

Vesel majski dan!

Welcome to spring ... a spring possibly unlike any we have experienced. We hope this finds you in good health – coping with the new challenges before us, but enjoying this unique time of the year.

May Day Tradition



It takes many hands to help erect the May pole each year. The tradition of putting up the May pole during the evening of April 30 is still practiced in many areas of Slovenia. A May pole is crafted from a pine tree which the young boys of the village are responsible for finding and cutting down. Choosing a tall tree is important., as the height of a May pole reflects the value and quality of the village — the higher the May pole, the better the village. Three or four rows of branches are to be left at the top of the tree with the greens intact. Decorated wreaths, streamers and other decorations are hung from the last row of branches. The bark

is removed from the remainder of the tree.

Announcements

2021 Calendar – Rick Pisa -- Photos due to Rick Pisa May 15, 2020

Once again we will be offering our Twin Cities Slovenians calendar for next year (2021). As such, we need your beautiful photos of Slovenia.

- They cannot be copyrighted or commercial pics.
 - As long as you have a "connection" (yours, your relatives or friends, etc.) you can "claim" them.
 - If you are lucky enough to have "old" pictures of Slovenia, we would be happy to consider them.
 - Pick your best (up to 5-6) and send as e-mail attachment to Rick Pisa rickpisa@gmail.com.
 - Please identify the location of each photo and add a brief description if you can.
 - TCS Board members will pick a cover photo and twelve monthly pics to use in our new calendar. Landscape-type (wider than tall) photos will work best. They should be of high quality (pixels), since they will be enlarged to fit 8 1/2 by 11 size.
- (By sending the photos, you agree that your name and photo may be used in our new calendar.)
- Please send photos by May 15th, 2020 to the above listed e-mail address.... You are guaranteed to have at least one of your photos in the final board selection process. Good Luck & start searching! Winners of the contest (those who have had their photos selected) and the 2021 calendar itself will be unveiled (and available for sale) in the fall of 2020. The procedure for final order and receipt of the calendars (via mail or pickup) is dependent on our Fall 2020 meeting schedule. More information will be provided when this has been finalized.

We hope again to have a "pre-order" option to allow purchasers to reserve their copies. Directions on how to pre-order your calendars and how you can get them mailed to you as an option, will be sent over the summer. The calendar sale is our major fund raiser and helps cover our costs throughout the year. Please consider contributing photos and purchasing calendars. They make excellent gifts!

Festival of Nations 2020 - Sue Rademacher



Synopsis of Festival of Nations 2020 St Paul, Minnesota:

This year, the Festival of Nations, for the 88th year was to occur the first week of May, 2020.

Our Slovenian group has been producing and manning a cultural booth at this Festival yearly, and this year would have been the 13th time we have done so.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 virus has caused the shutdown of Festival of Nations 2020 and all groupings of individuals that have the potential of uncontrolled viral spreading. Thousands of people engaged in the FON 2019, including thousands of students.

We had a group of volunteers, with Mike Koski and Sue Rademacher leading the planning this year. Others helping included Marian Brezovec and Larry Sterle. The theme was to be: “Real People, Real Stories, Our Minnesota Communities”. The focus, therefore, was on immigration past and present from cultural areas around the world to Minnesota.

A few years ago, there was an effort led by Marge Pryately to produce a 15 panel display highlighting immigration of Slovenians to Minnesota. The focus was on three major immigration times and places.

1. First immigration to central Minnesota including St. Stephen and St Anthony in the late 1800’s, which mostly was made up of farmers settling the land. These settlements were the oldest Slovenian settlements in the USA.
2. Second wave of Slovenians was during the early 1900’s to the Iron Ranges of Minnesota, and immigrants worked in the mining industry.
3. Third major wave was Slovenian immigrant displaced persons after WWII, who could not return to their native country due to persecution.

These panels were informative, beautiful, and were successfully displayed across the country.

The first display was at the Stearns History Museum in Minnesota, and further displays occurred in Duluth, the Iron Range, New York, Washington DC at the Slovenian Embassy, and last summer in Cleveland at the National Conference of the SUA.

We were planning to use 4 of the banners at the FON 2020 to highlight the three Slovenian Immigration waves into Minnesota. We also had planned to add 3D objects to our display in order to increase interest and provide a “hook” to get festival goers to come closer and see our booth.

