

RETURNING TO SLOVENIA & OUR FAMILIES

COUSIN JOHN STEARLE AND I RETURN, OUR FIRST TRIP WAS SEPTEMBER, 2019.

AND WHILE IN EUROPE, I SPENT TIME IN MUNICH AND SALZBURG.

TCS, JAN 2023



A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON MY GRANDPARENTS

- My grandmother was Angela Sterle, Angela was born in Eveleth but raised in Slovenia. Angela had a brother, Jacob, was also born in Eveleth. When the family visited in Slovenia, he returned to Minnesota (was a baby) and Angela remained. Angela returned to the US in 1919.
- John Skull was born in Slovenia and emigrated. John and Angela married in 1922.
- Angela passed away in 1941, we lost track of her brother Jacob. Her father Jacob died in 1902.
- Fortunately, Angela listed the home address in Gradež in the passenger list.
- I found one of Jacob 2's grandsons, John Stearle, and we worked on the family genealogy together.
- For my Skull side, the communities listed on documents varied. I trolled people on Facebook until I hit paydirt!

ANGELA WITH HER GRANDPARENTS, PROBABLY FIRST
COMMUNION PHOTO, TAKEN AT UNION HOTEL
ANGELA AS AN ADULT IN LJUBLJANA BEFORE COMING TO USA



THE STERLE KOZOLEC, MORE THAN 250 YEARS OLD. ORIGINAL
THATCHED ROOF, WITH DIRA.
FINDING THIS KOZOLEC ON WIKI WAS KEY TO FINDING THE
FAMILY!



NEŽA SKULJ WITH THE YOUNGER, ANNA, JOSEF AND KRISTINA, PROBABLY IN LIPA.
THE REST OF THE SKULJ FAMILY IS IN AMERICA. SHE WAS DETAINED IN ELLIS
ISLAND WHEN EMIGRATING WITH THE 3 CHILDREN.

JOHN AND ANGELA'S WEDDING PHOTO IN DULUTH, 1921



DAYS 1-2.5 MUNICH

MARIENPLATZ AND NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE



City hall with
glockenspiel, 1908.
Every 2 or 3 times per
day, a 12-15 minute
with 32 characters.
The Bavarian knight
always wins!



Frauenkirche, started 1468





A delicious Bavarian lunch at Augustiner in Marienplatz



LOVE THE BREAKFAST BUFFETS! NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE WAS THE
INSPIRATION FOR THE DISNEY CASTLE!
WHILE IN MUNICH, I WAS TOLD THAT THE MATRIARCH, GABRIJELA PASSED AWAY.
NEXT STOP: SALZBURG





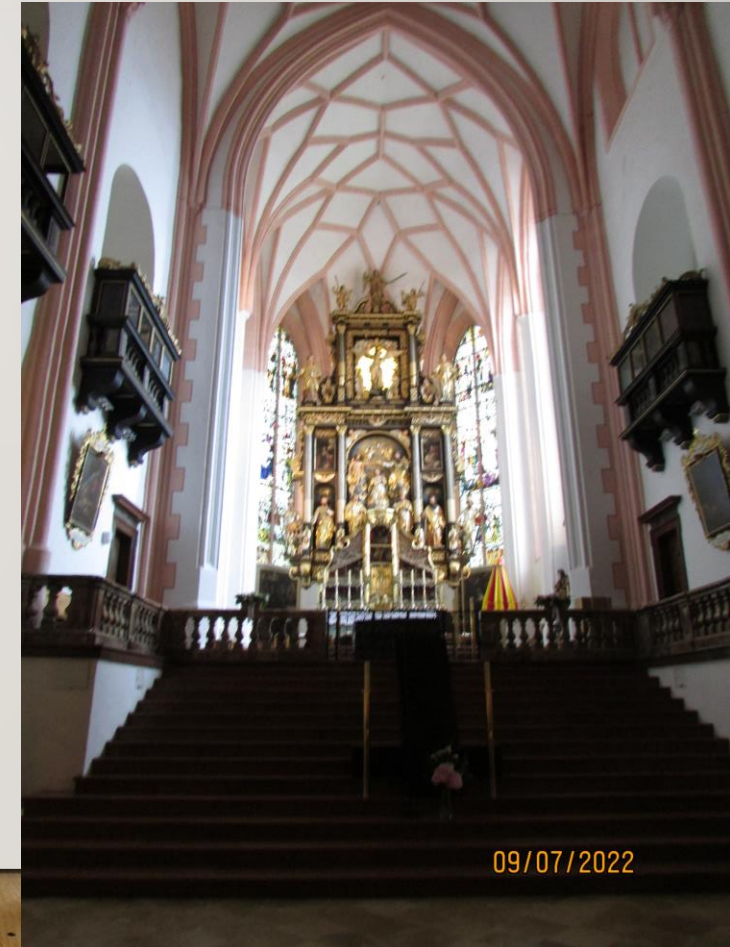
I went by train to Salzburg, and stayed in a seminary in the old city. The view from the rooftop and breakfast. I booked the seminary through [Monasterystays.com](https://www.monasterystays.com)



