

# **TWIN CITIES SLOVENIANS TENTH ANNIVERSARY**

## **A TEN YEAR HISTORY**



**NORMAN SETNICKER**

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# Twin Cities Slovenians: A Ten Year History

## DEDICATION

This brief history of the Twin Cities Slovenians would never have been written without the vision of our own Yul Yost, a native Slovenian who inspired and recounted so much of our Slovenian heritage and ethnicity. Yul is a “man of all seasons”- a botanist, horticulturist, chemist, historian, winemaker, carpenter and garden designer. Every one of these titles reflects his love of the Slovenian culture. He planted the seed, and like the parable of the mustard seed, it has multiplied and spread within the Twin Cities community.

His “Slovenski dom” in Roseville, Minnesota, exudes his love of Slovenia - from the stucco on the exterior of his home; to the Slovenian flora in his backyard garden; to the painted panels honoring Bishop Baraga and Father Pirc; to the archeological replica of the oldest wooden wheel in the world (discovered in Slovenia); and to the many pictures and Slovenian bric-a-brac in the interior of his home, Yul has remained true to his ethnicity and is a constant reminder of our shared roots.



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## ~ HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ~

Historically, regional ethnicity in Minnesota has largely centered on immigrants from the Scandinavian countries and Germany. There was a huge influx of Germans into the farmlands of central and southern Minnesota in the 1870's with St. Cloud and New Ulm as early Germanic centers. Norwegians, Finns, and Swedes added settlements in northwestern Minnesota. From roughly 1890-1920, immigrants who arrived were predominantly from southern, central and eastern Europe. These people gravitated to American urban and industrial centers including the Iron Range of Minnesota. It is interesting to note that these immigrants reached the United States just as the amount of free or cheap agricultural land was running low and the large new industrial and transportation systems were experiencing a severe need for workers. By 1900, the combined flood of Scandinavians outnumbered the previously dominant Germans.



Slovenian ethnicity is often neglected when it comes to migration historiography. Evidence seems to show that there were substantial migrations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In Minnesota, Frederic Baraga paved the way for Slovenian Catholic missionaries such as Franc Pirc (1785-1880) to plan a colony of Slovenians in Minnesota so that the state would become as Catholic as possible.<sup>1</sup> A small colony of Slovenians settled in central Minnesota and became the town of St. Stephen. Between the arrival of Frederic Baraga in 1830 and 1924, there were 140 Slovenian priests and monks or nuns active in the United States. By 1914, five Slovenians were ordained bishops. One of the more influential bishops was Jacob Trobec, whose territory stretched from St. Cloud to St. Paul.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the Church of St. Agnes in St. Paul was started under the direction of Bishop Trobec.

*Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, circa 1853-1860.  
Photograph by Mathew Brady, Library of Congress Collection*

Following World War II, displaced Slovenian refugees from Austria and Italy sought entry to countries such as Argentina, Canada, United States and Australia. It is interesting to note that there were 530 displaced persons (DP's) who arrived in Minnesota between January 1949 and April 1952.<sup>3</sup> Unlike the earlier immigrants, most of these were family units which included 165 children under the age of 18. In "THEY CHOSE MINNESOTA: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups", the editors noted that St. Louis County, which includes the Iron Range communities and Duluth, received 41.5% of the new arrivals.<sup>4</sup> The American labor market pulled an increasing number of unskilled South Slav peasants directly to such growing segments of industry as mining, steel making, and meat packing.



One of the key links between the Slovenian settlements in central Minnesota and the Vermilion Iron Range was Father Joseph F. Buh, who was an assistant to Father Pirc. Iron ore mining in Tower-Soudan on the Vermilion Range started in 1884 and about one-fourth of the people there (300 families) were Slovenians. By 1909, they were said to constitute 40% of Tower's population of

*Tower-Soudan Mine, 1890, (photo from [www.miningartifacts.org/](http://www.miningartifacts.org/))*

about 2,000. In nearby Ely, the Chandler Mine started in 1888 and by 1895 at least 114 Slovenes, many of whom had moved from Tower, were counted in that city's population of 2,260. By 1909, they constituted about one-third of its residents.<sup>5</sup> By 1910, 13 communities (Kitzville and Carson Lake locations near Hibbing; Spruce and Adams locations in Eveleth; Chisholm; and others) contained 50,000 residents of which 4,000 were Slovenes.<sup>6</sup> There is also some evidence that Slovenes from the Stearns County rural settlements were reported to have moved to Buhl and Nashwauk in 1901.<sup>7</sup>

With the turn of the century and the expansion of the mining industry, demand continued to exceed supply. This brought rise to labor agents who recruited workers from the older Slav centers in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Chicago as well as directly from Europe. In May, 1907, the work force of the Oliver Iron Mining Company on the Range totaled 12,018 men - 84.4% were foreign born and almost half had been in the U.S. for a maximum of only two years. South Slavs (Croats and Slovenes) made up over 30% of the firm's foreign born workers, and the percentages were even higher in succeeding years.<sup>8</sup>

Even though first and second generation South Slavs kept their languages alive and preserved certain traditions, these age groups have rapidly disappeared. In addition, there began an "out migration" of third generation Slovenes in search of better economic opportunities. This was coupled with rising education and higher aspirations in terms of jobs. Those who stayed in northern Minnesota came to regard themselves more as "Iron Rangers" than as members of any particular ethnic group. A regional consciousness began to replace the old ethnic loyalties.<sup>9</sup>

In order to preserve their Slovenian identity, Bishop Buh moved the first national newspaper for Slovenes, "Amerikanski Slovenec" from Chicago to Tower. Buh bought a printing press and with that, he established the first Slovenian publishing house in America. But the paper had financial problems and in 1899, Buh sold it to a Slovenian parish in

Joliet, IL. In 1946, it became the official organ of the KSKJ. Even though there was some direct connection, different Slovenian organizations sprang up: the KSKJ - “Kranjsko-Slovenska Katoliška Jednota” one of a number of Slovenian organizations that sprang up. KSKJ was a national benefit society restricted to Catholics. Another group was the SNPJ -“Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota” who were free thinking, Socialist minded Slovenes who objected to the older Catholic lodge’s insistence on attendance at Mass and confession. The first SNPJ lodge was established in Ely in 1905. The SNPJ also had the notoriety of extending equal benefits to women. This made SNPJ the leading Slovene group.<sup>10</sup> Another group which came later in 1920’s was the SWUA - “Slovenian Women’s Union of America”. Each organization had its own publication, with the SWUA’s magazine ZARJA (Dawn), achieving 85 years of longevity in 2014. The name of the parent organization has evolved from SWUA to now a more encompassing SUA (Slovenian Union of America) to reflect its impact on all Slovenian family members, not just women. It was through these varied ethnic groups that 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Slovenians started to form their own groups within the Minnesota metropolitan area of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

