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# WHY WE ARE PROUD TO BE SLOVENIAN AMERICANS

Published on the occasion of "Proud to be Slovenian Day"  
at Slovenska Pristava in Harpersfield, Ohio, on June 30, 2019.



**Maksim Gaspari, *Mati Slovenija* - Mother Slovenia**

By  
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and

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## Cover photo

Mother Slovenia, by Maxim Gaspari (1883-1980), is one of his favorite paintings. It was commissioned by Slovenian Americans. In 1942, the American painter Shirley Braithwaite used Gaspari's original to paint the stage curtain for the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. Dressed in Slovenian national costume and sitting under a majestic tree at the idyllic Slovenian Alpine Lake Bled, Mother Slovenia is surrounded by Slovenian children and farmers, and by a few leading representatives of Slovenian culture: the poets Bishop Anton Martin Slomšek, Anton Aškerc, Simon Gregorčič at left and Dr. France Prešeren at far right; and, in the middle, by writers Ivan Cankar and Ivan Tavčar and the painter Ivan Grohar. The painting symbolically unites Slovenian Americans with the country of their roots, Slovenia and her culture.

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# FOREWORD

Soon after my arrival in America. I noticed — in addition to many wonderful things — that, like most of the world, Americans had almost no knowledge about Slovenia and confused her with Slovakia or even with some Soviet republic. In 1951, when I worked as a construction laborer for the Kovach Construction Company, together with such wonderful fellow-Slovenian immigrants as my master bricklayer Tone Lavrisha, and skilled artisans Jaka Mejač and Jože Bizjak, some American fellow-laborers mercilessly challenged me, a greenhorn, Greiner, Hunky, Pollack, etc., to show them a single Slovenian who had ever accomplished anything really significant, such as a baseball star, a famous architect, or a single inventor. I mentioned the famous missionary, bishop and linguist Frederic Baraga, and then Governor of Ohio Frank J. Lausche, yet my answers were laughed off.

When I tried to find some strong data in local libraries, excellent as they were, I could not find anything convincing that I could show my tormentors. There was, however, a book by H.G. Duncan, *Immigration and Assimilation* (Boston, 1933) which claimed on pages 309-310 that “86 percent of Slovenians in Yugoslavia were illiterate and had no literary language of their own.” Ignorant peasant immigrants were, of course, problematic in America. This book was even on the prescribed doctoral reading list in the late 1950s when I was completing my studies at Ohio State University in Columbus. Thus, in 1951, I decided I would use any free time and every dollar I could spare to research and publicize Slovenians and especially Slovenian contributions to America and the world.

After many books, hundreds of articles and numerous lectures, speeches and exhibits all over the USA, in Canada and even in Australia, now, at nearly 93 years of age, such research and writing activities still keep me busy some fifty hours a week, thanks to magnificent help that I always get from my wife and number one coworker Milena, our supportive daughters, all former Kres dancers and now educators. I am most grateful also to our indefatigable Slovenian American Times editor Breda Loncar, a retired High School principal after whom even a local school for disadvantaged children is named, to my generous brother-in-law Peter Osenar, and to talented Tom Percic, the Production Manager who always makes the paper, including my articles, attractive to look at. With Breda’s approval and help, some of our Slovenian American Times materials were selected to be published in this booklet, while Tom skillfully designed and produced it. I am deeply grateful to all, mentioned or unmentioned, and also to Slovenska Pristava, our home away from home. Thank you also for today’s moral support.

God bless you all! God bless Slovenia, and God bless America! —

Edi

# DR. FRANCE PREŠEREN (1800-1849)

## Zdravljica/A Toast

(adopted as National anthem of Independent Slovenia)

*God's blessing on all nations,  
Who long and work for that bright day,  
When o'er earth's habitations  
No war, no strife shall hold its sway;  
Who long to see  
That all men free  
No more shall foes, but neighbors be.*

***Živé naj vsi naródi,  
ki hrepené dočakat' dan,  
da, koder sonce hodi,  
prepir iz svéta bo pregnan,  
da rojak  
prost bo vsak,  
ne vrag, le sosed bo mejak!***

***Nazadnje še, prijatlji,  
kozarce zase vzdignimo,  
ki smo zato se zbrat'li,  
ker dobro v srcu mislimo;  
dókaj dni  
naj živí  
vsak, kar nas dobrih je ljudi!***

\*\*\*

### ***A statement at Pristava celebration***

*Today and always we proudly and gratefully remember that  
God Almighty is our loving FATHER,  
the beautiful Alpine Slovenia is our MOTHER,  
Marija Pomagaj, Mary Help of Christians, is our QUEEN,  
and America, the Beautiful,  
the greatest country of freedom and opportunity,  
is our precious common DESTINY.*

## Some good, respectable reasons why we are proud of our Slovenian heritage.

First published in *Poročila SRCA*, January 2000, partly updated in 2018 (*with short quotations about Slovenia(ns)* by several foreign authors, reprinted from original sources)

**A**s we are about to enter the new millennium, we hope to do so as capable, honest and proud Slovenians, not being unjustly perceived and maligned as a backward, illiterate nation, without even a literary language of our own. This, unfortunately, is how some biased writers, including such authors of college textbooks as Dr. H.G. Duncan, unapologetically described us. (See *Immigration and Assimilation*, 1933, pages 309-310). Let us step across the millennial threshold with our true identity, as an Alpine, Central European people, equal to others in the family of nations, as this desirable, hopefully still developing international community has been called in the very title of a book authored by Slovenian American Bishop James Rausch, when he was General Secretary of the Conference of American Catholic Bishops and of the Catholic Conference of the U.S.A. (namely, *The Family of Nations: An Expanded View of Patriotism*, 1970). In spite of our shortcomings, which we recognize and regret, and which we are trying to reduce and eliminate, we can still sing the words of the title of one of our popular songs: "S ponosom reči smem: Slovenec sem! Slovenec sem!" — meaning I can proudly say: I'm Slovenian, I am a Slovenian!" Without such awareness and a normal patriotic pride, our people would have long ago disappeared from the face of the Earth, physically and culturally! Like most other peoples, the Irish, Polish, Jewish or Scottish, we, too, love, and are proud of, the country of our roots and of the centuries-old language and culture of our ancestors which we, too, try to preserve and enrich.

That's right! As Slovenians, we are, or our ancestors were, inhabitants of a strikingly beautiful country, as confirmed by many foreign visitors, tourists and diplomats, including even the most powerful political and cultural leaders of West and East who have repeatedly met at Brdo and Lake Bled, the jewel of Slovenian Julian Alps. We are grateful to our ancestors who have preserved for us this our land and heritage through centuries of pillaging Moslem Turkish raids which reached even as far north as Vienna in Austria (1683). We are also grateful to our contemporaries who have, toward the end of past century, overwhelmingly voted for, and when brutally attacked by the Yugoslav communist army, courageously

fought for Slovenia's independence, so that despite our numerical smallness of only about two million souls we are no longer a subordinated part of another country, whether Austria or Yugoslavia, but a nation in our own right, with our own name, language and culture, and with our own dreams.

Yes, we are members of an independent nation which, while small in numbers, has paid dearly to achieve its political equality and is now recognized as a voting member of the European Union (where Slovenian premier Janez Jansa served as president of the European Council in 2008) and of the United Nations (where Dr. Danilo Türk was Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs (2000-2005)). We are grateful to all countries that respect and support our right to be free at last and to all leaders, politicians, writers, journalists and other friends who have given us their moral support.

Thus, the beloved **Pope John Paul II** often spoke to our people in the Slovenian language: "Papež vas ima rad – The Pope loves you," he assured us when he visited Slovenia in 1999 to beatify Anton Martin Slomšek, an outstanding Slovenian and Central European religious and cultural leader and trailblazer in the ecumenical movement. The Pope discussed and praised Slomšek's and Slovenian sincere **patriotism as a virtuous love of country and nation**, which has nothing in common with exaggerated nationalism based on feelings of one's superiority and contempt for, or even hatred of, other peoples and countries. "Keep your faith! Korajža velja! Do not be afraid!" Twenty years earlier, in 1979, he welcomed Slovenian pilgrims in Rome as representatives of "a noble nation that deserves all respect and love." (See Franci Petrič, *Luč vere za novo tisočletje*, Ljubljana: Družina, 1999).

Those of us who were hurt, or others who were deceived by condescending, hostile and biased statements such as Duncan's, greatly appreciate friendly moral support by fair-minded, informed writers, researchers and observers of various nationalities,



*The cover of LUČ VERE ZA NOVO TISOČLETJE (THE LIGHT OF FAITH FOR A NEW MILLENIUM), edited by Franci Petrič and published by Družina (1999), commemorates the second visit of Slovenia by Pope John Paul II and the beatification of Anton Martin Slomšek.*

among them:

**R.H. Markham**, an American writer who authored a number of books on European countries, wrote in 1947: "The Slovenes were one of the most advanced nationality groups or nations in the world. ... They kept their picturesque little cities attractive and clean, improved their strikingly beautiful, mountain-filled, lake-spangled land by the care they gave it, made its heights and depths echo with the songs of tourists, crowned many a peak with a cozy tourist hut. ... The coffee houses in their cities were as reading rooms in American public libraries. ... Markets were models of order. The women were neat, few men were ragged. ... A self-respecting people that prior to 1918 [except at the dawn of their admired Karantian history] had never been even partly free, moved forward to a distinguished place among the most advanced nations" (R.H. Markham, *Tito's Imperial Communism*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947, pp.10–11).

**Bernard Newman**, the prolific British author of more than 100 books, wrote in *Unknown Yugoslavia* (London: Herbert Johnson, Ltd., 1960, pages 189-190): "Yugoslavia is formed like a jigsaw puzzle from ancient provinces. The loveliest of them is Slovenia, a mountain land. ... Slovenia's masters ranged from Charlemagne to Napoleon, but people clung tenaciously to their own culture and language — a distant relative of Serbo-Croat. The Slovenes used to share with the Scandinavians the reputation of being the best-read people in the world — the number of books read per head of the population was four times the British figure. Modern conditions have mitigated against this proud record, but the Slovenes are still great readers. ... In almost every Slovene cottage I found a little library of high literary quality. ... The cultural tradition includes literature, with a great love for poetry."

