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AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

SLOVENIAN MORNING NEWSPAPER

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70¢

Slovenian Officials Comment on New Pope Benedict XVI

Slovenian Prime Minister **Janez Jansa** hopes the new Pope will continue the mission of John Paul II and strive for solidarity, justice and unity, Jansa's office said in a press release last Tuesday.

According to the release, Jansa was delighted to hear the news that Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected the new Pope. He also hopes relations between Slovenia and the Holy See will continue to be good.

President Janez Drnovsek has said he expects the newly-elected Pope Benedict XVI to continue the work of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. "The fact that he was selected so swiftly indicates that... it was clear in advance who the cardinals saw as the successor to the previous Pope," Drnovsek said.

Drnovsek believes the new Pope will continue to stress the importance of spirituality and spread the message of peace, as was done by his predecessor.

Moreover, the Slovenian president expects Pope Benedict XVI will work to bring together different religions in a common effort to underscore basic human rights and to point to injustice around the world. Drnovsek also said he thought the new pontiff would look to assist world leaders in solving global problems.

Parliament Speaker France Cukjati is convinced Pope Benedict XVI will "implement his broad philosophical and theological dimension in his work. The new Pope means a lot, in particular for Europe," Cukjati said stressing that the new Pope represents a "supplement to the previous Pope in his clear philosophical and theological principles. Cukjati voiced the hope that the new pope will follow the path of his predecessor in name. Benedict XVI who was Pope during the First World War, dedicated a lot of attention to refugees, prisoners, the wounded and the affected civilian population. Cukjati is a former Jesuit

priest. He added that Ratzinger, a strong representative of traditional theology, is the right person to be pope in this day and age.

Slovenian bishops have expressed their devotion to newly-elected Pope Benedict XVI and have said they are hoping the new pontiff will visit Slovenia in the near future.

The election of German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the new Pope was greeted by ringing of church bells in the predominantly Catholic Slovenia.

The Lutheran and Evangelical Church, and the entire Protestant world, want the new pope to be a man of dialogue, **Geza Ernisa**, the bishop of the Lutheran Church in Slovenia said in response to the election of the new pope.

According to **Geza Ernisa**, Ratzinger, who has chosen the name Benedict XVI, knows Protestant theology and the Evangelical Church very well, which will contribute to the continuation of the ecumenical dialogue and tighter cooperation between the Christian churches.

For Muslims, the most important question regarding Pope Benedict XVI is his attitude to inter-religious dialogue and inter-religious tolerance, the head of the Muslim community in Slovenia has said. Although Joseph Ratzinger is considered a conservative, this is not disputable for Muslims as long as he continues the inter-religious dialogue promoted by the late John Paul II, **Mufti Osman Djogic** said. "This is a process of mutual coming together and trust, Djogic said, but noted that the dogmas of the respective religions need to be taken into consideration. The basis for dialogue is diversity of religion, he stressed.

The head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Slovenia has said he is delighted to hear that "The sorrow of our brothers in the Roman Catholic Church has turned to joy" with the selection of a new pontiff. **Peran Bos-**

Slovenians Happy With New Pope

LJUBLJANA – Nearly 61% of those polled by the daily *Dnevnik* are pleased with the selection of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church. Slightly over 14% are unhappy with it, and a quarter of the respondents said they did not care.

--Philip J. Hrvatin

kovic said on Tuesday in Ljubljana that his church felt happiness for Catholics over the selection of German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as Pope Benedict XVI.

The new pope, Benedict XVI, is a simple man who, like his predecessor Karol Wojtyla, will know how to connect with the people, according to Ljubljana **Archbishop and Slovenian Metropolitan Alojz Uran**.

Joseph Ratzinger stressed in his last address as cardinal last Monday that he wants to return to the fundamentals of religions, said Uran, who believes the new pope's advantage lies in that he is trying to mediate the firm fundamentals to the contemporary environment.

Uran also thinks no major changes will happen in relations between the Holy See



Slavko
Avsenik

Tony Ovsenik, left, and **Duke Marsic** were the keynote speakers at the Slovenian American Heritage Foundation lecture on Wednesday, April 13 at the Slovenian Society Home in Euclid, Ohio. Over 80 persons attended the discussion which covered the accomplishments of the Avsenik Ensemble, one of the most popular folk groups in Europe.

(Photo by PHIL HRVATIN)

and Slovenia. "I am glad that we have a pope who knows us, who knows about Slovenia and who knows the situation in the Slovenian Church," said Bishop Uran.

Thanks to Philip J. Hrvatin for this article.

We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As is filling a vessel drop by drop there is at least a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at least one which makes the heart run over. --James Boswell



On April 1 Consul General **Alenka Suhadolnik** had the opportunity to visit members of the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Illinois. Consul General Suhadolnik stated that the New York Slovenian Consulate and Slovenian Embassy are temporarily providing consular services to the greater Chicago area. Ms. Suhadolnik is seated in the front row, 4th from the left.

(Photo by PHIL HRVATIN)

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April 28, 2005

Thoughts Away from Home

by RUDY FLIS

Again tomorrow I will be at the airport.

At one time it was fun to fly away. Today, as I head into the airport, I am faced with a maze of people with a job to do, keep me and my fellow travelers safe from a group of fanatics who have changed the American way of life, at least in air travel.

Back in the seventies I used to do some flying. My wife, Therese, and all our kids tagged along with me and I was with my family until I boarded the plane. Then they stood at the window until the plane had lifted off the runway. I always enjoyed that, and Therese had some help a little longer, as we sat and talked and watched the kids so they stayed out of trouble. The kids enjoyed being at the airport, also, if only because it was different.

Now, when I come home, my family is again at the gate to greet me. Sometimes I would have things for them and they would ask a million questions, and then start working on Therese to stop at McDonald's for supper.

But after eating in restaurants for a few weeks, home cooking was on my mind. and Therese always had three strawberry cream pies waiting at home with supper. Therese often wonders if that is the only reason I returned home. If it is, it worked.

Tomorrow morning I will have to take my shoes off, take out my lap top computer, empty my pockets, remove my jacket, and who knows what else. Then put myself all back together and make sure I didn't forget any of my belongings, which I usually do. Then it is off to the furthest gate at the airport. Where I am going I have many people I always enjoy seeing and spending time with, but my thoughts are mostly of home. God has blessed me with a home and family I love, and I don't care to be away too often. So coming home is always nice.

These are some of the thoughts that sustain me away from home. The business meetings are a help to me and I know they are necessary, but do not change my feelings on flying and being away from home.

All Invited to HAPpy Dance

The Holmes Ave. Pensioners Club invites every-one to their Annual Dinner Dance on Sunday, May 1 at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue in Cleveland.

Dinner will be cooked by Linda Plecnik and served at 2 p.m.

Forget all your aches, pains and troubles; come out

and have fun with all "Recycled Teenagers" and dance or listen to Ray Polantz Orchestra from 3 - 7 p.m. Name a tune and they will play it.

For tickets call (216) 531-2088 or (440) 943-3784. Donation is only \$18.00.

Keep smiling; laughter is good.

--Matt Zabukovec

My Life in Three Countries

by ANA SKOPEC

Published by
PUBLISHAMERICA,
Baltimore MD
ISBN: 1-4137-3197-x

In this heart warming book, Ana Skopec, a long-time member of SWU Br. 103, Washington, D.C., describes how she was blessed in surviving: World War II in Slovenia, serious illness in Germany, nearly being killed by a speeding car in California, and being knocked over by a bicyclist while visiting the Czech Republic, and lived to tell the story.

She also had the misfortune of: witnessing the brutality of war, being mistreated by Communist officials and others for whom she worked, and losing twin sons shortly after their birth. On the positive side, she describes: the joys of family and country life in Slovenia, her remarkable achievements in two professional careers, her success in marriage and in raising two loving and accomplished children.

In 'My Life in Three Countries' the author (who

reports her birthday as "thirty-nine years and many, many months") takes readers from her birthplace in a small farm village in the Bela Krajina region of Slovenia, to teachers college in Novo Mesto, teaching assignments in Erni Vrh and Ljubljana, a summer stay in Frankfurt (that was extended to four years), and finally, her marriage and move to America.

Along this journey she provides details of life in a large farming family, and how they survived the horrors of World War II and the post-war period of Communist tyranny. Along the way she provides interesting glimpses into facets of country living, including: courting rituals, holiday celebrations, gypsies and encounters with the homeless.

The 169-page, paperback book is written in a direct, "no frills" style that provides a steady stream of unembellished information, without long introductory narrative and verbiage. It deals with the stark realities of her life, and that of her family, under difficult circumstances. While we

Slovenes like to think of "our people" as models of virtue and civility, the book also addresses the reality that some among us can be quite evil, or more kindly described, can exhibit important human faults.

Mothers will enjoy reading of the love and sacrifices that her mother showered on the author and her siblings. Mothers will also enjoy the details the author proudly and lovingly provides regarding the lives of her own two surviving children, Marlene and Charlie.

The book is available via two online approaches, and by mail order. The online locations are www.amazon.com and www.publishamerica.com/books/6835. The mail order address is PublishAmerica, P.O. Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705. The full shipped price from Publish America is \$19.95.

Reviewed by Richard A. Terselic, husband of Br. 103 President, Mary Lou Terselic. --Zarja - The Dawn

Jim's Journal

By Jim Debevec



I read in the papers that Cleveland's mayor Jane Campbell wants to bring casino gambling to downtown Cleveland. In Nevada they have full-time gambling throughout the state and have a Gaming Commission to see that everything is run fairly.

Well, instead of calling it gambling, or gaming, why don't they call it what it really is: -- **losing**.

You don't think Cleveland's mayor wants to have gambling in Cleveland so all its citizens can become rich overnight do you? No she wants them to LOSE their money in Cleveland rather than sojourn out of state and LOSE their money somewhere else.

Let's see what industry does Nevada have. Gambling comes to mind. Their gaming commission wants to see that most people LOSE their money fairly and squarely. I walk into the hundred million dollar casinos and I think how beautiful they are. Then I think about

who is paying for it. And they keep building more of them at higher prices. They don't figure people coming to Nevada are there to bankrupt the state. They believe that eventually their customers will lose their money and they will transfer it from the gamblers pockets to theirs.

Read an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about the governor of Louisiana, Kathleen Blatnco. She is considering raising gambling levies 50% because their state is losing money. She is counting on her state customers not to walk away with winnings, but to leave their money behind for the state to spend. She believes gamblers will LOSE.

The pro-gambling politicians say the money will go to schools. Ha, ha. That is what Governor Gilligan told me one fine afternoon in Hofrau Haus restaurant some 20 years ago. Well, Ohio runs a gaming concession, and what about the state and schools? They are all crying they don't have enough money.

I see people line up at state lottery booths betting \$5 to over \$100 each time, and they look like they haven't a dime to pay for the rent or utility bills.

Senator George Voinovich is right when he says to leave gambling out of Ohio. By taking that tough stance, he is a WINNER and so are the people of Ohio.

Anger makes dull men witty, but it keeps them poor.

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

The annual meeting of members of the
SLOVENE HOME FOR THE AGED

Will be held on **Friday, May 20, 2005** at the
Slovenian Workman's Home
15335 Waterloo Road, Cleveland, Ohio
Registration: 7:00 p.m. – Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Members are cordially invited to attend this important meeting. Members, as defined in the Bylaws, are those individuals and organizations who have contributed a minimum of \$25 during the preceding year. For the 5/20/05 meeting, this is the period from 4/1/04 through 3/31/2005.

Zakelj Family Chronicle

by ANTON ZAKELJ,
Translated and edited
by JOHN ZAKELJ

(Continued from last week)
WWI

It was very unusual for Mama to change her mind about anything. I remember an incident that shows how determined she was. At one time during the war, an aunt who lived in Goropeke, up in the hills, sent word that she needed me to bring her some "droze" by a certain date. "Droze" was a yeast alternative, which people used to leaven their bread because real yeast was not available. I didn't remember my assignment until the evening of the day that I was supposed to make the delivery. I ran to Celešnik's where Mrs. Strlic was baking "droze" made from millet flour. A large room was full of shelves, with "droze" drying on the shelves. I bought some and ran home just as night was falling. Mama demanded that I take them up to Goropeke immediately. I begged her to let me deliver them the next morning as soon as I woke, but she insisted that I had to complete my assignment that evening. A promise was a promise.

The reason I was so opposed to going up in the hills at night was that the nearby woods were full of Russian prisoners of war. They had escaped from the prison camps because they were dying of starvation. In the woods and countryside, they at least had a chance of getting food from kind people, or sometimes from stealing. Horrible rumors circulated regarding these prisoners. Later, we learned that the rumors were an attempt by the authorities to scare people into reporting all escaped

prisoners to the police. But that evening, I was certain that a hike through the woods would bring me certain death. What kind of a mother would force her son into certain death? I cried and begged, but it didn't do any good. I had to complete the delivery on time. So I agreed to go, but I told Mama I would never return. When Mama saw my new resolve, she finally gave in and said, "Well, go to sleep. Tomorrow morning I'll wake you extra early, and you can make your delivery to Goropeke then."

Indeed, the next day Mama woke me extra early. I liked to sleep in late so that was quite a punishment for me. But I walked quickly through the woods and up to my aunt's house in the hills. She was surprised to see me so early and said, "Oh, I wasn't in any hurry to get that."

Later I saw many times how false the rumors were about the Russian prisoners. One Sunday afternoon, I saw a military policeman leading 6 chained Russians from somewhere. If they were really such criminals, they would not have allowed themselves to be caught.

I remember another incident when something harmless seemed very scary at first. A woman was looking for mushrooms in the woods. She saw something that looked like a large mushroom under the overhanging branches of a spruce tree. When she reached under the branches to pick up the mushrooms, she realized that it was really a Russian's hand. But he wasn't reaching out to harm her, he had just been sleeping there because he had no place else to go.

We didn't have much more to eat than those prisoners. The government did help us somewhat, but not enough to live on. They gave us some corn flour and marmalade. We baked bread with that flour - it was so dry that it fell apart into crumbs and we had to always eat it from a bowl. The government also handed out white, wheat flour, but only to families that loaned large sums of money for the war effort.

The Austrian government ordered their experts to figure out why there was such a shortage of food. The experts determined that the fault lie with - the pigs. Since there was such a shortage of butter and meat, poor people were raising more pigs than before the war. They were feeding them food which should have been saved for people. A pig eats much more than it gives in meat. So the experts recommended raising rabbits, since they multiply quicker and are happy eating grass and scraps. Pigs should only be raised near large kitchens, where there are enough scraps which are not fit for people to eat.

(To Be Continued)

St. Mary's Seniors Meet

St. Mary's (Collinwood) Seniors will meet on Tuesday, May 3rd at 1:30 in St. Mary's Center. Doors open at 1 p.m.

Speaker will be Scott Zele talking on "Living Wills, Documents, etc."

Krofe Sale

St. Vitus Altar Society will hold a krofe and noodles sale on Saturday, May 14th in the auditorium social room.

Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day. -W. Earl Hall

May the friends of our youth be the companions of our old age.

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS

by JOHN MERCINA

Investment Tips for 2005

(Received from a friend - author unknown)

"For all of you with money to invest, be aware of the next expected mergers so you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG BUCKS, with these consolidations in the near future:

□ Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush and Grace Company will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.

□ Polygram Records, Warner Brothers, and Zesta Crackers join to become: Poly, Warner, Cracker.

□ 3M will merge with Goodyear and issue forth as MMMGood.

□ Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining merge and become" ZipAudi DoDa.

□ FedEx is expected to join its major competitor, UPS, and become FedUp.

□ Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairchild/Honeychild.

□ Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: PoupDockPants.

□ Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: KnottNOW.

Remember - you read it here.

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Mlakar Walks Down Memory Lane

by RAY MLAKAR

One thing is for sure, I am not going to say anything about the weather. Just maybe if I keep my big mouth shut (That's what Sister Bernadette said to me many times), maybe things will change for the better. Goes without mentioning that once I get up yonder I will have a lot to discuss with St. Peter.

Well, let's not dilly-dally, for I want everybody in class. Have your pencil, papers, scissors ready? Ray-(me) is about to give you more treasured tips on WD-40. Aren't you glad you subscribed to American Home? Don't you wish everyone did? Caution, don't let any of these timely tips just slip over your head, for you can be rest assured that I will be giving all readers a test in the months ahead. You either pass or fail and there are no make-ups. Let's face facts, I'm not going to be here forever and at times I think I am moving near the top of St. Peter's call-up list.

Camouflage scratches in ceramic and marble floors with a squirt of WD-40. In fact, stop now and give your scissors a squirt of WD-40 and you will see how easily they will cut and they will last longer. Gosh, Ray, what would we do without you? Don't fret, Sister Bernadette had the same problem.

Let's move on. WD-40 lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in the homes. Gives children's play gym slide a shine for super slides. Lubricates gear shift and mower deck levers for ease in handling and riding mowers. Rids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises. Lubricates tracks in sticking house windows and makes them easier to open and close.

Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close. Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles as well as vinyl bumpers. Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles. Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans. Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles and bicycles for easy handling. Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.

Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades and other tools. Remove splattered grease on stoves... Beats Fantastic. Hey guys, spray some WD-40 on bathroom mirrors and it will keep them from fogging when you are shaving. Okay, one more for this issue... WD-40 lubricates prosthetic limbs.

Memorize this stuff for the upcoming test for I will hate to set you back one grade. But don't worry, Sister Bernadette set me back one grade, but that was just because she did not know what to do with me. I'll bet a dollar to a donut that right now up in heaven she is saying, "Ray, why didn't you tell me about WD-40 well over a quarter century ago? Why, you ask, Sister?"

Well, I wanted you to learn the hard way, like I did.

Time for a break. Guess what? Happy Harry, my Carin Terrier was out with me last Monday while I was trimming trees in the back yard and he kept barking back by the barn. Pray tell, what does he have back there, "shut the hell up," I shouted. Well, when Harry has something, he is not about to be quiet, so I go to take a look and God forbid, what does he chase around, but a damn skunk.

Oh boy, are we in trouble. I took some snacks out there thinking I could get his mind off "stinky." It took some coaxing but I finally nabbed him. I am not sure if the skunk blessed him or not, but it smelled back there like all hell broke loose.

Fortunately, I had some special chemical soap from the Vet and took Harry down into the basement wash tubs and soaked the hell out of him, trimmed some of his hair, blow dried him and then even put some of my wife's old Channel No. 5 on him and then chained him in the garage. Some two hours later I was ready to resume trimming trees. St. Peter, are you trying to test my strength?

The next day when I went in the back yard, there was "stinky" deader than a door nail and needless to say I then did an immediate burial into a very, very deep hole. I seriously doubt that St. Peter has welcomed him to the hereafter.

That night I tried to talk to Harry about those four legged creatures wearing a black and white tuxedo, for in spite of their natty appearance, they are the one animal you stay away from, and I just hope it sunk into Happy Harry's brain. For some reason he is under the impression that every four-legged animal is a playmate. By the way, if any of you folks meet me, don't shy away for I also took a bath with Channel No. 5 added to the bath water for now I smell like something to truly behold... that is to behold from far away as possible.

Anyhow, all kidding



Happy Harry

aside, I really am sweet smelling now. Ask Happy Harry for we are now like two 'sweet' peas in a pod.

Okay, time for Ray's educated joke for the week. By the way, before you start reading this, be sure that none of you try this at home. Oh yeah, are you at least 21 before you start reading this. The title of this joke I owe to my brother Frank Mlakar of Erie, PA, and Frank is familiar with this joke for he lived on a farm. Here it is:

Ma and Pa were two hillbillies living in Western Kentucky out on a farm in the hills. Pa has found out that the hole under the outhouse is full. He goes into the house and tells Ma that he doesn't know what to do to empty the hole.

Ma says, "Why don't you go ask the young'un down the road. He must be smart 'cause he's a college gradjyate." So Pa walks down to the neighbor's house and asks him. "Mr. college gradjyate, my outhouse hole is full, and I don't know what to do to empty it."

The young'un tells him, "Get yourself two sticks of dynamite, one with a short fuse and one with a long fuse. Put them both under the outhouse and light them both at the same time. The first one will go off and shoot the outhouse in the air. While it is in the air, the second one will then go off and spread the poop all across your farm, fertilizing the ground. The outhouse will then come back down to the same spot atop the now empty hole."

Pa thanks the neighbor, then drives to the hardware store and buys two sticks of dynamite, one with a short fuse and one with a long fuse. He goes home and puts them under the outhouse. He then lights them and runs behind a tree.

All of a sudden, Ma comes running out of the house and into the outhouse. Off goes the first stick of dynamite, shooting the outhouse into the air. Boom... off goes the second stick of dynamite... spreading poop all over the farm. Wham! The outhouse comes crashing back down atop the hole. Pa races to the outhouse, throws open the door and shouts, "Ma, are you all

right?!" She pulls up her knickers and says, "Yeah, but I sure am glad I didn't blow a fart in the kitchen."

Well, with that, time I pull out of here and hope Sister Bernadette didn't read my joke. In closing, May the good Lord bless and watch

over all of you and keep you in good health. In the meantime, study for the test and check the outhouses before entering for you never know when someone will want to do a bit of spring cleaning there.

SNH Says Thanks

On Friday, April 22, the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue had another extremely successful "Night at the Races."

The enthusiastic crowd supported the hall through this benefit in a big way. Not only was the program book full of sponsors, (and please support our sponsors), the naming of the horses for each race sold out, and people dealt with the rain on Friday and attended and wagered in large numbers.

Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and attendees that made the night a success.

A very heartfelt thank you to Ani Sterle and Erika Kurbos on behalf of "Kres" after winning the auction race donated their winnings (\$645.00) back to the hall. What a great display of Slovenian camaraderie. *Hvala lepa* to all.

--Robert A. Hopkins
President, Slovenian National Home

What We Learn From Movies

Things we learn from the movies:

A ventilation system of any building is the perfect hiding place. No one will ever think of looking for you in there and you can travel to any other part of the building without difficulty.

You're very likely to survive any battle in any war unless you make the mistake of showing someone a picture of your sweetheart back home.

Should you wish to pass yourself off as a German officer, it is not necessary to speak the language. A German accent will do.

A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating, but will wince

when a woman tries to put iodine on his wounds.

Even when driving down a perfectly straight road, it is necessary to turn the steering wheel vigorously from left to right every few moments.

All bombs are fitted with electronic timing devices with orange readouts so you know exactly when they're going to go off.

A detective can only solve a case once he has been suspended from duty.

If you decide to start dancing in the street, everyone around you will automatically be able to mirror all the steps you come up with and hear the music in your head.

This wisdom came from Phil Hrvatin.

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Korotan Concert is Sojourn Fund-raiser

The Slovenian chorus Korotan, under the direction of John Srsen, is having its concert on Saturday, April 30 at the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Reservations can be made by calling Theresa Rihtar at 440-286-5421. Tickets for the concert only, to begin at 8 p.m. will be available at the door. Stan Mejac orchestra will play for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Members of Korotan are honored to have been invited to Slovenia this summer, for the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Slovenians having to leave their homeland because of Communism. We will follow "the paths of martyrs," as the venues have been designated, for the events will honor the World War II and post-war victims. The events will also celebrate the accomplishments of the refugees, who have remained faithful to their Slovenian roots and have not forgotten the sacrifices of their countrymen.

Korotan will, for the first time in Slovenia, perform two original compositions by our for-

mer directors. We will sing "Naša pesem," by the late Francek Gorenšek, with lyrics by Marjan Jakopic. The members of the Ljubljana Philharmonic Orchestra will accompany the chorus for the cantata "Pozdravljena zemlja," by Korotan's founding director, Dr. Metod Milac, and with Pavle Borštnik as lyricist. Both of these works are very suitable for the occasion, for they express all the emotions of the horrors of war, betrayal, martyrdom, and refugee status, but also the deep-rooted love and eternal hope anchored in Faith.

Those refugees who did not live to see the beginnings of a new Slovenia will surely rejoice and be proud of their children and grandchildren who, with some of the refugees, will comprise three generations of participants.

Korotan's dinner-concert is intended as a fund-raiser to help defray the costs of this extraordinary trip to Slovenia. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

--Milena Stropnik

Spending A Week in Paris

by PATRICIA COIL
Euclid Travel
Part 3

(Continued from last week)
Marais, Museum D'Orsay, Tuesday

Our husbands decided to spend the morning in the apartment rather than take the Paris Walks Marais tour, so my daughter and I again ventured out alone on the metro. We were less than pleased to find that Brad again was to be our guide. On Sunday there had only been 6 people in our group, this time there were about 16.

The Marais contains more pre-Revolutionary lanes and buildings than anywhere else in Paris and is more atmospheric than touristy. During the Middle Ages it was the home of the old nobility. Eventually it became a dumpy Bohemian quarter. In the mid-1880's the narrow streets were replaced by boulevards.

We got to see a couple of the aristocratic mansions that have not been broken up into apartments. These are being used by various government agencies.

These mansions called hotels in French, had huge carved wooden doors so that carriages could pass through into an inner courtyard. The nobles did not want to be bothered by street noises. The mansions all had formal gardens in the center surrounded by the building wings. An entire building behind the gardens was used for a greenhouse (orangerie) to provide homegrown fruits and vegetables during the winter.

In the center of the Place des Vosges there is a statue of Louis XIII on horseback,

a community park, shade trees and fountains. Surrounding it are nine pavilions (houses) per side. The two highest - at the front and back - were for the king and queen (but never used). Beneath the arcades are cafes, art galleries, and restaurants.

Henri IV built the Place des Vosges in 1605 and called it "Place Royal." He wanted the area to become Paris' most exclusive neighborhood and he planned to move there. He felt that his palace on the Ile de la Cite was not safe. Even though the king never moved in, there were other famous people who occupied these houses. Victor Hugo lived there when he was writing the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Cardinal Richelieu, prime minister to Louis XIV had a home there. He tried unsuccessfully to stop nobles from dueling. To show their contempt for this idea, they actually dueled under his window. Eventually one of them was arrested and the dueling stopped.

The Marais is also known as the Jewish quarter and is still filled with kosher restaurants and shops. One of the schools had a plaque on the wall that commemorated the headmaster, staff and students arrested and killed in Auschwitz in 1943 and 1944.

When the tour was ended, we managed to find our way to another metro stop, which took us to the area where we

planned to meet my son-in-law for lunch. He had drawn us a simple map to use. When we got off the metro we got confused and we were standing on a street corner looking for a street sign, when a nice Parisian woman came up and asked if she could help us. We were amazed, supposedly this never happens in Paris to tourists. Everyone says the locals just ignore Americans. She pointed us in the right direction and also recommended the place where we were going to eat lunch.

Le Bar A Soupes was painted bright yellow and held about 20 people. My son-in-law had gotten lost also and he was late meeting us, so we had to wait for a table, but it was worth it. Every day the owner makes six different kinds of soup for lunch. By the time we got there she was down to 3 kinds of soup. They came with bread and you could order cheese or a dessert to go with them. We all had fresh tomato soup, definitely no relations to Campbell's.

After lunch we all went to Musee d'Orsay that houses French art of the 1800s (specifically 1848-1914). Since I love French impressionists, I didn't want to miss this one. It holds the best general collection of Manet, Monet, Renoir, Degas, van Gogh, Cezanne and Goughin, anywhere.

Armed with our Rick Steves' Paris 2004 book, we did a lightening tour. The

museum is in a former train station and many of the original features such as the gigantic clocks were left. We actually took pictures through the clock faces, the only area in the museum where you could take any kind of pictures.

By the end of the afternoon, we were really dragging. By dinner time it was raining and we decided we had enough of the metro and

my husband had been alone all day so we walked a short distance to an Italian restaurant in the neighborhood. My daughter was pleased to discover that wine actually is cheaper than beer or coke.

Since there were two wine stores in our neighborhood, we always had wine at night. We really liked the white wine from South Africa.

(To Be Continued)

Polka Hall Night at Classic Park

Polkas at the ball game will take place on Friday, May 6 at the Lake County Captains game in Eastlake, Ohio.

Slovenian polka music will greet fans at the Main Gate, beginning at 6 p.m., with Ken Zalar and the Captain's Crew, the Button Accordion Band of the Year. At 6:20, on top of the home team dugout, the 2004 Band of the Year, Bob Kravos and the Boys in the Band, will entertain.

The Cultural/Heritage Award winning choir, the Slovenian Junior Chorus of SNPJ Circle 2, will sing the National Anthem.

At 6:55 p.m., George Staiduhar will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Staiduhar, who has retired from the music business and

former Trustee of the organization, is still active assisting in special events. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

An evening at cozy Classic Park is a lot of fun with interaction with the fans and the promotions between innings.

Tickets at \$8.00 are now available at the Polka Hall of Fame Gift Shop, 605 East 222nd Street, Euclid, OH 44123, or by calling 216-261-3263. A portion of the ticket sales will benefit the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum.

Free parking will again be provided at the lot adjoining the baseball park courtesy of Viviani Family Limited Partnership, formerly JFD Industries at 35595 Curtis Blvd., off Rte. 91.

Philadelphia 3-Step Carmel Pecan Cheesecake

- 2 pkg. (8 oz. each) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 graham cracker crumb crust (6 oz. or 9 in.)
- 20 caramels
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- ½ cup chopped pecans

MIX Philadelphia Cream Cheese, sugar, and vanilla with electric mixer until well blended. Add eggs; mix until blended. Melt caramels with milk on low heat, stirring frequently until smooth. Stir in pecans.

POUR caramel mixture into crust. Top with cream cheese batter.

BAKE at 350 degrees F for 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool. Refrigerate 3 hours or overnight. Makes 8 servings.

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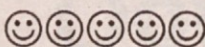
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ALICE KUJAR (Recipes and Traditions)
DUKE MARSIC (Strictly Slovenian News)
PATTY SLUGA (Women's Interviews)
ED OSTRY (Guest co-host)

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Lovely weather for our April meeting brought a great crowd of 173 HAPpy members together. We remembered Jenny Zaman, sister of John Copic, in the silent prayer. May she rest in peace; our sympathy to the family.

Ann Eichler, our wonderful Sunshine Lady, (who was under the weather herself) sent cheery Get-Well cards to Chuck Krivec, Virginia Marovich, Mary Okicki, Emeric Pausic, Helen Pavsek, Ann Petrovich, Tony Rodelle, Helen Suhy, and Louise Trundley. Several of our ailing friends suffered falls; we were glad to see quite a few back with us. Stay well, please.☺☺

Two new members graced our gathering: Mary and Tony Pryately. **Welcome to the club!** Tony, a truly frugal Slovenian, was presented with a unique "embossed" Slovenian wallet, since his old one was worn out, to the delight of all present. Guess you should have been there.....