Every year, when we produce a culture booth highlighting Slovenian culture, we provide the public with information about Slovenia and its people. Our goals have always been to “spread the good word about Slovenia” to people in the upper Midwest.

This year 2020, we must have this project canceled due to obvious health concerns. We hope we will be able to have an FON 2021 next year, and be able to use the work we have already done on this Festival Booth. We certainly appreciate all of the help we get every year from TCS members and others in the planning, constructing, setting up, and volunteering! Spending time in the booth wearing a beautiful Slovenian costume and “spreading the good word” about Slovenian culture is a wonderful experience.

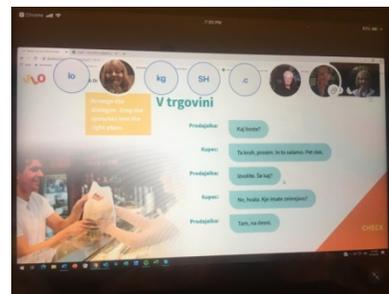
Thank you to all who have helped us in the past, and will continue to help us in the future! We cannot do this essential TCS project without your help!

Slovenian Language Class - Liz Miller



The language classes are undaunted by long distance and the social distancing required by the presence of the Coronavirus!

Saturday sessions have been led by Ksenjia Rener-Sitar from her home in Slovenia. And since the Tuesday evening classes can't meet physically, have met via Skype!



In the picture on the left, you see John Zakelj, our faithful teacher. He emails out lessons and typed notes too! We're grateful to have such technology at hand! In the picture on the right, we see the class pondering a new slide, firmly committing conversational Slovenian to memory!

Member News



We are sorry to report the loss of one of our founding members, *Al Siftar*, who passed away February 24, 2020 at the age of 91. His obituary appeared in the Star Tribune on March 1. <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000348195/>

Al was one of the original 10 members who met at the Nectary Restaurant in Minneapolis in 2005. Al became the "Slovenian Educator" for our small group. He designed and explained different aspects of Slovenia- including its geography and history. He prepared monthly topics, and gave excellent presentations, enhanced by his hand-made posters. Al was always proud of his Slovenian ancestry in the Murska Sobota area (northeast Slovenia, near the Hungarian border.)

Al was also a fan of the Julian H. Sleeper House and their collections. The following was submitted by Dr. Seth Hawkins regarding the Siftar family gift to the Julian H Sleeper House:

The Julian H. Sleeper House Museum, and its permanent Special Exhibition on the History and Culture of Slovenia, has recently catalogued and archived a significant legacy gift of scholarly materials from the estate of Al Siftar. His widow, Fran Siftar, now 93, said that he clearly and unequivocally stated these intentions.

The Siftars visited the JHSH in 2004, and he soon afterward sent an email to his colleagues, strongly urging that they visit the JHSH, not only for the Slovenian Exhibition, but for all of the specialized collections. A copy of this document has been filed by the JHSH.

Mr. Siftar later served at least two years as a board member of the Twin Cities Slovenians. His interest in historical geography as a teaching device was enacted with enthusiasm and scholarly expertise. Portions of the Siftar Papers, in accordance with American Alliance of Museums protocol, comprising duplicate documents and specialties inconsistent with goals of the JHSH, have been given to Twin Cities Slovenians to use as they see fit.

JULIAN H. SLEEPER HOUSE
MUSEUM • 1864 • ST. PAUL, MN. •
66 ST. ALBANS STREET SOUTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55105

Dr. Seth Hawkins

Thoughts and images of Spring....

*Fresh flowers will spread fragrance far and near,
Like roses when winter's passed away,
And spring displays its marvelous array,
While through the trees white scattered blossoms peer.*

*The bees hum in the air sun-drenched and clear,
The shepherd's up by golden break of day,
Loud trills the nightingale on many a spray –
All nature is aglow with joyful cheer.*

France Prešeren (from *A Wreath of Sonnets*):



If you have news to share – or a subject you would be interested in, please contact us at:

TCS Website: <https://twincitiesslovenians.org/>

Find us on Facebook: **Twin Cities Slovenians**

Membership and Newsletter email: **TCSLO2013@gmail.com**