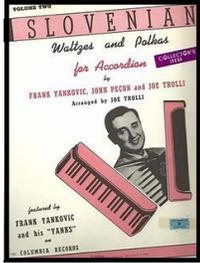


NEWSLETTER OF THE UWM SLOVENIAN ARTS COUNCIL SLOVENIAN ARTS PROGRAM



How would you describe Slovenian music?

President: Christina Carroll

Would it be Frankie Yankovic playing his accordion and singing about you and me under the silk umbrella (*Židana Marela Polka*)? Or would it be the Original Oberkrainer (Ansambl Avsenik) performing *Trompetenecho*? This is the type of music that most Slovenian-Americans recognize and relate to. When people left their homes and families behind in Slovenia/Austrian Empire to come to America to reinvent their lives in the mines and factories in Michigan's UP, the Iron Range in Minnesota, and the cities of Cleveland, Chicago, and Milwaukee, they wanted to remember a little bit of "home". Various singing choirs and musicians organized to replicate the melodies and sounds that they knew when they were growing up. Folk melodies were what they remembered.

Over the past 30 years, the UWM Slovenian Arts Council presented various music programs that featured Slovenian performers and/or Slovenian compositions. Not all performers were from Slovenia, not all music sounded like familiar Slovenian folk tunes. Our goal was to showcase various types of music for the enjoyment and enrichment of the Slovenian-American community and the public at large. Singers and musicians from Slovenia consisted of the *Deseti Brat Oktet*, *Navihanke*, *Vlado Kreslin*, *Perpetuum Jazzile*, *Slovenski Oktet*, and the *Lojze Slak Ansambel*, performing folk, classical, and contemporary compositions. But other programs also featured the *Singing Slovenes* from Minnesota; from Cleveland, the *Jeff Pecon Band*, *Fantje Na Vasi*, and the *Fantje's* next generation singers, *Mi Smo Mi*.



Attendees of our programs also enjoyed a wide-range of musical selections performed on instruments. The concert accordionist, Joseph Petric of Canada, demonstrated that the classics could also be performed on an accordion, not only polkas and waltzes. Fellow accordionist, Guy Klucsevsek from New York City, created and performed innovative "contemporary" music. Members of our community, along with students and faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, enjoyed listening to classical pianist, Veda Zuponic, who now has an auditorium in the Iron Range named in her honor. Before the "Four Hands, Two Pianos" came to the Milwaukee Rep Theater, the husband-wife piano duo *Deklava* from Slovenia performed on the UWM campus.

Although not all of these music programs may appeal to all tastes, you should be aware that the "genre" of Slovenian music is quite varied. Perhaps the music of Slovenia's northern Alpine region, influenced by Austria and Germany, is more commonly recognized, but Slovenia's "neighbors" have also had an impact on Slovenian music. The music of the Prekmurje region has similarities to the music of Hungary and the Roma people, featuring the cimbalom (dulcimer) and fiddle. Bela Krajina's accordion and tamburica music is very similar to the songs and kolos of Croatia. Likewise the tunes from Primorska have been influenced by the Italians.

Within the next few months, the Council will be finalizing plans for a musical program for the upcoming year. We will keep you posted via this newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page. In the meantime, a blessed and happy holiday season to you all!

Slovenian Family History and Resources

Christina Carroll

On Saturday, October 12, 2019, forty individuals spent an interesting afternoon with genealogist Jeffrey Bockman, learning about the basics of searching records and creating or expanding our family trees. This event was sponsored by the UWM Slovenian Arts Council. For those who were unable to attend, here are some resources to help you get started:

Online: www.familysearch.org Create a FREE account which allows you access to search public records and collections. Owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Online: www.jeffbockman.com General information and resources for searching Slovenian archives and records.

Online paid subscription service: www.ancestry.com Also contains records and public family trees. DNA tests purchased through Ancestry will provide list of matches.

If you have a **Facebook** account: Search for the following group pages and request to join. A page administrator will follow up with you. Post your questions and have fellow members reach out with information and suggestions. Much information can be found in the "Files" of these respective group pages.

