen crew (mostly, the ladies from the society volunteers) a pickin' and a pluckin' at the chickens in preparation for the next day's feast.

Behind them, the huge pot of soup was boiling and bubbling, extracting the juices from the meats and savory vegetables therein. We know these volunteer cooks did more than their share, over and beyond, and for that, a special heartfelt thank you to each and every one for services rendered.

Out in the auditorium, one could hear Stane Kuhar as early as 7:30 a.m. with his army of young men, setting up, arranging tables and chairs, and just like that... poof, it was done, just like magic. Great job Stane, and please forward our thank you message to your gang. You will never know how much we appreciate having that chore completed.

Another acknowledgment goes to our friendly florist Jim Slapnik who always donates all the flowers for the table decorations. They always add that special touch for a festive atmosphere. Prav lepa hvala, Jim from all the ladies.

The newly painted social room was being used to wrap the many donated prizes for their Raffle Surprise Fun Table where, for one dollar, one got to pick a prize that might be worth more than that. And if you saw that table, there were quite a few prizes that had to be creatively wrapped and that took time. So, another big thank you to the Specialty Wrappers. You know who you are.

Altar Society president Ivanka Matic, her board and members all extend a special thank you to everyone who attended and helped in any way to make the event the success that it was. All proceeds will benefit St. Vitus Church.

Winners of the Big Raffle are as follows:

First prize -- \$100.00 -- John Srsen
Second prize -- \$50.00 -- Kathy Hlad
Third prize -- \$25.00 -- Tony Spendal

Bottle of cheer -- Toncka Cigale, Josephine Tomc, and Peter Lavrisha.

Slovenians "R" Us

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

--St. Mary's Alumn!

In Memory

Thanks to the Edwin Grosel Family who submitted a \$100.00 donation in memory of Nancy Grosel on the occasion the first anniversary of her death.

Donation

Thanks to Ciril and Margaret Selan of Euclid, OH who renewed their subscription and added a \$15.00 donation. They write, "Thanks for a great paper."

In Memory

Thanks to Ted Lunder of Willowick, OH who added \$15.00 to his subscription renewal in memory of deceased members of the Lunder Family.

In Memory

Thanks to Joseph M. Salomon of Richwood, OH who renewed his subscription and added a \$15.00 donation in memory of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Salomon Sr.

Donation

Thanks to West Park Slovenian Home for their \$30.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Anonymous of Cleveland, OH for their \$100.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to Joseph F. Rigler of Kirtland, OH for the \$15.00 donation

Donation

Thanks to Edward and Marie Kotar of Wickliffe, OH who renewed their subscription and added a \$25.00 donation.

In Memory

Thanks to Josephine Sadar of Cleveland, OH for the \$25.00 donation in memory of parents John and Jennie Znidarsic.

In Memory

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dan Pavsek of Eastlake, OH who renewed their subscription and added a \$25.00 donation in memory of their beloved daughter, Janice Pavsek.

In Memory

Thanks to Anna Hocevar of Willoughby Hills, OH who renewed her subscription and added a \$20.00 donation in memory of husband, Ivan Hocevar.



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– Vesti iz Slovenije –

Avstrija imenovala koroškega Slovenca Valentina Inzka za novega veleposlanika v Sloveniji – 55-letni karierni diplomat

Proti koncu tega leta ali v začetku leta 2005 bo v Slovenijo prišel novi avstrijski veleposlanik. To bo koroški Slovenec in dolgoletni avstrijski diplomat Valentin Inzko. Inzko je že bil avstrijski veleposlanik v Bosni in Hercegovini, služil je na več odgovornih mestih v avstrijskem zunanem ministrstvu, med drugim tudi pri Združenih narodih v New Yorku. Poročen je s slovitno pevko mezzosopranistko Bernardo Fink, ki je sicer bila rojena v Argentini, zadnja leta ima pa mednarodno kariero. Več o Valentinu Inzku v današnji AD.

Jutri ima Zbor za republiko zborovanje na Kongresnem trgu – Med govorniki predsedniki treh opozicijskih strank

Malce več kot teden dni pred parlamentarnimi volitvami po Sloveniji pripravlja Zbor za republiko zborovanje na Kongresnem trgu v Ljubljani z geslom "Za sproščeno Slovenijo". Med drugim bo nastopilo sedem govornikov. Besedo bodo imeli predsedniki treh vodilnih slovenskih opozicijskih strank: Janez Janša (Slovenska demokratska stranka – SDS), Andrej Bajuk (Nova Slovenija – NSi), in Janez Podobnik (Slovenska ljudska stranka – SLS). Drugi govorniki bodo tudi znana imena: Ivan Oman, Lojze Peterle, Dimitrij Rupel in Peter Jambreč, ki je sicer bivši predsednik Ustavnega sodišča in igra ključno vlogo pri Zboru za republiko.

O aktivnosti v Zboru treh opozicijskih strank, je Janez Janša dejal: "Zdaj v zboru sodelujejo tri pomladne stranke, ki so že od nekdaj nekakšno orodje organizacije, ki so usidrane v duhovnih in ustavnopravnih izročilih slovenske pomladi. Te stranke niso nosilne, so pa sestavine tega zbora."

Stoletnica rojstva Edvarda Kocbeka

To nedeljo bo osrednja prireditev ob stoletnici rojstva pesnika, pisatelja, prevajal-

ca in politika Edvarda Kocbeka in to v njegovem rojstnem Svetem Juriju ob Ščavnici, v ponedeljek pa v veliki dvorani Slovenskega narodnega gledališča v Ljubljani. V ljubljanskem Tivoliju bodo pa odkrili spomenik Kocbeku, Slovenska matica v Ljubljani pa mu bo posvetila dvodnevni seminar.

Imenovanje novega poglavarja Cerkve v Sloveniji verjetno šele po volitvah – Krožijo (neuradno) tri imena

Poročilo v *Nedelu* preteklo nedeljo pravi, da je Vatikan že dal vedeti, kateri trije duhovniki so najverjetnejši kandidati za naslednika nadškofa Franca Rodeta (ki bo te dni obhajal svoj 70. rojstni dan). Ugibanje je sicer samo to, kajti vesti niso v nobenem oziru formalno potrjene. Šlo pa naj bi za mariborskega naslovnega škofa dr. Antona Stresa, za ljubljanskega pomožnega škofa dr. Alojza Urana, in za dr. Toneta Jamnika, ki je sedaj direktor Zavoda sv. Stanislava in dolgoletni generalni tajnik nadškofa dr. Alojzija Šuštarja.

Slovenski judje praznovali

Roš ha-šano oziroma 5765. judovsko novo leto je praznovala judovska skupnost Slovenije, ki ima okoli 400 članov. Judje se pripravljajo tudi na največji praznik jom kipur, ki bo 26. septembra. Predsednik skupnosti je Andrej Kožar Beck, glavni rabin za Slovenijo je rabin Ariel Haddad iz verske šole Habad Lubavič. Največ judov živi v Ljubljani (140), kjer je začasna sinagoga na Tržaški 1, precej je takih vernikov, ki niso vključeni v judovsko skupnost.

Trgovine bodo še ostale odprte ob nedeljah

Po zakonu bi morali s to nedeljo začeti z zapiranjem trgovin ob nedeljah. Pobudo na ustavno sodišče so vložila štiri trgovinska podjetja z Mercatorjem na čelu. Menijo pač, da jim zakon krši podjetniško svobodo in povzroča diskriminacijo na trgu. Sodniki so pobudo upoštevali in začasno zadržali izvajanje zakona.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Pristavski upokojenci—

Klub upokojencev Slovenske pristave ima svoj mesečni sestanek v sredo, 29. septembra, popoldne ob 1.30 in to na SP. Že sedaj pa so vabljeni člani klub in vsi prijatelji na tradicionalne "Koline", ki bodo v nedeljo, 10. oktobra, na Pristavi. Več v dopisu na str. 14.

Kosilo—

Oltarno društvo župnije Marije Vnebovzete vabi na svojo letno kosilo, ki bo v nedeljo, 3. oktobra, to v novi dvorani in s serviranjem od 11. dop. do 1. pop. Kosilo je svinjska pečenka oz. piščanec s prilogami. Dar je \$10 za odrasle in \$5 za otroke. Gotovo bodo nekateri tako prvič vstopili v novo dvorano.

Zgoščenka—CD plošča—

Slovenski cerkveni zbor pri Mariji Vnebovzeti je pred kratkim izdal CD ploščo, ki vsebuje 31 pesmi. Pesmi so vzete iz cerkvenega liturgičnega leta od adventa do praznika Kristusa Kralja. Cena je \$15 in se dobi v župnišču in pri članih zbora.

Novi grobovi

J. Robert Kozan

Umrli je J. Robert Kozan, mož Lillian, roj. Ulle, oče Roberta in Normana, 6-krat stari oče, brat Normana, stric in prastric, veteran 2. svetovne vojne, v kateri je služil v ameriških letalskih silah v Pacifiku. Pogreb bo jutri, v petek, v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda dop. ob 9.45, v cerkev sv. Viljema ob 10.30, od tam na pokopališče Vernih duš.

