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AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

SLOVENIAN MORNING

USPS 024100

Vol. 107, No. 42

ISSN Number 0164-68X

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, DECEMBER 1,

MARIAN McMAHON
3933 OHIO STREET
PERRY OH 44081-9568

Actor Kuntner Reminisces About Christmas Customs

Slovenian actor Jernej Kuntner talks about his family's Christmas customs.

"As early as the start of December, we begin putting up and decorating the tree. We put it in a corner of the room, where it becomes a large repository for presents.

The decorated tree is also a meeting point for the family, where we sit down together in the evenings, watching the flickering lights and talking.

The Advent wreath is a must. Sometimes we make it ourselves, although most of

the time we buy it. The children are especially fond of Christmas, which we celebrate at our weekend lodge. If time allows, I try especially hard to grant their wishes. The lodge is of course even more magical, and reminds us of past times.

Paraffin-fired lamps and candles make Christmas an exceptional family holiday. Gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve. Obviously, this is a great time of joy for the children – and for me and my wife along with them.

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.

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.

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-



Sisters Ursi Stepec and Mary Celestina enjoy some time together in St. Mary's (Collinwood) new Community Center, recently. (Photo by PHIL HRVATIN)

Christmas and the Slovenians

In Slovenia, December has for a long time been associated with expecting Christmas and the holiday itself.

It is the most popular religious and family holiday in Slovenia. No wonder that Slovenian names for the month of December are related to it: the Christmas Month, *veliki božičnjek* (the 'Great Christmas Month'), *kolednjak* (Carol Singing Month) – named after carol singers.

Slovenians are traditionally full of the magical Christmas spirit and the story this holiday tells, though in a unique and different way from our neighbors. A small nation, constantly challenged by its history and the crossroads on which it lives, in its collective soul deeply felt the joyful hope that, in spite of severe trials and a cruel world, life is still worth living.

Christmas helped us to defy foreign masters, ideological tortures and even the communists failed to abolish Christmas. Christmas was for Slovenes in a very spe-

cial way a holiday of hope and consolation. It had such a strong attraction that even atheists attended Midnight Mass.

Since Slovenians love to live in a world of their own, the special warmth of Christmas is preserved by the connection of a rich tradition with the intimate, which is a healer in today's world.

Even the Slovenian word for Christmas – *božič* is something special. It literally means "small god." The old pagan sun god *Svarog* (the name means "shiny," radiant) "died" at the winter solstice so that he would give life to his son, *Svarožič*, the young sun. *Božič* is the young sun, which will again begin to grow and shine from the deep darkness as a new light, revived hope.

Christianity accepted the concept of a good God and his Son, which is now the baby Jesus, a child. Baby Jesus also used to bring presents for Christmas. The Christmas celebration is a sort of marriage between

Christianity and paganism. The Church was unable to abolish old beliefs embedded in the magic power of Christmas celebrations.

Christmas is December 25, the former "*Dies natalis Solis invicti*," the day of the ancient unconquered sun god. It is the mythical height of the winter solstice, the most magical time of the year, when night is the longest, darkness the thickest, mystery the greatest. It is a magical day for Slovenians and its celebrations establish the transcendental, although unconsciously for many.

It is a time of such sacredness, that we have had three 'Christmases' since ancient times. Christmas Day is the first one, New Year's Day the second, and the day of the Three Wise Men (Epiphany) the third. All three Christmases are related to a vast number of customs, habits, beliefs and superstitions and typical dishes.

A distinctively Slovenian dish is the famous *potica* – once a ritual dish, eaten only at Christmas. Slovenians also have three gift bearers – three good men – St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, and Grandpa Frost (*dedek Mráz*) and so children have one more to look forward to than their peers elsewhere in Europe. In Slovenia, the so-called Joyful December starts on December 3, the birth date of Slovenia's greatest poet, France Prešeren.

--Damjan J. Ovsec
Slovenija

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Snowflakes gently falling,
Candles are all aglow,
Hearts so full of laughter,
As people come and go.
Children play with gladness,
And carolers sing with glee.
As families join together,
Life is festive as can be.
All these things are wonderful,
They lend a special touch,
But keeping Christ in Christmas
Is what means so very much!

--Frances Culp Wolfe

Christmas Holiday Schedule

There will be no *Ameriška Domovina* (American Home) newspaper the last two weeks in December, (Dec. 22 and 29). The next two issues will be dated Dec. 8 and Dec. 15.

The absolute final, positive, deadline for all Christmas Greeting ads is Monday, Dec. 12 at noon.



AMERICAN HOME AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

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AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA (USPS 024100)

James V. Debevec - Publisher, English Editor
Dr. Rudolph M. Susel - Slovenian Editor

Ameriška Domovina Permanent Scroll of Distinguished Persons:
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis B. Baznik, Michael and Irma Telich,
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

United States and Canada:
U.S.A.: \$35 per year; Canada: \$40 in U.S. currency
Slovenia and other foreign: \$165 U.S. per year (air)

AMERICAN HOME (ISSN 0164-680X) is published weekly, except 1st week in July and 1 week after Christmas, for \$35 per year by American Home Pub. Co., 6117 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103-1692. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AMERICAN HOME, 6117 St. Clair Cleveland, OH 44103-1692.

No. 42

December 1, 2005

Four Days of Thanksgiving

by RUDY FLIS

What a special four days it has been. Family arriving from a distant state; food preparation and finally the actual set-up to accommodate our family. The pure joy of the grandchildren finally all together again, as with the brothers and sisters. Good times relived as a delicious Thanksgiving meal is consumed. Laughs as old secrets are revealed to the amazement of mom and dad. More laughs when old pictures are shown on the TV through the DVD system.

We served 34 people, big and small, turkey and its trimmings, and a variety of pies, home made angel food cakes, three of them, Jello concoctions, cookies and pumpkin roll. I think the biggest appetites belonged to the kids, as there was a constant flow of the smaller ones to the dessert counter. The adults were not put to shame, but those kids have hollow legs and energy to burn, no match for sluggish adults.

It all started about 2 p.m., with the out-of-state and the out-of-town guests. All were gone at just about 11 p.m. Therese and I were in low gear and grinding to a halt as the last left our home. But we would do it again, and next month we will do it again, twice. That's right, twice, as we celebrate a 25th

anniversary for my daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Steve, who are coming from Texas for the occasion. And then we celebrate as a family, a week or two later.

As in this past week, the granddaughters will gather together to enjoy each other as they always do, and the same with the grandsons. Brothers and sisters will try to talk each others ears off, poke fun at each other and themselves, all while consuming food. Some of my daughters and daughters-in-law thoroughly enjoy a spot of tea. Pastry of any make or kind seems to agree with the tea drinkers. I have not seen any of them turn down a crumpet or two, as they sip away.

With so many people in our home, it is usually easy to find dishwashers. There is always help to ease Therese's burden of cleaning up. We also use the dish washer, but pots and pans are washed by hand.

At the end of the night, there is plenty of pastry left, for all to take a portion home for a snack, as they remember some of the conversations, the laughs, maybe a smile or two and the fun each had as our family celebrated this national holiday that thanks Almighty God not only for the blessings of this past year, but for all the blessings we Americans have received.

Put your hand on a hot stove for a few seconds and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a few seconds. That's relativity.

-Albert Einstein

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS

by John Mercina

"MIKLAVŽ"

(Written for this column on Dec 2, 1993)

The setting was a small Slovenian farm of your childhood. The old "krušna peč" has been filled with firewood in preparation for a long winter's night and grandma sitting in the greatroom with her back hugging the hot clay tiles of the venerable wood-burning stove. Grandpa is in the barn, making last-minute preparations for the arrival of St. Nicholas. Children placed their largest boots near a window in expectation of the visitor's gifts and are now trying hard to fall asleep. For children, this was a special night. The gifts, often just an orange or perhaps a pair of socks or knitted gloves, were treasured beyond the multitude of expensive boxed gifts that we get today from Santa. Life was simpler then. Were we happier then than our children are now?

(An update - 2005) The setting will be a simple log cabin overlooking a frozen pond and a meandering brook. A concrete base for a soon to be completed "krušna peč" will sport an old wood-burning stove and chestnuts will be roasting on the stove's top. A large red candle will bathe the room in a soft glow and old Slovenian Christmas songs will be played on an old wind-up Victrola. A well-worn book, entitled "Pod Vernim Krovom", published in 1943, containing beautiful description of the old Slovenian customs surrounding the feast of St. Nicholas, will be resting in my lap. A glass of home-made wine will create an atmosphere for a dream of childhood long time ago...and an expected arrival of St. Nicholas.

It is my hope that "Sveti Miklavž" will be good to you!

Joey Tomsick Orchestra Performance Schedule

December, 2005

Sat, Dec. 3	Sterles Country House	1401 E. 55th St. (Cleveland)	8p-12a	216/881-4181
Fri, Dec. 9	Westpark Slov. Home	4183 W. 130th St. A Great Time!	7:30p-11:30p	216/433-1941

22400 Chardon Road, Euclid, OH 44117 EMAIL: joeynow@yahoo.com

A LEGEND OF SAINT NICHOLAS

Bernice Krasovec

A LEGEND OF SAINT NICHOLAS is an entertaining story in verse about the Saint who was a Bishop in Myra, Turkey in the year 300 A.D.

This story is also educational and brings to life the spirit of giving and sharing. While numerous parallels are drawn between St. Nicholas and the famous Santa Claus legend, the author informs her readers that the Santa Claus story is the product of many different cultures. Still, this entertaining book will warm the hearts of both children and adults as they gather together to celebrate the holiday season.

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Heritage Evening with Bishop Pevec

The Slovenian American Heritage Foundation extends a warm invitation to join in the annual Feast of St. Nicholas - Evening with Bishop A. Edward Pevec. This Mass and reception will take place at the Bishop's residence at The Center for Pastoral Leadership (Borromeo Seminary), 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe on Friday, Dec. 2nd, at 7 p.m.

This traditional Mass with our beloved Bishop Pevec has become the most perfect beginning to the holiday season. As in years past, the members of Glasbena Matica -

Slovenian Chorus will lend their beautiful voices, providing music for the Mass as well as a concert of Christmas Carols.

A reception will immediately follow the Mass in the Rappe Center, which is directly adjacent to the chapel.

Those attending are kindly requested to bring baked goods for the reception. Please drop them off in the Rappe Center prior to Mass.

Everyone is invited to attend what has become a most memorable evening.

Sausage Festival Weathers Storm

by CECILIA DOLGAN

The 2nd Annual Slovenian Sausage Festival sponsored by the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame did not let Hurricane Katrina spoil the day.

More than 600 food lovers and polka fans attended the event held Tuesday, Aug. 30 at Slovenska Pristava recreation grounds in Harpersfield, Ohio.

The judges chose Miro's Meats of Eastlake as Best In Fest Sausage in the taste-test contest. Maple Heights Catering of Maple Heights won runner-up for Best in Fest. Miro is a sausage-maker of Croatian descent, who opened a meat market one year ago at the Croatian Lodge complex in Eastlake, Ohio. Maple Heights Catering is family-operated with third generation Steve Hočevar in charge.

The taste-test judges were Joe Fedorchak, Mary Marsic, Nancy Novak, Milan Ribic, and Ray Somich.

The 2005 People's Choice award went to Maple Heights Catering Co., and runner-up People's Choice was Raddell's Sausage Shop of Cleveland. The People's Choice was voted by the

people who attended the Festival.

Entertainment was top notch and provided in support of the Polka Museum by nine bands, including Rob DeBlander, the Northern Home (Mich.) Button Box Club, Happy Timers, Joe Grkman, and Grkmania.

Joey Tomsick, Matt Grdadolnik and Friends, the Button Box Divas (Kathy Hlad, Linda Hochevar, Kath Vogt), John Lapinski, and Frank Moravcik.

While the outdoor dance pavilion was crowded the entire time, the indoor hall was the scene of an impromptu button accordion jam session to entertain the full house.

The drizzle did not dampen the spirits of the bus travelers, who were enthusiastic throughout the day - Rob DeBlander and friends from Dearborn, Michigan, Kathy Vogt and her contingent from St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, and Rose Frohnhoffer with music and food lovers from Pittsburgh, PA.

Hosting the event were the Polka Hall of Fame volunteers, Wayne Tomsic, chairman of the Festival, Joe and Nancy Novak, with their bar-

tender staff, kitchen aids Mary Marsic, Alice Kuhar, and Julie Sadar. Fred Ziwich donated the liquid libation and made a number of introductions on stage.

Tony Petkovsek and Ray Somich, both of WELW radio, also emceed the informal program.

PHOF (Polka Hall of Fame) Trustees worked as well as Lillian Bratina, Fran Churney, Marilyn Garbarino, Rosemary Koss, and Rita Mihelich.

A thank you to Stan Rus, and Milan Ribic and friends at Pristava for their hospitality and cooperation during the festival, and for pulling the Canadian bus out of the mud in the dark and rain.

A warm welcome to the recently appointed Consul General of Slovenia, with offices in Cleveland, Zvone Zigon. Mr. Zigon and his wife, Irena, had a sampling of an American Slovenian gathering and fun at the Sausage Festival. From the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C., Gregor Suc flew in for the day.

from -- the "Quarterly"

St. Nicholas Evening at St. Mary's

The St. Mary's Slovenian language school invites all to its annual evening with Saint Nicholas on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at St. Mary's in Collinwood.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a short program by the students of St. Mary's Slovenian Language School. After the program, Saint Nicholas will make his annual visit.

Refreshments will be available.

Everyone welcome.

Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is each of us being wreathed in smiles.

Kres Seeks New Members

Would you like to become more engaged in the Slovenian culture? Do you want to make new friends? Do you enjoy dancing? If so, then becoming a member of Kres, the Cleveland-area Slovenian folk dance group, is an excellent choice. This Slovenian folk dance group currently includes approximately 140 members and always enthusiastically welcomes new faces.

The youngest members must have completed kindergarten by June of the 2005-2006 school year. Dancers in grade school usually practice once a week. The older dancers have practice on Sunday nights through the school year, and

can have multiple evening practices a week in the summer.

If you or your child is interested in joining, please contact Monika Percic at 440-256-1376, or email her twinklingstar88@yahoo.com by Sunday, Jan. 1. Please provide your name, phone number, address, email address, the new member's name and current grade for the 05-06 school year.

