

Twin Cities Slovenians SUA Branch 109 2024 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 2023 to August 2024

September 2023 - Rick Pisa presented the TCS 2024 calendar and photo winners. Rick also prepared and conducted a Slovenian trivia quiz. Prizes were awarded.

October 2023 - Hank Thunander played the accordion and Mary Ann Palmer served as the song leader for a program called "Remember When We Heard These Songs – Favorite Traditional Songs from Slovenia". The group did well with all the singing!

November 2023 - Due to an unforeseen health issue, we did not celebrate Martinovanje.

December 2023 - We did meet in-person for the annual election of officers. After the election, John Zakelj taught us traditional Slovenian Christmas greetings. John also spoke about his family's Christmas customs in Cleveland. We then viewed a video on how to make Slovenian Medenjaki honey spiced cookies. We enjoyed the cookies and ended the program singing Slovenian and American Christmas songs.

January 2024 - For our zoom meeting, Sue Rademacher taught us some Slovenian greetings. Then Dr. Allon Bostwick presented "The Walk of Peace". This 180- mile trail starts in the Alps and ends at the Adriatic Sea.

February 2024 - John Zakelj presented Shoemaking in Ziri, Slovenia. Several videos were shown with the presentation. This again was a zoom meeting.

March 2024 - We were back in-person at the New Brighton Community Center. Elaine Barthelemy presented Tombola (Slovenian Bingo). The program proved to be educational, fun, and very popular with the attendees.

April 2024 - Member of the Year Ruth Pechauer was recognized and celebrated. Norm and David Setnick presented "Slovenian Emigration to the Iron Range of Minnesota".

May 2024 - Mary Jo Verschay and Mike Cardinal presented "Finding Relatives in Slovenia". In addition to the presentation, handouts were given to assist people with searching and traveling.

June 2024 We met at Sue Rademacher's to celebrate our language class teacher Ksenija and her husband Joše. It was an opportunity to meet them in-person and enjoy good food and fellowship.

August 2024 We participated in the Slavic Experience 2023. We had a booth at the festival both Saturday and Sunday August 3rd and 4th. It was a good opportunity for our group and we look forward to next year!

Looking ahead - We have in-person meeting in September. We will present the 2025 calendar. We celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2025, and the calendar highlights past cover photos. Dunja Antunovic presents "Media Coverage of Slovenian Sporting Success". 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 October. For 2024-2025, there will be one combined class designed for adults and teens, with individual attention depending on your own interests and level of expertise. Since this year's class will pick up where we left off last year, we require at least basic knowledge of Slovenian. 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