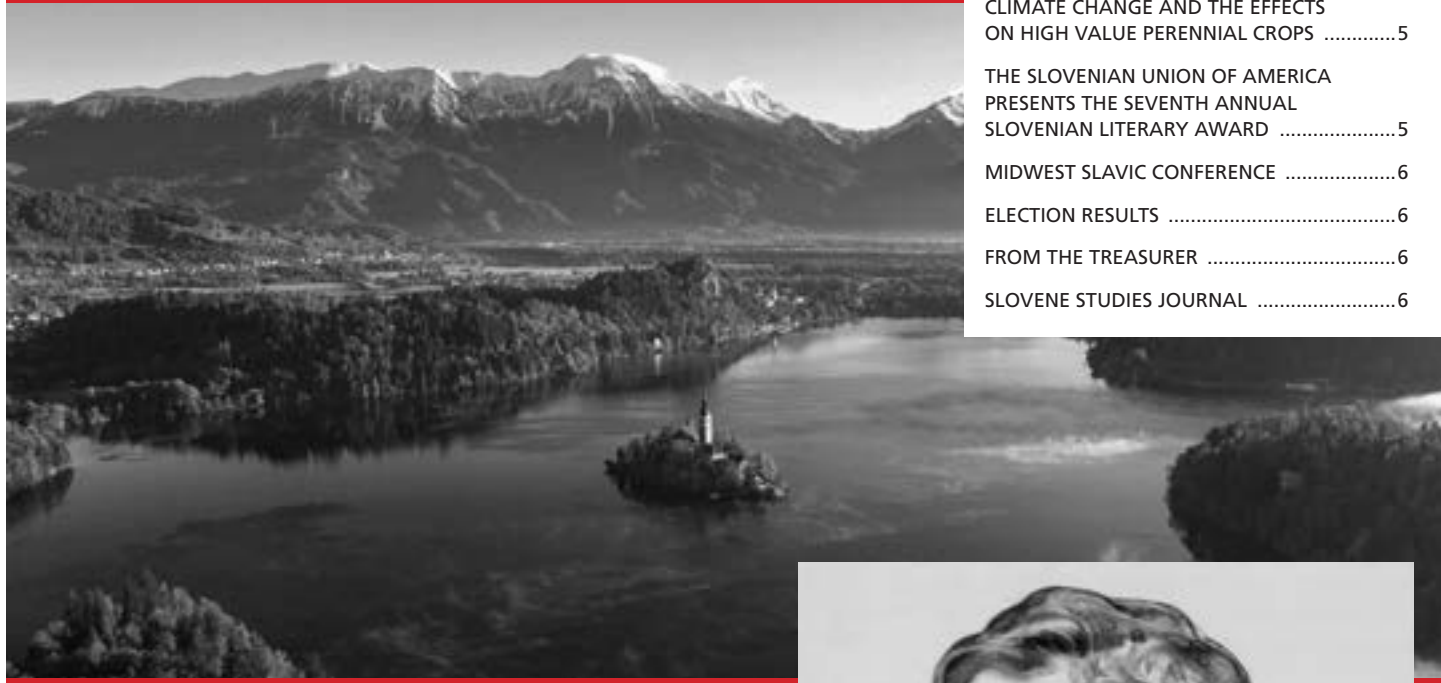




THE SOCIETY
for SLOVENE STUDIES

LETTER

WWW.SLOVENESTUDIES.COM | FALL-WINTER 2024 | #93



President's Message...

IN MEMORY AND TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROL ROGEL

We open this issue of the newsletter with tributes from members of the Society to the memory of our colleague and one of the Society's founders, Dr. Carole Rogel, who died in Columbus on September 30, 2024. Carole served as the Society's President (1984-1990), Treasurer (1998-2012) and, throughout the fifty-one years of the Society's existence and her membership in it, as an inspiration and mentor for countless colleagues and students. A native of the Cleveland area, Carole earned her PhD in History from Columbia University in 1966 after joining the history faculty of Ohio State University two years before that, in 1964. Those of you who did not have the opportunity to know Carole personally can gain quiet inspiration from reading the recollections of colleagues who did; while those of us who did have the privilege of being Carole's students, colleagues or friends – and in some cases all three – are still likely to discover something more here to remember her by.