**Robert St. John**, American author of 23 books, Associated Press journalist and broadcaster (1902-2003!), wrote: "In Slovenia they have always read books by British, French and American authors. They know about Picasso, Gertrude Stein, Gershwin, Margaret Sanger, Bing Crosby, and the theory of relativity. They have their theaters, music academies, and art galleries. ... The peasants think the native costumes their grandmothers handed down to them are nice, but they wear them only on national holidays. They have their own songs and dances, but they are quiet, studied and rhythmic in the Western manner. The homes of Slovenia are clean and neat.

Lidice? They found hundred Lidices in Slovenia alone. Four hundred villages wiped off the map.

Every year thousands of people try to climb to Triglav's snow-

crowned peak. They come back exhausted but with star-shaped edelweiss flowers under their hatbands to prove that they made it. To prove that they got to the very top of this 9.373 foot peak. They come back with tales they tell in whispers of how, just before you reach the summit, you go through fields so covered with delicate spring flowers in July that even a man who never realized he had a soul gets a feeling deep inside him that he can't express in words" (Robert St. John, *The Silent People Speak*, Doubleday & Company: Garden City, N.Y., 1948, pages 346-347).

British professor who later settled in Australia, **R.G.A. deBray**, wrote in his *Guide to the Slavonic Languages* (London-New York, 1951, page 363): "The Slovenes, a people at present numbering in their homeland rather less than two million, settled in the mountainous north-west corner of Yugoslavia at the end of the Slav migrations about AD 600. The centre of this small and unique Alpine Slav civilization is Ljubljana (pr. Lyooblyahna), a delightful and most civilized, though small capital city standing in a small plain bounded by high mountains. ... Beyond the rivers Drava and Mura the hills melt into the Pannonian Plain. The people are mainly of the Roman Catholic faith. Literacy in Slovenia reaches almost 100 per cent of the population, and the general level of urban, rural and domestic culture is high even by West European standards. All who know the Slovenes regret the fact that even after the 1914-1918 war this small people was far from entirely united. ...The history



*Ljubljana (pr. Lyublyana), the cultural and political capital of Slovenia.*



of their language, we shall see, also shows those qualities of steadfastness and perseverance in the people, while their beautiful literature is often characterized by a gentle melancholy or a positive and constructive optimism and reflects further sides of the Slovene's character.

Slovene is the language of one of the oldest documents written in any Slav language, the Freising Leaves (Brižinski spomeniki), a MS written in Latin characters and containing prayers, confessions and homilies, believed to date from the eleventh century."

Professor **Richard A. Schermerhorn** who taught at the Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and was an authority on American ethnic groups, wrote in his book, *These Our People* (Boston: D.C. Heath and Company, 1949, page 263): "In America, the close-knit character of their [Slovenian] communities retains a social cohesion that serves to keep delinquency and crime to a minimum. Offences against property are almost nonexistent. ... Big-time racketeers did not flourish, as a matter of record it was the testimony of Slovenian immigrant Gus Korach, backed by many other Slovenians in Cleveland, including Judge Frank J. Lausche, later governor of Ohio, that broke one of the largest mobs in that city." **Numerous Slovenian ethnic parishes, schools, national or society homes, "pristave", recreation parks, farms or centers; cultural organizations, singing societies, orchestras, sports and folklore groups; newspapers and radio programs; powerful fraternal self-help societies, some over a hundred years old, with hundreds of local lodges; and thousands of hard-working volunteers, have helped and continue to help preserve the best elements of Slovenian and American heritage in the Slovenian**



*Prince's stone, an ancient symbol of European democracy and of Slovenian selection and installation of their early princes only after they had made a number of solemn promises to the people. The leading French social philosopher Jean Bodin (1539-1596) described this ancient Slovenian Carinthian democratic ceremony as »having no equal in the world.«*



The cover of *Slovenian Heritage*, edited by G.E. Gobetz, with assistance of Milena Gobetz and Ruth Lackner, 1980 (three printings).

**American communities of which both Slovenians and other Americans can be proud.**

Our readers probably also remember the following statement about Slovenian Americans (who are either 100% Slovenian, or have at least either paternal or maternal Slovenian roots), “Randy Bresnik, the Fourth Slovenian American Astronaut, after Ronald Sega, Jerry Linenger, and Sunita Williams” (*Slovenian American Times*, April 2018, page 19): “According to recent U.S. Census reports, Slovenian Americans represent only one tenth of one percent of the total American population, yet they recently (2006 to 2011) gave America

three percent of active federal senators (Thomas Harkin, also a primary election candidate for U.S. President; George Voinovich, and Amy Klobuchar), while our earlier senator, Frank J. Lausche, was called by President Ronald Reagan and some leading American media »the Lincoln of Ohio (See **Gobetz**, *Ohio’s Lincoln Frank. J. Lausche*, 1985). According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Slovenians were also the ethnic or ancestry group with the smallest percentage of its members living in poverty. In spite of our smallness, we also shine in space programs, where in addition to four astronauts, and two International Space Station commanders, we also gave America Franklin R. Puhek, designer of the intercontinental and space missiles who, in 1962, taught America’s first astronaut, John Glenn, and then the six subsequent Mercury astronauts, how to use the missile (shuttle) guidance systems; Ed Repic, who helped mankind conquer the Moon and is now a leading authority on future flights to Mars; Albert Volk, who worked on the Apollo 15 Lunar Roving Vehicle; John Hrastar, Director of Systems Technology and Advanced Concepts at Goddard Space Flight Center; Dr. Anthony

Strazisar, former Chief Scientist at NASA John H. Glenn Research Center; Dr. Dusan Petrac, award-winning authority on cryogenics in space programs; John Repar, NASA award-winning inventor and developer of astro rubber, a special kind of rubber strong enough to withstand the rigors of space flight; and many other Slovenian Americans whose contributions to space programs are listed and documented in our book, *Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators* (2016).



**Left:** Melania Trump, the Slovenian immigrant wife of President Donald Trump and thus the First Lady of America, is admired by many for her beauty, grace and mastery of several languages, and for her devotion to motherhood and to American children.

**Right:** Slovenian immigrant four-star General Frank Gorenc, is Commander, U.S. Air Force in Europe; Commander, U.S. Air Force in Africa; and Commander, NATO Allied Air Command. When he visits his native Slovenia, he converses fluently in Slovenian.

Verna Grahek Mize, known as "First Lady of Lake Superior" led the fight to save its waters from massive pollution by industrial waste. She was hailed on American national television and in numerous papers and magazines, including several times in the National Geographic Magazine, as a shining example of what a humble, determined housewife and secretary can accomplish for the common good. When she celebrated her Court victory against giant corporation polluters, the Detroit Free Press of March 7, 1974 reported, "It was a long fight, but Verna won." Unknown to readers and viewers was the fact that Verna was a Slovenian American.

By 2019, our tiny Slovenian ethnic group also gave America **twelve bishops**, including the Venerable Frederic Baraga (1797-

1868), who, according to Vatican's *Enciclopedia Cattolica* (1949, p. 795) was "one of the greatest missionaries of North America in modern times"; he is also American candidate for sainthood, a great linguist who authored religious, ethnologic and linguistic books in several languages, including Indian grammars and *A Dictionary of the Ojibway Language*, which has been used as the best in existence for over a century and was reprinted by Minnesota Historical Society Press in 1992. In addition to **four federal senators** (mentioned above), we also gave America **three governors** (Lausche, Voinovich, and Mufford, nee Oberstar); **seven congressmen** (Blatnik, Oberstar, Ruppe, Skubitz, Eckart, Kogovsek and Gosar); many important government officials, such as Ludwig J. Andolsek, U.S. Civil Service Commissioner; and scores of mayors. And how could anyone forget the current First Lady of the United States of America, **Mrs. Melania Trump**, a Slovenian immigrant from Sevnica, admired by many for her beauty, grace and mastery of several languages. She is particularly dedicated to American children whom she urges to become the best, just as she considers being the best possible mother to her son Barron as one of her most important roles in life; Barron is, of course, fluent in both English and Slovenian.

Undoubtedly, the tiny Slovenian ethnic group has also contributed more than its statistically expected share to the defense of



*Frederic Baraga (1797-1968), prominent Slovenian missionary, bishop, linguist and author in America, and organizer of »foreign aid« in Slovenia and Austria for the American Indians. He is America's Catholic candidate for sainthood.*

the United States of America. Remember Max Stupar's prominent role in the production of B-29 bombers that played such an eminent role in American victory in Second World War and **Franklin Puhek's** development of guidance systems for tomahawk and other missiles, the precision of which has always been widely admired. We also contributed to the American military at least ten generals, including the four-star Air Force **General Frank Gorenc**, who was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and still fluently speaks Slovenian, and currently serves as Commander, U.S. Air Force in Europe; Commander, U.S. Air Force, Africa; and Commander, NATO Allied Air Command. U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs from which Gorenc and so many other Air Force officers and generals graduated was under the command of another Slovenian, Anthony Burshnick, who retired after a brilliant career as Lieutenant (3-star) Air Force General, while Astronaut Ronald Sega, a Professor of Physics, also rose to the position of Major General and served in 2005-2006, as Undersecretary of U.S. Air Force, in Washington, D.C. Add to this proud record at least six Slovenian American admirals, including **four-star admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper**, nicknamed Zap, who after a brilliant career in air force aviation, both in combat and in administration, served as Chief of U.S. Navy Personnel and Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the largest navy in the world, a position from which he retired in 1996 as one of the most respected, capable and inspirational American admirals.

Earlier, **four-star General of the Army Ferdinand Chesarek** fought during World War II in Europe served as military representative of the United States to the United Nations and was Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, before retiring in 1970.

Major General John S. Lekson fought with the famous 101 Airborne Division in Vietnam and was chief of the United States Military Assistance Group in South Korea. Rear Admiral William F. Petrovic served as inspector general of the Bureau of Ships, commanding officer of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, and director of the New York Naval Shipyard, and director of Shipyard Modernization, Naval Ship Systems Command, U.S. Navy. And Rear Admiral Edward J. Rupnik, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy, was head of the Training and Clinical Services Branch of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and commanding officer of the Naval Medical School, National Naval Medical Center, at Bethesda, Maryland.

