

Novice

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first opportunity to wish many of you a Happy New Year. So on behalf of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons of Club Slovenia, I hope this year will bring you prosperity, good health, good fortune and the love of family and friends. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank those who have already renewed their Club membership. Last year, membership climbed to 167 members, a total not reached for a number of years. So if you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so this month or next, as we'd like to see our membership exceed last year's total.

As many of you know, the start of the year has been very trying for the Board of Directors and Board President of the Slovenian Progressive Home (SPH) in their continuing effort to maintain and improve the Slovenian Hall on Mariposa Street, the home of Club Slovenia and the other Slovenian-American lodges that have called the Hall home for well over 80 years. SPH Board President, Robin Talmadge, has worked tirelessly to secure incoming funds from outside rentals in an effort to keep the Hall vibrant and in good physical shape to last our community another 80 years. However, the increased use of the Hall has not come without complaints and problems. The neighborhood, once filled with first and second generation Slovenian-Americans, is now much more diverse, and the Hall, once the centerpiece of the Potrero Hill Slovene community, is looked at by some in the neighborhood (a relatively small number) as a nuisance, creating parking problems, noise pollution and un-kept garbage. In February, many of our Club members appeared before the San Francisco Entertainment Commission at City Hall to show their support for the Hall, and an even greater number of our members wrote letters of support and gathered signed petitions, requesting that a "Place of Entertainment" permit be issued allowing the Hall to continue to operate as rental space for parties and social events. The outpouring of support was tremendous. Much thanks to all who participated.

However, there is still much work to do. In the past two months, the City Planning Department has determined that the Slovenian Hall is a legal non-conforming entertainment use, the Building Department and Fire Department have advised SPH of some improvements that are needed to make the Hall comply

with current Code requirements, and a meeting was held with local residents to listen to their concerns, all of which are promising events. This matter will be resolved, hopefully in the coming months. I will keep you posted.

David McCormick, President.

New Members

Club Slovenia would like to warmly welcome its new members!

George Knott	Michael Mahoney
Rev. Peter Rozic, S.J.	Patrick Wolfe

SAVE THE DATE!!!

WHEN: Saturday, August 24
WHAT: Club Slovenia Picnic
WHERE: Twin Peaks Park, Belmont

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a Club Slovenia picnic at Twin Peaks Park in Belmont. The picnic site is in a beautiful wooded area with barbecue pits, tables, benches, restrooms, level walking paths, and a well-equipped playground. Details to follow, but for now, mark your calendars!

REMINDER!!!

It's time to renew your membership.

Your continued support helps fund the educational and social efforts of the Club.

If you haven't already done so, please see the insert to renew or start your membership.

Thank you!

MI SMO ŽE MASTNIH UST. DANES JE PUST.

We already have greasy mouths. Today is Pust.

On Saturday, Feb. 9, close to 200 people gathered at the Slovenian Hall on Kranjski Hrib to celebrate Pust... the celebration before the start of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. The event was sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 304.

Club Slovenia members Lisa Vidergar Lucas and John Hutar joined in with the button box/accordion jam sessions. Such wonderful music, one just had to dance!

This being her eighth year as head cook, Club Slovenia member Robin Talmadge was in charge of the kitchen. Homemade blood sausage topped the traditional menu which was crowned with *orehova potica*. SNPJ President and Club Slovenia member, Nino Dodic, made sure all was in order.

The revelers went home with a satisfied stomach, tired feet and a happy heart.

Diane Brabney



Dobrodošli! Welcome! from Diane Kresovich (left) & Doris Lovrin (right)



Jammin' with Lisa Vidergar Lucas and company...



Fred Mlakar (left) & Nino Dodic (right) with Miss SNPJ 2013, Kristen Cushman.



Jammin' with Stanko Pechaver (accordion) and John Hutar (bass)



Joe Mlakar Jr. (banjo), James Koci (bass), Fred Mlakar (piano accordion), & Lisa Vidergar Lucas (button accordion)



Jean and Arnold Koci traveled from Southern California to join in on the Pust celebration.



Fred Mlakar (left), Jean Koci, Ivo Ravnik & potica mojster Erik Wood are all smiles after a fabulous meal.