14 "youngsters" were serenaded with "Happy Birthday". "Happy Anniversary" wishes were sung to Margaret and Albert "Al" Mierke, 39 yrs. and Jean and Bill Spehar, 40 yrs. Many, many more happy years to all the celebrants!

Many THANKS to Myra Jerkic, and April helper Dorothy Lamm, for another successful 50/50 raffle. Well done, ladies!☺☺

Fran Kajfez reminded us that the Friday May 6th Seneca-Allegany trip (which is filled, sorry) departure time is 6:45 AM, from Orr Arena off Babbitt Road. Hope we have lots of winners again; The Fallsview trip was outstanding! The 'Cleveland by Land and Water' trip Friday June 24th is also filled, which is hardly a surprise. We'll get to see many interesting facets of our town, and have a fine Sterle lunch to boot. Love that Schnitzel.☺... Great Lakes Resort in the Catskills, NY, is scheduled for August 16-19, 2005. Price of \$446.00 includes all taxes and tips. Activities too numerous to mention offer something fun for everyone. The Amish tour, with a visit to flea market, is slated for Friday September 30, 2005 and is

also filled! What can I say; our tour directors Fran and Matt Kajfez, make sure everyone has a fun time, so one has to be "quick like a bunny" to sign up, or else it's the waiting list. Good thing Fran keeps one for all the outings.

John Kozlevchar brought something very important to our attention: its' now open season for telemarketers to call us on our cell phones. Since we are charged for incoming, as well as outgoing calls, that can become a big expense, besides being a total nuisance. To register for a "Do Not Call" list, call 1-888-382-1222, and you must use your cell phone to do it. Block is valid for 5 years then you can call again.

Quite a few members went to the Slovenian Home For The Aged on Neff Rd. after the meeting, for our annual songfest to entertain the residents. We had a great contingent of musicians: Bill Elersic, Kathy Hlad, Jim Kozel (Piano), John Kozlevchar, Ronnie Kupetz, Tony Spendal, Lou Trebar, Paul Yanchar (Clarinet), Bill Zabukovec (Base), Ken Zalar Slovenian "Man-of-the-Year" and Joe Zgonc who had everyone's toes tapping. We had a lot of fun singing along (or at least trying to) with our stage singers, Marie Dular, Vida Kalin, Josie Rotter, Grace Sechnick, Frank Sechnick, Lorie Sierputowski under Matt Zabukovec's able direction and a whole bunch of singers in the audience. Guess the residents enjoyed our efforts, they were

generous with applause. John Obat was looking well, and was glad to see us.

Afterward, we feasted on wings at the Holmes Avenue Slovenian Home's "Wing-Ding", and enjoyed more toe-tapping music with Kathie, Kenny, Paul, Ronnie and Mr. Ed. Kenik. What Fun!☺

Speaking of toes, don't miss May 11, 2005 meeting! Our guest speaker will be Dr. Catherine Ferguson, Foot & Ankle specialist. She'll have much good advice for our better foot health and safety. Fall prevention is vital!

Stay well, and enjoy the sunshine!☺☺

Mila Jera.

Coming Events

Saturday, April 30

Slovenian chorus Korotan benefit dinner-concert, 6 p.m., in Slovenian National-Home, St. Clair Ave. Dance to follow; music by Stan Mejac.

Saturday, April 30

Zarja Singing Society Spring Concert titled, "My Big Fat Slovenian Honey-moon" at Slovenian Society Home, Euclid, OH. Dinner 5 - 6:30; concert at 7 p.m. and Jeff Pecon Orchestra provides dance music beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets \$20 Call (216) 531-5542 or (440) 257-2540.

Sunday, May 1

Annual Dinner-Dance of Holmes Ave. Pensioners at Coll. Slov. Home, 15810 Holmes Ave. Dinner at 2 p.m. Dancing to Ray Polantz 3-7 p.m. For tickets see members or call (216) 531-2088 or (440) 943-3784. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, May 7

Comedy Night at Collinwood Slovenian Home. Donation \$10. Doors open at 7, show begins at 8 p.m. Cash Bar available. Sponsored by C.S.H. Club Card, One Day Only.

Sunday, May 8

Slovenian National Home, 3563 East 80th St., between Union and Aetna, is sponsoring a Mother's Day Breakfst. Serving from 9 a.m. until noon. Adults \$8.00, children 12 and under: \$4.00. Reservations call (216) 341-6136, (216) 662-3339, or (216) 425-7746.

Saturday, May 14

Holy Cross Church of Fairfield, CT hosts "A Spring Polka Celebration" beginning with 4:30 Polka Mass followed by Dinner-Dance featuring "The Polka Quads." For reservations call 203-259-5366 or 203-372-4651.

Sunday, May 22

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH, served 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$5. For details call Joe Blatnik at 440-943-1191.

Sunday, May 29

Chicken Barbeque dinner and dance with Frank Moravcik Orchestra at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH. Dinners served 1 to 3; dancing 3:30 to 7:30. For details phone Joe Blatnik at 440-943-1191.

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day Dance with the Joe Grkman and Wayne Tomsic Orchestras at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH. For details call Val Pawlowski (440) 286-1786.

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day Picnic at Triglav Picnic Grounds, Milwaukee, Wis.

Sunday, June 5

Cleveland Athletic League dinner and dance at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH. Dinners served 1 to 3; dancing to Fred Ziwich Orchestra 3:30 to 7:30. Details call Gerri Trebets at 440-951-9611.

Saturday, June 11

"Dolenjski Vecer" with Vinogradski Oktet from Sentjerne, Slovenia concert at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's parish community center. Music and dancing to follow by young musicians from Sentjerne. For tickets please call 440-877-9044.

Sunday, June 12

Mirni Raj 142 95th anniversary picnic at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH. Dinners served 1 to 3; entertainment Bob and Shelly Orlandi 2 to 3; Dancing to music of Ray Polantz Orchestra 3:30 to 7:30. Details Dolores Dobida (440) 943-5559.

Sunday, June 19

Spartans annual dinner and dance at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH. Dinners served 1 to 3; dancing to music of Joe Novak and Friends 3:30 to 7:30. Details call Lou Novak (216) 461-6476.

Sunday, June 26

SNPJ Lodge 126 annual dinner and dance at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH. Dinners served 1 to 3; dancing to music of Captain's Crew and Sumrada Brothers Orchestra 3:30 to 7:30. Details call Grace Marinch at (440) 269-1334.

Sunday, June 26

First Picnic (Prvi Piknik) at Triglav Park in Wind Lake, Wisconsin.

Sunday, July 3

Joe Fedorchak with the Jack Vasko Orchestra at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, OH. Hosted by Cleveland SNPJ Federation. Dinners 1 to 3; dancing from 3:30 to 7:30. Details call Sophie Matuch at (440) 951-6906.

Sunday, July 17

Loyalites annual dinner and dance at SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, OH. Dinners served 1 to 3; dancing to Captain's Crew and the Cruisers, 3:30 to 7:30. Details call Dorothy Gorjup at (216) 732-9231.

Wednesday, July 13

Annual Picnic of Holmes Ave. Pensioners Club at VFW #4358 on White Rd. (between Bishop & Rockefeller Rds.) noon until 6 p.m. Everyone welcome. * Free admission. Food & refreshments available. Fred Ziwich plays for dancing 2:30 to 4:30. Jam session follows. More information call 440-943-3784.

Sunday, July 24

St. Vitus Slovenian School annual Summer Picnic at Slovenska Pristava.

'Riders in the Sky' at Thanksgiving Polka Shows

The famed cowboy act, "Riders in the Sky" has been confirmed to appear at this year's Award Show on Saturday, Nov. 26 at Euclid High School. They will also make an appearance at the Marriott Hotel for the Polka Hall's "Meet the Winners Dance" that same evening.

They were originally scheduled to appear during the time of a benefit in September, 2001 at the Rock Hall of Fame. Because of the terrorist attack on September 11 of that year, it was rescheduled.

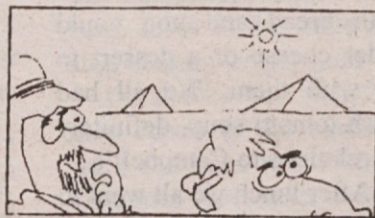
Thanks to the ongoing interest of Polka Hall of

Famer and "Cow Polka King" Joey Miskulin, they will perform this year for the Polka Hall of Fame fundraiser.

The Saturday Thanksgiving events are sponsored by the Polka Foundation as part of the outgoing holiday festivities for daily Polka Radio on WELW 1330 AM and 247polkaheaven.com

Complete details will be released in May for the Thanksgiving Polka Weekend in downtown Cleveland and Euclid.

--Tony Petkovsek
"Quarterly"



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Death Notices

FRANK VODOPIVEC

Frank Vodopivec, age 56, of Willoughby Hills, OH, beloved husband of Helen (nee Znidarsic); devoted father of Peter (Angela) and Carmen (Jeff) Waters; cherished grandfather of Owen, Anthony and Elena; dear brother of Jack, Lidia Mazi, Fani Skrijanc, Lucija Piber, Ivanka Rotar, Majda Bergoc, and Matija (deceased); uncle of many.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 18 at St. Felicitas Church. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

Friends were received at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills on Sunday, April 17 from 2-8 p.m.

LOUIS PREBEVSEK

Louis Prebevsek age 92, beloved husband of Mary (nee Kauck); loving father of Louis (Brenda) and Helen; dear grandfather of Mary Patterson, Louis J. and Lorraine Morris; great grandfather of five; brother of Lillian Kuret (deceased).

Mr. Prebevsek belonged to Waterloo Pensioners, Jadran Singing Society, and SNPJ Strugglers.

Friends were received at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St., Sunday, April 24 from 2 - 6 p.m., where services were Monday at 9:15 a.m., and at St. Robert Church at 10 a.m.

Interment All Souls Cemetery.

GENEVIEVE M. CALTA

Genevieve M. Calt (nee Strumbly) age 92 of Highland Hts.; wife of the late Lawrence; dear sister of Frances (Maurice) Gulich, Pauline (Rudy deceased) Marik, Frank (deceased) Barbara Strumbly and Edith (Frank) Tegel. Cherished aunt, great aunt and great-great aunt of many.

Family suggests memorial donations in her name to the charity of your choice.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27 at St. Paschal Baylon Church. Interment All Souls Cemetery.

The family received friends at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 28890 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills on Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., before church services.

In Loving Memory



John J. Urbancich

Died April 29, 1975

30 years have passed since that sad day
When the one we loved was called away.
God took him home - it was His will
But in our hearts - he lives, still.

Sadly missed by:
Wife, Dorothy,
Daughter, Madeline Debevec
Son, John M.,
and families



In Loving Memory

Of the 15th Anniversary
our Mother,
Grandmother, and
Sister



ANNA M. ZAK

Passed away April 30, 1990

Your memory to us is a keepsake,
With which we will never part
Though God has you in His keeping,
We always have you in our heart.

Sadly missed by
Daughter: Betty
Sons: Norbert J. and
Michael J.
and other relatives

In Memory

Thanks to Ms. Joyce Fatur of Sagamore Hills, OH who renewed her subscription and added a \$15.00 donation in memory of Josephine Fatur who passed away on June 6, 2004.

In Memory

Thanks to Patricia A. Ipavec Clarke of Cleveland Heights, Ohio who renewed her subscription and added a \$50.00 donation in memory of her grandparents, Frank and Antonia Ipavec. Patricia writes, "Without their courage and forward thinking, we may not be living in this great country."



In Loving Memory



William H. Plymesser

19th Anniversary
April 28, 1986

We'll meet again someday, I know
Beyond the distant blue
But until then, my dearest one,
I'll always think of you... and
So I live with thoughts of you...
And all you meant to me... and
Always I can feel you near...
If just in memory

Sadly missed by
Wife, Sylvia

In Loving Memory

of the 5th Anniversary
of the death of



Mike Vidmar
who passed away on
May 3, 2000

Sadly missed by:
Daughters, Grandchildren,
and Great-grandchildren

A PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY

(Never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the sea, help me, show me herein, you are my mother, O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven & earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity. (Make request). There are none that can withstand your power, O show me herein, you are my mother. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (Say 3 times) Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (Say 3 times). Thank you for your mercy to me and mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, then you must publish & it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks.

L.N.

In Memory

Thanks to Mrs. Dorothy Zupscan of Madison, Ohio renewed her subscription and enclosed a \$15.00 donation in memory of her parents, the wonderful Anton and Marjana Debevc and the Zupscan Family.

Donation

Thanks to the Slovenian Cultural Society (Triglav) in Milwaukee for their roster renewal and the \$20.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to John J. and Joe Hovevar of Cleveland, OH who renewed their subscription and added a \$25.00 donation.

Donations

Thanks to the following for their generous donations to the Ameriška Domovina:

Jim Valencic, Euclid, OH -- \$10.00

Lillian Perez, Richmond Heights, OH -- \$15.00

Mary Kucic, Willoughby, IL -- \$5.00

Marija Kovacic, Euclid, OH -- \$10.00

Marija Cugel, Cleveland, OH -- \$10.00

Joseph Mihelich, Cleveland, OH -- \$15.00

Charles and Mary Loncar, Madison, OH -- \$15.00

Christine Ujcich, Richmond Heights, OH -- \$15.00

Augustin Jokic, Willoughby Hills, OH -- \$15.00

Frank and Olga Merela, Willoughby Hills, OH -- \$15.00

Doris Sadar, Willoughby Hills, OH -- \$15.00

Ivan and Ivanka Buh, Bridgeview, IL -- \$5.00

Martin Lisac, Mentor, OH -- \$5.00

Marija Grabar, Rochester, NY -- \$5.00

Mrs. John Kuzmanovich, Strongsville, OH -- \$5.00

Mimi Kozina Cupar, Euclid, OH -- \$15.00

Romano and Jozica Vitulich, Wickliffe, OH -- \$15.00

Louis Kobal, Richmond Heights, OH -- \$5.00

Josephine Valencic, Cleveland, OH -- \$5.00

Mark Maruszak Rides for MS Cure

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic disease of the central nervous system, usually striking adults in the prime of life. One new case of MS is diagnosed every hour. More research is needed to find a cure for this affliction which is now being diagnosed in children as young as three years of age.

It is important and necessary for money to be raised for further study. To meet the challenge, Ron Oravec and his mentor Mark Maruszak will host a fundraiser on Wednesday, May 11 at Friendly's Restaurant in Willoughby Hills, OH, 27751 Chardon Rd., between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m. Friendly's will donate 10% of all dining sales made

during this time to the MS society.

Encourage Ron and Mark in their endeavor by dining at Friendly's Restaurant in this unique opportunity for real community involvement and participation.

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks to The National MS Society. Questions? Call Mark at 440-944-4229.

Checks can be mailed to:
Mark Maruszak
2151 Larchmont Dr.
Wickliffe, OH 44092

Ron and Mark also will be riding bicycles round trip (150 miles) from Berea to Sandusky on August 20-21 raising money for a cure for Multiple Sclerosis.

Baraga Weekend in Cleveland

This year Cleveland will host the annual gathering of the Baraga members on Labor Day weekend. The Slovenian Mass will be held in St. Vitus Church on Saturday evening, Sept. 3. A reception will follow in the school auditorium.

Prior to that, a dedication of the Bishop Baraga bust will take place in the Slove-

nian Cultural Gardens.

On Sunday, Sept 4, a Mass will be held in St. Mary's Church (Collinwood) in the afternoon. It will be followed by a banquet in St. Mary's Community Center with Julia Zalar as the chief cook. Seating will be limited to the first 500 persons.

