



The Linden Tree

Quarterly Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc.

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President's Letter by Jeff Dormish

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NEXT ISSUE

Coming in our January issue:

Announcement from
Archdiocese Maribor

If you have an article to submit for publication in The Linden Tree, or suggestions for future topics of research, contact us at info@SGSII.com

As I'm writing this column it's a beautiful Fall day in Pittsburgh with the trees starting to change color. As we enter the last quarter of 2020, we are unfortunately still dealing with the COVID pandemic.



Each of us is finding an approach that allows us to feel safe, take care of essential tasks and trying to find a way to keep in touch with friends and relatives.

Genealogy research is an important part of the lives of SGSI members. As we enter the last quarter of the year we are in many cases still dealing with the limitations of doing research in-person and are restricted to working online. There are many sites that require a subscription and we all have our favorites. Some companies providing services to the genealogy community have made offers to use their sites with limited or no cost during the pandemic.

Some of the information for this newsletter was contained in an article in the Family History Daily.

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/free-genealogy-resources-pandemic/>

One of the most interesting sites that I came across is from Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/corporate/blog/free-at-home-education-resources-from-ancestry-and-access-to-nearly-500-million-national-archives-records/>). Many students are now taking classes remotely. It is a challenge to keep the lessons interesting as well as providing useful educational value. Ancestry has designed a program that uses genealogy as a learning tool. It is designed for use at home. What is special about this offering is that it includes actual lesson plans on a variety of topics. The students learn how to do research, find what resources are available to help solve the problem and learn how to summarize and present the conclusions of the lesson. Take a look at this example based on what can be learned from the 1940 census (https://www.ancestrycdn.com/aa-k12/1108/assets/1940Census_lesson.pdf). To assist in the research, Ancestry is providing access to 500 million National Archives records.

These plans are written at a level that would be worthwhile for older students and was also useful for me. The census

(Continued on page 2)

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is not just a resource for a name and an address. It also gets you thinking about the other people that lived on that street, their professions, amount of money that was earned and the value of their homes. What would those numbers translate to in today's dollars? Think about how much more valuable your genealogy research would be if you summarized your data and put this type of report in the notes section of an online tree or in a digital folder you may have made about a family. I'm really excited about this. It has gotten me thinking about my tree and how it can be more useful for my descendants. This is no doubt more work for those of us that are the genealogists in the family but think of all the value-added quality of your research. Now this wouldn't be practical to do for your complete tree, especially if it contains thousands of people, but consider trying it for your direct ancestors going back a few generations. Since we are close to Halloween, there is also a project that deals with investigating the history of a "haunted house" in your town – who had lived there, newspaper reports of the events that took place. The project would entail exploring census and tax records to learn more about the property. This is another opportunity for kids to speak with their relatives about a unique subject.

Ancestry has a free Academy of short videos that cover a very long list of genealogy topics ranging from searching birth records (<https://www.ancestryacademy.com/5-minute-finds/videos/do-you-have-black-sheep-in-your-family>), becoming an Ancestry search expert (<https://www.ancestryacademy.com/seek-and-ye-shall-find>

The nativity story at the Postojna Cave

Sixteen biblical scenes, 150 performers a day, and the wonderful cave backdrop with magnificent stalactites and stalagmites will fill your hearts with festive warmth and excitement.



<https://www.slovenia.info/en/stories/a-special-nativity-scene-in-slovenia>

[become-an-ancestry-search-expert](#)) to using for specific for information in a specific US State. There are fourteen videos for Ohio records alone (<https://www.ancestryacademy.com/the-buckeye-state-researching-your-ohio-ancestors>). There are also free Index collections of narrowly defined but useful topics (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/freindexacom/>).

MyHeritage has added a new free feature that allows you to colorize photos (<https://www.myheritage.com/incolor>) or increase the sharpness of a photo (<https://www.myheritage.com/photo-enhancer/>). I've found the sharpness function to be very useful. I haven't seen that at other sites. It allows a limited number of photos to be enhanced before a subscription fee is required.

Facebook is overwhelmingly used to share family photos and comments on the topic of the day. Facebook special interest pages are great sources of information. I happen to use Family Tree Maker and their Users group is a tremendous resource. It provides lessons on how to use their software. The daily posts of members asking for help and the responses from other members are really educational. Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FamilySearch all have user groups.

I wish you all a Happy Healthy Holiday Season!

I have included two pictures of Live Nativity events in Slovenia.

