



The Linden Tree

Quarterly Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc.

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“Slovenia, Here We Come!” By Rose Marie Macek Jisa

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SGSI Website Updates

Coming soon! Look for new research indices, tools, and family stories to be added to the SGSI website.

New genealogy research materials slated for the “Research” section includes; the Ameriska Domovina (American Home) Newspaper Index, and the Slovenia Cemetery Surname Project. Indexing of the Ameriska Domovina newspaper was recently completed by SGSI member, Patricia Pate. The Slovenia Cemetery Surname Project is the work of Mike Zakrajsek. Mike traveled throughout Slovenia and photographed cemetery markers from over 160 cemeteries. The extracted data was then compiled into a database which contains records of over 80,000 individuals.

Also, more heartwarming family stories and images will be highlighted in the “Share” section of the website.

Yes, another Genealogy Tour and Conference to Slovenia on September 14-23, 2016, in cooperation with Slovenia’s genealogy, the SRD! The highlight will be making a connection with your heritage—walk on the same ground, see where family lived, and possibly meet relatives you never knew you had! But we have other interesting things planned, too!

Included in the tour are airport transfers upon arrival from Brnik to our hotel in Portoroz and from Ljubljana to Brnik Airport at the end of the trip. We stay at first-class hotels, have a professional tour director, dine daily at buffet breakfasts and have 3 dinners, 3 lunches, and 2 wine tastings, plus all luggage handling, service changes, and hotel taxes included.

This year’s tour takes us to the region of Primorska along the Adriatic Coast with its beautiful Mediterranean climate. Arriving at Brnik Airport on Thursday, Sept. 15, we board our private coach to take us to Portoroz and check in at our hotel. That evening, there is a welcome party followed by dinner at the hotel.

The next morning, Sept. 16, we meet after breakfast and have an orientation meeting with presentations on research topics. Then we have an early afternoon departure on our private boat cruise along Slovenia’s coast with lunch and musical entertainment. We debark at both the picturesque town of Piran and the port of Koper for brief walking tours. The evening is free to enjoy Portoroz —its beach, casinos, restaurants, and night life.

On Saturday, the 17th, there is a full-day excursion to the vineyard region of Goriska Brda where you will see picturesque landscapes and learn its cultural and historical traditions. Included is a stop at the medieval town of Smartno. Then, we travel to Dobrovo for a light lunch with the tour ending at a local winery. That evening, we have dinner in Portoroz at a nearby restaurant.

Sunday, Sept. 18, will be a busy day! After breakfast, we begin our trip east to Ljubljana. But we have some very interesting stops first! The Lipica Stud Farm is the cradle of all Lipizzaner horses in the world.

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Continued- “Slovenia, Here We Come”
By Rose Marie Macek Jisa



You will learn the history of this famous breed as well as walk through their stalls and actually touch them if you like! Then, it's onwards to a nearby winery for winetasting and a light lunch. The Postojna Cave is our next destination to visit one of the world's most famous Karst caves! Bring a jacket for this memorable train ride. From the cave, we travel just a few kilometers to Predjama Castle. This castle has an especially unique setting, a unique story, and a replica of a jousting venue. Leaving here, we are on to Ljubljana to the Union Hotel.

After getting settled, we will take a short walk to the location of the Archbishopric Archives through the market area and Old Town.

Monday through Thursday, the real reason for the journey to the homeland takes place! After breakfast on Monday, we will have a morning conference hosted by our SGSI staff. During these days, you will visit the Archives and make whatever arrangements you like to visit

villages/towns. The Tour Director will be at your disposal for suggestions for transportation and private services you may want to arrange. On Tuesday evening, there will be a traditional Slovenian evening at a local restaurant in Ljubljana with dinner and a folklore show. All other evenings are free for you to explore on your own. You may find time to travel to Lake Bled or other areas of Slovenia. On Friday, our journey ends with breakfast and group departure to Brnik Airport.

The cost of the Tour and Conference is \$1,699 with a single-room supplement of \$459. Air transportation is not included but can be arranged through Kollander World Travel at 800.800.5981 or 216.692.1000, Ext: 707. Ask for Judy. Once you are signed up, the SGSI staff at the Research Center will contact you to begin your preparation for the journey!

