



The Christmas Season in Slovenia

ADVENT

Advent is a holy time, the time of concentration, meditation and preparation for the birth of Christ. The activities which disturb the concentration ceased in Slovenia at Advent. There were times when marriages were not celebrated and some people abstained from food. In church a special morning Mass was celebrated named Zornice (Svita nice) the Early Mass.

Families gathered together to pray the Joyous part of the Rosary and to sing the Advent songs especially *Vi Oblaki* (You, the Clouds) by Janez Traven, *Kedaj Zvelicar Prisel Bos* (When Are You Coming, Savior?) by Angelik Hribar, etc.

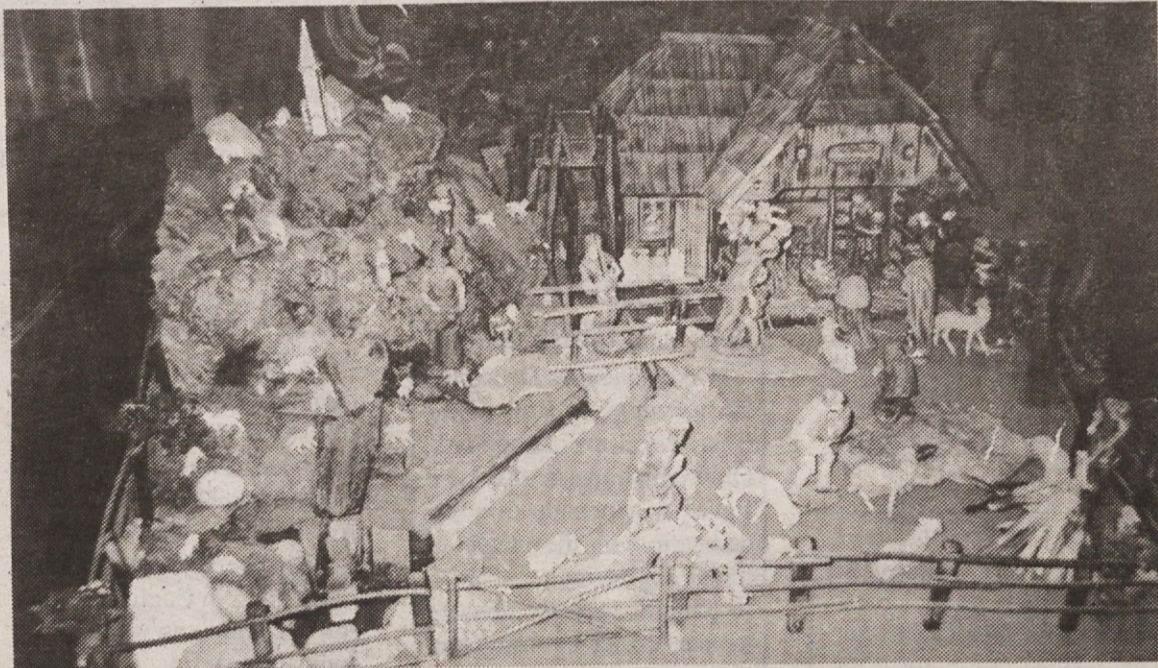
Slovenians spent Advent in preparing for Christmas and collecting materials for making the Nativity set. In Slovenian churches and in private homes the Advent Wreath is quite new and in the last few decades prepared with greenery and candles.

ST. NICHOLAS

On the Eve of St. Nicholas (6th December), the children were all well behaved, frightened by the visit of Miklavz (St. Nicholas) and his companion angels and the *hudici* (devils).

At first, the bells are heard from the road, then the ringing of chains are heard. Children keep close to their mothers. Their fathers usually wait at the door. The angels carry a big book with the names of well-behaved children, and also those who were naughty. The angels carry the presents and the devils jump and hop around the house.

Miklavz is dressed in a long coat (bishop's coat), has a bishop's hat on his head, white gloves and in his left hand is a long, gilded bishop's stick. From the book he reads the names of the children who were good and praises them while naughty ones are told to be better. The children are asked questions from the Catechism and to say prayers.



Nativity scene in the Nova Cerkev church in Prihova, Slovenia where Bishop Slomšek was once pastor.
(Photo by Jim Debevec)

For the diligent children there are usually presents such as walnuts, biscuits (in the shape of angels and devils) or similar, but for the naughty there is only *Miklavzeva siba* (a stick), often decorated with ribbon. Sometimes devils put naughty children into a basket and carry them for a while.

STATUE OF MARY

A very old custom is also known in Slovenia as *Marijo Nosijo* (carrying of a statue of Mary). The custom reminds us of the travels of the pregnant Mary and Joseph, combined with the celebration of the Nine Days of Christmas.

The statue of Mary is spent each night with a different family, being honored each evening with the home devotions (praying of the Rosary, litanies, and singing of hymns).

JASLICE

Every Slovenian home had a special place in the house where the cross was put throughout the year. In the month of May the statue of Mary was put in that special place and at Christmas this was also the site for *jaslice*.

In some parts of Slovenia the wheat is sown in a small dish and put in the special *jaslice* place. Throughout Advent the moss, bark, small pretty stones, twigs and branches of fir trees are

gathered, followed by the making of the simple stable with a straw covered roof, painting of the figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, together with shepherds, oxen and donkeys, sheep, shepherds, dogs, camels and the Three Kings.

The first *jaslice* was prepared by Jesuits in 1560 at Coimbra (Portugal). The first church in Slovenia to have *jaslice* was St. Jakob in Ljubljana in 1644, and the chronicle describes the figures as being very tall. In later years the figures were painted on boards or were made of paper.

jaslice (Nativity set)



BOGU BOD ČAST VIŠOKEMU
NA ZEMJI MIR LJUDEM!

Maksim Gaspari:
jaslice (Nativity set)

The first written account of *jaslice* by A. Praprotnik in a private home comes from 1848. He states that Slovenians put *jaslice* in a triangular form in a corner of the house, with the town of Bethlehem on a little hill,

and below the stable *STALICA*. The figures of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus are in the Slovenian nativity set placed in the stable and not in the caves as in most countries. The figures were sometimes made of wood, wax or paper, sometimes painted pottery. The important part of Slovenian *jaslice* is the linen cloth (sometimes molded from wood and hand painted).

There is no home in Slovenia without *jaslice* and the Slovenians living in other countries still keep the tradition very much alive. Under the Christmas tree today in Slovenian homes is placed the *jaslice*, prepared on Christmas eve.

In Slovenia a small fir tree was hung in the *BOHKOV KOT* (God's little corner) of every house. The tree was not decorated, and neither was the small fir tree that was sometimes put on a fence. The fir tree was named *KRISPAN*. The *Bozicno drevesce* (the Christmas tree) was unknown in Slovenia until the First World War.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Preparations for Christmas Eve continue with the cleaning of the house and the surroundings. Christmas Eve has a different name according to the region of Slovenia. Special cake (or more cakes) *BOZICNIK* are baked, also called *POPRTNIK*. The Christ-

mas cake was put on a table, covered with a white cloth and the family gathered for meals at another, less prominent place.

At the Morning Mass people collected blessed water to take home for the evening blessing of their homes at the time of the Three Holy Evenings (Christmas Eve, New Years Eve, and before the Feast of the Epiphany). The table with *Bozicnik* was blessed and not to be touched or used until the Feast of the Epiphany.

The first Holy Evening - Christmas Eve begins at dusk. The bells begin to ring. In the homes the blessing of the house and surrounding buildings with holy water begins, followed by incense burning. The whole family follows praying on the way.

After the blessing, the family sits at the table for a simple meal. Waiting for Christ's birth follows with the singing of songs, Christmas carols and readings from the bible.

MIDNIGHT MASS - POLNOCNICA

The whole family usually goes to Midnight Mass except one member who stays as a guardian of the house. The bells toll and the church is well lit in the wintry night. Many Christmas songs are sung. In Slovenia more than 80 Christmas songs are known, most of them unique.

After the return from Mass the family has a warm meal, most of the time *KOLINE*, the black pudding sausages are served.

There were no presents on Christmas Eve in Slovenia, except sometimes an orange for the whole family, walnuts and hazelnuts or dried apples.

Some Slovenian Christmas songs - carols - date back to the 15th century, with the *ENO DETE JE ROJENO* (The One Baby is Born) being the oldest known Slovenian Christmas song.

The later traditional Slovenian Christmas carols are sung every Christmas, such as *DETE RAJSKO* (The Heavenly Child) by Eleonora Hudovernik.

(Continued on page 4)

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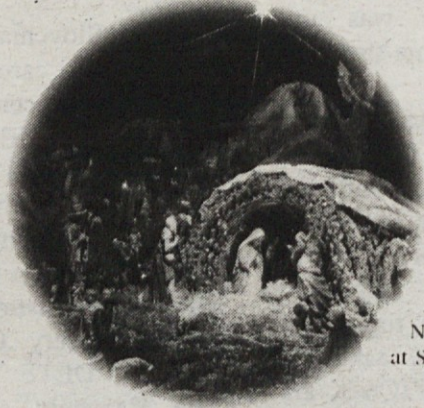
December 19, 2002

Holiday Schedule

There will be no American Home newspaper printed the week of Christmas.

The next edition will be dated January 2, 2003

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS by John Mercina



Jaslice pri Svetem Vidu, Nativity scene at St. Vitus. 2000



Crib Scene in St. Vitus Church
(1998 photo by Bob Mills)

Statue Dedication

On Sunday, December 22 at 2 p.m., at Holy Cross Cemetery in Brookpark, Ohio, **Bishop A. Edward Pevec** will preside over the dedication of the statue of the Welcoming Christ, which was recently donated to the cemetery by **Tony Colnar** in memory of his mother, **Frances Colnar Barman**. Everyone welcome to attend this wonderful ceremony.

Holiday Joke

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse.

"But why?" they asked.

"Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Thanks to **Phil Hrvatin**.

St. Mary's Slovenian School Teachers

This year's teachers at St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School are: Kristina Sedmak, Anica Nemeč, Monika Povirk, Marija Sedmak, Bine Lampic, and Janez Nemeč. Board members are: President: Marija Sedmak, VP Silvija Pisorn, Teacher: Chris Dolinar, Recording Secretary: Cathy Clack, Corresponding Secretary: Julie Tromba.

St. Vitus Christmas Concert

St. Vitus Choir will have its annual "Concert of Sacred Christmas Music" on Sunday, Dec. 29 at 3 p.m. in St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Avenue.

The concert will include songs sung in English, Latin, and Slovenian as well as accompaniment by organ and wind instruments (violin, viola, and cello). St. Vitus Choir is under the direction of John Srsen.

There is no admission charge. Any good-will offering will be accepted. Fellowship as well as light

refreshments and food will be provided after the concert in the lower church hall.

In 1977 John Srsen succeeded Jerry Zupan as the choirmaster and principal musician. Our congratulations and thanks to John for having served in this capacity for the past 25 years. Mr. Srsen is also the director of Fantje na Vasi, a local capella men's singing group in Cleveland as well as music director of the mixed singing Slovenian choral group, Korotan.

--Stane Kuhar

Legend of Candy Canes

Candy canes can be found everywhere at Christmas-time as sugary treats and ornaments. Two different stories tell of the origin of candy canes.

One legend claims that the candy cane originated centuries ago as a sweet reward for children who behaved well in church - or who learned their prayers. This story claims that candy canes were invented in the 17th century and were straight white sticks of sugar candy used for decorating Christmas trees. It is said that around the late 1600s, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral persuaded candy makers to bend the sticks of candy at the end to symbolize the shepherd's crook. He passed the candy canes out to boys and girls who were quiet during the

long Living Nativity ceremony at Christmas time. The custom spread quickly throughout Europe.

No one knows for sure when candy canes became red and white striped, but they appeared this way on Christmas cards in the early 20th century.

Another story has candy canes beginning with a candy maker from Indiana around the turn of the 20th century. He wanted to invent a candy that was a witness to Christ and the result was the candy cane. He chose a hard candy because Christ is the rock of ages and made it in the shape of a shepherd's staff to symbolize the "Good Shepherd."

No matter which story you believe, it is certain that the candy cane had a Christian beginning.



The term *hash*, as in corned beef hash or hash browned potatoes, comes from the French word *hacher*, meaning to chop.

Life in the Refugee Camps

by ANTON ZAKELJ
translated and edited
by JOHN ZAKELJ

(Continued)

Wednesday, June 5, 1946

Last night I thought all night about what the UNRRA director said yesterday, "You don't know how to make anything; you don't have anything to show!" I decided we will have to show him what we can make out of nothing.

In the afternoon I went around the camp and wrote down what kind of things my fellow refugees could make, and what they would be willing to display if we did a show to demonstrate what we can do. Babnik and others yelled and refused to cooperate. Babnik is a skilled metalsmith who has made some truly beautiful items. But I think he's still angry with me because I refused to be on the opposition slate with him when we had the board elections. "I'm not going in with you shoemakers," he said condescendingly. But I didn't take offense at that.

Thursday, June 6, 1946

I continued to ask fellow refugees what they would be willing to display in a craft show and I wrote it all down. I took the list to the camp office and showed it to them. They looked at it silently, without comment.

Friday, June 7, 1946

I typed invitations to our craft show, including one to UNRRA director Gilbert. The show will be next Monday, in a new barracks which is still empty. Logar, Sepinand Svajger are helping with plans for decoration of the space and arrangement of the items to be displayed. The show will be on a day when the director and the UNRRA office workers will be present. With a few exceptions, everyone in the camp is glad to help.

Saturday, June 8, 1946

It was hot today. I had an argument with my sister regarding the prices we should charge for the bobbin lace she is making. We worked it out.

I have become very nervous due to worries about the upcoming craft show and my fight with Felix. Felix obtained travel permission yesterday to return home, but now he doesn't want to go. He's threatening to tell everyone about the awful things I've done. What does he have to tell? I'm not afraid of that. But it's amazing all the things he's telling people. He's accusing me of wanting to have him sent back home by force. He told the director that I tried to send him to a terrible job, that I forged his signature, that our roommates are traveling outside the camp without the required travel permits (that part is sometimes true), that we all hate him, and so on.