The annual Bishop Baraga meeting will follow.

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Second Reunion of 'Slovenska Palma'

MIAMI, FL -- We would like to thank everyone who attended our second reunion. We hope you all had a great time meeting your old friends, and we hope you have made a few new ones, too. Our plan is to meet like this a few times a year. With your support, we will continue to meet each other and keep Slovenian culture and language alive.

Our second "Slovenian Evening" was held at the Yacht and Tennis Club Ft. Lauderdale on Saturday, March 5th. More than 100 Slovenians attended, many from other Slovenian clubs. We welcome our guests from other parts of Florida and we were really excited to meet our fellow Slovenians from Argentina, Canada, and Cleveland, as well as our guests from Slovenia. It was a real "spoznavni vecer," get-to-know-each-other evening.

The night started with the Slovenian anthem. As the beautiful "Zdrafljica" ended, our president Silvester Subotnjicki presented the plans for the future. After, vice president Mojca Klaves rewarded everyone who had helped prepare for the first reunion in November last year. They received a nice diploma.

Ervin was the first one invited to the stage. He designed and created web site www.slovenskapalma.org. After Ales Damis was invited to the stage. He provided the first prize (Macco West Palm Beach) for raffle at both reunions. We also rewarded Mladen for buying the most raffle tickets. To Maja Lesnik goes a big thanks for entertaining us throughout both evening as a hostess, singer and dancer.

But they were not the only ones who were recognized. One of our rewards went to Mr. Niko Tomc, who was the oldest Slovenian this evening. He will be 95 years old this year. His present was a book, "Slovenia, my country." And we didn't forget our youngest Slovenian guest Lara Smejkal either who has barely completed 7 months. She received some children's books in the Slovenian language.

The authentic Slovenian dinner started with homemade bread, just like our moms used to make. We continued with beef goulash, segedin, and roasted piglet. Outside, by the marina, "kranjska klobasa," sausages were barbecued on the grill. Thank you Dragan for providing us with delicious food. He owns his own restaurant in Pembroke Pines. For a sweet tooth, we had "kremnite" for dessert,

which were made by Gerbaud Bakery.

The surprise guests, or better said, guests of honor were Tony Klepec, Jack Berfield and Joe Virant from the American-Slovenian Club SNPJ 787 Boca Raton. They really boosted up the evening by playing on their accordions, starting with the tune, "Na golici," and followed with a few more Slovenian pop-folk songs. Silvester and Maja were full of energy spinning on the dance floor.

We are thankful for his attendance and his entertainment in Ft. Lauderdale. The article that was recently published spoke about Tony Klepec being known as accordion champion of Cleveland.

Another Cleveland legend Mr. Joe Cvetas also attended our second gathering. Due to not knowing much about the other Slovenians in the United States, we are very pleased about newcomers. Everyone is more than welcome to join us, no matter what language they speak, and where they come from as long as they love our Slovenian culture.

Our main interest is gathering Slovenian people from the entire United States, not only from the State of Florida. In addition, we would like to save our culture and share the beauties of Slovenia with the whole world. True, our country is small, but it is full of wonders.

News reporters are describing Slovenia as very much developed with many natural beauties, many waiting to be discovered. Their main question is if Slovenia is so small, how can it have so many natural wonders. We can assure you that it is one of the most beautiful countries on earth, located on the sunny side of the Alps. Everyone who has seen it, finds something to like about it. Besides historical and cultural curiosities, the natural beauties are so different, hardly anyone can believe that so much is possible in such a tiny country.

The evening was beautiful and lasted long into the night. Everyone had a story to tell and it was a good opportunity to make new connections, either for business or friendship.

We had a raffle with prizes from Slovenian sponsors like Posta Slovenije, Založba Tuma - "Thank you for all your books," Government of Slovenia for promotional material, and once again thanks to Ales Damis for giving us the first three raffle prizes from Macco, West Palm Beach.

It was already late when

the first visitors had to say goodbye since they had children who entertained themselves in their own way through the evening. We also had some Slovenian products to give to our youngest.

Thanks to Sasa for supporting our organization. He provided refreshing drinks and beer from his Euro-Mart store. If you would like to see more selections from his store, please visit his web site at www.euro-mart.us

We are very grateful to Miss Teresa Alfonso who helped us with supplying the wine. We would like you to know that the quality Slovenian wine Traviata from Gorinska Brda is now available for purchase in Florida. WCIC Corp also delivers anywhere in the U.S. You can select between three sorts: Merlot, Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. For more information visit their web site www.cic-corp.com

At the end we would like to thank everyone who came to our reunion, as well as all our sponsors. Our next reunion will be at the end of June. We will have an outdoor picnic with authentic "kranjska klobasa." We invite you to join us. Our mobile library is almost finished and should be on the way by the end of April. All members of the Slovenska Palma will have unlimited access to books and CDs. And please make plans to visit Florida in November and join us to celebrate our first anniversary reunion. We invite all friends of Slovenian culture from all around the world to come and join us. Until then, please visit our web page www.slovenskapalma.org and write us with your suggestions and comments at klubslovenecv@aol.com.

Best regards from sunny Florida.

--Slovenska Palma

For pictures please check our web site.

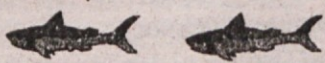
Note

Received the following note from Betty Carovac of Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH along with her subscription renewal, "Love the American Home newspaper. Keep it coming."

FISH FRY

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Slovenian Pensioners Club of Euclid

Since the first of the year, the Pensioners Club of Euclid has been on a roll, even with the winter weather conditions we were confronted with ... very cold and snowy.

Before continuing we must mention that the following members accepted office for the year 2005:

President: Lori Sierputowski

Vice President: Jackie Ulle

Secretary: Carolyn Janezich

Financial Secretary: Lilian Pugel

Treasurer: Elsie Frank

After Pledge of Allegiance at every meeting, a silent prayer is held for our departed members and a moment of silence for our recently deceased members and friends: Raymond Cerna, Rudolph Zgonc, Theresa Clements and Helen Medved. May they rest in peace. To their families, our deepest sympathy.

The birthdays and anniversaries are acknowledged at every meeting with warmest congratulations.

Our president, Lori Sierputowski, makes our meetings very enjoyable and interesting. She has scheduled great performers for entertainment over the next several months which will bring

joy and laughter to every member.

Mimi Stibil, our tour organizer, reported on the new bus tours for 2005. They sound great.

A big "Thank You" to our historian, Marion Bostian, for the article in the *American Home* newspaper regarding the Slovenian Pensioners Club 44th Anniversary which was on March 4. Marion did a lot of research and for this she is to be commended for a job well done.

Let us take a moment to say to our former Treasurer Frank Kosten, a great job and a dedicated individual who gave years of faithful, loyal and accurate service. Thank you, Frank, from the bottom of our hearts.

Also, every Friday in the club room fish fry dinners are available. There is music for your listening and dancing pleasure. Everyone is welcome. Why not stop in and join the fun?

Remember, we welcome new members, and our next meeting will be on May 4th. It will be a special Mother's Day meeting with surprises.

Before closing and to our members: Let's Work Together To Accomplish More.

Carolyn Janezich,
Secretary

Success is a journey - not a destination. --R. Flis

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.



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– Vesti iz Slovenije –

Barbara Brezigar ima šestletni mandat kot generalna državna tožilka

Parlament je pretekli teden potrdil Barbaro Brezigar za generalno državno tožilko. Glasovalo je 71 od možnih 90 poslancev, od teh jih je bilo 44 za Brezigarjevo, 25 proti. Barbara Brezigar je tako postala tretja generalna državna tožilka v času neodvisne Slovenije, po Antonu Drobniču (1990-1998) in Zdenko Cerar (1999-2004). Med drugim je bila 51-letna Brezigarjeva za šest mesecev pravosodna ministrica v Bajukovi-Janševi vlada leta 2000, tekmovala proti Janezu Drnovšku na zadnjih predsedniških volitvah, zadnje mesece pa je bila članica Eurojusta v Haagu.

Zgodovinarji močno sprti glede razumevanja polpreteklosti

Skupina 16 zgodovinarjev, med njimi sta profesorja ljubljanske filozofske fakultete Božo Repe in Dušan Nečak ter tržaški zgodovinar Jože Pirjevec, ima občutek, da se vračajo časi, ko je bila zgodovinska veda vprežena v voz države in politične oblasti. Tekst izjave bo sicer objavljena prihodnji teden, vendar je jasno, da so podpisniki zagovorniki v glavnem dosedanje verzije dogodkov iz časov druge svetovne vojne in po njej. Nova oblast je po njih naklonjena drugi verziji, ki da postaja nova bolj ali manj "obvezna" oz. "veljavna" verzija. Med drugim je spór spravila v ospredje razpravljanje o tkim. "fojbah", trenutno pa posegajo vmes politiki, ki govorijo o spremembah zakonov o vojnih žrtvah, prikritih grobiščih itd. Vse kaže, da se bo ta razdvojenost še stopnjevala, vključujejo se bolj in bolj odkrito tudi poklicni zgodovinarji.

Posledica sprtosti se je pokazala pretekli teden, ko je vlada odstranila Božota Repeta, enega od 16 podpisnikov izjave, iz sveta Muzeja za novejšo zgodovino. Repe je tudi znan kot nasprotnik sedanjega šolskega ministra Milana Zvera. Namesto Repeta je bila imenovana zgodovinarica Jerica Vodušek Starič, ki je v zadnjih letih objavila več knjig in razprav o polpretekli slovenski zgo-

dovini in s tem prispevala k reviziji dosedanje "uradne" zgodovine. (Tako Repe kakor Vodušek Staričeva sta ponovno sodelovala na sekcijah Družbe za slovenske študije, op. ur. AD.)

Več kot 93.000 brezposelnih v Sloveniji

Stopnja registrirane brezposelnosti v Sloveniji je februarja znašala 10,3 odstotka, so ugotovili državni statistiki. Februarja je bilo registriranih 93.138 brezposelnih oseb, kar je pa bilo 5,3 odstotka manj kot februarja lani. Aktivnih prebivalcev v državi je bilo 900.542, od tega delovno aktivnih 804.404, zaposlenih 726.311 oseb, samozaposlenih pa 81.093 oseb. Število kmetov se je v enem letu manjšalo za 7,9 odstotka na 31.339.

Umrli najstarejša, 108-letna Slovenka

Na Škofijah so pokopali, to komaj dober mesec po 108. rojstnem dnevu, najstarejšo Slovenko Marijo Bandelj, rojena 6. marca 1897, mater treh hčera, dve sta še živi. Kljub visoki starosti in zdravstvenim težavam (priklenjena je bila na posteljo, oslabil ji je sluh), je bila živahna, cenila je dobro hrano, tudi kozarčka refoška se ni branila.

Parlament odobril program razvoja cest

Poslanci so pretekli teden sprejeli (73 za, 0 proti) program razvoja in obnavljanja cest. Letos gre za gradnjo 174 kilometrov cest, novih 17 kilometrov avtocest, nadaljevanje gradnje na 34 km, začetek gradnje pa na 44 km. Odprtih bo novih 22 kilometrov avtocest (odsek Trojane-Blagovica, zadnji del hitre ceste Škofije-Sermin, manjkajoči del avtocestnega odseka Smednik-Krška vas in še avtocestni odsek Hrastje-Lesnica na dolenskem avtocestnem kraku). Za voznike bo bistveno, da se bodo od sredine avgusta znebili polžje vožnje čez Trojane oziroma da bo končana avtocestna povezava Koper-Maribor.

Tečaj tolara: Tečajnica Banke Slovenije za 25. aprila: 1\$US = 183,45 SIT; 1 kanadski dolar = 148,61 SIT.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Koncert pri M. Vnebovzeti—

Nocoj – četrtek – ob 7. uri se bo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete pričel koncert akademskega pevskega zbora "Tone Tomšič" iz Ljubljane. Zbor sestavlja 26 deklet in 23 fantov, ki študirajo na Univerzi v Ljubljani. Nastopili bodo tudi v New Yorku in Washingtonu ter Richmondu, Va. Ni vsotopnine za koncert, prostovoljni prispevki bodo pa s hvaležnostjo sprejeti. Po koncertu bo srečanje v dvorani.

Korotanov koncert—

Ta bo to soboto zvečer v SND na St. Clairju. Vsotopnice za banket so razprodane, na voljo so pa sedeži na balkonu (torej 8h zv.) in sicer po \$15.

Rezervirajte si večer—

V soboto, 11. junija bo v dvorani pri Mariji Vnebovzeti nastopil Vinogradniški oktet iz Šentjerneja. Po koncertu bo nastop skupine mladih fantov iz Šentjerneja, ki bo poskrbela za domačo glasbo. Nakaznice-informacije: 440-877-9044.

Novi grobovi

Louis Prebevsek

Dne 21. aprila je v Slovenskem domu za ostarele umrl 92 let stari Louis Prebevsek, mož Mary, roj. Kaucic, oče Louisa in Helen, 3-krat stari oče, 5-krat prastari oče, brat že pok. Lillian Kuret, član pevskega društva Jadran, SNPJ in Kluba upokojencev na Waterloo Rd. Pogreb je bil 25. aprila v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Roberta in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Genevieve M. Calfa

Umrli je 92 let stara Genevieve M. Calfa s Highland Hts., rojena Strumbly, vdova po Lawrenceu, sestra Frances Gulich, Pauline Marik, Adolpha, Ernesta, Edith Tegel ter že pok. Franka in Raymonda. Pogreb je bil 27. aprila v oskrbi Cosicevega zavoda s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Paskala Bajlonskega in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.

Estella A. Simcic

Umrli je 86 let stara Estella A. Simcic, vdova po Steve-u, mati Stephena in RONALDA, 3-krat stari mati, 4-krat prastara mati. Spominski obred je bil 26. aprila v Želetovem pogrebem zavodu.

† Zina Velikonja—

Pred kratkim je preminula Zina Velikonja. Osmrtica bo prihodnji teden, sporočamo pa, da bo pogrebna sv. maša v soboto, 7. maja, dop. ob 10h v cerkvi sv. Vida. Zemeljski ostanki bodo pokopani na pokopališču Vernih duš na Chardonu. Namesto cvetja na grob svetuje družina, da pošljete prispevke Novi Slovenski Zavezi (Beethovnova 5, 1000 Ljubljana) za ljubljansko spominsko ploščo.

LILIJA ima sestaneke—

Redni članski sestanek dramskega društva LILIJA bo v ponedeljek, 2. maja, ob pol osmih zvečer v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave. Vsi člani lepo vabljeni.

Krofi in rezanci—

Oltarno društvo sv. Vida bo imelo prodajo krofov in rezancev v soboto, 14. maja, ob običajnem času v društveni sobi avditorija. Zaznamujte koledar, da ne boste pozabili.

Dopisnikom v vednost—

Ker je lastnik izrazil željo, da bi mogli natisniti AD že zgodaj popoldne ob sredah, svetujem dopisnikom in drugim, ki pošiljajo gradivo za objavo v slovenski del, da to po možnosti storijo že do torka popoldne, če le mogoče. Za krajše vesti za to rubriko, pa do srede popoldne.

Baragovi dnevi letos—

Odbor, ki organizira Baragove dneve, ti bodo 3. in 4. septembra v Clevelandu, sporoča, da bo slovenska sv. maša v soboto, 3. sept., zv. ob 6.30, v nedeljo bo angleška maša pri Mariji Vnebovzeti ob 2h pop., sledil bo sestanek Baragove zveze. Ljubljanski pomožni škof Andrej Glavan se bo udeležil Baragovih dni.

