

Novice

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pozdravljeni!

A very warm welcome to all of our members and friends of Club Slovenia as we all look forward to the coming year. It seems that the year 2012 has just begun, yet so much is already happening in the Club and within the other lodges that support the Bay Area's Slovene community. SNPJ's annual Pust dinner in February experienced a huge turnout with many volunteers from Club Slovenia lending a hand in the kitchen throughout the day and into the night of the event. In addition, Club Slovenia's Language Program got off to a roaring success with the start of its Winter Quarter on January 2nd. Class attendance has exceeded all of our expectations with a mixture of long-time and new members participating.

And I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the terrific job Mia Rode has done and is doing instructing the class and introducing the students to a mixture of grammar, song, poetry and history. Mia is a real treasure and deserves our heartfelt gratitude for organizing and directing the Program. Mia's efforts have also resulted in the Language Program being awarded 600 Euros (80% now and 20% later as funds become available) from the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenes Abroad for financial support of the program, which we are very grateful.

Membership in Club Slovenia appears to be increasing, thanks to the efforts of Slovenian Honorary Consul Tom Brandi. As a result of his Slovenian Film Night and Independence Day Party last year, the Club has been able to make its presence known to a broader segment of the Bay Area and many new faces are now taking part in our Club's activities. We continue to make a conscientious effort to enroll past members for the coming year. All of you should have received by now a membership renewal form in the mail asking for your continuing support and I'm pleased to report that membership renewals for 2012 have been received from most of our members. However, for those who haven't yet returned their renewal form and dues, I hope you will do so shortly. This will allow us to update our mailing and e-mail lists to assure you are kept up-to-date on the many events and activities that will be occurring this year. And for those whom we may have missed notifying or our letter was misplaced, a membership renewal form may be found in this issue of NOVICE. I hope you will fill it out and return it, if you haven't already done so. Thanks for your continued support.

David McCormick, President.

Calendar

**Monthly Membership Meetings:
first Tuesday of the month**

- March 6 (Potluck & Program)
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5 (Potluck & Program)
- August 7 (Grape Festival Planning)
- September 4 (Grape Festival Planning)
- October 2
- November 6 (Nominations for 2013 Officers)
- December 4 (Christmas Party & Election of 2013 Officers)

**Slovene Language Lessons - Spring:
Monday evenings**

- March 19 & 26
- April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
- May 7, 14, 21, & 28

Scheduled Activities:

- Saturday, June 9 *tentatively* (Ballgame and Tailgate Party)
- Saturday, September 29 (Grape Festival Preparation)
- Sunday, September 30 (Grape Festival)

Tentative or Unscheduled Activities:

- 2nd Annual Slovenian Film Night (*tentatively March 16*)
- Honorary Consul Tom Brandi's Independence Day Party (*tentatively June 9*)
- Brewery Tour

New Members

**Club Slovenia would like to warmly
welcome its new members!**

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Clair Cichy, | Madeleine Cichy, | David Crawley, |
| Will Fewell, | Marie Fisher, | Jure Leskovec, |
| Jesse Markham, | Suzana Ograjensek, | |
| Frances Santaguida, | David Schellinger, | |
| Carolyn Ujcic, | Mary Ellen Wolfe | |

IN THE KITCHEN, SLOVENIAN STYLE

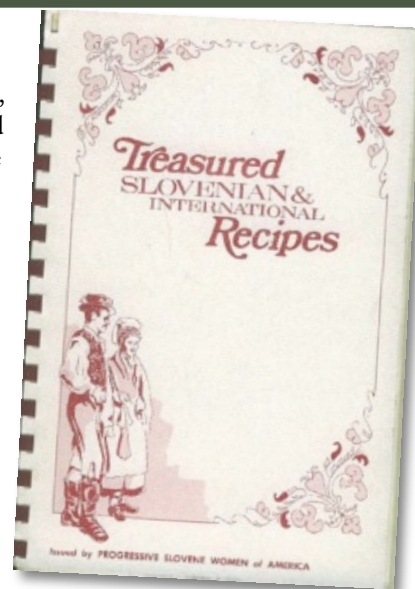
I have started a new Slovenian roots cooking-and-writing project. On January 1, I decided to make one Slovenian dinner a week in the coming year, using three vintage Slovenian-American cookbooks from the 1950s I'd just bought as my primary sources. (Like "Julie & Julia" with an ethnic twist.)

Here is the first month's worth, recipes and photos. Mostly good results, though I had some trouble with the *žganci*!

<http://slovenianroots.blogspot.com/>

I grew up knowing about just one Slovenian food: *potica*. So this is turning into a real adventure.

Blair Kilpatrick



SLOVENE LANGUAGE WINTER CLASS 2012

Currently, EDCS is sponsoring the 2012 Winter Quarter Slovene Language Classes at the Slovenian Hall. Classes are held every Monday night from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There are 12 enthusiastic, dedicated students in the class, passionate for learning to read, write, and speak Slovene. Attending the class requires commitment, sacrifice and substantial investment in time. Some students drive from afar, and all are to be applauded for their effort. The Winter quarter, which started after the new year, ends on March 12. The Spring quarter will run from March 19 to May 28. The second quarter will continue the instruction where the first quarter left off.

Mia Rode is not only the language instructor of the class, but she is also putting in the extra effort to expose the students to many of the cultural aspects of Slovene heritage including: history, poetry and music. Recently, the students were visited by Aljoša & Ivo Ravnik and Diane Brahney to participate in some Slovene folk singing in remembrance of France Prešeren's Day. Mia Rode said, "It takes the support of the whole community, to make the program balanced and successful."