Current members do not need to re-register at this time unless you would like to update the contact information. Please feel free to pass on the word to anyone who is interested in joining this compelling and exciting Slovenian dance group.

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Party Time for Altar Society

It's that time of year... Party... Party... Party.

Well, get your calendars out and mark the date, Sunday, Dec. 11.

President Ivanka Matic and her "ladies-in-waiting" (the dependable board members) cordially invite ALL members, both young and old, to attend the festivities of the day, beginning with Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Christmas luncheon in the school auditorium.

If you are a member and have just recently joined... If you are a member of long standing... You Are Invited.

We would like to have a good representation of all ages and it gives us a chance to "get to know one another."

As in years past, Father Boznar will bless the crib scene followed by the singing of a few Christmas Carols. Last year, we had a nice little 'choir' going.

Of course, who could pass up the good food, mmm? Well, don't just 'think about it' do something about it. Become an 'active' member. Won't you join us. We'd love to have you.

--A.K.

Mlakar Walks Down Memory Lane

by RAY MLAKAR

Here is hoping that all of our readers had a happy and filling Thanksgiving and I guess that sometimes on such a holiday we tend to forget to "Thank God" for our blessings, big, small or infrequent.

Fortunately, this was the first time in the past three years since Josephine's death that I had the chance to eat out, for a fine couple from church, Gus and Debbie seen to it that I was not lacking for food, and would not be spending the day alone. Thanks Gus and Debbie for a fulfilling day in more ways than one.

It seems that winter has really arrived, but we lucked out on the west side of Cleveland in as much that we did not get the snow that the "snow belt" (far east side of Greater Cleveland) got. However, we received our share of cold. In this cold weather, even Happy Harry, (Josie's Cairn Terrier) does not want to take a walk down the Parkway, but settles for the backyard, and even then

not too far from the back door.

Most unfortunate, I attended my fourth funeral today. My oldest sister's husband died on Sunday, 20 November and buried today, 25 November. My sympathy to his family, for it goes without saying, it is most difficult to lose one's mate, especially in her case after having been married some 50 years, I am sure that over those years, she has some pleasant memories to reflect on. Joe Mann, her husband, died on his birthday, at the age of 83. They lived all those years in the home that Joe built, for he was a professional brick layer. We all learn over time that one's mate can never be truly replaced, for Joe Mann was one of a kind for he always did everything and anything that would make his wife happy.

They say death comes in threes and this being the fourth funeral I attended in the past month, here is hoping this is the last for the time being. Rather than dwell on deaths, I ask readers to forgive me for cutting

this column short, for I know that over the years, one can say that when it comes to writing an article, I am long winded. In closing I will end on that note, being long winded with a special joke and perhaps the "Holy Fathers" will think I am talking about them. What can I say?

It seems that at church the pastor noted one of his parishioners walked out when he was only half way through his homily. Sometime later the parishioner came back into church. After the service, the pastor was by the back door greeting each person as they left, and when he came to the fellow who walked out, the reverend asked, "How come you walked out on my homily?" The parishioner said, "I went to get a haircut."

"A haircut, why didn't you get a haircut before you came to church?"

The parishioner looked at the pastor and said, "I didn't need one then."

With that, it is time to close and in doing so, May the good Lord bless and watch over all of you and keep you in His loving care.

Bethlehem/Murska Sobota Sister Cities Elect Officers

BETHLEHEM, PA -- The Bethlehem/Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association elected new officers for 2006-2007 at a Heritage Day gathering on Sunday, Oct. 23.

Eugene Novak was retained as President of the Association for another two-year term.

Also elected for two years were Ernest Josar as Vice President; Susan Vitez as Recording secretary; Kevin Duff as Corresponding Secretary; and Maria Skrilec as Treasurer.

Elected to the Board of Trustees for two years were: Veronica Loncar Azun and Charles Donscecz representing St. Joseph Slovenian R.C. Church; Charles Moretz and Betty Sylva representing St. John's Windish Ev. Lutheran Church; and Ralph Romano and Ana Zamolyi representing the Independent Slovenians.

Remaining on the Board for one more year are Joseph Bolitgitz, Anna Reczek, St. Joseph's, Mary Karol from St. John's and Bela Kerecz.

Outgoing officers are John Keyser, Recording Secretary and Lillian Horvath, Corresponding Secretary. Trustees leaving are: Anica Merkle, Stephen Antalics, Mary Pongracz, Bert Holczman, Kathleen Novak, and Rosemarie Moretz.

It was a very busy fall season for the Sister Cities Association. In September, the annual Chicken and Roast

Pork dinner was held at Saucan Valley Acres. Over 150 people attended and the Happy Slovenians Orchestra from Steelton provided the music for dancing. Members from The Bethlehem/German Sister Cities Schwabish Gmund attended the dinner.

A very fruitful gathering of members and friends attended the semi-annual Heritage Day gathering in October. And in November, the Bethlehem Sister Cities Association chartered a bus to go to Steelton, PA to attend the 110th Anniversary celebration of the KSKJ.

The final 2005 meeting of the Officers and Board of Trustees will be held in December at the annual Christmas Dinner to be held at The Goosey Gander. Also invited will be the new officers and board of trustees for the new year.

The goal of the Bethlehem/Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association is to provide books for the new library in Murska Sobota. Maria Skrilec is in charge of the project and announced the first large crate containing over 100 books (technical, English dictionaries and novels) will be shipped by Christmas via the Port of Newark, New Jersey to Slovenia.

The second project is Student Exchange and the first student is expected to come to Bethlehem in the fall of 2006.



Carrying the Offertory gifts to the altar on Saturday, Sept. 3 during the Slovenian Mass in St. Vitus Church in Cleveland, dedicated to Bishop Frederic Baraga are Ann Arhar, Daniella Avsec, Lenka Chauby, Agnes Koporc, Ivanka Matic, and Joseph Chauby.

On Sunday, Sept. 4, the Offertory gifts during the Bishop Baraga Mass were carried by Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Knez, Lenka and Joe Chauby, Jim Debevec, and Elizabeth Delene substituting for Madeline Debevec, who accompanied her mother, Dorothy, Urbancich, who was rushed to Euclid Hospital with a broken hip, prior to the 2 p.m. Mass.

(Photo by TONY GRDINA)

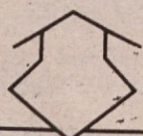
Life is a flower of which love is the honey. — Ray Mlakar

It's Cool Being Slovenian!

Krofe Sale

St. Vitus Altar Society will hold a krofe and noodles sale on Saturday, Dec. 10 in the auditorium social room.

Attention West Side Residents



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St. Clair Pensioners Club

With the year end fast approaching we are all looking forward to the upcoming holidays.

Am sure we will remember this past Thanksgiving Day with fond memories as we gathered together with family and friends. Hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. As Thanksgiving Day has come and gone we now are getting ready to celebrate the Christmas Season. You already can feel the hustle and bustle in the air as shoppers scurry for special bargains and folks are making their traveling plans well in advance.

As to making plans, why not attend the St. Clair Pensioners Club Christmas Party on Thursday, Dec. 8 which

will be held in the St. Clair Slovenian National Home. Doors will open at 12 noon and dinner served at 1 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 for members and \$15.00 for guests. You are asked to bring one gift (value less than \$5.00) which will be raffled off as door prizes. For tickets please call Sylvia Plymesser at (216) 391-9453. Members, why not bring a guest along and if they are not a member, ask them to join. Our meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. in the St. Clair Slovenian National Home. New members are most welcome.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

--Sylvia Plymesser

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It's a few coincidences

by JOE GLINSEK

Recently we found a big nail in the outermost tread of an almost new tire on my car. It couldn't be repaired because it also nicked the sidewall inside. It would take two days to get a matching new one, so they put on a used tire. We could have used the donut spare around town, but I had to drive my wife, Patt, to the St. Pete/Clearwater airport the next day. It's a hundred mile round trip, almost all on freeways.

All day I kept checking that old tire like a mother hen. I'd never been to this airport, and wasn't sure of the route, so I had double worries - it's in the genes. The next morning we were reading the paper over an early breakfast and I read an article to Patt. A boy from our local high school was T-boned at an intersection and killed instantly. A good student, on the baseball team, and he wasn't speeding, drinking or doing drugs. His family had recently moved here to Florida and it was sad and sobering.

With this, and the old tire in mind, I was trying to keep my speed to a minimum on I-275. But rush-hour traffic in all lanes was zooming, and I'm trying to be in the proper lane when it comes time to exit. My heart about stopped when I saw the small truck ahead of me lose an aluminum extension ladder off his rack. It opened up to its full 16 feet when it landed across most of two lanes, right in my path. There was no escape. Just tapping the brake, I was probably doing 45-50 when I rolled over it with all four wheels.

Seconds later, I'm in a cold sweat. If I'd been tailgating, and in this traffic there is a lot of that, we'd have caught the ladder in mid-flight, right across the windshield. The adrenalin quits pumping and you take a normal breath. The old tire didn't blow, and there were no nasty noises from the undercarriage when we rolled over the ladder. Either the truck driver didn't notice, or didn't care. He never touched his brake when he lost the ladder.

Fingers crossed, we found the airport. With all my nerves shot, I had an urgent need to use the men's room. Odd, they didn't have any urinals. Upon exiting, I discovered in my haste, I had mistakenly used the ladies room.

Parked illegally, I was in a nervous haste. Patt had two hours to kill. I got a quick kiss and a sharp reminder,

"Be sure to call my cell number as soon as you get home." She was worried about my driving. I'd complained about a big 'floater' in my eye, and would see the doctor the next day. Intending to stop at my barbershop, I promised to call from their phone. I don't want a cell phone. Patt has one because our daughter insisted.

Exiting the terminal, there were no signs directing me back to I-275. A cabbie gave me directions in a heavy accent. I found the Skyway Bridge, and knew my way from there. The floater was bothering me. It was like a lock of hair seen, but not felt. The old tire is worry number two. Tomorrow's eye exam heads my list of worrying.

I head for the barber shop. Jill is my current barber. My former regular barber, Mike, left a year ago. Perfect timing, Jill was on vacation and Mike was filling in and just finishing with a customer. He began clipping and filling me in on his year of semi-retirement. He asked if I want my eyebrows trimmed. "Yeah, and clip off the hair in my eye, too." He stops clipping. "What hair?" I tell him about the funny floater in my eye and my appointment tomorrow.

He says, I forgot to tell you, I had cataract surgery and implants and still have fuzzy vision in one eye. They sent me to another specialist. He said I am one in a thousand who still has problems. I ask him who did the surgery. He tells me and I said I'm seeing him tomorrow. My heart sank a little and the worry escalated. He says, "Don't worry, it's just a floater."

I needed stuff at the supermarket and stopped on my way home. At the supermarket door I remembered I didn't call Patt from the barbershop. She'll be worried sick if I don't catch her before she boards. There is no pay phone here. I'm desperate.

I spot a well-dressed man leaving the store with a cell phone on his belt. He looks preoccupied, but is very nice when I beg him to use his phone to make a call. He dials my number and hands me the phone. It's not ringing. He takes me outside and redials. I talk to Patt. She is ready to board and all is well.

I explained my predicament and thank the guy profusely. "You're welcome," he says. "Now would you do me a favor in return?" I say, "Sure, if I can."

He says solemnly, "My son died yesterday in a car crash. Would you say a prayer for him?" I respond,

"Are you talking about the baseball player from the high school?"

"Yes, please pray for him."

He sadly walks away and I say, "It isn't fair. We're supposed to go first." He nods over his shoulder and says, "Yes, you're right."

I drove very slowly home, praying all the way for the young athlete. My mind began to fill with the events of the day. So many coincidences.

The next day, my floater was just that - a floater. It comes and goes, like everything else.

Potica, Cookies For Sale

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Slovenian Films at Cinematheque

Three feature movies by rising Slovenian filmmaker Damjan Kozole will be shown on Dec. 1 and 8 at the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinematheque, 11141 East Boulevard in University Circle, telephone (216) 421-7450. This will be the first showing of all three films in the city that has more Slovenians than any city outside of Slovenia.

The films will be introduced by Joseph Valencic of Euclid, Ohio who is knowledgeable about Slovenian movies.

Damjan Kozole (born in 1964) has directed six films since 1987, but his last three - the three that the Cinematheque will show - have garnered the most attention. *Pornofilm* (2000) won top prize at the Slovenian Film Festival in Portoroz. *Spare Parts* (2003) was showed at Berlin and at more than 50 other international film festivals. And *Labor Equals Freedom* (2005), his latest, was acclaimed at this year's Locarno Film Festival.

All three deal with problems facing Slovenians and

other Europeans living in a fast-changing continent. All prints are 35mm, in Slovenian with English subtitles.

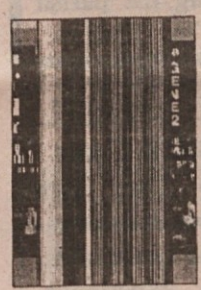
Admission to each movie is \$8, or \$12 for both films on Dec. 1. Free parking.

This series is presented with the support of the Slovenian Film Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, and Danijel Hočvar at EMO-TIONFILM.

Spare Parts (Rezervni deli) will be shown on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 8:40 p.m.

Labor Equals Freedom (Delo osvobaja) will be shown on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. Damjan Kozole's latest film has proved a hit at European film festivals this year. It's a tragicomedy about a man who loses his job when Slovenia enters the European Union, and about his difficult journey back to hope and optimism. With Peter Musevski and Natasa Barbara Gracner.