Edward A. Sinkovic

Umrli je 85 let stari Edward A. Sinkovic, rojen 27. septembra 1918 v Clevelandu, bivši mož Mary Sinkovic, oče Allana in Roberta, 8-krat stari oče, 5-krat prastari oče, brat Henryja, Rose Seifert in že pok. Alberta, veteran 2. svetovne vojne, v kateri je služil v ameriški mornarici, zaposlen do svoje upokojitve pri National Acme Co. Pogreb je bil 21. septembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Felicite in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Frances M. Usnik

Umrli je Frances M. Usnik, rojena Omersa, vdova po Franku, mati Josepha (DALJE na str. 20).

Bralcem v vednost—

Lastnik se je odločil, da AD ne bo izšla v četrtek, 7. oktobra. Tako bo list redno izšel prihodnji teden (30. sept.), nato pa zopet v četrtek, 14. oktobra. Vsi, ki bodo želeli imeti dopis ali vest objavljena v številki, ki bi bila 7. oktobra, naj torej uporabljajo našo številko za 30. sept., z dostavo do torka popoldne.

Veleposlanika na obisku—

Pretekli petek in menda v soboto se je v Clevelandu mudil novi slovenski veleposlanik v ZDA Samuel Žbogar. Med drugim se je dobil s predstavniki KSKJ, ki so ravno imeli sestanek v našem mestu, oglasil se je tudi na glavnem uradu AMLA, to v spremstvu generalnega konzula Marcela Koprola. Diplomata je spremljala tudi Linda Cimperman. Pri AD se je pa oglašil pretekli petek novi ameriški veleposlanik v Sloveniji g. Robertson, ki ga je pa spremljal Phil Hrvatini. Ogledal si je našo tiskarno in se pogovarjal z lastnikoma James in Madeline Debevec. Urednik slov. dela je pač bil tisti čas na sestanku z Žbogarjem in Koprolo pri AMLA.

"Chicken Barbeque"—

To nedeljo, 26. septembra, bo pri Notre Dame sestrah na njih središču na Chardonu, O., tkim. "chicken barbeque", od 12. do 5. pop. Dar je \$8.50.

Dediščinski festival—

Podružnice Slovenske ženske zveze v clevelandski okolici vabijo na svoj dediščinski festival, ki bo v nedeljo, 3. okt., na SNPJ farmi na Heath Rd. Ob 11.30 bo č.g. Pižmoht daroval polka mašo, festival bo pa od 12. do 5. pop. Nakaznice vnaprej imajo članice (\$2), pri vходу na farmo pa bodo po \$3.

Krofi in rezanci—

Oltarno društvo pri sv. Vidu ima prodajo krofov in rezancev v soboto, 9. oktobra, ob običajnem času in v navadnem prostoru. Lepo vabljeni!

Martinovanje—

Štajerski-prekmurski klub vabi na martinovanje, ki bo v soboto, 23. okt., v SND na St. Clair Ave, s pričetkom ob 6.30 zv. Za vstopnice in več informacij, kličite Tonicco na 440-256-6716 ali Mimi na 216-531-4817.

Nova "Miss Trst"

Na fotografiji je 19-letna Sara Jug iz Vrtojbe, ki je bila proti vsem pričakovanjem izbrana za Miss Trst. Tudi sama je povedala, da ni nikoli mislila, da bi mogla biti ona, Slovenka, izbrana za ta naslov.

Močno razburjeni so italijanski tržaški desničarji. Jugova je imela večjo možnost pravila za tekmovalne omogočila prijavo tudi kandidatkam, ki so s širšega območja okoli Trsta in žirija je Saro Jug izbrala izmed 16 finalistk.



Presenetljiva, nepričakovana odločitev avstrijske vlade

Koroški Slovenec Valentin Inzko novi veleposlanik Avstrije v Sloveniji

Dunaj, Celovec (Delo fax, 17. sept. 2004) – Osrednji politični organizacija slovenske manjšine na avstrijskem Koroškem, Narodni svet koroških Slovencev (NSKS) in Zveza slovenskih organizacij (ZSO) sta z velikim zadoščenjem sprejeli odločitev avstrijske vlade, da za novega avstrijskega veleposlanika v Ljubljani imenuje koroškega Slovenca dr. Valentina Zdravka Inzka. Za ZSO je to "pozitivna poteza avstrijske zunanje politike," je dejal predsednik Marjan Šturm.

Valentin Inzko, ki bo novo službo predvidoma nastopil v začetku leta 2005, je karierni diplomat s skoraj četrtstoletnim službovanjem na avstrijskem zunanjem ministristvu. Rodil se je pred 55 leti v učiteljski družini matere Marije in očeta Valentina, znanega koroškega Slovenca, ki je vrsto let poučeval na slovenski gimnaziji v Celovcu, bil vodja oddelka za manjšinsko šolstvo na Koroškem in kot podpredsednik škofijske sinode leta 1972 dosegel, da koroška Katoliška cerkev odslej deluje dvojezično.

Po maturi na gimnaziji v Celovcu je Valentin Inzko na univerzi v Gradcu študiral pravo in jezike (srbohrvaščino, češčino in nemščino), nato pa končal še diplomatsko akademijo na Dunaju.

Za njegovo prvo zaposlitev je bilo odločilno znanje ruščine: sredi sedemdesetih je bila uradni jezik predstavnštva ZN za razvojno pomoč v Ulan Batorju v Mongoliji. Pri krajšem službovanju pri OZN na Šrilanki se je v začetku osemdesetih zaposlil na avstrijskem zunanjem ministristvu, kjer je po službovanju v vrsti veleposlanštev po svetu (Beograd, New York, Praga) nazadnje vodil oddelek za Srednjo, Vzhodno in Jugovzhodno Evropo ter Srednjo Azijo in Južni Kavkaz.

Pred tem, v letih 1996-99, je bil avstrijski veleposlanik v Sarajevu, še poprej, v letih 1993-96, pa vodja avstrijskega kulturnega inštituta v Pragi. V tem času je iz češčine v slovenščino prevedel knjigo Vaclava Havla *Živeti v resnici*.

Konjiček bodočega avstrijskega veleposlanika v Ljubljani so jeziki – govori jih sedem – in zgodovina. Valentin Inzko je poročen s pevko slovenskega rodu Bernardo Fink, rojeno v Buenos Airesu, s katero imata sina Simona in hčer Valentino. Mezzosopranistka bo ta teden nastopila v Slovenski filharmoniji.

M. G., I.L.

BRALCI
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Priporočajte naš list!

Sprememba naslova

Ko se selite, trajno ali začasno, ste lepo naprošeni, da naši pisarni posredujete pravočasno tako Vaš nov naslov kakor sedanji. To omogoča, da boste brez prekinitve dobivali naš list, prihranili boste pa pisarni strošek 60 centov, ki jih računa pošta za vsak povrnjen oziroma ne dostavljen izvod lista. Uporabljajte ta obrazec za posredovanje potrebnih informacij.

Nov naslov

Ime _____

Naslov _____

Mesto, Država, Zip _____

Star naslov

Star naslov _____

Mesto, država, zip _____

Pristavski upokojenci poročajo

CLEVELAND, O. - Že dolgo se nismo oglasili, pa naj bo danes malo daljše naše poročilo.

"Življenju moramo dati smisel tudi v starosti" – tako je bilo napisano v Ameriški domovini pred 16. leti v članku ge. Marije Inzko. Samo par vrstic iz tega članka: "Starejši človek utegne biti tudi pust ali siten. Včasih je kriva bolezen, včasih slabo vreme – pa še bi lahko naštevali vzroke. Neki star mož se je tega zavedal, pa je molil, da bi ga Bog ohranil ljubezni vrednega. Takole je molil in vzdihnil: Gospod, Ti veš bolje kakor jaz, da postajam starejši. Približuje se dan, ko bom star. Pomagaj mi, da os-

tanem prijazen, preudaren, ne tuhtajoč - pripravljen pomagati, vendar ne ukazovati. Pomagaj mi, da bom molčal o svojih boleznih in nadlogah. Pomagaj me, da bom pripovedovanje drugih o njihovih težavah potrpežljivo poslušal. (Kako me mika, da bi tudi jaz na široko govoril o svojih težavah.) Ohrani me ljubezni vrednega. Nisem svetnik, vem pa, da je biti pust hudičevo delo. Pomagaj mi širiti veselje, zadovoljstvo; pomagaj mi spoznati, da je tudi starost potrebna in smiselna...", tako piše ga. Inzko.

Kaj pa mi pravimo? Staramo se, eni smo že stari, a pri našem klubu Pristavskih upokojencev,

Oltarno društvo sv. Vida se zahvaljuje

CLEVELAND, O. - Ah, ta čas kam beži, saj je že več kot pol septembra pri kraju. Naše kosilu je tudi za nami. Iskrena hvala vsakemu posebej in vsem skupaj, da ste se odzvali našemu vabilu. Bog nam je dal lepo vreme, za kar smo Mu hvaležne. Saj lepo vreme se nikomur ne zameri, ga imamo vsi radi.