Also note that our annual business meeting will take place virtually over Zoom this year on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 3:00pm Eastern (2:00pm Central, 1:00pm Mountain and 12:00 noon Pacific time; and at 9:00pm (21:00) Central European time. We encourage all interested members to attend. See details in the full announcement on page 2. ■

Michael Biggins, President,
Society for Slovene Studies | Fall-Winter 2024

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*Carole Rogel, drawn by Božidar Jakac, 1954.
Courtesy of the estate of Carole Rogel*

In Memoriam: Professor Carole Rogel, 1939-2024

Academia has lost an excellent scholar, and our Slovene Studies Society will miss one of its most dedicated members. Carole was one of the strongest pillars of the organization since its formation in the 1970s. It is safe to say that without Carole's support and dedication the Society for Slovene Studies would not be what it is today. I was fortunate to count Carole among my best professional friends. We had known one another for almost 50 years. Throughout the years we kept in regular contact and shared reports on events in our lives. I particularly enjoyed hearing about her vacations in Florida and Slovenia. I have lost a good friend. Now wonderful memories remain. ■

William Derbyshire, PhD,

Santa Fe, NM

Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University



Carole Rogel, drawn by Božidar Jakac, 1954. Courtesy of the estate of Carole Rogel

When the news reached me that Prof. Rogel had passed, I had been thinking

about her enormous role in my life, not only as a mentor and academic advisor during the first half of the 1980s, but mostly as someone whose life embodied decency, wisdom and erudition, humanity. I came to know my mentor, my professor, my friend after the loss of her husband. In retrospect, I appreciate how she was a model for an independent career woman who made room in her life for her graduate students, her colleagues, friends and relatives. Most of all, I recall her quiet, steadfast support and generous heart. One memory keeps popping up – we were flying back to Columbus from the 2004 AAASS-ASEES 36th Annual Convention in Boston. The plane landing was aborted several times due to strong winds. We were several rows apart and the shaking plane finally landed safely. On solid ground and still quite affected from the experience, Prof. Rogel told me how she was thinking that, had we been closer, we could have held hands if the worst was about to happen. My worries quickly disappeared. And now I am thinking that her support and warmth are still in my heart. Rest in peace, dear friend! ■

Tatyana Nestorova, PhD

Dublin, OH

Carole Rogel could be the perfect mentor and colleague, professional and erudite. It was Carole who

invited me to my first serious academic conference as part of the Young Slovene Scholars Panel at the 2006 AAASS conference in Washington DC, it was Carole who had me submit my conference article for the Rado Lenček Graduate Student Prize, and it was Carole who invited me into the Society for Slovene Studies and eventually nominated me for an executive member position in the society. Yet Carole could also be the mischievous, clear-eyed critic of everyday life, lambasting local and national politicians for their heartlessness, and responding to a conference presentation with her politely ironic comment, "Well, I suppose it's time for us to reevaluate this history". But most importantly for me, Carole was a kind and generous person. I don't even remember telling Carole that my first child had been born, yet when I arrived to give a talk at Ohio State University, Carole had a little teddy bear waiting for my daughter. We miss you, Carole. ■

Gregor Kranjc, PhD

St. Catharines, Ontario
Associate Professor of History,
Brock University

CONTINUED TOP OF PAGE

It is not that common to meet a person later in life with whom you feel an immediate connection and understanding. Carole and I made our first acquaintance during the tumultuous period of the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Concern and love for my homeland and the country of her ancestors brought us together. Her extensive professional expertise, as well as her broader knowledge of the history and political aspects of all the Balkan countries, helped me to better understand the situation. With surgical precision, she was able to analyze the events and put them in the right historical context, while I was overwhelmed with emotions and fearing for my family and friends back home. She had a great calming effect on me. Those events were also the subject of her acclaimed book, *The Breakup of Yugoslavia*.

Both my husband and I were her big admirers, always looking forward to our dinner discussions about recent events around the globe. Looking back at the last 20 months of her life, I feel blessed and honored that she kept her trust in me. She was always delighted to talk about Slovenia and share memories of her familiar places and events

I also like to think back to the events during the Midwest Slavic Conference, held in March 2023 in Columbus, OH. She literally lit up in that environment, meeting lots of her old professional friends and colleagues, and being honored as the only original founding member present on the 50th anniversary of the Society for Slovene Studies.

Her physical and mental condition changed drastically after a very serious fall in March of 2024. She became less and less vocal, often preferring to listen, but every now and then she would make a comment revealing the spark, and her sense of humor was still there. When I would give her particularly good news, her eyes would glisten and she would whisper: "Tell it to me again!" I never missed repeating to her "I love you." ■

Meta Lebeničnik von Rabenau

Columbus, OH

1. See my note "Andreas Moritsch," [necrology], *Zapiski. Chronicle of the American Slovene Congress* 8 (June 2001) 7-8.
2. See my poem "The tap" with translation into Slovene by Tom Ložar and Ljubica Črnivec, "Pipa," cited by Metod Milač in "Acerbissima veritas/The harshest truth," *Zapiski. Chronicle of the American Slovene Congress* 5 (Autumn 1998) 12-1

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING TO TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM

Please note that the Society's annual business meeting, originally scheduled as part of the ASEES Conference in Boston, will not take place there.