Please consider joining us!

SGSI has translated two books into the English language that pertain to Slovenia. The first book is entitled, *HISTORY OF KOSTEL, 1500 - 1900* by Dr. Stanislav Juznic. This book holds a treasure trove of information listing family surnames going back to the 1500s through the 1900s for families living in the Kocevje region of Slovenia—south of Ljubljana very close to the Croatian border. It not only lists family names and the villages they come from; it also gives a wonderful history of how life was lived during that time period.

The second book, entitled *A History of Carniola from Primeval Times to 1813 with an Emphasis on Cultural Development* by August Dimitz, has been translated from German to English. The original book consisted of 1,400+ pages. SGSI decided to publish it into four volumes. What is interesting about the book is Dimitz's telling of the Slovenian culture during different time periods. And his treatise of the Reformation is quite detailed and very interesting.

The books are available in both paperback and ebook from the following vendors:

Publisher: Xlibrus Corporation--Call 1-888-795-4274 or email

- Amazon.com
- Barnes and Noble Bookstores
- Local Bookstores

(There is also one set available to read at the SGSI Research Center)

Interview with Betsy Nosse– New SGSI Vice-President

Beyond her incredible professional background and outstanding qualifications to lead SGSI as the newly appointed Vice-President, Betsy Nosse has a deep commitment to preserving her Slovenian heritage. In the following interview with Sedaj Tesch, newsletter editor for *The Linden Tree*, Betsy shares stories of connections to her Slovenian roots in Cleveland and tells of touching discoveries made in researching her Slovenian ancestry.

S: What are some of your fondest memories of growing up in a Slovenian home and community?

B: There are so many! Just about every day in the “old neighborhood” around St. Vitus seemed to be touched by our Slovene culture. I remember walking to the Slovenian Home on Saturday mornings to practice with Dr. Schubel’s Circle #2 Children’s Chorus, as we struggled to sing Slovenian lyrics and put on concerts that must have been pretty comical to those who knew how the songs really should have sounded.

And I remember loud, joyous weddings at the Slovenian Home, with liver dumpling soup, roast chicken, wonderful polka bands and dancing, and us kids race-sliding across the dance floor during band breaks. These nights ended with a group of men, always including my dad, standing around the bar singing old Slovenian songs acapella.

Holidays were also filled with music and great food. Here in Cleveland, after Thanksgiving dinner at my grandmother’s, my dad would pull out his accordion, and my uncle, his banjo, and the adults would sing those old songs. As a little girl, I couldn’t imagine anything could be better anywhere.

On Christmas Eve in Pennsylvania, the party would go on ‘till the early hours, again often with music, as we ate our way through my grandfather’s homemade sausage, bread, & ham. The “old folks” spoke Slovenian, but my parents, aunts, and uncles didn’t, so we kids would hang around listening to the funny half-English, half-Slovene conversations that went on.

But most of my fondest memories growing up Slovenian

were made here with my paternal grandmother. I sat with her just about every day when I was young, asking her to repeat her stories in broken English about her trip to America, coming here alone when she was 18, so excited about finding work in her trade as a milliner.

When I was about 7, she actually tried to teach me Slovenian and how to crochet (I think she hoped she could eventually pass on her art of lace-making to me), but I was too

impatient to learn the language and as a lefty, too awkward to do more than crochet simple chain stitches. So we’d just talk about the “old country”, but I wish she could have lived long enough to try again with me once I was a little older.

S: What traditions do you continue to practice with your family today?

B: Because our family is scattered, our traditions mostly focus on

Slovenian food – especially potica, strudel, sausage & sauerkraut. But when we’re together, there’s always the “flavor” of being Slovene in our gatherings – the food, the laughter, the old stories told by and about the “old folks” and the “old folks” before them. Also, I’ve begun to learn Slovenian – which I hope to be able to speak before I turn 80 (I think my grandmother would be proud or maybe just amused)!

S: What aspect of your Slovenian heritage do you treasure most? (language, art, foods, music..or all of the above!)