BOOKS FROM SLOVENIA - IN ENGLISH



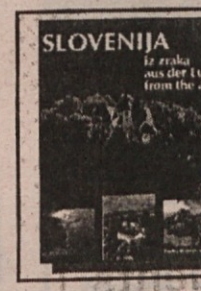
The Making of the Slovenian State/1988-1992; and the Collapse of Yugoslavia
Authored by Prime Minister Janez Jansa, this book gives an insider's view of the period leading to Slovenia's independence and a portrait of the people who emerged along with it. Hardback English edition has 52 photos in 256 pages. Price - \$44.95



National Atlas of Slovenia
"It is indeed impressive when a country that is smaller than Lake Ontario and has about two million people - fewer than many U.S. cities - can put out a national atlas as well presented as this one." *The Library Journal*, 2002
Hardback - \$72.95 (Also available in Slovenian - \$50.95)



Wines of Slovenia
Translated into English, this new book covers 386 vineyards, a remarkable number for such a small country. Presented by region, the wines are rated in a four star system and paired to food recommendations. Authored by ethnologist Dr. Janez Bogataj and viniculturalist Dr. Julij Nemanic. Price - \$72.95



Slovenia from the Air
There is no better way to appreciate the natural beauty of Slovenia than from the air. Over 200 stunning aerial photos in its 242 pages. Price - \$90 now \$50.95



Slovenian Folk Tales
An English version of one of the best-selling Slovenian children's books, with six Slovenian folk tales and 52 great full-color illustrations in 82 pages. Price - \$34.95



Slovene-English Dictionary
At 935 pages, this hardcover edition is intended for most translation tasks. At the condensed size of 5" x 3" x 1", the dictionary is great for travelers. Price - \$65.95



Slovenia: My Country
This is one of the best photographic portraits of Slovenia ever published. It was produced by Joco Znidarsic, the long-serving photo editor of DELO, the major daily newspaper in Slovenia. "My Country" captures the stunning beauty of Slovenia in 277 photographs over its 200 pages. English narration. Price - \$87.95



Handicrafts of Slovenia
This gorgeous book presents the craft art of over 200 craftsmen working in traditional forms. Includes a guide to artisans by region with contact information. 315 pages with 532 color photos. Standard edition - \$87.95, exhibition edition with 143 color photographs in 172 pages - \$40.95



Come My Gentle Ariel
This is the best known of renowned Slovenian author Mira Mihelic's many stories for young people. It is based on the author's up-bringing in her grandmother's home in the mining town of Trbovlje. 129 pages with 18 illustrations. Price - \$31.95



Slovenian Cookery
Over 100 classic Slovenian dishes are provided in this recent publication. Recipes selected by Slavko Adamje, one of Slovenia's foremost chefs. 83 color photographs over its 144 pages. Attention is also given to the wines of each region. Price - \$50.95

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- Guide to Slovenian Museums - \$53.95 / The Atlas of Slovenia (240 maps at 1:50,000 scale) - \$106.95
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- Architectural Guide to Ljubljana - Paperback - \$54.95 / Slovenia Pocket Guide - \$15.95 Slovenian Cooking - \$15.95
- Slovenian Roadmap - \$13.95 / Slovenia: The First 10 Years - \$82.95 / Tourist Guide to Slovenia - \$66.95

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For information call (310) 392-4843 or email BooksOfSlovenia@comcast.net





Olga Petek shows the Chocolate Potica she made following a 1912 Slovenian cookbook recipe.

Potica – Slovenian Holiday Dessert

“POTICA” (a cake consisting of a sheet of pastry spread with filling and rolled up) is a typical Slovenian holiday dessert known all over the world.

This dessert was baked in moulds, which years ago reflected folk creativity. The moulds for potica were usually round with a cylindrical hole in the middle. Baked potica desserts have the form of a ring.

There are at least 50 types of this dessert with different fillings. At first the filling was made only of walnuts, hazelnuts, honey, mint, cottage cheese, cream, pork cracklings, bacon or dried fruit. Later, cocoa, chocolate and carob pods were also used. Usually no sugar was added. Typically, the yeast dough is made of wheat flour, which is rolled out. The filling is spread over it. Then the dough is rolled up and placed into the mould. Both ends are cut off and shaped into small dumplings.

—Slovenija

Raspberry Linzer Cookies

- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 1/4 cups sugar, divided
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 cup ground almonds
- 3/4 cup raspberry preserves

In a mixing bowl, cream butter. Gradually add 2/3 cup sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine flour and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Shape dough into a ball; chill for 30-45 minutes or until firm.

On a surface dusted with confectioners' sugar, roll half of the dough to 1/8-in. thickness; cut with a 2 1/2 in. round cookie cutter. Repeat with remaining dough, using a 2 1/2 in. doughnut cutter so the center is cut out of each cookie.

Beat egg whites until frothy. Combine almonds and remaining sugar. Brush each cookie with egg white and sprinkle with the almond mixture. Place on greased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 6-8 minutes or until lightly browned.

Remove immediately to wire rack to cool completely. Spread 2 teaspoons of raspberry preserves over the plain side of solid cookies. Place cookies with centers cut out, almond side up on top of preserves, making a sandwich.

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New Years Eve at Cultural Center

LEMONT, IL – Everyone is cordially invited to join us for the Slovenian Cultural Center's Annual New Year's Eve Party.

Slovenian Mass at 6 p.m., cocktail hour at 7 p.m., with dinner at 8.

Prices are \$45 for adults and \$25 for students (ages 14-18); children under 14 admitted free. After dinner tickets are \$20 and will be sold from 9:30 until midnight.

Free baby-sitting available from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Please bring pillows and sleeping bags.)

Prices include dinner, entertainment, champagne, and snacks at midnight. **CASH BAR.**

Music by Vesele Stajerke.

New Years Eve at St. Mary's

Plan to usher in the New Year in St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) new parish community center with a gala dinner/dance.

Tickets are \$100 per couple. Veseli Godci will play for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Reservations may be made by calling the parish house at (216) 761-7740.

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

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

Coming Attractions

Friday, Dec. 2

Evening with Bishop Pevec, sponsored by Slovenian American Heritage Foundation, 7 p.m. at The Center for Pastoral Leadership (Borromeo Seminary), 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, Ohio.

Saturday, Dec. 3

St. Nicholas visits St. Mary's Slovenian School.

Sunday, Dec. 4

St. Nicholas will visit the St. Vitus Slovenian School children at 3 p.m. in the parish auditorium.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Slovenian National Home, 3563 E. 80th St., 50-50 raffle at 7 p.m. \$10 admits two, includes sandwiches and chips. Music by Joe Novak 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 9

Dance at West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, from 7:30 to 11:15 p.m., featuring Eric Noltkamper.

Friday, Dec. 16

Dance at West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, from 7:30 p.m. to 11:15 p.m., featuring Fred Ziwich.

Saturday, Dec. 31

New Years Eve Dinner-Dance in St. Mary's (Holmes

Ave.) new parish community center. Tickets \$100 a couple. Veseli Godci Orchestra. Reservations call the parish rectory at (216) 761-7740.

Saturday, Dec. 31

LEMONT, IL – Slovenian Cultural Center's New Year's Eve Party. Slovenian Mass 6 p.m., cocktail hour at 7 p.m. Dinner at 8. Prices \$45 adults, \$25 children. Music by Vesele Stajerke.

-- 2006 --

Saturday, Jan. 28

Pristavska Noč at SNH on St. Clair, Cleveland.

Feb. 17 – 25

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

March 19 – 26

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

Saturday, April 29

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

Sunday, Nov. 5

Zarja Singing Society celebrates 90th Anniversary at Slovenian Society Home in Euclid, Ohio.

Celebrities Real Names

by Gerry Mulligan = Phil Hrvatin.

--S--

Susan Sarandon = Susan Tomaling

Telly Savalas = Aristotle Savalas

Jane Seymour = Joyce Frankenberg

Del Shannon = Charles Weedon Westover

Omar Sharif = Michael Shalhoub

Charlie Sheen = Carlos Irwin-Estevez

Martin Sheen = Ramon Estevez

Talia Shire = Talia Coppola

Sinbad = David Atkins

Eric Singer (Kiss) = Eric Mensinger

Slash = Saul Hudson

Slim Dusty = David

Gordon Kirkpatrick

Dusty Springfield – Mary

Isobel Catherine O'Brien

Suzanne Somers = Suzanne Mahoney

Robert Stack = Robert

Modini

Barbara Stanwyck =

Ruby Stevens

Sylvester Stallone = Mi-

chael Sylvester Enzo Stal-

lone

Ringo Starr = Richard

Starkey

Cat Stevens = Yusef Islam

Connie Stevens = Con-

cetta Ingolia

Sting = Gordon Summer

Donna Summer = La

Donna Gaines

(To Be Continued)

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Death Notices

CELIA M. BLEEKMAN

Funeral Services for Celia M. Bleekman (nee Zaller), 80 of Wickliffe, Ohio, was at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 in St. Mary Church, 15519 Holmes Ave. in Cleveland, with pastor, Rev. John Kumše, officiating.

Interment in All Souls Cemetery.

Mrs. Bleekman was born on Aug. 20, 1925 in Susquehanna, PA. She lived in Cleveland before moving to Wickliffe 43 years ago.

She was a member of KSKJ St. Helen Lodge No. 193, Slovenian Women's Union, and St. Mary's Seniors.

Mrs. Bleekman worked as a secretary at Jakubs-Danaher Funeral Home for eight years, retiring in 2003. Previously she had worked at Grdina Funeral Home in Cleveland.

Survivors are her daughters Debbie (Michael) Pppard and Carla Klemencic; grandson Matthew Rosa; and granddaughter Jackie Rosa.

Her husband, John "Jack" Bleekman, parents, Joseph and Anna Zaller; and sister, Sr. Jean Zaller, OSU, are deceased.

Family received friends at the Jakubs-Danaher, a Golden Rule Funeral Home, 36000 Lake Shore Blvd., Eastlake, Ohio on Friday, Nov. 18 from 2 - 9 p.m.

Sympathy may be expressed by memorial contributions to St. Mary's Endowment Fund, 15519 Holmes Ave., Cleveland, OH 44110, or Judson Retirement Community, 2181 Ambleside Dr., Cleveland, OH 44105.

ROBERT F. DAVIDSON

Robert F. Davidson - age 62 of Euclid, Ohio beloved husband of Vida M. (nee Brinovec); loving father of Brian (Kerri), Carey (Bobby) Bray and Brad Davidson; dear brother of James Davidson and cherished uncle of Alicia and many others.

Mr. Davidson is a Vietnam Army Veteran.

Family received friends at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills, Ohio on Tuesday, Nov. 22 from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m.

Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23 at St. Paul's Church in Euclid. Interment in All Souls Cemetery.

DAVID J. DVORABIC

David J. Dvorabic, age 52. Beloved son of Joseph and Betty (nee Branisel) (deceased); cherished brother of Diane Strahan (MN); uncle of Justin and Brian Strahan (both of MN); nephew of Helen Camillo.

Friends were received at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 6-8 p.m., where services were held on Thursday at 11 a.m.

Interment All Souls Cemetery.

In Memory

I would like to renew my subscription to the Ameriška Domovina for another year. My sons and I enjoy the paper very much. I am enclosing a check for \$50.00 which includes \$15.00 extra in memory of my husband, **Joseph Krizman** and his **deceased parents.**

--Anna Krizman
Willoughby, OH

In Memory

Thanks to **Theresa Babuder** of Mentor, OH who submitted a \$25.00 donation in memory of **Ivanka and Jože Kete.**

In Memory

Thanks to **Rezka Zupancič** of Euclid, Ohio who renewed her subscription and added a \$15.00 donation in memory of her husband, **Leopold Zupancic.**

Donation

Thanks to **Slovenska Palma Club** of South Florida for the \$30.00 donation.

Large Donation

Thanks to **Cecilia and Bob Dolgan** of Willoughby Hills, Ohio who renewed their subscription and added a terrific \$65.00 donation!

Looks Forward

I look forward to reading the American Home newspaper every week. Thanks.

--Sandi Green
Willoughby, OH

Important Source

I would like to subscribe to the American Home newspaper. Thanks for providing an important source of news for the Slovenian community.

--Victor Nemeč
Euclid, Ohio

International Flavor Captured at Lorain's Sts. Cyril & Methodius

by Nancy Erikson,
Catholic Universe Bulletin

Going to Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church is like coming home for Christine Bopp.

Having lived out of state for a few years, Bopp and her husband, Michael, her daughter, Samantha, and son, Kyle, were welcomed back with open arms at the small Slovenian parish where Christine grew up celebrating her heritage and being part of Lorain's International community.

"It's a wonderful experience for my kids," she said. "Everyone seems to take care of each other."

With a congregation of 200 people, mostly older adults, everyone truly needs to take care of each other to keep the 100-year-old parish going.

Actually, the entire Bopp family does something to help at Mass on Sundays. Christine and Samatha sing in the choir which is directed by Christine's mother, Justine Leonard. Michael is a lector. Kyle is an altar server.

Christine said she loves being part of the parish and

has enjoyed celebrating its centennial anniversary this year.

"I think it's wonderful," she said. "It's such an interesting melting pot in Lorain. Sts. Cyril and Methodius is part of that."

Founded in 1905 under the guidance of Father Andrew Smrekar, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church served Slovenian immigrants who came to Lorain to work in the steel mill and were eager to have a place to worship in their language.

Located on East 31 Street in South Lorain, the parish is one of several ethnic parishes in the well-known International city that includes Puerto Rican, Irish, Croatian, Hungarian, Polish, and other nationality churches.

Father Paul Krajnik, pastor for the last 30 years, said as an immigrant himself coming to the U.S. in 1963 from Slovenia, he understands the needs of parishioners of all nationalities to stay in touch with their cultures. Although he no longer celebrates Mass in Slovenian, the choir does sing Slovenian songs.

"Lorain is so international," he said. "We all started the same. As immigrants."

He credited the people's dedication and hard work for the small church being able to remain open and said it truly is the people's parish.

"As long as I am able to, I will stay," said Father Krajnik, who is 83. "People here have great faith. They make it easy for me."

Regina Arredondo has been coming to the parish since she was a child in 1949 and said she doesn't mind wearing many hats when it comes to getting involved.

She sings in the choir and is an eucharistic minister and member of the Legion of Mary.

"There's life in the parish," she said. "People always talk to one another and take care of each other."

As choir director and organist, longtime parishioner Justice Leonard said the parish wouldn't be able to keep going without all the hard work of all the parishioners and the dedication of those who love coming to the church every Sunday.

"There are so many wonderful people who do so many wonderful things," she said. "We're an older parish but everyone pitches in."

One cloud is sufficient to
eclipse a whole sun.