Instead, this year we've scheduled an online annual business meeting over Zoom on

Wednesday, December 11, at 12:00 noon Eastern time.

All members of the Society are welcome and encouraged to attend and can do so easily, from your homes –one of the advantages the online format affords us.

You can find a link to the Zoom meeting here:

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/92059229822>

2025 EU SPOTLIGHT ON SLOVENIAN ART & CULTURE

The city of Nova Gorica will, alongside Gorizia, serve as the European Capital of Culture in 2025. The twin cities share the honor with Chemnitz, Germany. According to the European Commission, the annual initiative provides "cities with EU support for a yearlong celebration of art and culture."

Those interested in learning more can visit the official EU website: <https://www.go2025.eu/en> or search for a range of English-language articles now available about the honor online, including in *The Guardian* and *I Feel Slovenia* (<https://www.slovenia.info/en>). ■

IN MEMORIAM: PROFESSOR CAROLE ROGEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

I first met Carole at a meeting of the Society for Slovene Studies;

she encouraged my participation in the Society — especially during the years when I was Society President and later Editor of *Slovene Studies* — and my research in Slovenia and Austria, and our talks were always cordial. I believe that my interest in both the "sunny side of the Alps" and the "shady side" and my visits to both profited from my close acquaintance with her. I am reminded, for example, of her introducing me to Andrej Morič /Andreas Moritsch (Dunaj/Vienna and Draganče, Koroška)[1], with whom I developed a very enjoyable and fruitful friendship; he took me, for example, to the *Gerichtskammer* in Vienna where 13 Slovene Austrians were beheaded in 1943[2]. Carole and I collaborated in editing a special volume of the journal *Slovene Studies* in 2018; and on my visits to Ohio she took the time to meet me. This was usually in Columbus, but once she met me in Cleveland. On the latter occasion she drove me around the city, in particular to show me the district where the early Slovenian immigrants, and her family, lived, and the suburb of Willoughby where many have lived more recently. I will always have very warm memories of her. ■

Tom Priestly, PhD
Edmonton, Alberta

My image of Carole Rogel is

inseparable from my memories of the innumerable conferences, panels, and symposia of the Society for Slovene Studies, in which this distinguished scholar and teacher of the history of the Slovenes was always present, either as a participant or organizer, or both. I remember in what high regard my father, the late Professor Rado L. Lenček, held her intellectual scope, her organizational brilliance, and her unwavering dedication to the life of the mind. On several occasions when my own academic ambitions threatened to falter, my father urged me to emulate her example.

In the 1960s Carole was not only among the small number of pioneering women in academia but forged an independent path in her chosen discipline by focusing her research and publishing on the history of Yugoslavia and, more narrowly, of Slovenia. Her distinguished teaching career came to the notice of the Republic of Slovenia which, in 2002, awarded her the prestigious Honorary Medal of Freedom for contributions in America to scholarship and teaching about Slovenia and the Slovenes.

As I sift through my memories of Carole Rogel, I pause on a particularly vivid image of her presiding as the chair of a panel of the Society for Slovene Studies at an AAASS conference. Projecting her characteristic and entirely unique combination of intense focus and serene composure, when her turn came to moderate, she cogently summarized the central theses offered by the speakers and reframed them to kindle a spirited scholarly debate that ran long after the time allotted for the panel. It was her special gift to tease out of arguments the most salient points and to create among often quarrelsome colleagues a spirit of warm collegiality and respect. Her presence in the circle of American scholars dedicated to Slovene Studies will endure as a lasting memory and be marked by gratitude and respect. ■

Lena Lenček, PhD

Portland, OR
Professor Emerita of Russian,
Reed College.

NEW CONSUL GENERAL OF SLOVENIA IN CLEVELAND

BY SUZANNA ČEŠAREK

It is my pleasure to introduce myself and the work of the Consulate General of Slovenia in Cleveland to the Society for Slovene Studies.

I am fairly new to Cleveland and to this job that I only assumed on 1 September. I am a career diplomat and have been with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia since 2005. My previous foreign assignments include Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union in Brussels, and the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Vienna.