Naša zahvala gre naši kuharici, Sophie Mazi, in vsem njenim pomočnicam v kuhinji. Vse je teklo gladko, kosilo pa je bilo zelo dobro.

Lepo je bilo videti tudi nekaj novih, mlajših članic. Hvala njim, da so bile v naši sredi. Saj veste, da za toliko kosil je pobjebno veliko pridnih rok.

V družabni sobi so tudi pridno delale za tiste, ki so kosilo odnesli domov.

Hvala članicam, ki so delale pri stojnicah v dvorani. Prijele so za delo, kjer je bilo treba. Za žejne je tudi bilo preskrbljeno, saj je točilnica prišla kar do tistih, ki so bili žejni. En čas ste imeli natakario, malo pozneje pa natakario. Obema lepa hvala, to sta bila Ani in Janez Žakelj. Ali ni to lepo, kjer je sporazum?

Hvala Stanetu Kuharju in šolskim fantom od sv. Ignacija višje šole, ki so nam postavili mize. In Jamesu Slapniku za lepe rože, da so nam krasile mize. Hvala Ameriški domovini, Radijski družini in Tonyju Petkovšku za oglašanje.

Ne smemo pozabiti g. Plečnika, ki je vedno pripravljen pomagati, kjer koli je treba. Dvorano je lepo počistil in da vse mize na svoje mesto. En hvaležni boglonaj. Ne bi rada koga pozabila. Bilo je tudi nekaj drugih, ki so pomagali, ne vem pa za njih imena.

Hvala vsem našim članicam, ki so prinesle pecivo in rezance. Pa Lindi Plečnik, ki je posebej pekla nekaj peciva, da smo ga imele pri kosilu, pristrčna hvala.

Srečni dobitniki pri žrebanju so sledeči:

Prvo nagrado, \$100, je dobil Janez Sršen z Willoughby Hillsa;

drugo, \$50, Kathy Hlad, Cleveland;

tretjo, \$25, Tony Špendal, Willoughby Hills;

četrt, steklenica likerja Tia Maria, Tončka Cigale, Cleveland;

peto, steklenico CC, Josephine Tomc, Cleveland;

šesto, steklenico Black Rum, Peter Lavriša, Willoughby, O.

Vsem gostom in prijateljem, lep pozdrav!

Ivanka Matič

Podpirajmo našo skupnost!

se skoro vsi držimo pobud ge. Inzko. Na naših sestankih je vedno lepo in veselo. Hodimo na izlete, ki jih naša tajnica Martina Štepec tako lepo organizira; ravno ta teden gredo eni v Windsor, Ontario, kar precej nas gre pa na škofa Baragove dneve v L'Anse, Michigan.

Naš piknik je tako lepo uspel, da smo lahko dali Pristavskemu odboru kar \$4.000, slovenskima župnijama sv. Vida in Marije Vnebovzete vsaki \$500, \$500 tudi č.g. Urbaniji iz Argentine.

10. oktobra bomo imeli na Pristavi "Koline", ki so postale že tako željene, da, imenitne, da nam ni treba nič preveč oglašati o njih. Vsako leto pride več gostov na kolino kot prejšnje leto. Zato samo toliko, da veste. Servirati se bo začelo točno ob 12. uri opoldne in samo do treh popoldne. Servirali bomo eno krvavico ali riževo klobaso, eno pečeno, pražen krompir s kislim zeljem, jabolčni zvitek, kavo – vse to samo za \$10, za otroke pa \$5. Za žejne bo tudi poskrbljeno, za zabavo in ples bodo skrbeli naši domači muzikantje.

Pa še nekaj! VOLITVE so pred nami, tako v Sloveniji kot tukaj v naši domovini. Mi moramo pomagati in braniti življenje vsakega človeškega bitja ter zagovarjati socialne pravice in mir na našem svetu. Kot katoličani bi morali videti izbire, ki so pred nami, z očmi naše vere. Kot zvesti državljani se gotovo registrirajmo za volitve ter spoznajmo in presodimo vsa pereča vprašanja, kandidate, in za kaj se oni zavzemajo, da izpolnimo svoj privilegij in dolžnost voliti.

Na svidenje na sestanku in še posebno na naših kolinah!
U.F.

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Volitve za lepšo slovensko bodočnost

Nedolgo nazaj je teolog dr. Janez Juhant v reviji *Mag* takole napisal:

"...komunistična oblast si je prizadevala in post-tiko nadaljevati - da ne bi bilo realne opozicije. Če ni opozicije, če ima oblast absolutno kontrolo, potem v družbi ni dialoga. Šele dialog in opozicija vodita demokratizacijo. Zato dialog v Sloveniji poteka tako počasi, ker bivša oblastna garnitura še vedno misli, da ima zaradi prigrabljenega denarja absolutno oblast. Evropske volitve so pokazale, da državljani ne mislijo več tako. Verjamem, da bodo tudi prihodnje volitve nova potrditev, da je Evropska zveza tudi za Slovenijo jamstvo, da je treba družbeni dialog nadaljevati in poglobljati ter odpravljati privilegije, ki so ostanek starega režima".

Vse kaže, da postkomunistom ni do dialoga, ker se grozno bojijo zgodovinske resnice. Zgodovinska resnica namreč osporava legitimnost njih pretekla, sedanje in bodoče oblasti, ogroža njih nagrajeno premoženje in njih privilegije. Sedaj hočejo prepričati Slovence in ostali svet, da v Sloveniji v letih 1941 do 1945 ni bilo nikakršne komunistične revolucije, ker so takrat mislili le čiste in neomadeževane bele narodnoosvobodilne misli. Takšen sklep človek lahko naredi po zadnjih govoricah Milana Kučana, Janeza Stanovnika in Toneta Ropa.

Na študijskih dnevih letošnje Drage, ki že leta in leta vsakič išče le resnico o položaju slovenstva, je zgodovinar Jože Dežman v svoji razpravi povedal, da je slovenska družba okužena z nasiljem, saj "so bogovi v človeški podobi neusmiljeno klali, da bi postavili nebesa na Zemlji".

40.000 žrtev druge svetovne vojne (20.000 partizanov in 20.000 civilistov) so postavili v partijska nebesa, kar okoli 40.000 pa so jih vse do danes pustili v partijskem peklu. Med njimi je okoli 8.000 civilistov, žrtev revolucionarnega terorja, 15.000 mobilizirancev v nemško vojsko, preostalo

pa so žrtve povojnih pobojev. Partizani so med vojno ubiti dvakrat več Slovencev kot pa okupatorjev (teh "le" okoli 4.000).

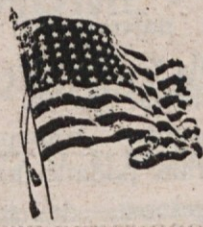
Jože Dežman se je zavzel za "vidnost žrtev", kar pomeni, da se v Sloveniji končno začnejo obnašati kot drugod po svetu, da torej sistematično izkopljejo svoja grobišča in raziščejo okoliščine medvojnih in povojnih pobojev. To je standard civilizirane družbe, ki se mu slovenska država na vse načine skuša izogniti.

Na letošnji Dragi je nastopila tudi Barbara Brezigar, pred nekaj leti kandidatka za predsednico republike, ki pa je povedala naslednje misli:

"Tako kot smo dolga desetletja pred spremembo režima poslušali od oblastnikov, kako uspešno vodijo našo državo in kako dobro nam gre, podobne besede poslušamo tudi danes. Prav je, da razmislimo, ali je to res, če se mnogi, ki razmišljamo o svoji državi, sprašujemo, ali je Slovenija res moderna, pravna in socialna država vseh svojih državljanov in državljanek enakih možnosti za vse."

Po dobrem premisleku, se pač moramo vse Slovenke in Slovenci vpisani v volilni imenik republike Slovenije odločiti, da gremo na volitve poslancev v državni zbor, ki bodo v nedeljo, 3. oktobra, in volimo po svoji vesti za prave kandidate, ki bodo delali za boljšo in lepšo bodočnost Slovenije, kot pa to dela današnja oblast. Volitve bodo potekale v nedeljo, 3. oktobra, od ene ure do tričetrt na pet popoldan na naslovu: Euclid Public Library, Erie-Babbitt Room, 631 E. 222 St., Euclid, Ohio. Tam je na voljo dovolj veliko in brezplačno parkališče.

Slovenski ameriški svet
Mate Roesmann
 predsednik
Maruša Pogačnik
 tajnica



Večer izza Kongresa z veleposlanikom ZDA Johnny Youngom

Ljubljana - Svetovni slovenski kongres se je z večerom izza kongresa 15. septembra poslovil od veleposlanika Združenih držav Johnnya Younga. Za ameriškega veleposlanika je bil nastop na SSK zadnji javni nastop v Sloveniji, pred njegovim odhodom v domovino ob koncu mandata v Sloveniji. Večer sta vodila prof. dr. Boris Pleskovič, predsednik SSK, udeležila pa se ga je polna dvorana z več kot sto udeleženci.