--Bob Mills

In Loving Memory

The 10th Anniversary
of the death of our beloved
Mother, Sister,
Aunt, Great-Aunt, and
Grandmother



Josephine "Pep" Flaisman

Died Dec. 1, 1995

Though her smile is gone forever and her hand we cannot touch We will always have happy memories of the one we loved so much.

Missed by:

Sons - Alan and Aldon
Daughter - Alana Wallin
Sister - Sylvia Plymnesser
Son-in-law - Robert
Daughter-in-law Karla
and Grandchildren

Donations

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

John Erjavec, Euclid, OH -- \$5.00

Nevenka Perčič, Greer, SC -- \$10.00

Betty Zahler, Brecksville, OH -- \$15.00

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Vincent Vrhovnik, Madison, OH -- \$15.00

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Jožefa Horvat, Berwyn, IL -- \$5.00

Anne Nemeč, Cleveland, OH -- \$10.00

Tone Ovsenik, Willoughby Hills, OH -- \$15.00

John and Dana Leonard, Cleveland, OH -- \$15.00

Barbara A. Rihtar, Painesville, OH -- \$15.00

Tony Zemljich, Anchorage, AK -- \$5.00

Josephine Merc, Euclid, OH -- \$14.00

Jozef Klicek, Cleveland, OH -- \$5.00



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.

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Rich Culture of the Prekmurje Region

by **URSKA KRISELJ GRUBAR**
Sinfo

The Prekmurje region of Slovenia, an oasis of peace and primitive pureness, far away, but nevertheless close to the person who searches for meaning in things around him and not in himself. By the Mura River, life stopped centuries ago.

If you are among those who are searching for a way back to nature, the Prekmurje region might be the promised land. It seems that many people in the Prekmurje region feel pushed away, abandoned, maybe even cast out, because the distance from the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, is a bit more than 200 kilometers. But the richness of nature and the kindness of people, cannot be measured in miles.

Bogojina: The Church of the Ascension

Dr. Stanko Zver, the priest in Bogojina, where one of the most beautiful churches in Slovenia stands (constructed according to the plans of our great architect Joze Plecnik), is one of those people who is aware of the beautiful things of his area and who is studying their rich symbols and spreading the knowledge to all.

Dr. Zver told us that Plecnik "built the choir of the new church over the old 14th century church form between the years 1925 and 1927 and is the only example across the Mura River that was, if I may use a musical term, "composed" by Plecnik in its entirety."

Plecnik did not want to destroy the old church, so he preserved it in its entirety. The old church was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which Plecnik symbolized with three arches, through which we can enter the new church.

"One of the characteristics of the church is its fine

Plecnik symbolism. The central pillar of Christ, disturbing for some people, is necessary because the church would otherwise come down. Or the tabernacle," as he likes to call it, says Stanko with great pride in his voice.

"The door is the shape of the sun. On it there are six grapes. In our religion, Christ left us seven sacraments. The central sacrament is Corpus Christi, which Plecnik symbolized with an ear; the rest are represented by grapes. In every bunch of grapes there are seven berries, seven sacraments." Every object in the church has its own hidden meaning that takes the breath away. If people are unable to comprehend the meaning of the symbols, which Plecnik imaginatively combined with his architecture, they are left without the real meaning of the church.

The open door that leads to the main altar represents the new horizons of life, which can be experienced only under the weight of the cross. If you do not lift the cross, which served as a kind of hatch on the door, the door stays closed.

An interesting feature, actually the special feature of this church, is its decoration with pottery, which is the work of local pottery makers from the village of Filovci. The starry sky on the oak-wood ceiling is represented by earthenware plates; the pitchers on the main altar also have their meaning. Here Dr. Stanko Zver introduces his good friend Alojz Bojnec, a master of the pottery craft.

Pottery Master Bojnec

Alojz Bojnec is the owner of the only preserved pottery shop in Filovci, which he inherited from his father. Pottery making is one of the oldest crafts in Slovenia, which unfortunately went into decline after World War II.

The Slovenian ethnology expert Dr. Janez Bogata, in his book *Domace obrti na Slovenskem* (Traditional crafts in Slovenia) writes that pottery work is comprised of three main stages: "the extraction of clay, manufacture of products on the pottery wheel, and baking in the furnace." He writes that modern technology greatly influenced the work of pottery shops, for the pottery wheels of today are not run with the legs but with electricity. Some documents show the pottery wheel has been used since the 10th century. Before that, pottery was made manually.

Master Bojnec is one of those people who are making sure that pottery making will not die out. With his efforts to rejuvenate, modernize and adapt, he shows that pottery craft has become very trendy.

Once the people from Filovci were all making their living from pottery, but today master Bojnec and his family are the only ones.

The workshop of master Bojnec is visited by 20,000 people a year of all age groups.

A great treasure, which is kept in the workshop, is a special dome-shaped furnace, about 80 years old, in which black ceramic is made.

Why is the furnace special from all others in Europe? During the heating of the clay, the furnace is loaded with wood that is very rich in resin, which produces a lot of dense smoke. The pottery-maker closes all the holes in the Prekmurje furnace and the smoke stays inside. The pottery master says that the black Prekmurje earthenware production is focused especially on the making of graveside vases.

Donations

Thanks to the following for their generous donations to the Ameriška Domovina (American Home) newspaper:

William Susel, San Fernando, CA -- \$10.00

Val Pfeifer, New Windsor, NY -- \$15.00

Anthony and Theresa Rus, Willoughby Hills, OH - \$15.00

Stan and Irena Jausovec, Littleton, CO -- \$10.00

Sylvia Klopčič, Parma, OH -- \$15.00

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Zorjan, Berwyn, IL -- \$5.00

Frank Fuja, Windsor, OH -- \$15.00

Nezka Lodewyck, Joliet, IL -- \$15.00

Ivana Cerar, Cleveland, OH -- \$5.00



Master Bojnec in front of his workshop.

The Reluctant Bride

As a new bride, Aunt Edna moved into the small home on her husband's ranch near Snowflake. She put a shoe box on a shelf in her closet and asked her husband never to touch it. For 50 years Uncle Jack left the box alone, until Aunt Edna was old and dying.

One day when he was putting their affairs in order, he found the box again and thought it might hold something important. Opening it, he found two doilies and \$82,500 in cash. He took the

box to her and asked about the contents.

"My mother gave me that box the day we married," she explained. "She told me to make a doily to help my frustrations every time I got mad at you."

Uncle Jack was very touched that in 50 years she'd only been mad at him twice. "What's the \$82,500 for?" he asked.

"That's the money I made from selling the doilies."

Traditionally, the Three Wise Men were known as Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar, but the gospel of Matthew mentions neither their names nor how many they were.

Love is friendship set to music. — John Mercina

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St. Nicholas and the gold stockings

More than a thousand years ago, a man named Nicholas became the bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor, a land now known as Turkey. Nicholas was known as one of the most generous men ever to live.

Nicholas was born to wealthy parents who died when he was still a boy. They left their fortune to their only son, but they also had helped him understand that the family's money was for making the world a better place. He gave away much of his wealth and devoted himself to his religious studies. He became a bishop at such a young age that he was known as the "boy bishop."

Nicholas took his parents' wisdom to heart. He traveled the world, and everywhere he journeyed, he offered help and kindness. He brought much happiness even to those who never expected his help.

On one of his journeys, Nicholas traveled by sailing ship, and on the journey, a ferocious storm came up at sea. All the sailors aboard were certain they were doomed to die. Nicholas remained on the deck even as the wind howled, the sails flapped wildly and others ran below for safety. Nicholas simply prayed for the storm to die away.

The men could not believe their eyes when Nicholas' prayers were answered, and the sea became as calm as glass. The men sailed to safety, praising Nicholas' powers.

When Nicholas arrived in Holland, he walked the streets with his friend, Black Peter, a Moor he had befriended in Spain. As always, Nicholas wore his long robes and rode a tall, white steed, and Black Peter, dressed in bright red, in the costume of his homeland, walked beside him with a bag of oranges and treats for the children, slung over his shoulder.

As they moved through the streets, children who had heard of their generosity stopped to say hello. Those who were good received Nicholas' gifts. But any child who had not been well behaved knew he must fear Black Peter's switch.

One day in the marketplace, Nicholas heard the tale of a poor man who had no dowry for his three daughters. The father wanted them to marry, and in those days all young women needed to have something to give to their suitors on their wedding day. Without this gift, known as a dowry, the women had no chance of marrying. The father worried

that his daughters would have no one to look after them when he was gone.

When Nicholas heard that the father was sick with grief that he might have to sell his daughters into slavery, he knew he must help. At first he thought he might offer the man some money, but everyone said this man was too proud to accept anyone's help.

And so one night Nicholas filled a bag with gold coins, and as he passed the man's house, he tossed the bag into the window. It fell at the feet of the eldest daughter. "Look, Papa," the girl cried. "Gold." The father ran outside to see who could have lost such a valuable item. No one was in sight. Nicholas had hidden in a dark alley.

The man decided he must keep watch to see who had lost his coins, and so when Nicholas returned a few nights later to toss a second bag into the house, he saw that he could not do it without being discovered. He and Peter came up with a plan.

With Peter's help, Nicholas climbed on the roof of the man's house and tossed a bag down the chimney; the bag landed in the stockings the second daughter had hung in the fireplace so that they would dry. In the morning, when she fetched her stockings, she discovered that she, too, now had a dowry.

When, a few weeks later, Nicholas returned to try the same trick again, this time to help the third daughter, a neighbor spied him upon the roof.

"Why would you hide yourself?" he asked Nicholas. "I am certain the poor man would want to thank you for your generosity to his daughters."

"I do not want thanks," Nicholas explained. "I wish only for the world to be a better place. I beg you; promise you will never reveal to anyone the secret of the gold bags. Let this be our secret."

The neighbor agreed and so the poor man never knew who had rescued his daughters, though rumors floated through the land.

Many years later, when Nicholas died on Dec. 6, the nuns in the convents in Turkey and other lands decided they would imitate his generous acts. They made secret gifts to their parishioners and to their friends. And in the doorways of the convents, the nuns hung stockings, labeled with paper and asking for the spirit of St. Nicholas to come to them.

They say that every year



St. Nicholas fulfilled their prayers, and on the morning of Dec. 6, those stockings were full of gifts.

Ever since then, Nicholas has been honored and celebrated, not only in Holland, where he is known as Sinterklaas, but around the world.

St. Nicholas Day

Around the world, St. Nicholas Day is celebrated in many different ways. In some places sailors carry his statue from a cathedral to the sea so that he can bless the waters and offer sailors safe voyage for the year.

In Holland, on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, children leave their shoes in the hallway with a carrot and a piece of hay in them. This, they say, is for the white Lipizaner horse Nicholas always rode. Later that evening, after Sinterklaas visits, they find pieces of marzipan

candy or chocolate in their shoes.

They say that Black Pete also enters the houses, through the chimney and those children who have misbehaved, received not candy but bundles of sticks known as roe. The bad children, so the legend goes,

must return to Spain in Peter's sack. And there is no hiding from Sinterklaas, for he has many helpers, known as Sinterklases, who are watching over everyone all the time and discovering who is naughty and who is nice.

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If we ever forget the meaning of Christmas, all we need do is listen to children.

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Visits St. Vitus
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St. Nicholas visits St. Vitus Slovenian School children on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. in St. Vitus Auditorium.

Admission is \$6.00 for adults, while children are admitted free.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

A Singer Reflects on Korotan's Slovenia Tour

by JERRY ZUPAN

PUTNAM VALLEY, NY -- Preface. -- This past summer, the Korotan Chorale traveled to Slovenia to participate in the official commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Refugees of 1945. The August 11 issue of the *Ameriška Domovina* contained a beautiful detailed account written in Slovenian by Prof. M. Milac. The following text contains a personal account of this tour from a performer's perspective. The hope is that the readers, by merging both perspectives, audience and performer, will more deeply appreciate Korotan's significance in that commemoration.

By joining the Korotan Choir entourage in its 2005 Concert Tour in Slovenia, I knew that everybody would be lodging for those two weeks in the student dormitory rooms at the sprawling institute of St. Stanislav (*Škofov zavod*) in the town of Št. Vid. But nobody had mentioned anything about close encounters with the supernatural. But, sooner or later, you sensed their presence. Ghosts, that is. Perhaps not the first day, or even the second, but eventually. I divulged this secret to some trusted friend on day 3, and found little relief in learning that I was hardly alone in experiencing these disquieting sensations.

There were omens enough that supernatural forces would dog this tour. Pure coincidences, an agnostic might counter, but the numbers were too uncanny. An émigré society called Alovechia Abroad (*Slovenija v svetu*), now permanently based at the Institute, had invited the famed Korotan Choir from Ohio to participate, via a series of concerts, in the summer long Slovenian commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the mass exodus of Slovenian refugees in May of 1945. World War 2 had just ended in Europe, but these thousands of refugees had to hurriedly leave their beloved country to escape death by the hand of the communist regime that had enthroned itself in the chair vacated by Hitler's Nazis.

Of the 75 regulars in the choir, only 60 were able to join this 60th anniversary tour. The ages of the singers spanned 60 years, a spectrum from teens to seniors who in their late 70s could still vividly, much too vividly, remember their first-hand experiences of those terrors 60 summers ago. An entourage

of 50 relatives and friends accompanied the choir. All shared a common bond: each was somehow related to a Slovenian refugee from that exodus in that bloody post-war summer of 1945.

The singers trickled into Brnik Airport during the final days of June, next a short ride to the dormitories of St. Stanislav Institute, their "home" for the duration of the tour. The next 10 days held six bus trips and 7 performances. If you ever tried to get your family up for breakfast, out to jobs or school on time, back at night, then imagine doing the same in a foreign country for an entourage of 110 for 10 days, compounded with concert preparations, scheduling, coordination, room and board, transportation, publicity, supplies, and finances. The laurels for this Herculean accomplishment belongs to two officers of Korotan's executive board, Cvetka Rihtar and Maruša Pogačnik.