Mlačka Gorge in Mojstrana

In the Mlačka Gorge, there is a unique show "Live Nativity Scene in the Icy kingdom"



<https://kranjska-gora.si/en/events/live-nativity-scene-in-the-icy-kingdom/>

Destination: Slovenia

Bled listed among the world's most unforgettable destinations, and Ljubljana among the top sustainable destinations

Travel guide Lonely Planet has released the second edition of its Ultimate Travel List, and has included Bled in its top ten destinations offering unique, compelling experiences.

The Slovenian Tourist Board (STB) is proud that Lake Bled is considered the most photogenic on the planet.

The prestigious and influential travel guide ranked Bled sixth on its list of the ten most unforgettable destinations. According to the STB, Bled is described as a destination of great natural beauty, featuring a unique island with a church. “We’ve all got a list of places that we want to see for ourselves: places friends have enthused about, places we’ve read about, dreamed about. This is our list,” wrote the travel guide on its website, adding that on this occasion particular emphasis has been put on the destinations’ sustainability policies.

Lonely Planet (https://www.lonelyplanet.com/landing/ultimate-travel-list?utm_content=sI-

[okt20-pr-obv-62](#)) was particularly enthusiastic about the picturesque Lake Bled and the island with the church, which it says is incredibly photogenic.

The top ten also features the lost city of Petra in Jordan, Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in Australia, the Okavango Delta in Botswana, Yellowstone National Park in the USA, the Iguazú Falls on the border between Brazil and Argentina, the temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, the Salar de Uyuni salt lake in Bolivia, and Nepal’s Annapurna Circuit.

Sixth time for Ljubljana among the world’s top sustainable destinations

Ljubljana has made a list of world’s top sustainable destinations (<https://greendestinations.org/sustainabletop100/>) for the sixth time. It is the only city in the world to have made the list six times.

Ljubljana first made the Global Top 100 Sustainable Destinations in 2014 and has retained its place on the list this year, making it the most decorated city of all for sustainable tourism achievements. This year the international jury were particularly im-

pressed by the Online Culture project, which was created during lockdown as part of the Visit Ljubljana portal.

While people were locked down at home, Ljubljana Tourism spent the time curating and updating the online cultural content being produced by numerous cultural institutions in the city (virtual exhibitions, films, online concerts, online theatre, etc.). The reaction to the project was so warm and positive that since the end of lockdown it has been expanded into the CoronaCulture virtual exhibition, which shows how the city remained culturally vibrant during the lockdown.

This year’s list features destinations in 36 countries, including, alongside Ljubljana, Bled, Brda, the Soča Valley, Kočevsko, Logarska Dolina (Solčavsko), Miren (Kras), Podčetrtek and Rogaška Slatina.

Ministry of Culture, Republic of Slovenia Government Communication Office. October 8, 2020.

<https://www.gov.si/en/news/2020-10-08-bled-listed-among-the-worlds-most-unforgettable-destinations-and-ljubljana-among-the-top-sustainable-destinations/>



Bled: www.slovenia.info, photo: Franci Ferjan



Ljubljana: www.slovenia.info photo: Andrej Tarfila



Photos I took while visiting Slovenia, Fall 2016. Greg Le Grand

Top left: *Ljubljanski grad/ Ljubljana Castle at night*
Top right: *Dragon on the Zmajski most/ Dragon Bridge, Ljubljana*
Middle: *Cobbler's Bridge/ Čevljarški most, Ljubljana in the early evening*
Bottom left: *Blejski grad (Bled Castle), Bled*
Bottom right: *Postojna jama/ Postojna Cave, Postojna, on the train*



What Is Your Immigrant Story?

Dr. Nada Sabec, a professor of linguistics at the University of Maribor, is composing a volume of articles about North Americans of Slovenian descent to be published by the University. A number of these articles have been previously published in a variety of journals. Dr. Sabec is looking for authentic narrative stories by individuals pertaining to their Slovenian heritage. For reference, the University of Minnesota has documented recent immigrant stories (<https://cla.umn.edu/ihrcc/immigrant-stories/about-project>), however Dr. Sabec's publication would be different in that she is interested in past and present experiences of people of Slovenian descent who live or were born in the United States or in Canada. Compared to her original papers, which contain anonymous, general information about the state of affairs (e.g. statistical data about, the importance that people attribute to language or culture, based on questionnaire responses), these narratives would be much more personal, subjective, completely free in terms of style, content and length—those who

decided to participate would simply write whatever they wanted—about their identity, about customs, first contact with the new country in case of actually immigrating. They could tell their own stories, present their views on culture, language, and perhaps include some anecdotes, essentially—write about anything. Such stories in their own words would add a special value to Dr. Sabec's book as they would indeed be real, authentic and they would complement the first part in which are the more objective research findings.