I LOVE TRYING THE LOCAL CUISINE.
HERE'S A SACHER TORTE (INVENTED IN SALZBURG) AND VEAL SCHNITZEL



SOUND OF MUSIC TOUR, WAS SO FUN! THE GAZEBO, SCHLOSS LEOPOLDSKRON, MONSEE



MOZART TOUR



I CUT A DAY OFF SALZBURG, GOT ON A BUS TO ATTEND GABRIJELA'S FUNERAL. JOHN STEARLE JOINED ME. GABRIJELA GREETING US IN 2019.



GABRIJELA'S FAMILY AND THE ROSARY



BREAKFAST AT BENJAMIN'S

When planning the trip, one thing I wanted was to have coffee with Gabrijela. Benjamin and his wife made me a breakfast, with coffee as she made it. So sweet.



COMING TO SLO A
DAY EARLY GOT ME A
SPOT WORKING AT
THE FAMILY VINEYARD
IN TREBNJE!

The vineyard is from Silve's
family (Benjamin's wife) family.



THE FAMILY HAS 10 ROWS, THERE ARE NO FENCES
BETWEEN OWNERS



BENJAMIN USES A REFRACTOMETER/REFRACTOMETER TO CHECK SUGAR CONTENT.THE WHITE GRAPES ARE READY. HE IS GIVING US SOME INSTRUCTION





Alenka and I chatting and picking grapes.
We then call “brenta” and we dump our pails into the
larger container to go down the hill.



AFTER WORKING, A BBQ AND RELAXING TIME WITH THE FAMILIES



THE GRAPES ARE PUT IN THE PECLJALNIK, TO
SEPARATE THE FRUIT FROM THE STEMS



THE PROCESS



- Squeeze juice and put in a barrel. After 24 hours separate juice from sediment.
- For juice, boil to 95 C. and bottle juice.
- For wine, pour into clean container and add yeast. Within 3 weeks the temperature rises, so need to control it to 20-22 C
- After fermentation, the young wine is poured into a clean container and sulfur added to purify the wine.

“MARTINOVANJE IS THE PERFECT TIME TO TRY NEW WINE” SAYS BENJAMIN

Usually ready in 1.5-2 months time

The labels are:

Franc, for Benjamin's father-in-law (Silve's father)

