



THE SOCIETY
for SLOVENE STUDIES

LETTER

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President's Message... **GOOD HEALTH, CHEER, PERSEVERANCE**

In the spirit of the present moment, when e-mails and letters are so apt to begin "I hope you are well," I'd like to open this June 2020 issue of our newsletter by wishing members of the Society, your nearest and dearest, and your communities health, good cheer and perseverance throughout this challenging time. While Slovenia has managed to curb the spread of COVID-19, moving with much of Europe a step closer to normalcy earlier this month, those of us in North America are still waiting hopefully for our curve to flatten.

In Slovenia, June is the month of two national holidays, one very familiar, the other less so - Statehood Day on June 25, which celebrates the creation in 1991 of modern independent Slovenia, and Primož Trubar Day on June 8, commemorating the Protestant reformer, first translator of the New Testament into Slovene and de facto founder of the Slovene standard language. The loosening of public health restrictions in early June made it possible for Slovene President Borut Pahor to host members of Slovenia's public at the now traditional Trubar Day open house held at the presidential palace in Ljubljana.

Trubar's time (1508-1586) was wracked with crises - the predations of what he reviled as a corrupt Catholic clergy, social polarization and persecution resulting from the new sectarian divide, and sporadic epidemics of plague - all to an extent that resonates with, but still far eclipses the challenges of our own day. Trubar catalyzed disruptive change in the Slovene lands, leaving a rich but complicated legacy that encompasses Slovene linguistic unity and nationhood, but also civil strife. No one has written more vividly about that crucial period in history than novelist Ivan Tavčar (1851-1923), the one-time mayor of Ljubljana and yet another of Slovenia's

many still under-recognized world class authors, whose masterpiece *The Chronicles of Visoko* (1919) has been translated into English by a member of our Society, but has yet to find its American or British publisher. It's no accident that Tavčar was writing on these themes at a time when tensions between the far extremes of the Slovene political spectrum were once again building to a crisis point.

Over the decades a number of contributors to our journal have written about Primož Trubar. You can read their articles, essays and reviews in the journal's freely accessible digital archive of issues from 1978 through 2015 here: <https://journals.lib.washington.edu/index.php/ssj/issue/archive> (under "Journal Content" search for the keyword "Trubar"). Contemporary Slovene literature is once again rich with masterpieces on the themes of Trubar, the Reformation, the Catholic Counter-Reformation and social polarization: Drago Jančar's *Galley Slave* (1978) and his *Katarina, Peacock and Jesuit* (2000), Florjan Lipuš's *Narrowing* (1995), and Mojca Kumerdej's *Harvest of Chronos* (2016) are just a handful of highly regarded, modern day standouts. By submitting Trubar's legacy to the high-resolution lenses of their literary microscopes, these brilliant writers and books, like Tavčar before them, attempt nothing less than to warn us against repeating history's most grievous mistakes.

They are, alongside so many other compelling themes, personalities, art works and books in the Slovene tradition, an inspiring reminder of how much our Society has yet to accomplish by way of helping to mediate between Slovenia and the world. I count it a privilege to be able to engage with all of you in such an intrinsically worthy endeavor. ■

Michael Biggins, President,
Society for Slovene Studies | June 14, 2020

FROM THE TREASURER

During the spring 2020 election, votes were cast online and via paper ballot for three open positions. Incumbent Michael Biggins ran unopposed for president, and Mary Allen Johnson and Grant Lundberg ran for two open positions on the executive council. Ballots were tallied by early May, and all were elected to their respective positions for terms that extend until February 2023.

Michael Biggins was unanimously re-elected for another term as president.

Biggins is the Slavic, Baltic, and East European studies librarian at the University of Washington, Seattle, where he also teaches Russian and Slovene language and literature as an affiliate professor.

Mary Allen Johnson was elected to the executive council with a simple majority of votes, as was Grant Lundberg. Johnson is an associate professor in the University Libraries of The Ohio State University and is also curator of the Hilander Reserach Library and director of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies. Lundberg is a professor of Slavic linguistics and chair of the Department of German and Russian at Brigham Young University. Johnson and Lundberg replace Gregor Kranjc and Charles Bukowski, who served on the executive council from 2017–20.

The Society would like to express gratitude to Gregor Kranjc and Charles Bukowski for their work on the executive council over the past several years. Their thoughtful contributions to conversations and SSS initiatives is much appreciated.