Dr. Sabec sends deep appreciation for your participation in submitting a piece for her manuscript. Your story can be sent to nada.sabec@guest.arnes.si by the end of December 2020. If you are interested in sharing your story with the SGSI membership, we would be pleased to share it in the Linden Tree.

For publication in the Linden Tree, kindly send a copy to tochrispy@yahoo.com.



Photo by The New York Public Library on Unsplash

Immigrant Stories at Club Slovenia

By Alice Gosak Gary

As you drive toward the Bay Bridge in San Francisco, it is hard not to notice the Slovenian Hall sign high above the freeway at the Vermont Street exit. Slovenian Hall (the Slovenian Progressive Home or *Slovenski Napredni Dom*) (<https://www.facebook.com/SlovenianHallSF/>) is one of the ethnic venues in San Francisco still actively in use. It is the home of the Educational and Dramatic Club Slovenia, incorporated in 1924, that holds annual events such as the Grape Festival (*Trgatev*) and *Martinovanje* (St. Martin's Day) that used to mark the beginning of Advent and the breaking out of the new wine. In addition, the club hosts receptions for visiting dignitaries from Slovenia, Slovene language classes, cultural programs and films from Slovenia.

Slovenes and Croatians, primarily from Dalmatia, started coming to San Francisco in the 1850s, following the Gold Rush. After the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, Slovenes moved from the area south of Market Street to the more geologically stable region of Potrero Hill. Situated on Potrero Hill or *Kranjski Hrib* as it was called, Club Slovenia, along

with the Nativity of Our Lord Church became the heart and soul of the Slovenian community of San Francisco.

The Church of the Nativity of Our Lord grew out of a movement by Croatian and Slovenian immigrants at the turn of the 20th Century. They had hoped to have a church of their own and it became a reality in 1906.

In the 1950s, when the James Lick Freeway was built, it cut through the Slovenian community, with the church on one side of the freeway and Club Slovenia on the other side. Residents were forced to sell their homes, often below market price, and the community scattered throughout the city and into the suburbs. The church suffered another blow in 1994 when it was among nine churches that the bishop decided to close. For two and a half years, the congregation held prayer vigils at the site until the church was again opened in time for Christmas 1996.

On February 29, 2020, Club Slovenia President David McCormick, along with Ann Sustaric and Anja Page, brought together members of Club

Slovenia to tell the immigration stories of their families. Since the population of California is a mobile one, stories of Slovenian settlement throughout the country were included. From family tales of trolley rides on Potrero Hill to the stories of grandfathers stranded in the United States during World War I to the suspicions leveled at those displaced by World War II, the day was filled with riveting histories of the Slovenian immigration experience. Whether the chronicles were complete or fragmentary, members of the group were inspired to record the stories of family elders or to tax their own memories to flesh out a family tree of names and dates.

Weeks afterwards, Californians were ordered to shelter in place because of the COVID-19 virus and group gatherings were prohibited. Months later, the situation has not changed much. Hopefully, the isolation will give people a chance to reflect on that day and on their own family histories and get them into print.



Slovenian Hall, San Francisco (credit: Facebook)



Nativity of our Lord, San Francisco (credit: <http://sfnativity.org/aboutus.html>)

2020 Frances Miklich Coberly Memorial Grant

by Tracy Cervantes (nee Benclna)

With Gratitude

I am honored to have been the recipient of the 2020 Frances Miklich Coberly Memorial Grant.

I knew I was Slovenian but never understood what that meant in my youth. So, when I first met Franny at the Willoughby Bakery Shop and started the conversation about beginning my search into my roots, did I begin to grasp it is not just an ethnicity.

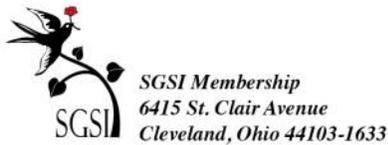
Franny's demeanor changed as she spoke about being Slovenian. Her eyes widen and brighten as she informed me that she was a member of the Slovenian Genealogy Society. And researching was her passion!

I knew in that moment it was time. I found the photo of my grandfather Lou (with his wife Jeanne, his mother who is my great grandmother Gertrude Skoda, and my aunt) in front of their first home. Looking at the picture with a new set of eyes, ones formed after the conversation with Franny, did I realize what it meant to be Slovenian.

And the Frances Miklich Coberly Memorial Grant is allowing me the opportunity to learn my grandparents tongue and to pass on to my six daughters what it means to be Slovenian.



Grandmother and Grandfather, Great Grandmother and Aunt



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www.slovenianguenealogy.org
 or sgsii.com

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