B: I most treasure having grown up in our “village” around St. Vitus. As I became a teen, being Slovenian was something I thought less and less about - I was American, period. But as I’ve grown older, I’ve realized that being surrounded by the language, culture, and values every single day helped give me a core and solid sense of myself as a Slovene-American. It was a lovely place with rose trellises and flower or vegetable gardens in most yards, kids everywhere, and tangles of streets to ride bikes through - a real community.



Betsy Nosse (center) with parents– Stella Kobe Strauss and Frank Strauss

Continued– Interview with Betsy Nosse– New SGSI Vice-President

S: I'm sure your genealogy research has been overwhelming at times, being that you are 100% Slovenian. What would you say has been your greatest or most surprising genealogy research find?

B: When I went to Slovenia with SGSI in 2013, I took with me notes and facts about my and my husband's families, but they were just that. Once I'd arrived and walked the streets they walked I began to feel connected to them, and the stories took on some color. Then, while in the Archives, I identified my paternal grandfather's village and house number from the mid-1800's and, on a whim, rented a car and drove there alone. After many wrong turns and much backtracking, I rounded a corner and there it was - his house, still standing. Although no member of our family still lives there, I felt I'd made another connection with my past and was surprisingly moved standing before it.

S: Finally, we want to thank you for sharing your personal stories with us. In closing, what key area do you believe is most critical in preserving our Slovenian heritage today?

B: That's a difficult question to answer. Here in America, our Slovenian heritage is inextricably bound to our immigrant experience. It is a blend of two cultures – different from that of those living in Slovenia, and different from that of those Americans of a different immigrant nationality. So I believe that to preserve our heritage we must also preserve our immigrant history and pass the stories on.

Whether our families came before World War I, between the World Wars, or after World War II, each came with their own story to tell, and each story is different and part of the greater story of European migration.

They are stories that speak of courage, resiliency, and hope– stories that reach back through time to people who took a great gamble to make life better for themselves and their descendants. I believe preserving these stories and sharing them with each other, our children, and our interested friends will play an important role in keeping our heritage alive and strong.

Thank you for this opportunity to think seriously about my heritage and share some thoughts. These questions slowed me down and took me to places I had nearly forgotten. It was a true gentle journey back through time.



Left to right: Mamie Strauss Strojin (aunt); Mary Kaplja Strauss (grandmother); Betsy Nosse (age 8) Stella Kobe Strauss (mother)

The Rewards of Creative Giving: Designing a Plan That Fits Your Needs

As SGSI confronts the challenges of the future, we know that the generosity of those who assist us will make all the difference in our success. That is why we continue to seek your support. SGSI also, however, wants to make sure that you benefit from making a gift to SGSI.

How does this happen? In addition to the satisfaction that comes from knowing you are making a difference in the lives of others, the best gift plans improve your financial and tax situation, as well– often right away. SGSI asks you to explore opportunities that combine your philanthropic giving with your own financial needs and tax-planning strategies. Through creative gift planning you can secure your own financial future, as well as ours.

To design a gift that benefits the people and organizations you care about most, we recommend you talk to professional counsel—an attorney who specializes in estate planning. And, we can work with your advisors to help you plan for tomorrow and receive maximum benefits today:

- * Receive a current income tax deduction
- * Avoid or minimize long-term capital gains tax
- * Increase income and effective rate of return
- * Reduce estate and gift taxes

Contact Rose Marie Macek Jisa at:

sgsi.president@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—January 2016

By Rose Marie (Macek) Jisa



Happy New Year to you and your families! 2016 looks to be another exciting year for SGSI! But first, a grateful *hvala lepa* goes to each of you who so generously gave an end-of-the-year contribution. These monies are what makes a difference in what we are able to accomplish for the Society. Again, thank you!

In the October 2015 *Linden Tree*, Mike Zakrajsek, SGSI's Membership Chair, wrote a wonderful article about the history of SGSI, dividing its development into "Ages"—the First Age, the founding; the Second Age, the development; and the Third Age, yet to be determined.

With a change in the Society's leadership at the end of this year, Mike also submitted a treatise to the Board of Directors suggesting ways the Society could continue to grow in the future. The Board has set a special meeting in April to discuss these ideas in depth. Mike has held the Membership Chair position for the past 7 years and is the person whose responsibilities keep him closest in contact with you, our members. The Board and I thank you, Mike, for the work you put into this treatise. Your dedication and loyalty to SGSI are beyond compare!