Slovenian Genealogy(Genealogy2000)

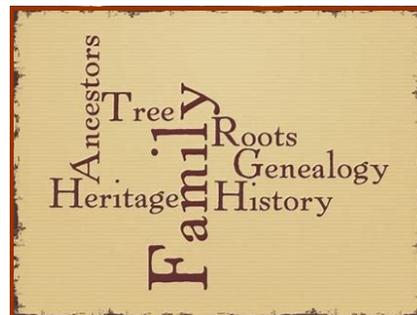
Slovenian DNA Genealogy Matching

Austrian Genealogy

Croatian Heritage ad Genealogy

Find your family members who are deceased by searching through their birth, marriage, and death certificates. Track them through immigration records and passenger lists, US Census through 1940, WWI & WWII draft records, and general internet (Google) searches by names.

Review history about border changes before and after the two world wars. Know the Germanized-names of Slovenian towns found on old maps. Use a German or Slovenian dictionary to discover the words for "Widow", "Christening", "Marriage", "Death", "Mother", and "Father".



The Average Day in Slovenia:

Total Slovenia News/July 24, 2019

The statistical Office data shows that on an average day in 2018 there were 54 births and 56 deaths in Slovenia; 78 people immigrated, 37 people emigrated; there were 20 weddings and 6 divorces. There were 19,585 live births and 20,485 deaths, in what was the second year in a row with more deaths than births. Most children were born in the summer, while most deaths happened in the winter. A total of 7,256 couples married in 2018, which is 12% more than in 2017. With as many as 1,100 couples marrying in June, it was the most popular month for weddings in 2018. May, August and September are the only other months in which more than a thousand couples married. There were 2, 347 divorces last year, 1.7% less than in 2017.

Holiday Folk Fair 2019— Celebrate the Culture of Language

It's Holiday Folk Fair (HFF) time again. It is always the weekend before Thanks-giving (and the first weekend of deer hunting). But this year, with Thanksgiving being later in the month, the dates of the Folk Fair are Friday, November 22, Saturday, November 23 and Sunday November 24, 2019. The times for Friday are 9AM-2PM for school groups and 2PM-9PM to the general public. Saturday, the hours are 10AM-9PM and Sunday, 10AM-6PM. This is the second year of earlier closing times on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you would be interested in volunteering to work at our cultural booth, we have a few time slots open on Friday and Sunday. Contact Nancy Reese at nareese@wi.rr.com if you are interested.

The theme this year is "*Celebrate the Culture of Language: Indigenous and Heritage Languages*". The featured food is any food item that is unique to your culture. The booth will again be a Slovenian "*kuhinja*" (kitchen) with our old friend *Janez* being turned into a female *Ivanka* who will be making our cultural nut bread, *potica*. *Francel* will be cutting "*zelje*" (cabbage), to make "*kislo zelje*" (sauerkraut) and we will also be featuring Slovenian children's books that people can recognize by their familiarity with the stories, but see how the Slovenian writing or language can be understood through pictures.



If you cannot volunteer, please plan on attending this fun-filled ethnic weekend. There are many venues including various dance and musical groups, ethnic food, the International Cafe, cultural booths and the International Bazaar where you can purchase clothing or other items from various countries. Again the dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 22,23,24, 2019. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$14. Children 5 and under free, children 6-12, \$10. Senior citizens 62+, \$10. Military persons are free with an ID. All advance tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through Nancy Reese. Contact me via email, nareese@wi.rr.com to make arrangements to get your advance tickets and payment.

Nancy Reese/Chairperson of the Slovenian Cultural Booth for the HFF

Kamnik's Days of National Costume Heritage

Total Slovenia News/September 2019

The second week of September brings a long-standing tradition to Kamnik, along with some 30,000 visitors, as the Days of National Costumes and Clothing Heritage returns for its 47th edition, offering a full program of ethnological, cultural and entertainment events all through the day and into the evening. Named by the UK's Guardian newspaper as among the top 20 traditional festivals in Europe, the focal event is always the parade of traditional national costumes. Slovenian costumes will be joined by those from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Turkey, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Austria. Beyond the parade there's much for those interested in clothing, history, cultural heritage, music and more to enjoy, with exhibitions at various locations around town along with a traditional art and craft fair and demonstrations, folk dance and music on *Glavni trg*, workshops for children, street music and an evening entertainment that includes live performances.