Thanks is due to all members who cast votes in this election.

Your engagement ensures the Society moves forward productively.

Kristina Reardon, secretary

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SSS FUNDS:

Center fund

Michael Antolin
David Kromm
Timothy Pogačar
Anthony Ravnik
Marjeta von Rabenau
Carole Rogel

Endowment fund

Veronica Aplenc
Charles Bukowski
John Cox
David Kromm
Jerry Lomsek
Marjeta von Rabenau
Jerry Watson
Anthony Ravnik
Kristina Reardon
Mark Ryavec

Lencek prize

Michael Biggins
David Kromm
Marjeta von Rabenau

Velikonja prize

Michael Antolin
Michael Biggins
David Kromm
Jerry Lomsek
Marjeta von Rabenau
Karl Ryavec
Mary Turvey

Printing fund

Michael Antolin
Paul Barbarich
Linda Bennet
Michael Cummins
Charles Debevec
Joseph Govednik
Darko Kajfez
David Kromm
Jerry Lomsek
Raymond Miller
von Rabenau
John M. Ravnik
Denis Sankovic
Gojko Stare
Ronald Zlatoper

New members

Christopher Bohince
Gary Bukovnik
Aaron Carpenter
Vid Čibej
Emily Citraro
Tom Cvelbar
Duncan Haldane
Todd Hunnicutt
Mallorie King
Nikko Lencek-Inagaki
Thomas McDonald
Alec Merber
Maya Margaronis
Mary Beth Papciak
Ksenija Pergar
John M. Ravnik
Tatjana Ravnik
Nives Skornik
Louise Stewart
Borut Žunič

Deceased members

Joel Halpern

2020 dues notices will be sent with volume 42, number 2 of the journal.

Timothy Pogačar, treasurer

INVITATION TO MEMBERS

How have you been keeping in touch with Slovene studies during the COVID-19 lockdown?

We invite any and all members of the Society to report on the ways that you've managed to stay connected to Slovenia and the particular topics in Slovene studies that you care about most, given the conditions of quarantine that nearly all of our communities have faced since spring of this year—whether by catching up on a personal backlog of Slovene-themed books you've long wanted to read, teleconferencing with colleagues and friends nationally and internationally, negotiating work-arounds for access to resources in archives and libraries temporarily closed to the public, taking or teaching remote courses, watching the dozens of Slovene films made viewable short-term via streaming video by the Vsi (filmi) doma project, or any other way you may have devised—we want to hear from you and, with your permission, share what we're sure will be a wide range of solutions in a future issue of the Newsletter.

Write to societyforslovenestudies@gmail.com to share your experience by 1 September 2020.

SSS OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

OFFICERS

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Grant Lundberg
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SSS AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

San Francisco, CA., Marriott Marquis Hotel
23-26 November, 2019

There were thirteen Slovene-related panels at the convention. The SSS held its annual business meeting, and the Bay Area's Club Slovenia hosted a reception for its members and SSS members and friends to meet at the historic Slovenian Hall located close to downtown on San Francisco's Potrero Hill (slovenianhall.org)

The Slovenian Hall is located in the historically Slovenian neighborhood that formed after Slovene-Americans left the central city following the 1906 earthquake and fire.

The Sunday reception was coordinated by Slovenian Hall board member and president of the Educational and Dramatic Club Slovenia (incorporated in 1924) David McCormick and SSS president Michael Biggins. The SSS wishes to thank Slovenian Hall president Anja Page and all the officers and board members for graciously hosting it. The hall is located in the historically Slovenian neighborhood that formed after Slovene-Americans left the central city following the 1906 earthquake and fire. Among longtime SSS members who attended were Joseph Govednik and Anthony Ravnik and family. Jožef Antolin and John Hutar (pictured right) provided lively music, the hall displayed publications by its members, and SSS member Mija Rode, a long-time teacher of Slovene language in the Bay Area community and now an instructor of Slovene at Stanford, toured participants through the Slovene studies library she curates on the upper floor of the Slovenian Hall. San Francisco Slovene Americans and SSS members enjoyed meeting one another. Club Slovenia and the SSS enrolled new members at the event.