SERVING IN CLEVELAND IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR MANY REASONS

- The consular jurisdiction of the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland comprises ten states: Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, and Colorado.
- The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland is the only professional diplomatic post in the city of Cleveland, and only one of two in the entire state of Ohio.
- The sole reason for Slovenia's presence in this part of the USA is the populous Slovenian community that lives here as a result of several waves of migration that spanned from the late 19th century until the early 1960s. Slovenians first came here seeking work and better economic opportunities, and later they came due to the political situation back home.
- The Consulate General offers consular services, in addition to the important task of promoting all-encompassing cooperation between the Republic of Slovenia and the States that comprise its consular jurisdiction. It goes without saying that a special focus is on the Slovenian community, though our work expands to all spheres of mutual interest and cooperation, most often those related to economic and cultural pursuits.
- Culture is the one area that usually brings people closest together. In the case of Slovenia, this is typically our culinary traditions (potica, sausages, and other traditional goodies), our music (the famous polka and button box that we call "harmonika") and our language.
- Slovenian is a South Slavic language and one of the few Indo-European languages that has preserved its dual (grammatical number). The earliest known examples of a distinct, written dialect connected to Slovenian are from the 6th century. Slovenians had the first book in Slovenian language printed in 1550, and books remain an important part of our daily lives.
- In 2023, Slovenia was a guest country at the Frankfurt book fair, one of the biggest book fairs in Europe. Slovenia is a country of only 2 million people, but our book statistics show that last year, there were 23,000,000 borrowings of books in libraries around the country, and 6,000 new books were published. There are 3,000 e-books in Slovene available for borrowing and buying. E-books can be rented out online from anywhere in the world, and are free for Slovenians abroad: <https://www.cobiss.si/bralci/ela/> (more info: more info).
- There is opportunity to learn Slovenian at the Cleveland State University and Saturday Slovenian schools taking place at the two Slovenian parishes in Cleveland. Slovenia also offers online learning opportunities: <https://centerslo.si/en/for-children/>, <https://www.slonline.si/>.

Climate Change and the Effects on High Value Perennial Crops

BY RICHARD PRATT

Ohio State Emeritus Professor of Horticulture and Crop Science.

Thanks to the Slovene Research Initiative, I enjoyed an engaging visit with scientists from the University of Ljubljana Biotechnical Faculty [in July 2024]. The topic of our interaction was the impact that climate change is having on crop production and associated horticultural research programs. The headline **impacts of global climate change** have been more **intense thunderstorms, flooding, excessive heat, and drought**. These stresses impact various regions and crops in different ways. How producers and researchers adjust to these challenges is a conversation that should be undertaken more widely—and this was an excellent opportunity to do just that.

We felt that it would be advantageous to focus on high value perennial crops because of the large economic investments associated with their establishment and management. Because of the high cost of production and consumer demand for quality, they are especially vulnerable to extreme biotic stressors created by climate change. The risk associated with their production has increased and the need to find solutions through research has intensified. Several perennial crops e.g. grapes, apples, and peaches, and a value-added product (wine) are important economically in both Slovenia and Ohio.

We each shared the background and current events surrounding the impact of climate change on fruit and wine production in our respective regions. We discussed how we are trying to address them in addition to ongoing research needs and funding constraints. I made a presentation on changing conditions in two climatically diverse states in the USA, Ohio and New Mexico. Rainfall extremes (too much in Ohio and too little in New Mexico), and excessive heat in New Mexico and record low temperatures in Ohio have already had major impacts. Each state has a growing wine industry and hopes for continued growth in an increasingly competitive market. Slovenia has experienced higher temperatures, earlier spring frosts, and hailstorms.

The phenology of vegetative growth, flowering, and fruiting have all been impacted by these stressors. Not all varieties respond in the same manner, so in coming years costly replanting to

new varieties, or changes in production locations, may be required. Please see the photos of two apple cultivars....one heavily impacted by an early spring frost (Dr. Veberič is holding an affected fruit) and another in which the variety's fruit escaped injury. The overhead protection is intended to protect against hail damage and provide partial shade (20%). Many orchardists have indicated that they can no longer obtain insurance against hail damage and these structures have become essential.

We agreed that one near-term action that would be beneficial would be the placement of weather instrumentation in fields that lack it. This would help provide better data for establishing cause-effect relationships between stress events and plant responses. Increased regional cooperation should help reduce costs for individual programs and provide more robust data regarding plant adaptation to more extreme environmental conditions. Broader varietal evaluation and utilization of genetic resources to improve host -resistance to biotic and abiotic stressors will require additional resources.