**Many Slovenian officers and men sacrificed their lives for America**, most of them unknown, while others received national recognition. Thus, *Life* magazine of November 10, 1941, featured a photo of Mrs. Jennie Dobnikar, Cleveland's and America's first

Gold Star Mother. "She is not a native born American, wrote *Life*. But she has given all three of her strapping sons to the U.S. Navy. And now, one of them, Louis (center on the photo), is dead."

On page 616 of *Slovenian Heritage* (Gobetz, 1980), the diversity of Slovenian involvement is suggested. The first photo is that of police Lieutenant William J. Toffant, a parachutist in counterintelligence with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, who captured and interrogated Hitler's chauffeur Erich Kempka and obtained the first statement of Hitler's suicide in 1945. Next we see the photo of Captain (later Colonel) Robert L. Vidrick receiving the Army Commendation medal "for outstanding service as the **transportation coordinator during the state funeral**

**of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.**" Also photographed is Major John A. Petric, one of several Slovenian Americans who died fighting in Vietnam. He won several medals, including the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and Purple Heart. Next to him is a photo of Sargeant Charlie J. Krzic who "rushed from his covered position under the continual hostile fire to help his wounded fellow-Americans and was fatally wounded in 1945 at Luzon, on the Philippine Islands. He was decorated posthumously with a Silver Star and a U.S. Army Reserve Center was dedicated in his honor." Finally, we see U.S. Marines on Maui, Hawaii, playing baseball on Martincheck Field, named in honor of Lt. Col. Frank A. Martincheck, regimental recreation officer who was killed on Feb. 20, 1945 on Iwo Jima.

On pages 438-445 of the same book we read "The Odyssey of a Slovenian American Marine," John Hribar, a Slovenian miner who volunteered at age 19 to help build the first World War II Liberty ship in Baltimore; in 1944 he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima where, in fierce battles, 5,931 Marines were killed and almost three times as many were wound-



*Mrs. Jennie Dobnikar, Cleveland's and America's first Gold Star Mother, was featured over an entire page of LIFE magazine (Nov. 10, 1941), showing photos of the three sons she gave to U.S. Navy. Louis (center) died in action aboard the destroyer Kearney, one of the first eleven Americans killed in the Second World War.*



Luka Dončić,  
Dallas Mavericks

ed, including John. Although a life-long disabled veteran, he became an enthusiastic volunteer associate of our Slovenian Research Center of America, helping us with numerous valuable leads and addresses. When America celebrated the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in the mid-1970s and published *The Bicentennial Times* which was “distributed to all American communities,” John, a recognized Iwo Jima hero, succeeded (in a fierce competition for space) in getting published our short summary of Slovenian contributions to America. Thanks to him our message reached communities throughout the United States and resulted in an avalanche of mail with addresses, leads, and clippings about Slovenian American contribu-

tions which would otherwise remain unknown.

What about Slovenian Americans in business and economy? Here, too, Slovenian workers and craftsmen have long enjoyed a good reputation for their hard work and skills, while Slovenian achievements in America range, in addition to so many others, from brilliant accomplishments of Paul Kosir, once an immigrant automobile mechanic and now the owner and very capable executive president of two modern PAKO factories; and Stan Knez, a chemical engineer and inventor, president of Technip Stone & Webster Technology, Inc., in Houston, Texas, and a member of the Board of Directors of GVAC in Gothenburg, Sweden, a leading naval architecture design firm, with semi-submersible technology for the floating production of oil and gas in deepwater. Undoubtedly at the very top is another son of a Slovenian post-WW II immigrant, David J. Lesar. He rose to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Halliburton, Inc, one of the world’s largest providers of products and services to the energy industries and businesses, with over 55,000 employees, representing 140 nationalities in more than 80 countries.

In 1977, we published an *Anthology of Slovenian American Literature*, with sixty reproductions of Slovenian ethnic art and gratefully dedicated it to Slovenian American writers, poets, and editors [many photographed on the cover] whose love and works



Slovenian writers, poets and editors on the cover of *The Anthology of Slovenian American Literature* by Gobetz and Donchenko, 1977.

transformed him into a national celebrity. Some of his other most important books are *My America* (1938), *From Many Lands* (1940), *Two-Way Passage* (1941), *What's Your Name* (1942), *My Native Land* (1943), *A Nation of Nations* (1945); and *Eagle and the Roots*, completed and edited after his death by his wife Stella. Adamic also served as the general editor for »The Peoples of America Series,« published by the J.B. Lippincott Company which introduced a series of books on many American ethnic groups. Having supported Tito and his communist rule in Yugoslavia and opposed the Soviets in the Tito-Stalin conflict, he had become increasingly controversial and was found shot to death at his farm in 1951 under mysterious circumstances. His death was officially declared as suicide, while many believe he was assassinated for political reasons — in my opinion not by Serbian or Croatian political enemies, but by Soviet agents since Stalin was afraid of the propaganda effect of his planned book on the Tito-Stalin split.

According to scholars such as Ohio State Professor Brewton Berry (of Scottish descent), the author of the award-winning book *Race and Ethnic Relations* (third edition 1965), Adamic is a leading

have enriched the Slovenian heritage and contributed to the richness and beauty of the American mosaic. Among the major contributors were the Catholic writer **Karel Mauser**, whose *Kaplan Klemen/Chaplain Clemens* (1966) appeared in German and Spanish translations and was included in the Collection *Gigante*, among the Giants of World Literature, and **Frank Mlakar** whose book *He, the Father* (1950) was, according to *Time* magazine, »a powerful Dostoevskian story«. Undoubtedly, the best known Slovenian writer in America was **Louis Adamic** (1899-1951) who came to America when he was not quite 15. Following his works *Dynamite*, *The Story of Class Violence in America* (1931) and the autobiographical *Laughing in the Jungle* (1932), his book, *The Native's Return* (Harper, 1934)



representative of pluralists who advocate cultural democracy. »He would correct the prevalent view that the United States is, or ever was, an Anglo-Saxon country, with a white-Anglo-Saxon-Protestant civilization struggling to preserve itself against the civilizations brought here by foreigners [Germans, Italians, French, Slavs, Catholics, Jews, etc.] and Negroes. Diversity itself is the American pattern, according to Adamic — and this is one of the most important sources of our strength.”



*Goran Dragič, Miami Heat.*

While Alexander Papesh, the son of Slovenian immigrants, is a top architect and designer of American stadiums, many Slovenians excelled in American sports, although even an encyclopedia editor who invited me to write about our ethnic group in American sports believed that I could cover the Slovenians by briefly discussing our involvement in “balina” or “bocce”, a healthy, wide-participation sport. To his credit, following my mention of our much wider involvement, he allowed me more space to include also several nationally known football players and baseball stars (e.g., Frank Doljack, Al Milnar, Joe Kuhel (also manager of the Washington Senators) and a number of national and world champions in various sports and winners of Olympic medals, such as Eric Heiden. His great-grandmother immigrated to America less than 100 years ago from the lovely Slovenian village of Ljubno, near Celje, while her daughter, Mrs. Olga Thompson, who was still fluent in Slovenian when I was privileged to correspond with her, was a skating instructor in Madison, Wisconsin, and first encouraged her grandchildren Eric and Beth to skate. By February 1979, Eric won his eighth world championship and at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, NY, America celebrated his unprecedented total of five gold medals. His sister Beth was the women’s world champion in February 1979 at Hague and won a bronze medal in 3,000-meter speed skating at the Lake Placid Olympics. Nick J. Thometz was U.S. National Sprint Champion in 1984, 1985, and 1989, and a member of U.S. Olympic team in 1984, 1988, and 1992. He established a world record in 500-meter speed skating in 1987 and served as Olympic team coach in 1993-94. Bill Marolt was the national champion downhill in 1963; slalom, in



**Left:** Anže Kopitar, Los Angeles Kings. **Right:** Eric and Beth Heiden, with maternal roots in Ljubno (Lyoobno), Slovenia, featured on the cover of Time Magazine. Eric, the winner of five gold medals at the Winter Olympics, 1980, was also honored in a ceremony at the White House; and, yes, he visited Ljubno.

1964; and giant slalom, in 1965. Then he served as ski coach at the University of Colorado and director of the United States Alpine Ski Team, training America's best skiers in the 1980's. Among numerous coaches, let us here mention only former Slovenian fencing champion of Yugoslavia Dr. Edward Marion, more recently a professor and fencing coach at Harvard University. (See Gobetz, "Slovenians," *Encyclopedia of Ethnicity and Sports in the United States*, Greenwood Press, 2000, pages 428-431.)

At the time of this writing (2018), Anže Kopitar, from Slovenia, a professional ice hockey centre and captain of Los Angeles Kings, is probably the most popular Slovenian in American sports. So far, Slovenians won for America at least nine olympic gold medals, in addition to a number of silver and bronze medals, and surprisingly many national and world championships.

Indeed, *S ponosom reči smem, Slovenec sem!* I may indeed sing with pride, "Slovenec sem! I am Slovenian!" — in the words of our beloved Pope John Paul II, I am a member and "a representative of a noble nation that deserves all respect and love." And I am also very proud that I am a loyal American and a dedicated contributor to America's greatness.

**S ponosom  
reči smem:**

**Slovenec sem!**

V tretje tisočletje ne nameravamo vstopiti kot nepočesan narod brez zgodovine ali kot narod hlapcev, niti kot del Balkana, ampak kot ponosen in zmožen srednjeevropski narod, enakovreden z vsemi drugimi v *družini narodov*, kakor je to čudovito skupnost bodočnosti imenoval že v naslovu svoje knjige generalni tajnik Konference ameriških katoliških škofov in Katoliške konference Združenih držav Amerike, slovenski ameriški škof James Rausch (*The Family of Nations: An Expanded View of Patriotism*, 1970). Pri vseh svojih slabostih, ki jih priznamo in obžalujemo in ki se jih bomo skušali otresti, še vedno lahko zapojemo ali zakličemo: "S ponosom reči smem: Slovenka sem, Slovenec sem!"

Tako je! Sem prebivalec (in tudi na tujem še vedno otrok) ene najlepših dežel na svetu. Hvala Bogu, da nam jo je dal in prednikom in vsem tistim sodobnikom, ki so nam jo ohranili in ji priborili neodvisnost.