Sunday, June 9, 1946

Yesterday we drank some milk without boiling it first, and today Cilka and I are both feeling sick. This morning I felt so sick, I had to leave the chapel during the sermon.

Logar helped me all day, decorating the barracks where we will do the craft show (which will be tomorrow), and arranging the craft items for display. People were supposed to bring their items by 6 p.m. this evening, but they continued bringing more items until 10 p.m. Even people who had been opposed to the idea now brought things they had made.

Monday, June 10, 1946

At 6 a.m., I went to the display area to finish final arrangements in preparation to open the show at 8. We have on display pots made out of downed warplanes, little heart-shaped sewing boxes, brushes made out of larch branches, brooms made of birch branches, shoes, a barrel, a carpenter's wooden table, pictures, lots of bobbin lace, and other things. All together, 50 refugees are displaying 300 items, all things they made here in the camp.

When the show opened, I accompanied the UNRRA director and pointed out various items. For example, I explained that much of the



Slovenian refugees at the Liechtenstein camp near Judenburg put on a craft display to show what they had made, even when they had nothing. These ladles, cups, pots and pans were all made from the aluminum skin of damaged warplanes which they found in the nearby woods. June, 1946.

bobbin lace was made out of thread from discarded flour sacks and I emphasized that we could do much better if we had the proper raw materials.

The craft show continued until 9 p.m. We had visitors all day. Everyone was impressed, including the director.

(To Be Continued)



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Anton Rop is Slovenia's new Prime Minister

LJUBLJANA – The Slovene national parliament on Wednesday endorsed the former finance minister Anton Rop as the new Prime Minister, STA news agency reported.

In a secret ballot, a majority of 63 members of parliament backed Rop, while 24 were against. Rop is expected to propose the new cabinet by the end of the week.

Rop was appointed Prime Minister-designate by out-

going President Milan Kucan last week, after Janez Drnovsek stepped down, following his victory in presidential elections on Dec. 1.

He is a member of Drnovsek's center-left Liberal Democrats (LDS), that holds a majority in parliament.

Thanks to Philip Hrvatin of Wachovia Corporation for this news item.

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Christmas Season in Slovenia

(Continued from page 1)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day is the holiest day of the year and people do not work around their homes. In some regions of Slovenia, visitors on Christmas Day means a bad omen. The Christmas Day is for the family. Wishing each other Merry Christmas was done after Mass, and then people went to their homes, to celebrate the Birth of Jesus in their hearts and welcome Him into their families. People never went visiting on Christmas Day, not even neighbors.

There was a celebration meal at noon. The next day people went visiting to see and admire each other's jaslice.

THIRD HOLY EVENING EPIPHANY

The eve before the Feast of the Epiphany the blessings of the houses and sur-



Novoletna koleda
(The New Year's Wish)
by J. Mocnik



Maksim Gasparič

roundings were repeated for the third time. On the door posts the new date was written with chalk and the initials of the Three Kings. (Example: 6 G + M + B 03).

The three kings: Gaspar, Melchior, Balthazar were added to the jaslice, symbolizing their arrival at the stable to honor baby Jesus.

Song sung: SVETI TRIJE KRALJI (The Three Kings) prepared by J. Mocnik).

The Christmas Season in Slovenia ends on the 2nd of February on the day of the Presentation of the Lord SVECNICA), and until that time Christmas songs and carols are sung, and the jaslice stay set in the corner until that feast.

Prepared by Draga Gelt and Tone Gorjup

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Legends of Christmas

The celebration of Christmas is a joyful mixture of customs that have developed in many different lands over thousands of years. Integrated into our customs are ancient Roman traditions, early Christian practices, medieval pagan rituals and Victorian nostalgia.

Christmas is richer in tradition than any other holiday celebrated in this country. These traditions have been adopted and changed by Americans over many years. In 1659 the Puritans declared the celebration of Christmas illegal. They said the holiday was just an excuse to drink too much and overeat. So for almost two centuries Christmas in America was virtually ignored.

In the 1800s, writers and artists began transforming Christmas into the celebration that we know today. Our very own version of Santa was created in the writings of Clement C. Moore, Washington Irving and the drawings of Thomas Nast.

Many customs – caroling, Santa, stockings, and gingerbread – originated in Europe.

Americans have embraced these customs and added their own special traditions to them as they have been passed down through the generations.

The Germans introduced the Christmas tree to America. Many years before the celebration of Christmas began, the Germans used evergreens to decorate their homes. They believed these trees represented life and immortality and would protect their homes from evil during the coming year. There are many different stories about how the tree first appeared in America – but the result is the same – rare is the home that does not decorate a tree at Christmas.

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration – a time to share traditional rituals with family and friends. Gift-giving, caroling, tree decorating, hanging stockings and baking cookies are all traditions that have been passed down through the years. All these traditions begin with stories, some fact and some fictional.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year

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THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE



The German prince, Albert, after his marriage to Queen Victoria, brought the custom of decorating a Christmas tree to England and German immigrants brought it to America.

Letter written in 1914 in the trenches during World War I France about a most unusual Christmas:

Christmas Day, 1914
My dearest sister Janet,

It is about 2 in the morning and most of our men are asleep in their dugouts – yet I could not sleep myself before writing to you of the wonderful events of Christmas Eve. In truth, what happened seems almost like a fairy tale, and if I hadn't been through it myself, I would scarce believe it. Just imagine: While you and the family sang carols before the fire there in London, I did the same with enemy soldiers here in the battlefields of France.

As I wrote before, there has been little serious fighting of late. The first battles of the war left so many dead that both sides have held back until replacements could come from home. So we mostly stayed in our trenches and waited.

But what a terrible waiting it has been. Knowing that any moment an artillery shell might land and explode beside us in the trench, killing or maiming several men. And in daylight not daring to lift our heads above ground, for fear of a sniper's bullet.

And the rain – it has fallen almost daily. Of course, it collects right in our trenches, where we must bail it out with pots and pans. And with the rain has come mud – a good foot or more deep. It splatters and cakes everything and constantly sucks at our boots. One new recruit got his feet stuck in it, and then his hands, too, when he tried to get out – just like in that American story of the tar baby.

Through all this we couldn't help feeling curious about the German soldiers across the way. After all, they faced the same dangers as we and slogged about in the same muck. What's more their first trench was only 50 yards from ours. Between us lay No Man's Land, bordered on both sides by barbed wire – yet they were close enough we sometimes heard their voices.

Of course, we hated them whenever they killed our friends. But other times we joked about them and almost felt we had something in common. And now it seems they felt the same.

Just yesterday morning – Christmas Day – we had our first good freeze. Cold as we were, we welcomed it, because at least the mud froze solid. Everything was tinged white with frost, while a bright sun shone over all. Perfect Christmas weather.

During the day there was little shelling or rifle fire from either side. And as darkness fell on our Christmas Eve, the shooting stopped entirely. Our first complete silence in months. We hoped it might promise a peaceful holiday, but we didn't count on it. We'd been told the Germans might attack and try to catch us off guard.

I went to the dugout to rest, and lying on my cot, I must have drifted asleep. All at once my friend John was shaking me awake, saying, "Come and see! See what the Germans are doing!" I grabbed my rifle, stumbled out into the trench, and stuck my head cautiously above the sandbags.

I never hope to see a stranger and more lovely sight. Clusters of tiny lights were shining all along the German line, left and right as far as the eye could see.

"What is it?" I asked. The Germans had placed Christmas trees in front of their trenches, lit by candle or lantern like beacons of good will.

And then we heard their voices raised in song.

Stille nacht, heilige nacht...

John knew it and translated, "Silent Night, Holy Night." I've never heard one lovelier – or more meaningful, in that quiet, clear night, its dark softened by a first-quarter moon.

When the song finished, the men in our trenches applauded. Yes, British soldiers applauding Germans. Then one of our own men started singing, and we all joined in.

The First Nowell, the angels did say...

In truth, we sounded not nearly as good as the Germans, with their fine harmonies. But they responded with enthusiastic applause of their own and began another.

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum.

Then we replied.

O come all ye faithful...

But this time they joined in, singing the same words in Latin.

Adeste fideles...

British and German soldiers harmonizing across No Man's Land. I would have thought nothing could be more amazing – but what came next was more so.

"English, come over!" we heard one of them shout. "You no shoot; we no shoot."

There in the trenches, we looked at each other in bewilderment. Then one of us shouted jokingly, "You come over here first."

To our astonishment, we saw two figures rise from the trench, climb over their barbed wire, and advance unprotected across No Man's Land. One of them called, "Send officer to talk."

I saw one of our men lift his rifle to the ready, and no doubt others did the same – but our captain called out, "Hold your fire." Then he climbed out and went to meet the Germans halfway. We heard them talking, and a few minutes later, the captain came back with a German cigar in his mouth.

"We've agreed there will be no shooting before midnight tomorrow," he announced. "But the sentries are to remain on duty, and the rest of you, stay alert."

Across the way, we could make out groups of two or three men starting out of trenches and coming toward us. Then some of us were climbing out, too, and in minutes more, there we were in No Man's Land, over a hundred soldiers and officers of each side, shaking hands with men we'd been trying to kill just hours before:

Before long a bonfire was built, and around it we mingled – British khaki and German gray. I must say, the Germans were the better dressed, with fresh uniforms for the holiday.

Only a couple of our men knew German, but more of the Germans knew English. I asked one of them why that was.

"Because many have worked in England," he said. "Before all this, I was a waiter at the Hotel Cecil. Perhaps I waited on your table."

"Perhaps you did," I said, laughing.

He told me he had a girlfriend in London and that the war had interrupted their plans for marriage. I told him, "Don't worry. We'll have you beat by Easter, then you came come back and marry the girl."

Another German said he had been a porter at Victoria Station. He showed me a picture of his family back in Munich. His eldest sister was so lovely, I said I should like to meet her someday. He beamed and said he would like that very much and gave me his family's address.

Even those who could not converse still exchanged gifts – our cigarettes for their cigars, our tea for their coffee, our corned beef for their sausage. Badges and buttons from uniforms changed owners, and one of our lads walked off with the infamous spiked helmet. I myself traded a jackknife for a leather equipment belt – a fine souvenir to show when I get home.

Newspapers too changed hands, and the Germans howled with laughter at ours. They assured us that France was finished and Russia nearly beaten, too. We told them that was nonsense, and one of them said, "Well, you believe your newspapers and we'll believe ours."

Clearly they are lied to – yet after meeting these men, I wonder how truthful our own newspapers have been. These are not the "savage barbarians" we've read so much about. They are men with homes and families, hopes and fear, principles and, yet, love of country. In other words, they are like ourselves.

As it grew late, a few more songs were traded around the fire, and then all

joined in for – I am not lying to you "Auld Lang Syne." Then we parted with promises to meet again tomorrow, and even some talk of a football match.

I was just starting back to the trenches when an older German clutched my arm. "My God," he said, "why cannot we have peace and all go home?"

And so, dear sister, tell me, has there ever been such a Christmas Eve in all history?

Your loving brother,
Tom

Christmas was close at hand... the season of hospitality, merriment and open heartedness.
--Charles Dickens



"The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing others' loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas."
– W.C. Jones



*Best Wishes for a
Blessed Christmas and a
Happy New Year 2003*

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Bums, Hobos, & Other Vagabonds

by JOE GLINSEK

Gypsies, (or Roms), would come under the heading of 'other vagabonds.' Surely there are good and bad Gypsies, but as a child I never heard any favorable stories about them. My opinion and knowledge is mostly formed by what I heard from Slovenians who were born and had lived in Yugoslavia, a location that was certainly visited by the Gypsies who traveled over most of eastern Europe.

Slovenians had the benefit of observation and probably direct contact, but perhaps they had also been influenced by stories heard from their parents. I have never knowingly met or spoken to a Gypsy, so I've not heard their side of the story. They are of Caucasian Hindu origin and have a swarthy complexion, but most of their men would not stand out in a crowd. But the women I saw, were dressed and bejeweled in a way that labeled them as Gypsies just as surely as the sign on the door that advertised their services.

I was in my teens when I saw a Gypsy in the window of a storefront in the low-rent area on the fringes of downtown Cleveland. Wearing exotic gowns and fairly bristling with gold coins and trinkets strung on multiple necklaces and heavy golden jewelry on her fingers and ears, she certainly got my attention. Perhaps the stories about Gypsies 'wearing' their wealth may be true. In my opinion, their tribal habits inhibited social contact with outsiders, and I believe it was their choice, their nature, and their destiny to become vagabonds.

Our other vagabonds were called 'bums' or 'hobos,' terms with no discernible difference. Unlike the homeless of today living in boxes under a bridge, these men seemed to be willing wanderers, and I believe many of them were homeless by choice. Supporting their wanderlust by exchanging labor for meals, they might just as easily have settled in some of the places they toured and found enough work to eke out the rude existence of folks whose humble homes they visited, but they had to be 'homeless' to pursue the life they had chosen. Call them vagabonds, wanderers, nomads, or 'men of the road,' those whom I observed and the few that I met seemed to be escaping from home, not looking for one.

Living and playing on the railroad property all during my childhood, I often saw groups of shabby-looking men gathered around a pot cooking over a fire in the autumn dusk. Wearing mismatched threadbare clothing, their social strata was only a step or two below the poor families in the mean little houses which adjoined the railroad property.

These men worked, paid rent, and scratched out a meager existence hardly better than that of the hobos round the fire. Most of them walked to their jobs, if they were lucky enough to have one. Their world was small. The grocery store, the church, and places they could reach on foot or bicycle; that was their universe.