Spominski darovi—

Ga. Dorothy Zupscan, Madison, O., je darovala \$15 v podporo listu, v spomin na Antona in Marjano Debevc in pok. iz družine Zupscan. Ga. Frances Masar, Mentor, O., je darovala \$10, v spomin moža Josepha. Helen Fonda, Cleveland, O., je darovala \$40, v spomin pokojnih iz družine Fonda. Ga. Mary in g. Edward Sadar, Columbus, O., sta darovala \$15 v spomin Edwarda J. Sadar, ki je umrl 27. januarja 2005. Hvala vsem za podporo.



25. obletnica škofovskega posvečenja dr. Alojzija Šuštarja – Dne 12. aprila je bila v Zavodu sv. Stanislava v Šentvidu priskrba in lepa slovesnost, ki je pokazala, kako cenjen in nepozaben je dr. Alojzij Šuštar, nekdanji ljubljanski nadškof metropolit in predsednik Slovenske škofovske konference, piše Družina 24. aprila.

msgr. Franci Petrič

Ljubljana

Blagoslovljen, papež Benedikt XVI.!

"Imamo našega Ratzingerja!" je zaklical neki Italijan, ko sem v torek, 19. aprila, v množici tekkel proti obelisku na Trgu sv. Petra, da bi zagledal beli dim iz Sikstinske kapele, ki je ob 17.50 naznanjal, da so kardinali izvolili novega papeža. Tisti trenutek še nisimo vedeli, kdo je izvoljen, saj se je komaj pokadilo iz malega dimnika, ki je v zadnjih dneh postal najpomembnejši dimnik na svetu. Na stotine kamer je bilo že od pogreba Janeza Pavla II. usmerjenih k njemu pod vrh Sikstinske kapele in kdor je od ponedeljka, 18. aprila, spremljal dogajanje na Trgu sv. Petra, se ni mogel načuditi, koliko časnikaarjev in fotografov se je ob številnih romarjih, duhovnikih in redovnicah gnetlo na trgu in potrpežljivo čakalo, molilo, pa tudi živahno klepetalo in ugibalo, kdaj in kdo bo izvoljen. Največkrat so omenjali prav kardinala Ratzingerja. Glas ljudstva je bil tokrat odločen, lahko rečemo "Vox populi, vox Dei".

Vesel sem, da sem bil v tej množici in sem tako na lastne oči in ušesa videl in slišal, kako doživljajo Italijani in drugi katoličani izvolitev 265. naslednika sv. Petra. Že v dneh ob pogrebu in še posebej pri maši pred odhodom v konklave je kardinal Ratzinger veljal za eno osrednjih osebnosti, ki bi si jo mnogi želeli videti kot naslednika Janeza Pavla II. in apostola Petra. Ko je končal svoj nagovor v baziliki sv. Petra, ga je množica sproščeno nagradila s ploskanjem in z vzkliki "Ratzinger papež". Italijani ga štejejo za svojega. Ganljivo se mi je zdelo, ko je ob novici, da je bil izvoljen kardinal Ratzinger, moj soseda Italijan na Trgu sv. Petra sproščeno objel dva Bavarca, ki sta stala tam poleg, vsa objkoana od sreče ob veliki novici.

Ob izvolitvi enega najpomembnejših mož med kardinali za novega voditelja Cerkve imamo kar nekaj razlogov, da ugibamo, kakšno sporočilo nosi to imenovanje s seboj. Najprej tisto, ki ga je pred leti izrekel že kardinal Benelli časnikaarjem, ko so ga ob izvolitvi papeža Wojtyła spraševali, kaj bo zdaj, ko ni bil izvoljen Italijan: "V Cerkvi ni tujcev!" Izvolitev kardinala Ratzingerja je pokazala, da v katoliški Cerkvi pri izbiri papeža narodnost od te izvolitve v prihodnje ni več pomembna.

Mnogi so v času pred konklavom ugibali, ali bodo kardinali izbirali t. i. "prehodnega papeža", in najbrž se bodo v dneh, ki so pred nami, taka ugibanja zaradi njegovih let še ponavljala. Izbira moža, ki je z modrostjo, tenkočutnostjo in izjemno ljubeznijo do Cerkve znal uspešno krmariti eno najbolj zahtevnih vatikanskih kongregacij, kaže, da so kardinali gledali predvsem na to, da današnji čas potrebuje močno osebnost. Človeka, ki ve, kako pomembno se je zavedati lastne katoliške identitete. Človek, ki se zaveda samega sebe, svojega mesta v svetu in Cerkvi, bo znal tudi pravilno voditi dialog z drugimi in drugačnimi. Novi papež je dobro seznanjen z različnimi iskanji sodobnega človeka, z njegovimi stranpotmi in težavami, zato bo znal nagovoriti sodobnega človeka. V slovenskem prevodu imamc že tri njegove knjige, kjer se je izkazal tudi kot moder človek, kot človek dialoga in strpnosti, zato sem prepričan, da bo kot papež s svojim delom in mislijo močno zaznamoval naš čas in svet. Pri tem njegova sorazmerno visoka starost (tri dni pred izvolitvijo je praznoval 78. rojstni dan) nima posebne teže. Janez XXIII. je ob svojih visokih letih pustil veliko sled v Cerkvi in svetu. Prepričani smo lahko, da bo podobno tudi z Benediktom XVI.

Slovenci se njegovega imenovanja iskreno veselimo, saj nas z münchensko-freisinsko škofijo, iz katere prihaja in jo je več let tudi vodil, vežejo stoletne vezi. Za katere je kardinal Ratzinger dobro vedel. V letih, ko smo bili pod jarmom komunizma, je njegova škofija finančno pomagala tudi Cerkvi na Sloven-



Med izletom na smučišču v Vailu, Colorado so smučarji obiskali tudi Staneta in Friedo Gerdin v kraj Carbondale, Colorado. Obisk je opisan v članku spodaj.

MIRA KOSEM -

Cleveland, Ohio

Rada odhajam gor v planine

CLEVELAND, O. - Že od malega me je izredno mikalo smučanje; na žalost ni bilo denarja za tak 'uksus'. Ker pa sem precej vztrajna pri mojih zamislih, sem - osemletna - nagovorila starega ata Mihelič, da jih skupaj 'scimprava'.

Rekel je, da morajo biti iz jesena. Spominjam se, kako sem potem vedno ob poti iskala jesene. Nekega dne se mi je zdelo, da sem nad potjo v gošči zagledala prav primerno drevo. Hitro ga pokažem očetu in - seveda, ker je vedel, da ne bom dala miru - se je vdal, saj me je imel grozno rad. Klical me je "ščeperička". Ne vem, kaj to pomeni, vem pa, da je ta ščeperička pri njemu dosti dosegla.

No, in tako so nastale moje prve smuči. Drevo se je požagalo, nastale so deske, primerno debele. Potem sva te deske oblikovala: kuhala sprednje konce, da se je les zakrivil, natezala in sušila.

Končno sem imela svoje smuči. Vprašanje pa je bilo, kako narediti natezalke. Pogruntala sva, da bi kar dobro služile stare gume od kolesa. Te sva odrezala kake 3

cm široko in pribila na vsako stran smučk, da sem lahko nasadila svoje čevlje. Problem je bilto, da kadar sem se na koncu proge ustavila, se je guma strgala. K sreči sem si kladivo kar pod kozolec pripravila in sem ostala vztrajna.

Marjan pravi, da sem vztrajna še danes. K sreči je tehnologija napredovala in ker je on tehnološko nagnjen, se tudi njega hitro nagovori za najboljša sredstva. Sedaj švigamo po hribih na paraboličnih smučeh. Te so tehnološko tako dopolnjene, da skoro same obračajo.

To pot nas je na progi "Avanti" Matej Branc učil, da mora migati samo spodnji del telesa. Pater Krizolog je temu težko sledil, ker je bil v "kloštru" drugače učen. Malo težav imam tudi jaz, ker mi je Ivan Kamin povedal, da ramo narobe mečem. Res sem se trudila, da je miroval vrhnji del telesa, ko sem švigala po hribu za Marjanom. Njegovo telo se vije po pravilnih principih, zato je za nas res dober vzgled.

Letošnji smučarski izlet je bil v kraju Vail, Colo-

rado. V soboto, 2. aprila, smo odleteli v snežnem viharju iz Clevelanda. V Denverju se nam je pridružila vzhodna ekipa in skupaj smo z avtobusom potovali dve uri v Vail.

Že pred ciljem smo na avtobusu zvedeli za smrt papeža Janeza Pavla II. Velikokrat imamo srečo, da z nami smuča tudi kak duhovnik. To pot je bil zopet z nami pater Krizolog iz New Yorka.

Pri sv. maši v nedeljo smo se posebej spominjali papeža. Med tednom je bila maša na voljo vsaki dan kar v stanovanju Brančeve družine, kjer je pater stanoval.

V ponedeljek smo imeli spominsko mašo pok. Marka Fajfar, nek našega smučarja Zdravka Novak. Mark je pred veliko nočjo nenadoma umrl pri 46 letih. Zapušča ženo, 5-letno hčerko, mamo Magdo in druge drage. Naj počiva v miru!

Ponedeljek je bil tudi dan, ko smo kot skupina smučili na smučišču Beaver Creek blizu Vail. Tam sta naju sprejela in vodila brata Pavle in Jože Košir. Pavle je tam bolj domač in pozna smučišče. Z vso vsmo nas je vodil. Začutila sem, da pred seboj vidim strmo progo, zato sem vprašala: "Ali se tudi razdelimo med nore in zmerne?"

Kot vedno me je Marjan prepričal, da ni nič hudega in sem mu slepo sledila navzdol. Moram priznati, da je prav Marjanov optimizem vzrok, da danes smučam bolje kot kdaj koli prej, toda ta ledena strmina me je kar preplašila, čeprav

skem. Prav tako dobro pozna nekatere naše duhovnike in jih ceni. Kot prefekt kongregacije za nauk vere je večkrat pokazal posebne simpatije do Slovencev, zato ga brez pridržkov lahko štejemo za prijatelja Slovencev. Njegova izvolitev je tudi priznanje nemški, posebno pa bavarski Cerkvi, ki je s svojo dobrodelnostjo med najsvetlejšimi zvezdami katoliškega obnebja. Kardinalu Josephu Ratzingerju, novemu papežu Benediktu XVI., delavcu v Gospodovem vinogradu, kot se je sam ob nastopu imenoval, smo najprej hvaležni, da je v zahtevnih časih po tako velikem papežu sprejel breme papeške službe, obenem pa mu voščimo: "Blagoslovljen (benedictus pomeni prav to), ki prihajaš v imenu Gospodovem!" Odslej ga bo spremljala naša molitev.

DRUŽINA, 24. IV. 2005

(dalje na str. 12)

KAREL BONUTTI: Veleposlanikova leta v Vatikanu

Iz spominov na Janeza Pavla II.

Dr. Karel Bonutti, rojen v Bukovici v spodnji Vipavski dolini, je od prvih povojnih let živel z družino v Clevelandu v ZDA, kjer je bil univerzitetni profesor in vsestranski kulturni delavec. Od l. 1998 do 2002 je bil veleposlanik Republike Slovenije pri Sv. sedežu. Za naš list (*Novi glas, Trst, 14. aprila 2005*) je napisal nekaj svojih spominov na to obdobje in na samega sv. očeta.

Ponedeljek 7. septembra 1998 mi bo ostal v neizbrisnem spominu. To je bil dan, ki ga je določilo vatikansko Državno tajništvo za predajo akreditivov svetemu očetu. Četudi sem prispel v Rim že v drugi polovici junija, je bil zaradi počitnic sprejem pri sv. očetu odložen do septembra.

V papeževi poletni rezidenci Castelgandolfo nas je sprejel nadškof James Harvey, prefekt papeževega dvora. V spremstvu švicarske garde in dvornikov me je s soprogo in družino spremljal do papeževe pisarne. Vsi člani družine so počakali v predsobi.

Srečanje s papežem v njegovi osebni pisarni ob prisotnosti njegovega zvestega tajnika škofa Dziwisza je bilo pristrčno. Po izročitvi akreditivov sva se usedla k pisalni mizi. Papež se je zanimal za splošno stanje v domovini, kako se razvija demokracija.

Spomnil se je nekaterih vladnih predstavnikov, ki jih je srečal v Vatikanu in nato še v Sloveniji.

Njegove oči pa so se kar zasvetile, ko je omenil srečanje z mladimi v Postojni. Tudi kapela s slike Marije Pomagaj v baziliki na Brezjah mu je bila zelo prisotna. Kar je smatral za edinstveno in ganljivo, so bile pete litnije Matere Božje. Rekel je, da takšnega petja še ni slišal.

Obisk v Sloveniji mu je dal občutek, da je vera v Sloveniji, kljub 50-letnemu enoumju in verskemu zatiranju še močno ukoreninjena.

Ko sva se dotaknila svetovnih vprašanj, sem se predrznil izraziti prepričanje, da bodo njegovi napor za združitev vzhodnega krščanstva z zahodnim uspeli, ker obe verski skupnosti, katoliška in pravoslavna, z enako gorečnostjo častita Devico Marijo.

Ko smo končali z razgovorom – morda petnajst minut –, so povabili v pisarno ostale člane družine, da jih predstavim sv. očetu. Vse je obdaroval in blagoslovil. Ko sem predstavil Borisa, enega od sinov, se je papež nasmehnil in dodal: "O Boris Jelcin". Od tedaj je sin Boris ponosen na svoje ime.

Kljub sproščenosti pri sprejemu se je že takrat čutilo, da papežovo zdravje peša. Že takrat je rabil palico.

Prav tako nepozaben je papežev direkten poseg pri odločanju njegovega drugega obiska Slovenije s slovesno proglasitvijo za blaženega škofa Antona M. Slomška.

Kljub temu da so njegovi najožji sodelavci nekako že odločili, da bo slovesna proglasitev v Rimu, na Trgu sv. Petra, se je zaradi složnega nastopa Slovenske škofovske konference in slovenske vlade ter možnosti, da se zaradi bližine Rima in Maribora slovesnost da opraviti v enem dnevu, sv. oče osebno odločil v prid slovenskih želja.

Ko smo se po slovesnosti vračali iz Maribora s sedanjem nadškofom in



Spreddaj desno kard. Alojzij Ambrožič ob prenosu papeža Janeza Pavla II. v baziliko sv. Petra. Fotografija: Novi glas, 14. aprila 2005

nuncijem Ivanom Jurkovičem, sva bila povabljen, da papeža spremljava na letalu. (*Gl. foto spodaj*) Bil je izredno zadovoljen nad obiskom, saj ga je pričakalo okrog 200.000 Slovencev, ki so izkazali vdanost Cerkvi in njemu osebno.

Pripravljali smo tudi papežev tretji obisk v Sloveniji. Zamisel je prišla od ruskega veleposlanika pri Sv. sedežu Vitalija Litvina, ki je svetoval, da bi se moskovski patriarh Aleksej in sv. oče srečala v drugi državi, predno bi prišlo do uradnega obiska v Moskvi in nato v Rimu.

Zamisel je bila sprejemljiva obema. Letališče Brnik, srečanje pa v Brezjanskem samostanu.