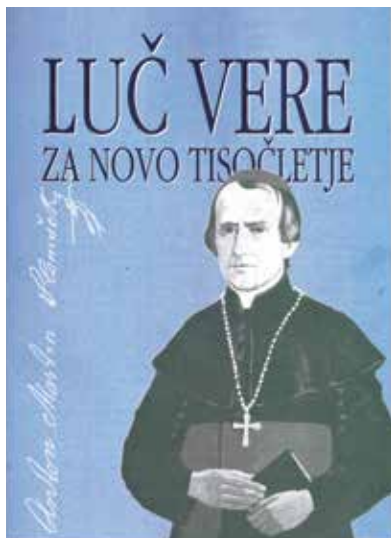
Sem tudi član naroda, ki zasluži in med pravičnimi opazovalci že skozi stoletja uživa velik ugled. Ob omejenem prostoru naj navedem le nekaj mnenj Neslovencev:

Vsi vemo, kako rad nas je imel papež Janez Pavel II, gotovo eden najpomembnejših in najvplivnejših velikanov 20. stoletja: "Papež vas ima rad," nam je zaklical leta 1999 ob beatifikaciji Slomška. "Korajža velja!" Že leta 1979. pa je pozdravil slovenske romarje kot predstavnike "plemenitega naroda, ki zasluži vse spoštovanje in ljubezen."

Ameriški pisatelj R.H. Markham v knjigi *Tito's Imperial*



Papež Pavel II je 18. oktobra 1979 v Vatikanu pozdravil slovenske romarje kot "predstavnike plemenitega naroda, ki zasluži vse spoštovanje in ljubezen".



**Levo:** Anton Martin Slomšek (1800-1862), ki ga je leta 1999 sveti oče Janez Pavel II

proglasil za blaženega in hvalil njegovo svetniško življenje in zgledno rodoljubno delo, Slovincem pa zaklical: "Korajža velja!"

**Desno:** Jurij Sladkonja (George Slatkonja) iz Ljubljane je leta 1498 na Dunaju organiziral in vodil slovito Dvorno glasbeno ustanovo, skupaj z zdaj mednarodno slavnim Dunajskim deškim zborom. To vrhunsko ustanovo zdaj spet vodi naš rojak, slovenski kanadski dirigent Janko Kastelic. Leta 1513 pa je Slovenec Slatkonja postal prvi redni rezidenčni dunajski škof.



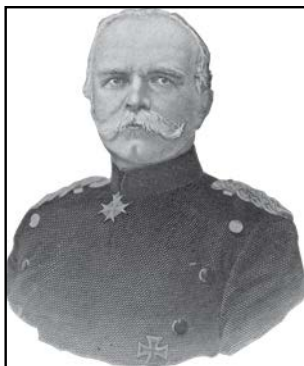
*Communism* (1947) piše, da so Slovenci "eden najbolj naprednih narodov ali narodnostnih skupin na svetu.... Njihove kavarne so kakor čitalnice v ameriških javnih knjižnicah."

V knjigi *Unknown Yugoslavia* (1960) angleškega avtorja Bernarda Newmana pa beremo, kako so se "vladarji Slovencev vrstili od Karla Velikega do Napoleona, toda Slovenci so se zvesto oklepali svoje kulture in jezika. To je bil čudež preživetja, ki mu domala ni enakega na svetu. Slovenci so tudi bili skupaj s Skandinavci na glasu kot eden najbolj načitanih narodov na svetu: število knjig na prebivalca je bilo štirikrat višje kot v Angliji. Skoraj v vsaki hiši sem našel majhno knjižnico literarne vrednosti. Slovenija je tudi lepo urejena dežela in v njej skoraj ne najdeš kotička, ki bi ne bil prijeten ali celo slikovit".

Angleški in pozneje avstralski profesor R.G.A. DeBray, ki se je tudi naučil slovenščine, pa je zapisal: "Pismenost v Sloveniji dosega skoraj sto odstotkov in splošna raven prebivalstva in njegove mestne, vaške in domače kulture je visoka celo v primerjavi z

zapadnoevropskimi merili. ... Slovenski dosežki so zgodba naroda, ki je sicer majhen po številu, a velik po duhu" (*Guide to the Slavonic Languages*, 1951).

Da, slovenski dosežki! Leta 1958. sem v angleški knjigi *This Is Slovenia* prvič omenjal, kako je francoski mislec Jean Bodin občudoval demokratični obred ustoličenja koroških vojvod kot nekaj edinstvenega na vsem svetu. Devet let pozneje je naš prijatelj in sodelavec zgodovinar prof. Jože Felicijan v svoji knjigi *The Genesis of the Contractual Theory and the Installation of the Dukes of Carinthia* objavil svoje odkritje, da je imel Bodinovo knjigo iz leta 1576 v svoji knjižnici tudi Tomaž Jefferson, ki je prav 200 let po njenem izidu postal avtor ameriške izjave neodvisnosti in je s svojimi začetnicami zaznamoval opis tega karantanskega obreda. V njem je verjetno videl konkretni zgodovinski primer ali "precedent" socialne pogodbe, ko ljudstvo pogojno izroči oblast vladarju, ki mu jo prav tako lahko tudi odvzame, kar je temelj demokracije. V knjigi *Slovenian Heritage* (1981, tri natisi) sem na kratko primerjal to zgodnjo slovensko demokracijo z



**Zgoraj desno:** Leon Caprivi, ki se je zavedal svojih slovenskih korenin in prvotnega imena Kopriva, je leta 1890, ko je bila Nemčija najmočnejša država v Evropi, postal njen ministrski predsednik in za Bismarckom njen drugi kancler. Po njem se imenuje tudi Caprivi Strip v Afriki. **Na sredi:** Milivoj Emil, ali Misha, Lajovic je bil leta 1975 izvoljen za avstralskega senatorja kot prvi priseljensec in prvi, ki ni imel anglosaških korenin, njegov brat Dušan pa je postal zelo uspešen avstralski industrialec, s tovarnami v več državah in velik slovenski filantrop. **Spodaj:** Dr. Kurt von Schuschnigg, avstrijski kancler (1934-1938), mi je v pismu (ponatisnjem v knjigi *Slovenian Heritage*, stran 205) opisal svoje slovenske korenine in prvotno družinsko ime Susnik.

britansko Magno Carto iz leta 1215, ki dejansko ščiti privilegije in pravice veljakov, ne vsega ljudstva, čeprav so jo Angleži znali predstaviti kot začetek evropske demokracije. Tam citiram tudi harvardskega zgodovinarja Crane Brintona, ki prizna, da je bil "ta slikoviti karantanski obred dobro znan srednjeveškim političnim filozofom in preko Bodina tudi Tomažu Jeffersonu in je postal eden od dejavnikov, ki so priklicali v življenje moderne zapadne demokratične ustanove". Te knjige so v lasti Bele hiše in predsedniških knjižnic kot tudi kongresne knjižnice in številnih drugih knjižnic, zgodovinskih ustanov in posameznikov. In za Jeffersonovo zadolženost Slovincem je zvedel tudi predsednik Bill Clinton in jo je leta 1999 omenjal v svojem govoru na gradu Brdo v Sloveniji.

Tudi najbolj zagrizeni tujci nam ne morejo očitati, da smo narod hlapcev, saj smo dali mogočni Nemčiji Bismarckovega naslednika Leona Caprivija kot njenega drugega, zmožnega in razmeroma pravičnega državnega kanclerja, ki se je zavedal svojih "kranjskih" korenin in izvirnega imena Kopriva, kar sem



*Hiša, na kateri piše TU SMO SLOVENC! je iz Primorske, kjer je bil nad Slovenci po 1. svetovni vojni velik teror, ko so pripadali pod Italijo. In to napisati na hišo, bi bil lahko samomor. Ljudje se niti na ulici niso smeli med seboj pogovarjati slovensko. Maše so imeli na skrivoma po gozdnih lokacijah v slovenskem jeziku. V tej hiši je bila uglasbena Prešernova Zdravica, ki je pozneje postala naša himna. Uglasbil jo je Stanko Premrl. (Slika: Janez Medvešek, podnapis Breda Lončar)*

z avstrijskimi, nemškimi in angleškimi viri dokumentiral v že omenjeni knjigi *Slovenian Heritage*. Državnega kanclerja Kurt von Schuschnigga smo dali tudi Avstriji in mi je v pismu prijazno potrdil svoje slovenske korenine ter navedel celo rodovnik svojih slovenskih prednikov. Ameriki pa smo poklonili kar štiri zvezne senatorje, tri guvernerje držav in vsaj sedem kongresnikov, poleg do danes že devet nam znanih generalov, šest admiralov in enega komodorja. Ameriški cerkvi pa smo dali še devet škofov (do leta 2019, dvanajst!) in več njenih najuspešnejših misijonarjev, prvega (Kapusa) pred več kakor 300 leti. V naših *Poročilih* (decembra 1998) sem poročal, kako je Dunaj pod Slovencem Jurijem Sladkonjo kot prvim rednim rezidenčnim škofom prvič postal versko središče avstrijskega cesarstva, že leta 1498, torej pred 500 leti, pa je prav tako pod Sladkonjo kot prvim ravnateljem in dirigentom takrat ustanovljene Hofmusikkapele (ali Dvorne glasbene ustanove) in še slovitega Dunajskega deškega zbora postal tudi avstrijsko (in do precejšnje mere evropsko) glasbeno središče. (Kako zgodovinsko zlato, ki smo ga kljub opozorilom celo ob 500 letnici v glavnem brezbrizno spregledali! Danes (2018) pa kot drugi naš rojak vodi to slovito ustanovo na Dunaju kanadski Slovenec Janko Kastelic!

V Avstriji, Franciji, Belgiji, Švici, ZDA, Argentini, Braziliji, Avstraliji, na Tasmaniji in drugod so si pridobili zavidljivo visok ugled slovenski arhitekti, da ne omenjamo vseh drugih podvigov. Naši rojaki so bili med velikani avtomobilske in letalske industrije, pomagali so pri gradnji atomske bombe, v enem samem podjetju podvojili gradnjo zavezniških bombnikov B-29 in plodno sodelovali pri pripravah za polet na luno in več poletov v vesolje.