Hobos had traded responsibility and comfort for the freedom to roam a larger world, when and where they wished. I never approached one of their campfire groups, though not out of fear. You were ignored as if you didn't exist. One could sense that 'outsiders' were not welcome, and their self-assurance and lack of curiosity about others was an effective deterrent to any invasion of their privacy.

I didn't hear bad stories about bums or hobos. My mother fed many of them, and many insisted on earning their meal. If there was a patch of garden in need of spading or some leaves to be raked, the job was done in exchange for a meal and a 'wash-up' at the outside spigot. But often, they were simply fed as an act of charity. The woman of the house was usually home alone when they came to the door, but there was no cause for fear, even if she turned them down. They left politely, hoping the neighbors would be more generous. You've probably heard stories about the cryptic chalk marks left on the sidewalks of homes they visited. The 'coded' signs were supposed to tell the next hobo what to expect. I didn't see any 'cryptic' messages - mostly just 'hop-scotch.'

There is one 'bum story' that sticks in my mind. The guy was disgusting, not dangerous. Genuine hobos and bums would be insulted if I lumped him with their kind. He was a local fixture every summer, and never sober. This contradicts the title of 'bum'; real hobos didn't stay long in one place, and at least during the day, were generally not 'boozers.' In the interest of accuracy, we will refer to this derelict as

our 'local drunken tramp,' or Fly Man, a moniker that neighborhood kids gave him.

People would cross the street to avoid him. He 'summered' in Collinwood, but never came to our house. I doubt if anyone would open their door to him, but somehow he survived. No matter the heat, he wore the same filthy woolen suit and obviously slept in it as well. Worst of all, he was either careless or incontinent, probably both. As he wandered around, a cloud of flies clustered around his 'fly,' moving and buzzing along like a permanent floating appendage.

I can't leave you with this loathsome image. None of the bums or hobos that ate at our doors were like this tramp. They weren't drunk, rude or intrusive, and always left with a word of thanks and left no mess. They traveled alone door to door, and sometimes I was around the yard when they were eating their 'handout' on the back steps. We might exchange a few words; my curiosity was obvious. I was eager to know about them, but they fended queries with polite questions about my age and school grades - small talk. Never unkind or bitter, but their wall of privacy was never breached.



The words ketchup and catsup are both English equivalents of the Chinese word ke-tsiap, meaning taste.

At Christmas I no more desire a rose/
Than wish a snow in May's newfangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season grows.
—William Shakespeare
Love's Labour Lost

Life is a puzzle to be solved. —Janez Mercina

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Coming Events

Saturday, Jan. 25
Pristavska noč at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair, Cleveland.

Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2
Slovenian ski weekend and Giant Slalom Race; dinner and awards at Windham Mts., NY. Info: Ivan Kamin (718) 424-2711.

Sunday, Feb. 2
St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School dinner, school hall, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feb. 15 - 22
Slovenian group organizing one week ski vacation to Lake Tahoe. Info: Ivan Kamin (718) 424-2711.

Sunday, Feb. 23
St. Vitus Slovenian Language School hosts Annual Benefit Dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish auditorium.

Saturday, March 15
Slovenian Man and Woman of the Year Banquet

at SNH, St. Clair. Tickets \$22.

Sunday, March 23
St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School breakfast 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sunday, April 6
Super Button Box Bash XXI at Slovenian Society Home, both halls featuring 15 button accordion bands.

Sunday, April 13
St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Palm Sunday 9:45 a.m. blessing of butare and procession. 10 a.m. Mass.

Sunday, June 8
St. Mary's (Collinwood) Slovenian School picnic at Slovenska Pristava, 12:30 Mass followed by dinner.

Sunday, Sept. 21
St. Vitus Altar Society annual dinner.

Sunday, Nov. 9
Slovenian Junior Chorus Fall Concert, Slovenian Society Home, Euclid, OH.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no American Home newspaper printed the week of Christmas.

Slovenian Genealogists Meet

Weather permitting, the Ohio Chapter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society International will meet in January as follows:

WEST SIDE group - Monday, Jan. 6 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Parma Regional Library, 7335 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio.

EAST SIDE group - Tuesday, January 7 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Euclid Public Library, 631 East 222nd Street, Euclid, Ohio.

The program for both meetings will be devoted to exploring the origin of Slovenian names using Janez

Keber's columns in past issues of *Slovenija* as the basis for discussion. Mr. Keber has accumulated information for hundreds of Slovenian surnames since he began writing for the magazine. Please join us for an interesting, informative evening. Maybe your surname will be among those we discuss.

If the weather is questionable, please call Rose Marie Jisa at (440) 230-2954 or email at bonitabser@ameritech.net to confirm that the meeting will take place.

Slovenians R Us

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Seven Hills, OH 44131

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Stanley Frank
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Euclid, OH

Death Notices

FRED J. KRAMER

Fred J. Kramer, 88, passed away on Friday, Dec. 13 at Euclid General Hospital.

Mr. Kramer was born in Cleveland and was a 15-year resident of Wickliffe, Ohio.

He was a member of AMLA, and Our Lady of Fatima Lodge - KSKJ.

Mr. Kramer was a machinist for Cleveland Twist Drill, retiring in 1979.

He is survived by wife Zora (nee Herbst); children Loretta Wing, Fred (Marianne) Kramer, John (Kelly) Kramer, Marianne (Roland) Cicirelli; grandchildren Donna, Dawn and Robert Wing, Christine, Susanne and Michael Cicirelli, Tony, Christopher, Denise, Luke and Jill Kramer; great-grandchildren Ted and Max Wing, Samuel and Ryan Kramer; and a brother John Kramer.

Deceased family: sister Mildred Bride; brother William Kramer.

Friends were received Tuesday, Dec. 17 at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills, Ohio. Mass of the Resurrection was on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2002 at 10 a.m. in St. Vitus Church, Lausche Avenue in Cleveland, Rev. Joseph P. Boznar, officiating. Burial in Western Reserve Memorial Gardens in Chester, OH.

In Loving Memory of the 37th anniversary of our dear Mother, Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother



Mary Hrastar

passed away Dec. 25, 1965
Sadly missed by
Son - Bill (deceased)
Daughters - Elsie Urbic
Marlene Dobrzeniecki (Fla.)
Grandchildren,
Great-grandchildren
and remaining relatives.

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Knowing The Signs Of Stroke Can Prevent Dire Results

Facts From The American College Of Emergency Physicians

(NAPS)—When stroke symptoms occur, it is an emergency. Knowing the symptoms can mean the difference between life and death.

A new study shows that each year 700,000 Americans suffer strokes—caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain—and 150,000 of them die as a result. Stroke is the number one cause of disability and the third leading cause of death in the U.S.

"Stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted by a clogged or burst artery," said Dr. Al Sachetti of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "The interruption deprives the brain of blood and oxygen, and causes brain cells to die."

Seek medical help immediately if you observe one or more of these signs:

- sudden numbness, weakness or paralysis of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body;
- sudden blurred or decreased vision in one or both eyes;
- difficulty speaking or understanding simple statements; and
- loss of balance or coordination when combined with another warning sign.

According to the American College of Emergency Physicians, there are a number of steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of stroke. These include:

- controlling blood pressure;
- not smoking;
- eating a healthy diet;
- exercising regularly;
- controlling diabetes;
- managing heart disease;
- being aware of family history of stroke; and
- promptly reporting warning signs to your doctor.

ACEP is actively involved in stroke treatment and prevention as a participant in the Brain Attack Coalition, comprised of the six leading stroke-related health care organizations. The coalition's objective is to inform



An emergency treatment administered within three hours can prevent the debilitating results of strokes.

health care providers and the public that a stroke is an emergency and, as such, should be treated aggressively.

In 1996, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first drug therapy for acute ischemic stroke (caused by blood clots that block blood flow)—tPA, a "clot-busting" medication often used in heart attack patients. Early studies show that stroke victims treated with it are at least 30 percent more likely to have minimal or no disability.

Because brain cell injury during stroke is progressive, and a narrow "window of opportunity" exists for administering tPA, recognizing the warning signs of a stroke is essential. However, there are risks associated with this type of therapy (e.g., bleeding in the brain), and if administered more than three hours after symptoms occur, the drug is ineffective and may possibly increase complications.

ACEP also publishes a brochure, *Seconds Save Lives*, as part of a national public service campaign to educate the public about the warning signs of medical emergencies, and instructions for emergency treatment.

For a free copy of the brochure, send a self-addressed envelope to ACEP, 1111 19th St., N.W., Suite 650, Washington, DC 20036.

For more information about what to do in an emergency, visit the Web site at www.acep.org.

Anything you're good at contributes to happiness.

--Bertrand Russell

Remembrance



John (J.P.) Jevnikar

Born May 16, 1918
Died Dec. 26, 1993

Not dead to those who loved him
Not lost, but gone before,
He lives with us in memory
and will forever more.

Wife, Mary
Daughter, Jenien Beach
son-in-law, Bill
Sons, John and Bob
Grandsons John, Jeffrey

Milestone Invitation

The invitation by NATO Thursday, Nov. 21 for Slovenia to join the alliance represents international acknowledgment of the progress made by the former communist entity, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel said.

"The invitation is a final acknowledgment of the maturity of Slovenia's statehood. It is also proof that the international community has recognized Slovenia's legitimate belonging to the West," Rupel said.

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.

--Oscar Wilde

Invited to South Florida Meetings

The American Slovenian Club of South Florida is inviting regular Floridians and snowbirds to attend our meetings which are held on the first Sunday of each month.

Please call Mary Makar at 1-954-989-5164 for full details.

Don't Quit...

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems uphill,
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.*

*Life is strange with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out,
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.*

*Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst,
That you must not quit.*

Thanks to Millie Ringenbach of Mentor, OH for this thoughtful advice

The Perfect Gift

A gift subscription to the American Home Newspaper is the perfect Christmas present that will last the entire year. Your recipient will think of your thoughtfulness each time the paper arrives.

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Christmas Symbols

Among the items seen year after year at Christmas time are the nativity scene, the candles and the ornaments. They are just some of the many Christmas symbols.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with beginning the custom of symbolizing Christ's birth in a manger. He celebrated Christmas Mass in front of the early Nativity scene, which included figures of the Virgin Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds and their animals.

Candles are often burned at Christmas time, symbolizing light and warmth at a time usually associated with the darkness and cold of

winter. In olden days, burning candles were placed on Christmas trees. Near the turn of the century an employee of New England telephone came up with the idea of using electric lights, instead of candles.

The glass and paper ornaments we now place on our Christmas trees stem from the fruits and nuts and flowers that were placed on the first Christmas trees.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of Christ. It is traditionally an evergreen wreath with four candles that are lit, one on each of the four Sundays before Christmas.

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8 Kids Say the *Craziest Things*

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, DECEMBER 19, 2002

When I stopped the bus to pick up Chris for preschool, I noticed an older woman hugging him as he left the house. "Is that your grandmother?" I asked.

"Yes," Chris said. "She's come to visit us for Christmas."

"How nice," I said. "Where does she live?"

"At the airport," Chris replied. "Whenever we want her, we just go out there and get her."

When the mother returned from the grocery store, her small son pulled out the box of animal crackers he had begged for, then he spread the animal-shaped crackers all over the kitchen counter. "What are you doing?" his Mom asked.

"The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken," the boy said. "I'm looking for the seal."

In the supermarket was a man pushing a cart that contained a screaming, bellowing baby. The gentleman kept repeating softly, "Don't get excited, Albert; don't yell, Albert; don't yell, Albert; keep calm Albert."

A woman standing next to him said, "You certainly are to be commended for trying to soothe your son Albert."

The man looked at her and said, "I'm Albert."

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass.

As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

Walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, a Catholic priest spotted a group of youngsters in earnest activity. Apparently a five-year-old and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, a small hole was dug. One boy was chosen to say some appropriate words.

The youngster thought about it for a while and said, "Glory be to the faaaather, and to the soonnnn, and into the hole he gooooes."

Thanks to **Bucky Love** for this bit of humor.

DID YOU KNOW SLOVENIA

Joseph Zelle

"Cerkev na slovenskim v 20. stoletju" (Church in Slovenia in the 20th Century) has been published by *Druzina* (Family) Catholic weekly published in Ljubljana. It was arranged by Dr. Pater Metod Benedik. Twenty-nine authors cooperated in contributing articles to the work. The book was intended to introduce the third millennium of the Church's existence.

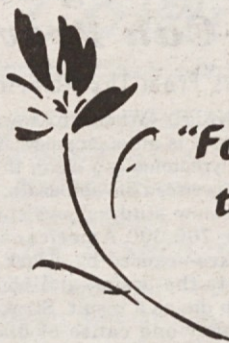
Rev. Dr. Franc Kramberger, Bishop of Maribor, blessed the new church in Prager. It is dedicated to Mary's Immaculate Conception Heart. The structure was designed by the well-known architect Joze Marinko.

At the request of the American Ambassador, Johnny Young, the Archbishop of Ljubljana (Rode) ordered that all churches ring bells. The occasion was in memory of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City last year, 9/11. The Archbishop also invited the Slovenian faithful to say a prayer for the victims of the attack.

Days of Honey featured the exhibition of bee culture in Slovenia. The event was celebrated in Polhov Gradec.

Vesele Božične Praznike in Srečno Novo Leto

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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in January

(the Orthodox Christmas)

we also wish you a

Merry Christmas

MERRY CHRISTMAS ~ HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Mlakar's Walk Down Memory Lane

by RAY MLAKAR

Joke time... only this time one college joke for I am gonna keep my promise and try to keep the column short. (That will be the day.)

Two men in a theater restroom were overheard. First man finished what he has to do and begins to leave. The second man says, "I went to Harvard. At Harvard we learned to wash our hands after using the urinals." First man replies, "I went to Yale. At Yale we learned not to get our hands wet."

Well, time to get back to the Army saga. Mom and Dad took me to Penn Station for the train ride back to New Jersey but these good-byes were easy for I knew that now I was stateside and in a year I would be making the final train trip back home.