It was largely that generation of Slovenians that migrated to the Metro area, not only for economic opportunities but for education. Ethnic clubs sprung up at the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State College. The Yugoslav-American Society was started in the Twin Cities in 1980’s. Membership consisted of Slovenians, Croatians, Serbians and others whose ancestry reflected the other Yugoslavian states. Over the years the political climate of what was once Yugoslavia led to dissension among these South Slavs. In June, 1991, Slovenia was the first to break away from what was then a rather loose confederation of Balkan countries held together rather tenuously under Josip Broz Tito. An offshoot of the Yugoslav-American Society was named the Cultural Society of South Slavs. It lasted until 1995. (See appendix #6)

*Footnotes: (‘Ibid’ refers to the previously listed source)*

- 1 Marjan Denovsek, Attitudes of the State and the Catholic Church, page 21
- 2 Ibid, page 21
- 3 They Chose Minnesota, A Survey of the State’s Ethnic Groups, page 381
- 4 Ibid, page 386
- 5 Ibid, page 386
- 6 Ibid, page 386
- 7 Ibid, page 386
- 8 Ibid, page 386
- 9 Ibid, page 386
- 10 Ibid, page 386



~ THE SEED IS PLANTED ~

Organizing the Slovenian club which was to become the Twin Cities Slovenians was really sparked by Yul Yost, a native Slovenian. Yul lives in Roseville and from 1996-2001 he hosted a “Victims of Torture” tour of his magnificent garden. Yul was looking for another garden in the Roseville area and asked one of his neighbors, Mary Vidas, to offer her garden as another stop of the tour. Mary, who was of Slovenian descent, along with her nearly blind mother, visited Yul’s garden and it was through this mutual love of gardening that talk of starting a Slovenian club was initiated.



*Andrew Perčič and Al McComber enjoying a glass of wine at Martinovanje celebration.*

Another Slovenian friend of Yul’s was Andrew Perčič. Andy’s family came to Minnesota in the 1950’s as displaced persons and settled in Biwabik. Andy opened up the Nectary, a restaurant, in 1985 at 3433 Broadway St. NE in Minneapolis and operated it until July, 2010. On occasion, Yul would stop at the restaurant on his way home from work (VA Hospital). Through these visits Andy and Yul shared their love of Slovenia and the thought of starting a Slovenian club. After some discussion Andy and Yul opened up a checking account for a club at First State Bank on Lowry Ave. Yul guaranteed \$150 for club expenses, which in the early years went for coffee at the Nectary. Andy was the signatory. They invited Mary Vidas to a couple of meetings at the Nectary and asked her to get involved with the emerging Twin Cities Slovenians (TCS) and to consider the position of president. She accepted in 2005.

Yul recounted a story from 2002 which highlighted the need for a Slovenian organization. When Martin Strel, the Slovenian marathon swimmer, swam the Mississippi River in 2002, Yul looked for Slovenians in the area to hang a Slovenian flag from the five



St. Paul bridges. He could only find John Zakelj (our current president) to hang a flag from the Wabasha Bridge and Susan Strgar to hang a flag from the High Bridge. Susan was on the bridge by 8:30 a.m. as Martin swam under. Police drove by and questioned Suzy and threatened to arrest her, thinking she was going to jump from the bridge. Apparently the High Bridge had a reputation for suicide attempts.

*Norm Setnick, Jamie Munson, Yul Yost, and Tom Moren presenting to Martin Strel (Slovenian marathon swimmer) a stained glass depiction of Martin's epic swim up the Mississippi River.*

Suzy's boyfriend took over and went to Harriet Island to meet Martin as he emerged from the River. (Will Steger, the Arctic explorer was also on hand to greet Martin.)

The Perčič family was a native Slovenian family from the Iron Range that was part of the refugee migration following WW II. When the Nectary Restaurant was determined to be the meeting place of the fledgling TCS, Andy agreed that the club did not have to pay rent, and was able to have meals, wine tasting's, displays of Slovenian maps and pictures. Meeting at the restaurant allowed the TCS to slowly grow with a minimum of expense.

The Medved family was another prominent Slovenian refugee family that also settled in Biwabik. The six children have provided a wellspring of information on all the Slovenian customs and traditions. Frank, the oldest of the boys, has provided expertise in the Slovenian language, cuisine and customs, and has been the "chief engineer" for the Festival of Nations booth. Miro Medved was recently appointed as Honorary Consul of Slovenia and is chief organizer of our many Slovenško Petje sessions. He and his wife, Karen, have opened up their beautiful home and hosted a number of Slovenian celebrations.



*Karen Medved hosting and preparing one of the many Slovenian "buffets" at their home.*



Another influence on the early beginnings of the TCS was a little known retired speech professor, Dr. Seth Hawkins. Hawkins opened a museum called the Julian Sleeper House. Two floors are devoted to memorabilia of the 1880s or what some historians call the Gilded Age. The basement, however, has a mini Slovenian Exhibition which has artifacts and information. Dr. Seth Hawkins opened the Julian Sleeper House, a museum devoted to memorabilia of the 1880's (Gilded Age) along with a lower floor housing a mini Slovenian Exhibition of Slovenian artifacts and information. He has hosted Slovenian cultural day activities (Kulturni Dan) in honor of Slovenia's national poet, France Prešeren every February since 2005.



*Dr. Seth C. Hawkins (above)*



*Jim Klobuchar, Ely native and founder of the Yugoslav American Society standing on a "political stump" in honor of his daughter, Senator Amy Klobuchar.*

One should also look at the regional influence for the formation of TCS. If there was one town which contributed and continues to contribute to our Slovenian heritage, it is Ely. A litany of "Elyites" have made important contributions to the well being of the TCS. They include Jim Smrekar (officer and organizer of our first Festival of Nations booth); Mary Ann Vranesich Palmer (recording secretary and board member); Karl Grahek, Sr. (deceased, membership chairperson); Joe Kuznik (language teacher); Bob Grahek (VP of TCS); Janette Popesh Hahn; Mike Koski (FON Chairperson, Board member); Jim Klobuchar (organized Yugoslav-American Society), Joe Lobe, Joanna Petrich Pucel, Jim Kotchevar, John Skubitz (fund raiser chairperson-place mats).