Slovenec Miša Lajovic je postal prvi neanglosaški in priseljski zvezni senator Avstralije, njegov brat Dušan pa stvaritelj industrijskega omrežja, s tovarnami v več državah. Na Švedskem sem odkril dokumente, ki povejo, da bi svet brez nobelovca Friderika Pregla ne imel organske kemije v modernem smislu, niti moderne kemične industrije, ki je zrasla po njegovi zaslugi. V Ameriki pa sem našel še poročilo vodilnega znanstvenika Asimova, kako je Preglov danski učenec Henrik Dam dve leti za Preglom sam dobil Nobelovo nagrado, drugi učenec P. A. Levine pa je "prinesel Preglove svetovno slavne metode v Ameriko". Na svetovni razstavi v New Yorku sem leta 1965. ob obisku slovenskih umetnikov prof. Franceta Goršeta (sodelavca SRCA), Mirota Zupančiča in Jožeta Vodlana, skupaj z izjemno plodnim prevajalcem dr. Ferdinandom Kolednikom in množico drugih obiskovalcev občudoval avtomobil bodočnosti, ocenjen na četrto milijona dolarjev. Šele pozneje sem odkril, da ga je izumil in izdelal slovenski priseljenc Janko Bucik, genij, ki sem o njem nato napisal eno od 16 že stavljenih angleških monografij. (Pokazal sem jih tudi v Ameriki priljubljenemu msgr.



Franciju Petriču in še nakaj obiskovalcem, da bi ne bilo dvoma o njih obstoju. Žal zaradi finančnih problemov še niso mogle iziti.) Ameriška znanstvena revija *Measure* (June, 1972) poroča, kako je ob svojem obisku Kitajske predsednik Nixon vzel s sabo računalnik, ki ga je kot prvi soizumil Slovenec dr. France Rode, sorodnik nadškofa in metropolita (pozneje kardinala) dr. Rodeta, in ga Kitajcem predstavil kot "prvenstveni primer visoko razvite ameriške tehnologije"! Nadškofova sestra Cecilija Rode, učiteljica in misijonarka pa je delovala, kot toliko drugih misijonarjev, tudi med gobavci (in vsiljuje se vprašanje, ali so kdaj komunisti, ki se v propagandi tako zavzemajo za zavržene, pokazali toliko ljubezni do bližnjega kot misijonarji in misijonarke. Nikoli!)

In še in še bi lahko naštevali čudovite slovenske podvige po vsem širnem svetu, od slavnih zdravnikov, znanstvenikov, učenjakov, rektorjev, inženirjev, izumiteljev, industrialcev, športnikov, glasbenikov in umetnikov, do izjemno uspešnih misijonarjev, med njimi velikana Pedra Opeke na Madagaskarju. Ponosni smo na nadškofa največje angleško govoreče škofije v Kanadi, kardinala dr. Alojzija Ambrožiča, ki so o njem pisali nekateri tuji listi kot posebno primernem kandidatu za naslednjega papeža (velik poklon Slovencu neglede na končni izid). In, hvala Bogu, Slovenci imamo ob vstopu v tretje tisočletje tudi svojega narodnega in verskega vzornika, po vesoljni cerkvi povzdignjenega blaženega škofa Antona Martina Slomška, poleg Barage, Grozdeta (v letu 2000), Gnidovca, Vošnjaka, Vovka in drugih kandidatov za čast oltarja. Leta 2018 pa z velikim ponosom dodamo še Izidorja Završnika, slovenskega Maksimilijana Kolbeja.



*Pater Peter Opeka in papež Francišek*

**With  
Sober Patriotism  
toward a  
Better  
Slovenian  
Future**

According to a recent report by Radio Ognjišče, the internationally prominent Slovenian writer, survivor of Italian fascism and of German death camps, and a nominee for Nobel Prize in Literature, centenarian Prof. Boris Pahor, gave an invited lecture in the Slovenian National Council in Ljubljana on Dec. 12, 2009. There he underscored the need for a sober Slovenian patriotism. Many Slovenians lack it and need proper education and socialization to develop it. Similar arguments were also advanced by Professor Jože Waukonig, a member of the Slovenian Carinthian minority in Austria, struggling for cultural and national survival. At the Symposium of the Slovenian World Congress conducted at Tinje Sodalitas Center he emphasized that

"No nation or minority population can survive without a national consciousness and pride of its citizens. More than 160 years earlier, the greatest Slovenian poet Dr. France Prešeren (1800-1849) pleaded to heaven to send us an Orpheus who could touch the hearts of his fellow-Slovenians, so they would stop considering everything



*Dr. France Prešeren*

foreign as superior and awaken all Slovenians to greater love for their own people and strong brotherly unification of entire Slovenia. Similarly, His Eminence, Cardinal Dr. Franc Rode, who spent his early youth as a refugee in Carinthian camps, then emigrated to Argentina, and studied in Buenos Aires, Rome and Paris, wrote among his many scholarly books *Za čast dežele* (Družina, 1997) in

which he emphasizes the urgency for respect and love for one's homeland.

Just as no individual can effectively function without a positive self-concept, so also no community of individuals, and no nation, can prosper without a positive attitude toward itself and a degree of self-respect and proper patriotism.

Not surprisingly, Ivan Zorman, a Slovenian American poet, music pedagogue and composer, was concerned about Slovenian American youth abandoning the best elements of Slovenian culture. How can we make sure that, while growing into loyal and productive American citizens, our youngsters would also preserve knowledge of Slovenian language and the best elements of Slovenian culture. He reasoned that they would preserve Slovenian culture as an enrichment of themselves and American diversity only to the extent that they were proud of it. This means that they must be taught attractive and useful elements of their heritage, as well as the Slovenian accomplishments of which they can justly be proud.

Yet, how can we be proud when we realize the extent of our shortcomings, disharmony of our often ideologically polarized nation, the memories of cruelties of war times, including a civil war between communists and their actual, potential or suspected opponents, countless thousands of whom perished, without trials, in mass graves...

The answer comes from internationally prominent



*Bernarda Fink*

mezzo-soprano Bernarda Fink who grew up in Argentina and is familiar with many European cities where she has often performed in leading opera houses, as well as with other countries and her native Slovenia. She reminds us that we tend to be too pessimistic. Ideological polarization today marks some of the most highly developed nations. Comparing Slovenia with other countries, we realize that glass can always be viewed as half-empty or half-full. After having lived and visited in so many countries, she has unhesitatingly stated that the Slovenian glass is more than half-full (Večer, December 1, 2018).

We can also proudly point to Dr. Duncan Haldane as an example of balanced patriotism. When in 2016 he won the Nobel Prize in Physics, the media everywhere reported this fact and also other important details: he was from Great Britain (U.K.), professor of physics at Princeton University with many scientific accomplishments, and his paternal Scottish roots. But the American and world media never mentioned his Slovenian roots. Yet, as he wrote to this writer within days after his Nobel Prize was announced: "Yes, my mother Ljudmila [pr. Lyoodmila], maiden name Renko, was Slovenian. My father was a Scottish doctor



*Dr. Duncan Haldane*

in the British Army who leased with the Yugoslav Army colleagues in the British enclave and met my mother, also a doctor, that way." Thus, both parents of the Nobel laureate were physicians, yet, as it is so often the case with minority group members, the media simply ignored his mother. She died shortly before he was awarded

the Nobel Prize in Physics. A man of great integrity who has been close to both parents, Dr. Haldane wanted to pay tribute also to his forgotten Slovenian mother and show his closeness to her by formally obtaining Slovenian citizenship. When on March 24, 2019, Cleveland Consul General Andrej Rode sent me the Slovenian Embassy's press release about Haldane's citizenship reception in Washington, DC, I could only say: "Dr. Haldane is not only a famous scientist, but also a marvelous human being!" (See also my two-page article about Dr. Haldane and his Slovenian roots in Slovenian American Times, Nov. 2, 2016. For more information, please contact: [gobedslo@aol.com](mailto:gobedslo@aol.com)).

Let us now examine one of the very best definitions of genuine patriotism which we owe to Karl (or Carl) Schurz who, in 1848, was forced because of his democratic views to flee his native Germany and settle in the United States of America. There he became a prominent writer, journalist, civic leader, diplomat, a Civil War general and a close supporter and friend of President Lincoln. A small and incomplete, misleading part of his definition has survived to the present day, namely. "My country, right or wrong." It is, however, essential to remember and follow also the



*Karl Schurz*

second part of his definition which reads: "When right, to be kept right and when wrong, to be put right." No matter how many and how severe the shortcomings of my country, it always remains my country, just as my parents remain my parents. Indeed, when my country is wrong, it needs me more than ever to help correct its ways,

whether a wrong ideology or economic or political corruption, or injustice to a single human being. And when it is right, I must do my best to keep it on the right path.

Just as Schurz teaches us an immensely valuable lesson concerning proper patriotism, and the ten commandments are, according to television journalist Ted Koppel, commandments, not suggestions, for a healthy and peaceful life, so we can also learn one of the most useful guiding principles from the ancient Chinese sage Confucius (551-479 B.C.), as he humbly and wisely asserts: "Every man is my teacher. I will observe his good qualities and imitate them, and his bad ones, and avoid them.

Finally, the Slovenian giant Dr. Janez Evangelist Krek (1865-1917), a priest, philosopher, sociologist, prolific author, and a very influential politician in Vienna and Slovenia, by observing various dispositions of people characterized them as usually belonging to one of the two categories. The first one he named "ampakovci", after the Slovenian word "ampak," meaning "but." Perhaps we can call them "resistant," as they seldom get seriously involved in needed activities but list several ampaks or buts, e.g., but this is too risky, too difficult, it would take way too long, etc. The members of the second category, called in Slovenian "torejenci," say "torej, poskusimo!" Therefore, let's try!" "Let's do our best!" "Let's continue and finish the job!"

In our case we must try to be honorable, loyal American citizens, and also responsible stewards of all that is best in our Slovenian heritage! No ampaks, no buts! Torej, therefore, let us be true patriots and work as hard as we can also for a better future of our country of origin, the beautiful Alpine Slovenia, and of our country of destiny, America, the proverbial promised land of freedom and opportunity!