It was a regular civilian passenger train; no troop train and the train was only half full. As I sat there looking out the window, I reflected on how good my parents had been to me over the years and moreover the relatives, for in growing up, there was always a Christmas present package from the aunts, uncles, and our dear aunt in Madison, Ohio who worked hard on the farm land and always seemed to squeeze a quarter in our hands as we left. I made up my mind then and there that when I got out, it will be "pay-back" time and this time I would never forget them on any and all occasions. My aunts ended up with enough dresses to open a clothing store.

As I was there sitting alone, a middle aged woman dressed all in black came up to me and said, "Do you mind if I sit here with you?" "No, be my guest for I will enjoy the company." She said, "Where are you headed?" I said Trenton, New Jersey and then Fort Dix, New Jersey. I went on to say that I was home on leave in Cleveland after spending almost two years in Germany.

She began to cry and said, "My boy was in Germany, too and we just came to bury him in the Military Section of Calvary Cemetery. I said, what happened? She said well his dad and I were divorced, I remarried and with him coming home he felt he wanted to travel to Cleveland first to visit his Dad before

spending a few days with us in Trenton, New Jersey. I said what was his name? She said Pfc. Robert Wilson. Holy smoke, I served with a Robert Wilson in Germany. What unit was he in? She said the 552nd AAA Gun Bn., B Btry. Yep, it was the same Bob Wilson I knew and we used to hang around together from time to time.

I said, you know I have some photos back home of Bob Wilson at Karlsruhe and will make it a point that my family send me the photo album and I will send them on to you. She cried and said, "That will be great." I said you can be proud of Bob for he was a good soldier, a straight shooter and was assigned to one of the 90mm guns. He was killed in Cleveland in an auto accident.

She gave me her address and said when you get settled at Fort Dix, please drop us a line. I said, "I promise."

Well, to make a long story short, I did write; I did get the photo album and sent her quite a few photos of her son standing close to the 90mm guns. That was just the beginning for in the weeks that followed, as sure as God made green apples, twice a month they would drive down to Fort Dix on a Friday night, pick me up and drive me back to their home in Trenton, New Jersey.

Bob's father was quite a guy for he would say, "Ray, on Sundays we have quite a time in my home town. On Sundays you buy one drink in a bar and the bartender buys you one and it goes on and on, and the food is on the 'bar' but on Sundays

only." Goes without saying we had some memorable Sundays.

They always wrote to me even after I got out of the service. She would send me money at home to buy a special Red-White-and-Blue wreath and I would take it out to Bob's grave at Calvary Cemetery and I never failed to take my camera along to take snapshots of the grave and flowers to insure her that her wishes were complied with.

Perhaps on that train ride back to New Jersey, God had a hand in this for he felt she needed comforting and I needed a friend away from home. Perhaps coming back on the train, hearing the tragic news of Bob's death was the first of many heartaches that were coming my way in the weeks ahead. Unfortunately, if Bob would have lived, she said he had orders to go to San Francisco for debarkation to Korea. The war was going in full force there and just maybe if he did not have an accidental death stateside, God forbid he may have been killed in Korea. Maybe in a way it was a blessing that he died here for she had the opportunity to give him a full military funeral and burial at the Veterans Section of Calvary Cemetery. Guess none of us knows what looms over the horizon for us or just how and when we will meet our 'maker.'

Well, time to close with a silent prayer for Bob Wilson and in the meantime, May the Good Lord bless and watch over all of you.

Best wishes to everyone for the holiday season.



Robert Tomsich honored by CSU

Robert J. Tomsich received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Cleveland State University on Sunday, December 15.

Mr. Tomsich is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of NESCO Inc, headquartered in Cleveland, is a global operation with thousands of employees. It is diversified in industrial manufacturing and engineering services worldwide.

Mr. Tomsich is a 1955

graduate of Fenn College with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. This year Mr. Tomsich received the Distinguished Fellowship Award from the Cleveland Clinic and the Slovenian Freedom Award, which was presented by the president of the Republic of Slovenia. In 1997, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Thanks to Jim Snyder for this news.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Christmas Angels

According to Christian beliefs, angels played a large role in the Christmas story. Angels appeared several times in the Bible to announce the events related to the birth of Christ - an angel appeared to Mary, telling her of Jesus' coming birth; and afterwards, an angel came to the shepherds proclaiming Jesus' birth.

In some European countries, it is an angel who brings Christmas gifts to children instead of Santa Claus. Some children write their Christmas letters to "little Jesus" and believe that these letters are taken to heaven by angels. Hungarian children believe that on Christmas Eve one of God's

angels decorates the Christmas tree and brings the gifts. Before the angel leaves the home, it blesses each child who lives there.

Here in America there are many stories about angels. A very popular Christmas story is *The Littlest Angel* written by Charles Tazewell in 1957. This story is performed in many churches as the Christmas Program.

Another very famous angel is Clarence, from *It's a Wonderful Life*. Clarence is not a typical angel but when he hears the bell and gets his angel wings everyone cheers. And for year-round angel fans there is *Touched By An Angel*, a popular television show.

CHRISTMAS BALL HORS D' OEUVRES

Brother Richard

2 cups of finely diced red peppers

2 cups finely diced broccoli, put in a

bowl and add the following:

2 2/3 cups all purpose flour

2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. black pepper

4 tsp. of onion powder

2 tsp. of baking powder

Mix together and then add:

3 beaten egg yolks

1-1/2 cups flat beer

Mix, but don't over mix. Drop from teaspoon in 350 degree oil for about 2 to 3 minutes.



How Come?

If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?

If the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2.

Where does the white go when the snow melts?

Why is it called a building if it is already built?

These questions were asked by Phil Hrvatin.



The green room in which actors rest or wait got its name because the walls in such rooms were often painted green to rest actors' eyes after exposure to bright lights.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Mary Petric (Mrs. John) and Family

Gateway, Euclid, Ohio

Chocolaty Shortbread Cookies

¾ cup sugar
½ cup margarine or butter, softened
½ cup shortening
1 tsp. vanilla
1 egg
2 ¼ cups all purpose flour
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa
½ tsp. baking powder
sugar

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

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

Makes 3 dozen.

--Brother Richard

Gilmour well seasoned recipe book

CHEESE BALL

This recipe has evolved over the years, and usually, I don't even follow a recipe when making it. You can also cheat and re-use it (useful during the holidays) by re-shaping and re-rolling in crushed nuts.

Ingredients:

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 8-oz. pkg. Kaukauna soft cheese, cheddar or port wine flavor
4+ cloves of garlic, pressed (to taste)
1½ t Italian seasoning
1 small onion, chopped fine
Chopped pecans or walnuts

Directions:

In a Kitchenaid mixer, mix the 2 cheeses, onion, garlic and seasonings until combined. You can try different combinations and different herbs, to taste. The mixture will be pretty sticky, so use a large rubber spatula to form sort of a ball. On a piece of plastic wrap (18" long or so), spread the chopped nuts and put the cheese mixture on top of it. Roll the cheeseball in the plastic wrap and refrigerate (putting it in a small Tupperware or Pyrex bowl will give it a good round shape). Again, if there is any cheeseballs left after your gathering, re-shape it into a ball and re-roll in nuts to use for your next gathering.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh

✕ *Our Family and Friends Recipes*

Christmas donation

Many thanks to **St. Anne Lodge No. 4** for their very generous Christmas donation of \$150.00 to the American Home newspaper!

Donation

Thanks to **Mary and Anna Lunder** of Cleveland, Ohio who donated \$25.00 to the American Home. Many thanks for all your support throughout the year.

Christmas donation

Thanks to the **Slovenian Cultural Garden Association** of Cleveland for their donation of \$50.00.

Christmas donation

Thanks to **The Belokranjski Klub** for their Christmas card and \$100.00 donation!

Christmas donation

Thanks to dramatic club **Lilija** for their custom made Slovenian Christmas card and their \$70.00 donation.

In Memory

Thanks to **Frank and Gerri Spisich** of Wickliffe, Ohio who renewed their subscription and added a \$20.00 donation in memory of their parents **Mike and Anna Spisich** and **William E. Cahill**.

More Women

Enclosed is my check for subscription renewal. I wish, however, you could have more women writing stories about our Slovenian culture.

Mary Ann Zajc
Kirtland, OH

Donation

Thanks to **Cecilia Lubey** of Parma Heights, Ohio who renewed her subscription and added a \$10.00 donation.

Christmas donation

Thanks to **St. Vitus Alumni** for their lovely Christmas card in which was enclosed a \$25.00 donation.

Great Baking With The Kids

(NAPS)—Baking with kids helps to promote family traditions and build loving memories of little hands at work. It's also an important learning experience, improving math and reading skills, teaching team work and an understanding of food.

For children, the kitchen is a place where ground rules need to be established, chiefly in safety.

- Be sure to ask Mom's or Dad's permission to use the kitchen.

- Always ask for help when using the oven, cooktop, microwave or knives.

- Always wash hands with soap and water before starting.

- Assemble ingredients and equipment before starting.

- Be sure to keep kid-friendly pot holders available.

The bakeware to use should be durable and designed for easy handling and cleaning. A great choice is T-Fal's Patisserie, crafted of heavy-gauge aluminum in a light gray nonstick inside and out.

The nonstick coating offers unsurpassed releasability, so cakes, cookies, muffins and other goodies pop out of pans without sticking.

Cleanups are a breeze with Patisserie, washing up effortlessly in soap and warm water or in the dishwasher.

Here are two prize-winning recipes from T-Fal's 2002 Perfect Baker Contest.

Cream Cheese Ginger Muffins by Julie Stutzman Makes one dozen

2¼ cups cake flour
1¼ teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground cloves
½ teaspoon ground ginger
½ cup shortening
½ cup sugar
¾ cup molasses
¾ cup hot water, divided
1 egg, lightly beaten

For the Filling:
8 ounces cream cheese
¼ cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg



Photo: Lou Manna

Kids love to pitch in when baking is on the menu.

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda, salt, and spices. Set aside. In mixer, cream sugar and shortening; add molasses. Alternately add ½ of the flour mixture and ½ of hot water, mixing well after each addition and ending with the flour. With mixer running, gradually add the egg, mixing until it is combined; continue to mix for 2 minutes.

Make filling: In a small mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and egg. Beat until smooth. Set aside. Pour batter into a T-Fal Patisserie 12-cup nonstick muffin pan, filling cups to half full. Add a heaping tablespoon of the cream cheese mixture to each. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes, until done.

Sesame Almond Thumbprints by Mindee Perdue Makes 3 dozen cookies

1½ cups all purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
¾ teaspoon salt
½ cup unsalted butter
¼ cup unsalted crunchy almond butter
¼ cup tahini (sesame seed paste)
½ teaspoon almond extract

½ teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup light brown sugar
½ cup sugar
2 tablespoons sesame seeds
1 egg
2 cups sliced raw almonds
Granulated sugar, for rolling cookies
1 cup raspberry preserves

Preheat oven to 350° F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter, almond butter, tahini, extracts, and sugars. Stir in sesame seeds and ½ of the dry ingredients. Add the egg; mix well. Add the rest of the dry ingredients and stir just until mixed. Form the dough into 1" round balls and roll in the sliced almonds, pressing to adhere. Then, roll in the granulated sugar and place on two T-Fal Patisserie nonstick baking sheets. Make a thumbprint in the center of each cookie and fill with ¼ teaspoon raspberry preserves. Bake for 13-15 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Transfer to a cooling rack.

For more great baking recipes, visit www.t-fal.com.

HAPPY News ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

My, how time flies; here we are at year's end already. Why is it when one gets older, the days have so few hours in them? Thank God we can still spend HAPPY (Holmes Ave. Pensioners) with friends.

Our Christmas party was attended by 188 members.

We paused for a moment of silent prayer for members who died in December: Ed Delley, Faye Moro, Helen Tomazic and Frank Walland. Helen was residing at Gateway Nursing Home for over a year. May they rest in God's peace.

We also remembered all our sick and hospitalized members. Hope everyone gets well quickly, so they'll have a happy holiday.

Our dinner was prepared by Jeannie Somrak of Jeannie's Kitchen, who along with her hard-working crew got a big round of applause. Those pork chops were outstanding.

Bill Zabukovec was our DJ, and played tapes recorded by Chuck Krivec and Frank Homar. Myra Jerkic and Marion Bocian took care of the 50/50 raffle.

News

Besides cash prizes, raffle gifts were donated by Joe and Frances Klemencic, Mary Klemencic, Marie Rotar, and Elsie Zalar. Thank you all for your generosity.

Matt Kajfez and Frank Homar were our VIP bartenders, all spiffy in red jackets and bow ties. Joe Frolo also lent a hand, but he was "out of uniform." We may have to find him a red jacket, too. Thanks fellas.

We sang a rousing Happy Birthday to 17 members, but no one stood up for anniversary time. Marion Bocian remarked people did not get married during Advent season.

Donations were given to Ameriška Domovina, Collinwood Slovenian Home, and Tony Petkovsek Radio Show.

At our Annual Mock Wedding Ann and Emeric Pausek were the happy couple, celebrating 60 years of wedded bliss. WOW.

Congratulations to our many celebrants and honorees in 2002:

Fran Kajfez, honored as Mother of the Year by

Slovenian Women's Union Branch 50.

Henry and Lillian Pugel, selected as "Father and Mother of the Year" by AMLA #6.

Evelyn Pipoly, named "Woman of the Year" by Italian-American Club, and "Woman of the Year" by Federation of Slovenian Homes.

Mike Pipoly, selected "Man of the Year" by Collinwood Slovenian Home.

A small reminder: dues are due by March 12. If you plan to be out of town, please pay your dues before you leave. See or call Louise Fujda.

Mark your calendars: Annual Dinner Dance is May 4. Also August meeting Aug. 20.

Get your calendars downstairs in the Club Room; they are big and have space to write in large letters.

A very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all.