Na žalost se je Sveti sedež, nič sluteč, ravno takrat odločil, da spremeni cerkvena območja v Rusiji iz administrativnih regij v redne škofije. Ruski patriarhat pa je sprejel odločitev kot širjenja katoliškega prozelitizma na ruskem pravoslavnem ozemlju, zato je sedaj srečanje odloženo za nedoločen čas.

Kljub temu da je sv. oče izkazal izjemno naklonjenost do našega malega slovenskega naroda, sta slovenska vlada in Državni zbor z veliko težavo urejevala pravne odnose s Sv. sedežem.

Apostolska obiska sv. očeta v Sloveniji sta bila namreč verskega značaja, pravne zadeve pa niso bile urejene. Do podpisa sporazuma o pravnih zadevah je prišlo po nekajletnih razpravah in tri leta po parafriranju. To je sv. očeta močno prizadelo in v osebnih razgovorih v Državnem tajnistvu niso zakrivali razočaranja.

Kot prvo, tako tudi zadnje, poslovilno srečanje s sv. očetom, pusti slehernemu veleposlaniku neizbrisne spomine.

Audienca je bila 24. junija 2002. V štirih letih je papežovo zdravje močno opešalo. Kljub temu bi njegove dnevne obveznosti težko opravljal najbolj izkušen in zdrav državnik.

Srečanje je bilo najavljeno ob 11.30. Navadno sta za poslovilno audien-

(dalje na str. 12)



TAKRATNI VELEPOSŁANIK SŁOVENIJE K SV. SEDEŽU NA LETALU SKUPAJ Z JANEZOM PAVLOM II. OB PAPEŽEVEM DRUGEM OBISKU SŁOVENIJE LETA 1999.



Skupina smučarjev na gori Vail.

Rada odhajam gor v planine

(NADALJEVANJE s STR. 10)

sem počasi, brez padca prispela v dolino.

Kmalu sem zagledala Mijo in Toneta Branc. Smatram ju za zelo dobro, zmerna smučarja, in sem se jima pridružila.

To je bila dobra odločitev. Vse izzivne strmine sem zdelala pred padca, toda parkrat sem na "lepem" padla in k sreči sta bila v bližini Tone in Mija. Oba sta imela polne roke, da sta mi pomagala pokonci. Človek kar pozabi, da je telo, ki je pod oskrbo Medicare, včasih bolj trdo.

V torek (tj. 5. aprila) je snežilo. Vzela sem si prosto, ker se nerada mučim z novo zapadlim snegom. Tisti, ki so smučali, so mi rekli, da je bila to dobra odločitev.

Popoldan nas je skupina (midva, Koširjeva dva in Ivan Kamin) odšla proti Carbondale, na obisk Staneta Gerdina, ki je Ivanov sorodnik in naš stari znanec. Žena Frieda nas je povabila. Odkar hodim na zahod smučat, se na kak način poskusimo srečati.

Že zadnjič je bilo opaziti, da je Stane pozabljiv, tokrat pa nas je Frieda opozorila, da nas verjetno sploh ne bo spoznal, ker ima Alzheimerjevo bolezen. Povedala mu je, kdo vse pride, in on reče: "Ali so to Slovenci? Ja, ja, seveda!"

Potem se je cel dan pripravljaj, da nas sprejme. Ko smo prišli, je bil zelo vesel in vljuden, toda vzelo je nekaj časa, predno si čutil, da se mu je v spominu kaj zabliskalo. Prinesli smo mu šopek, potico in vino, s katerim smo pili na

zdravje. (Ivan je upal, da bo prinesel slovensko vino, pa se je steklenica ob praznovanju smučarskega osvajanja večer preje čudežno izpraznila.)

Ob sončnem zatonu smo se vsi slikali za hišo na terasi, ko so zadnji žarki oblivali Mt. Sopris, 14.000 tisoč čevljev visoko goro. To goro Stane še vedno občuduje in mu daje vsaj malo orientacije, rad jo vedno gleda od kuhinjske mize.

Še malo smo pri mizi pojedli, popili in zapeli nekaj domačih.

Se ne spominjam, kako je prišel pogovor na Korotan, a zopet se je Stanetu zabliskalo. "O ja, Korotan, kako sem vas rad poslušal!" Čez nekaj časa pa pravi: "No, veste, zdaj sva pa s Friedo zaspala in greva spat."

Reš, saj je kratek obisk več vreden. Bil je čas slovesa. Z melanholičnem občutku smo odhajali; kdo ve, če bomo še kdaj videli tega dobrega človeka.

V sredo - NASTAR tekme. Lep, sončni dan, povaljan nov sneg, slalomska proga krasna. Adrenalin pozitivno poganja po naših žilah. Z zupanjem se spuščamo preko začetnih vrat in se čim bliže in čim hitreje ogibamo slalomskih palic, da bomo najhitreje na cilju.

Pri tem gre telesna drža v koš, ni časa misliti, da bi migal samo spodnji del telesa. Da sem se zasigurala, da nisem prehitro ustavila, sem z vso zagnanostjo letela prav do ograje.

Ko prvič pridem na cilj, zaslišim še Absent-

kove pesmi. Sedaj je navdušenje še večje. Z Marjanom se s pomom peljeva gori in se zasidra pri začetnih vratcih. Istčasno odrineva in ko vzporedno švigava med palicami, slišiva; "Bila sva mlada oba." Bilo je čudovito. Res sva se počutila mlada!

Zvečer smo praznovali z nagradno večerjo in razdelitvijo medalj. Teh je bilo na pretek, saj smo vsi tako dobri smučarji. Če vas zanimajo rezultate, glejte članek pretekli četrtek (21. aprila) Andreja Laha v angleškem delu.

Četrtek, 7. aprila, je bil zopet prekrasen dan - sončen, jasen, gore čudovite. Kot drugič, se nama je zjutraj prisedel na vlečnico Peter Osenar. Peter začne spontano molitev - nas vse priporoči v božje varstvo. Bil je globok trenutek, saj ljubitelj gora najbolj s hvaležnostjo občuduje to božje stvarstvo. Hvala, Peter, za tako pomemben poziv.

Naslednji dan smo še odkrivali nove dele Vail smučišče in tudi mesteca. Mnogi od nas smo pogrešali Alpen Rose restavracijo. K sreči sta Andreja Novak in Sue Osenar vestno odkrivali

zanimive trgovine in restavracije; pri eni sta našli slaščice, ki so jih preje prodajali pri Alpen Rose.

Prehitro je prišel konec našega tedna. Kanadski "fantje" so odpotovali že ob 3h zjutraj. Newyorčani in mi pa smo imeli še soboto dopoldan na razpolago, ali za hribe ali za trgovine. Izrabili smo oboje. Marjan je bil v nebesih - še nikdar ni smučal sedem dni v enem tednu.

Ivan nas je "podil" na avtobus, ker so prerokovali velik snežni vihar. No, v Clevelandu smo bežali pred enim viharjem, zdaj nas podi že drugi. Srečno smo mu ušli in prispeli domov v polno pomlad.

Prva hvala gre Bogu, da smo brez nesreč veseli preživeli teden v prekrasni naravi. Druga pa gre Ivanu Kaminu, organizatorju tega letnega izleta; Ivan neumorno skrbi za vse in vso našo oskrbo. Hvala, Ivan!

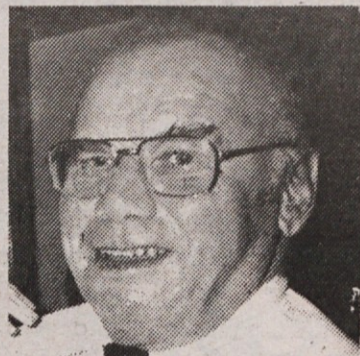
Upam, da vas je ta opis kaj navdušil, da se nam pridružite v bodoče. Drugo leto se nam obeta Avstrija in tudi bolj domač Park City, Utah.

Odločite se že jeseni! Pokličite nas!

Z AMERIŠKO DOMOVINO STE VEDNO NA TEKOČEM

V BLAG SPOMIN

OB 12. OBLETNICI SMRTI NAŠEGA DOBREGA MOŽA, OČETA IN STAREGA OČETA



MATIJA HUTAR

ki ga je Gospod poklical 30. aprila 1993.

V miru božjem zdaj počivaj, dragi, nepozabni nam, v nebesih rajsko srečo uživaj, do svidenja na vekomaj.

Žalujoci ostali:

Angela, žena
Mimi, hčer; Mark, zet
John, sin; Lisa, snaha
Brian, Jonathan in Eric, vnuki
Annie in Claire, vnukinji
Jože, brat; Marija Simončič, sestra; oba v Sloveniji
nečaki in nečakinje; ostalo sorodstvo v Ameriki in v Sloveniji.

V BLAG SPOMIN

13. OBLETNICE SMRTI NAŠE MAME, STARE MAME, PRASTARE MAME IN TAŠČE



MARY STRANCAR

1902 - 1992

Umrta 28. aprila 1992

Trinajst let je že minilo, odkar Te več med nami ni, toda ljubeč spomin na Tebe, draga... ostal bo nam do konca naših dni.

Lahko naj Te zemlja krije, spavaj mirno in sladko, Luč nebeška naj Ti sije, mir in pokoj naj Ti bo.

Žalujoci:

Mary Zipperman, hčerka
Donald Zipperman, zet
Robert in Paul Zipperman, vnuka
Maureen Meilus, Lori Pope, Donna Flynt, vnukinje
pravnuke in pravnukinje

Iz spominov na papeža...

(nadaljevanje s str. 11)

co povabljen le veleposlanik in soproga. V našem primeru pa so povabili vso družino z vnuki; bilo nas je 18.

Četudi je bilo znano, da se je sv. oče ravno tiste dni počutil zelo slabo, je takoj, ko sva s soprogo stopila v njegovo osebno pisarno, s pomočjo osebnega tajnika vstal in se nama želel približati. S tem je hotel izkazati spoštovanje do države, ki sem jo predstavljal.

Tokrat je bil razgovor bolj kratek. Še vedno je kazal zanimanje za Slovenijo, imenoval nekaj slovenskih predstavnikov, se zanimal za njihovo delovanje in za moje nadaljnje delo. Spet je omenil Postojno in Brezje.

Nato je sprejel ostale v družini. Vsakega je obdaroval in blagoslovil. Vsi navzoči smo čutili bolečino v njegovih gibih, ko je dvigal roke in govoril, saj je imel robec v eni roki in tajnik je bil stalno ob strani.

Biti veleposlanik pri Sv. sedežu je velika čast, katere je deležnih le malo ljudi. Biti veleposlanik v času Janeza Pavla II. pa je dar, ki ga kot katoličan sprejmeš od Boga s polno zavestjo tvoje malenkosti, da si le orodje v Božjih rokah.

Karel Bonutti

BRALCI

AMERIŠKE DOMOVINE
Priporočajte naš list!

V blag in ljubeč spomin

ob prvi obletnici smrti



JANEZ KLOPČIČ

Srčno ljubljeni mož, prezgodaj si šel od nas. Pogrešam Te, a v duhu z menoj živiš.

Žena Slavi
vnukinji Shelli in Debi

USPEŠNA GLASBENA KARIERA -

S harmoniko v bitki za Grammyja

LynnMarie Rink, njen deklški priimek je Hrovat, je trikratna nominiranka za najprestižnejšo glasbeno nagrado, Grammyja, v kategorije polka. Iz "slovenskega" Clevelanda se je preselila v središče countryja Nashville in postala princesa polke.

Dejan Vodovnik

Iz cerkve sv. Jožefa na Čevici v Logatcu so še odmevali ubrani glasovi Logaškega okteta in ženskega noneta Vitra iz Ribnice, ki sta pred nekaj trenutki končala skupni koncert. Pred vhodom pa je nekaj ljudi pokušalo potico s pehtranom in ocvirki. Vsi so jo hvalili, tudi trikratna nominiranka za najvišjo nagrado ameriške glasbene industrije Grammy v kategoriji polka – LynnMarie Rink, ki se je še do nedavnega pisala Hrovat.

V Slovenijo jo je pot tokrat zanesla povsem namerno. Presenetil jo je mož, ki ji je potovanje podaril za štirideseti rojstni dan.

"Rodila sem se v Clevelandu, kjer živi največja populacija slovenskih izseljencev v vsej Ameriki. Skupaj s sorodniki sem živela prav v srcu Clevelanda. Veliko smo se družili, vsa srečanja pa je spremljala glasba. Ob nedeljskih popoldnevih smo vedno imeli vključen radijski sprejemnik in poslušali polke. Mama je pela v skupini, imenovala se je Pevci s planine," pripoveduje LynnMarie, ki je bila v Sloveniji deloma tudi zaradi povabila trenutno zelo aktualne glasbene skupine Atomik Harmonik.

Njen stari oče Mihael Hrovat se je iz Zagradca preselil v Ameriko leta 1905 in se tam poročil z Johano Vidic. Tako je



Lynn odraščala med ljudmi, ki so gojili slovensko kulturo. Na koncu ulice, kjer je živela, je bil in je še Slovenski dom, v katerem se Slovenci še zdaj zbirajo ob različnih slovesnostih, praznovanjih rojstnih dni, porokah.

"Spominjam se, da smo tam, ko sem bila še otrok, jedli potico, krofe, jabolčni zavitek, klobase, vse dogodke pa je seveda spremljala glasba, zlasti polka. Mamin ded je igral na diatonično harmoniko, moj oče pa klavirsko. Jaz, kot najmlajša med šestimi otroki, sem bila očetovo zadnje upanje, saj drugi inštrumenta niso vzljubili tako močno, da bi se naučili igrati nanj. Pri devetih sem prvič vzela v roke diatonično harmoniko."

Vsi, ki so kdaj obiskali Združene države Amerike, dobro vedo, da tamkajšnje glasbeno življenje ni le rock, blues in podobne glasbene zvrsti, ampak prav tako country in še kaj, tudi polka. Kakor pripoveduje LynnMarie, glasbo te vrste večinoma izvajajo moški, in to starejši. "Zato sem bila kot prva ženska v zgodovini, ki je bila nominirana za Grammyja, na to ponosna, saj sem resnično ra-

saj je zabavna, življenjska. Ko zdaj poslušajo moje skladbe, že celo prepevajo in tolčejo s peto ob tla; lahko rečem, da so polko v Nashvillu, ki slovi kot prestolnica country glasbe, lepo sprejeli."

Povsem jasno je, da je nekoga, ki živi na Zahodu, zelo neumestno spraševati, koliko zasluži, vendar je v glasbenem svetu nemara to eno najbolj normalnih vprašanj.

"Od glasbe te vrste se v Ameriki da živeti, vendar moraš prodati veliko, veliko plošč. Meni, moram priznati, kar uspeva; zaslužim dovolj in počnem tisto, kar imam najraje. Le kaj je sploh še lahko lepše od tega?"

Nastopa samo v "živo"

Pred kratkim je izšla njena trinajsta zgoščenka; s tremi se je uvrstila med nominirance za nagrado Grammy. Doslej je nastopala po vsej Ameriki, Kanadi, Nemčiji, Avstriji, Švici in v Sloveniji.

Tokratni obisk izkoristila tudi za nastop s skupino Atomik Harmonik. "Znanec iz Slovenije mi je poslal njihovo zgoščenko. Ob poslušanju sem spoznala, da po svoje počnemo podobne stvari. Med bivanjem v Sloveniji sem se udeležila njihovega nastopa v Slovenski Bistrici; bila sem presenečena in za-

čudena, da toliko mladih prepeva slovenske narodne pesmi; tega v Ameriki nikoli ne doživiš. Njihova glasba mi je všeč," pripoveduje LynnMarie in na vprašanje, kakšna je razlika med načinom izvajanja glasbe v Ameriki in tistim, ki ga je spoznala v Sloveniji, odkrito ošvrkne slovensko (običajno) sceno:

"Pri nas igramo in pojemo samo "v živo", na nastopu si ne moreš privoščiti "playbacka", saj s tem izgubiš vso verodostojnost."