There was a wide variety of Slovene-related presentations at the convention. At a panel on the socio-cultural history of fish processing on the Adriatic, Tanja Petrovič of the Scientific Research Center of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana) spoke about the "Labor History of the Yugoslav Adriatic," and Iva Kosmos, also of ZRC SAZU, gave a talk entitled "There is Nothing to Talk about with These Women!: the Fish Cannery as a Place of Inclusion and Exclusion."

A panel on "Institutional Practices and National Self-Identification in Wartime Austria-Hungary, 1914–1918" included a presentation by Jernej Kosi of the University of Ljubljana, "'Siamo Polesiani': Classification as the Essential Characteristic of WW I Refugee Policy in Imperial Austria." Rok Stergar of the University of the Ljubljana commented on this panel. Another imperial-related panel was on "Nationalism and the Growth of the Public

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Jožef Antolin and John Hutar provided lively music at the Slovenian Hall.

SSS ANNUAL CONVENTION

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Sphere in Habsburg Central Europe,” at which Daša Li en of ZRC SAZU presented on “Multiple Nationalism of Habsburg Trieste’s ‘Slavic Society,’ 1848–1858).

There were panels on Yugoslav self-management and religious groups and socialist Yugoslavia’s foreign policy. Research project leader Petra Svovljšak and four project members from ZRC SAZU organized a panel on “A Century of Refugees: The Case of Slovenes in Two World Wars.” At a panel on “Conducting Oral Histories across the Former Yugoslav Borders,” SSS member Marta Verginella and Urška Strle, both of the University of Ljubljana, presented on “Divided Memories: Public Use of Oral History in Slovenia after 1991.”

SSS members Gašpar Beguš (University of Washington), Peter Jurgec (University of Toronto), and Grant Lundberg (Brigham Young University) took part in a panel on Slovene dialectology. SSS member E. Wayles Browne (Cornell University) provided commentary. Beguš spoke on the “Žiri Valley and Its Tonal System,” Jurgec on “Consonant Harmony in Zadrecška Valley Slovenian,” and Lundberg’s talk was entitled “Slovenian Identity and Language: Kaj je pravi Slovenec?”

The convention was a rich learning and cultural experience for SSS members.

At a roundtable discussion on “Appeal and Outreach for Teaching Smaller and Not So Small Slavic Languages,” Ellen Langer (UC-Berkeley) presented on Czech, Svitlana Rogovyk (University of Michigan) on Ukrainian, and SSS member Mojca Nidorfer-Šiškovič (University of Ljubljana), who heads the University of Ljubljana’s Center for Slovene as a Second and Foreign Language and its worldwide program of Slovene instructors, described the center’s comprehensive activities.

The convention was a rich learning and cultural experience for SSS members. The next convention will take place 5–8 November 2020 in Washington, D.C. Visit <https://www.aseees.org/convention> for details. We hope to see you there. ■



Educational and Dramatic Club Slovenia book display



SSS members Lydia Pulsipher, Carole Rogel, and Joseph Govednik



David McCormick, Mojca Nidorfer-Šiškovič, and Volodja Šiškovič



Žarko Lazarevič and daughter Julija

MEET OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS

ANDREW ANZUR CLEMENT

holds a joint Ph.D. in political science and international relations from the Free University of Brussels and the University of Warwick. His thesis analyzed the framing of European national identity in the popular press

“I’m a young guy who can’t decide if he wants to be an American grad student or a Slavic warrior prince,” Andrew says



Now living and writing in Slovenia, he has published ten historical fantasy and alternate history books. His most recent trilogy, *Tito’s Lost Children*, follows a fictional band of teenagers through the real events leading up to the Balkan Wars of the early 1990s, beginning with Slovenia’s ten-day war for independence.

Andrew is the son of International media trainer Terry Anzur, who holds an AB in Communication from Stanford University and was a Benton Fellow at the University of Chicago. She reported and anchored the news for US TV networks and local stations before becoming an assistant professor at the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. She writes about Slovenia and the world on her travel journalism blog, “Strangers in the Living Room.”

Andrew and Terry are members of the Society of Slovene Studies. They obtained dual citizenship in Slovenia through their ancestry and have attended both winter and summer schools of Slovene language at the University of Ljubljana’s Faculty of Arts. They talked about their Slovenian roots on HGTV’s “House Hunters International.” Read more about the highlights of the episode:

“Parent Roommates in Slovenia” was filmed in August 2018 in Ljubljana and West Covina, California. It aired in January 2019 in the United States. The family discusses Andrew’s decision to move to Slovenia as they search for a flat in the

competitive Ljubljana real estate market. “I’m a young guy who can’t decide if he wants to be an American grad student or a Slavic warrior prince,” Andrew says.