St. Stanislav Institute is a sprawling complex of interconnected buildings that form numerous courtyards, much like the Pentagon in the USA. Its façade side alone is as long as a football field (92m). A list of all its owners in its 105-year history contains strange bedfellows: founded by the Bishop of Ljubljana in 1901 as the first Catholic college in Slovenia, annexed during World War 2 by the Nazis for their administrative offices, commandeered as a prison camp by the victorious communists at the end of the war, and then kept as a Yugoslav Army base for the next 45 years until Slovenia gained its independence in 1991. Before vacating the college, the surrendering Yugoslav troops trashed the complex, and later the Slovenian government magnanimously returned the ruined structure to the Catholic Church, its original owner. Much has since been renovated, and much repair remains, with an eye on accreditation as a Catholic College once again some day.

From your very first day at the Institute, and especially throughout the night, the 2-minute-long crescendo and decrescendo of rumbles, clangs and whistle shrieks reminded your ears and nerves that train tracks run directly across the front entrance of the college. Today the trains ferry commuters and freight, but 60 years ago, the train depot at Št. Vid, a short walk from the college, was the start of the final train ride to their deaths for thou-



sands of Homeguards. Having reached the supposed safety of Austria with thousands of civilians in the Exodus of May, 1945 the Homeguards were double-crossed by the British Army and returned to the communist partisans. For two weeks in early June, the same span as Korotan's tour, the Homeguards were herded to this college, crammed into its chapel, auditorium, and courtyards, called individually into its basement cellars to be registered and tortured, and then marched in groups to the train station for their final ride to Kočevje, where they were massacred one by one with a bullet in the back of the head. Ten thousand. Most aged 18 to 25. These were the ghosts that we sensed as our footsteps echoed through the same rooms, corridors, staircases and promenades of the college.

Some 40 miles north of the college, by a tiny Austrian village called Vetrinj, thousands of Slovenian civilians waited in despair upon learning that the British had planned for them the same fate as the Homeguards, but were miraculously spared through the intervention of a Slovenian physician, Valentin Meršol, and a brave Canadian officer, Major Paul Barre, at the cost of his military career advancement. These civilians had left behind their loved kin, homes, and country with just the clothes on their backs and whatever could be jammed into a backpack. But the most priceless possessions they carried on this journey were weightless: their Christian Slovenian values, and — their songs. Within five years, they were scattered across all continents. Most died without ever having stepped foot again on the land they loved. And now, we singers, their offspring, had returned 60 years later in their stead.

Korotan was founded in Cleveland in 1952 by a young wartime survivor, a student of music named Metod Milac. During this tour, the choir could see Mr. Milac sitting in the audience, beaming as proud as any

grandfather surveying his children and grandchildren. The chemistry for Korotan's longevity is complex. Perhaps the choir's DNA formula is best expressed by the refrain from a song *Naša pesem* (Our Song) that was sung at every performance on this tour: *Ne umri nam pesem* ("May our song never die.") Literally, a reference to the Slovenian songs for which the choir is famous; figuratively, an allusion to the principles of the Slovenians of the exodus: the conviction that Faith in God, family, and patriotism cannot be surrendered to the atheistic totalitarianism of communism. Korotan survived for more than half a century. The 2005 composition itself of the choir, from 1945 survivors to 3rd generation Slovenians, was a patent testimony to all Slovenian audiences this summer that the ideals of the people in the Exodus of 1945 did not die, cannot die. They have already outlived the philosophy that had caused them to flee.

Korotan performed at St. Stanislav Institute, the Slovenian Parliament, the Music Hall in Ljubljana, the Ljubljana Cathedral, one massacre site in Kočevje, the cathedral in Celje and the cathedral in Kranj. The few days of relaxation were reserved for bus trips to the traditional tourist meccas in Slovenia, Austria, even Venice. These travels also included sites now sacredly bonded to the Exodus of 1945: the monastery church in Vetrinj, Austria, which 60 summers ago was packed 24 hours a day with Slovenian refugees, praying before a life-sized statue of the Pieta, the Sorrowful Mother of God cradling the crucified body of Jesus, a sword piercing her heart. This image, "I myself know what it is like to lose your flesh and blood," explains the special love of Our Lady held by the refugees. The choir also traveled to Teharje and Kočevje, each now infamous for the mass massacres of Homeguards and civilians by the communist partisans in the months after World War 2.

These bus trips as well, had their share of ghosts, omens, or coincidences if you will, that transformed this concert tour into a spiritual journey. At the Teharme Jassacre Memorial, one singer found closure: she met by chance, an 80-year-old Homeguard survivor of that death camp, who was able to confirm that her brother was indeed held at that camp; she now no longer has to wonder where her brother had died after the war.

At the Kočevje Memorial, Nature herself provided some signs. This hallowed forest ground is always eerily silent, save for these sounds: footsteps, hushed whispers, or the wind. Unnatural in that no birds sing there.

After Korotan had sung at the Mass, darkening storm clouds swathed the sky; attendees were 200 yards from the buses. The Performing Arts group from Argentina began its memorial program

of poetic drama; the wind strumming the forest leaves was the sole accompaniment. Midway through the program, a solo soprano voice intoned "*Lipa Zelenela Je*," a Slovenian folk song admonishing a leafless tree in winter to despair not, with the promise that some future day will bring a renewed canopy of green growth, and birds will surely return. At the stanza about the birds returning, a solitary lark broke the silence of Nature and began singing, alternating with the soloist, as if on cue as a planned duet. Once the soloist finished, the bird was heard no more. Amid the despair over the seemingly senseless loss of countless bodies from 60 years ago, today, this moment, becomes a sign of hope. And the raindrops did not begin to fall until all the buses were boarded.

As the end of the tour approached, so did the physical and mental strain from performance after performance, day after day, compounded by lack of sleep. Warm-ups and rehearsals started two hours before curtain. Next a sung High Mass, the equivalent of 10 songs, immediately followed by a concert of 17 songs plus customary two encores. A singer naturally worries, how can my voice possibly sustain a consecutive strain of 30 songs? The temptation is to hold back for the Mass songs and save the voice for the concert itself. However, the feeling among the singers was that "If I can sing at 100% for God, what else is there worth singing for?" And God did not disappoint the singers.

(To Be Continued)



– VESTI IZ SLOVENIJE –

Andrej Bajuk znova izvoljen za predsednika Nove Slovenije (NSi)

Na volilnem kongresu stranke Nove Slovenije (NSi), ki je bil 19. novembra v Novi Gorici, je bil ponovno izvoljen za predsednika dosedanja predsednik Andrej Bajuk. Jasno pa je bilo na kongresu, da Bajuk in bivši predsednik stranke in tudi bivše predsednik slovenske vlade ter sedanjí poslanec evropskega parlamenta Lojze Peterle nista enotna. Kljub temu je Peterle odklonil, da bi postal predsedniški kandidat.

Na kongresu je bil Bajukov nasprotnik župan Dolenjskih Toplic Franc Vovk, ki ga je podprl Peterle. O Vovku je Peterle dejal: "Vovk ima nekaj politične kilometrine, izkušnje v gospodarstvu, je mož jasnih misli in zanima ga timsko delo." Kandidatura pa kljub Peterletovi podpori ni uspela.

Z zmago Bajuka je tudi jasno, da bo vladna koalicija ostala bolj ali manj trdna še v naprej. V NSi je menda močno mnenje, ki ni preveč naklonjena predsedniku vlade Janezu Janši, češ da Jansa krade veliko volivcev, ki bi se bili brez njega opredelili za NSi.

Drugih večjih sprememb v vodstvu NSi na kongresu ni bilo.

Peterle ni bil ne tajni agent Udbe in ne član komunistične partije

V zadnjem času je bil Lojze Peterle tarča ostrih napadov s strani nekdanjega sodelavca Boštjana M. Turka, da je bil Peterle v času prejšnjega režima tako sodelavec tajne policije in tudi član Zveze komunistov Slovenije.

Na te trditve je Peterle odgovoril tako, da je dobil od direktorja Slovenske obveščevalne varnostne agencije (Sova) dokument, ki pravi, da v evidancah, ki jih ima ta agencija, ni nobenih podatkov, ki bi kazali na Peterletovo sodelovanje z Udbo oz. tajno policijo. Dalje, Peterle je od Arhiva Slovenije dobil uradno potrdilo, da ni bil nikoli član Zveze komunistov. Peterle je oba dokumenta pokazal na tiskovni konferenci in hkrati povedal, da bo vložil odškodninsko tožbo proti Boštjanu M. Turku.

Začel veljati novi zakon o RTVS

Dne 12. novembra je začel veljati novi zakon o Radioteleviziji Slovenije, ki so ga državljani potrdili na naknadnem zakonodajnem referendumu 25. septembra. Novi zakon v primerjavi z dosedanjim prinaša pred-

sem spremembe v sestavi in pristojnostih organov RTVS. Tako je zakon zamenjal 25-članski svet zavoda z 29-članskim programskim svetom ter uvedel poseben parlamentarni televizijski program. Ta bo namenjen neposrednim prenosom sej državnega zbora in njegovih delovnih teles ter celovitemu obveščanju javnosti o vsem drugem parlamentarnem dogajanju.

Zakon tudi zahteva, da v programski svet ne morejo biti izvoljeni ljudje, ki so bili v obdobju petih let pred imenovanjem člani organov političnih strank, poslanci ali uslužbenci evropskega parlamenta ter funkcionarji državnih in lokalnih organov.

Druga opozorilna stavka slovenskih železničarjev

V sredo, 16. novembra, je prišlo do že druge opozorilne stavke slovenskih železničarjev, katerih sindikat v pogajanjih z vodstvom SŽ ne vidi napredka. Prva opozorilna stavka je bila teden prej. Med 8. in 12. uro 16. novembra je zaradi stavke stalo 61 potniških in 23 tovornih vlakov. V kolikor je mogoče razumeti, gre predvsem za plačilni sistem v SŽ. Stališča sindikata in vodstva SŽ ostajajo še vedno zelo različna.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Miklavževanje—

Slovenska šola pri Mariji Vnebovzeti vabi na letošnje miklavževanje, ki bo to soboto, 3. decembra, v novi župnijski dvorani. Učenci bodo predstavili kratek program s pričetkom ob 6.30 zvečer, sledil pa bo vsakoletni obisk sv. Miklavža, ki bo, kot vedno, obdaroval pridne otroke.

Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu vabi to nedeljo, 4. decembra, ob treh popoldne v farni avditorij na prireditvi "Miklavž prihaja". Pri prireditvi bodo prodajali krofe. Vstop je prost za otroke do 14. leta starosti, za odrasle je vstopnina \$6.

Novi grobovi

Celia M. Bleekman

Dne 15. novembra je umrla 80 let stara Celia M. Bleekman iz Wickliffa, rojena Zaller 20. avgusta 1925 v Susquehanni, Pa., vdova po Johnu, mati Debbie Pappard in Carle Klemencic, 2-krat stara mati, sestra že pok. sr. Jean Zaller OSU, zaposlena kot pisarniška tajnica pri pogrebem zavodu Jakubs-Danaher 8 let, do upokojitve leta 2003, pred tem pa pri pogrebem zavodu Grdina, članica društva sv. Helene št. 193 KS-KJ in Slovenske ženske zveze. Pogreb je bil 19. novembra v oskrbi zavoda Jakubs-Danaher v Eastlaku s sv. mašo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču. Družina bo hvaležna za darove v pokojničin spomin The St. Mary's Endowment Fund, 15519 Holmes Ave., Cleveland, OH 44110 ali pa Judson Retirement Community, 2181 Ambleside Dr., Cleveland, OH 44106.

Edward M. Zupancic

Dne 18. novembra je v Norwalku, O., umrl 88 let stari Edward M. Zupancic, rojen 12. decembra 1916 v Clevelandu, vdovec po leta 2003 umrli Caroline, oče Carolyn Lesniewski in že pok. Raymonda, 1-krat stari oče, brat Johna, Rudyja in Rose Zupancic (vsi že pok.), zaposlen do svoje upokojitve l. 1986 pri Slabe Machine Co., pred tem pa pri Lear and Zigler Co. na Maple Hts. in Reliable Tool v Clevelandu. Pogreb je bil 21. novembra s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Marije v Norwalku s pokopom na tamkajšnjem pokopališču sv. Pavla.

Večer s škofom Pevcem—

Jutri, petek (2. dec.) ste vabljeni na tradicionalni večer s škofom Pevcem, ki bo na semenišču Borromeo, 28700 Euclid Ave. v Wickliffu. Pričetek bo ob 7h, ko bo škof daroval sv. mašo v kapeli, pel bo zbor Glasbena Matica, po maši bo krajši koncert božičnih pesmi, nato sprejem v centru Rappe. Vstopnine ni.

Dramsko društvo Lilija—

Odbor dramskega društva Lilija obvešča svoje člane, da je redni mesečni sestanek v ponedeljek, 5. decembra, ob 7.30 zv. v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave. Obenem bo občni zbor in izvolitev novega odbora za sezono 2005/06. Vsi člani lepo vabljeni, da se tega sestanke udeležijo. Bodočnost društva je na kocki!

Bralcem v vednost—

Naš list bo izšel letos še 8. in 15. decembra, nato pa prvič v prihajajočem letu 2006 v četrtek, 5. januarja.

O medu—

V krajšem dopisu, ki je izšel 17. novembra, je bila napaka v telefonski številki za naročitev domačega medu. Pravilna številka je sicer 440-943-0621. Za pomoto se opravičujemo.

Krofi in rezanci—

Oltarno društvo sv. Vida bo imelo v soboto, 10. decembra, prodajo krofov in rezancev, kot običajno v društveni sobi avditorija in ob običajnem času. Pridite!

Božični oglasi—

Naša pisarna sprejema božične oglase, ki bodo objavljeni v naslednjih dveh številkah, 8. in 15. decembra. Pokličite pisarno na tel. 216-431-0628 ali jo drugače obvestite o vaši želji.

Spominski dar—

G. Rudi in ga. Marie Pivik, Middleburg Hts., O., sta darovala \$25 v podporo našemu listu, to v spomin na Jožeta Vrtačnika, ki je bil rojen v ZDA, živel pred in med 2. svetovno vojno v Sloveniji, se vrnil v ZDA ter ostal do smrti zaveden in pošten Slovenec in Američan. Najlepša hvala za dar (g. Vrtačnik je bil tudi dolgoletni dopisnik AD).

Podpora listu—

Društvo "Slovenska palma" na Floridi je poslalo \$30 v podporo našemu listu. Društvo je dosegljivo na: www.slovenskapalma.org.