--Mila Jera

Holly, Mistletoe and Ivy

The custom of decorating homes with evergreens during the holiday season has been practiced worldwide for thousands of years. Evergreens are symbols of enduring life because they stay beautiful in the winter when most plants wither and die. They have always been associated with winter festivals. It was believed that evergreens held magical power because of their perennial greenness. Homes were decorated with these plants in the hope of enticing the spirits of the woods inside to bring good luck in the coming year.

Legends describe holly as masculine because it uses its thorns to protect itself the way a man would use a weapon to protect himself. Ivy is considered feminine because it entwines or embraces whatever it is near. Mistletoe is thought to bring good luck and fertility.

A 15th century Christmas carol tells of the contest be-

tween the holly and the ivy for the place of honor in the hall. The song is a duet with each part claiming his or her superiority. In the end the holly, with its red berries, wins over the ivy and its black berries.

The legend of kissing under the mistletoe has its roots in a Scandinavian myth. Legend has it that the Norse God Baldur was protected from evil by everything that came from the elements of fire, water, air and earth. But an evil spirit formed an arrow from mistletoe and killed him. The tears of Baldur's mother, Frigga, became the white berries of the mistletoe. His life was restored and Frigga, being the Goddess of Love and Beauty, is said to have kissed anyone passing under the mistletoe. The myth of mistletoe spread throughout the land and even enemies would call a truce when they met underneath it.

Slovenian Police Seize Arms, Drugs

LJUBLJANA – Slovene police seized 21 kilos of marijuana and several weapons at the border crossing with Croatia in two separate actions, media reports said Thursday.

The marijuana was discovered in the spare tire compartment of a car driven by a 53-year-old Slovenian national from the central town of Celje. He was arrested along with his 46-year-old spouse.

Police said they believe the marijuana came from Bosnia-Herzegovina and was probably destined for the Slovenian market.

The border police also arrested a Bosnian national who tried to smuggle several pistols and a machine gun, along with ammunition. Police said the weapons were headed for Italy.

Thanks to Philip Hrvatin for this news.

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Creme de Menthe Squares

This is Mom's friend Alice Poremba's recipe, and she said they are delicious and easy to make.

Ingredients:

First Layer:

½ C butter
1 C sugar
4 eggs
1 C flour
1 t vanilla
½ t salt
16 oz. Hershey chocolate syrup

Second layer:

½ C butter
2 C powdered sugar
3 T creme de menthe liqueur

Third layer:

6 T butter
6 oz. chocolate chips

Directions:

For the first layer, cream the butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Add flour, vanilla, salt and chocolate syrup, beat together. Bake in a greased 9x13 pan at 350° for 30 minutes. Let cool.

For the second layer, beat the butter, powdered sugar and liqueur together and spread over cooled cake. Refrigerate until firm.

For the third layer, melt the butter and chips together and cool the mixture slightly. Pour over the top and spread. Refrigerate to harden frosting.

Cut into squares to serve.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh

Our Family and Friends Recipes

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself. – Charles Dickens.

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Christmas Caroling

A carol is a song of rejoicing associated with festive occasions and religious celebrations. The word originally meant a circle dance accompanied by a song. Carols have carried on the glad tidings of Christmas since medieval times.

Many Christmas carols were written in the 15th century. Unlike hymns, carols are often light and gay. According to one legend, the very first carol was sung by the angels announcing Christ's birth to the shepherds.

Some say the tradition of caroling began as early as the 1400s when wandering minstrels performed songs in exchange for donations to be given to the needy. Later, the English night watchmen would sing while making their rounds at holiday times. In the United States, carols were limited to church until about 100 years ago. At that

time, the practice of singing door to door became popular.

In the mid 17th century when the celebration of Christmas was banned, the carols might have been lost forever. But the carols were kept alive for almost 200 years by people singing them in private. With the invention of inexpensive printing processes in the 1800s, traditional carols were published in book form.

The origins of many popular carols, including "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "The First Noel," are unknown. One of the most famous carols, "Silent Night," was written in Austria by Josef Mohr and church organist Franz Gruber when the church organ malfunctioned on Christmas Eve. Hurriedly Mohr wrote the song and asked Gruber to pick out a guitar accompaniment.

Holiday Schedule

There will be no American Home newspaper printed the week of Christmas.

The next edition will be dated January 2, 2003

"Somehow not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give others is the joy that comes back to you." — John G. Whittier

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

Florence Unetich, Cleveland, OH -- \$15.00

Mrs. Mirko Hrovat, Chesterland, OH -- \$10.00

Edwin Grosel, Euclid, OH -- \$10.00

Maria and Hinko Zupanic, Cleveland, OH -- \$10.00

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Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kranjc, Wickliffe, OH -- \$10.00

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Frank Skoda, Cleveland, OH -- \$10.00

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Drobnic, Willoughby Hills, OH -- \$10.00

Steffie Jarem, Concord, OH -- \$15.00



Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

--Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

May your Christmas be Peaceful,
Joyful, and Bright,
and filled with the love
of that First Holy Night!

Best Wishes to All!

Jože and Marinka Lah

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Blessed Christmas and a
Happy New Year 2003



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AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



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A shimmering table decoration for the holidays can consist of bare branches sprayed gold or silver, decorated with ornaments and then placed in a festive flower pot.

***The Birth
of Christ***

For centuries, Christians have celebrated the birth of Christ. But they haven't always done so on December 25th.

Christmas literally means "Christ's mass" or the festival for the anointed one. And it is a holiday that marks the occasion of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

For centuries the date of Christ's birth was the topic of discussion, with no consensus in the church until around the fourth century. Early theologians celebrated the occasion on May 20th, while others chose late March or April, around the time of the Jewish Passover.

December 25th falls during a time of year when pagans once celebrated winter festivals. It is believed the early church fathers picked the now-familiar date as an alternative to those ancient festivals.

Still, not everybody celebrates Christmas on the same day, even now. Russian and Greek Orthodox churches continue to observe the old Julian calendar, celebrating Christmas on January 7th.

The time draws near the birth of Christ:

The moon is hid; the night is still;

The Christmas bells from hill to hill

Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,

From far and near, on mead and moor,

Swell out and fail, as if a door

Were shut between me and the sound.

Each voice four changes on the wind,

That now dilate, and now decrease,

Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace,

Peace and goodwill, to all mankind.

--Alfred, Lord Tennyson



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Emilee and Rikk Jenko

Euclid, Ohio



*May the Peace, Love and Joy
of the Christmas Season
Remain in your hearts
throughout the year.*

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Dear Family and Friends,
May the Infant Jesus bestow His
blessings upon you and your
loved ones, on Christmas Day
and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely,
Frances Nemanich



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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BOŽIČ TER SREČNO NOVO LETO!*



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**Crime
Watch**

**'Tis The Season
To Be Careful**

(NAPS)—While charity is said
to begin at home, protecting
against charity fraud should begin
there as well.

Although appeals for charitable
contributions appear in the mail,
over the phone and on the Internet



If you are unfamiliar with a
charity asking for donations, get
more information.

throughout the year, they tend to
increase during the holidays.

To guard against charity fraud,
the U.S. Postal Inspection Service
offers these suggestions.

- If you are unfamiliar with the
charity asking for donations,
request its annual report and
financial statement.

- Check out unfamiliar organi-
zations by contacting the Better
Business Bureau.

- Make checks payable to an
organization, not an individual.

- Be suspicious about requests
for assistance that accept cash
donations only.

Individuals who wish to do a
background check of a charitable
organization may also contact the
Wise Giving Alliance, Council of
Better Business Bureaus, 4200
Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203,
or visit the Web site at
www.give.org.

To learn more, or to report
fraud online, visit the Postal
Inspection Service Web site at
www.usps.com/postalinspectors.

Christmas is coming,
the geese are getting fat,
Please to put a penny in
the old man's hat;

If you haven't got a
penny, --a half penny will
do,

If you haven't got a half
penny; God bless you!

--Beggar's rhyme.



It takes 50 gallons of maple
sap to make one gallon of maple
sugar.

*Merry Christmas to all our relatives
and friends in Slovenia, USA and Canada
Vesele božične praznike in srečno novo leto
želita vsem sorodnikom, prijateljem in znancem*

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Heap on more wood!—the wind
is chill; But let it whistle as it
will, We'll keep our Christmas
merry still.

—Sir Walter Scott



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health hints

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Keeping your weight in check
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steps.

- **Get your body moving.** Physical activity can help keep your weight in check and make your body stronger and more flexible.
- **Keep your weight in check.** Obesity puts you at higher risk for several health problems, including some cancers.
- **Stop using tobacco.** Tobacco can increase your risk for several cancers. If you use tobacco, quit. If you don't use it, don't start.
- **Keep alcohol use in check.** Drinking alcohol increases the risk for some cancers. If you drink, do so in moderation.



*Happiest of Holidays
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In Appreciation and Loving Memory

With deep sadness in our hearts, and in complete submission to the will of the Creator, we announce the

passing of our dearly beloved Mother, Grandmother, Mother-in-Law, Sister, and Aunt



Albina Mrsnik

Albina Mrsnik was born on February 6, 1907 in Bac, Yugoslavia now Slovenia, to Ivanka and John Renko. On October 9, 1925 she came to the United States with her mother and two brothers. Her father was already in the States and many may remember him as the representative of the Slovenian daily newspaper "Enakopravnost."

Besides working hard to promote the Slovenian work, he was also a dedicated Slovenian lodge worker. His daughter, Albina, emulated his energetic work for the Slovenes and soon joined the ladies lodge Slozne Sestre No. 120, SNPJ, which soon merged with several other local SNPJ lodges. She later joined the Collinwood Lodge No. 26 SNPJ which now is Lodge Comrades No. 566 and is a 75-year member. Soon after, the Progressive Women of America was organized in the 1930's, she joined Circle 2 in the St. Clair area, where she resided on E. 76th Street. Later, when she moved to Euclid, she transferred to Circle 3 and worked closely with the organization throughout the years, especially during and after World War II in the movement to help victims in her war-torn native country. The relief effort was a great task and helped hundreds of thousands of victims. Albina did more than her share in this project.

In 1935, after moving to Euclid, Albina joined St. Christine's parish, becoming very active there. In 1937 she joined Branch No. 41, Slovenian Women's Union (Slovenska Zenska Zveza) which now is Branch No. 50. She was active there, also. In 1960, she became active with

SNPJ Farm Board, and since her specialty was cooking, she was readily seen in the kitchen and was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

For 40 years plus, she was a member of the Cleveland-Slovenian Radio Club and a Charter Member of the United Slovenian Society, which began originally as the Slak Committee. This later group honored her on January 27, 1980, for her untiring dedicated services in the Slovenian community.

When the idea of building the Slovene Home for the Aged was still in the talking stages, Albina was enthusiastic and went diligently to work to help it become a reality. She spent countless hours going from door to door for donations for this worthy cause. Also during those years she had been an ardent supporter and had worked at many functions at the various Slovenian Homes' functions for their benefit.

Besides working with fraternal groups, she was ready to help with undertakings that benefit the community in general. She worked with Dutch Remen, former President of the Perry Homeowners Association, and with Dick Mott, Ann (Slapnik) Petkovsek and others at the St. Clair Business Association in their efforts to raise funds for maintaining the St. Clair Area.

Among other organizations, Albina was a member of Klub Drustev (Club of Lodges), Slovenian Society Home, Klub Ljubljana, Dramatic Society Nasa Zvezde, Balinca Club of the Slovenian Workmen's Home on Waterloo Road, Pensioners Club

of Euclid, and was a supporting member of Singing Society Zarja.

On May 22, 1988, Albina was honored as Mother of the Year by the Slovenian Women's Union Branch 50 at St. Mary's Church on Holmes Avenue. On March 20, 1983 she was honored as Woman of the Year by the Federation of Slovenian Homes. As Albina would say, "I am Slovenian and proud of it. I want to help wherever I can to see that the Slovene heritage is preserved and passed on to our descendants."

This is the way she was and proved it in countless ways. Albina never refused to give her support, whether it is the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair, Slovenian Society Home on Recher Avenue, Slovenian Workmen's Home on Waterloo Road, Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue, or the West Park Slovenian Home. Much of her effort was put forth to help the respective Homes to be successful at their affairs.

Her other love was traveling. She was all over the world and was said to have been the woman who traveled the most with Kollander World Travel. She was in every continent, and to her homeland alone she traveled 21 times.

Albina and her husband, John, were married for 57 years before his death in 1983. Parents of son John and daughter Rose Mary; grandmother of five and great-grandmother of seven.

Funeral services were held September 6, 2002 from Zele's Funeral Home with a Mass of Resurrection at 10 a.m. at St. Vitus Church with burial following

in All Saints Cemetery, Northfield, Ohio.

We are especially grateful to Rev. Joseph Boznar for his fine homily at the church service. We are also grateful to Rev. Thomas Haren, Pastor of St. Jerome's Church. The family also wants to thank Tony Petkovsek for the beautiful eulogy, Zarja for their beautiful rendition of Slovenian songs at the funeral home. Deep appreciation is also extended to all members of the organizations she belonged to who paid final tribute to her. Thanks to everyone for their beautiful floral pieces, Mass offerings, and donations to St. Vitus Church, and for the Slovenian Home, their visitations, and so many expressions of sympathy. From the depth of our hearts we thank our many friends who attended the church services and accompanied our dear Albina to her final resting place at All Saints Cemetery. A special thank you is extended to those who served as pallbearers.

Thank you to the Zele Funeral Home for their courtesies and careful attention to all of the funeral details.

Cards of thanks were sent to all who especially remembered us and our loved one. If, by chance, we missed anyone, please accept our apologies, and may this public notice serve as a special thanks to you.