Veleposlanik je v začetku svojega govora spregovoril o pomenu civilne družbe in nevladnih organizacij, ki v vsaki državi predstavljajo ogledalo vladi in omogočajo, da se država boljše razvija in imajo ljudje in njeni državljani do nje boljši odnos. Povedal je, da so dosedanje izkušnje z nevladnimi organizacijami v ZDA pokazale njihovo veliko vlogo in bi zato radi to vlogo civilnega sektorja priporočili vsem državam in jih zato podpirajo tudi v Sloveniji.

Iskreno je spregovoril o dobrih odnosih, ki sta si jih skupaj s soprogo zgradila v Sloveniji na osebnem nivoju in odličnem nivoju sodelovanja med ZDA in Republiko Slovenijo. Za višek njegovega službovanja v Sloveniji je označil vstop Slovenije v EU in predvsem NATO, saj je pri slednjem v imenu ZDA tudi osebno veliko prispeval.

V Slovenijo je prišel sredi leta 2001, ko so se z 11. septembrom varnostne razmere v svetu zelo spremenile in so vplivale tudi na odnose med ZDA in Slovenijo.

Med zadevami, ki se niso odvijale po njegovem pričakovanju, je bilo sodelovanje Slovenije v "koaliciji voljnih" v Iraku, ki se ji Slovenija ni pridružila, čeprav zelo dobro sodelujemo v stabilizaciji Afganistana in Zahodnega Balkana. Prav tako se mu zdi, da bi lahko Slovenija več naredila na zmanjšanju regulative za odprtje novih investicij iz tujine, tudi ZDA. Tudi denacionalizacijski postopki, še zlasti tisti, ki potekajo za vrnitev premoženja ameriškim državlja-

nom, se mu zdijo predolgi.

Kljub vsemu se je veleposlaniku Youngu Slovenija med njegovim službovanjem zelo priljubila in upa, da se bosta s soprogo tudi v ZDA lahko trudila za njen uspešen razvoj in napredek, saj se bo kmalu upokojil iz redne službe.

Po uradnem predavanju se je veleposlanik zadržal v prijetnem pogo-

Nov zgodovinski pogled...

Vojna razklala narod

Mladinska knjiga Založba je izdala aktualno knjigo Razdvojeni narod Slovenije 1941—1946
 dr. Tamare Griesser - Pečar

Ljubljana - Zbirka Premiki Mladinske knjige Založbe je že ponudila vrsto odmevnih knjig o sodobni zgodovini. Njena odlika je, da se ne ustavlja pri nobenih ovirah, zlasti ne pri političnih in ideoloških. Najnovejša knjiga *Razdvojeni narod Slovenija 1941—1946* dr. Tamare Griesser-Pečar s podnaslovom *Okupacija, kolaboracija, državljanska vojna, revolucija* poskuša odgovoriti na mnoga vprašanja. Gre za zgodovinsko raziskavo z uporabo mnogih dokumentov in virov, predvsem pa poskuša zgodovino druge svetovne vojne v Sloveniji razumeti tako, da upošteva več ravni dogajanja.

Urednik Premikov Aleksander Zorn je na predstavitvi knjige med drugim menil, da je naš (tj. slovenski) največji problem naš odnos do zgodovine, kajti pretekla nevednost je bila pogoj za vladanje (komunistov).

Knjiga po njegovem ponuja sintezo na temelju soočanja dokumentov o celovitem dogajanju, in to ne le do maja 1945, ampak do leta 1946, ko je bil partijski prevzem oblasti z ustavo dokončen.

Knjiga je najprej lani izšla v nemščini na Dunaju, slovenski prevod je razširjen in dopolnjen (pri prevajanju sta poleg avtorice sodelovala še Marko Urbanija in Nataša Peternel).

O knjigi in slovenskem odnosu do zgodovine je

voru z navzočimi. Poslušalci so veleposlaniku čestitali in se mu zahvalili za njegovo prijaznost in osebno zavzetost, ki sta jo s soprogo ves čas svojega bivanja v Sloveniji izkazovala naši državi in njenim prebivalcem.

Poudarili so pomembnost ZDA, kot edine preostale velesile in dobrega sodelovanja med Slovenijo, kot polnopravno članico EU in NATO, in ZDA.

dr. Boris Pleskovič
 predsednik SSK
 mag. Stanislav Raščan
 podpredsednik SSK

spregovoril tudi poslanec dr. Jože Bernik in poudaril, da pomeni knjiga spodbujanje objektivne diskusije med nami.

Avtorica dr. Tamara Griesser-Pečar je o naslovu knjige menila, da ima razdvojenost pri našem narodu večjo težo kot pri velikem, predvsem pa so razprtije v slovenskem narodu izbruhnile v času, ko bi bila združitev vseh sil proti okupatorju nujna.

Razdvojenost pa je pomembna tudi, ker so iz nje izhajali usodni tokovi, ki so deželi dajali pečat petdeset let in katerih posledice čutimo še danes. Raven boja proti okupatorju, je menila avtorica, je bila prikrita z ravno drugega boja - za bodočo družbeno in državno ureditev. Zato se je bila državljanska vojna Slovencev proti Slovincem, ki se je začela takrat, ko so komunisti monopolizirali odpor proti okupatorju. To je bilo 16. septembra 1941.

Po vojni je komunistična Jugoslavija dopuščala zgolj enostranski prikaz zgodovine druge svetovne vojne, t. i. narodnoosvobodilni boj pa je obravnavala nekritično. Tradicionalno meščansko opozicijo (tradicionalne stranke, krščanska gibanja, Cerkev itd.) je ožigosala kot kolaboracionistične. Ta očitek je bil učinkovito sredstvo za preganjanje ljudi, ki so bili režimu neljubi iz drugih razlogov.

(dalje na str. 16)

IVO ŽAJDELA v DRUŽINI...

(5. sept. 2004)

“Podatkov ni bilo mogoče ugotoviti”

Ob robu poročila tožilstva o raziskovanju poveljnih pobojev

– I. del –

Državno tožilstvo je v državni zbor poslalo poročilo o svojem delu v letu 2003 (objavljeno je bilo v Poročevalcu državnega zbora 4. junij). V njem je tudi krajše poglavje Aktivnosti na področju raziskovanja izvensodnih poveljnih pobojev. Poročilo, pod katerim je podpisan Franc Mazi, si vsekakor zasluži pozornost, saj iz njega lahko vidimo, kako resno in poglobljeno so državni organi raziskovali to veliko temo slovenske preteklosti – in zaradi vseh njenih posledic tudi sedanjosti. Pričakovali bi, da bodo odkrili zelo veliko, da bodo izvajali terenska raziskovanja, kot jih predpisuje kazenska zakonodaja, da bodo podrobno zaslišali številne ljudi, od prič do storilcev kaznivih dejanj – gre namreč za raziskovanje genocida, najhujšega kaznivega dejanja sploh – in da bodo sledile tudi kazenske ovadbe ter vsi nadaljnji postopki, kot jih predpisujejo zakoni. Poglejmo torej, kaj je tožilstvo v resnici odkrilo in storilo oziroma kaj je navedlo v svojem poročilu.

Najprej tožilstvo opiše začetke. Generalni direktor policije Marko Pogorevc je po dogovoru z generalno državno tožilko Zdenko Cerar ustanovil posebne delovne skupine na generalni policijski upravi in na področnih policijskih upravah, k delu pa so pritegnili kriminaliste z največ izkušnjami.

Tožilci, ki so sodelovali pri raziskavi, so usmerjali policijo, poleg tega pa predlagali preiskovalnim sodnikom, naj opravijo nekatera preiskovalna opravila. Predlagali so jim zaslišanja pomembnih prič, odreditev izkopov ter določitev izvedencev medicinske stroke. Informacije so iskali tudi v arhivih.

Tožilstvo je poveljne poboje raziskovalo na osnovi kaznivega dejanja genocida (373. člen Kazenskega zakonika), ki ga je jasno opredelilo, tako da pri poveljnih poveljih ni mogoče nikakršno sprenevedanje o statusu pobitih ali o morebitnem zastaranju.

850 razgovorov

Sledi navajanje podatkov o delu: “Policija je širom Slovenije opravila razgovore s preko 850 osebami, pregledano je bilo veliko arhivskega gradiva, preiskovalni sodniki so na predlog tožilcev zaslišali več kot 30 prič, opravljeno je bilo 10 ekshumacij, pri katerih so izvedeniško mnenje podali izvedenci Inštituta za sodno medicino.