“My grandparents came from a small farming town near Ljubljana (Kresnice) and they came to the United States in 1911,” Terry explains. Her American-born father grew up in Pennsylvania and was “never allowed to learn Slovene so we lost the language.”

The HGTV cameras follow the family as they meet a possible distant cousin, Matjaz Anžur, the author of two scholarly works on Slavic mythology (in Slovene). They visit his tourism farm, where visitors can experience the lifestyle of ancient Slavs. “We are looking for our roots and he is living them,” Andrew comments, while sipping on the locally brewed Volk Turjaški craft beer.

Finishing the house hunt with a boat ride on the Ljubljanica River, the family chooses a 9th floor apartment in a blok on the edge of Ljubljana’s pedestrian zone. Andrew likes “vintage Yugoslav feeling” of the place: “Living in Slovenia, the country of my ancestors, is everything I dreamed it would be and more.”

For a behind-the-scenes-look at the episode visit: <https://www.strangersinthelivingroom.com/8208/hgtv-house-hunters-international-in-slovenia/>

For an interview with author Andrew Anzur Clement visit: <https://www.total-slovenia-news.com/lifestyle/3619-tito-s-lost-children>

Joseph Velikonja

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE

The Society for Slovene Studies has established a prize for the best essay or term paper in any discipline written by an undergraduate on a topic involving Slovene studies. The Society intends the award to stimulate interest in Slovene matters among junior scholars..

- The prize is awarded at the annual business meeting of the Society in November or December.
- The application deadline is **1 October 2020**.
- The annual prize is US \$1,000.
- Students in any discipline at any accredited college or university in the United States or Canada interested in Slovene studies may apply, provided that they are currently registered as undergraduates at the time of application, or within six months of their last registration as an undergraduate.
- The purpose of the prize is to promote Slovene Studies outside the Republic of Slovenia. The Society for Slovene Studies selection committee will consider papers in any discipline related to Slovenia and Slovenes that were authored by a graduate student and submitted for consideration within two years of the latest university registration.
- Applicants should send one copy of the paper (no longer than thirty-five [35] pages, double-spaced), paper or digital, to: Timothy Pogačar, editor; Slovene Studies, 203 Shatzel Hall, Bowling Green SU; Bowling Green, OH 43403
- A cover letter should contain: full name, signature, postal and e-mail addresses, phone number and the name of the institution where currently registered, the number and title of the course in which the paper was written, the title of the paper, and the name, addresses (postal and e-mail) and phone number of the faculty mentor for whom the paper was written.

Rado L. Lencek

GRADUATE STUDENT PRIZE

The Society for Slovene Studies has established a monetary prize for the best paper in any discipline written by a graduate student on a topic involving Slovene studies. The prize is named for Rado L. Lencek (1921-2005), the founding president of the Society for Slovene Studies. The Society intends the award to stimulate interest in Slovene matters among junior scholars and thereby contribute to the promotion of Slovene studies outside the borders of the Republic of Slovenia.

- The Society formally announces the competition for *The Society for Slovene Studies Graduate Student Prize*, which will be awarded at the annual business meeting of the society.
- The Executive Council of the Society has determined that the monetary portion of the prize will be US\$1,000. The winner of the prize will also receive a written attestation of the award.
- To apply, students should send one copy of the paper (no longer than thirty-five [35] pages, double-spaced), paper or digital to Timothy Pogačar, editor, *Slovene Studies*, Shatzel Hall 203, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green OH 43403 USA. The deadline for receipt of submissions is **1 October 2020**. Papers will not be returned unless return postage is provided.
- On a cover sheet, the applicant should provide full name, signature, postal and e-mail addresses, phone number, the name of the institution where currently registered, the number and title of the course in which the paper was written, the title of the paper, and the name, addresses and phone number of the faculty mentor for whom the paper was written. The applicant should also indicate whether the paper is simultaneously being submitted for possible publication in *Slovene Studies*. To ensure impartial evaluation, the applicant's name and affiliation should not appear in the body of the paper itself.