*In life we've loved you dearly,
In death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place
That no one else can fill.*

Sadly missed by:

John Mrsnik, son, and wife, Geraldine
Rose Mary Toth, daughter, and husband, John
5 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren



– Vesti iz Slovenije –

Slovenija dobila zeleno luč za članstvo v Evropski uniji – Članica naj bi postala s 1. majem 2004 – Vabljenih sedem držav

Pretekli petek, sicer 13. dan v mesecu, je bil za Slovenijo pomemben. Na ta dan je Slovenija namreč končno zaključila pogajanja in skupaj s skupino drugih kandidatov za članstvo v Evropski uniji prestopila prvi resnični prag k uresničitvi članstva. Druge države so Slovaška, Litva, Latvija, Estonija, Ciper in Malta. Vse so namreč sprejela ponudbo EU.

Priprave na zgodovinski trenutek sprejema novink se bodo zdaj osredotočile na sestavljanje pristopne pogodbe in prilog za vsako od bodočih članic. Dokumente bo najprej preučila evropska komisija, nato pa jih bodo predložili še evropskemu parlamentu, ki mora izreči pritrdilno mnenje. Pogodba bo podpisana 16. aprila 2003, bruseljska vrata pa se bodo odprla 1. maja 2004 po koncu ratifikacijskega procesa.

V državnem zboru je bila v petek sklicana tiskovna konferenca, na kateri so med drugim pozdravili vabilo k EU predsednik parlamenta Borut Pahor, predsednik komisije za evropske zadeve Alojz Peterle in predsednik odbora za zunanje politične zadeve Jelko Kacin. Bili so mnenja, da bo s svoje strani Slovenija rešila še vsa odprta vprašanja in izpolnjevala vse pogoje za pristop v EU s 1. majem 2004. Isto leto, mimogrede, naj bi Slovenija tudi postala polnopravna članica zavezništva NATO.

Pristojni parlamentarni odbori zaslišujejo kandidate za ministrska mesta v novi vladi, ki ji bo načeloval Anton Rop

Postopki potekajo bolj ali manj hitro in brez večjih zapletov. Največ zanimanja je bilo za novega člana vlade Dušana Mramorja. Mramor je pač predviden za zelo pomembno finančno ministrstvo, kjer bo po vsej verjetnosti naslednik novega premiera Antona Ropa. Ker je Rop dobil od poslancev kar 63 od možnih 90 glasov, naj pač sestavlja vlado, ni pričakovati večjih zapletov. Dosedanja vladna koalicija bo ostala nespremenjena.

Rop je poslal v državni zbor seznam kandidatov za ministre. Po njegovem predlogu bo vlada imela šestnajst ministrov, od tega dva brez listnice – poleg že dosedanjega ministrstva za evropske zadeve še novo ministrstvo za regionalni razvoj. V vladi naj bi krmilo dveh ministrstev prevzela nova človeka, poleg že omenjenega Dušana Mramorja, sicer profesorja z ljubljanske ekonomske fakultete bo zasedel šolsko ministrstvo sedanji poslanec LDS Slavko Gaber. Ministrstvo brez listnice za regionalni razvoj bi na predlog DeSUS vodila njihova članica, sedanja direktorica centra za pospeševanje razvoja malega gospodarstva Zdenka Kovač.

Slovinci na Hrvaškem nezadovoljni

Hrvaški sabor je sprejel ustavni zakon o položaju narodnih manjšin, ki so ga od Hrvaške zahtevali Evropska unija in NATO. Po tem zakonu bodo Srbi imeli od enega do tri poslance, za druge manjšine pa so zagotovljeni skupno najmanj štiri poslanski sedeži. Ti pripadajo Italijanom, Madžarom, po eden Čehom in Slovakom ter Rusinom, Ukrajincem, Nemcem, Avstrijcem in Židom. Slovinci na Hrvaškem, ki so bili pred petimi leti brez obrazložitve črtani iz preambule ustave, razmišljajo o ustavni tožbi zaradi diskriminacije manjšine.

Slovensko-srbska borzna zaveza in morebiten skupni trg za jugovzhodno Evropo – Cilj za daljno prihodnost

Direktorja ljubljanske in beograjske borze Draško Veselinovič in Gordana Dostatnića v Beogradu podpisala sporazum o izmenjavi informacij in sodelovanju. Države, ki so izišle iz nekdanje SFRJ, so na srečanju v Ljubljani preko svojih predsednikov gospodarskih zbornic razpravljale o možnosti prostotrgovinskega trga. Če bi prišlo do takšnega skupnega trga, bi oskrboval več milijonov potrošnikov. Trg končno naj bi zajemal celotno jugovzhodno Evropo, kar bi pomenilo že več kot 60 milijonov potrošnikov. Do uresničitve tega cilja je pa še daleč.



Srečanje s sv. Miklavžem pri Sv. Vidu – Na sliki so sestrice Rachael, Ana in Kati Gaser

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Skupna božičnica—

Kot vsako leto tudi letos pripravljajo slovenska kulturna društva Korotan, Lilija, Fantje na vasi in plesna skupina Kres svojo tradicionalno božičnico in sicer v nedeljo, 22. decembra, ob 5. uri popoldne, v spodnji dvorani Slovenskega doma na Holmes Ave. Prav lepo sta vabljeni obe slovenski šoli, vsi člani teh društev in tudi vsi njih prijatelji. Gospodinje so lepo naprošene za pecivo. Pridite in s prijatelji obudite stare slovenske šege in navade ter obenem osebno lahko vsakemu voščite vesele praznike. Res, odločite se in pridite!

Zadnjič letos—

Ta številka je zadnja v letošnjem letu, kajti AD 26. decembra ne bo izšla, povrnila se bo pač zopet 2. januarja 2003. Vsem naročnikom želimo prijetne božične in novoletne praznike.

Zahvala—

Za spomenik pomorjenim domobrancem v Kočevskem Rogu sta še darovala \$100 g. Rudi in ga. Anica Knez. Slovensko ameriški svet se jima pristrčno zahvaljuje.

Božični darovi—

Dramatsko društvo Lilija je darovalo \$70 kot božični dar našemu listu. Belokranjski klub je daroval \$100. Slovene Cultural Garden Association je daroval \$50. Društvo sv. Ana št. 4 AMLA je darovalo \$150. Mary in Anna Lunder sta darovali \$25. Vsem se za njih podporo najlepše zahvaljujemo. Vsi darovi našemu listu so vedno objavljeni v angleškem delu.

Blagoslovitev kipa—

To nedeljo, 22. decembra, pop. ob 2h bo na pokopališču Holy Cross v Brookparku škof Edward Pevec blagoslovil križ, ki ga je bil pokopališču daroval v spomin svoje pokojne matere Tony Colnar. Ga. Frances Colnar Barman, ki je postala stoletnica, je bila sama velika dobrotnica tako katoliškim in slovenskim ustanovam. Javnost je lepo vabljen na to blagoslovitev.

Novi grobovi

Fred J. Kramer

Dne 13. decembra je umrl 88 let stari Fred J. Kramer iz Wickliffa, rojen v Clevelandu, mož Zore, roj. Herbst, oče Lorette Wing, Fred-a, Johna in Marianne Cicirelli, 11-krat stari oče, 4-krat prastari oče, brat Johna ter že pok. Mildred Bride in Johna, zaposlen kot ključavničar pri Cleveland Twist Drill več let, do svoje upokojitve 1. 1979, član AMLA in KSKJ. Pogreb je bil 18. decembra v oskrbi Cosicevega zavoda na Chardon Rd. s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Vida

Victoria Bertosa

Umrla je Victoria Bertosa
(dalje na str. 19)



JANEZ DRNOVŠEK BO POSTAL PREDSEDNIK SLOVENIJE 23. DECEMBRA ZA DOBO 5 LET – Dan po Drnovškovi zmagi v drugem krogu volitev 1. decembra mu je čestital dosedanji predsednik Milan Kučan. Drnovšek je že zapustil premiersko mesto, kaj naj bi Kučan počel po odhodu iz predsedniške palače ni še jasno.

Bog ni obupal nad človekom

OB IZTEKU LETA IN MENJAVANJU KOLENDARJA je pa vendarle zanimivo, da ob vsem gledanju nazaj na prehojeno pot in kronologijo časa in dogajanja ohranjamo čvrst pogled naprej v prihodnost. V zaupanju na moč dobrega si želimo najboljše. Za nas verne je temelj zaupanja v dogodku Božjega rojstva – v učlovečenem Bogu Jezusu Kristusu, človekovem Odrešeniku.

Pred nami so božični prazniki. Vsako leto poslušamo isto božično zgodbo. Toda mi smo drugačni. Naš svet je drugačen. Naša doživetja in spomini so se povečali, naše upanje je bilo preizkušeno, naša ljubezen nas je klicala na nove poti. Toda ne glede na to, kaj nas je doletelo, kaj vse smo pridobili ali izgubili, nam božično sporočilo prinaša novico o novem rojstvu in o možnosti našega lastnega prerodenja. Govori nam, da je lahko drugače; daje temelj našemu upanju, da je novo življenje mogoče zaradi rojstva Božjega Sina.

Veselite se svete noči naj napolnjuje naša srca in ves svet. Izrecimo dobrodošlico Kristusu, Sinu Očetovemu, ki je prišel k nam kot naš Brat in Odrešenik. V odpiranju srca Kristusu se odpiramo tudi bližnjemu. Kristus nas vodi in usmerja na veliko bolj pomembnem potovanju kot je bilo tisto na Mesec – na potovanje v Očetovo kraljestvo in večno življenje. Te poti nam ni treba prehoditi sam. Potujemo skupaj kot božje ljudstvo in sledimo glavi Kristusu.

Zato se vsako leto, dragi brat, draga sestra, odpravljamo v Betlehem, da ponovno odkrijemo svoje lastne korenine v daru Jezusa in ustvarimo nove poti drug do drugega.

Vsako praznovanje božičnih praznikov nas utrjuje v prepričanju, da Bog ni obupal nad človekom.

pater Ciril A. Božič

Iz uredniškega članka decembrske številke avstralskega mesečnika MISLI

– NAŠE ŽIVLJENJE –

TORONTO, Ont. – V najkrajših dneh v letu, ko včasih pod živim nebom že v popoldanskih urah temne sence začno objemati zemljo, ko v jasnih dneh nizko po južni nebesni strani sonce spremlja naše poti, obračamo zadnje strani koledarja za leto 2002.

Oktober – november – december...

Prelestvo jesenske pokrajine je božji dar vsem potnikom po kanadskih poteh. Muskoka, dežela jezer, romantičnih gozdov, tihih vasic in modernih letovišč, je čudovita v jesenski lepoti. Člani in prijatelji Slovenskega doma in Krekove banke so 19. oktobra uživali vse to, ko so obiskali sejem v Bali – t.i. Cranberry Festival – in se odpočili v poletnem domu Jožeta Cestnika, upravnika Krekove banke.

Članice in prijatelji društva Vztrajnost so se na svojem izletu v oktobru prav tako veselili lepot in posebnosti Muskoke. 29. oktobra se je ista skupina povzpela v kulturne sfere gledališča v Stratfordu. Opereta – musical – My Fair Lady je bila ena letošnjih predstav na originalnem odru klasičnega gledališča Stratford Festival, ki praznuje letos petdeset let obstoja. Ta kulturna ustanova je največja na ameriškem kontinentu in ena največjih v angleško govorečem svetu.

Starostni dom Lipa je trdna slovenska ustanova. Pridne roke in dobro srce dajejo domu odlično mesto in oceno v torontskem okolju. Kmalu – 15. januarja – bo slovensko odprta nova, dodatna stavba za nove stanovalce. Še bodo pa potrebne

dobrodelne akcije, walkathon, banketi, bazarji itd. Dobri ljudje slišijo, razumejo in pomagajo.

Tako je bil nadvse uspešen bazar, ki so ga 27. oktobra pripravile članice Kluba upokojenk.

Banket, 2. novembra, s tradicionalnim žrebanjem je spet sijajno uspel. Predsednik Darko Medved se je prisrčno zahvalil tristo udeležencem, Francetu Brencetu, ki je žrebanje organiziral, in vsem udeležencem za ta izredni večer. Prijetne melodije orkestra Tonija Ferkota (Veseli Pomurci) so mlade in stare vabile na ples.

In življenje teče naprej...

3. novembra smo z obiskom grobov na torontskih pokopališčih počastili spomin naših pokojnih domačih, prijateljev in znancev, ki počivajo v domači ali tujih zemljah. V župnijskih cerkvah v Torontu smo v oktobru vpisovali njihova imena v Knjigo življenja in darovali za sv. maše za njihov večni mir in Vstajenje v novo življenje.

V soboto, 7. decembra, so članice Vztrajnosti, vedno željne novih doživetij, vedriti pamet in srce, spet romale čez mejo k Fatimski Mariji v bližini Buffala, New York, in obiskale veličastno katedralo Lady of Victory v mestecu Lackawanna, kjer so prisostvovali sv. maši, ki jo je opravil č.g. Roman Travar.

10. novembra smo volili novega predsednika slovenske države. Statistike kažejo in domoljubni člani slovenske torontske skupnosti ugotavljajo, da večji del upravičenih slovenskih volilcev v Torontu in okolici ni izkazal svoje državljanske pravice in narodne zavesti. Enako se je ponovilo 1. decembra.

V dvorani Brezmadežne je 17. novembra dramski odsek kluba Lipa Park iz St. Catharine's zabaval Torontčane z veselico Trije tički. Vkljub slabemu vremenu in prvemu snegu, ki je zasul mesto, je lepa družba okrog 150 oseb preživela par zadovoljnih ur pri odlični predstavi stare podeželske zgodbe v Sloveniji.

Voditeljica Francka Seljak je iz igralcev ustvarila prave komične značaje, ki so nas zabavali in z živo igro potegnili v svoje dogodivščine. Svetla

scena in gladko tekoča govornica igralcev je visok dar slovenski kulturi v Kanadi.

Dramski skupini, ki je sedaj edina delujoča skupina te vrste v Kanadi, pohvala in zahvala v pričakovanju novih gledaliških predstav. Hvala tudi ge. Nadi Čemas, ki je pripravila vse potrebno za obisk in predstavo skupine Lipe Park v Torontu.