V Logatcu se je vse skupaj končalo nekako tako, kakor se je začelo. S petjem. Logaški oktet je namreč gostje iz Ribnice in seveda LynnMarie povabil na prijetno druženje v eno od tamkajšnjih gostiln. Beseda je dala besedo, nato pa je nekdo vprašal gostjo iz Amerike, ali ima harmoniko vedno s seboj ...

"Brez harmonike ne grem skoraj nikamor. Tokrat je sicer iz Amerike nisem prinesla s seboj, saj jo ima moj bratranec v Zagradcu, ki nanjo tudi igra, zato sem si jo izposodila pri njem," je odvrnila, stopila do avtomobila in na veliko presenečenje vseh zaigrala nekaj slovenskih. Med drugim Mi se mamo radi v "amerškem dialektu".

Nedelo, 17. aprila 2005

Slovenija in ZDA ter boj proti korupciji

Ljubljana – Predsednik komisije za preprečevanje korupcije Drago Kos in veleposlanik ZDA v Sloveniji Thomas B. Robertson sta 12. aprila podpisala sporazum o sodelovanju med ameriškim uradom za vladno etiko in slovensko komisijo za preprečevanje korupcije.

Kot je povedal Kos, je s tem komisija dobila priznanje na mednarodni ravni, in upa, da ga bo dobila tudi v Sloveniji.

"Začnimo se ukvarjati z delom in ne z nepotrebnimi razpravami o obstoju komisije," je povedal Kos. Obljubil je, da si bo komisija v tem mandatu prizadevala tudi za to, da bi poročila o premoženju funkcionarjev postala javna. Člani komisije bodo svoje premoženje objavili že prej – takoj ko bo postavljena spletna stran komisije.

V interjuju je spregovorila namestnica direktorja ameriškega urada za vladno etiko Jane S. Ley:

S koliko državami je vaš urad doslej podpisal tovrstni sporazum?

Samo z eno državo – Argentino. Na Argentino, tako kot na Slovenijo, gledamo kot na voditeljico v regiji.

(DALJE na str. 14)

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Mitja Ribičič je največji še živeči zločinec

To je drugi, zaključni del tega intervjuja, ki je izšel v tedniku Demokracija 17. marca. Vključen je tudi odgovor Mitje Ribičiča, ki je bil objavljen v omenjenem tedniku 14. aprila.

Ur. AD



Izredno zanimivo je tudi vaše pričevanje o povojnem ropanju Ozne v Ljubljani.

Po vojni je bila Ljubljana brez oblasti. Ogromno ljudi je bilo zaprtih, ogromno jih je zbežalo in podobno. V mestu je bilo veliko izpraznjenih lepil vil. Zasedli so jih oznovci, ki so izbirali, katera bi bila za koga boljša. Pobrli so slike, preproge in druge predmete velike vrednosti.

Milan Apih je bil znan, da se je kar sedemkrat selil iz ene vile v drugo in pri tem iz njih pobral čisto vse, kar je bilo mogoče odnesti. No, potem so ga poslali v centralno Udbo v Beograd kakor veliko drugih oznovcev iz Slovenije.

Ste poznali Zdenka Roterja, ki je bil tudi znan udbovec in zasliševalec?

Ne. Slišal sem zanj, osebno pa ga nisem poznal.

Zdi se mi, da je bilo čiščenje Brezarjevega brezna nekakšen mejnik v vašem življenju?

Drži. Maček me je nekega dne poklical k sebi. V roki je imel listek in mi rekel: "Poslušaj, dobil sem poročilo, da je v vasi Dolnice pri Podutiku na poti na Toško čelo poginilo več domačih živali, da je zastrupljen potok, zaradi česar se ljudje pritožujejo. Pojdi in pogledaj, kaj je na stvari."

Dodelil mi je vojaškega zdravnika in skupaj z mojim spremljevalcem smo se v avtu peljali v Dolnice. Kmete smo vprašali, kaj vedo o tem. Povedali so nam, da je bilo tam v bližini pred časom streljanje.

Napotili smo se v smer, ki so nam jo pokazali, in kmalu smo vrnili velik smrad. Videlo se je, kje je bilo brezno. Nad njim je bilo polno lastovk in mrčesa, vendar pa se mu zaradi smrada nismo mogli približati. Vrnili smo se v Slavijo, kjer smo dobili maske.

Mačku sem povedal, kakšno je stanje. Ni bil

presenečen, ker je o vsem že vedel. Vprašal sem ga, kaj naj storimo. "Ven je treba pobrati!" mi je ukazal. Naročil mi je, naj pokličem Ribičiča, ki mi bo dal nemške ujetnike iz taborišča v Šentvidu in četo Knoja, da zastraži območje. Vse žrtve je bilo treba pobrati iz brezna in jih pokopati v neposredni bližini.

Tako sem tudi storil. Pred tem je bilo treba napraviti še lesen oder nad breznom, v Apihovih delavnicah v Šiški pa so nam naredili tudi dvigalo, ker so trupla pobitih že razpadala.

Po okolici se je širil grozen smrad. Nemci najprej niso hoteli delati, potem pa smo jim dali veliko vina in žganja in so začeli čistiti brezno.

Ves mesec nisem mogel nič jesti. Vse, kar sem pokusil, mi je bilo odvratno, saj je bil v meni še vedno smrad, ki so ga oddajala razpadajoča trupla.

To čiščenje je bilo res grozljivo. Nekatera trupla so bila brez glave, ena brez rok, ena brez nog in podobno. Videlo se je, kako kruto so bili ljudje pobiti. Opazili smo, da so, potem ko so žrtve ustrelili in jih potisnili v brezno, vanj metali še ročne bombe.

Šestdeset Nemcev, ki so brezno očistili, je potem izginilo neznano kam. Vse so likvidirali, da ne bi kdaj pripovedovali, kaj so delali in kaj so videli.

Zakaj ste morali leta 1949 zbežati na Madžarsko?

Ko sem videl, kaj se je zgodilo v Brezarjevem breznu, me je vse minilo. Prej sem za te stvari samo slišal. Kot Primorec sem bil vzgojen v boju proti fašizmu in primorski narod je bil za priključitev Sloveniji in Jugoslaviji, ne pa za komunizem.

Številni Primorci so bili v partizansko vojsko, potem pa so jih prepeljali na Dolenjsko, kjer so bili najtežje boje z vaškimi stražarji. Ko sem videl, kaj se je dogajalo, sem začel razmišljati. Tudi zato, ker sem imel družino, sem mislil, da bi bilo dobro, da bi se teh stva-

SLOVENIJA in ZDA...

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 13)

Poznate predloge poslancev v vladajoči koaliciji, da bi komisijo ukinili?

Za Slovenijo ali kateri koli drugo državo je dobro, da ima institucijo, ki se ukvarja s preventivo pred korupcijo. To je dolgoročno ceneje, javnost pa ima večje zaupanje v oblast. Zato upam, da boste v Sloveniji uvideli pomen preventive v boju zoper korupcijo, ki je ravno tako pomembna kot odkrivanje in preganjanje - slabe stvari se bodo zagotovo še zgodile in jih bo treba obravnavati. Pa vendar, ker prihajam iz organa, ki ravna preventivno, podpiram tovrstno prizadevanje. Verjetno bo tega širom po svetu vse več.

(Sledilo je več vprašanj in odgovorov glede dela ameriškega urada. Ta del intervjuja ni vključen tu. Ur. AD.)

Ali menite, da je v Sloveniji politična kultura po 15 letih od sprejema demokratičnih standardov že na takšni ravni, da bo protikorupcijska komisija lahko brez večjih težav opravljala svoje delo?

Nisem poznavalka slovenske politične kulture. Naj pa uporabim kot primer naš urad. Ustanovljeni smo bili šele konec

leta 1978, pri čemer imamo demokracijo že od leta 1776.

Po tistem, ko je moral zaradi afere Watergate odstopiti Richard Nixon, smo poskušali obnoviti javno zaupanje v državne institucije in naš urad je bil del tega načrta. Tudi mi smo imeli na začetku težave, saj so se ljudje spraševali, kdo smo, kaj delamo, nekateri niso želeli oddajati poročil o svojem premoženjskem stanju in podobno. Avtoriteto smo si pridobili šele s časom in zdaj nimamo veliko težav z nadzorovanjem. Vsaka nova institucija pač potrebuje čas, da se uveljavi.

(Zopet je izpuščeno nerelevantno vprašanje in odgovor, sledi zadnji del intervjuja.)

Kaj pričakujete od sporazuma, ki ste ga podpisali s Slovenijo?

Naš program izvajamo že 26 let in upamo, da bomo lahko na enake probleme s pomočjo vaše komisije zdaj gledali skozi nove oči. Poleg tega bomo dobili več podatkov o tem, kaj se dogaja v vaši regiji. Vaša komisija pa bo lahko s pridom uporabila naše izkušnje in se učila iz naših napak.

Rok Praprotnik
Delo fax, 13. aprila 2005

Mitja Ribičič o A. Svetini

Ur. AD: Na intervju z Albertom Svetino, ki ga je tednik Demokracija objavil 17. marca in je tudi ponatisnjen v AD, je v omenjenem tedniku 14. aprila odgovoril Mitja Ribičič. Njegovo pismo sledi v celoti:

Večkrat sem že demantiral izmišljotine Alberta Svetina-Erna, ki jih je polna tudi nova knjiga in intervju za Demokracijo, v katerem me razglasa za največjega živečega zločinca. O njegovih lažeh na račun nekdanjih partizanskih soborcev in tovarišev, ki so povečini že mrtvi in se ne morejo braniti, bi bilo mogoče napisati debelo knjigo (v smislu mojega gesla knjiga proti knjigi), za katero pa nimam dovolj moči in zdravja.

Ko sem prvič povedal, zakaj lažje, me je Svetina tožil in na sodišču pogorel. Nimam moči za nova tožarjenja in se še enkrat omejujem na zanikanje njegovih laži. Samo z enim samim odlomkom naj ponazorim, kakšnih "resnic" je Svetina zmožen. Ko je pobegnil na Madžarsko in tam v slovenščini hvalil Stalina in pisal proti zahodnim "imperialističnim prednikom", je leta 1951 sopodpisal članek, v katerem sta skupaj napadena Tito in nadškof Stepinac in pravi takole: "Pred letom dni je Tito po ukazu svojih imperialističnih gospodarjev izpustil 11 tisoč ustaških, četniških in belogardističnih klavcev, jim vrnil njihova krvava bodala in omogočil, da nadaljujejo svoje zločine." Primerjajte, kaj Svetina o osvobodilnem boju in povojnem obdobju naklada danes, pa boste videli, da si zasluži naslov največjega še živečega lažnjivca.

Mitja Ribičič, Ljubljana

ri osvobodil.

Ko sem bil v letih 1945 in 1946 načelnik Ozne za Primorsko v Ajdovščini in me je iz Beograda prišel kontrolirat predstavnik zvezne Ozne, me je ocenil, da slabo delam. Naj izvajam teror nad Primorci, ki so bili v veliki večini za nas?

Edino, kar so počeli protizakonito in proti novi oblasti, je bilo to, da so hodili nelegalno iz ene zasedbene cone v drugo. Primorski kraji so bili prej povezani, nato pa je nastala meja, ki je stike nasilno pretrgala.

Vse to sem videl, pa nisem ukrepal. Potem je Mačka kmalu zamenjal Boris Kraigher, ki je v Ozno pripeljal svoje ljudi. Z njimi nisem bil v dobrih odnosih. Spoznal sem ga v Dolomitih, ko je pribežal iz Gonarsa. Ko se je s človekom po-

govarjal, je gledal stran. Imel je občutek manjvrednosti.

Ker nisem bil njegov kader, me je s Primorskega premestil v Ljubljano. Postal sem namestnik Vladimirja Svetine-Iva, načelnika Ozne za Ljubljano, na Karlovski cesti. Kmalu zatem so me tudi od tam odslovili. A se jim nisem dal.

Iz Ozne so me izključili, iz partije pa sem izstopil sam. Potem sem bil v nemilosti. Najprej so me vrgli iz stanovanja, na katerega je že čakal Miško Kranjc. Preselili so me v drugo stanovanje, kjer so imeli svoje ljudi, da so pazili name.

Ker se jim nisem hotel pustiti, sem se vpisal na srednjo tehniško šolo. Dobil sem tudi štipendijo. Žena je delala in z dve-

(DALJE na str. 15)

Pogovor z Albertom Svetino

(NADALJEVANJE S STR. 14)

ma otrokoma smo se skupaj z njenimi upokojenimi starši le nekako preživljali.

Eno leto sem hodil na srednjo tehniško šolo, nato pa so me nekega dne v šoli poklicali v pisarno, kamor se mi je javil Matija Maležič, tedanji predsednik MLO Ljubljana.

Vprašal me je, ali mi ni dovolj šole in življenja, ki sem ga takrat živel. Rekel sem mu, da ne morem drugače. Vabil me je, naj pridem k njemu na poverjenišvo za komunalne zadeve, ki ga je takrat vodil krščanski socialist Puc.

Najprej sem postal njegov namestnik, obljubljen pa mi je bilo, da ga bodo zamenjali in da bom poverjenišvo prevzel v svoje roke. Ko so bile volitve, so za Bežigradom v gostilni pri Kersiču organizirali volilni zbor, na katerega so prišli sami udbovci in ti so me predlagali za poverjenika in člana izvršnega odbora MLO Ljubljana. Tako sem prišel v MLO, Puca pa so odstavili in ga pri tem tudi obtožili, da je ukradel drago nalivno pero.

Kmalu sem opazil, da tudi meni sledijo, da me podcenjujejo in da gre stvar v napačni smeri. V začetku leta 1949 mi je Udba preiskala stanovanje. Videl sem, kaj se dogaja, in se vprašal, ali naj pobegnem ali grem na Goli otok.

Odločil sem se za beg. Na Primorsko nisem šel, četudi bi se tam lahko sprehajal čez mejo. Vedel sem, da bi me tam najprej iskali. Imel pa sem sorodnike v Slavonskem Brodu, ki so se tja zatekli po begu iz Primorske po prihodu fašizma na oblast.

Do Slavonskega Broda sem se pripeljal z vlakom. Najprej sem prav tam poskušal prestopiti mejo, vendar ni bilo prave možnosti. Beg čez mejo mi je nato uspel blizu Koprivnice na današnji hrvaško-madžarski meji. V tem v knjigi podrobno pišem.

Na Madžarskem me je takoj zaslišala madžarska tajna policija AVH, najprej v Pecs, kasneje pa tudi v Budimpešti.

Kmalu po prihodu na Madžarsko sem se vklju-

čil v življenje jugoslovanske komunistične emigracije, junija 1949 pa sem začel delati na Radiu Budimpešta, kjer sem bil odgovoren za propagando v slovenskem jeziku.

V Budimpešti je bilo vodstvo politične emigracije. Leta 1952 so me aretirali, me obtožili, da sem bil Titov vohun, in me obsodili na deset let zapore.

Kmalu po Stalinovi smrti pa so me izpustili. Odsedel sem tri leta, vendar so me kasneje rehabilitirali, spoznali so me torej za nedolžnega.

