

April 2016

Editor: Helen E. Frohna

Newsletter of the UWM Slovenian Arts Council

SLOVENIAN ARTS PROGRAM

Welcome Spring!

Pomlad prihaja!



The UWM Slovenian Arts Council presents an evening of Slovenian music and dance on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 8500 West Coldspring Road.

The *Zbor Špendov* Slovenian Men's group from Lemont, IL, will be singing at the 4:30 pm Mass. At 7:00 pm, the group will perform favorite Slovenian songs in the church hall, with the second half involving a theme that links play acting with singing.

Join us after the concert for a social night, as *Zadnja Kapla* plays for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Snacks and cash bar will be available.

This is a **FREE** event sponsored by the UWM Slovenian Arts Program and the *Frank and Mary Ermenc Memorial Fund*.

ZBOR ŠPENDOV



ZADNJA KAPLA



National Day of Culture

Jackie Kovach Smith



The UWM Slovenian Arts Council (SAC), representing the UWM Slovenian Arts Program (SAP), played host to a gala event on February 7, 2016, at Meyer's Restaurant, in Greenfield, WI.

Fifty-six guests gathered to celebrate the Republic of Slovenia's National Day of Culture, also known as France Prešeren Day, in honor of Slovenia's most famous poet. Prešeren (1800-1849) believed in freedom and independence for all nations which was captured in the 7th verse of his poem, "*Zdravljica*," (A toast). The words from this verse were adopted as the Republic of Slovenia's national anthem.

Slovenia's history is rich in culture so it is no surprise that in 1945 the Republic of Slovenia dedicated a special day to be set aside to celebrate culture. The date chosen for this special national holiday is February 8, the date of Prešeren's death, who died in 1849 at the age of 49.

After enthusiastically singing both the United States and Slovenia's national anthems, guests listened to a short history of the origin of Slovenia's Day of Culture and a short biography of France Prešeren, followed by a reading of one of his well known poems, *Nezakonska mati* (Unwed mother), in both Slovenian and English. Ed Vidmar then entertained guests with his accordion, playing many old favorites, sparking a sing-along. And, to enrich Slovenian knowledge, guests were challenged to complete a trivia puzzle consisting of 28 questions. Lucky door prize winners were delighted to take home original souvenirs from Slovenia generously donated for this special event.

Celebration of culture was evident in every corner of the room, even with the table centerpieces which were aglow with bouquets of carnations, babies breath, and greenery nestled in red vases, a nice tribute, while artifacts and miniature replicas of Slovenian woodworking adorned other tables.

The perimeter of the banquet room was filled with larger-than-life photos of the professional work of Slovenian architect, Jože Plečnik, along with two original paintings by Slovenian Wisconsinite, John Vlaj, and a large, unique, colorful collection of Slovenian postage stamps, donated by Mary Luksich Radovich.

The Slovenian Arts Council hopes that all guests left the event with a warm feeling of Slovenian cultural appreciation and plans to return next year for a repeat engagement.



SAVE THE DATE

Baraga Days—September 10 and 11, 2016—Marquette, MI

Josephine Janezic—Selected for 2016 Award of Merit

By Virginia Strukel

Čestitimo—Congratulations, Josephine!

Josephine Janezic was recently selected to receive the *2016 Award of Merit* from the UWM Slovenian Arts Program for her achievements in literature and the culinary arts, as well as for her decades of support of local Slovenian organizations in Wisconsin, which will be presented to her on April 16.

Josephine was born in Postojna, Slovenija, in 1936. Due to the political control of Slovenia at the time, she spent her early childhood and youth in Italian schools and college. After World War II, her family fled to Italy and lived in refugee camps there before moving to Australia.

After living in Sydney, Australia, for three years, the family moved to Melbourne. There, Josephine met and later married Slavko Janezic. The couple moved to America in 1960, settling in the Milwaukee area. Josephine became very active at St. John the Evangelist Slovenian Church and the Slovenian Cultural Society Triglav. For seven years she volunteered at Alverno College as a teaching assistant. In 1981, as a student at UWM, Josephine began writing her autobiography. The completed work, *Pepca's Struggle*, was published in 1989 and hit the *New York Times* book list.