~ THE INFANT YEARS “Začetek” 2005-2009 ~

At a planning meeting in late 2004, under the leadership of Mary Vidas, there were two major questions to address. Number one was: Do we want to be affiliated with a national Slovenian organization or do we want to be unattached? Second question was: How often should we meet? These seven individuals made that decision: Mary Vidas, Norm and Mary Ann Setnicker, Karen and Benita Bjorgo, Jerry Sherek and Yul Yost. Since members were in “uncharted territory”, the group decided to attach itself to the SWUA (Slovenian Women’s Union of America). Not only did the group feel that they could get some help from a national group, but there were members whose mothers were presently active or were active in the past with the SWUA. This also meant that we should follow the Bylaws of the SWUA, which at the time had a gender bias for woman along with a religious bent for the Catholic Church. There was much discussion of the gender issue as well as the religious issue and yet we chose to become: “TWIN CITIES SLOVENIANS, BRANCH 109 of the SWUA.” The group realized that the membership in a large metropolitan area was not going to be all Catholic or all women and that we, at our first national convention of SWUA, would argue to change the organizational name (gender issue) and bylaws dealing with religion.



*A picnic gathering in the summer of 2006 in Yul Yost's backyard*

As a new organization we sought to preserve our legacy, promote our culture and honor our traditions. Some of us grew up seeing the ZARJA magazine which has, for over 85 years, published informative articles for its membership (SWUA) on health, faith, family, education, cooking, and understanding American culture and experiences. Branch 109 wanted to share all of this with the other branches scattered throughout the United States. In order to do this, the group felt that we needed to meet at least once a month (with the summer months off) and so the third Saturday, September through May, would be a regular meeting time. The Nectary restaurant would be our meeting place for the next five years.

Our group of seven did meet the minimum membership requirement of the SWUA and with the meeting place, meeting date and time, the group set out to increase the number of

members who would be willing to join the SWUA/Branch 109 and pay dues to the national and to TCS. Dues for our TCS were set at \$20 and \$30 for a couple. Dues to SWUA were to be paid directly to the national organization.

There was also discussion of how to add new members. Norm Setnicker drafted a letter (see appendix #1) which was sent to known Slovenians in the metro area. In addition, Mary Ann Palmer resurrected a membership list from the Yugoslav-American Society that Jim Klobuchar had started, and so with each monthly meeting we saw our membership grow.

Our president, Mary Vidas wrote the first Branch 109 report for the ZARJA magazine and highlighted our fall kick-off meeting in September 2005 - "Bring One, Sign One" membership campaign. We set up the Branch's website at [www.twincitiesslovenians.org](http://www.twincitiesslovenians.org), along with a schedule of upcoming activities and photos. In the summer of 2005, TCS held a picnic in Yul Yost's beautiful garden. One of the highlights of the first picnic was a visit from Amy Klobuchar who, a few short months later, became a U.S. Senator representing Minnesota.

These summer picnics would continue for four years. It was Slovenian potluck with live accordion music from Shelby Setnicker-Eschiti and Karen Medved. It was also the opportunity for Yul Yost to unveil the "Baraga Story" - a series of painted panels on Yul's garage and under the eaves of the house illustrating Bishop Baraga's achievements in Minnesota. After serving a two year term as president and giving "wings" to the fledgling TCS, Mary Vidas chose not to continue as president. Karen Bjorgo briefly stepped into the office, but gave up the reins to Norm Setnicker who would serve for the next five years. Norm was a retired Social Studies and English teacher for thirty-four years in the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale school system. A transplanted Slovenian Iron Ranger from Biwabik, he would organize each meeting as though it was an educational classroom with "Slovenia" being the topic. Prior to his presidency, Norm and his wife Mary Ann had been to Slovenia twice, in 1994 and 1998. The second trip was to the summer language school at the University in Ljubljana.

*Picnic gathering in front of Yul's garage - note the Baraga paintings above the door.*





~ TWIN CITIES SLOVENIANS MEETING FORMAT ~



Norm's father in law, Alvin Koroshec, was a member of the Slovenian Coraleers, a singing group from the Iron Range area. They recorded two albums. The first one featured the song "Slovenec Sem", I am Slovenian because my mother told me so. That song was Norm's introduction to each meeting for the next year, 2007-2008. Each meeting would try to incorporate:

*Slovenian language* - Joe Kuznik would help us pronounce and repeat Slovenian words connected with religious and cultural events.

*Slovenian culture* - Al Siftar prepared tag board props which highlighted different aspects of Slovenian history, geography, and customs.

*Joe Kuznik pictured at Festival of Nations alongside the Slovenian "Kurent" mask..*

*Slovenian holidays, celebrations and religious customs* - One of the highlights of the religious customs was Frank Medved's digital presentation tracing Easter Holy Week in Slovenia. Frank's presentation was well received and would be the cornerstone of other Slovenian celebrations such as Martinovanje in November and Kurentovanje preceding Lent.

*Increased interest in the Slovenian language led to classes at St. Francis Cabrini church in Minneapolis.*



~ MEETING FORMAT (continued) ~

*Slovenian music* - Miro Medved introduced the membership to many traditional Slovenian songs at our meetings as well as his home. Mary Ann Palmer spurred more interest in Slovenian singing by including English translations of many of the traditional songs. (see appendix #5) Accordion music was played by Shelby Setniker-Eschiti, Karen Medved, and more recently, Rich Samec.



*Karen Medved and Shelby Setniker striking up some Slovenian button box polkas*

*Slovenian genealogy* - Al Siftar provided a large Slovenian map where members could place stick pins to identify where their relatives lived. We also set up a directory of family names along with Slovenian locations so that members could share their common place names and family names. Chuck Podominick set up genealogical workshops for our members and made key connections with the Slovenian Genealogy Society in Cleveland, and with Peter Hawlina, founder of the Slovenian Genealogy Society in Ljubljana.



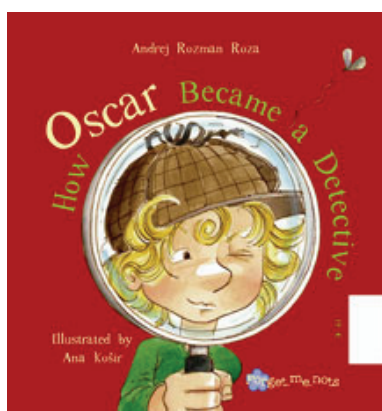
~ PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: 2006-2010 ~

The following programs represent highlights of member meetings held in our first five years of existence at the Nectary Restaurant. In 2010 the Nectary was sold and the Little Venetian restaurant in Little Canada was the site for our membership meetings for the next three years.



Miro Medved's talk on Slovenian migration to Northern Minnesota. Miro recounted the family's experiences in the Spittal refugee camp in Austria following WW II.