Na Madžarskem so vas rehabilitirali, kaj pa v Sloveniji? Kot mi je znano, ste še danes brez slovenskega državljanstva in želite doseči svojo rehabilitacijo. Kako je s tem?

Drži. Najprej so me hoteli zatajiti, da sploh ne obstajam.

Kdaj je bilo to?

Še pred letom 1990. Po osamosvojitvi Slovenije je kazalo, da se bo dalo vse hitro urediti. Ko sem v intervjuju za *Mladino* razkril oznovske zločine, sem postal njihov glavni sovražnik.

Načelnica oddelka za notranje zadeve na Mačkovi Marta Potrč mi je obljubila vse mogoče, po izjavi v *Mladini* pa se je vse ustavilo.

Pričakujete, da bo z novo politično klimo, ki je zavládala v Sloveniji, mogoče, da boste končno dobili državljanstvo?

Poslušajte, povem vam popolnoma odkrito: Mitja Ribičič, ki je največji še živeči slovenski zločinec, ki je vodil in organiziral poboje in bil pri njih navzoč, se prosto sprehaja, lepo živi na svojem vikendu v Strunjanu in kot visok politični funkcionar prejšnjega režima prejema visoko pokojnino.

In jaz, ki nisem sam zakrivil nobenih zločinov, ampak jih razkrivam? To je nesprejemljivo.

Imate glede tega čisto vest?

Popolnoma čisto vest. Tudi moja knjiga to potrjuje. Z njo sem želel pripomoči k razčiščenju polpretekle zgodovine in k resnici. Zahtevam, da

me slovenska država rehabilitira in da mi da iste pravice, kot jih ima Ribičič.

Še za konec. Se vam zdi, da bi bilo prav, da bi v Sloveniji kdo za svoje zločine v času druge svetovne vojne in po njej odgovarjati?

Zdi se mi, da za zdaj to še ni mogoče. Res je, da je Janša zmagal, vendar premiki niso mogoči čez noč. Je pa dejstvo, da so bili tako veliki zločini, kot so se dogajali v Sloveniji, samo še v Sovjetski zvezi. Človek sploh ni bil več človek. S človekom so delali slabše kot z živali. Žival se zakolje, ljudi pa so mučili na strahotne načine. To sem videl ob čiščenju Brezarjevega brezna. Grozno ... Žal mi je, da takrat tega nisem poslikal. Presrečen pa sem, da sem to knjigo (s pomočjo zgodovinarja mag. Staneta Okoliša, op. a.) napisal, da jo bodo ljudi lahko brali.

(KONEC)

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Zgodovinar JOŽE DEŽMAN

Ljubljana (*Družina*, št. 12-13, Velika noč 2005) – Zgodovinar, antropolog, publicist, urednik, muzeolog Jože Dežman je danes najbolj angažirani zgodovinar v slovenski javnosti. Bil je "otrok svojega časa", ki je v mladosti – zaznamovan s svojim stricem, narodnim herojem – proučeval teme, povezane z "narodno-osvobodilnim bojem".

Toda že takrat je imel svoj pristop do obravnavanih tem, ki ni bil najbolj všeč borce, zato je večkrat prihajal z njimi v polemiko.

V zadnjih letih je naredil korenit obrat pri svojem delu, za katerega sta značilna kritičen odnos do enobojevskih mitov in posvečanje žrtvam revolucionarnega nasilja.

Študijski krožek *Moč preživetja*, ki ga je ustanovil v Kranju leta 2002, je svojevrstna oblika srečevanja žrtev vojnega, v tem primeru komunističnega terorja in rasizma. Ljudje, ki so jim med vojno umorili starše ali sorodnike, so šele zdaj lahko o svojih travmah, povezanih s številnimi krivicami, začeli javno govoriti. Strah in zarota

molka sta prvič začela vidno popuščati.

Rodil se je 26. septembra 1955 v Lescah. Po osnovni šoli v Lescah in gimnaziji na Jesenicah je študiral na ljubljanski filozofski fakulteti. Kot diplomirani zgodovinar in filozof je od leta 1979 zaposlen v Gorenjskem muzeju v Kranju, kjer je novembra 2000 napredoval v muzejskega svetovalca.

V slovenskem zgodovinskega je odpiral nove teme, predvsem iz zgodovine druge svetovne vojne (okupacijski sistem na ravni vsakdanjega življenja, celovita obdelava žrtev vojne, mobilizirani v nemško vojsko, državljanska vojna, kritika t. i. partizanskega načina pisanja zgodovine).

Uredil je več zbornikov lokalne zgodovine (*Tržiški zbornik*, 1984; *Bohinjski zbornik*, 1987; *Radovljanski zbornik* 1992; *Gorenjska 1900-2000*, 1999). Velik uredniški projekt je bil *Blejski zbornik* ob tisoči obletnici prve omembe Bleda, ki je izšlo leta 2004.

Pripravil je vrsto odmevnih razstav in objavil

(DALJE na str. 16)

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Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1567. V začetku januarja se je oglasila

misijonarka s. Zora Škerlj, ki deluje v Bocvani in piše: "Draga gospa! Pristrčna hvala za tako velikodušno darilo, ki sva ga s. Fani prejela. Hvala vam in vsem vašim sodelavkam in sodelavcem za vso vašo podporo, molitveno in gmotno. Danes obhajamo praznik Krsta Jezusovega – njegove popolne predaje Očetu in Bogu za nas, za naše posvečenje. In tako je to lepa prilika, da se še posebno spomnimo vas vseh, ki tako neurtudno in ljubeče nadaljujete Jezusovo poslanstvo – za rast božjega kraljestva na zemlji, posebno med tistimi, ki so v očeh drugih morda manjši in neznatni, a v božjih očeh enaki nam vsem.

Kaj naj vam pišem? Začenjamo leto 2005 z velikim upanjem, da se bo z božjo pomočjo naša situacija glede Aidsa izboljšala. In goreče, brez prestanka molimo za cepivo, za zdravilo, ki bo moglo trenutno rešiti na tisoče, milijone ljudi. Saj je vsako življenje dragoceno!

Jaz se bavim s preventivo te bolezni – s skupino mladih vodimo vikend in večdnevne programe "Education for Life / Behavior Change Process" po šolah. Pri nas so te predvsem državne šole, in tudi po župnijah in vaseh. To je sedaj naše četrto leto tega programa in, hvala Bogu, se vidi, da vedno več mladih se odloča za spolno vzdržnost. V Bocvani nas je dobrih 5% katoličanov, je pa v deželi že dobra polovica ljudi kristjanov, ki pripadajo raznim protestantskim in manjšim afriško iniciativnim cerkvam.

Poleg tega s širšo skupino mladih in tudi z župnijsko skupino "Good Samaritan" pomagamo osiromašenim družinam z ozaveščenjem glede Aidsa, s posvetovanjem, spremljanjem na testiranje za HIV v bolnice in klinike ter pomagamo z nego bolnih, z molitvami in materialnimi potrebami, predvsem z dobro hrano.

V Bocvani je zdravljenje – bolnice, zdravila – brezplačno in tudi zelo draga zdravila za Aids. A potrebno je pomagati ubogim, nešolanim, zapostavljenim ljudem, da se morejo okoristiti s tem državnim programom. Bocvana je svetovno znana po zelo visokem odstotku okuženih ljudi – 36% za nosečnice. Zato se res priporočamo v molitvah.

Še enkrat: Bog plačaj! – s. Zora Škerlj."

Malo kasneje se je oglasila s. Marjeta Mrhar z Madagaskarja in piše: "Dragi člani Misijonske Znamkarske Akcije kakor tudi vsi dobrotniki misijonov in prijatelji! Oprostite, da vam šele sedaj pošiljam potrdilo o prejemu daru, ker sem včeraj dobila vaše pismo in tudi iz Pariza obvestilo.

Ne najdem besed zahvale ob tako lepem daru za naše uboge. Zato naj vam Bog in Marija vse tisočkrat povrmeta, vas blagoslavljata in čuvata vaše zdravje, da boste še veliko dobrega storili za bližnjega in obrisali marsikatero solzo s trpečega obraza. Jaz se vam hočem oddolžiti s svojimi skromnimi molitvami, katere vsak dan pošiljam pred Gospoda.

Morda ste že slišali, da sem že od avgusta meseca v sestrski hiši za starejše sestre zaradi zdravstvenih tegob v kosteh, tako, da je palica moja stalna spremljevalka. Ker pa sem drugače še zdrava, tukaj sedaj šivam za reveže ter več časa posvečam molitvi.

Slovo od Tangamanija je bila pristrčna pa tudi težka – zapustiti ambulanto po 35 letih. Za slovo je bila slovesna sv. maša na prostem. Prišli so ljudje od daleč in blizu. Po maši so pa ljudje prinašali skromne darove: kakšno kokoško, racko, jajca, nekateri pa tudi ovojnico z malim darom. Sosestri, ki sta ostali v ambulanti, jih pa skrbi financa, saj je ambulanta vsa leta delovala z darovi Slovencev iz zamejstva in domovine, zato je vaš dar res božji blagoslov.

Sedaj sem tukaj v provincialni hiši usmiljenk in mislim kar tukaj ostati, čeprav me vabijo v domovino, saj po 44 letih misijonskega dela sem tu bolj doma, kjer se vse odvija počasi in bi se težko privadila na evropsko naglico. Tukaj imam lepo sobico z vsemi

higienskimi napravami, tretja vrata od moje sobe je kapelica, ki je noč in dan odprta, zato nobenega ne motim tudi če grem v zgodnjih jutranjih urah tja.

Res, da imam manj direktnega stika z ubogimi, a tu se otroci delavcev igrajo na vrtu; podhranjeni in socialno ogroženi so. Tu so bolniki, saj ima hiša tudi ambulanto, tako da sem preko sester na tekočem z dogajanjem med ubogimi in vsak prosti čas porabim za šivanje. Tako sem za božič naredila okrog 150 oblekic, ki smo jih razdelili med uboge, sirote brez staršev.

Tudi kar se tiče sestrskega življenja je živahno, a obenem umirjeno. Velikokrat pridejo sestre iz oddaljenih postojank po opravkih in si na kratko izmenjamo par besed, tudi s. Marija je blizu in se večkrat oglasi. Res sem hvaležna Bogu, da mi je navdihnil to odločitev. Srečna sem! Starejših sester pri nas je osem. Rade se zbiramo v kapelici in molimo za vse potrebe.

Ob koncu vam vsem želim z obilnim blagoslovom obdarjeno leto 2005, se vam lepo zahvalim in se vam tudi v bodoče priporočam. Posebna zahvala I.P. Lep pozdrav g. Prosenu z zagotovilom v molitvi. Lep pozdrav Sonji Ferjan. Vsem vam naj Bog poplača vsa leta sodelovanja pri MZA, ker pa tudi v naših molitvah niste pozabljeni. Lep pozdrav, s. Marjeta Mrhar."

Obe pismi sta polni dobrote, polni hvaležnosti za vse. Tudi mi, ki spremljamo naše misijonarje, smo hvaležni vsakemu za vsak dar in prosimo Nebeškega Očeta, naj vsem povrne s svojim blagoslovom.

Prav lep misijonski pozdrav od vseh sodelujočih in
Marice Lavriša
1004 Dillewood Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44119

Zgodovinar JOŽE DEŽMAN

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 15)

številne prispevke v zbornikih, strokovnem in dnevnem časopisu. Posvečal se je romarskemu središču na Brezjah (*Mariji – brezjanski romarji*, 1999; *Brezjanski zbornik in Marija Pomagaj na Brezjah*, 2000). V letih 1993-2000 je urejal revijo *Borec*, 1999-2001 revijo *GG*.

Vodil je mednarodni projekt *Med kljukastim križem in rdečo zvezdo* ter na Brezjah postavil stalno zbirko votivov v manjši baziliki Marije Pomagaj. Vodil je več študijskih krožkov, posebej odmeven je študijski krožek *Moč preživetja*, ki deluje od leta 2002.

Lansko leto je izdal knjigo *Moč preživetja – sprava z umorjenimi starši*, nadgrajuje sporočilo dokumentarca *Zamolčani – moč preživetja* avtorja Jožeta Možine, pri kateri je sodeloval kot strokovni sodelavec.

Na lanskih študijskih dnevih Draga na Opčinah je nastopil z odmevnim predavanjem *Slovenske sprave in resnice*. V njem je razmišljal o civilizacijskem razcepu v odnosu do političnega nasilja oziroma systemskega terorizma, o slovenskih pravih ideologijah, povezanih z drugo svetovno vojno in revolucijo v zadnjih treh desetletjih.

Poudaril je, da je slovenska država dolžna skrbeti za reševanje odprtih vprašanj iz medvojne in povojne preteklosti. "Odprti računi do zločinov v komunističnem obdobju so odprti računi države."

Je soavtor pobude, ki je bila lani poslana na ustavno sodišče, za začetek postopka za oceno ustavnosti Zakona o žrtvah vojnega nasilja in Zakon o popravu krivic, s čimer bi tudi medvojne žrtve revolucionarnega nasilja bile izenačene z dru-

gimi žrtvami vojnega nasilja.

Njegov korenit tematski in vrednostni obrat je neposredno povezan z njegovo osebno izkušnjo: "Do konca osnovne šole sem hodil k verouku, prejel vse zakramente do birme, s srednjo šolo pa je bilo mojih stikov s krščanstvom in Cerkvijo konec. Srednješolska leta so bila v znamenju kulturnega aktivizma in rokenrola. Razcep, ki se je takrat začel, se je nato samo poglobljajal. Bilanca krize srednjih let je bila pri štiridesetih precej neprijetna: alkoholizem, ločitev, nujna izbira – ali propad ali začetek na novo."

Leta 1995 je začel preučevati romarsko kulturo na Brezjah. Tam je skozi različne vire, opazovanja in pogovore odkrival silno preživetveno moč in modrost, ki jo ljudem daje vera.

Prav tako pomembni so bili pogovori s frančiškani. Leta 2001 je bil na romanju v Asisiju.

"V kontekstu vrnitve h krščanstvu se je zgodilo tudi moje srečanje s sirotami, ki so jim partizani pobili starše." Iz teh pogovorov se je razvilo nekaj, čemur lahko danes rečemo slovensko gibanje za obsodbo slovenskih boljševističnih zločinov in rasizma. "Zame pomeni to zadoščenje za tisto neobčutljivost, s katero smo tisti na partijski strani slovenskega meseca spregledali vse trpljenje, ki smo ga povzročili ali mi ali naši predniki."

Pred kratkim se je tudi v Ljubljani našla ustanova (Narodni muzej), ki "si je upala" postaviti razstavo *Med kljukastim križem in rdečo zvezdo*, pri kateri je sodeloval

Pred kratim je v Cankarjevem domu v Ljubljani organiziral dobro obiskano srečanje soročnikov žrtv revolucionarnega nasilja, ki se srečujejo v krožku *Moč preživetja*.

Pred dvema letoma je izstopil kot član sveta Muzeja novejših zgodovine v Ljubljani, ker se ni strinjal z anahronistično postavljeno razstavo *Petdeseta leta*. Po novem je član t. i. Lukačeve komisije za popravilo krivic. In bodoči direktor osrednjega slovenskega muzeja za novejšo zgodovino.

Ivo Zajdela

Z Ameriško Domovino ste vedno na tekočem z dogajanjem v Sloveniji in tudi med nami samimi

**Joseph L.
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