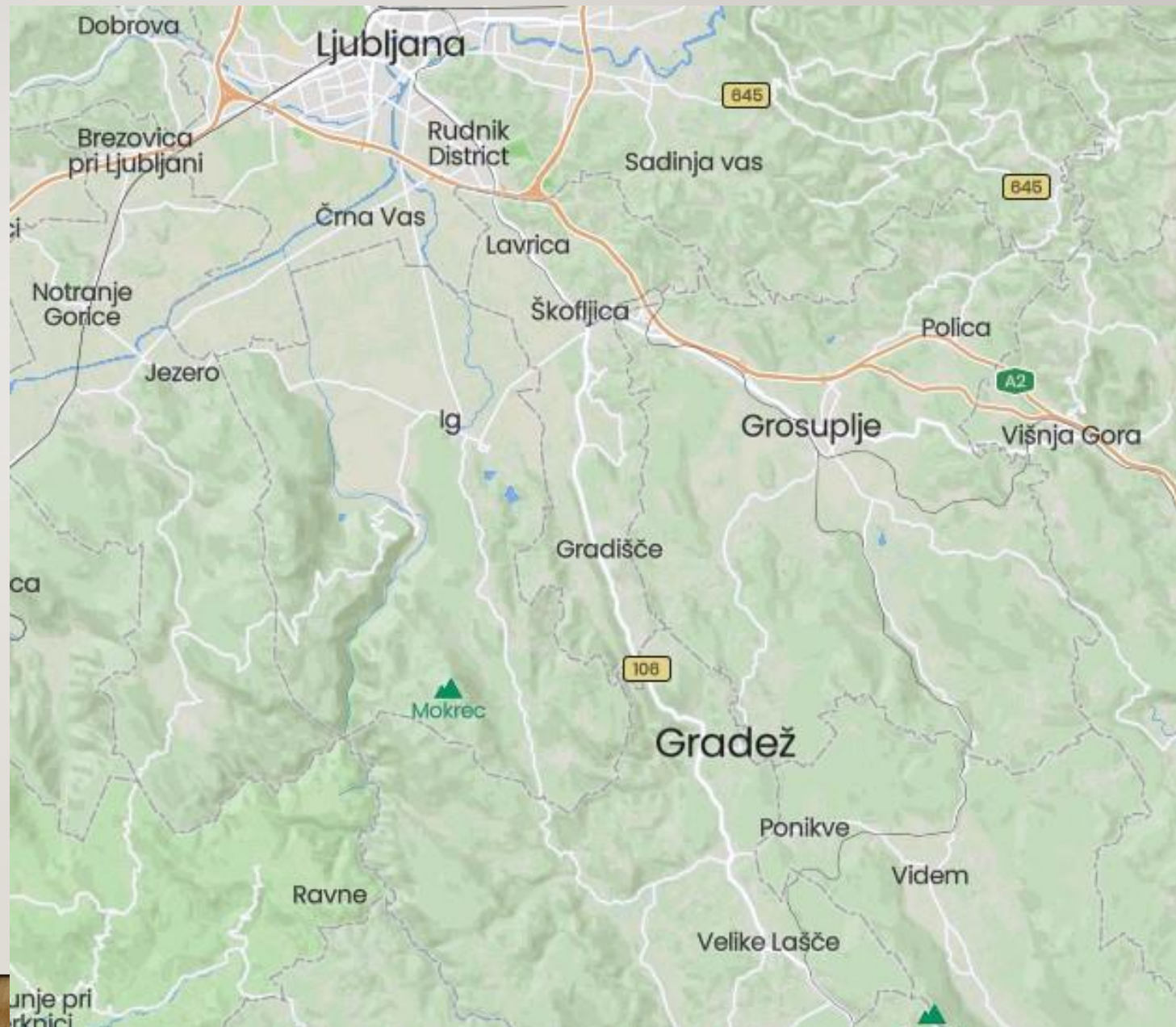
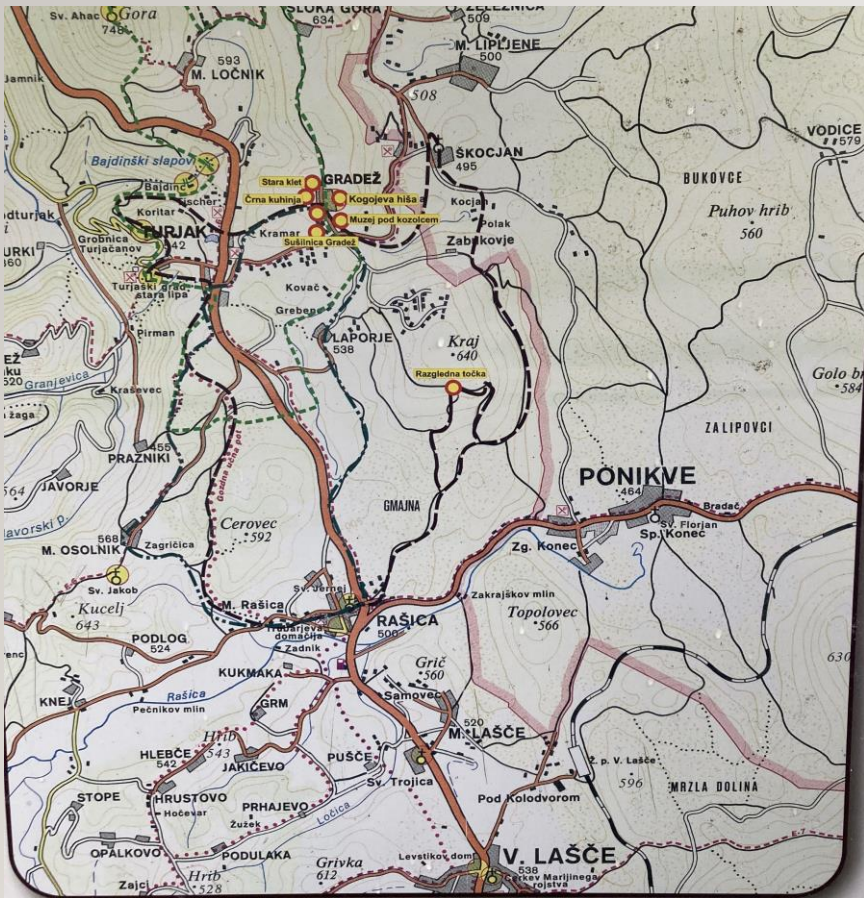
Stefan, for Benjamin and siblings father