At the annual Board meeting held in November, a new position, that of Vice-President, was added to our By-Laws. As you know, Betsy Nosse has accepted this position enthusiastically and she and I are now working together to ensure a smooth transition to her presidency. In addition, the Board expanded the number of Directors to seven. Betsy fills one of these positions and Christine Panchur, the other.

In closing, to Al Peterlin, our founder—without your initiative, your tenacity, your steadfastness in creating SGSI, there would be no SGSI! To our Board of Directors, our officers, and our membership chairs, without your dedication to oversee the operations, there would be no SGSI! To our volunteers--without your willingness to give of your time and energy to work and complete our projects, there would be no SGSI! And to you, our members—without your sustained support over the years, there would be no SGSI! It takes all of us being "enthusiasts" to guarantee SGSI's viability for future generations as we continue our mission to connect our families to our wonderful Slovenian heritage!

Until next time

Evernote: Your Virtual Genealogy Assistant

By Thomas MacEntee



Evernote is a genealogy researcher's best friend and one of the best tools you can use to capture almost anything. This means not just items found online, but also images, documents and more!

The best way to understand Evernote features is to imagine having your own personal assistant, but one that is virtual (meaning they cost practically nothing and never call in sick or complain about the workload!). Your Evernote virtual assistant can:

- Clip articles, posts, and webpages you find on the Internet and store them for later reading.
- Create lists of contacts, things to do, ideas, projects and research strategies.
- Store vast amounts of data that can be indexed and later located in a snap.
- Remember dates, appointments, deadlines and more.
- Synchronize data across several devices including your online account, your computer and your mobile devices.

All this is done in the form of Notes (single items) and Notebooks (collections of grouped Notes). Evernote is basically your library of three-ring binders, but a library created and maintained online.

Getting Started with Evernote

The best way to get started with Evernote is to use the [Getting Started](#) section at Evernote. Here is an overview:

- Download and install Evernote to your computer.
- Create an Evernote account (free).
- Create notes and notebooks.
- Consider adding access via a mobile device.

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Continued- "Evernote: Your Virtual Genealogy Assistant"

By Thomas MacEntee

Evernote Application, Website, or Mobile: Which Is Best?

The truth is, you will probably want to use all the Evernote platforms available to you. Here is what Evernote offers:

- ⇒ **Website:** Create a free account at the Evernote website (<http://www.evernote.com>) and access Evernote through your web browser. See **Guide to Evernote Web** (<http://evernote.com/evernote/guide/web/>).
- ⇒ **Desktop:** Download the Evernote software (for free) and install it on your computer (PC and MAC versions available). See **Guide to Evernote Desktop (Windows)** (<http://evernote.com/evernote/guide/windows/>) or **Guide to Evernote Desktop (Mac)** (<http://evernote.com/evernote/guide/mac/>).
- ⇒ **Applications:** Available for Android, iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch devices; download from the **iPhone App Store** (<http://www.apple.com/iphone/from-the-app-store/>) or **Google Play** (<https://play.google.com/store>). See **Guide to Evernote Android** (<http://evernote.com/evernote/guide/android/>) or **Guide to Evernote for iPhone and iPad** (<http://evernote.com/evernote/guide/ios/>). **Browser**

Extensions, Bookmarklets and Plugins!

Whether you use Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox, Google Chrome or another browser to surf the web, make sure you check out all available extensions, plugins and bookmarklets for Evernote. These "helpers" will make it easier to clip content, take notes and in general integrate Evernote with your Web experience. Be sure to check out the Resources at the end of this article.

How Genealogists Are Using Evernote

Evernote has been called a "researcher's best friend" and given the tasks and work performed by genealogists, it makes sense that Evernote would be friendly to genealogists as well.

- * **Capture documents:** Save document images found online to Evernote and add annotations and source citations within the note. Also, use the mobile device camera to send a document image directly to Evernote.
- * **Create a call list:** Before you head to a library or a repository, research their catalog and create a list of items to be pulled or microfilms to access. Having this information in Evernote on a mobile device makes it easier to find exactly what you need in the stacks or to fill out call slips.
- * **Capture images:** There are many instances when you need to scan a document, but you either aren't allowed to bring a mobile scanner with you or perhaps the repository's photocopyers are out of service! Capture an image and then add source citation information right in Evernote. In addition, if you use your smartphone's camera, you can email images directly to your Evernote account.

