

Dober Dan!

Hello to our Twin Cities Slovenian community! Although our spring events have been cancelled and we cannot get together to share stimulating presentations, conversation and delicious treats, we hope we can remain connected – at a safe social distance – through this newsletter, The Twin Cities Slovenian.

We will do our best to continue distributing the *Slovenian* regularly, at least until we can resume our monthly get-togethers. Meanwhile, we wish you good health and happiness; and hope to resume our meeting schedule as soon as possible.

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

Announcements

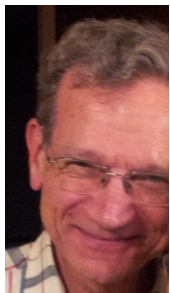
Cancellations – The following 2020 TCS events have been cancelled. Watch for communication on new and rescheduled activities when social gatherings are safe.

- March 21 – TCS Membership Meeting
- April 18 – TCS Membership Meeting
- May 1 – 3 – Festival of Nations
- May 18 – TCS End of Year Get-Together

2021 Calendar – The TCS 2021 Calendar and associated photo contest are on hold while we figure out new logistics... but don't throw away those beautiful Slovenian photos yet. More updates will be coming soon.

Member Directory – The Member Directory will be distributed by mail in April.

Slovenian Language Class - John Zakelj



Slovenian language classes continue via videoconferencing.

Last fall, the Twin Cities Slovenians had record participation in a language class led by visiting professor Dr. Ksenija Rener Sitar. After she returned to Slovenia, we began connecting with her via Skype. That was great preparation for the current stay-at-home situation. Saturday March 26, we had 13 people on video conference with Ksenija. We learned about the current situation in Slovenia (they have plenty of toilet paper!) - and we learned some great Slovenian words.

Member News

Welcome our 2020 new members!

Terry Banovetz-Gerst
Christine Ellis
Lori Makela

Gerry McGrane
John Mihelic
Rachel Pechauer
Ron Pechauer

Board of Directors

- **Cindy Gauthier** is leaving the Board. We thank Cindy for her service on the board and her many hours greeting and collecting admission at our Membership Meetings. We will miss you!
- **Rich Samec** is joining the Board in April. Welcome, Rich!!

In Memoriam

We lost two of our special members in 2020. We will miss them and extend our condolences to their families.

- Elaine Zimmerman February 8, 2020
- Roger Boucher January 4, 2020

Member of the Year - Liz Miller



Congratulations to Liz Miller on being chosen the 2020 Member of the Year! Lizette (Skull) Miller grew up in Duluth, MN. She is half Slovenian, of mixed Slovenian and Scandinavian ancestry. A lifelong member of KSKJ and long-time member of SUA, she was originally a member of Branch 33 in Duluth, where she was the recording secretary. Liz grew up attending Slovenian activities, learning a few songs for holiday parties. As an adult, she and her father sang with the Slovenian Singers, a group her cousin Sue started. The photo (left) is of Liz and her father at an event where they sang in Chisholm, MN. He died not long after. Living in the metro, she found the Twin Cities Slovenians group and soon became an active member. Among her many contributions: Serving on the Board of

Directors as Recording Secretary for 7 years; demonstrating the making of apple strudel with her mother; keeping TCS photo albums, notes and various archives. Liz is always ready to lend a hand, help when needed and make large quantities of strudel for events.

Liz has been participating in the Slovenian language classes offered by TCS. Her genealogy work connected her to many relatives. Liz and her son John traveled to Slovenia this past September and met many relatives, connecting with those lost for two generations. We look forward to Liz sharing her experiences at a TCS meeting soon.

Liz is a cytotechnologist at University of Minnesota Health, in Minneapolis. She assists in collection of small biopsy material in OR and other suites, and screens specimens for cancer. She has been a Den Leader, the Advancement Coordinator for Boy Scouts. She has held several offices including president in the Minnesota Society of Cytology.



Vesele velikonočne pravnika!

Finding Our Slovenian Roots, from America to Europe - Liz Miller



With the cancellation of our March meeting, we missed a great presentation by Liz Miller. Her subject would have been her genealogy work and travels in Slovenia. The good news is that we will be able to attend her presentation at a future TCS meeting when our schedule resumes. In the mean time, Liz has shared with us a short summary and some great pictures. Thanks, Liz!!

Liz's paternal grandfather's family emigrated from Slovenia (then part of Austria) to Duluth in 1919. Her paternal grandmother's family emigrated in 1898 and Angela (grandmother) was born in Eveleth. Angela passed away in 1941, and with her, much of the family history and stories. It took a lot of work over several years, but she found family here, Texas and made a trip in 2019 to meet family in Slovenia. Her presentation will show how she solved the puzzles connected with this photo of her grandparents 1921 wedding, and culminating in this large gathering in Gradez, Slovenia in 2019.



Our 50th Wedding Anniversary - Miro Medved



We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year. (officially July 26). Our sons orchestrated a great celebration at our home where they invited many friends and relatives. There were also some family-only events.

Karen suggested that we should also renew our wedding vows in the Trboje, Slovenia church where Miro was baptized. During a FaceTime conversation with some of our friends in Slovenia we mentioned that possibility and it was immediately and enthusiastically endorsed. Of course we were visualizing renewing our vows during a Sunday mass and

then going to the gostilna in Trboje to celebrate with our invited friends. It turned out to be much more than that. As we retrieved our luggage at the Ljubljana airport we could hear music. When we entered the lobby, we were greeted by the Krila singing group, including an accordion, welcoming us to Slovenia. This packed the lobby because it attracted other passengers who stopped to see and hear what was going on.

During the next several days we were treated to a number of activities, including an exclusive chartered flight over a large portion of beautiful Slovenia. We were invited to a number of our friends homes for picnics and, of course, singing. Karen also was asked to play piano at two Krila concerts.

Our 50th Wedding Anniversary - Continued

The ceremony was not on Sunday as we had visualized. It was on Saturday at a specially arranged mass. We were instructed to get dressed in our formal attire and be ready by 3:00 pm. We were also told that under no circumstances were we to come out of our room until Urša knocked on our door. We adhered to those instructions. Urša knocked on our door a few minutes after 3:00 and led us out to the court yard. What a surprise! We were greeted by a large number of friends singing a wedding song. Karen was handed a beautiful bouquet and a corsage was pinned on Miro's lapel. A fancy carriage with a team of horses, driven by a well-dressed coachman, and an accordion player were waiting to take us to church. The church is about a half mile from the gostilna so we went by many homes. People came out of their homes to wave to us.

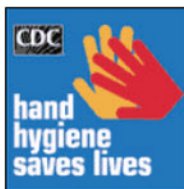


When we arrived at the church there was a large group of people gathered outside to greet us. We waited there for the presiding priest, who was held up in heavy traffic and running late. His arrival was



another surprise - it was Archbishop Uran! After everyone entered the church, Archbishop Uran led us into the church to the sound of great organ music and choir. The ceremony was beautiful with great organ, violin and guitar music. The choir sang many of our favorite hymns and several friends came up to the altar and talked about their relationship with us. They spoke in Slovenian and in English for Karen's benefit. Archbishop Uran gave a very moving homily about Miro and his family's escape from Slovenia (part of Yugoslavia at that time). He also spoke (in both Slovenian and English) about Karen's and Miro's family and how Karen embraced the

Slovenian heritage. During the time when the choir was singing one of our favorite songs - which we sang every evening with our Slovenian friends - Damijan Močnik, a top Slovenian composers and a choral director, handed Miro a personally autographed musical score dedicated to Karen and Miro on their 50th wedding anniversary.



Ostanimo zdravi!

