

Twin Cities Slovenians – SUA Branch 109 – Annual Report 2012

About us – from www.twincitiesslovenians.org

The Twin Cities Slovenians (TCS) group was formed in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota, as Branch 109 of the Slovenian Union of America (SUA). The Twin Cities Slovenians welcome men, women and children as members. If you have Slovenian heritage or are a friend of the Slovenian culture we invite you to join our social group. 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 very beautiful country, the Twin City Slovenians welcome your inquiry and membership. SUA 109 Twin Cities Slovenians - where there's plenty of potica, good will and fun to go around.

Monthly programs and membership meetings every month except June and August:

- January – Annual dinner with Triglav slide show by Norm Setnicker
- February – Prešeren Day poetry reading at Sleeper House
- February - former Congressman James Oberstar talked about his Slovenian heritage
- March – Chuck Podominick – Slovenian Genealogy
- April – Festival of Nations prep and Slovenia slide show by Sue and Dave Rademacher
- May – Chuck Debevec – Slovenian-American music
- July – Joe Valencic and Mirjam Hladnik – presentation of their film “100% Slovenian: Stories of Slovenian Women”
- September – special celebration of Bishop Baraga at the Baraga Cross on the North Shore with a number of speakers and Slovenian / Ojibwe songs
- October – Eleanor Ostman – Confessions of a Professional Eater
- November – Martinovanje, traditional celebration / party for St. Martin’s day
- December - Liz Miller – Slovenian cooking demonstration
- Attendance ranged from 20 – 50, average about 35
- Plans for 2013

Festival of Nations – May 3 – 6, 2012:

- Beautifully decorated Slovenian booth presented the Maribor Festival of the Old Vine as one example of notable Slovenian festivals, in line with the overall Festival of Nations theme for 2012
- Staffed by 33 TCS volunteers dressed in traditional Slovenian costumes
- Since beekeeping is an important part of the Old Vine Festival and Slovenian culture generally, the booth included a display of Slovenian bee products and the volunteers included two charming youngsters in a Slovenian bee costume
- Handouts included an attractive and informative all-new brochure describing the Old Vine Festival and Slovenian beekeeping
- The booth was enjoyed by thousands of people of all ages and provided a wonderful opportunity to interact with other cultures and traditions
- This year’s TCS booth was featured on the cover of the national *Zarja* magazine and described in articles in both *Zarja* and the *Slovenian-American Times*
- TCS Festival co-chairs: Sue Rademacher (dnrsmr1221@yahoo.com) and Mike Koski (mhkoski@comcast.net)

Appointment of Honorary Consul

- In 2012, Slovenia appointed long-time TCS member Miro Medved as honorary consul
- Miro and Karen hosted receptions for Slovenian ambassador Roman Kirn and Slovenian minister Ljudmila Novak

Publicity

- Major articles and regular updates from TCS reporter Norm Setnicker appeared in almost every issue of the *Zarja* magazine and the *Slovenian-American Times*
- *Slovenian-American Times* featured articles about Bishop Baraga and the Baraga Cross by TCS member Yul Yost

Slovenian Language Study Group

- Weekly Slovenian language study groups at St. Francis Cabrini Church: January – May, October - December
- Lead teacher Frank Medved and grammarian Joe Kuznik accommodated all skill levels
- Classes included conversations with visitors from Slovenia and an opportunity to become familiar with modern-day Slovenian culture and customs
- About 20 regular attendees
- Class coordinator: Mary Kotchevar (kotc0006@umn.edu)

Website

- Webmistress Mary Alice Schwanke continually updated the public website to post announcements of events, pictures and useful links
- She also created a pilot members-only site for meeting minutes and other information

Maintaining Connections with Related Organizations

- Supported the Friends of the U of M Immigration History Research Center
- Supported SUA Scholarship Fund

Membership

- Membership is separate for TCS and SUA; membership in one does not include membership in the other
- Membership fluctuates, about 80 in TCS and 80 in SUA (about 10 of each of those are not members in the other)
- Membership records were maintained by Karl Grahek and membership correspondence by Jean Rolstad. Unfortunately, both have health problems now and we are in urgent need of new volunteers.

Volunteers Needed for 2013

- Presenters who are familiar with any aspect of Slovenia: culture, tradition, geography, genealogy, cooking, history, you name it!
- People who can line up presenters and help set up programs
- A photographer and/or videographer to record presentations and other events
- Board members and new officers to run for election Fall 2013, including:
 - A membership secretary to keep track of members and send renewal notices
 - A correspondence secretary to send meeting notices and other communications to members
- Volunteers to set up and staff the Festival booth May 2 – 5, 2013
- Someone to act as TCS liaison to the U of M Immigration History Research Center
- People to work on fundraisers, including:
 - Selection of photos for 2014 TCS Calendar
 - Sales and distribution of 2014 TCS Calendar
- Volunteers to help with National Baraga Days in Duluth, October 4 – 5, 2013
- To volunteer, contact John Zakelj: zakelj@cs.com