SLOVESNO OB 100. OBLETNICI ZAVODA SV. STANISLAVA – Dne 13. novembra je bila v Gallusovi dvorani Cankarjevega doma slovesna akademija ob stoletnici Zavoda sv. Stanislava in prve popolne slovenske gimnazije. Slavnostni govornik je bil predsednik vlade Janez Janša. Uvodoma sta udeležence nagovorila predsednik zavoda Anton Jamnik, ki je bil kmalu nato imenovan za novega ljubljanskega pomožnega škofa (gl. str. 13) in ljubljanski nadškof Alojz Uran. Na fotografiji se Janša rokuje z nadškofom Uranom, na levi je pa novi pomožni škof Anton Jamnik. Gallusova dvorana je bila ob slovesni akademiji polno zasedena.

(foto: Delo, 14. nov. 2005)

Lepo priznanje ...

Pismo slovenskemu pevskeemu zboru pri Mariji Vnebovzeti

Slovenski pevski zbor pri Mariji Vnebovzeti v Clevelandu je prejel sledeče pismo priznanja za lepo petje od g. Ivana in ge. Paule Hauptman, ko sta praznovala svojo zlato poroko. Lepe besede bi zbor rad delil tudi z bralci Ameriške domovine:

Dragi organist Edward Ferrazzoli, drage pevke in pevci fare Marije Vnebovzete!

Izredno ste naju presenetili ob najini 50-letnici poroke z vašim petjem pri sv. maši v soboto zvečer, 5. novembra. Tako človek občuti, kako lepa in veličastna je naša pesem, ki povzdigne svečanost bogoslužja.

Žal, da se premnogi naši rojaki, ki jih še veže preteklost na našo domovino Slovenijo, pa ne čutijo potrebe, da bi s svojo navzočnostjo podprli slovensko faro vsaj ob nedeljah. Ali vedo, kaj zamudijo? Daj Bog, da bi se zdramili, preden bo prepozno.

Vam, drage pevke in pevci, gre vse priznanje, da sodelujete s svojim lepim petjem pri slovenski maši, da res lahko rečemo, da je slovenska. Le prereditko pa vam damo zaslužnega priznanja za vaše petje in žrtve.

Prejmite najino srčno zahvalo za vaše petje ob najini 50-letnici poroke. Naj vas ljubi Bog ohrani pri zdravju, da bi še naprej prepevali v veselje vernikov, ter v čast in slavo večnemu Bogu.

Lepo pozdravljava Ivan in Paula Hauptman

Hvala tudi Vama, Ivan in Paula, za dar pevskeemu zboru ter sprejmita naše čestitke in dobre želje za naprej. Naj Vaju Bog blagoslavlja, da bosta še dolgo zdrava in vesela med svojimi dragimi – ter kot farana tudi vnaprej podpirala v čast to našo prelepo cerkev Marije Vnebovzete.

Cerkveni pevski zbor

Zgodovinsko dejstvo ...

Koroška: Ustoličevanje na knežjem kamnu je bilo v uradnem jeziku Karantanije

Uradni jezik pa je bil slovenski. To je zgodovinsko dejstvo, ki mu v aktualni diskusiji pripisujejo žal le obrobno pozornost



Celovec – Knežji kamen kot simbol politične oblasti (do 1414) in vojvodski stol kot simbol sodne oblasti (do 1651) sta bila v rabi pri ustoličevanju karantanskih vojvod in potem pri poklonitvah deželnih stanov novemu vladarju. Zadnja poklonitev je bila še vedno v slovenščini leta 1728 v Deželni hiši v Celovcu.

Vojvodski stol na Gosposvetškem polju, ob njem raste lipa, drevo življenja Slovencev. Tu so se vršila zborovanja Karantancev, podeljevanje fevdov in sodbe poleg knežjega kamna je vojvodski stol edinstveni primer slovenskega prava in državnosti.



Prvotno ustoličevanje je

spremljivost odšel prek širokega polja do stolnice pri Gospe Sveti. Tu je bila potem slovesna maša, med katero je škof ali visok prelat novega vladarja blagoslovil. To je pomenilo njegovo priznanje od cerkvene strani. Sledil je potem slovenski obred.

Po obedu so se vsi odpravili še na polje, kjer je še danes vojvodski stol. Na njem sedeč je vojvoda podeljeval fevde. Na drugi strani pa je sedel palatin, predstavnik kralja v deželi. Ta je nekatere fevde, ki jih je vojvoda zavrnil, znova potrdiril – zato da bi se spor ne zavlačeval. Ko je vojvoda sedel na stolu, ga je smel slovenski mož tudi obtožiti, češ da ni dobil pravice. Obtožiti pa ga je mogel le v slovenskem jeziku, to je, v uradnem jeziku karantanske države.

Obred ustoličevanje na knežjem kamnu je od leta 1440 zamenjalo poklonjanje pri vojvodskem stolu, od leta 1660 dalje v Deželni hiši v Celovcu. Cesarica Marija Terezija ga leta 1740, ko je prevzela vladno, ni več upoštevala, ker so bile vse deželne pravice, vezane na ta obred, zajete in zagotovljene v zakonu Pragmatska sankcija.

Knežji kamen po mnenju slovenskih zgodovinarjev simbolično predstavlja starodavno slovensko identiteto, predvsem pa državnost in hkrati z njo tudi samobitnost ter izvorno politično kulturo. Knežji kamen predstavlja središče slovenskega demokratičnega obreda, ki je v svetovnem merilu brez primere.

Na osnovi slovenskega ustoličevanja, se je utrdila in razvila pogodbeno teorija o prenosu pravice vladanja iz ljudstva na vladarja. In več kot tisoč let kasneje je tudi na osnovi poznavanja karantanskega ustoličevanja nastala ameriška ustava, ki

Slovenska pisarna sporoča!

Že kar nekaj časa ni bilo nobenih novic o Slovenski pisarni. Kar brez skrbi – pisarna še obstaja! Le to bi vam rad sporočil, da bo pisarna sedaj pred prazniki odprta vsako soboto od 10. ure dopoldne do 2. ure popoldne. In vsako nedeljo bo odprta od desete ure dopoldne do ene ure popoldne.

Tako kot vsako leto, imamo na razpolago božične kartice v slovenščini, kadilo in oglje za blagoslovitev vaših domov. Imamo tudi CD ploščo s slovenskimi božičnimi pesmimi v priredbi Fantov na vasi.

Na razpolago so tudi knjige dr. Metoda Milača v slovenščini in angleščini *Kdo solze naše posuši*. Knjiga je lepo darilo za božič. Prav tako je na razpolago knjiga Janka Modra *Dr. Valentin Meršol in slovenski veliki teden*. V kratkem dobimo tudi knjigo g. Johna Corsellisa *Slovenija 1945*, v kateri popisuje tiste usodne dni v Vetrinju z mnogimi slikami in pričevanji prič tega strašnega dogodka. Knjiga je v angleščini in jo lahko naročite v Slovenski pisarni.

Ako vam je nemogoče priti v pisarno, me lahko pokličete na tel. 216-381-2602, ali pišete na naslov:

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Za konec pa voščimo vsem prav lepe in blagoslovljene božične praznike in srečno Novo leto 2006!

F. Gaser

Članicam Oltarnega društva pri Sv. Vidu

CLEVELAND, O. – Prva adventna nedelja nas je opozorila, da se bližamo najlepšemu prazniku v letu. Tudi božične lučke se že prižigajo po domovih in še posebno po trgovinah ter naznanjajo, da je blizu božič. Za svetlimi lučkami pa se v nas skriva želja, da bi se na praznike pripravile z mislijo, da je pred nami Jezusov rojstni dan.

Po pol-enajsti sv. maši se bomo 11. decembra zbrale v avditoriju sv. Vida, kjer bomo imele božičnico. Vse članice ste vljudno vabljeni, da bomo tako ob jaslicah s petjem božičnih pesmi poromale v Betlehem in se približale Sveti družini.

Na programu je kot vedno tudi prijeten družabni del. Postregle bomo z domačimi jedili in pecivom, za tem pa bo žrebanje. Ob dobrotah in prijateljstvu bomo tako preživele lepo popoldne. (Darovi za žrebanje bodo dobrodošli in hvaležno sprejeti.)

Nasvidenje,

Ivanka M.

jo ves svet ima za izredno napredno in demokratično glede na takratne čase.

Knežji kamen je po svojem izvoru glavič rimskega stebra iz ruševin noriškega mesta Virunum, ki je bil nekaj kilometrov naprej od karantan-

skega središča, Krnskega gradu. Ostanke oz. izkopanine Virunuma so zelo slabo označene, vendar jih je mogoče videti na levi strani glavne ceste, ki vodi od Celovca proti Šentvidu.

Knežji kamen predstavlja simbol boga, ki izhaja iz staroverskega izročila Slovencev, hkrati pa ni bil v nasprotju niti s krščansko vero in zato se je kot takšen ohranil še nekaj stoletij po prihodu krščanstva med Slovence.

Brez podpisa

NOVICE, Celovec
4. novembra 2005



Vojvodski prestol ob dunajski cesti na Gosposvetškem polju



Knežji kamen v Deželnem muzeju

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Anton Jamnik je novi pomožni škof ljubljanski



Na fotografiji: Antonu Jamniku (levo) čestita Santos Abril y Castelló, v ozadju nadškof Alojz Uran.

Ljubljana – "V tem trenutku vam z velikim veseljem sporočam, da je sveti oče Benedikt XVI. za to službo imenoval dosedanjega direktorja Zavoda sv. Stanislava msgr. Antona Jamnika," je v torek, 15. novembra, apostolski nuncij v Sloveniji Santos Abril y Castelló razglasil papeževo odločitev o novem pomožnem škofu v ljubljanski nadškofiji. To mesto je bilo izpraznjeno več kot eno leto, od imenovanja dotednjega pomožnega škofa Alojza Urana za nadškofa.

Odločitev je bila precejšnje presenečenje tudi za 44-letnega Antona Jamnika, saj si še ni izbral škofovskega gesla. "Bogu se zahvaljujem za dar vere in dar duhovništva. Mislim, da je to največji dar, ki ga človek lahko prejme. Moja odločitev za duhovništvo je izvirala ravno iz tega, da če mi je nekaj podarjeno, moram potem darovati tudi drugim ... V odločitvi svetega očeta, papeža Benedikta XVI., vidim božjo voljo, zato nalogo sprejemem, čeprav se ob taki nalogi človek počuti nemočnega in krhkega," je menil novi pomožni škof.

Razglasitve so se udeležili tudi ljubljanski nadškof Uran, pomožni škof Anton Glavan in upokojeni pomožni škof Jožef Kvas. "Hvaležen sem svetemu očetu, da je imenoval novega pomožnega škofa za našo nadškofijo, saj sem v tem letu dobro čutil, da se je pomankanje enega škofa poznalo v toliko večjih naporih vseh preostalih sodelavcev," je dejal Alojz Uran.

Poleg razglasitve novega pomožnega škofa je papeški nuncij Castelló odgovoril še na novinarsko vprašanje, kdaj bomo v Sloveniji ustanovili nove škofije. Dejal je, da ne gre samo za vprašanje razglasitve, ampak tudi za to, kdo jih bo vodil. Zato ni hotel napovedovati, kdaj lahko pričakujemo novo ureditev slovenske rimskokatoliške Cerkve.

Gorazd Utenkar

DELO, 16. nov. 2005

STOLETNICA Zavoda sv. Stanislava v Šentvidu nad Ljubljano ...

STO LET ZAVODOV

Letos praznujejo stoletnico Zavoda sv. Stanislava v Šentvidu nad Ljubljano in s tem prve klasične gimnazije, na kateri sta pouk in prva matura leta 1913 potekala v celoti v slovenskem jeziku. Poleg različnih slovesnosti ta dogodek zaznamuje tudi izdaja obsežnega zbornika sto let Zavoda sv. Stanislava.



Ustanovitev prve slovenske gimnazije je bilo pomembno versko, kulturno in državotvorno dejanje, ki je odločilno zaznamovalo tedanjo družbo. Ko danes živimo v samostojni državi in smo lani postali člani Evropske skupnosti, se je pomembno zavedati bogate zgodovine in državotvornih dogodkov v preteklosti, ki so odločilno prispevali k naši narodni identiteti.

Na pročelju zavoda je pomenljiv napis: Kristus, zveličarju sveta. Ko se v čedalje bolj sekularizirani Evropi zadnja leta veliko razpravlja in piše o njenih koreninah, se zavedamo, da je krščanstvo odločilno prispevalo k identiteti slovenskega naroda, pri čemer je imel pomembno vlogo tudi Zavod sv. Stanislava. Poleg grške misli in rimskega prava je podoba evropskega (slovenskega) človeka bistveno določalo krščanstvo.

Sto let zavoda

Na praznik apostola in evangelista Mateja, 21. septembra 1905, je 69 dijakov prvega razreda in 27 dijakov pripravnice prvič sedlo v klopi novoustanovljenega "Knezoškofijskega privatnega učnega zavoda za gimnazijske predmete", kot so takrat uradno rekli tej pomembni vzgojno-izobraževalni ustanovi ljubljanskega škofa Antona Bonaventure Jegliča v Šentvidu nad Ljubljano.

Ministrski odlok dunajske vlade, ki je prvemu razredu dal pravico javnosti, je bil izdan 14. januarja 1906. Gimnazija si je morala nato pravico javnosti pridobivati za vsak razred posebej. V šolskem letu 1912/13 je bila gimnazija popolna, 8. januarja 1914 pa je dunajski minister za uk in bogočastje podelil gimnaziji trajno pravico javnosti in izdajanja državnoprijavnih zrelostnih spričeval.

zgodovinar dr. France M. Dolinar.

Burno 20. stoletje


V prvem, zgodovinskem delu 22 avtorjev v svojih prispevkih podrobno osvetli prehojeno pot zavoda v različnih zgodovinskih obdobjih in političnih okoliščinah.