The Slovene language is important, because it is inextricable to Slovene National identity. Slovene History is uniquely marked by the continuous struggle of external forces vying to stifle independence, and desiring to exert control from abroad. The Slovene language has acted many times, as the ultimate binding force, in creating a unified identity. When we participate in our language, we are paying homage to its significant role in helping to define the nation that Slovenia has become today. The Slovenian government has recently been very supportive of our program. Our language program fully met the criteria of the Republic of Slovenian Office for Slovenians Abroad, for nurturing and promoting Slovenian identity abroad, and as such, received monetary support from the Slovenian government. *Živijo!*

Tom Cvelbar



Winter quarter 2012 Slovene Language Class and instructor Mia Rode (bottom center).

ANNUAL PUST DINNER

Every year on the Saturday preceding Ash Wednesday, the San Francisco Bay Area Slovenians enjoy a "blood sausage" dinner at the *Pust* celebration, sponsored by SNPJ Lodge #304, at the San Francisco Slovenian Hall. This event is spearheaded by Robin Talmadge. Approximately 20 very dedicated Slovenians made 650 pounds of sausage. The dinner with all of the traditional Slovenian trimmings is enjoyed by approximately 175 guests. Many of them purchase sausages to take home. The guests have the pleasure to dance to polka music of the Joey Bajuk Trio. Adults pay \$35.00, children \$17.50, and take home sausage is \$7.00 per pound.

Frances Chilcoat.

SAUSAGE MAKING



Preparing the rice sausage filling.



Robin Talmadge helps add the spices to the mix.



Chris Shobar helps stir the filling mix.



Frank Pecaver, Dennis Brabney, and others tie off the ends of the sausages.



Diane Brabney helps to inspect the finished product.

A SLOVENIAN HERITAGE: FAMILY EXPLORATIONS INSPIRED BY LANGUAGE & ART

My grandmother was Slovenian. Her father came to the United States around 1910 from Iška Vas – a tiny village just outside Ljubljana, the capital city of Slovenija. Years earlier, her mother, whose Slovenian parents emigrated from the southeastern regions of Bela Krajina and Kočevje, was born in the States. Eventually they met in Minnesota where my grandmother and her siblings grew up. I have distant memories of the black wrought iron water pump on the family farm, of white fence rails, and of my great-grandmother in the last days of her life.

My mother studied photography while she was in college and my grandmother had planned to go to an art school herself but war changed her path.

Perhaps five or six years before my grandmother passed away, I returned on a holiday break from the east coast art school where I had just started attending college. During my visit, I asked my grandmother about our Slovenian heritage, her parents and grandparents, and the language – I was fascinated by the language. At the end of our conversation she brought me to a small room at the front of her house – off the book-filled shelves she pulled and handed to me the Slovensko-Angleški dictionary her father had purchased when he first came to America. It's an old green, cloth-covered, hardbound book that has seen heavy use. The binding is cracked and torn, the back cover barely hanging on by two small strips at the top and bottom, the front cover reattached with a strip of white cloth tape. It was printed in New York in 1912 on very thick paper. As she gave it to me, my grandmother described hearing the language spoken by her parents as she grew up, of understanding it but not being able to speak it herself. I've heard similar stories from my mom about her grandparents. The most personally meaningful feature of the book is my great-grandfather's handwritten name and address on the outside of the back cover: Jos Sedey.

The spelling of his name, originally Sedej, was changed when he moved here – becoming, like many of the names and places in what I've found of our family history, written as it would be pronounced in English.

My mom, my brother and I visited my grandmother's brother in Ohio a few years after she passed away. At the time, he and his wife were the only members of our family who had gone back to Slovenija.

They told us about the trip while we enjoyed homemade *potica* – a Slovenian sweet bread that both my grandmother and mother cooked frequently while I was growing up. Shortly after our visit, I received a package from him and his wife – the dictionary that they had purchased while in Slovenija: Slovensko Angleški Moderni Slovar, published in Ljubljana in 1970. The book itself is almost exactly half the dimensions of the older dictionary and has far thinner pages – although it has nearly twice the number of pages, it is the same thickness as the older book. A very worn, thin green paper jacket wraps over the cover and there is a small yellowed newspaper clipping with torn edges stating “The Sedey's have just returned from a trip to Yugoslavia” that I found tucked between the pages of the book. This one too, has a small hand written notation in it – located this time at the top of the very first page inside the book, describing the place and year of their visit: Europe. Aug. 1972.

I've collected other Slovene-English dictionaries since, physical books and electronic versions. However, the two I received from my family are the most treasured. Some years ago I picked up a Slovene language book and, with the help of two Slovenian friends, I started trying to learn the language. More recently, through the Slovenian Hall of San Francisco, I have been able to pursue my desire to learn the language, this time in a Slovene course, and to become further involved in my family's culture.

I have wanted to travel to Slovenija ever since receiving that first dictionary from my grandmother and I will be doing so this summer. In addition to Ljubljana, Maribor, Lake Bled, Lipica, Piran, Predjama, and the Karst caves, I plan to visit the places from which my family came, and if I'm lucky – maybe my research into family records will lead me to find relatives. Unfortunately my grandmother's brother and his wife passed away some years ago, and I have not been able to find any record of exactly who they met with during their trip. I'm planning to pick up another dictionary for my collection while I'm there and I will certainly be visiting the art school in Ljubljana with the memory of my grandmother.

Anja Page

Contributors

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