IN LJUBLJANA: OUR APARTMENT NEAR THE TRAIN STATION



The families are from this area,
south of Ljubljana, north of
Velike Lašče



SUNDAY-THE SKULL SIDE, SEEING THE ANTON ZADNIK FAMILY OF KAPLANOVO



WE WENT OVER GENEALOGY RECORDS AND I
GAVE THEM A BOOK ON THE SKULJ IN AMERICA.



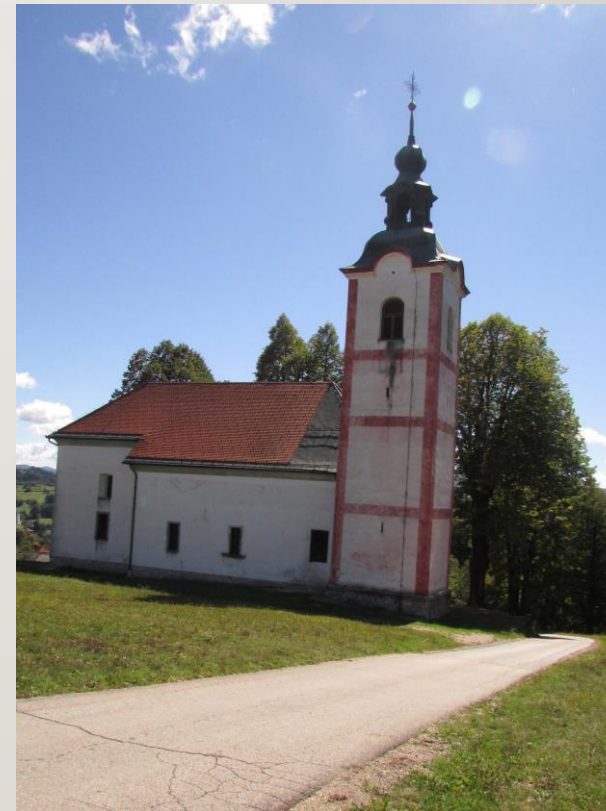
LOVELY CARVED BEAM OVER THE BARN DOOR
THE TOPLAR, OLDEST IN SLOVENIA, THE DATE 1772 WAS CARVED WHEN
ADDED ONTO. IT'S IN THE BOOK "EXTRAORDINARY SLOVENIA".