"Telega dogodka smo se želeli posebej spomniti tudi z jubilejnim zbornikom in z njim dati slovesnostim ob stoti obletnici ustanovitve Zavoda Sv. Stanislava in še posebej prve gimnazije, na kateri je celoten pouk od samega začetka potekal izključno v slovenskem jeziku, trajnejšo obliko. Zbornik, ki ga danes predstavljamo, je tako neke vrste spomin na prehojeno 'stoletno' pot in hkrati obračun opravljenega dela. Razdelili smo ga na štiri smiselne enote," je na predstavitvi dejal urednik zbornika

V avstro-ogrski monarhiji in Kraljevini Jugoslaviji je kljub nenaklonjenosti avstrijske vlade, divjim napadom slovenskih liberalcev in nasprotovanju zasebnim šolam kraljeve jugoslovanske vlade škofu Jegliču uspelo zagotoviti tako zavidljivo raven pouka in vzgoje na škofiji klasični gimnaziji, da je vselej razorožil tiste, ki so hoteli gimnazijo odpraviti ali ji odvzeti pravico javnosti.

Temni oblaki so se nanjo zgrnili, ko je nemški

(DALJE na str. 14)



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– STO LET ZAVODOV –

(NADALJEVANJE S STR. 13)

okupator gimnazijo in profesorje aprila 1941 izgnal in si mogočno stavbo zavoda protipravno prisvojil. Revolucionarna oblast je po drugi svetovni vojni to okupatorjevo protipravno dejanje "pozakonila", stavbo izročila Jugoslovanski ljudski armadi, gimnazijo pa preprosto odpravila.

Pravne sramote nacističnega in za njim revolucionarnega odvzema stavbe škofijske klasične gimnazije vse do danes in uspelo popraviti niti Republikli Sloveniji. Leta 1991 je Zavod sv. Stanislava stavbo nekdanje škofijske klasične gimnazije, ki jo je jugoslovanska vojska ob svojem umiku dobesedno razdejala, sicer prejel v uporabo, ne pa tudi v last.

Stekla so obnovitvena dela in 1. septembra 1993 je v šolske klopi po nekaj več kot petdesetih letih znova sedlo 158 dijakinj in dijakov obnovljene škofijske klasične gimnazije.

Ministrstvo za šolstvo, znanost in šport je v šol-

skem letu 1993/94 Škofijski klasični gimnaziji podelilo trajno koncesijo za njeno in delo in pravico javnosti.

Klasična izobrazba

Razmere so danes seveda popolnoma drugače, kot so bile pred sto leti. Gimnazijo, ki tokrat traja samo štiri in ne več osem let, obiskuje večina zunanjih dijakov. Na hodnikih ne srečujemo več samo fantov, kot je bilo to v navadi do leta 1945.

Spremenil se je profesorski zbor. Duhovnike so zamenjali laični pedagogi in pedagoginje.

Cilji in temeljna usmeritev gimnazije pa so ostali isti: na krščanskih temeljih vzgojiti temeljito izobrazbo in moralno trdno slovensko inteligenco.

V drugem, tematskem delu zbornika 15 avtorjev razmišlja o problematiki šolstva v avstro-ogrski monarhiji in Kraljevini Jugoslaviji; o vzgojno-izobraževalnih ustanovah – nekatere so delovale v Zavodu že pred njegovo odpravo, druge pa so bile ustanovljene na novo –; o možnostih in kakovosti dela pri posredovanju znanja.

Le-to je neločljivo povezano z vzgojnim delom oblikovanja samostojnih in odgovornih osebnosti in prepleta celotno pedagoško usmerjenost profesorskega zbora in gojiteljev v posameznih ustanovah Zavoda sv. Stanislava.

Pomembno mesto v tem vzgojno-pedagoškem procesu ima nedvomno klasična izobrazba. V zborniku so prvič na enem mestu zbrani podatki o vseh profesorjih in suplentih na Škofijski klasični gimnaziji, za profesorje, vzgojne voditelje in prefekte pa so navedeni tudi kratki življenjski podatki.

Še vedno živo drevo

Pomembno vlogo v izobraževalnem in vzgojnem programu so od samega začetka imele glasbena, likovna, besedna, dramska in telesna kultura.

Srce in ogledalo gimnazije je na neki način knjižnica. Prva je postala žrtev nacističnega nasilja. Po obnovitvi zavoda jo je njegovo vodstvo obnovilo skladno s sodobnimi bibliotekarskimi standardi. Tesna povezava nekaterih umetnikov z zavodom in likovno izobraževanje v zavodu samem je Zavod sv. Stanislava obogatilo z izjemnimi umetniškimi deli, predvsem slikarjev Staneta Kregarja in Marijana Tršarja, galerija pa je gostila že vrsto odmevnih razstav.

O "še vedno živem drevesu" (tako je dal naslov svoji knjigi o Zavodu sv. Stanislava njen nekdanji gojenec, jezuitski pater Lojze Štrubelj) pričajo

spomini nekaterih še živih večjih zavodarjev predvojnih Škofiovih zavodov, ki se prepletajo s spomini dijakov obnovljene Škofijske klasične gimnazije.

Zbornik končuje seznam vseh maturantov od začetkov do danes.

"Prepričan sem, da bo vsak, ki bo to zajetno in vsebinsko bogato knjigo vzela v roke, lahko s ponosom pritrtil, da je Zavod sv. Stanislava v slovenski kulturni, narodni in verski zgodovini odigral izjemno pomembno in konstruktivno delo, ki zasluži vse naše priznanje. Naj mu ob tem pomembnem jubileju izrečem najboljše želje za prihodnost: ut vivat, crescat, floreat", je na predstavitvi zbornika dejal urednik dr. Dolinar.

Šest enot zavoda

Umetnost ima v Zavodu sv. Stanislava velik pomen že od samega začetka. Ustvarjanje in razvijanje talentov na področju glasbe, literature in likovne umetnosti plemeniti človekovega duha. V času poplitive, pragmatične in pogosto tako impulzivne misli, ki se vda ugodju, nam umetnost govori o tem, da je človek ustvarjen za nekaj več, da "neskočno presega samega sebe" (Pascal), govori nam o skrivnostnih globinah človekovega bivanja, iskanja, hrepeneja, o tem, da se življenja in vsega bivajočega nikoli ne more obvladati, ampak ostaja odprto, da ga v svojem čudenju vedno znova odkrivamo.

Pri človekovi rasti in zorenju v samostojno in harmonično osebnost ima nenadomestljivo vlogo tudi duhovno življenje. Eden poglavitnih ciljev vsega našega dela je mladim omogočiti ustrezne pogoje, da si sami kot svobodne osebe postavijo vprašanje o svoji veri, smislu življenja, o svojem poslanstvu na tem svetu, pravi dr. Anton Jamnik, direktor zavoda (*in pravkar novoimenovani pomožni škof ljubljanske nadškofije, op. ur. AD*).

"Ko se oziram v preteklost, se zavedamo žlahtnih korenin, iz katerih rastemo, te pa so vir poguma in moči za poslanstvo, ki ga v vsej raznolikosti dejavnosti želimo opravljati danes. Jegličeva vsebinska vizija zavoda je tudi za nas temeljno vodilo, da v sedanjih časih in razmerah v vseh šestih enotah, ki delujejo v zavodu – Škofijski klasični gimnaziji, Jegličevem dijaškem domu, Glasbeni šoli, Slovenskem domu, Študentskem domu J. F. Gnidovca in Studii Slovenici – uresničujemo svoje vzgojno in kulturno poslanstvo," pojasnjuje dr. Janik.

DEMOKRACIJA

Ljubljana, 10. nov. 2005

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JOŽE BOJC

Umrli je 2. decembra 2001.

Leta štiri so že minila,
odkar Te več med nami ni.
Žalostna so naša srca,
ko se spominjamo na Te.
V raj u prosim zdaj Boga,
da raj nebeški nam da,
kjer bomo zopet združeni,
veselje večno uživati.

Tvoji žalujoči:

Žena Poldi
sinova Joseph in John
z družinama
hčerka Marjeta Laughlin
z družino
sestri v Sloveniji Ani Bojc
in Francka Turk z družino
ter ostalo sorodstvo.

Cleveland, O., 1. decembra 2005.

V BLAG SPOMIN

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



ANA MEDVED

ki je umrla 6. dec. 2000.

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

Žalujoči: sin Tone z družino,
v Sloveniji, sinova Nace in
Lojze ter hčerka Ani
z družinami.



V BLAG SPOMIN

OB 36. OBLETNICI,
ODKAR JE V GOSPODU
ZASPAL NAŠ LJUBLJENI
SIN, BRAT IN STRIC

MILAN ZRIM

Svojo plemenito dušo je
izdihnil 5. decembra 1969

Preteklo šestintrideset let je že,
ko hladna zemlja krije Te.
Zelo vsi smo Te ljubili,
in prezgodaj izgubili.

Oh, grenko je spoznanje to,
da Te med nami več ne bo;
čeprav v hladnem grobu spiš,
v srcih naših še živiš.

MARIJA -mati; ERNEST -oče
dve sestri in brat, z družinami
6 nečakov, 1 nečakinja
V starem kraju žalujejo za
njim številni sorodniki.
Cleveland, O., 1. decembra 2005.

V BLAG IN LJUBEČ SPOMIN JOŽE IN FRANČIŠKA GAZVODA



umrl 2. marca 1970



umrla 6. decembra 1996

Gospod, daruj jima mir,
naj večna luč jima sveti;
ker si dobrote vir
uživata raj naj sveti.

Žalujoči:

hčerki FRANCES in MARTINA STEPEC
sin MARK, zet ANTON
vnuki, vnukinje, pravnuki in pravnukinje
ter ostalo sorodstvo

Simpozij v Cankarjevem domu ...

Genocid in demokracija

Dne 15. oktobra je Društvo slovenskih katoliških izobražencev v Cankarjevem domu v Ljubljani priredilo simpozij z naslovin *Slovenska duhovna in politična drama v 20. stoletju*, o mestu in vlogi katoličanov, o preteklih dejstvih in prihodnjih perspektivah. Na simpoziju je s svojimi prispevki nastopilo devet vidnih izobražencev.



Prvi, Janez Juhant, je nastopil s prispevkom *Katoliški tabor pred drugo svetovno vojno*. Zgovornar Stane Granda je govoril o političnem življenju v stari Jugoslaviji s posebnim ozirom na liberalce in krščanske socialiste.

Janez Zdešar je govoril o delovanju Komunistične partije Slovenije pred drugo svetovno vojno. Zgodovino revolucionarne dejavnosti slovenske in jugoslovanske KP med obema vojnama je razdelil na dve razdobji.

Začetek prve, ki ki je trajala med letoma 1920 in 1929, je označeval predvsem nasilni revolucionarni zagon, ki je upal, da bo boljševiška revolucija v nekaj letih s pomočjo Sovjetske zveze in pod vodstvom Kominterne zajela vso Evropo. Dvignili so se komunistični upori, stavke, oboroženi spopadi.

Dobo od leta 1929 do 1941 je zaznamoval z novimi in pomlajenimi kadri, z notranjo reorganizacijo, s šolanjem kadrov v Moskvi pod okri-

ljem Kominterne, z udeležno svojih članov in prevrženecv v španski revoluciji, v Sloveniji od leta 1935 dalje pa s taktiko t. i. ljudskih front.

Za obe dobi so značilni oboroženi poskusi revolucionarnega prevzema oblasti. Predavatelj je omenil dogodek na Zaloški cesti leta 1920, organiziranje proletarskih akcijskih čet leta 1923, spopad v Trbovljah leta 1924, oklic revolucije leta 1929, mariborsko afero leta 1932 in Titovo pripravo revolucije leta 1940 v Jugoslaviji, ki jo je nato Kominternina prepovedala.

Medvojno nasilje

Stane Okoliš je obravnaval drugo svetovno vojno na Slovenskem. Dejal je, da je zanjo poleg okupacije značilno revolucionarno ozračje. Komunistem se je spraval nad svojega nasprotnika s sistematičnim nasiljem. In vedno je zmagovala njegova revolucionarna logika. Poboji Slovencev so si sledili spomladi 1942, jeseni 1943 in poleti 1945. Vedno vse za uspeh revolucije.

Civilizirani svet je klonil pred barbarstvom. Slovenska tradicionalna politika je pred temi dogodki vedno ostala brez moči. Glavna žrtev medvojnih dogodkov so slovenski katoličani, ki so z uporom partijskemu terorju od poletja 1942 pokazali, da je bila prav v njih tista civilizacijska moč, ki je prepoznala, da je z nastopom t. i. NOB okupacija med vojno samo še okvir, v katerem se je dogajala revolucija, je poudaril Okoliš.

"Partija je povojne množične poboje izvedla v funkciji zavarovanja revolucije, kajti revolucija se je po koncu vojne nadaljevala," je dejal. "Katoličani, ki so največje žrtve slovenskega holokavsta,

so živeli v zavesti vrednosti in pomenal načel.

V zmagi komunizma, katerega načela trenutne koristi, za katere se ne izbirajo sredstva, za katere nasilje, laž ali prevara vedno najdejo opravičilo, je bilo zanje tudi neke vrste pohujšanje.

Nekaj podobnega kot velja za vlogo krščanskih socialistov, ki so s partijo sodelovali in ji pomagali pri njeni igri s slovenskim narodom. Partija je iz prve faze leninistične revolucije, iz NOB, naredila mit, ki naj bi jo opravičeval v njeni sli po oblasti. A mit se kaže kot laž."

Odpor proti nasilju

Anton Drobnič je govoril o katoliški dilemi med drugo svetovno vojno. Slovenski katoliški odpor proti boljševiškemu nasilju je bil neizogibno dejanje, je dejal. V razmerah sovražne okupacije in komunistične smrtne grožnje bi slovenski katoličani lahko začasno preživeli samo, če bi se komunistom popolnoma podredili in sodelovali pri njihovih zločinih. Tega niso mogli in niso smeli storiti.

Ostala jim je samo oborožena samoobramba. Ta pa je bila mogoča samo s soglasjem okupatorja, ki je moral skrbeti za življenje in varnost prebivalcev okupirane dežele.

Če tega sam ni mogel ali ni hotel, je bil po mednarodnem pravu dolžan to prepustiti domačinom, t. j. slovenskim oboroženim silam. Vaške straže in slovenski domobranci zato niso bili del okupatorjevih sil, ampak so bili po določbah haaških konvencij domača, slovenska oborožena sila.