**France Prešeren** (1800 - 1849), born in the idyllic Slovenian village of Vrba, is the greatest Slovenian poet whose poems have been translated into English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Slovak, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Croatian, Serbian and Bengali languages. "He tied together the motifs of his own unhappy life with that of his unhappy, subjugated homeland.« Although he wrote in Slovenian and elevated his mother tongue to new artistic beauty, he also wrote some of his poems in German.

**Bernarda Fink**, born in 1955 to Slovenian refugee parents in Buenos Aires, Argentina, studied at the Superior Institute of Art of Teatro Colon. She won *First Prize* at New Lyrical Voices Competition in 1985. Married to Carinthian Slovenian Austrian and U.N. diplomat Dr. Valentin Inzko and living in Carinthia, she has sung with such leading orchestras as the Philharmonics in Vienna and London, Orchestre National de France, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, English Baroque Soloists, Solisti Veneti, Cleveland Symphonic Orchestra, Prague, Salzburg, Barcelona, Tokyo, Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, etc.

**Duncan Haldane** (Frederic Duncan Michael) was born in 1951 in London, England, educated at Cambridge University, and is Professor of Physics at Princeton University and a Distinguished Visiting Research Chair at Princeton Institute for Theoretical Physics. He is corecipient of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics. He lists his Nationality and Citizenship as British and Slovenian, being the son of a Scottish father and a Slovenian mother, both of them medical doctors.

**Carl Christian Schurz** (1828-1906) was educated at University of Bonn, then involved in German revolutions of 1848-49. He escaped to the United States where he became a journalist, U.S. Minister (Ambassador) to Spain, a Union Major General, Missouri Senator, and the 13th United States Secretary of the Interior. He was an influential reformer and a close friend of President Lincoln. In 1976, he was featured on a West German Commemorative stamp for the United States Bicentennial.



**Z rodoljubjem  
v  
lepšo  
slovensko  
prihodnost**

**P**o poročilu Radio Ognjišča je mednarodno znani tržaški pisatelj Boris Pahor leta 2009 v svojem predavanju v Državnem svetu poudaril, da je »prva stvar, ki manjka Slovencem, zavedanje samega sebe. Nimajo čuta za domoljubje, kar je tudi problem slovenske državnosti. Slovensko mladino (in ne samo mladino!) je treba vzgajati v smislu slovenske identitete.« Podobno je na simpoziju Svetovnega slovenskega kongresa v Domu prosvete na Tinjah izjavil koroški profesor Jože Waukonig: »Noben narod ne preživi brez narodne zavesti; država brez narodne zavesti svojih državljanov nima prihodnosti.« Pesnik dr. France Prešeren obžaluje, da Slovenci »kar ni tuje zaničujemo« in hrepeni po času, »ko bi nebesa milost nam skazale ... in Orfeja... nam poslale, da bi nam srca vnel za čast dežele, med nami potolažil razprtije in spet zedinil rod Slovenje cele!« Nič čudnega, da je pri vsej prezaposlenosti slovenski nadškof in kardinal dr. Franc Rode, po mladosti v begunskih taboriščih na Koroškem in v Argentini in študiju v Buenos Airesu, Rimu in Parizu, čutil potrebo in morda narodno dolžnost, da napiše čudovito knjigo



*Boris Pahor*



*Eminenca dr. Franc kardinal Rode*

Za čast dežele (Družina, 1997).

Mislečemu človeku mora biti jasno, kako neobhodno potrebna za narodno in državno preživetje in uspešnost je narodna zavest, zdrav narodni ponos in močna ljubezen do naroda, skratka rodoljubje. Seveda to ne pride samo od sebe. Tako je Ivan Zorman, slovenski ameriški pesnik, skladatelj in narodni buditelj, okrog leta 1926 razmišljal, kako v amerškem



Ivan Zorman

okolju slovenski mladini ohraniti slovenstvo. Ohranila ga bo le, če bo nanj ponosna. A če ne ve, na kaj je lahko ponosna? Spoznati mora torej, kar je lepega v naši kulturi in zgodovini, poznati mora slovenske vzore in uspehe!

Drugi pomislek je, kako naj ljubim narod, kjer žal vidim toliko krivic, po Prešernovo »razprtij in iskanja dobička«, pa brezbržnosti, sebičnosti, korupcije in večkrat brezupnih razmer. Prvo važno vprašanje tu je, če nismo morda preveč črnogledi. Kot je za Večer (01.12.2018) izjavila slovita pevka Bernarda Fink, kozarec lahko vidimo na pol prazen ali na pol poln. Simpatična rojakinja dobro pozna svet in tudi Slovenijo in misli, da »je slovenski kozarec še vedno bolj kot na pol poln«.

Skozi večji del zgodovine smo Slovenci bili pod tujo oblastjo in na splošno je bilo v korist oblastnikov, bodisi Avstrijcev, Italijanov, Madžarov ali Titovih komunistov, ki so verjeli v odmiranje države, da smo ponižni, ubogljivi, brez narodnega ponosa in razdvojeni (po znanem pravilu: Razdeli in vladaj!). Tudi to se je marsikje vtisnilo v slovenski narodni značaj in smo potrebni prevzgoje. Vendar je prav in nujno, da po priznanih napakah prisluhnemo enemu najbolj prodornih opisov pravega rodoljubja, ki ga je sredi 19. stoletja Ameriki in svetu ponudil nemški izgnanec, ameriški priseljenjski novinar, general v Civilni vojni in Lincolnov osebni prijatelj Karl Schurz. Tako pravi: »Moj narod je moj narod neglede na to, ali je na pravi ali na napačni poti. Kadar je na pravi, si



*Janez Evangelist Krek*

bom prizadeval, da na njej vztraja; kadar na napačni, bom storil vse, da jo zapusti in stopi na pravo!« To je odličen napotek tudi za vsakega rodoljubnega Slovenca. In verjamite, da nam v »logistiki« tu in v življenju na splošno lahko zelo pomaga tudi sledeča izjava verjetno največjega staroslavnega kitajskega modreca Konfucija (551-479 BC): »Vsak človek je moj učitelj: opazoval bom njegove dobre lastnosti in

jih posnemal in slabe in se jih izogibal!«

Zelo nam lahko pomaga tudi naš slovenski mislec, organizator in buditelj dr. Janez Evangelist Krek. Po bistrem opazovanju rojakov jih je razdelil v dve skupini. Eni so ampakovci, navadno omahljivci, ki se včasih tudi navdušijo, vendar se hitro ustrašijo težav in žrtev in se izgovarjajo: ampak, ampak ... Tisti, ki rešujejo položaj pa so torejci. Soodločajo na volitvah, kjer volijo najbolj poštene, zmožne in rodoljubne kandidate. Vztrajno iščejo rešitve perečih problemov, nove ideje, poštene sodelavce in izboljšanja. Stalno spreminjajo na bolje sebe, svoje okolje, svoj narod in včasih celo širši svet. Tudi danes nas ta slovenski velikan vabi: Bodite torejci! Gre za preživetje in lepšo prihodnost Slovenije, katere odgovorni oskrbniki ste!

**Boris Pahor** se je rodil leta 1913 in je danes v 106. letu življenja izjemno bister in prizadeven preživel vse tri totalitarne režime, ki so ga kot zavednega in vplivnega Slovenca kruto preganjali — italijanski fašizem, nemški nacizem (kjer je trpel v kar treh nacističnih taboriščnih smrti) in komunizem, ko dolgo ni smel niti obiskati Jugoslavije in Slovenije. Zdaj uživa zaslužen sloves vodilnega slovenskega in evropskega pisatelja, saj je imenovan za Nobelovo nagrado v literaturi. Njegove knjige, kot slovenska Nekropola (Necropolis) so med najbolj prevajanimi – v angleški, francoski, nemški, katelanski, finski, italijanski, srbski, španski, danski, hrvaški, portugalski in švedski jezik ter celo v Esperanto, prevajanje se pa še vedno nadaljuje.

**Eminenca dr. Franc kardinal Rode**, doma iz Rodice, se je leta 1934 rodil v Ljubljani. Leta 1945 se je s starši umaknil v begunska taborišča na avstrijsko Koroško, l. 1948 pa izselil v Argentino, kjer je postal l. 1960 lazaristični duhovnik. Po študiju v Buenos Airesu, na Gregoriani v Rimu in Katoliškem inštitutu v Parizu se je vrnil v rodno Slovenijo, kjer je l. 1997 postal ljubljanski nadškof. Nato so ga poklicali v Vatikan. Leta 2006 je bil povišan v kardinala, od 2004 do 2011 pa je bil prefekt Kongregacije za ustanove posvečenega življenja in družbe apostolskega življenja. Je avtor odličnih knjig v več jezikih in prejemnik številnih svetnih in cerkvenih odlikovanj in častnih doktoratov.

**Ivan Zorman (1885-1957)** se je kot otrok s starši izselil v Ameriko, kjer je v Clevelandu na Western Reserve univerzi graduiral iz jezikov, književnosti in glasbe. Pozneje je poučeval orgle, klavir in petje. Bil je priljubljen slovenski pesnik, prevajalec in dopisnik slovenskih in ameriških listov in revij, avtor več pesniških zbirk in izvrsten pevovodja.

**Janez Evangelist Krek (1865-1917)** se je rodil pri Sv. Gregorju blizu Sodražice, postal katoliški duhovnik in doktor bogoslovja dunajske univerze, sociolog in vodilni slovenski katoliški organizator kmetov, delavcev, zadrug, ter hranilnic in posojilnic. Leta 1897 je bil izvoljen za poslanca v avstrijskem parlamentu na Dunaju. Tam se je zavzemal za združitev Slovencev, Hrvatov in Srbov v lastni državi, a je umrl leto pred uresničenjem tega cilja.

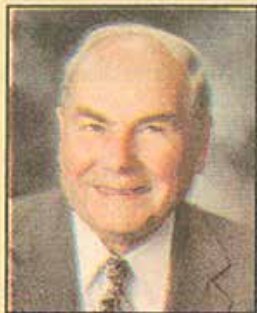
# Slovenians, Unknown Achievers

By Edward Gobetz, Ph.D.