A visit from Martin Strel, the Slovenian marathon swimmer who swam the Mississippi, the Nile, the Yangtze and the Amazon.



Slovenian children authors, Majda Koren and Špela Brecelj on tour of the U.S., presented children books written in English as well as Slovenian. The tour was arranged with the SWUA/SUA.

Mary Perčič Bernard organized members' children/grandchildren to put on a Christmas program and an anniversary program. The children were taught to be waiters and waitresses and learned some Slovenian words for ordering Slovenian food & drink.



*TCS grandchildren as "Natakar and Natakarica", waiters and waitresses.*



*Branch 109 hosted its first SUA Regional Convention at the Church of St. Bernard in St. Paul. In addition to the delegates from the Minnesota SUA branches, special guests included: (L to R) Mary Lou Voelk, SUA VP of Heritage, Rosemary Ribich, Minnesota State President, Marge Pryately, Communications Dept. St. Cloud State College, Jure Zmauc, Consulate General Republic of Slovenia, Jim Klobuchar, and President Norm Setnicker.*



John Zakelj made a presentation on Slovenian bobbin lace enhanced by a video of Anna Zakelj Jesenko showing the lace making process.

Tom Moren, our “Slovenian artist in residence” presented a program showing the art of stained glass with his most prominent piece - *The Last Supper*. Tom has painted very unique pieces for our Festival of Nations exhibits.

Our first Festival of Nations exhibit (2008) was chaired by Jim Smrekar. State SUA President Rosemary Ribich presented the TC Slovenians with a check for \$600 which was used to defray the costs of the Festival. See Appendix #4 which denotes the theme and the details of our first venture into the Festival of Nations.



A \$ 400 contribution to the Land Mines Project - a project organized by then Slovenian Ambassador, Samuel Zbogar, which raised funds for Slovenian hospitals to help children who were victims of exploding land mines following the Bosnian War.

Haven Hawley from the University of Minnesota talked about the resources available at the IHRC (Immigration History Resource Center) and set up a field trip to the center. A group of six worked on a special project -indexing several ZARJA magazines.

Frank Medved's Easter week video presentation highlighted how Easter week was celebrated in a typical Catholic- Slovenian family.

Norm Setnicker, representing Branch 109 of SWUA, attended his first National Convention in Joliet, Ill. The vote to change the national organization's name to be "gender free" failed by one vote.

St. Martin's Day (Martinovanje) 2008. Don and Marlene Palkovich chaired our first major wine tasting event at the Nectary. Prior to that Jan Hahn gave the group insight into the wine making process and invited members to pick and process the grapes from their family's vineyard.



*Group photo at Karen and Miro Medved's home in celebration of Martinovanje*



*The Rich Samec Family along with Tea Rozman Clark family dressed in "narodna noša" (native costumes). Rich's costume is the traditional "Bela Kranj" look.*





John Zakelj assumed the presidency of the Twin Cities Slovenians following the five year tenure of Norm Setnicker. John's father, a native Slovenian, fled from Europe following WWII and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. John attended St. Vitus Catholic School in Cleveland and was engrained with the Slovenian culture and language. In fact he was very instrumental in setting up our Slovenian language classes at St. Francis Cabrini Church in Minneapolis.

During his presidency, John strengthened the foundation of the TCS. The membership has grown and currently numbers over 120. With the help of MaryAlice Schwanke, our Website manager, John expanded our Website by providing more detail to an increasingly digitized Slovenian audience. He tightened our meeting agendas; he helped coordinate Board fund raisers; he worked closely with Liz Miller in organizing

*Mike Koski carrying the Slovenian flag and John Zakelj carrying an American flag in the St. Stephen's Centennial Celebration as the oldest Slovenian community in Minnesota and perhaps the United States.*

minutes of Board meetings and membership meetings; he summarized all the yearlong activities in an annual report to the Board; he arranged the contract with St. Francis Cabrini Church for our language lessons for the past three years and in short, has made Branch 109 of the SUA a model of participation and innovation.

The office of president was also made clearer after the SWUA National Convention held in Milwaukee in June 2011. Delegates voted overwhelmingly to change the name of SWUA to simply SUA - Slovenian Union of America. This name change made the organization gender neutral and increased the number of men participating in what was once the women's domain. Branch 109 was gender free right from the start and served as a model that other Slovenian branches would emulate.

John's first year as president was enhanced by Ksenija Renner Sitar's family from Slovenia. Ksenija was attending the University of Minnesota Dental School on a fellowship and was joined with her husband Jože, who was working on a law degree and their two children, Dorian and Adriana. In late 2010 Ksenija made a power point presentation titled, "Slovenia Through the Eyes of a Contemporary Slovenian Family." Shortly after, in February, 2011, she gave another presentation about Slovenian bee keeping and the folk art behind the beehive panels which are engrained in the Slovenian cultural fabric. Ksenija was also instrumental in helping president Zakelj set up the Slovenian language classes. The language classes became a unique study of Slovenian modern day culture. There is no



*Ksenija Rener Sitar's family*

John, membership meetings at the New Brighton Community Center. He also identified Slovenian food connections between the Iron Range and the Twin Cities.

John Skubitz organized and coordinated a popular fundraiser - Slovenian Placemats which featured enlarged pictures of Slovenia that were laminated into placemats. In addition, he and his wife, Kathy hosted Martinovanje for three years at their home in New Brighton.

doubt that the TC Slovenians became more anchored to our Slovenian culture largely through the efforts of Ksenija and her family.

Member involvement increased under president Zakelj. The trio of Rick Pisa, Bob Grahek and John Skubitz, nicknamed the “three amigos” or, as one member facetiously referred to them, the “tri pijančke”, contributed new ideas for the growing membership:

Rick Pisa set up a mobile Slovenian library which is available at our monthly meetings; organized a yearly fund raiser of Slovenian calendars and designed Slovenian Knowledge Quiz for some of our membership meetings.

Bob Grahek arranged for meeting dates and places at Culver’s (Board meetings) and, along with Rich and



*The Tri Slovenian Amigos: Bob Grahek, John Skubitz and Rick Pisa*





*Mary Gorshe Manning Family - Mary shared her immigrant experience with Green Card Voices" and is pictured here with her lovely family and husband , Jim.*

Another major influence within our Slovenian community is Tea Rozman Clark. Tea, a native Slovenian, came to the Twin Cities via New York City, where she was connected to the United Nations and was a member of the New York Branch 93 of the SUA. Tea received her PhD in oral history in 2014; her thesis revolved around the genocide issue in the war in Kosovo. She became the director of Green Card Voices, a nonprofit organization that shares personal narratives of America's immigrants to facilitate

understanding between immigrant and non-immigrant communities. Tea recorded and directed two immigrant stories from our TC Slovenian group, Yul Yost and Mime Gorshe Manning. Their stories were featured at our February, 2015 membership meeting.

