

Twin Cities Slovenians SUA Branch 109 Annual Report 2019

The Twin Cities Slovenians (TCS) was formed in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, as Branch 109 of the Slovenian Union of America (SUA). TCS welcomes men, women and children as members. We invite you to join our social group if you have Slovenian heritage or are a friend of the Slovenian culture. Our goal is to honor our Slovenian heritage through the sharing of fellowship, culture, history, music, language, literature and genealogy activities. If you are of Slovenian heritage, wish you were, or are just impressed by this very small and beautiful country, the Twin Cities Slovenians welcome your inquiry and membership. There's plenty of potica, good will and fun to go around. Check us out at www.twincitiesslovenians.org

Programs and celebrations September 2018 – August 2019

September 2018 – Rick Pisa unveiled the 2019 Calendar. Maria Stalzer Wyant Cuzzo and Sophia Stalzer Wyant presented “Meet Gottschee”. This mother-daughter ancestral preservation team has worked together for more than 20 years to preserve the history, culture and personal stories of the Gottscheer people.

October 2018- Katrina Kozar shared her journey to and through her MasterChef experiences in Hollywood, Ljubljana and Milwaukee. Katrina not only spoke to the group, but also prepared wonderful appetizers for us to sample.

November 2018 - Karen and Miro Medved hosted our Marinovanje celebration. As always, there was plenty of good food and music.

December 2018- Josh Cardinal spoke to us about his American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) experience in Slovenia. The six-week course consisted of an internship and lecture. It offered Josh an incredible opportunity to experience Slovenia.

January 2019 - Elaine Barthelemy shared photos and stories from her September 2018 trip to Slovenia with her sons.

February 2019 - The first program for this month was held at the Julian H. Sleeper House, home to a small Slovenian museum. This annual event celebrates Slovenian culture. This year we celebrated with history, geography and food.

February 2019 - Mary and Shazore Shaw presented photos and stories from their April 2018 trip to Slovenia.

March 2019 - David Kess and Sally Koski took the broad topic of cultural diversity and presented “The Clashes between Immigrant Cultures – That Really Never Happened”. People worked together and got along.

April 2019 - Member of the Year John Zakelj was recognized and celebrated for the many ways he helps promote the Twin Cities Slovenians. Sue Rademacher and Mike Koski shared information about the Festival of Nations and our booth. The theme for 2019 was Ethnic and Cultural Celebrations. We chose to celebrate Prešeren Day and Slovenian Cultural Celebrations

May 2019 - Joined with the Slovenian Consulate to present a concert by the Slovenian vocal group Krila at Sundin Music Hall at Hamlin University.

May 2019 - We ended our program year by hosting a celebration featuring the Singing Slovenes at the Rosetown American Legion. We enjoyed food and music and the comfort of being inside on a cool and cloudy day.

August 2019- Mike Koski hosted a summer picnic. The picnic was a potluck with no agenda. Hank Thunander provided the music. Everyone had a good time.

Slovenian Language Study Group

The language class meets every other week at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church from October through April. The lead teacher is Frank Medved, who is assisted by John Zakelj and other classroom helpers.

Website and Facebook

Our website (www.twincitiesslovenians.org) is managed by our Webmaster John Perhay. It is full of important information and useful links. Don't hesitate to check it out.

We also have a Facebook page for members and friends of TCS. We share pictures from our events and other useful communication. This is a closed page, so please contact Mike Koski, John Zakelj or John Perhay for access.

Conclusion

Thank you to each and every member and friend of the Twin Cities Slovenians for helping to make our organization a success. We average 52 people at our membership meetings. This is a tribute to the quality programs and presenters that we offer. We have a Cultural Exhibit at the Festival of Nations celebrating the theme of the year. We continue to be good stewards of your donations.