SLOVENIAN STUDY GROUP - PRESENTATION BY FR. PETER ROZIC

There was a very good turnout to hear the presentation by Fr. Rozic, who has an extensive background in the study of politics, and of course also in religion. He discussed the relation between Slovene government and the Catholic church in the 20 some years since Slovenia gained independence.

He began with a basic series of questions. In this somewhat Socratic method, he elicited participation from those present, to form the outline of what are fundamental tenets of democracy. Various ideals were listed, such as: free electoral process, independent media, judicial independence, popular participation both in national and local governments.

He then listed by time-table all the Prime Ministers and Presidents and the interplay among these.

In comparison, he listed all of the key Church leaders in the past two decades, assessing their relative strengths and weaknesses.

A PowerPoint presentation of many charts showed the relative development in a variety of areas in Slovenia compared to all the other post-Communist countries of the former Eastern Block. On most issues, the overall conditions in Slovenia were fairly favorable as compared to the other countries.



Miss SNPj 2013, Kristen Cushman (center) is flanked by two previous crown wearers: Theresa Mlakar (left) and Lisa Vidergar Lucas (right).

This is just part of what the evening was about. Another important part was the gathering of many young Slovenes, many were new to me, who participated in the discussion and greatly contributed to an interesting evening. This is just to let you know that if you were not there, you missed a most thorough and thoughtful presentation and discussion and good company. I would encourage you to make the next such discussion. You will find it most worthwhile!

Ivo Ravnik

2013 Calendar of Events

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

- May 7
- June 4 (Potluck & Program)
- August 6 (Grape Festival Planning)
- September 3 (Grape Festival Planning)
- October 1
- November 5 (Nomination of 2014 Officers)
- December 3 (Christmas Party & Election of 2014 Officers)

**Slovene Language Lessons - Spring 2013:
Monday, Evenings**

- May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27
- June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24
- July 1, July 8, July 15

**Slovenian Study Group:
Wednesday, Evenings**

- May 15
- September 18
- November 20

Scheduled Activities:

- Saturday, August 24 (Club Picnic)
- Saturday, September 28 (Grape Festival Preparation)
- Sunday, September 29 (Grape Festival)

Other Activities, Not Yet Scheduled:

- Tom Brandi's Independence Day Party (TBD - June 2013)
- Slovenian Film Night (TBD - November 2013)

SLOVENE CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

The EDCS sponsored Slovene Class for Beginners is currently being offered in two Quarters, Feb. 11 - April 22 and April 29 - July 8, 2013. It is taught by Mia Rode and held in Slovenian Hall every Monday evening for two hours. Twelve dedicated students are attending (*class picture is featured below*): Joseph Antolin, Lisa and Johnathan Hutar, Rex Inglis, Daniel Krefl, Mary O'Kicki, Chris Olson, Anja Page, Frank Pecavar, Mark Sustarich, Robin Talmadge and Carolyn Ujcic. Many drive long distance to come to the class, some come from as far away as Santa Clara and Stockton, a feat that energizes our commitment! The class enjoys an occasional visitor. Not long ago we had the pleasure of seeing Tom Brandi who told us about his role as the Slovenian Honorary Consul. Zoya Pinto, who will give us a presentation on Slovenian culture, and John Hutar, with his accordion to make our hearts sing, are also scheduled to visit us this Quarter.

Mia Rode



EDCS LIBRARY UPDATE

STOP BY THE EDCS LIBRARY to see what's new. Some exciting works have been added to the collection early this year. In support of the Slovene language program five sets of children's books were purchased in both the English edition and Slovene translations. Among them are three of Shell Silverstein's classics -- The Missing Piece, The Missing Piece meets the big O, and The Giving Tree. The Library has also been fortunate to have received gifts of much general interest to the Slovenian reader. They include unique works on Ljubljana, Trbovlje and Solčavsko

donated by Darinka Lenarcic. Donated by the author is Jacqueline Widmar-Stewart's beautiful and informative Champagne Regained book that could adorn any home and we keep on display on the library table. We open the library on all large social occasions and invite you to stop by and browse.

Mia Rode

Contributors

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