Our most prominent member of the TC Slovenians is Miro Medved. Miro and his wife, Karen, have hosted numerous Slovenian receptions for visiting dignitaries, conducted and directed Slovenian singing sessions and taught us to



*Balinje Champions:  
Dave Pisa, Jamie Monson, Sue Rademacher and John Zakelj*

appreciate the singing traditions of Slovenia. Recently appointed as the "Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia" (2013) for Minnesota and Wisconsin, Miro is the liaison for the Consulate General, Jure Žmauc, in dealing with passport questions, Slovenian citizenship requirements, and a number of miscellaneous areas where he works with the Slovenian government. In June, 2014, Miro was to be the host for the first annual TCS Balinje tournament. This event was in connection with Slovenian Independence Day. Even though the event was rained out, the tournament will become part of the festivities of Slovenian Independence Day.

~ PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: 2011-2015 ~

Frank Medved gave a repeat performance of the Slovenian Easter celebration along with the symbolism of the "Zegen" basket.

The Slovenian Women's Union of America name is changed at the Milwaukee convention. It became the Slovenian Union of America and we remain Branch 109 of the SUA.



Former Congressman, James Oberstar (recently deceased) of Minnesota's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District outlined Slovenia's early history. He also described his role in helping Slovenia become recognized by the United States.

*Former Congressman, James Oberstar, Norm & Mary Ann Setnicker, and Miro Medved.*

President John Zakelj introduced his daughter, Cece who presented a slide show of her two week experience on an Eco farm in Slovenia.

Tea Rozman directed the membership in making Kurentovanje masks. They became part of the Festival of Nations exhibit.

Pat Dahl, one of our newest members, organized our TC Slovenians to promote and sponsor a concert by an all-female band from Slovenia called Navihanke. This turned out to be an excellent venue and a first for our TCS.

John and Kathy Skubitz hosted the Martinovanje celebration at their home in New Brighton. Forty members attended. Mary and Frank Medved gave a brief history of the event as celebrated in Slovenia.

Kathy Muhvic Wilson (right) represented TCS at "Family History Day" event, sponsored by the Hennepin County Library in Minneapolis. Kathy provided tools for Slovenian genealogy searches.





Miro and Karen Medved hosted a reception for Roman Kirn, the Slovenian Ambassador to the United States.



*Miro Medved accepting credentials from Slovenian Ambassador, Kirn*

Bob Grahek organized a luncheon at the Heartland Café in St. Paul. Len Russo, chef & co-owner was the first Minnesotan to be named to the elite American Chef Corps, which is a culinary partnership with the U.S. State Department and the James Beard Foundation. Mr. Russo spent two weeks in Slovenia learning about Slovenian cuisine. His journey chronicled an eight episode

Slovenian television series called “Seasoned by Americans”. Lenny shared his Slovenian trip with some 20 members of the TCS.

Liz Miller and Sue Rademacher helped pass on the Slovenian Christmas custom of “Sveti Miklavž.” Liz designed and sewed the Sveti costume and Sue passed out some traditional Slovenian gifts to the children.

Isa Keller gave a presentation of her summer in Slovenia where she studied the Slovenian language and traveled the country. Isa teaches English as a Second Language at a community and technical college in the Twin Cities. Mary Ann Palmer led the members in singing of “Siva Pot”, the Slovenian version of “Country Roads” made popular by John Denver.

Building on the first version of our “Member Directory” that was done by MaryAlice Schwanke, our Webmaster, Jean Podominick updated the directory and added more information such as “Statistical Regions of Slovenia” and a listing of member villages within that statistical region.

October 2014, Hank Thunander presented a two hour musical presentation showcasing his virtuosity on the accordion and its versatility. Hank has worked in TV and radio, and has played with Frank Yankovic and Myron Floren. He has been inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

December 2014, Mirjam Gremes, a native Slovenian from Polhov Gradec, Slovenia, now living in Chisholm, Minnesota, presented a slide show on the restoration of the altar and religious artifacts of the Catholic Church in Polhov Gradec. It was also a short lesson on the archeological art history of Slovenia.



September 2012 Baraga Day Rendezvous at the Baraga Cross with speakers: Lenora McKeen, Assistant Director of the Bishop Baraga Association; former U.S. Congressman, James Oberstar; and Father Michael Tegeder, who spoke about Baraga's ties to Native Americans. Approximately 70 people drove up to Schroeder, Minnesota, site of the Baraga Cross on Lake Superior.

Sue Rademacher and Norm Setnicker gave a joint presentation on the "Old Vine" Festival (Stara Trte), which was held in Maribor, Slovenia.

Kultura Dan 2011 Celebration at the Julian Sleeper House - Slovenian Exhibition featured Miro Medved and Sing Zhang (from Beijing) singing "Gor Èez Jezero." The Slovenian song was translated into Chinese.

August 2014, the SUA hosted a project entitled, "It is Who We Are" a wedding exhibit organized by Mary Lou Voelk, SUA Vice President of Heritage. The exhibit was designed to document the Slovenian American influence in Minnesota for the past 3 to 4 generations, since the first Slovenian immigrants arrived. This was a treasure trove of genealogical information. It was held at Vermilion Community College in Ely.

Members of the Year were presented with "Lectovo Srce"(Gingerbread Hearts) in appreciation of all of their efforts to the TC Slovenians. A special heart was presented to the family of Karl Grahek. (see appendix #3)







*Norm Setnicker Family: Twins Sam & Ben Setnicker, Brittany, Sydney and Torin Wood, wife, Mary Ann and daughter, Nicole Wood.*

genealogy, citing sources in Ljubljana, Maribor, Slovenian Genealogy Society and the United States census records. This led to a visit by Peter Hawlina, founder of the Slovenian Genealogy Society in Ljubljana.

Summer 2014, Dr. Božo Cerar, Slovenian Ambassador to the United States visited the Twin Cities, Ely and St. Stephen, the oldest Slovenian community in the U.S. As the Grand

September 2014, Norm Setnicker, past president and one of the founders of the TCS, received his dual citizenship with Republic of Slovenia. A celebration was held at the home of Honorary Consul, Miro Medved. Norm is also the reporter for the ZARJA magazine, official organ of the SUA and always signed off each article with "Born in America with Slovenian Parts."

Charles Debevec, who has probably the largest collection of Slovenian recorded music in America, gave the membership a history of Slovenian music in the U.S.