Sharing our Slovenian Culture

By Nancy Reese

Nancy Reese, chairperson of the Slovenian Cultural Booth, was contacted by a Slovenian man, John Jelin, who lives in Middleton, outside of Madison, about borrowing our *Kurent* character from last year's Holiday Folk Fair. His daughter's elementary school was having an International Day on April 16th, 2019. He wanted to feature the *Pust* character of *Kurent* after seeing it at a Slovenian exhibit in Cleveland, Ohio. But he thought it would be a bit of a trip to go there to pick it up.



After hearing about our HFF exhibit in one of our UWM Slovenian newsletters, he got in touch with Nancy and he and his wife drove from Middleton to Nancy's house in Dousman to pick up *Kurent*. A fresh set of batteries re-activated the motion sensed clown underneath *Kurent* to the delight of the children and the confusion of the adults who thought John himself was underneath the costume. Nancy also attended the International Day, dressed in her *noša* (*no-sha*), a national costume of Slovenija. John had a makeshift costume using some items from his father, but his 12 year old son stole the show with an outfit that Nancy put together for him, including boots, vest, scarf and a hat that fit him perfectly. John Jelin set up the actual booth with pictures, maps and a Slovenian flag. Nancy also brought along her grandmother's pillow made with "čipke" (bobbin lace), a special kind of lace made in Slovenija, along with some framed pictures of bobbin lace



designs that Nancy's Grandmother made back in Slovenia.

The day started at 7:30 with the kindergartners coming in groups of 10 with an Ambassador" leading them from booth to booth and continued every 15 minutes throughout the day with the other grades, first through fifth. The event featured booths from about 20 different ethnic groups that were put together by parents or relatives of children at the school. It was like a "mini-Holiday Folk Fair". They have this event every other year. "A good time was had by all" and Nancy would love to attend again in two years with perhaps a new theme or idea based on this year's HFF display.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Martinovanje: November 9 at the Root River Center 7220 W. Rawson Ave. 6pm-10pm
Live Music by "Zadnja Kaplja". Contact BettyAnn Kolesari at 262-896-0942.

Holiday Folk Fair: November 22, 23, 24 West Allis State Fair Park Contact Nancy Reese for more information or to volunteer at 262-485-6007 or nareese@wi.rr.com

USPEH Chorus Christmas Sing-Along: Wednesday December 4 at American Legion Post, 9159 W. Beloit Road 6:30-8:30 PM FREE EVENT with desserts & beverage. Guest musician: Grant Kozera. For more information, please call Jackie Smith at 262-789-0989



SLOVENIAN
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Milwaukee, WI 53212
Email inquiries: jeffreymartinka@yahoo.com

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In Loving Memory of Judith Price

Deb Baird, Mara Blats, Edith Brown, Andy & Jan Clark, James Cox, Elton Edmonds, MaryCay Freiberg, Barbara Geisar, Carol Ann Grafenauer, Ed & Pip Gunderman, Karen Johnson, Tom & Mary Literski, Rudy & Pat Pugel, Nancy Reese, Jeff & Marie Stolpa, Rose Mary Walecki, Edward & Diane Zore.

In Loving Memory of Milan Yaklich

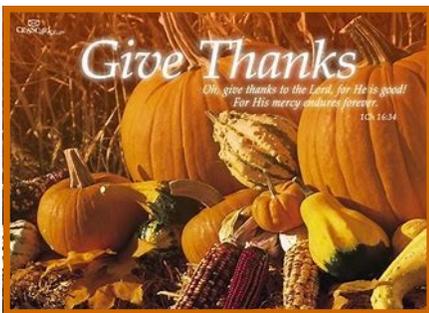
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*Giving thanks to all our
Slovenian Arts Program Friends
and
wishing all our readers a very
Blessed Christmas Season!*



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MISSION STATEMENT

**The purpose of the
Slovenian Arts Council,
in collaboration with the
UWM Peck School of the Arts,
is to plan and implement
programs of Slovenian arts, artifacts,
dance, literature, music, and theatre
that promote the fine arts.**