Iz sobesedila ni razvidno, zakaj se je tožilstvu zdela navedba tega podatka pomembna. Očitno zato, da bi obdolžili domobrance, da so v zadnjem spopadu oni napadli partizani – ta sugestija naj bi se usedla na že tako močno indoktrinirano mnenje, da je za notranjenarodni spopad med vojno kriva protirevolucija – in da so torej vsaj sokrivi za poveljne poboje, če jih niso celo izzvali.

To, da so pri Borovljah domobranci napadli partizane, je tožilstvo povzelo iz dosedanje pro-partizanske literature. Toda podatek ni točen. V resnici so partizani pri Borovljah hoteli s silo preprečiti pot kolonam civilnih in domobrantskih beguncev, ki so se valile čez Ljubelj. Domobrancem zato ni preostalo prav nič drugega, kot da so si s silo izborili prost pot naprej. Krivci za spopad pri Borovljah so bili torej izključno partizani, ne pa domobranci, kot narobe in tendenciozno navaja tožilstvo.

Zajeti nemški vojaki

Žrtve poveljnih pobojev je tožilstvo razdelilo v štiri skupine. Prva so zajeti nemški vojaki: “Že po zaključku vojne in po prenehanju spopadov so partizanske enote pobile več skupin zajetih pripadnikov nemške vojske. Odgovornost je bodisi na poveljstvu partizanske enote ali na komandi mesta, saj so ji bile partizanske enote podrejene.

Policija in tožilstvo sta se preiskovalno ukvarjala s 123 zadevami, od tega se jih 74 nanaša na poveljne poboje, v dveh primerih pa gre za arheološke najdbe.

Osnova za raziskavo je bila najprej evidentiranje 195 grobišč, nato pa preiskovanje tega poboja. Povsod tam, kjer sta državni tožilec in policija po prvih podatkih ocenila, da je mogoče pričakovati identifikacijo storilca in žrtev, so tožilci predlagali preiskovalnemu sodniku preiskovalna dejanja.

V 27 zadevah je bilo ugotovljeno, da gre za medvojne poboje, 4 zadeve pa so posledica zaključnih spopadov. Od raziskanih 74 zadev poveljnih pobojev gre v desetih primerih za poboje posameznih civilistov ali izpuščenih aretirancev, v 64 zadevah pa gre za množična grobišča, ki so bila predmet preiskave.

V sedmih primerih ni podatka o tem, kdo so pobiti, v desetih primerih je šlo za žrtve spopadov pripadnikov Ozne s skupinami t. i. Matjaževe vojske, za partizanske grobove, za arheološke najdbe, ali pa za preverjanje prijav o grobiščih, ki se niso potrdile.”

Ko tožilstvo navaja, da so bili poboji storjeni po koncu vojne in “tudi po zaključku oboroženih spopadov”, je zapisalo, da je bil zadnji oboroženi spopad “11. 5. 1945, ko so domobranci pri Borovljah napadli Bračičevo brigado in Kokrški odred”.

Evidentirana so grobišča v Globokem pri Radovljici, Kočna nad Jese-

nicami, Draga pri Begunjah, Goriče pri Kranju, Križe pri Trziču, Mlačca pri Mojstrani, Brunk pri Pokleku nad Blanco pri Krškem in Ledina pri Sevnici.

V Globokem pri Radovljici so grobišča 11. 5. 1945 pobitih nemških vojakov, ki jih je zajela in likvidirala 29. Hercegovska divizija ob poskusu bega z vlakom. Dne 10. ali 11. 5. 1945 so partizani v Kočni nad Jesenicami ubili 30 nemških stražarjev, ki so stražili železniški tunel. V Mlačci nad Mojstrano je grobišče med 30 in 40 nemškimi vojaki, ki so bili zajeti in ubiti pri umiku, v Brunku pri Krškem pa okrog 40 vojakov, ki so se partizanskim enotam predali.”

Tožilstvo je navedlo nekaj primerov pobojev ujetih nemških vojakov na Gorenjskem in Dolenjskem. Iz tega bi sklepali, da na Štajerskem, Koroškem in na Primorskem tovrstnih pobojev ni bilo. Na območju Krasa je več grobišč zajetih nemških vojakov. Zagotovo pri vasi Trnje pri Pivki in v Matarskem podolju pod Brkini. Le domačine je treba vprašati.

Iz drugih delov Jugoslavije

“Tretja in četrta jugoslovanska armada je med prodiranjem v smeri proti Trstu in Koroški zajela več deset tisoč bežečih pripadnikov vojaških formacij, ki so se borili proti partizanom in njihovih svojcev, torej civilnih oseb.

Zbrani podatki kažejo, da sta ti dve vojaški formaciji takoj začeli z likvidacijami zajetih. Znano je to, da je bila opravljena delna selekcija in sicer oddvajanje ustašev od hrvaških domobrancev ter oddvajanje Hrvatov od Srbov in Črnogorcev.

Del Hrvatov (ustašev) je bil takoj pobit, preostale pa so prevzeli hrvaški partizani in jih napotili proti Hrvaški. To je takozvani Hrvaški križev put, saj so se številne likvidacije opravljale tudi na poti.

Pripadniki srbskih in črnogorskih formacij so bili najverjetneje likvidirani v Sloveniji, saj ni podatka, da bi bili kamorkoli transportirani. Zbrani podatki kažejo na verjetnost, da je imela odločilno vlogo pri pobo-

Vojna razklala narod...

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 15)

Zgodovinska raziskava dr. Pečarjeve nima namena izčrpno analizirati zgodovine med letoma 1941 in 1946, temveč poskušati podati zvesto podobo ciljev, prakse in značilnosti družbenopolitičnih sil, vpletenih v dogajanja; političnih strank in skupin, organizacij, vojaških in paravojaških enot ter obveščevalnih služb.

Odgovorila naj bi na vprašanje, kako je moglo priti do notranjih sporov, predvsem pa se je osredotočila na različne struje med slovenskim ljudstvom.

Posebna pozornost razprave velja koncu vojne in času do leta 1946, ko je partija prevzela oblast. Ključno vlogo pri uveljavljanju revolucionarnega terorja je imela Ozna, od leta 1946 UDV oziroma Udba.

Glede poveljnih pobojev avtorica ni odkrila novih dokumentov, bolj gre za povzetke pričevanj iz 90. let. Strinja pa se, da je o usodi zajetih vojakov domobrancev odločalo jugoslovansko partijsko in državno vodstvo.

Po mnenju Alberta Svetine, ki je bil od maja 1944 namestnik Ivana Mačka, so sklep o likvidaciji sovražnikov sprejeli po Mačkovem obisku pri Titu v Drvarju že maja 1944, ko je šlo za organiziranje Ozne.

Marijan Zlobec
DELO, 8. sept. 2004

jih te skupine OZNA, v okviru jugoslovanske armade.

Ta skupina likvidiranih je najštevilnejša. Čeprav število pobitih ni ugotovljeno, je upravičena domneva, da je pobitih več tisoč ljudi.

Grobišča te skupine pobitih so v Kamniku in okolici, na več lokacijah v Zasavju, zlasti v Starinem Hrastniku, Golovcu pri Celju, Zgornji Hudini, Zgornjem Otoku pri Radovljici, Crngrobu, Lanem pri Škofji Loki, Zgornjem pri Radovljici, Varnovnici, Dolenji Težki, Dobruški vasi pri Škocjanu, Mrtvicah pri Krškem, na območju Krškega samega, v Krakovcu

(DALJE na str. 18)

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CENE NIZKE
PO VAŠI ŽELJI!

Poslovilni intervju: Johnny Young in Angelena Clark Young...

Mogoče dobim službo v Sloveniji

Pretekli teden sta Slovenijo zapustila dosednji ameriški veleposlanik v tej državi Johnny Young in njegova žena Angelena. Pred odhodom sta dala daljši intervju Niki Vistorpski, ki je bil objavljen v tedenski prilogi Dela "ONA"; tekst intervjuja sledi v nadaljevanjih.

- I. del -

V sredini septembra odhajata s položaja ameriškega veleposlanika v Sloveniji. Zagotovo ste v tem času doživeli marsikaj, kar je bilo drugačno od pričakovanega. Zdaj se boste upokojili in na vaš položaj bo prišel nov službenec zunanjega ministristva.

J.Y. - Ko sem prišel k vam, se je največ govorilo o vstopu Slovenije v Evropsko unijo in NATO. Pri prvem nisem imel nobene vloge, z zadnjim pa čutim silno zadovoljstvo. Ključno sem vplival na podporo Slovenije pri vstopu. Gre za precejšen dosežek. Obstajal je namreč velik odpor, a smo ga prebrodili.

Moja naslednja skrb je bila, kako se bodo slovenski volivci odzvali povabilu, ki je prišlo med napadom na Irak. Glede na raziskave tistega obdobja vstop v NATO ni bil videti pretirano rožnat. Bil sem zelo vesel, ko so Slovenci volili za, kar je potrdilo ves naš trud. Vstop Slovenije v EU pa denimo nikoli ni prinašal dvoma. Ni potreboval tolikšnega vpletanja in prigovarjanja.