2012 Chuck Podominick gave a DVD presentation on Slovenian



Marshall leading the parade, he was accompanied by Miro Medved, honorary consul and flag bearers, President, John Zakelj and Mike Koski of the TC Slovenians. In addition, Sue Rademacher, Marge Pryately and Cindy Gauthier dressed in their “narodna noša” and showed off their Slovenian ethnicity.

January 2015 Silvester Vicic, one of our newer members, gave a spellbinding presentation titled “How My Mom and Dad Met Freedom, A Story of Determination” or more poetically, “Ljubežen nima meje” (Love has no borders). Silvester traced his teenaged parents’ (Ivan and Ivanka) flight from Yugoslavia in January 1956 after having lived through WWII and the worst part of Titoism.

Sveti Miklautz, designed by Liz Miller, with the grandchildren of Twin Cities Slovenians members. This Christmas activity was organized by Sue Rademacher and Liz Miller.



Pictured are: Maja and Chole Samec, Mason and Aaron Park, and Clarissa Medved

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

Members of the Twin Cities Slovenians who have passed.

Let us not forget their lasting contributions to the Twin Cities Slovenians:

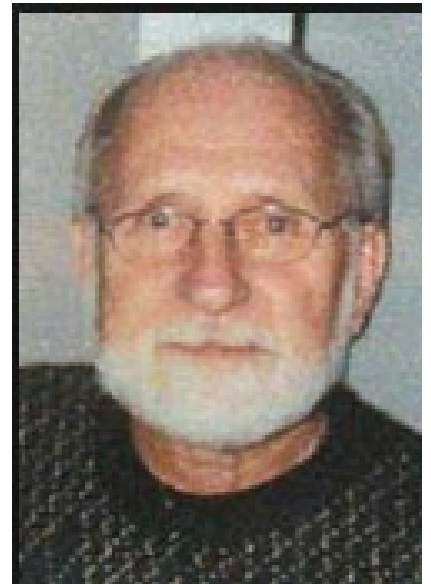
MARLENE PALKOVICH: 2011



Marlene chaired the SUA State Convention held at the Church of St. Bernard in St. Paul that was sponsored by Branch 109 TCS. She and husband Don hosted our first wine tasting event. Her great singing voice and sense of humor are missed.

KARL GRAHEK: 2012

Karl served as Membership chair for several years and initiated membership recruitment tools. He was a long time teacher in St. Paul and peace activist. The peace pole in his yard was featured at a Festival of Nations exhibit.



JEAN ROLSTAD: 2013

Jean was honored as a Member of the Year in 2013.  
(see appendix #3 for full details.)



~ IN MEMORIAM ~  
(continued)

KRISTINA MEDVED NELSON: 2013



Kris rarely missed a Slovenian language class meeting. She helped Miro, her brother, and his wife, Karen, host gatherings at his house and was always available to participate in the TCS exhibit at the Festival of Nations.

YVONNE McCOMBER: 2013

Yvonne was honored as a member of the Year in 2011.  
(see appendix #3 for full details.)



MARY PERČIČ BERNARD: 2014

Mary came to the US as a child and told the story of her adventures in a suitcase. She co-hosted events at the Nectary restaurant with her brother Andy. A former teacher, she “trained” members’ children/grandchildren to be waiters and waitresses and to use the Slovenian language.



## ~ TENDING THE GROWING SEED ~

What started out as a “seed” that was developed on a garden tour, TC Slovenian membership has grown to over 120 members as of January, 2015. These members bring “to the table” different interests, abilities, and diversities; however, we all share a common bond of being, by varying degrees, Slovenian-Americans. As one of the founding members, I share a love of the Slovenian culture and want to see our Slovenian culture be a part of our generation including our children and grandchildren.

Achieving this goal within the metropolitan area of St. Paul and Minneapolis proves to be challenging. Like so many other ethnic organizations, the TCS is having a difficult time attracting our children and grandchildren in activities that are unique to our Slovenian ethnicity. With school activities, sports schedules and finding quality family time, rarely do we get the opportunity to involve our children/grandchildren. Meeting once a month on the third Saturday (morning) draws roughly thirty members with an average age in the 60’s. Rarely will one see children/grandchildren at our meetings, even if the meeting theme would be interesting for a youthful audience. This generation gap will be a continuing challenge for the next ten years and will continue to be a challenge for the Slovenian Union of America at the national level.

Another issue that the TCS has experienced during its short ten year existence is a fixed meeting place. Historically, Slovenians on the Iron Range would meet regularly at the “Slovenian Home” in cities like Chisholm and Ely. Other Slovenians would meet, usually on Sunday afternoon, in the Catholic Church halls. Today, finding a regular meeting place for the TCS has become an issue. There is a heavy demand for public meeting places such as libraries and community centers. Rarely can you rent space long term, let alone pay a rental fee that a small organization can afford. We were fortunate to have the Nectary restaurant for approximately five years and rent free thanks to Andrew Perčič and Mary Perčič Bernard. For the next three years we met at the Little Venetian restaurant in Roseville and for the last two years we have met at the New Brighton Community Center, but NOT rent free! The community center has, however, provided enough space for our growing membership as well as expanded programs.

Another problem that the TCS continues to face is the storage of digital and non-digital (paper) historical records and large props. Under the direction of Liz Miller, our recording secretary, we have a centralized picture library of photos that have been taken over the past ten years. They may not be as complete as one would like but the pictures will help bridge the gap of lost information. With the help of the Slovenian Union of America (SUA), the various branches should begin storing data in THE CLOUD. Through the efforts of Sue and Dave Rademacher, we are storing materials that were used in the Festival of Nations exhibits - items such as a hand made peč, kozalec, peace pole, paintings, background panels, and a potpourri of theme related memorabilia. This storage area (an apartment single stall garage) has been provided rent free. How long can we continue this situation?

As we proceed in tending “the garden” for the next ten years, let us hope that our membership will have new regenerating “seeds,” creative cultivating, expanded harvesting facilities, technological experimenting and above all - the love of our Slovenian ethnicity.

~ APPENDIX 1 ~

SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICAN (SWUA)  
TWIN CITIES BRANCH 109

January 16, 2005

Zivio!

I am part of a small group of Slovenians who are in the process of organizing a Twin Cities chapter of the SWUA. Please disregard the "gender" bias. We would like to have men, women, and children be members and share their Slovenian heritage. We have elected Mary Vidas as our president and at our next organizational meeting, February 26, we hope to elect other officers.