7. decembra je društvo Slovenski dom priredilo običajni zimski banket v dvorani pri Mariji Pomagaj. Okrog dvesto članov in prijateljev enega najstarejših slovenskih društev v Torontu je ob veselih melodijah orkestra Veseli Pomurci po okusni večerji, ki jo je pripravila Hacetova Minka, preživljalo družabni večer.

Za božičnico v Domu Lipa so se 9. decembra spet zbrali starejši. Ob pesmi, božičnem branju in opoldanski južini so nadaljevali pot prijateljstva in skupnega dela za skupno zadevo, kakor so v teh dneh priredili že prostovoljci in prostovoljne delavke skupaj z upravo in uslužbenci.

December ... Miklavž prihaja ... Za sovjetskim dedkom Mrazom, za dobrohotnim ameriškimi Santa Clausem ... iz daljnih snežnih poti po Sloveniji in tradicionalni krščanski Evropi ... k slovenskim družinam v Torontu.

Tiho cingljajo zvončki, neslišno prihaja v spremstvu belih angelov ... in joj, strah ... še Lucifer se

s težko verigo oglašala... In dobri škof se sklanja k otrokom, želi slišati njihove molitve k angelu varuhu, k Mariji in oče naš ... kako je šola in pridnost doma itd. ... Vse je tako prisrčno resnično, kakor je čisto otroško srce...

Vse to smo doživljali spet letos ob obisku sv. Miklavža pri Brezmadežni in Mariji Pomagaj.

Hvala lepa prirediteljem: Sonji Kus, Mojci Končan Dimperio, učiteljicam Slovenske šole pri Brezmadežni za krasno mladinsko predstavo, Cirilu Pleško za vlogo sv. Miklavža, družini Andreja in Anice Stražar pri Mariji Pomagaj – za nadaljevanje te ljudske tradicije.

Adventi čas pričakovanja ... Bog prihaja ... Božič ... ne v blišču trgovin, veselic in dragocenih daril, ne samo v svetlih lučkah božičnega drevesca in jaslic v naših hišah ... prihaja k nam, da nam umiri in osreči srce in ga napolni z veseljem, da je Jezus rojen na svet za vse ljudi dobre volje.

V naših cerkvah nas bo za tak Božič pripravljala v dneh duhovne obnove č.g. Ivan Albrecht, psiholog in profesor na gimnaziji v Vipavi. Pripravimo svoja srca za Njegov prihod! In srečno bo naše Novo leto!

Anica Resnik

BRALCI
AMERIŠKE DOMOVINE
Priporočajte naš list!

*Vesele božične praznike
in srečno Novo leto*

želijo

**Dr. in ga. David Turk
in družina**

8572 Windsor Way,
Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

John and Fran Mauric

24828 Rock Ledge Lane
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

napisano 2002

Vojaška služba v stari Jugoslaviji

(nadaljevanje)

ANTON ŽAKELJ

- II. del -

Nekaj mi je kmalu padlo v Bihaču v oči: veliki od govedi trdo steptani travniki, na katerih bi lahko varno pristajala večja letala, pa brez njiv. Bo že držalo, da muslimani verjamejo koranu, da je usoda vsakega človeka točno vnaprej določena in da je noben človek ne more spremeniti niti za las. Torej čisto zastoj truditi se.

Pri vežbanju smo večkrat naleteli na navidez malo lužo, ki je pa v trenutku oživela, ko se je velik vodi bivol dvignil iz blata na noge in odšel na pašo. Precej globoka je morala biti tista luža, da se je mogla tako velika žival čisto potopiti vanjo.

Mi smo živeli v starih lesenih barakah, nedaleč proč so pa zidali novo vojašnico. Včasih sem govoril z delavci. Še danes ne morem verjeti, da bi bilo res, da so prejeli pomagati samo po 2 din na uro, izvežbani zidarji pa desetkrat toliko. Pomagači so prihajali vsak dan iz oddaljenih hribovskih vasi in prinašali s seboj za kosilo samo kislo mleko in koruzne žgance ("proja" so jim rekli), pa še ti najbrž niso bili zabeljeni.

Vsako nedeljo smo imeli za zajtrk "poparo". Za to so pridržali od vsakega hleba ali dvopeka ("zwieback") po 1/4 kg prepečenca in ga v kotlu poparili. Kdor je dobil od vrha, je bilo dobro.

Jaz sem navadno kupil vsako nedeljo pol litra mleka od kake kmetice, ki so ga prinašale do plota kasarne. Bilo je osladkano, kar meni ni ugajalo, zato sem jim povedal, naj ga ne sladkajo. Največkrat sem ga kupil od neke Slovenke, ki se je v Ljubljani spoznala z vojakom, ki je služil tam in sta se poročila - ali pa od Hrvatice, ki je rada govorila o politiki. Nekoč sem jo vprašal, zakaj niso bili s Srbi prijatelji. "Ko bomo pobili vse Srbe, bomo pa prijatelji," je odgovorila.

Na god sv. Antona Padovanskega, mojega patrona, mi je dal četni komandir ves dan prosto. Dopoldne sem šel v župno cerkev sv. Antona Padovanskega, ki je bil patron te cerkve. Kakšno naključje! Cerkev se mi je zdela kar primerna za kak kraj v Sloveniji.

Po maši sem šel v bližnji kostanjev park in sedel k mizi. Kmalu se mi je pridružil star možak z dolgo, belo brado in me vprašal, odkod sem. Odgovoril sem mu, da od blizu Ljubljane. Hotel je vedeti bolj natančno in povedal sem mu, da od Žirov, saj itak ne ve, kje je to.

Pa je še dalje spraševal, če poznam Gašparja Gregorača, njegovega nečaka. Seveda ga poznam. On prevaža s konji gramoz po cestah. In so pri-

šla še druga vprašanja in odgovori na vprašanja. Na vprašanje, kako je možakar prišel tako daleč od doma, je povedal, da je dobil železničarsko službo na Kranjskem, čez nekaj let so ga pa premestili v Bosno - po službeni potrebi.

Tedaj je v bližnji šoli pozvonilo in jata otrok se je vsula v park, kakih deset je obkolilo belobradatega moža in mu ponujalo najboljši hercegovski tobak (iz domačih vrto). Videti je bilo, da se vsi med seboj dobro poznajo in da to delajo vsak dan.

Gregorač je potegnil iz žepa pipo in jo začel polniti z hercegovskim tobakom, potem je pa prinesel na dan še gobo, kresilni kamen in kresilo. Čeprav tega še nikoli nisem videl, sem vedel, kaj to mora biti.

Gobo je položil na mizo, kresilo na desno roko in kamen v levo in začel kresati. Kmalu so padle prve iskre na gobo, še nekaj in od gobe se je lahko pokadilo. V to je začel pihati in ko je bila žerjavica dovolj



Slovenski kaplar v starojugoslovanski vojski - leta 1935

močna, je gobo pritisnil na pipo in pihal, obenem pa močno vlekli zrak iz pipe.

Ko je z zrakom izpihal iz ust prvi dim, so otroci glasno zaploskali, kakor da bi ta dogodek prvič videli - kot jaz. Ko je pokadil pipo, smo se razšli: on in otroci na svoje domove, jaz pa v četo na kosilo.

(SE NADALJUJE)

Novi grobovi

(nadaljevanje s str. 17)

sa, rojena Zitko, žena Petra, mati Thomasa, Jamesa in Daniela, 3-krat stara mati, 5-krat prastara mati,

sestra Florence Telech ter že pok. Alice Kickel, Frances Peterlin, Johna, Josepha, Anthonyja in Victorja. Pogreb je bil 16. decembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Kristine in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Jonathan I. Gornik

Dne 11. decembra je umrl Jonathan I. Gornik, sin Josepha Gornika in Donne Varema, brat Josepha E., Veronice White, Briana, Diane, Josepha, Daniela, Annette, Renee, Michaela in Matthewa, vnuk Rose M. Gornik in že pok. Josepha E. Gornika. Pogreb je bil 14. decembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Noela in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

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Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1457. Blagoslovljene in vesele božične praznike in srečno novo leto:

vsem dobrotnikom misijonarjev, prijateljem in sodelujočim pri MZA, upravi AD in vsem bralcem AD prav iskreno želim. Ob Kristusovem rojstvu se vsem zahvalim za vsak dar, molitev in karkoli ste doprinesli za slovenske misijonarje, po njih za uboge in za vzdrževanje bogoslovcev. Božji Misijonar pa naj vsakemu obilno poplača.

Posebna zahvala našemu rednemu dopisovalcu Rev. Vladimirju Kosu, ki nas zopet duhovno obogati:

Spet smo letos bližje zadnjemu Božiču

Ne sme nas biti strah. Zadnji božič ni tisti pred našo smrtjo. Tisti pred našo zemeljsko smrtjo je predzadnji. Eden izmed božičev na zemlji je pred dvoma predzadnji. Zadnji božič je – nebeški božič. Z Jezusom, učlovečnim božjim Sinom, v središču srečanja. Z Jezusom, ki je postal človek iz ljubezni do nas, do vsakega "mene".

Če Ga nismo spoznali kot svojega najboljšega prijatelja za časa zemeljskega življenja, Ga bomo kot takšnega odkrili zdaj. In ob Njem Njegovo čudovito dobro mater Marijo, po Jezusovi volji tudi našo nebeško Mater. In nekje v Njuni bližini bo ljubi sv. Jožef, mogočni (raje bi rekel: glavni) finančnik nebeškega Kraljestva.

Kot duhovi brez teles – utelešeni bomo šele na koncu zgodovine – bomo lahko videli angele, ki so jih ob prvem božiču lahko videli le pastirji. Še bolj kot na zemlji se bomo zdeli strašno neznatni – toda angel varuh nam bo delal častno spremstvo. Še bolj kot na zemlji se bomo razveselili: nam Božji Sin je postal Človek in bo vekomaj ostal Človek.

Tudi zato, da nas ne bo nikoli več strah Božjega Veličastva. Vse, kar je vrednega Troedinega Boga, vrednega Njegove svetosti, je v Njem neskončna resničnost. Bog ostane Bog. A kot Bog-Človek se lahko vsakomur izmed nas razodeva na tisti način, ki zmeraj najbolj ustreza vsakomur izmed nas.

Kljub skupni človeški naravi je vsak izmed nas edinstven človek. Osrečujoče dejstvo prvega in zadnjega Božiča je isto: sam Bog je v Drugi Božji Osebi – kjer le Oseba pride v poštev – postal Človek: pravi Človek, čigar Osebe je in ostani Božji Sin. Večni Božji Sin, ki je po Svoji človeški naravi Marijin Sin, resnično "Sin človekov", ko se je Sam rad imenoval na zemlji. Devica-Mati Ga je spočela, Devica-Mati Ga je rodila. Z nedeljivo ljubeznijo srca in telesa Ga je ljubila. In Ga še ljubi – tudi v

vseh udih, s katerimi Jezus ustvarja Svoje Občestvo, Svoje Skrivnostno Telo.

Tako prvi kot naš predzadnji Božič obdajajo uboge zemeljske okoliščine. Ne moremo izključiti vmvešavanja hudobnih duhov, Zadnji Božič pa bo vzplamtel v nadzemeljski svetlobi, angeli bodo orkestrirali in peli slavo božji Ljubezni, in naše srce bo morala podpreti posebna milost, da ga neizmerna božična sreča ne zdrobi. Toda ali bomo imeli kot duhovi še srce? Zakaj pa ne? Saj so tudi sveti angeli osebe, ki uživajo nebeško srečo. Srce je stičišče uma in volje; oboje je v angelih, oboje bo v nas.

(dalje na str. 21)

KOLENDAR

JANUAR

25. – Slovenska pristava priredi tradicionalno Pristavsko noč, v SND na St. Clairju. Igrajo Veseli godci.

31. – 1., 2. februar – Smučarski vikend v Windhamu, NY. Informacije: Ivan Kamin 718-424-2711.

FEBRUAR

2. – Slovenska šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti ima kosilo v šolski dvorani s serviranjem od 11. dop. do 1. pop.

2. – Slovenski narodni dom na St. Clair Ave. ima občni zbor s pričetkom ob 2. uri pop.

15. – 20. – Smučarski izlet v Lake Tahoe. Informacije: Ivan Kamin 718-424-2711.

23. – Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu postreže s kosilom v farnem avditoriju s serviranjem od 11. dop. do 1. pop.

V BLAG SPOMIN

obletnice smrti naših dragih staršev

52. obletnice našega dragega očeta, starega in prastarega očeta



JOSEPH MIHEVC

ki je umrl 28. decembra 1950

Preteklo je 52 let že, ko hladna zemlja krije Te; zelo vsi smo Te ljubili, in prezgodaj igubili.

Oba prosita za nas vse Boga, da življenje nam srečno dá, ko bomo tudi mi k Vam prišli, veselili bomo se vsi.

Žalujoči ostali:

Sylvia Plymesser – hčerka

vnuki in vnukinje ter ostali sorodniki.

20. obletnice smrti naše ljubljene matere, stare in prastare matere



ANTONIA MIHEVC

ki je umrla 29. dec. 1982.

Srečno ljubljena nam mama, šla prezgodaj si od nas; dobra, skrbna si nam bila, vdano molimo za vas.

V BLAG SPOMIN

8. OBLETNICE SMRTI naše mame, stare mame in prastare mame



MARIJA BOH

ki je umrla 7. dec. 1994

Osem let je že minilo, odkar Tebe več med nami ni. Le pri Bogu mirno zdaj počivaj in sveti raj uživaj!

Žalujoči ostali:

Ivan, sin

hčerka Marija,

in njih družine.