(Op. ur. AD: Tu se mi zdi, da g. Young precej precenjuje svojo vlogo pri vstopu Slovenije v NATO. Ko je bila odločitev za razširitev NATA na tako obsežen način, ni bilo dvoma, da bo Slovenija med povabljenkami. Glede referendumске odločitve samih Slovencev, ni imel Young osebno kaj dosti vpliva, bi menil.)

Drugi velik dosežek se mi zdi to, kar smo žele-

li narediti z zakonodajo varovanja pravic intelektualne lastnine. Prišel sem ob času, ko je Slovenija razveljavila zakon s področja zaščite intelektualne lastnine. Seveda so bila ameriška farmacevtska podjetja zelo vznemirjena. Moja naloga kot predstavnika ameriški interesov je bila, da prepričam Slovence, naj naredijo, kar smo mislili, da je prav.

No, ne zgolj zato, ker smo mi mislili, da prav, temveč zato, ker je bilo to dejansko najboljšo. In Slovenija je že dokazala, da je storila prav. Potem pa je pritisk na vlado, naj razveljavi zakon, od nas zahteval vrnitev k originalu. Vznemirjenja je bilo veliko, a to smo morali narediti. Nato smo bili vsi dobri prijatelji.

Na osebni ravni sem spoznal veliko Slovencev in ni mi treba poudarjati, da me je zlahka prepoznati. Šli smo v vsako slovensko vas in ljudje so nas pozdravljali. Torej, čeprav sem prišel v nekakšnem oblaku, se je kmalu razpršil. Vsi so naju z ženo začeli spoznavati kot dobra prijatelja.

Zgodilo se mi je mnogo lepih stvari. Ravno danes zjutraj se mi je zgodilo nekaj še posebno lepega. Šel sem v trgovino in tam me je ustavila gospa ter vprašala, kako to, da sem še vedno tukaj. Želela mi je samo povedati, da sem ji všeč ter da me spoštuje.

Mislím, da mi nihče ne more reči prav ničesar lepšega kot to, da me spoštuje. Čez nekaj

tednov grem, a menim, da bo za nami ostal okus spoštovanja.

A.Y. - Dejstvo je, da sva spoznala neverjetno veliko čudovitih Slovencev. Kot neplačana službenka sem imela priložnost spoznati mnogo slovenskih žensk. Pa ne samo Slovenk. Lahko sem tudi ustvarjala močne zveze s tistimi Američani, ki živijo v Sloveniji.

Bila sem del precej aktivnosti. Spoznala sem veliko nadarjenih, inteligentnih žensk. Slovenijo in njena prijateljstva bom zares pogrešala. Resnično upam, da se kmalu vrnem.

J. V. - Mogoče dobim službo v Sloveniji.

Pred prihodom v državo ste najbrž imeli svoja pričakovanja.

J. Y. - So stvari, ki se jih naučiš in so posledica osebnih interakcij. Spoznaš se, pogovarjaš, s kom kaj spiješ, poješ ... Dojameš kaj, česar prej sploh ne bi vedel, če ne bi živel v določeni državi.

Denimo: mislim, da pred prihodom nisem vedel, kako se Slovenci vedejo do drugih Slovencev. Zelo prijazni so bili do nas, prav tako do drugih Slovencev, a znajo biti tudi zelo neprizanesljivi. Drug do drugega so lahko bolj neusmiljeni kot denimo do tujcev. To spoznaš šele pozneje.

Nacionalne karakteristike ne prebereš v nobeni knjigi. Ko Slovenec govori o drugem Slovcu ... No, ne da mu veliko možnosti. Pa še nekaj je: nisem vedel, da me bodo toliko hranili.

A. Y. - Še nikoli nisem pila toliko dobrega vina.

J. Y. - Moja žena je najbrž užila v teh treh letih več vina kot prej v 37 letih življenja na tujem.

A. Y. - Res je.

J. Y. - Precejšen dosežek, bi rekel. Pa še vedno pije zmerno. Če bi bilo drugače, bi imeli resne težave. Sploh pa je Slovenija veliko lepša kot v knjigah. V njih so fotografije sicer lepe, a ko dejansko vidiš gore, zelena polja, vinograde, je spektakularno. Lahko bi



naševal v neskončnost.

Mislím, da Slovenci ne promovirajo dovolj svoje dežele. Vsak tujec bo rekel, da je, ko je denimo povedal sosedu, da gre na izlet v Slovenijo, ta vedno vprašal dvoje: Kje je to? in Zakaj?

Lani smo imei obiskovalce iz mesta Helena v Montani. Pojma niso imeli, kam gredo. Prišli so, ker se poznamo in smo skupaj delali v Afriki. Presunjeni so bili od tukajšnje lepote. Obljubili so, da bodo vsem povedali o Sloveniji. Do zadnjega dne bomo imeli obiskovalce.

Ali ni smešno, da, ne glede na splošno mnenje ZDA, veliko lokalnih politikov izjemno teži k temu, da bi bili z ameriškim veleposlanikom v kar se da prijateljskih odnosih. Kako ohranjate ravnotežje med tem, kar ameriška vlada želi od vas, in kar se po drugi strani lokalni politiki trudijo doseči?

J. Y. - Odgovor je zelo preprost. Moje osnovno vodilo je tisto ameriške vlade, kar olajša odločanje. To ne pomeni, da ne moreš imeti dobrih, produktivnih odnosov. Pa saj tudi oni vedo, za kaj si prizadevam. Seveda se lahko zgodi manjši konflikt v medsebojnih odnosih. In tedaj se moraš najprej spomniti, zakaj si sploh tukaj. Še nikoli nisem bil deležen nečednih vplivov. Vedno sem bil zelo odprt in neposreden.

Bilo je nekaj nerešenih stvari pri poslovanju. Vlada Slovenije bi rada videla tu več ameriških podjetij in tudi osebno bi se tega veselil. A vse je odvisno od splošne klime v državi. Obstaja nekaj nerešenih vprašanj glede Western Wirellessa in njegovih pripomb vladi. Upam, da bodo pritožbe kmalu rešili. Ko imam takšne težave, smo zelo odprti za to, kaj je

(DALJE na str. 18)

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Mogoče dobim službo v Sloveniji

(NADALJEVANJE s STR. 17)

vpleteno, in delamo neposredno z vlado, podjetji, da bi rešili morebitne spore.

Ali vas sploh ima smisel spraševati, v čem se osebno ne strinjate z uradnim mnenjem ameriške vlade?

J. Y. - Ne javno.

Ali se kdaj niste strinjali?

J. Y. - No, zgodi se lahko kadar koli, a ne sme biti javno. Veleposlanik mora služiti predsedniku. Ko osebni pogledi postanejo vseobsegajoči in nevzdržni glede na javno mnenje, se mora veleposlanik sam odločiti, kaj bo naredil. Lahko nadaljuje delo profesionalno ali pa preprosto odide.

Ste bili kdaj blizu odhoda?

J. Y. - Ne in povedal vam bom, zakaj. Vedno sem bil sposoben videti večje dobro, ki ga ZDA predstavljajo, in to me je vodilo. Pomagalo mi je v težkih časih.

Svojega predsednika sem vselej predstavljal korektno. Imam pravico do nestrinjanja, kar se tiče obveščanja vlade o državi, v kateri deluje veleposlanik. Delati moramo tisto, kar je v interesu vlade. To pa ni vedno skladno s trenutno

prevladujočim mnenjem. S tem se moramo spoprijeti, kar se da dobro. A naša politika ni politika ugajanja. Včasih nas to pripelje v precejšnja nesoglasja.

Velikokrat pogledam razlike, ki jih doživljamo, in vedno si moram priključiti v misli, da ameriški predsednik predstavlja Američane, ki so ga izvolili. Seveda je lepo, če lahko vsem ugajaš, a predsednik je odgovoren svojemu volilnemu telesu, ki mu daje mandat za vladanje.

Ste brali Michaela Moora?

J. Y. - Da.

Boste gledali njegov dokumentarni film *Fahrenheit 9/11*?

J. Y. - Da, takoj ko se vrnemo v ZDA. Čeprav moram priznati, da imam z Michaelom Moorom precejšnje težave. O njegovi umetniški integriteti se mi pojavlja mnogo vprašanj in imam težave z določenimi vidiki, prikazanimi kot dejstva.

Kako se počutite, ko se vračate v ZDA, a bo prav vaša domovina tučina?

A. Y. - Med poletjem sva veliko hodila na krajše izlete. Uživanje v vseh deželah, v katerih sva bila doslej, nama vceplja potrebo, da bova še naprej potovala. Čeprav se bo mož upokojil, bo morda, glede na to, da ima neomejeno količino energije, po določenem obdobju znova začel delati. Pač kaj drugega.