I am writing this letter with the hope that you/your family would consider joining the Twin Cities branch of the SWUA. Personally, I know that you share a love of the Slovenian culture and would like to see our Slovenian culture be a part of our generation as well as our children's and grandchildren's. We are looking forward to learning more about the Slovenian language, music, history, food, and family stories related to our culture. In addition, we would be able to be a part of the national organization and share the benefits of their long existence.

We all bring "to the table" different interests, abilities and diversities. However, we do share a common bond of being (varying degrees) Slovenian Americans. If you would like to know more about our plans, we are having a 3<sup>rd</sup> organizational meeting on Saturday, February 26, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nectary Restaurant, which is located at 3433 Broadway St. NE, Minneapolis (just one block south of I35W/Industrial Blvd. in an office building on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broadway and Industrial Blvd.) At our last meeting on January 8, we officially launched our Twin Cities branch.

Feel free to call me, Norm Setnicker, 651-777-6106 or email, [normas188@msn.com](mailto:normas188@msn.com) or President, Mary Vidas, 651-303-6005. Thank you for your consideration.

Adijo!  
Gospod Setnicker



~ APPENDIX 2 ~

HISTORY OF OFFICERS 2005-2015

\* denotes current office holder

PRESIDENT: Mary Vidas, Karen Bjorgo, Norm Setnicker, John Zakelj\*

VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Bjorgo, Jim Smrekar, Bob Grahek\*

SECRETARY: Benita Bjorgo, Mary Ann Palmer

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Jean Rolstad, Jean Podominick\*

RECORDING SECRETARY: Yvonne McComber, MaryAlice Schwanke, Jamie Monson, Liz Miller\*

TREASURER: Jerry Sherek, Yvonne McComber, Mary Ann Setnicker\*

MEMBERSHIP: Karen Bjorgo, Karl Grahek, Jean Podominick\*

WEBMASTER: Jerry Sherek, Mary Alice Schwanke\*

ZARJA REPORTER: Mary Vidas, Norm Setnicker\*



~ APPENDIX 2 ~

HISTORY OF OFFICERS 2005-2015  
(continued)

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS CHAIRS: Jim Smrekar, Jeff Martinka, Mary Medved, Sue Rademacher\*, Mike Koski\*, Marion Brezovec\*

HISTORIAN: Mary Medved

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE: Joe Kuznik, Al Sifter, Don Palkovich, Yul Yost, Andrew Perčič, Frank Medved, John Skubitz, Richard Pisa, Chuck Podominick

HONORARY MEMBERS: Senator Amy Klobuchar, Andrew Percic, Dr. Seth C. Hawkins

FIRST MEMBERS - JANUARY 8, 2005: Mary Vidas, Yul Yost, Mary Bernard, Joe Kuznik, Andrew Perčič, Norm Setnicker, Mary Ann Setnicker, Shelby Setnicker-Eschiti, Jerry Sherek, Benita Bjorgo, Karen Bjorgo



~ APPENDIX 3 ~

MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

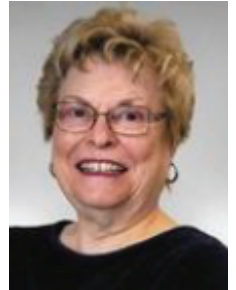
2007 – Miro Medved



Miro, a native born Slovenian, was instrumental in maintaining political connections, promoting Slovenian culture, increasing our knowledge of Slovenian history and hosting four Slovenško Petje (Sing-a-longs). He ultimately became the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia located locally in Roseville.

2008 – Mary Ann Palmer

More than just a Recording Secretary, Mary Ann kept detailed records of all Branch 109 activities and meetings, managed the membership roster, and ensured that every member was reached via email or regular mail. She helped build membership through her Slovenian contacts and brought a wealth of experience in planning and organizing. She is a 100% Slovenian transfer from Branch 23 (Ely).



2009 – MaryAlice Schwanke



Mary Alice quietly goes about the business of managing the Twin Cities Slovenians' website, adding links and levels as Internet technology advances. She helps make our Festival of Nations brochures look professional and appealing. She is a passionate family genealogist. She can be counted on to offer her talents unselfishly for our branch activities.

2010 – Frank and Mary Medved

This duo has helped form the backbone of our Branch. Mary chaired our Festival of Nations exhibit which won the Award of Excellence. She initiated a "Family Name" scrapbook identifying connections among families. Mary is 100% Irish. Frank used his engineering expertise and carpentry skills to design and build a replica of "Urban" the Slovenian peddler, a peč (Slovenian heating oven), and a wooden bench for FON exhibits. He secured a grant from the Slovenian government to help finance our FON goals. Frank also teaches our Slovenian language. Together they are consummate hosts to numerous potluck dinners with wine tasting and Slovenian homecooking.



2011 – Yvonne McComber

Gracious and generous, Yvonne served as Treasurer. She organized our first silent auction and a successful raffle at our State Convention, which gave our Branch a sound financial basis. She was always among the first to volunteer to bring a gift, make a quilt, or bake a potica for any special event.

~ APPENDIX 3 ~

MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

2012 – Sue Rademacher



Sue has been active in our Festival of Nations cultural exhibit since 2008. Sue is now Co-chair of this activity: planning, organizing, designing, constructing and recruiting. She serves as a gracious ambassador to the thousands of visitors to the booth. Two FON Awards of Excellence have been awarded to our exhibit during her work on this activity. She is also an enthusiastic Slovenian language student.

2013 – Jean Rolstad

Jean was corresponding secretary for five years. She was skilled at computer graphics and made invitations to our events look professional. She also designed and machine embroidered Slovenian words and sayings on aprons, towels and winesacks for fund raising purposes. She rarely missed board or membership meetings even though she had to drive over an hour to attend. She loved sending letters and packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afganistan.



2014 – Norm Setnicker

One of the original founders of Branch 109 of the Twin Cities Slovenians, Norm served as president for five years. During his tenure, the organization has grown and developed into a vital and active organization. He has been reporter to the Zarja, has attended National Conventions, and helped revise SUA bylaws. He is chief author of the Festival of Nations brochures and wrote this history of our organization. He is passionate about his Slovenian heritage, having taken language classes here and in Slovenia, and traveling to Slovenia several times, even trying to climb Mt. Triglav. He constantly promotes our heritage and helps maintain the vitality of the branch.



2015 – Michael Koski

Mike is affectionately called our "Slovenski Suomalainen". His father, Harold, was 100% Finnish; his mother, Pat (Sayovitz) Koski is 100% Slovenian. He grew up in Ely, Minnesota, where his mother is a member of Branch 23, SUA. For the past 33 years, he has been a practicing pharmacist and is a member of the University of MN Alumni Assn., MN Pharmacists Assn., Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity, and the Ely-Winton Historical Society. He and his wife Judy have three children, Phil, Erin, and Paul. Mike has been the co-chair of the Festival of Nations committee for the past 5 years. He is instrumental in organizing all the volunteers for this seminal activity and has inspired involvement in, and appreciation for, our Slovenian heritage.