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ter sinova Anton in Peter,

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in Maria Nunnally z družinami

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in srečno Novo leto želiva vsem
prijateljem in znancem

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(nadaljevanje s str. 20)

Naš najlepši božični dar je - Jezus. Iz zato je Božič praznik darov. Najbolj božični so tisti darovi, kjer ne pričakujemo oddolžitve - v tem so smo najbolj poodbni Jezusu. Stavim, da ima za nas pripravljena v nebesih čudovita darila, in za naše najbolj srečno bivanje v nebesih. Se pravi: življenje, kakor ga živijo duhovi angeli. Bog ni Bog mrtvecev, ampak živih bitij, je naš Gospod nekoč zatrdil ljudem v osrčju jeruzalemskega temlja (prim. Mt 22:32; Mk 12:27; Lk 20:38).

Delo za misijone je božični dar človeštvu. Tistim izmed nas, ki nam je to delo pri srcu - in komu pri MZA ni? -, bo Gospod nudil vpogled v zgodovino. Zagledali bomo duše, ki smo jim z božjo milostjo pomagali, da so našle Jezusa, najbolj dragoceni božični dar. In še lepše nam bo pri srcu.

Prisrčen pozdrav! Vdani
Vladimir Kos
18.11.2002

Sr. Cecilija Prebil se je oglasila iz Pariza. Ona je namreč stalno v stiku z misijonarji na Madagaskarju. Preko nje pošiljamo tudi vse darove zanje, ki delajo na tem otoku. Tudi oni se obračajo na njo z raznimi prošnjami, kadar so v potrebi za stvari, ni se ne dobe na otoku. Takole piše:

"To leto je bilo le malo misijonarjev na poti skozi Pariz. Večina že lahko gre do direktno domov, kar je za nje dosti bolj ugodno. Bil je tu misijonar Pedro Opeka, g. Gajšek, Pepi Gedav. Sicer se bolj malo oglašajo s pismi; se starajo, kakor tudi mi vsi - smo dolgo že na terenu in leta tečejo.

(dalje na str. 22)

V BLAG SPOMIN

OB 13. OBLETNICI



Franka Kastigar

ki je umrl 25. dec. 1989

Že trinajsto leto je minilo, odkar Te več med nami ni, a misel nate še vsaki čas bedi.

Žalujoča družina

Euclid, Ohio, 19. decembra 2002.



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in nečak **KARL KLESIN**

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in znancem*



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(nadaljevanje s str. 21)

Tu se je oglasila sr. Veronika, ki misijonari v Turčiji, dela v bolnici, kjer so imeli potres. Je zelo dobra in korajžna sestra. Dela v bolnici med muslimani, saj je katoličanov vedno manj. Sicer pa tudi pričujočnost sester med nekatoličani je potrebna.

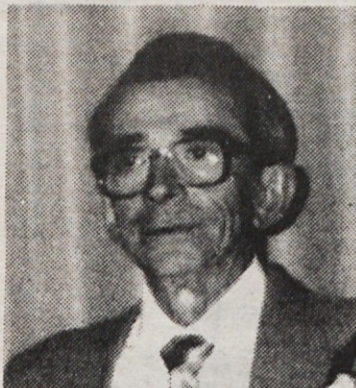
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Prihodnji teden se bomo resno pripravili na praznik Čudodelne svetinje. In te dni bo še posebno polno molilcev pri nas. Ljudje zelo častijo ta praznik. Neverjetno, koliko svetinjc ljudje pokupijo, tudi rožnih vencev, oda kar ga je sveti oče še posebno priporočil. Počasi bodo ljudje le spregledali in se spreobrnil. Časi so nestalni in ne vemo, kaj nas še čaka. Sicer pa živimo pod božjim varstvom vsak dan.

Res pogrešamo g. Karla Wolbanga, nikogar ni, da bi ga nadomestil v njegovem misijonskem delu in gorečnosti. Tudi Anico bomo pogrešali.

Misijonar Pedro je že več mesecev v Evropi. Veliko dela za pravico na Madagaskarju. Tu v Parizu je mnogo govoril v prid novemu predsedniku in prosil francosko vlado, naj prizna novo vlado. Pri prejšnjem je bilo ljudstvo pogreznjeno v revščino. Uspel je toliko, da je francoski minister

(dalje na str. 23)

V BLAG SPOMINob tretji obletnici smrti
našega dobrega moža, ata
in starega ata**Jože Smolič**

ki je umrl 19. dec. 1999.

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

Žalujoči:

Žena Stefi
sinova Joe z ženo Sally
in Emil z ženo Margo
vnuki in vnukinje
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**VESELE PRAZNIKE**

ŽELI

**Slovenska
Pristava**

MSIP 1457

(nadaljevanje s str. 22)

sam šel pogledat položaj. Upajmo, da se bo le kaj uredilo v prid ubogih.

Tudi v Ruandi in Burundiju je še položaj težak, kot vedo povedati naše sestře, ki tam delujejo.

Za vse te težave po svetu prosim pomoči Marijo, našo nebeško Mater. Tudi vse vas, ki tako zvesto nadaljujete delo g. Karla, vas vse priporočam.

Po Brezmadežni prav lep pozdrav in želeč vam vse dobro in vztrajnosti pri misijonskem delu. Bog vas vse blagoslovi.

Sr. Cecilija Prebil,
usmiljenka."



Več let je misijonarila v Peruju sr. Minka Škerlj, ki pripada redu "Medical Mission Sisters", ki imajo svoj red v Philadelphiji, Pa.

Oglasila se je s kratkim pismom v novembru: "Kakor veste, sem marca prišla v Philadelphijo v materno hišo. Neko jutro sem se zbudila s paralizo na levi strani telesa. Zdravniške preiskave so pokazale, da sem imela krvavitve v možganih ter možganski tumor, ki je "malignant". Takoj so me operirali. Po operaciji obsevanje, sedaj pa sledi kemoterapija, ki pa bo trajala še nekaj časa. Povratek na moj misijon v Peru je še daleč. Spomnite se me v molitvi. sr. Minka Škerlj."



Darovali so: V novembru NN kan. \$1200 (\$700 za lačne in uboge; \$500 za vzdrževanje bogoslovca v misijonih oz. po moji uvidnosti). E.M. Draxler \$400 (za vzdr. bogoslovca).

(dalje na str. 24)

V BLAG SPOMIN

OB 20. OBLETNICI
SMRTI NAŠEGA
DRAGEGA OČETA



Alojzij Zupančič

ki je umrl 27. dec. 1982.

Dvajset let je že minilo odkar Te več med nami ni. V naših srcih še živiš, in boš živel do konca naših dni.

Žalujoci:

Andrej in Lojze – sinova
Marija Sever – hči
ter ostalo sorodstvo tu
in v Sloveniji.

Euclid, Ohio, 19. decembra 2002.



**BLAGOSLOVA POLNE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE
TER SREČNO NOVO LETO
VSEM SORODNIKOM IN PRIJATELJEM
ŽELIMO**

Polde in Fani Omahen ter Elie z družino

Richmond Heights, Ohio

VESELE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE IN
SREČNO NOVO LETO!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Stani, Matt Grdadolnik,
Družine Grdadolnik &
DiMare Family**
Euclid, Ohio

BLAGOSLOVLJENE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE
IN SREČNO NOVO LETO
ŽELI VSEM PRIJATELJEM
IN ZNANCIEM

Družina Frank in Tončka Urankar

396 Steven Blvd., Richmond Hts., O.

*Zeliva vsem prijateljem in znancem
Blagoslovljen Božič, ter zdravo in srečno novo leto.*

Frank and Ivica Mavsar
Cleveland, Ohio



Družina Dragica Pust

Cleveland, Ohio

Želi vsem prijateljem in znancem
Blagoslovljen Božič in
srečno, zdravo novo leto.

*Vesele božične praznike
in srečno novo leto!*

Stanko in Ivanka VIDMAR

22400 Lakemont Ave.
Euclid, Ohio 44123

*Blagoslovljene in milosti polne božične
praznike in srečno, miru in uspehov polno
novo leto ŽELI rojakom doma in posvetu!*

Družina Franceta ŠEGA

Willoughby Hills, Ohio

**Hvala vsem, ki ste se letos
spomnili na podjetje**

LAVRISHA

Construction & Repair

6507 St. Clair Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

216-391-0035

Upam, da ste zadovoljni z delom, ki sem
vam ga napravil.

*Voščim vsem vesele božične praznike
in srečno Novo leto!*

PAVLE M. LAVRISHA

A note of thanks for all your calls during
this past year.

Have a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

VESELE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE
IN SREČNO NOVO LETO

Frank & Julka Zalar

25200 Pleasant Trail
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

*Vesele božične praznike
in srečno novo leto!*

Hinko in Maria Zupancic

6704 Schaefer Ave., Cleveland

VESELE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE IN
SREČNO NOVO LETO ŽELITA

**Ivan in Tončka Berkopec,
Euclid, Ohio**

*Vsem sorodnikom in prijateljem
blagoslovljen Božič ter vso srečo v
Novem letu 2003*

želimo

**Olga, Tony, Diana, Andrej
in Jessica Kalar**

Euclid, Ohio

Veseli Božič in Srečno Novo leto

želijo

Jože in Rozi Selan
Michelle, Rich, Rebecca, Samantha in Zackary
Sikora
Barbi, Jimmy, Grace, Corrin, Elena in Andrea
Nemeckay
Chris, Jennifer in Sarah Selan



DRUŽINA

POLDI BOJC

ŽELI

VSEM PRIJATELJEM IN ZNANCIEM
BLAGOSLOVLJEN BOŽIČ
IN SREČNO, ZDRAVO NOVO LETO



*Vesele Božične Praznike
in Srečno Novo Leto!*

Lojze in Silva Lončar in družina

9630 Woodcroft Ct.
Kirtland, Ohio 44094



Vesele, miru polne božične praznike ter sreče,
zdravja in uspehov polno novo leto želi vsem

Družina Matija Lončar



*Vesele Božične Praznike
in Srečno Novo Leto!*

Folklorna skupina Kres

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*

*Blagoslovljen Božič in Novo leto 2003
želi*

JANEZ PROSEN

16211 Trafalgar Ave., Cleveland, OH 44110

**Vesele božične praznike
in srečno Novo leto
vam želijo**

**Milan, Blažena, Barbi,
Suzi in Franki
RIHTAR**

kakor tudi

David, Kerry, Jack, Max in Jamie



**Vsem našim sorodnikom in prijateljem namesto
osebnih voščil prav iz srca želimo blagoslovljene
božične praznike in srečno novo leto.**

**družina Miro Odar
družina Andy Odar**

MSIP 1457

(nadaljevanje s str. 23)

V decembru: Stana Oven \$100, kjer so potrebe največje; ta dobrotnica, ki redno pošilja, je izredno priznanje naslovila na g. Rudija Kneza, kako vestno pošilja potrdila za IT. Hvala Ti, Stana, tudi pohvale so potrebne.

Marija Petelin \$20, v spomin ravno umrlega brata Franceta, tj. da za 2 sv. maši v misijonih. NN \$1360 in naj se razdeli: \$30 za Rev. John Forkuo, za RO \$60, za Rev. Jože Horn \$200, \$1070 po presoji za misijonske potrebe.

Bog plačaj vsem in vsakemu posebej v obilni meri.

Marija Martinčič, poverjenica MZA v Windsorju, je napravila nabirko, katere poročilo se objavi kasneje. Hvala Marija - z vsemi mogočimi zdravstvenimi težavami in ob "walkerju", se ob dobri volji da še marsikaj dobrega storiti za uboge in za misijonarje.

V imenu MZA, misijonskih sodelavcev v zaledju, želim vam vsem polnost veselja in svetonočnega miru ter zdravo, srečno in blagoslovljeno Novo leto.

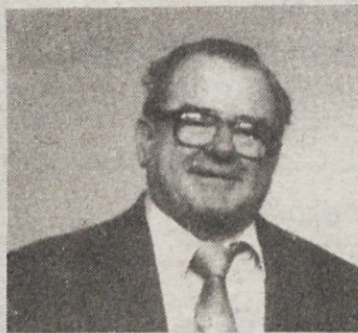
"Danes nam je rojen Kristus, Zveličar." (Odgovor pri psalmu.)

Prav poseben božični pozdrav pa bolnim in trpečim ter misijonarjem po svetu. Za vas vse bomo prav posebej molili ob jaslicah.

Poglejte, kako iz jaslic Jezus steguje ročice vam vsem v pozdrav!

Z božičnimi pozdravi
Sonja Ferjan
79 Lunness Rd., Toronto
ON M8W 4M7, Canada

V Blag Spomin ob tretji obletnici



Ciril Stepec

ki je umrl 20. decembra 1999

*Duša Tvoja zdaj že
biva, tam, kjer vlada
večni mir.*

*Svetega Boga uživa,
večne sreče zlati vir.*

Žalujoci:

Žena - Urši
Sinovi - Viktor, Daniel
in Robert
z družinami
Brat in sestre v Clevelandu
in Kanadi ter ostali
sorodniki.

*Blagoslovljene božične praznike
in srečno, zdravo Novo leto
želimo vsem!*

Družina Klesinova

1930 Himrod Street
Ridgewood, NY 11385-1231

Namesto božičnih kart pošiljamo
pomoči potrebnim



**Blagoslovljene božične praznike
in srečno Novo leto želi vsem,
posebno pa še obiskovalcem
naših prireditev**

PEVSKI ZBOR KOROTAN

*Vesele božične praznike
in Srečno Novo leto*

želi

Helen S. Jarem, Esq.

Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan

A Legal Professional Association
100 7th Avnue, Suite 150
Chardon, Ohio 44024-1079

(440) 942-1034

(440) 285-2242

*Vesele in blagoslovljene božične praznike
in srečno novo leto!*

želijo prijateljem in znancem

**Rudi in Anica Knez
in Družina**

**Blagoslovljene božične praznike in
srečno novo leto**

želi vsem prijateljem in znancem

**Tony, Vida, Marko in
Veronica Oblak**

Euclid, Ohio

*Vsem članom in prijateljem
želimo
srečno in blagoslovljeno
Novo Leto*

**PRISTAVSKI
UPOKOJENCI**