Josephine also served as a member of the UWM Slovenian Arts Council from 1991-1994, served as President of the Slovenian Women's Union of America, Branch #43-Milwaukee for 15 years and Regional President for 9 years.



Dr. Ewa Barczyk Retires

By Dolores Ivancich

We extend our most sincere congratulations to Ewa Barczyk, Associate Provost and Director of UWM Libraries, on the occasion of her retirement in June, 2016. Dr. Barczyk has been instrumental in "finding space" in the library for books dealing with Slovenian subjects, coordinating and promoting Slovenian Arts Council (SAC) events on the UWM campus, always aware of the mission of the SAC. Both she and her husband Dr. Neal Pease, a professor of history on campus, often attended our events. Dr. Barczyk is also appreciative of perpetuating ethnic cultures as seen in her involvement with the Polish community locally and elsewhere. Ewa is a kindred spirit! She has helped us leave a legacy for the Slovenian community and will certainly remain in our hearts and minds.

Congratulations—Čestitamo!

Najlepša hvala

Thank you to our ***Friends of the Slovenian Arts Program*** for your generous donations.

Friends for the 2016 year

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Rose Zuponic	 Along with the members of the UWM—Slovenian Arts Council		

2016 Membership Drive

To become a “*Friend of the UWM Slovenian Arts Program*” or to renew your annual Friend’s membership for 2016, please send your membership donation along with this form to:

Christina M. Carroll
444 East Warnimont Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207

___ \$25 Single Contribution ___ \$35 Couple Contribution Additional Contribution of \$_____

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Please make checks payable to: **UWM Foundation—Slovenian Arts Program**

All contributions are tax deductible.

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School is back in session!

Pozdrav - Greetings:

The Slovenian language class will continue in April on Monday evenings, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, and 4/25, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the VMP-Manor Park, 8536 West Oklahoma Avenue, West Allis, WI. Anyone with some knowledge of Slovene is welcome to join us as we continue studying from the Slovene Language Manual, vol. 1, by Milena Gobetz and Breda Lončar.



Enter at the long white canopy on the north side of West Oklahoma Avenue. As you enter, the door will be locked and someone will admit you in and ask you to sign in. As you are signing in, write also that you are there for the Slovenian language class.

If you have any questions please e-mail me at LTmursec925@yahoo.com

Thank you.

Milly Mursec/Instructor



Mr. Joe Valencic coming to Milwaukee

This fall the UWM-Slovenian Arts Council is proud to welcome Mr. Joe Valencic to Milwaukee where he will be giving a presentation on Slovenian-American history. Milwaukee has had a vibrant Slovenian-American community since the late 1800s. There were also settlements in Sheboygan, Willard, Crivitz, Superior, and elsewhere across Wisconsin. Well-known Slovenian-Americans from Wisconsin include Marie Prisland, Louis Bashell, and the Stayer family, founders of Johnsonville Meats.

Some of the historical topics Joe will bring are:

- Slovenian Achievers in American History
- Slovenian Women in America
- Slovenians in American Culture
- Slovenians in American Film
- Slovenians in American Music
- The Cleveland-Style Polka



More information provided this fall.

**UWM Foundation
Slovenian Arts Program
1440 East North Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202**

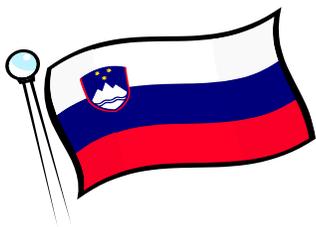
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The purpose of the Slovenian Arts Council is to plan and implement programs of Slovenian arts, artifacts, dance, literature, music, and theatre that preserve the ethnic heritage in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts.



Websites to keep you informed:

**www.slovenianartsprogram.org
www.sua43.org
www.slovenianunion.org
www.triglavpark.com
www.funoleers.org
www.wisconsinpolkaboosters.com
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