*In 2005, the editor of MOSAIC section of The Plain Dealer, Ohio's largest newspaper, invited me to submit articles on "Czechs, Slovaks, and Slovenians woven into fabric of Cleveland." The last Ethnic Directory, published in 1980, listed 108 Czech, 85 Slovak, and 179 Slovenian ethnic organizations in our cosmopolitan city, suggesting that these were indeed very vibrant ethnic groups. After I had been assured that I could freely use my materials in future publications, I gladly wrote the articles on all three groups and was happy to see them attractively published in the MOSAIC on June 21, 2005. The Slovenian article, together with information About the author, here reprinted, was published on page S7. With our thanks to the Mosaic and The Plain Dealer, we are happy to reprint the article about Slovenians, Unknown Achievers.*

## About the author

*Dr. Edward Gobetz is Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Kent State University; founding director of Slovenian Research Center of America; former vice president of Delta Tau Kappa - the International Social Science Honor Society, and of National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups; a 1971 Outstanding Educator of America; a member of Slovenian Theological Academy in Rome and of New York Academy of Sciences. Former associate editor*



*of International Journal of Contemporary Sociology and author or editor of 16 books, he is now working on a new publication, Slovenians and the American Dream. He lives with his wife Milena, an award-winning high school teacher of languages, in Willoughby Hills. They have three daughters: Emily Stupica, school psychologist; Maria Prayner, special education teacher; and Maggie, teacher of gifted children.*

A SPECIAL WOMEN'S HISTORICAL JOURNAL FOR WOMEN IN THE 1990s

# MOSAIC

*Building Bridges Among People*

## Portraits of Pride

Czechs, Slovaks, Slovenians woven into fabric of Cleveland

**Take Note**  
Young authors celebrate immigration

**W**omen's history is not just a name in a book. It is a living, breathing story that shapes the fabric of our society. The stories of the women who have come before us are the threads that weave the tapestry of our lives. It is time to celebrate their contributions and the impact they have had on the world.

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# MOSAIC INSIDE

**F**rom the mid-9th century to 1991 when they established the Republic of Slovenia (with a population of only about two million), Slovenians (also called Slovenes) lived under foreign, mostly Germanic domination. According to Bernard Newman (1960), they represent "a miracle of survival, almost without a parallel."

Harvard historian Crane Brinton, reviewing, in 1967, Joseph Felicijan's book about Slovenian ancient democracy and the ritual of election and installation of the Carinthian dukes, wrote that "this picturesque Slovenian ceremony was well known to political philosophers, and indeed through Bodin known to Thomas Jefferson. ... It was a variable that went into the making of modern Western democratic institutions."

Many Slovenian missionaries and educators were active in America, among them Mark Anton Kappus, a Jesuit priest and explorer who came in 1687; scholar and bishop, Frederic Baraga who arrived in 1830 and was called by Vatican's *Enciclopedia Cattolica* (1949) "one of the greatest missionaries of North America in modern times." In the 1860s, the homesteaders began settling in a number of states, while massive emigration, especially to mining and industrial centers, took place since the 1880s. The period around 1880 was also the time when the first Slovenian neighborhoods began to grow in Cleveland, starting in Newburgh and soon spreading to the St. Vitus-St. Clair area, and then farther east to Collinwood and Euclid, and in recent decades to several suburbs and the "country." Cleveland is home to the largest Slovenian immigrant community outside of the Republic of Slovenia. According to Dr. Rudolph Susel, Slovenian section, editor of *Ameriska Domovina - American Home*, a weekly bilingual paper published by Jim Debevec, Slovenians chose it primarily because of good employment opportunities and its climate, which is similar to that of Slovenia (2005). *Greater Cleveland Mosaic* (2004) refers to 80,000 individuals of Slovenian ancestry in Northeast Ohio.

Like Czechs and Slovaks, Slovenians continue to be involved in vibrant religious, cultural and social activities, centered in their churches (especially St. Vitus on Lausche Avenue and St. Mary's in Collinwood), national halls (united in Federation of Slovenian National Homes), recreation and picnic grounds, singing societies, language courses, folk dancing (Kres), orchestras, radio programs and, with other ethnic groups, the Polka Hall of Fame



(president Cecilia Dolgan). They established the United Slovene Society (radio personality Tony Petkovsek), Slovenian Research Center of America, and Slovenian Heritage Foundation. The estimates of Slovenian and mixed population in America range from under 200,000 (based on declared ancestry as in U.S. census) to about half a million, based on average population increase since the 1910 census. The 2000 census also reports that the Slovenians are the ancestry group with the lowest proportion living in poverty.

Greater Cleveland area achievers include: Frank Lausche and George Voinovich, both mayors of Cleveland, governors of Ohio and U.S. senators; Congressman Dennis Eckart; Rear Admiral William Petrovic and four-star Admiral Ronald Zlatoper; two major generals, John Lekson and Ronald Sega; judges Frank Lausche, August Pryatel, Ron Suster, Edmund Turk, Frank Lavrich, Fred Skok and Ted Klammer; writers Frank Mlakar and Karl Mauser; Cleveland Clinic department chairs Dr. Leonard Lovshin and Dr. Margaret Gorenssek; Dr. Carol Kovac general manager of IBM Health Care and Life Sciences; Dr. Gordon Vehar, Distinguished Inventor of the Year; Robert Tomsich, founder of NESCO Corporation; Paul Kosir, president of Pako; Peter Osenar, president of Emerald Health Network, Inc., John Urbancich, executive editor of Sun Newspapers; Anton Schubel, talent scout for Carnegie Hall; Heidi Skok, opera singer; and Frank Yankovic, whose biography, *The Polka King*, was written by Bob Dolgan, one of several noted Slovenian journalists.



*Admiral  
Ronald  
Zlatoper*

Among other Slovenian achievers are: Joe Sutter, father of Boeing 747; Louis Adamic, prominent author; astronauts Ronald Segal and Jerry Linenger; four-star general Ferdinand Chesarek; Charles Kuralt, television personality; Dr. France Rode, who co-invented the HP-35 calculator, which President Nixon's party took to China as "the prime example of modern U.S. technology," and several Olympic medalists, including gymnast Peter Vidmar and speed skaters Eric and Beth Heiden, whose great-grandmother was an immigrant from Slovenia.

In conclusion, America has been very good to the Slovenians and they have certainly also been good to America.

**Excerpts**  
from a  
**Recent**  
**Speech**

**S**lovenian American immigrants and their descendants represent but one-tenth of 1% of the American population, yet thanks to America's freedom and opportunities, we were able to contribute to this modern promised land much more than anyone could proportionately expect from us.

Thus in 2006, we did not have one tenth of one percent but three percent of then serving U.S. Senators of Slovenian ancestry (namely George Voinovich, like earlier Frank J. Lausche, also former Cleveland mayor and Ohio governor; Thomas Harkin and Amy Klobuchar, both of them also declared candidates for U.S. Presidency.

According to American Measure magazine (of June 1972) Dr. France Rode, a distant relative of our consul general Andrej Rode, invented the first pocket calculator which President Nixon's party took along to China as "the prime example of advanced U.S. Technology."

John Bucik's car of the future was America's pride at the New York World Fair in 1965, while Joe Sutter designed the Boeing 747, which according to Astronaut Dr. Neil Armstrong "forever changed long distance travel" and is, as Air Force One, also the plane of American presidents. Sutter's father was a Slovenian immigrant originally named Franc Suhadolc, and a relative of our mentor area industrialist Pavle Košir. He was delighted to meet Pavle and his wife Cilka and Pavle's brother Jože and has corresponded with them, as well as with his Slovenian biographer, yours truly.

America was justly proud when Eric Heiden was the first winner of five gold medals at the winter olympics of 1980 and was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine, but only our Slovenian Research Center wrote about his maternal Slovenian roots and his Slovenian speaking grandmother Olga, from Ljubno, Slovenia, later a skating instructor in Madison, Wisconsin, who first taught Eric and his sister Beth how to skate.

Or take a more recent example, American 2016 Nobel prize winner in physics, Dr. Duncan Haldane, who wrote me a very friendly and informative letter about his Scottish father and Slovenian mother, Dr. Ljudmila Renko, both of them doctors of medicine. Yet the media mentioned his Scottish descent and omitted any mention of his Slovenian roots, although Dr. Haldane was equally close to both parents. How did he handle this situation? Magnificently! He applied for the Slovenian citizenship as a tribute to his Slovenian mother and to his 50% Slovenian ancestry. Ambassador Vidovic in Washington D.C. presided over this moving citizenship ceremony! Mr. Borut Zunic sent us the photo which our *Slovenian*

*American Times* (SAT) production manager Tom Percic enlarged and is now in (SAT) office where every visitor can see it.

In addition to a large number of teachers and principals, a total of about 200 university professors and numerous deans, at least four Slovenian educators rose to positions of university presidents: in 1890s, Bernard Locnikar was rector of St. John's College, later University, in Collegeville, MN; Dr. Emil Mrak was chancellor of University of California at Davis (1959-69); Dr. James Stukel, was president of University of Illinois (1995-2005); and prominent economist and author Dr. Mark Zupan, has been president of Alfred University, N.Y., since 2016.



L-r: Bernard Locnikar, Dr. Emil Mrak, Dr. James Stukel, Dr. Mark Zupan

This, very briefly, is a very small fragment of Slovenian ethnic experience. I could also mention four Slovenian American astronauts (Dr. Ronald Sega, Dr. Jerry Linenger, Sunita Williams, and Randolph Bresnik. Each of them has at least one Slovenian parent, while Sunita and Bresnik were also commanders of the international space station, on which astronauts of all nations explore the universe.

Thanks to almighty God we have survived centuries of raids by moslem Turks and more than a millenium of foreign domination and repression. According to British author Bernard Newman, this was “a miracle of survival almost without parallel.” And we can now proudly stand for our own Slovenian national anthem, perhaps the only anthem in the world which in poet Prešeren's words prayerfully remembers also all other nations:

*God's blessings on all nations,  
Who long and work for that bright day,  
When o'er earth's habitations  
No war, no strife shall hold its sway:  
Who long to see  
That all men free  
No more shall foes, but neighbors be.*

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

This booklet was prepared to briefly answer the question, WHY WE ARE PROUD TO BE SLOVENIAN AMERICANS, or in other words, why we should never be ashamed of being Slovenian, even when we are a relatively small and unknown group.