THE MILL WORKS



FRENCH NAPOLEONIC CHAPEL & SLEVICI WITH ZADNIKS



A LITTLE SIGHTSEEING TOWARDS THE COAST;A LITTLE CONNECTING
WITH FAMILY IN A MEDITERRANEAN AREA
OLIVES,AND ITALY IN THE DISTANCE. OF COURSE, COFFEE!



ON THE WAY TO IZOLA WE VISITED THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF
HRASTOVLJE.
BUILT IN 12-14TH CENTURIES, FORTIFIED AGAINST THE TURKS.



FRESCOES WERE PAINTED IN 15TH CENTURY, PART OF BIBLIA PAUPERUM
THEY WERE COVERED OVER AND DISCOVERED IN 1949.
THE DANCE OF THE MACABRE IS TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS.



PIRAN SALT FLATS



A BEAUTIFUL TIME IN IZOLA



ON TO THE STYRIAN REGION, NORTHEAST OF LJUBLJANA. PERNOVO



BOGRAČ AND STRUKLJI



PTUJ, THE OLDEST RECORDED CITY IN SLOVENIAN HISTORY,
INHABITED SINCE THE STONE AGE.
FIRST MENTION IN ROMAN RECORDS IS IN AD 69.



CLOCK TOWER, ORPHEUS MONUMENT (2ND CENT)



FUN IN THE PASSAGE, FREDERIK IV, 1440, KURENT



ALEŞ AND DAUGHTER LARA



SOME VIEWS AROUND LJUBLJANA

TAKEN ON VARIOUS DAYS

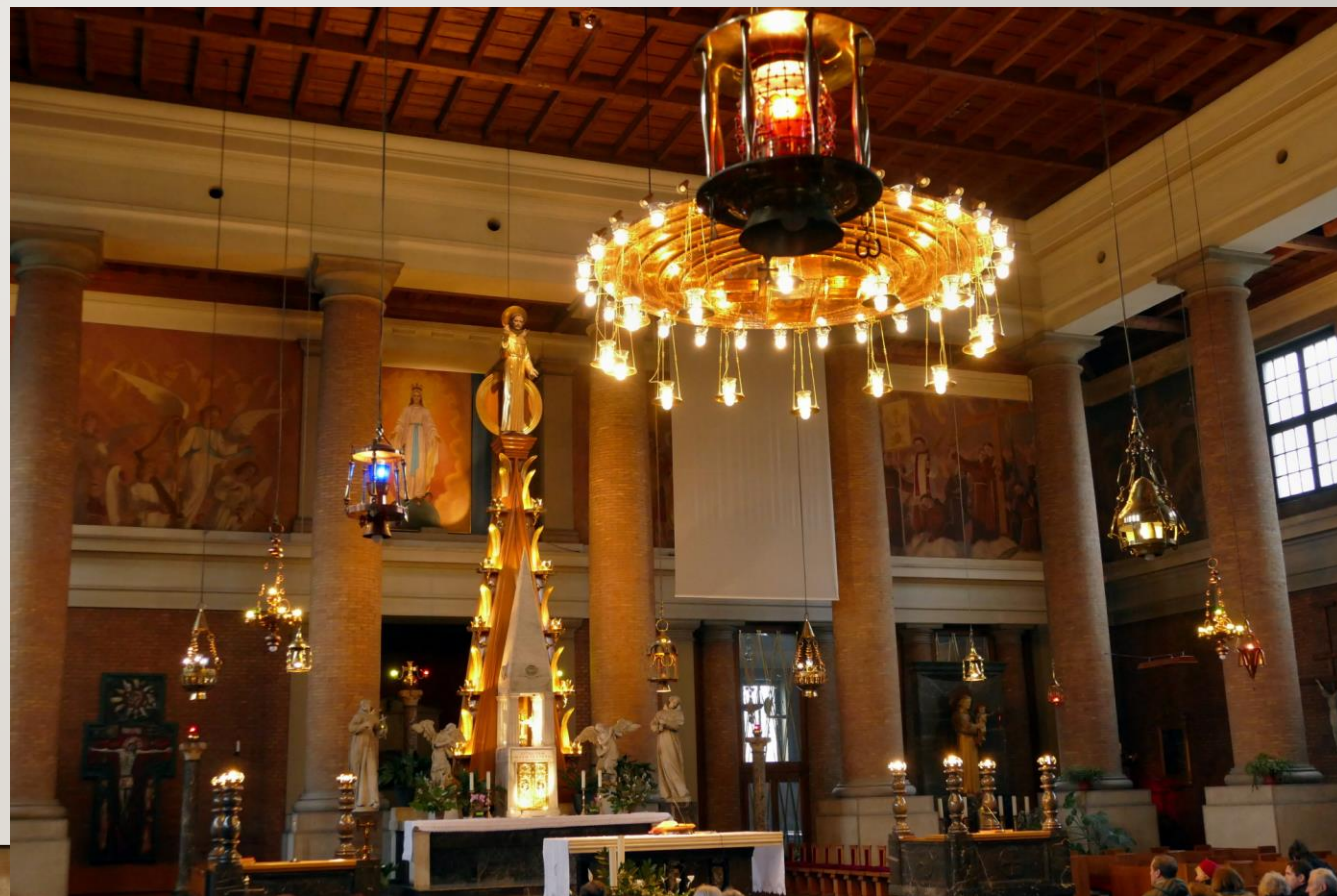
PERHAPS SOME THINGS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE



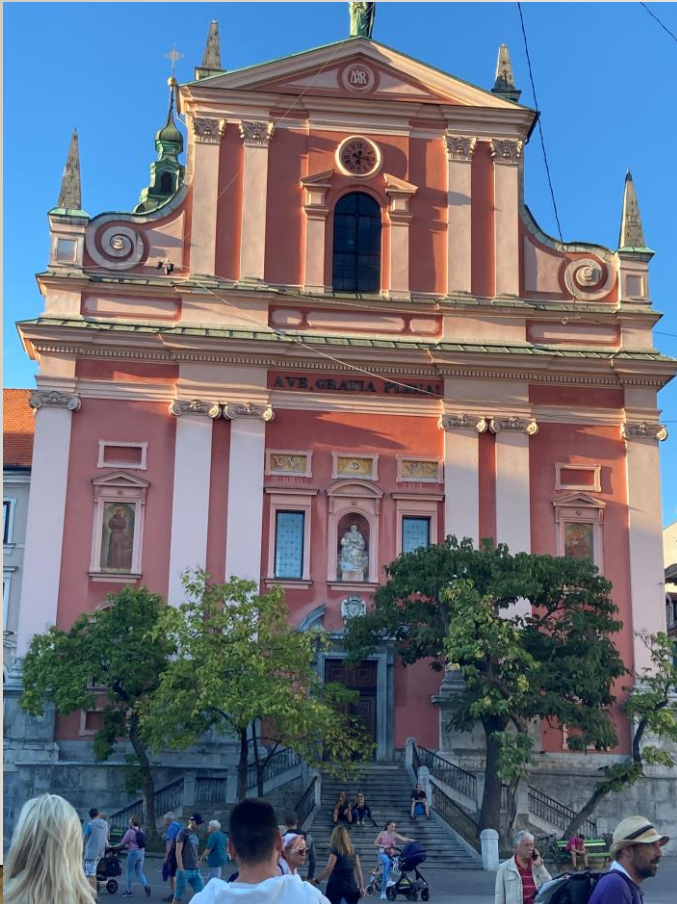
MONDAY BOŠTJAN AND I WALKED ABOUT AND VISITED A FEW CHURCHES IN LJUBLJANA



SISKA, A PLEČNIK DESIGN



CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION, 17TH CENTURY



STATUE OF PREŠEREN UNVEILED IN 1905

ROBBA FOUNTAIN, JARS REPRESENT 3 RIVERS (LJUBANICA, SAVA, KRKA RIVERS)

WAS ON A BANK NOTE UNTIL EURO. IS IN TOWN SQUARE. THE ORIGINAL IS IN NATIONAL GALLERY.