J. Y. - Spet me hoče spraviti v službo.

A. Y. - Ne gre za to.

J. Y. - Delati sem začel pri štirinajstih letih.

A. Y. - No, ravno zato potreba po delu ostane v tebi. Dam mu šest mesecev, pa še to je veliko. Slovenija je res pravi dragulj, a sva zelo srečna, da bova lahko šla domov. Obudila bova stike z izgubljenimi prijatelji. Imava odrasla otroka. Srečna sem, da bo greva, čeprav vem, da bo prvo leto težko. Zdelo se bo, kot da sva spet prišla v novo državo, na novo delovno mesto.

J. Y. - Še težje bo.

A. Y. - Potrebovala bova kar nekaj časa, da se bova počutila udobno.

J. Y. - Ne bom delal! Spomnim se južnoafriškega prijatelja, ki je veliko delal pri ANA - African National Congress (stranka Nelsona Mandele, op. a.) v Južnoafriški republiki. Ved-

Ivo Žajdela - "Podatkov ni bilo mogoče ugotoviti"

(NADALJEVANJE s STR. 16)

skem gozdu, Lončarjevem dolu pri Krškem, v kamnolomu Log, Bregu pri Sevnici, v Bohovi - Tezenski gozd pri Mariboru, Žančanih - Slovenj Gradec, Šmartnem pri Slovenj Gradcu, na območju Slovenj Gradca pa še nad kmetijo Naveršnik, v Tošičevi apnenici, v gozdu nad kmetijo Čas ter v bližini kmetije Vivod.

V Zasavju je bilo med umikom iz Jugoslavije zajeto med 6.000 in 7.000 pripadnikov protipartizanskih enot in civilistov s spremstvom. Namestili so jih v okolici Celja in jih v starih rudniških jaških v roku treh tednov pobili. Pobjoj naj bi izvrševala neugotovljena črnogorska enota.

Na petnajstih lokacijah v okolici Kamnika so grobišča neugotovljenega števila pobitih Hrvatov in bataljona četnikov, ki so se predali partizanom. Pobjoj naj bi izvedla 14. Hercegovska brigada.

Angleži so 18. 5. 1945 vrnili skupino 59 oseb, med katerimi so bili tudi člani vlade NDH. Petnajst članov vlade je bilo odpeljano v Zagreb, kjer so jim sodili, ostalih 54

no me je zanimalo, kaj bo počel, ko se bo upokojil. Povedal mi je, da bo v gugalnem stolu sedel na verandi, kupil si bo vrč medu in veliko žlico. In potem bo jedel med iz vrča. Veselim se prav tega.

(KONEC PRIHODNJIČ)

pa je bilo odpeljano v Crngrob pri Škofji Loki, kjer so bili pobiti in zakopani. V okolici Crngroba pa je zakopano tudi med 200 in 300 pobitih civilistov, del zajetega transporta. Pobjoj naj bi zagrešili pripadniki 4. armade ter slovenske OZNE in KNOJ-a.

Na območju Lancovega je v noči na 16. 5. 1945, 29. Hercegovska divizija pobila neznanu število Vlasovcev, ki so bili zajeti na poti v Avstrijo.

Na območju Radeč je jugoslovanska armada zajela več tisoč domobrancev, ustašev in civilnih oseb iz Hrvaške. Odpeljali so jih na območje Mrtvic pri Krškem, kjer so bili pobiti in zakopani v šest grobišč. Na območju mesta Krško je v treh grobiščih zakopano neznanu število (od 100, nekateri viri navajajo nekaj tisoč) hrvaških vojakov s svojci.

Več tisoč beguncev (ni znana narodnost) naj bi ubila neugotovljena partizanska enota iz območja izven Slovenije v Krakovskem gozdu.

V Bohovi-Tezenski gozd pri Mariboru je bilo v letu 1999 med sondaž-

nim izkopavanjem za gradnjo avtoceste v tankovskem jarku v dolžini 60 metrov izkopanih 1150 skeletov. Domneva se, da bi jih utegnilo biti med 7.000 in 10.000.

Pobiti so verjetno vračajoči se Hrvati, o njih pa je odločala OZNA 3. armade. Nekaj najdenih predmetov, na katerih so napisani v cirilici, ne izključuje možnosti, da so med likvidiranimi tudi ljudje srbske narodnosti.

V Žančanih na območju Slovenj Gradca je 3. armada pobila neugotovljeno večje število bežečih vojakov.

Glede pobojev vojaških in civilnih beguncev "z juga" (Hrvatov, Srbov, Črnogorcev) na ozemlju Slovenije lahko ugotovimo le, da je tožilstvo ugotovilo zelo malo grobišč, kaj šele natančnejših števil o pobitih in natančnejših podatkov o storilcih pobojev.

Manjkajo tako velika in znana grobišča, kot so Kočevski rog, Dolič pri Mislinji, Pohorje, Borl. v dolini Svetega Janeza pod Konjiško gorjo. Številke o pobitih so mnogo premajhne, saj gre, po doslej znanih podatkih za poboje več deset tisoč beguncev "z juga" (ob tem naj opozorim, da nekateri radi pretiravajo tudi v drugo skrajnost in pišejo o 200.000 in celo o 300.000 pobitih na slovenskih tleh.

(SE NADALJUJE)



V BLAG SPOMIN

29. OBLETNICE NAŠE LJUBLJENE MAME, STARE MAME IN PRASTARE MAME



Josephine Cimperman
ki je preminula
28. septembra 1975.

S cveticami Ti grob krasimo,
in molimo za dušni mir,
da enkrat srečno se združimo,
tam, kjer je večne sreče vir!

Žalujoci:

Hčer: Rose

Snaha: Mary Cimperman
Vnuki in vnukinje

Cleveland, Ohio 23. sept. 2004

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Poglobljene teme v Dragi

Tradicionalni že 39. študijski dnevi v Dragi pri Trstu

V parku Finžgarjevega doma na Opčinah nad Trstom so od 3. do 5. septembra pripravili 39. študijske dneve Draga 2004. Tudi letošnji program je bil po dogajanju in vsebini zelo pester.

IVO ŽAJDELA

(Izvečki iz poročila, objavljenega v DRUŽINI 12. septembra 2004)



V petek, 3. septembra, je mag. Tim Oliver Wüster predaval o temi *Sokratovo in Kristusovo vabilo*. Poskušal je odgovoriti na vprašanja, kot so, ali smo kot kristjani poklicani k narodnosti ali h kozmopolitstvu in v čem se ta dva načina političnega življenja med sabo razlikujeta in ali drug drugega izključujeta. Potem ko je sobotni (4. septembra) program obsegal dopoldansko okroglo mizo v okviru Drage mladih z naslovom *Brez meja... v Evropi*, je bil popoldanski predavatelj zgodovinar Jože Dežman. Njegovo predavanje *Slovenske sprave in resnice* je bilo v letošnji Dragi najbolj problemsko in polemično naravnano,

saj je v njem razmišljal o civilizacijskem razcepu v odnosu do političnega nasilja oziroma sistemskega terorizma, o slovenskih spravnih ideologijah, povezanih z drugo svetovno vojno in revolucijo v zadnjih treh desetletjih.

Po njegovem je slovenska družba okužena z nasiljem, kar še posebej kaže medvojno in povojno dogajanje, ko so partijski "bogovi v človeški podobi neusmiljeno klali, da bi postavili nebesa na zemlji".

V "partijskih nebesih" je okoli 20.000 partizanov in 20.000 civilistov (med temi je okoli 4.000 civilistov, ki so jih med vojno ubili partizani, okoli 15.000 mobilizirancev v nemško vojsko in žrtve povojnih pobojev).

Dodal je, da so partizani med vojno ubili dva-

krat več Slovencev kot pa okupatorjev. Zavzel se je tudi za izkope grobišč, saj to počnejo povsod po svetu. To je "civilizacijski standard, ki se mu naša država na vse načine skuša izogniti". Spomnil je na ajdovske, turške in francoske grobove, ki še vedno živijo v našem spominu. Grobov revolucionarnega nasilja je neprimerno več, in "če jih ne bomo izkopali, bodo ti grobovi z nami še tisoč let".

Spomenik sprave po njegovem že imamo: to je Rupnikova umetnina v kapeli Odršenikove Matere v Vatikanu. "Imamo reprezentančni objekt sredi centra sveta." Zavzel se je tudi, da bi prihodnje leto, ko bo minilo šestdeset let od konca druge svetovne vojne, na Brezjah postavili slovensko Pietà v spomin na vse žrtve vojne in revolucije.

Človek po naravi ne ubija kar tako, je dejal. Za pobijanje je potrebna politična (ideološka) konstrukcija. Naše medvojno in povojno obdobje nam



je pustilo tri vrste junakov. Prvi so "narodni heroji", ki so vsi izvajali politiko partijskega terorizma, drugi so mučenci za vero, tretji pa glasniki nenasilja oziroma iskalci dobrote, sočutja in pomoči.

Veliko priznanje je dal opusu Jožeta Plečnika, ki nam ostaja kot dolga oporoka, in farnim spominskim ploščam, ki so premalo cenjeno "orjaško delo". Govoril je o zaroti molka, ko nekdanji revolucionarji z molkom ponavljajo umor.