Hopefully, many of you will be encouraged to read also longer and fully documented works by the same author, including several biographies of Slovenian Americans and such works as Slovenian Heritage (1981, 642 pages) and Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators (2016, 407 pages); an informative booklet, Introducing Slovenia and Slovenian Americans (KSKJ Centennial, 1894-1994); encyclopedia articles and a Gale Encyclopedia Publishers' extensive reprinted summary "Slovenian Americans" (available on line, <https://www.everyculture.com/multi/Pa-Sp/Slovenian-Americans.html>). Very important are also the earlier — among them some monumental — books: by George Trunk, Jože Zavertnik, Frederic Baraga, John Zaplotnik, Kazimir Zakrajsek, Etbin Kristan, Louis Adamic, Frank Mlakar, Ivan Molek, Mirko Kuhel, Frank Kern, Anton Klancar, Andrej Kobal, John Arnez, Louis Pirc, Vatro Gril, Jože Grdina, Ana Krasna, Marie Prisland, Albina Novak, Corrine Leskovar, Ivan Zorman, Zdravko Novak, Karl Mauser, Frank Bukvich, Frank Zaitz, Franc Grum, Ivan Jontez, Gisela Hozjan, Edward Krasovich, Joann Birska, Janko Rogelj, Irene Odorizzi, Katka Zupancic, Jay Sedmak, Leopoldina Plut-Pregelj and Carol Rogel, Milena Gobetz and Breda Loncar, Pavle and Mira Borstnik, and other works on Slovenian Americans and their heritage, too many to list all names or even bibliographies in this ad hoc booklet prepared on the occasion of the Greater Cleveland Slovenian Day at Slovenska Pristava on June 30, 2019. The above mentioned authors are of diverse ideological persuasions and are available in some American university, public and ethnic libraries, and especially in the Library of Congress, and also in the National and University Library (NUK) in Slovenia, as are many Slovenian American "KOLEDARS" which, too, are indispensable readings for the most ambitious students.

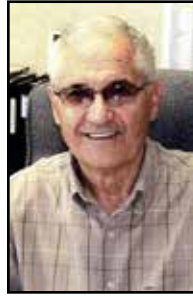
In 1972, the Slovenian Heritage Committee in Washington, D.C. started a lecture series entitled KNOW YOUR SLOVENIAN HERITAGE AND YOU WILL BE PROUD OF IT. It is highly probable that the more of it we know, the more justly and realistically proud we will be and hopefully more motivated to preserve and promote its best elements.

# SLOVENIANS, UNKNOWN ACHIEVERS

Randomly selected photos by SAT Staff



**Above I-r:** Louis Adamic, General Ferdinand Chesarek, Bob Dolgan, Dennis Eckart **Below I-r:** Dr. Margaret Gorenssek, Judge Ted Klammer Paul Kosir, Dr. Carol Kovac



**Above I-r:** Frank Lausche, General John Lekson, Dr. Jerry Linenger, Dr. Leonard Lovshin **Below I-r:** Peter Osenar, Tony Petkovsek, Admiral William Petrovic, Bishop Edward Pevec





**Above I-r:** , Judge August Pryatel, Dr. France Rode, Anton Schubel, Dr. Ronald Segal **Below I-r:** Judge Fred Skok, Heidi Skok, John Srsen, Dr. Rudolph Susel



**Above I-r:** Judge Ron Suster, Joe Sutter, Robert Tomsich, Judge Edmund Turk **Below I-r:** Dr. Gordon Vehar, Peter Vidmar, George Voinovich, Admiral Ronald Zlatoper



# SLOVENCI SMO









## ARALDO A. COSSUTTA (KOŠUTA)



*Described as "triumph of modern architecture" in The Washington Post of November 16, 1968, L'Enfant Plaza Complex in Washington, D.C., was designed by the Slovenian immigrant architect Araldo A. Cossutta (Košuta), the co-recipient with the Chinese-born architect I.M. Pei of the Architectural Firm Award, 1968.*

## SIMON KREGAR



*Immigrant Simon Kregar's creation, San Jose Mercury News Building, was selected as one of "The ten top plants on the basis of its blend of economy, esthetics and efficiency," as reported in Factory Magazine, May 1968.*

# ALEXANDER PAPESH



A view of selected stadiums designed by Alexander Papesh (1928-1971), America's foremost builder of stadiums, including: (1) University of Texas-Austin Stadium, (2) West Virginia University Coliseum in Morgantown, West Virginia, (6) Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington, D.C., (7) Hiram Bithorn Stadium in Puerto Rico, (8) the original Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, PA.

# EDWARD STOKEL



Edward Stokel, head of General Motors Truck and Coach Division, coordinated all public transportation engineering, design and product planning, manufacturing and sales operations at General Motors and was known as American "Mr. Bus." "When General Motors was the leading manufacturer of transit buses, Stokel was at its helm" (Hank Schaler, Oakland Press, Aug. 20, 2000).

# FRANKLIN R. PUHEK

**Franklin R. Puhek**, an outstanding designer of intercontinental and space missiles. In 1962 he taught America's first astronaut, John Glenn, and then six subsequent Mercury astronauts, how to use the missile (shuttle) guidance systems.





*John Bucik's car of the future, America's pride at the N.Y. World Fair, 1964-65.*



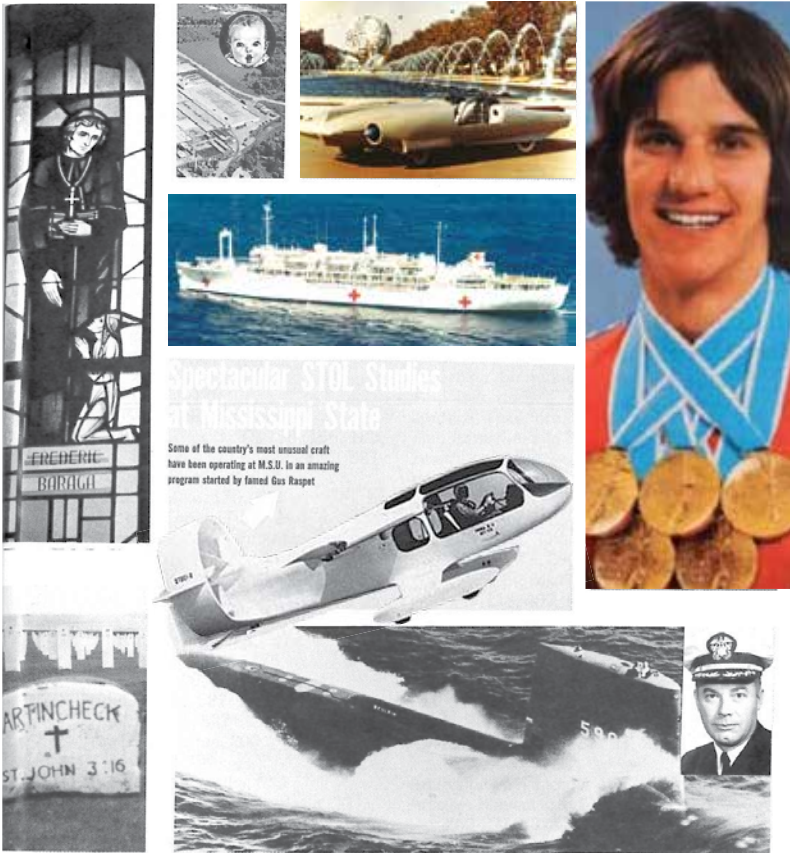
*(Left) Joseph Sutter's Air Force One on USA priority mail stamp. (Right) Dr. Saša Bajt, working at the synchrotron beamline, 1994.*



*Dr. Hilary Rolih, left, with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, launching the Staten Island Ferry in 2003.*



*Prof. Zvonko Fazarinc, inventor, greeted by Spanish queen.*



**"The Silent People Speak,"** and little by little the outline of the Slovenian image begins to appear on the American horizon, ... from Kappus (since 1687) and Baraga, Adamic, Lausche, Harkin, Klobuchar, Bucik, Stokel, and Rode, to Cossutta and Papesh; from Stupar's early planes, Raspet's spectacular airplanes to Sutter's giant Boeing 747 and Air Force One; from Rolih-designed ships, Nadbath's hospital ship USS *Repose* and Pistotnik's USS submarine *Sculpin* to Admiral Zlatoper's command of the Pacific Fleet, the largest navy in the world; from Hollywood star Audrey Totter and actor Frank Gorshin, IBM executive Carol Kovac, First Lady of Lake Superior Verna Grahek Mize to America's First Lady Melania Trump; from four-star generals Ferdinand Chesarek and Frank Gorenc, and Jennie Dobnikar, one of America's first eleven Gold Star Mothers, and Col. Martinček's grave on Iwo Jima; from thousands of miners, many of whom died of black lung disease to David Lesar, Executive Chairman of the Board of multinational Halliburton Corporation, Dr. Leonard Lovshin, president of the American Association of Medical Clinics, and Nobel laureate in Physics Prof. Duncan Haldane, the son of Slovenian mother, Dr. Ljudmila Renko.



Edward GOBETZ

The book cover features a central blue circle containing the title. Surrounding this circle are various images: a fighter jet on the left, a lunar rover at the top, a rocket on the right, a baby in a car seat on the bottom left, and a computer monitor and keyboard on the bottom right. At the bottom center, a rocket is shown launching upwards with a large plume of smoke and fire.

SLOVENIAN AMERICAN  
**INVENTORS  
AND  
INNOVATORS**  
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO AMERICA  
AND THE WORLD

"As magnificent and soaring as the big bird itself."  
—Homer Hickam, author of *Rocket Boys/October Sky*

# 747

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FRITZ PREGL  
Dr. med., Hofrat., Univ.-Prof.  
Vorstand des medizinisch-chemischen Institutes  
der Universität Graz, Bahndirektor der modernen  
Chemie, Träger des Nobelpreises für Chemie (1923),  
Ehrenbürger der Stadt Graz.  
geb. 3. September 1869 in Laibach  
gest. 15. Dezember 1930 in Graz

Campanile  
Esloveno



Some of the places named after Slovenia(ns) in the USA, Germany, Austria, Argentina, Brazil and Africa.