* **Create a to do list:** Although some genealogy database programs do assist in creating "to do" lists for research, you can create your own on Evernote.

* **Collaborate with other researchers:** Notebooks on Evernote can be shared with other Evernote users (they will need to have an Evernote premium account) so that you can collect common research elements.

Evernote Best Practices

Here are some guidelines, as well as tips and tricks for using Evernote:

- Remember that everything is a note.** Don't think "sticky note" or piece of paper. Think photos, documents and more. But everything you store in Evernote is basically a note.
- Send to the Evernote email address.** That's right, each Evernote account (even the free ones) get an email account such as example@m.evernote.com to which you can email photos and even email messages.
- Make audio notes.** You can record voice memos and save them in Evernote using the Evernote app on your smartphone.
- Use your camera.** With more and more mobile devices now available with cameras that keep getting better in terms of image resolution and functions, make sure you are sending images to Evernote. Rather than collect images in a photo stream and then adding them later, make sure your device can use Evernote to gather images and then add your notes to the images right away.
- Remember to use tags.** For some users, creating Notebooks is an extra step; they would much rather add a Tag (such as "1810 Census" or "AUSTIN Research") and then perform a global search of Evernote to find the content they need.
- Use shortcuts when possible.** When using the Desktop version of Evernote, take advantage of keyboard shortcuts for [Windows](#) and [Mac OS](#), as well as features such as the Web Clipper and the ability to email items to your Evernote account.

Should You Go Premium?

Once you start using Evernote, you may run up against the limits of using the free version especially with limits on the amount of data you can add each month. With a Premium account (\$45 per year), you get the following features:

- 1GB per month upload limit (instead of 60MB per month)
- Unlimited size on notes (instead of 25MB per note)
- Offline notebooks available on mobile devices

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“MEMBERS BITS AND PIECES”

- View note history including versions.
- Share notebooks with others.
- Index and search PDF files.

Your Virtual Genealogy Helper

From organizing your notes to helping you keep track of books you want to research, Evernote is always at the ready. Whether you're using it on your computer, a tablet or a smartphone, Evernote can be your 24/7 virtual genealogy assistant.

Resources and Additional Reading

[Evernote Blog](#)

[Evernote Trunk](#)

[Getting Started with Evernote](#)

[How to Use Evernote for Genealogical Research](#)

[Understanding Evernote Sync](#)

MacEntee, Thomas (2013 Apr 19) *Evernote: Your Virtual Genealogy Assistant*
<http://www.archives.com/experts/macentee-thomas/evernote-your-virtual-genealogy-assistant.html>

Contact Information for Web Site Assistance

Contact: Mike Zakrajsek,
 membership director and site moderator at
mike.zakrajsek@gmail.com for:

- Site Registration Issues
- Membership Information
- Surname Index

Contact: Sedaj Tesch
 newsletter editor and site moderator at
sedaj@slovenianguenealogy.org for

- Forum Posting Issues
- Article /Research Submissions
- Newsletter Information
- State Chapter Updates
- Calendar of Events

Newsletter Advertising Rates



The Linden Tree is now accepting ads pertaining to services or products connected to our Slovenian heritage.

Fee Structure per issue:

* Business Card	\$10
* 1/4-page	\$15
* 1/2-page	\$30
* Full page	\$50

Email your copy to:

newsletter@slovenianguenealogy.org one month prior to publication:

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Send your check to:

Mr. Robert Kuhel, SGSI Treasurer

SGSI, Inc.

c/o Michael Zakrajsek, Membership Chair

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[Member Address here]

Visit us at: www.slovenianguenealogysociety.org



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Moved Recently or Have a New Email Address?

Contact Membership Chair , Mike Zakrajsek at:

mike.zakrajsek@gmail.com

Mike is your main contact with regard to membership information and mailing address changes or corrections. Be sure to let him know if your email or postal addresses change. Contact him if you have any questions about your membership.

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