Poudaril je, da je slovenska država dolžna skrbeti za reševanje odprtih vprašanj iz medvojne in povojne preteklosti. "Odprti računi do zločinov v komunističnem obdobju so odprti računi države."

Nihče ni povzdignil glasu

Kot ponavadi je bilo najbolj obiskano nedeljsko popoldansko predavanje. Letos je nastopila Barbara Brezigar, ki je za svoj nastop požela buren aplavz. Med drugim se je, če se navežemo na Dežmanov nastop, dotaknila tudi neurejene preteklosti:

"Pri pokopu naših mrtvih so vodilni v državi, tudi moj konkurent na predsedniških volitvah 2002, in mnogi mnenjski voditelji vztrajali pri delitvi naših mrtvih in s tem tudi živih na črne in rdeče in tako načrtno vzpodbudili vztrajanje pri tem, da se naš notranji razkol nadaljuje.

Nič ni pomagalo, da nas zgodovina uči, da

smo Slovenci največ izgubili prav zaradi notranjih razprtij. In takrat ob predsedniški kampanji noben filozof ni povzdignil glasu in ni podprl mojih stališč, ko sem opozorila, da so vsi mrtvi naši in da jih ne smemo deliti na ene in druge, tudi za ceno volilnih glasov ne."

Brezigarjeva je opozorila tudi na številna neurejena področja našega javnega življenja, od vprašanja demokracije, sodstva, sociale in mnogih drugih.

Še pred Dežmanovim predavanjem v soboto je Svetovni slovenski kongres pripravil slavnostno prireditev ob 15. obletnici svoje ustanovitve. Pozdravne nagovore sta imela Bojan Brezigar in dr. Jože Bernik, prvi in drugi predsednik SSK, mag. Stanislav Raščan, predsednik Slovenske konference SSK, pa je prebral tudi pozdrav dr. Borisa Pleskoviča, sedanjega predsednika SSK.

V slavnostnem govoru je zgodovinar dr. Stane Granda orisal porajanje in uresničevanje ideje Svetovnega slovenskega kongresa, kjer so prav Opčine oziroma srečanje izobražencev v Dragi odigrale pomembno vlogo.

Viktor Blažič je spomnil, da je do pobude za SSK prišlo v stiski, ko smo morali Slovenci razmišljati, kako iz sedanjega položaja, ko je nad nami visel damoklejev moč okupacije.

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Misijonar Janez Mesec je poslal to fotografijo, ko lokalni škof Charles Remy Rakotonirina sodcluje pri blagoslovitvi nove cerkve 12. oktobra lani. Dogodek je opisan v MSIP.

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1541. V mesecu juniju je pismonoša prinesel

pismo misijonarja Janeza Meseca, ki deluje na Madagaskarju:

"Draga gospa! Hvala za Vaše pismo in za dar, ki ste ga namenili za potrebe našega misijona. Hvala še posebej g. Janezu Proseni, ki je spet daroval. Večkrat nam je že pisal. Kot se spomnim, je gospod že zelo v letih, vendar pa sploh dobre volje in življenjskega optimizma. Če imate možnost ga, prosim, pozdravite in se mu zahvalite v mojem imenu.

Vidim, da imate dober spomin. Še se spomnite, da me je ob božiču 2002 tresla mrzlica z malarijo. Res je bil zadnji božič, hvala Bogu, glede zdravja precej lepši. Praznoval sem ga v cerkvi v Tsaravohitri, ki je bila dograjena in blagoslovljena lanskega 12. oktobra. Praznik posvetitve cerkve in oltarja je vedno zelo slovesen. Še posebej slovesno je bilo tokrat, da je to za župnijsko cerkvijo moja druga zidana cerkev na področju našega misijona. Naslednja, tretja, se je pridružila 21. decembra 2003 – torej par dni pred božičem, ko nas je spet obiskal škof in posvetil novo cerkev v Betsipangi. Spet so že dan prej zaklali dva vola za pogostitev množice gostov.

Naš škof Charles Remy Rakotonirina je krščeval otroke, birmal mladino in odrasle in podelil zakrament sv. zakona trem parom. Program v cerkvi s petjem duhovnih pesmi je trajal preko polnoči. V nedeljo pa seveda blagoslov cerkve in oltarja s slovesno sv. mašo, ki se je končala šele po 12. uri. Sledilo je slovesno skupno kosilo za kakih 100 posebej povabljenih: riž in košček mesa. Praznovanje smo sklenili popoldne na cerkvenem dvorišču ob folklornih pesmih in plesih.

Torej je bilo lansko leto zelo bogato glede novih cerkva. Treba pa je poudariti, da je obe cerkvi začel graditi Janez Krmelj, ki se je lansko leto 13. septembra poslovil iz Matange. Sedaj deluje na misijonu Ranomena, ki je še bolj prostran kot Matanga, ima podružnic preko 25. V Misijonskih obzorjih je bila objavljena zahvala za njegovo 25-letno delo in garanje v Matangi. Res je pravi misijonski garač, kot ste lahko brali v isti številki, saj že načrtuje gradnjo cest, ki jih še ni. Z Janezom se večkrat slišimo po radijski zvezi, ki povezuje nas misijonarje, saj tu ni telefonov, ne elektrike. Vsaka dva ali tri mesece se dobimo na pastoralnih srečanjih, ki jim Slovenci radi dodamo še večerni program ob sproščenem pogovoru.

Prav ta teden pa odhajava z Janezom v pristanišče Tamatave, 1500 km odtod. Kot so sporočili, pri-

de ladja z darom slovenske MIVE: terenski avto Toyota.

V Matangi delava sedaj skupaj z laiškim misijonarjem Matijem Naredom. Res ga moram pohvaliti, da je zelo delaven. Celo preveč, saj je v teh krajih tako, da te ob pretiravanjih hitro zgrabi malarija. On je prevzel kmetijski projekt, skušal bo uvajati nove kulture, da bi zmanjšal lakoto in smrtnost otrok na našem področju. Dograjuje stavbo in garažo za kmetijskega centra, hkrati pa tudi pomaga meni pri gradnji šole za alfabetizacijo. Opismenjevanje, to je ena od pomembnih dejavnosti našega misijona, saj je velika večina ljudi nepismenih, ker niso nikdar hodili v šolo ali pa le kako leto.

To bi bilo nekaj novic iz Matange. Hvala za novice, prav vse lepo pozdravljam in vam želim lepe in tople dni. Vaš Janez Mesec, misijonar *Fidel Donum*.

P.s.: Pozdravom se pridružujeta kolega misijonarja Janez Krmelj in Matija Nared, v pismu tudi prilagam vse tri listke s podpismi, da smo prejeli dar. Še enkrat hvala vsem darovalcem."

Zelo obširno pismo, ki veliko pove o delu misijonarja. Zamislimo se, koliko prilike za dobro delo je pred njim. Počasi, a vztrajno prihaja do duš, jih vodi, jim pomaga, jih navdušuje, a obenem pozablja na sebe, živi z božjo bližino. Da bo vse to zmož, pomagajmo, da se spomnimo vsak dan na naše misijonarje in prosimo zanje božjega blagoslova. Spomnimo se jih!

Prav lep misijonski pozdrav od vseh sodelujočih in

Marice Lavriše
1004 Dillewood Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44119

NOVI GROBOVI

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 13)

(pok.), Judith Young in Brucea, 8-krat stara mati, 8-krat prastara mati, sestra Caroline Bradach, Jacka, Julije Johnson, Mae Charmoli, Freda, Molly Debeltz in Sophie Ketola. Pogreb je bil 18. septembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Frančiška Asiškega in pokopom na pokopališču Knollwood.

Olga M. Sivec

Dne 18. septembra je umrla 81 let stara Olga M. Sivec, sestra Harryja ter že pok. Matilde Miller in Ann Broski, teta. Pogreb je bil 22. septembra v oskrbi Brickmanovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Roberta in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Carol J. Black

Dne 4. septembra je v Cantonu, Ohio, umrla 63 let stara Carol J. Black, rojena Kozel, hčerka Jamesa in Mary Kozel (oba že pok.), mati Jeffa, Grega in Paula, sestra Jamesa in sva-kinja Vickie Kozel, 3-krat teta. Privatni pogreb je bil v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda.

Mary A. Jeric

Umrla je 80 let stara Mary A. Jeric, rojena Stanich, vdova po Victorju, mati Marcie M. Jeric. Pogreb je bil 9. septembra s pokopom na Kalvarije pokopališču.

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V BLAG SPOMIN

ob 19. obletnici smrti naše drage mame, stare mame, prastare mame in sestre



Leopoldina Žitnik
ki je umrla 24. sept. 1985.

V božjem vrtu sladko spava,
kjer nežne cvetke valove,
naša ljuba, zlata mama,
za trpljenje več ne ve.

Srečna ljubljena nam mama,
šla prezgodaj si od nas,
dobra, skrbna si nam bila,
kako brez Tebe dolg je čas.

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