## FESTIVAL OF NATIONS PARTICIPATION

Each year thousands of students and adults visit the Festival of Nations during the first week of May and enjoy the many cultural exhibits. Students will visit each cultural booth and get the "passports" stamped with a particular ethnic seal. Many ask to get their names translated into a particular country's language. In addition a tri fold brochure which describes the current year's theme of the Festival is passed out. An educational brochure which highlights the FON theme is given out and serves as an educational tool about Slovenia.

### 2008 – Art and Architecture



Samples of bobbin lace, word carvings, dolls, and beehive panels, along with a kozolec joined to a painting and a full size peč were featured in the booth.

Joanna Pucel, Jean Smith, and Marge Pryately pictured in our first FON exhibit.

### 2009 – Inventors and innovators (Award of Excellence)

Yul Yost's ancient wooden wheel was featured. Photo cards of Slovenian scientists and inventors were handed out.

### 2010 – Folklore, Legends and Heroes (Award of Excellence)

Lifelike statues and pictures portrayed the Kurent, the Ljubljana dragon from the legend of Jason and the Argonauts, the Zlatorog, and Martin Krpan.

### 2011 – Marketplaces of the World

A fun feature of this exhibit was the aljažev stolp. Honey, Elan skis, loaves of bread, wine, grapes and walnut potica were displayed as merchandise. Picture cards of Euro coins were handouts.

## FESTIVAL OF NATIONS PARTICIPATION

### 2012 – Celebrations and Events

The Festival of the Old Vine, celebrating the 400 year old grape vine in Maribor – the oldest in the world – was celebrated. The festival also features beekeeping, with its beehive panels and honey. Rich Samec's daughters wore the kranjska sivka costume.



### 2013 – Children, Our Past and Our Future

Paintings of children enjoying Kurentovanje, winter skiing, and carrying butarica were displayed. These were painted by Sue Rademacher and Tom Moren. Sveti Miklautz in full costume stood guard.

### 2014 – Peace Among the People

“May Peace Prevail on Earth” (Naj Mir Zavlada Svetu) is written on the four sides of the peace pole in Slovenian and English that was the highlight of the booth. Our pole was made by Miro Medved. Member and peace advocate, the late Karl J. Grahek, who had a peace pole in the front yard at his home, was commemorated. Also featured was Father Pedro (Peter) Opeka, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

### 2015 – International Arts

Our exhibit incorporated arts and ethnicity by featuring beehive panels, a kozolec, Idrijan bobbin lace making, and the postcards and paintings of Maksim Gaspari.



## MUSIC FEATURED AT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

At most membership meetings, Mary Ann Palmer introduces a Slovenian tune with sheet music, lyrics and translation, accompanied at times by Rich Samec on his button box or by a recorded version. Sometimes the piece is a traditional folk tune; sometimes a modern rendition. Introducing music is a great way for the members to hear and speak the language and also learn something about our heritage.

Some of the favorite melodies include:

- “Bod Moja” Be Mine
- “En Hribčex Bom Kupil” A Hillock I Will Buy
- “Gor Čez Jezero” Up Past the Lake
- “Jaz Pa Ti Pa židana Marela Under a Silk Umbrella
- “Kol’kr Kapljic, Tol’ko Let” Live Long, Live Well
- “Moja Dekle Je Še Mlada” My girl is Young
- “Ne Grem Domov” I Shan’t Go Home
- “Pod Mojem Okencem” Under My Window
- “Siva Pot” Country Road (Slovenian version of John Denver’s “Country Roads”)
- “V Dolini Tihi” In the Quiet Valley

And we always sing:

- “Vse Najboljše Za Te” Happy Birthday to You

Christmas favorites are:

- “Glej, Zvezdice Božje” Look the Heavenly Stars
- “Sveta Noč” Silent Night
- “V Prežimo Sani” Jingle Bells

National Slovenian Songs:

- “Slovenija, Odkod Lepote Tvoje” Slovenia, what is the source of your beauty?
- “Zdravljica” Slovenian national anthem based on France Prešeren poem

SELECT ACTIVITIES OF YUGOSLAV AMERICAN SOCIETY  
CULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH SLAVS

Initiated by Jim Klobuchar in an article for the Minneapolis Star Tribune, folks with Yugoslavian ancestry were invited to participate in a new organization called Yugoslav American Society.

Started in 1988 and disbanded in 1995. In 1992, after Yugoslavia disintegrated and each state became independent, the group changed its name to Cultural Society of South Slavs.

Each year, the group focused on three major activities:

- February dinner dance
- Festival of Nations cultural booth
- Fall membership picnic

Walnut poticas were raffled off at events to raise funds for student scholarships. Four \$500 scholarships were awarded throughout the years.

The Festival of Nations Award of Excellence was won twice, in 1990 and 1991. The themes were “Weddings” and “Fairy Tales and Fables”.

Special events promoted by the club included:

“At Freedoms Gate”, a festival promoted by Governor Rudy Perpich, State Capital in 1990

Guests from Yugoslavian Government – 1990

Miloš Krstić, Asst. Sec. Foreign Affairs

Zevko Pregl – Vice Prime Minister

Mihajlo Petlovske – Asst. to Pregl

Boris Skapin – Asst. Sec. Finance

Peter Soljak – Consulate

Croatian Poet – Nada Blazevic – 1993

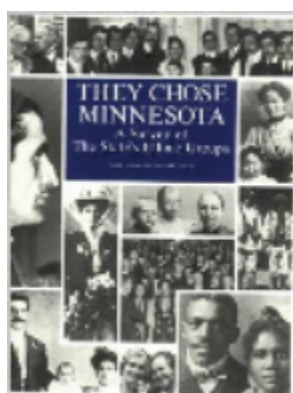
Ely Slovenian Choir – 1993

Dr. Diana Miskova talked about Bulgaria

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Mirjam Milharèè Hladnik contributed the research for: “Historical and Narrative Perspective of Slovenian Women, Migrants Experiences, Social Networking, Gender Priorities, and Questions of Identity”, pp. 113-136.



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Photo albums featuring the Yugoslav-American Club, archived by Veronica Boucher and turned over to Twin Cities Slovenians





[WWW.TWINCITIESSLOVENIANS.ORG](http://WWW.TWINCITIESSLOVENIANS.ORG)