“STUMBLING STONES” *STOLPERSTEINE*

BRASS MARKERS SHOWING
THE LAST FREELY CHOSEN
RESIDENCE OF JEWS TAKEN
FROM THAT LOCATION,
THEIR DEATH DATE AND
LOCATION

I've seen these in Venice, Salzburg
and now Ljubljana, They're in 1,200
cities in 24 countries.



RASTOČE KNJIGE (OR GROWING BOOKS OF THE WORLD). 16 COUNTRIES PRESENTED THEIR MOST LITERARY TEXTS

In 2010, Finland opened its pages with the Kalevala, India with the autobiography of M. Gandhi, Ireland with the poems of WB Yeats, Norway with A Doll's House - Nora by Henrik Ibsen, and the Russian Federation with War and Peace by LN Tolstoy. In 2011, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Italy and Serbia joined the project, followed by Poland, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Slovenia and Japan until 2022.



ENTERING THE ARHIV (JOHN'S EXCITEMENT MOUNTS)



John had some books reserved for viewing.
I mainly worked on computer records.



VISITING RENATA AND FAMILY IN HLEBČE





TURJAK CASTLE

1575 BATTLE WON BY THE OTTOMAN





SUNDAY, THE WHOLE DAY SPENT AT GRADEŽ AND THE DRIED FRUIT FESTIVAL

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY (ABOUT 300 RESIDENTS) PARTICIPATES
AND DISPLAY THEIR CRAFT. OF COURSE, THERE'S FOOD AND MUSIC!



GRADEŽ 7, THE STERLE HOME, WHERE MY GRANDMOTHER ANGELA WAS RAISED



Joze Sterle still lives there, a descendent of my great grand parents. His sisters are Vida and Bernada

FIRST, A GUIDED 11 KILOMETER HIKE THROUGH THE AREA
KROFI FOR ENERGY!



AND WE'RE OFF!



RASICA, HOME OF PRIMOŽ TRUBAR, B. 1508



ŠKOCJAN THE CHURCH MY GRANDMOTHER WAS RAISED IN, AND TRUBAR WAS BAPTIZED IN!



THE ORIGINAL CHAPEL AT TRUBAR'S TIME



ON TO GRADEŽ !



OF COURSE THERE'S A TENT WITH MUSIC AND DANCING!



ANDREJ AND MARKO ARE COOKING UP A STORM



STORNO	
Šiški s kuhinjsko kruškom	por. 4,00 €
Pustre po grški	por. 8,00 €
Prošena kaša (skodelica 4 eur)	por. 4,00 €
Ajdova kaša z jurčki (skodelica 4 eur)	por. 5,00 €
Domača klobasa po grški	por. 6,00 €
Golaž	por. 6,00 €
Krača	18,00 €



VENDORS OF LOCAL HONEY AND CRAFTS



BLACK KITCHEN AND UTENSILS- USED UNTIL 1960'S



WE WERE INTERVIEWED BY A WRITER FOR TROBLA. THE ARTICLE WAS 4 PAGES WITH PHOTOS. ZDENKA REALLY CONVEYED OUR GENEALOGY PROCESS, INVOLVEMENT IN SLOVENIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND FINDING SUCH WONDERFUL RELATIVES. THE FAMILIES WERE PLEASED WITH THE ARTICLE.



FINAL DAY IN LJUBLJANA BOŠTJAN AND I WALKED TIVOLI



In the war for Slovenia 1991
Members of the Fifth PSTO Ljubljana Military Police
On June 28, 1991, through a daring assault
liberated the center for electronic functions
of the Yugoslav army on Roznik translated by John Zakelj

The last photo Boštjan took, saying maybe we'd be back in 2 years.
So kind.



NA SVIDENJE!



KAMNIK NATIONAL COSTUMES 30,000 ATTENDANCE! IT WAS DURING OUR LAST WEEKEND

This is Tilka, mother in law of our relative Bernada. Tilka participated in the parade. She is a member of a Society of National Costumes in Kamnik, wears a Gorenska costume.





Many varieties of costumes from different areas and walks of life! And such details with authentic utensils, wagon etc.

REST IN PEACE FR. BRANKO ZADNIK



THANK YOU, LIZ