

Twin Cities Slovenians

SUA Branch 109

2023 Annual Report

The Twin Cities Slovenians (TCS) was formed in Minneapolis, St. Paul and the surrounding areas as Branch 109 of the Slovenian Union of America (SUA). TCS welcomes men, women and children as members. We invite you to join our group if you have Slovenian heritage or are a friend of Slovenian culture. Our goal is to honor our Slovenian heritage through the sharing of fellowship, culture, history, music food, language, literature and genealogy activities. Come and join us if you are of Slovenian heritage, wish you were, or are just impressed by this very small and beautiful country. There's plenty of potica, good will and fun to go around. Check us out at

www.twincitiesslovenians.org.

Programs and celebrations from September 2022 to August 2023

September 2022 - Rick Pisa presented the TCS 2023 calendar and photo winners. Joe Valencic joined us in-person and presented 100% Slovenian – Stories of Slovenian Women in America. This presentation highlighted some of our members

October 2022 - No meeting room was available at NBCC, so we quickly pivoted to a zoom presentation. Anthony “Addy” Bombich shared Slovenian Genealogy – My Slovenian Family Roots. He spoke of his own research and trips and provided information to people looking to do the same.

November 2022 - We were able to celebrate Marinovanje in-person at the home of Miro and Karen Medved. It was good to gather as a group and keep the tradition of this celebration alive.

December 2022 - We did meet in-person. One of the items on the agenda was the annual election of officers. The musical group BriNotes sang beautiful Slovenian Christmas songs and folk tunes. This was followed by Hank Thunander and Mary Ann Palmer leading us in the singing of Christmas songs familiar to all.

January 2023 - In January we had a zoom presentation. Liz Miller and John Stearle shared slides and information from a recent trip to Slovenia. The title of the program was returning to Slovenia and Our Families.

February 2023 - Joe Valencic joined us via zoom and presented Easter and Springtime Traditions.

March 2023 - University of Minnesota Professor Emeritus Dr. Jack Zipes joined us as we took a deeper look at the story “Bambi”. This fascinating presentation also introduced us to the illustrations of Slovenian Alenka Sottler.

April 2023 - Member of the Year Chuck Podominick was recognized and celebrated. Sue Rademacher, Miro Medved and Norm Setnicker presented on the Slovenian Banners “Farmer, Miners, and Refugees”.

May 2023 - Clara Costello joined us from the University of Minnesota Bee Squab to celebrate “World Bee Day”. She spoke about the Bee program at the University of Minnesota and its roots in Slovenia.

August 2023 We added an event and repeated an event. We participated in the Slavic Experience 2023. We had a booth at the festival both Saturday and Sunday August 5th and 6th. It was a good opportunity for our group and we look forward to next year! We also marched in the New Brighton Stockyard Days Parade. On August 12.

Looking ahead - We have in-person meeting in September. Rick Pisa introduces the 2024 calendar and offers a quiz on "All Things Slovenian". October brings an opportunity to sing. For many years we sang a song at our membership meetings. We devote the October membership meeting for this. We will celebrate martinovanje in-person and have a Christmas gathering similar to last year in-person. There will be Zoom meetings in January and February so weather won't be an issue.

Slovenian Language Study Group

The language Class meets monthly beginning in September. For 2022-2023 enrollment was required and was limited to people who have been in the class before or who have a basic knowledge of the Slovenian Language. For 2023-2024, we have announced two classes – beginner and intermediate. No prior knowledge is required for the beginner class. There is no class fee for TCS donating members. There is a \$20 fee for non-donating members. Information regarding this class is available on our website.

Website and Facebook

Our website (www.twincitiesslovenians.org) contains important information and useful links. The website continues to be upgraded and new features added. We are in the process of testing these enhancements. TCS also has a Facebook page. This is a closed page and requires approval for access. The page contains photos from our events and other information.

Conclusion

Thank you for making the Twin Cities Slovenians a successful organization. We look forward to in-person meetings and opportunities to get together. We can always use more volunteers. Specifically, we ask members to consider signing up to bring treats to our meetings. Members who do this, do not need to pay the admission fee. We need help with the check-in process, and once again, members who sign up do not need to pay the admission fee. Please contact Sue Rademacher regarding programs you might like to see. Our membership is diverse and we look at all program requests.

On behalf of the TCS Board of Directors, I thank you for your support of the Twin Cities Slovenians.

Mike Koski

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President
Branch 109
Twin Cities Slovenians