Pravijo, da je bilo v gozdovih dovolj prostora

tudi za nekomunistično vojsko, vendar se samo od prostora ne da niti živeti niti bojevati. Že partizanska vojska je revno slovensko podeželje povsem izčrpala. Predvsem pa je neresno prezreti, da so partizani že (6. septembra 1941) pod grožnjo smrti prepovedali vsako organiziranje zunaj svojega nadzora.

Sožitje dveh gveril torej ne bi bilo mogoče, medvojni spopadi ne bi bili nič manjši, civilno prebivalstvo pa bi bilo brez obrambe še bolj neusmiljeno izpostavljeno tako partizanskemu terorju kot zločinskim okupatorjevim represalijam.

Nezmožnost dveh gveril ne izhaja samo iz komunističnih odlokov, ampak je izkazana tudi z njihovimi dejanji. V Sloveniji je bila v gozdovih tudi nacionalna ilegala, slovenski četniki. Partizani so jih napadali vsaj tako srdito kot druge in ujete četnike so prav tako zverinsko pomorili.

Režim in Cerkev

Tamara Griesser Pečar je svoj prispevek nasloвила *Odnos komunistične oblasti do Cerkve in katoličanov v Sloveniji*. Uvodoma je dejala, da je bila Katoliška cerkev vse do prevrata 1990 za komunistično oblast notranji sovražnik številka ena.

"Tako je že v poročilu notranjega ministrstva novembra 1945 označena kot 'hrbtenica reakcije', ki je 'stala vedno radi svojih privilegiranih in družbenih pozicij ... na najbolj reakcionarnem stališču'. In še zadnji Priročnik za delo milice jo je leta 1985 opredeljeval kot pglavitnega notranjega sovražnika in ji zaradi tega posvečal veliko pozornost."

Cilj povojne oblasti je bil notranjega sovražnika v očeh vernikov vsaj moralno onemogočiti in s tem znižati njegov vpliv, če že ne odpraviti. Tudi zamisel ustanovitve narodne Cerkve je propadla.

'Ljudska oblast' je začela takoj po vojni ukrepati proti Cerkvi kot instituciji in posameznim duhovnikom in redovnikom: s hišnimi preiskavami, s stanovanjskim utesnjevanjem, brisanjem z volilnih list, omejevanjem verouka, odpravljanjem cerkvenih šol, z agrarno reformo in nacionalizacijo, z omejevanjem

verskega tiska, s tem, da so nune morale zapustiti bolnišnice, sirotišnice, domove za onemogle, čeprav zanje ni bilo nadomestitve, pa že od vsega začetka z aretacijami in sodnimi procesi.

Procesi proti Cerkvi je koordinirala Ozna oziroma Udba. Večina duhovnikov in redovnikov je imela težave z oblastjo.

Teorija in praksa

Ljudje se danes sicer radi spominjajo, je dejala zgodovinarica Helena Jaklitsch v svojem prispevku *Teorija in praksa totalitarizma*, kako je bilo v času socializma poskrbljeno za enakopraven položaj vseh, ko ni bilo izstopanja in ne delitve na bogate in revne, kot se čedalje bolj dogaja v današnjem času, pri tem pa pozabljajo, da so bile tudi takrat razlike, a se o njih ni govorilo.

Tako so borci že takrat uživali številne privilegije, do katerih drugi niso bili upravičeni, in ti jim ostajajo tudi danes oziroma se celo prenašajo na njihove potomce. Politično angaziranje je bilo strogo omejeno s pravili komunistične partije, ki je šla celo tako daleč, da merilo za pridobivanje delovnih mest ni bila strokovnost, temveč "moralno-politične kvalitete" (kaj je to pomenilo, vemo vsi) in članstvo v partiji.

Taki ljudje so imeli prednost na vseh področjih, medtem ko so se drugi, med njimi katoličani, lahko udeleževali predvsem na kulturnem, znanstvenem in športnem področju, ki ni bilo tako močno pod nadzorom komunistične oblasti.

Tedanja oblast ni dovoljevala nobene kritike na svoj račun in da bi preprečila vsakršno opozicijo, je uvedla strog nadzor nad javnim in za-

(DALJE na str. 16)

V LJUBEČ IN BLAG SPOMIN

Ob 10. obletnici, ko je bil poklican od nas naš skrbni mož in oče, stari ata, brat in stric



Ivan (John) Cendol

Umrl 1. decembra 1995
*Sonce naj na trato sije,
 kjer počivaš dragi Ti,
 Duša pa naj srečna uživa,
 tam v rajski večnosti.
 Žalujejo vsi njegovi*

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Moderni pogrebni zavod.
 Ambulanca na razpolago
 podnevi in ponoči.

CENE NIZKE
 PO VAŠI ŽELJI!

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1584. Misijonarka, salezijanka s. Agata Kociper,

ki deluje v Braziliji, v predelu Amazonije, je poslala pismo o njenem življenju:

"Dragi prijatelji in dobrotniki! Jutri bo priložnost, da oddam to pismo in zato hitim. Imam veselo novico, da smo imeli adoracijo Najsvetejšega za poklice. S sestro, ki sva tukaj odgovorni, ker je naš župnik odšel na svoja misijonska potovanja. Prav goreče sva molili, prišlo je še nekaj žena in otrok in smo peli in molili, da je bilo veselje. Prejšnjo nedeljo tega smo navdušili farane, ko je bil obisk nedeljskih sv. maš zelo slab zaradi poletnih počitnic. Zahvalili sva se Bogu, da so se odzvali, jih pohvalili in povabili za drugi četrtek.

Doživeli sva veliko milost, ki jo pripisujeva Mariji Pomočnici, kar bi lahko rekli, da je bil čudež. Zdaj je čas, ko se kače pojavljajo tu in tam. Ko sva s sestro pripravljali našo kapelico za praznik z različnimi umetniškimi napisi iz računalnika, cvetje sva že čez dan postavili, se je zgodilo, da se je oglasila kača in jaz sem jo pohodila. Don Bosko je zagotovil misijonarjem, da bomo lahko v Marijinem imenu oznanjali evangelij, hodili med kačami in one nas ne bodo pikale, se je to zgodilo meni. Kača me ni pičila, malo sem poskočila in vse je bilo rešeno. Toda ta kača je bila strupena, pravijo ji koral. Če te ta kača piči, se oseba poslovi s tega sveta v sedmih urah, ker nimajo še cepiva proti njej. To vam pišem, da se skupaj z nami Mariji zahvalite za pomoč in varstvo. Bog me še tukaj potrebuje in zares še nisem bila pripravljena na odhod.

Najbolje, da se vsak dan izročimo Božji Previdnosti, kar tudi želim vsem dobrotnikom in se še naprej priporočam vašim molitvam. Hvaležna s. Agata Kociper."

Koliko težav pride nasproti, na katere niti ne pomislimo, ko prosimo v molitvi za naše misijonarje in misijonarko, kot je bila ta kača. Hvala Božji Previdnosti in Mariji, da se je vse srečno končalo!

V spomin pok. misijonarja g. Francija Rebol, ki je deloval na Tajvanu, je pisala s. Agnes Lu: "Z žalostjo sem sprejela novico, da je umrl g. Franci Rebol v tem letu. Prvič sem ga srečala pred 30. leti. Učila sem v osnovni šoli v njegovi župniji Srca Jezusovega v Yuamli, Miaoli, kjer sem pozneje postala katoličanka. G. Rebol je bil vedno življenjski. Rad je obiskoval družine katoliške in tudi drugih ver.

Včasih je bilo veliko revščine na Tajvanu. G. Rebol je dobil precej pomoči iz Združenih držav. Pomagal je zgraditi zelo potrebno bolnico, pomagal župljanom, da so začeli delati v tovarni rokavic in odprl je otroško negovališče delavnim staršem za njihove otroke.

Ko so ljudje vse to videli in opazovali, se jih je precej odločilo za sprejem katoliške vere.

Tudi učiteljstvo je navdušilo za Marijino Legijo. Na tem polju sem svoje življenje dala v službo Bogu in bližnjemu. Navdušen je bil nad delom sester, kjer sem našla svoj poklic. Kasneje me je povabil, da sem učila v nedeljski šoli, kjer sem našla g. Rebola vedno veselega, samo bil je starejši in počasnejši.

Pozneje je bil župnik cerkve Sv. Duha v malem mestu Plitou. Na njegovo prošnjo sem sprejela tam delo. Življenjski standard ni bil visok, a njegovo delo je bilo potrebno, vedno je dajal korajžo, ne obupati. Dejal je: 'Bog bo odprl vrata'. Njegovo zadovoljstvo je bilo, da so bili drugi srečni.

Zdaj je g. Rebol v nebesih. V imenu vseh ljudi Tajvana hočem reči: Hvala g. Rebol, počivajte v miru!

Hvaležna s. Agnes Lu"

V mesecu novembru so darovali naslednji v misijonsko blagajno: N.N. \$120; R. A. Knez (za salezijance) \$250; T. Celestina (za dr. s. Praprotnik \$100, za Karmel-Sora \$100, za Madagaskar \$50, za Rev. L. Tomažin \$50) \$300; J. Samsa \$50; M. F. Štrancar (za sv. maše za +Pavlo Mrak) \$100; M. M. Vodišek \$50; M. Celestina (za dr. s. Praprotnik ob zlati poroki Ivana in Paule Hauptman) \$50; M. S. Grdadolnik (za salezijanca P. Končana v Želimljah ob zlati poroki Hauptmanovih) \$100; J. Zalar (ob zlati poroki Hauptmanovih) \$50; M. Lavriša (za Rev. F. Buha \$50, ob zlati poroki Hauptmanovih za Karmel-Sora \$25) \$75; N.N. (za Rev. D. Lisjaka) \$25; Rev. S. Dolšina \$1000; S. Oven (za bog.) \$200; V. Cozza \$100 in V. Devine \$100 za s. M. Pavlišič; M. Ribič \$50; ADKO Electric \$100; J. A. Lekan \$500; M. Lacijan (za sv. maše za +Ludvika in +Ano Lacijan) \$100; I. P. (za bog. \$350, za T. Mavriča \$100, za L. Letonjo \$100, za Rev. S. Rozmana \$250, za Madagaskar \$200) \$1000.

Že smo v adventu! Naj bodo ti dnevi polni ljubezni do Boga in do bližnjega tako, da bomo v vsakem gledali le njegove dobre strani kot so: plemenitost, prijaznost, ustrežljivost, dobrot.

In prav lep misijonski pozdrav od vseh sodelavcev

Marice Lavriše

1004 Dillewood Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44119

V ljubeč spomin na mamu in ata Katarina in Franc Košir



Mama

1908 – Nov. 2000

Ata

1902 – Avg. 1954

Hvaležni otroci z družinami:

Albina Koprivec, Božo, Franci in Milan Košir, Tilka Benko, Julka Brence, Kristina Arko, Marina Marolt

Toronto, Canada; Denver, Colorado;
Ljubljana, Črni vrh, Slovenija

Zbogom, Minka!

Po dolgi bolezni nas je zapustila in odšla v večnost sestra Minka Škerl, ki je bila rojena 17. oktobra 1948 v Begunjah na Notranjskem. Minka je bila petnajsti otrok v družini. Njena stara mama Franciška je bila sestra od Jake Debevec, lastnik Ameriške domovine. Letos je obhajala srebrni jubilej svojega poklica kot medicinska sestra.

Bila je nadarjena za tuje jezike. Prvi je bil nemški, potem francoski in nato angleški. Kot medicinska sestra je študirala v Londonu, Anglija. Sestri Žužek sta ji dali zamisel in pogum za misijone.

Po končani šoli je odšla v Ugando, Afrika, kjer je pomagala ubogim

za obstoj za vsakdanje življenje. Med temi ubogimi je preživela devet let. Bili so težki časi, ker je vladal samodržec Idi Amin in izbruhnila je državljanska vojna.

Prisiljena je bila zapustiti Ugando in je zbežala v Kenijo. Tam je ostala nekaj časa, dokler ni bila poklicana v Peru, v Južno Ameriko. Tam je ostala dolga leta, vse dokler ni zbolela.

Ko so ugotovili njeno bolezen, je prišla v Ameriko in prestala težko operacijo v Philadelphiji. To mesto je središče za medicinske sestre za obe Ameriki. Tu je ostala, dokler ni bila poklicana v London. Tam so bili njeni zadnji dnevi in to v krogu sester njenega reda.

Mirno je odšla v večnost, kamor si je tako želela. Njeno zemeljsko

življenje se je končalo 19. novembra.

Zanjo žalujem njen brat Tone z družino tu med vami v Clevelandu in ostali bratje in sestre v Kanadi, Avstraliji, Franciji in Sloveniji.

Tone Škerl

Genocid in demokracija

(nadaljevanje s str. 15)

sebnim življenjem vsakega posameznika. V ta namen je ustanovila tudi fakulteto za sociologijo, politične vede in novinarstvo oziroma današnjo FDV, na kateri so vzgajali "preverjene kadre" za ustvarjanje, manipuliranje in vzdrževanje javnega mnenja.

Močno razvejana Udba, ki naj bi bila imela v najboljših časih celo okoli 150.000 špicljev, je s svojo nevidno navzočnostjo tako ustrahovala ljudi, da se je večina zaradi lastne varnosti in varnosti svojih družin odpovedala vsakemu javnemu izražanju mnenja. S tem pa je partija dosegla cilj.

Vse do konca 80. formalna opozicija ni bila dovoljena, proti oblastem so nastopale le posamezne intelektualne skupine, ki so se zbirale okoli kulturniških in filozofskih revij, ter občasno študentje. Od 50. let dalje je dejavnost intelektualnih opozicijskih skupin tiho dopuščala, vendar je sama določala mejo strpnosti. Tako je občasno posegla v delovanje skupine ali posameznika z obsodbo, administrativnimi ovirami (prepoved revije, odpušcanje z dela, odvzem ali nepodaljševanje potnih listov, aretacije posameznikov, spomnimo se primera Jožeta Pučnika ...).

(Zaključni del tega poročila, ki je bilo objavljeno v ljubljanskem tedniku Demokracija 20. oktobra, bo v naslednji AD prihodnji teden, 8. decembra.)