I am most appreciative of Dr. Drago Kunej of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Dr. Denis Rusjan, Vice-Dean of the Biotechnical Faculty, and my primary host Dr. Robert Veberič of the Department of Agronomy, who facilitated my visit in a most congenial way. ■

Reprinted with the author's permission from: <https://slaviccenter.osu.edu/news/exploring-impacts-climate-change-crop-production-research-slovenia>

The Slovenian Union of America Presents the Seventh Annual Slovenian Literary Award

For nearly a century, the Slovenian Union of America has been dedicated to preserving the legacy of our Slovenian heritage. Writing has played an essential role in sustaining our culture and our communities. The SUA Slovenian Literary Award honors those who continue this vital tradition.

ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

from November 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025 at 5 pm EST

Beginning November 1, applicants may provide a biographical statement and submit work through the SUA Literary Award page: <https://slovenianunion.org/literary-award/>

- Open to first time writers as well as published authors
- Open to all genres of creative writing, including short stories, novels, poetry, memoir, creative and narrative nonfiction, and personal essays
- Work must be in a digital format that can be submitted electronically
- Work must be submitted in English
- English translations will be accepted only if you are also the author of the original work
- Up to 3 submissions per writer (but only one may be book-length)
- Applicants may live anywhere but must have a connection to Slovenian culture or heritage
- Individual writers only, 18 years and up; SUA membership is not required.
- Works are judged blind by a committee that includes writers
- Winner to be announced in June 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION

please visit the SUA Literary Award page or e-mail slovenianliteraryaward@gmail.com

MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE

— April 4-6, 2005 —

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

The Midwest Slavic Association and The Ohio State University's (OSU) Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (CSEES) are pleased to announce the 2025 Midwest Slavic Conference to be held in-person in Columbus, OH on April 4-6, 2025. The conference committee invites proposals for papers on all topics related to the Slavic, East European and Eurasian world, particularly those related to the theme of **authenticity**.

The desire for the authentic emerges from a complex interplay of cultural, historical, and social factors, often stemming from a longing for connection to one's heritage and identity. In a world increasingly dominated by globalization and mass production—processes that have both human and machine dimensions—many find themselves yearning for narratives, artifacts, and practices that resonate with their cultural origins and lived experiences. At the same time, forces in

society today and in the past, including governments and non-government actors, sometimes look to "sell" items and storylines as "authentic" when they are anything but and have distinctly manipulative and often malign aims. Why do people desire the authentic and what values underlie that desire? Conversely, what motivates people to produce inauthentic products or narratives? We welcome papers that will examine these concepts as we explore how the tension between authenticity and inauthenticity affects perceptions of the peoples, cultural practices and histories of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

The conference will open at 5:30PM on Friday with a **keynote address** by Dr. Mikhail Epstein (Emory U.). Building on the keynote address, a plenary panel will follow on Saturday morning. Panels by conference participants will then be held on Saturday from 10:30AM-4:45PM and Sunday from 8:30AM-11:45AM.

ABSTRACT AND PANEL SUBMISSIONS

Please submit a one-paragraph abstract and C.V. in a combined, single PDF file using our submission portal by 11:59 PM EST January 24th, 2025. Undergraduate and graduate students are strongly encouraged to participate. Interdisciplinary work and pre-formed panels are encouraged. Proposals for individual papers are also welcome. Have questions? Please send all inquiries to csees@osu.edu. *Online participation is not available and all potential presentations are expected to happen in person.*

Registration is required to attend all conference events and activities.

DEADLINES

- **Abstract and C.V. Deadline:** Friday, January 24, 2025
- **Notification of Acceptance:** Monday, February 17, 2025

ELECTION RESULTS

In summer 2024, the Society held an online election for a seat on the Executive Council Council, for a term of three years, through February 2027. Žarko Lazarević was unanimously elected to serve this term. ■

FROM THE TREASURER

If 2024 dues have not been received, a second notice will be sent with Slovene Studies volume 46 (2024). 2024 dues remain \$20 individual, \$35 joint, \$10 student, and \$300 lifetime. Dues payments can be made on the SSS website using either the PayPal or GoDaddy tools. Thanks to all who have already sent their 2024 dues! 2024 contributions to the various SSS funds will be acknowledged in the spring 2025 newsletter.

Timothy Pogačar,
SSS treasurer

SLOVENE STUDIES

JOURNAL OF
THE SOCIETY FOR
SLOVENE STUDIES

Members should have received volume 25 with articles on Rado L. Lencek. Volume 26 will soon be in print. Thanks to members for their patience as the journal catches up. Book review suggestions should continue to be sent to editor Timothy Pogačar.

Thanks to all members for their patience and understanding!

Timothy Pogačar, editor