

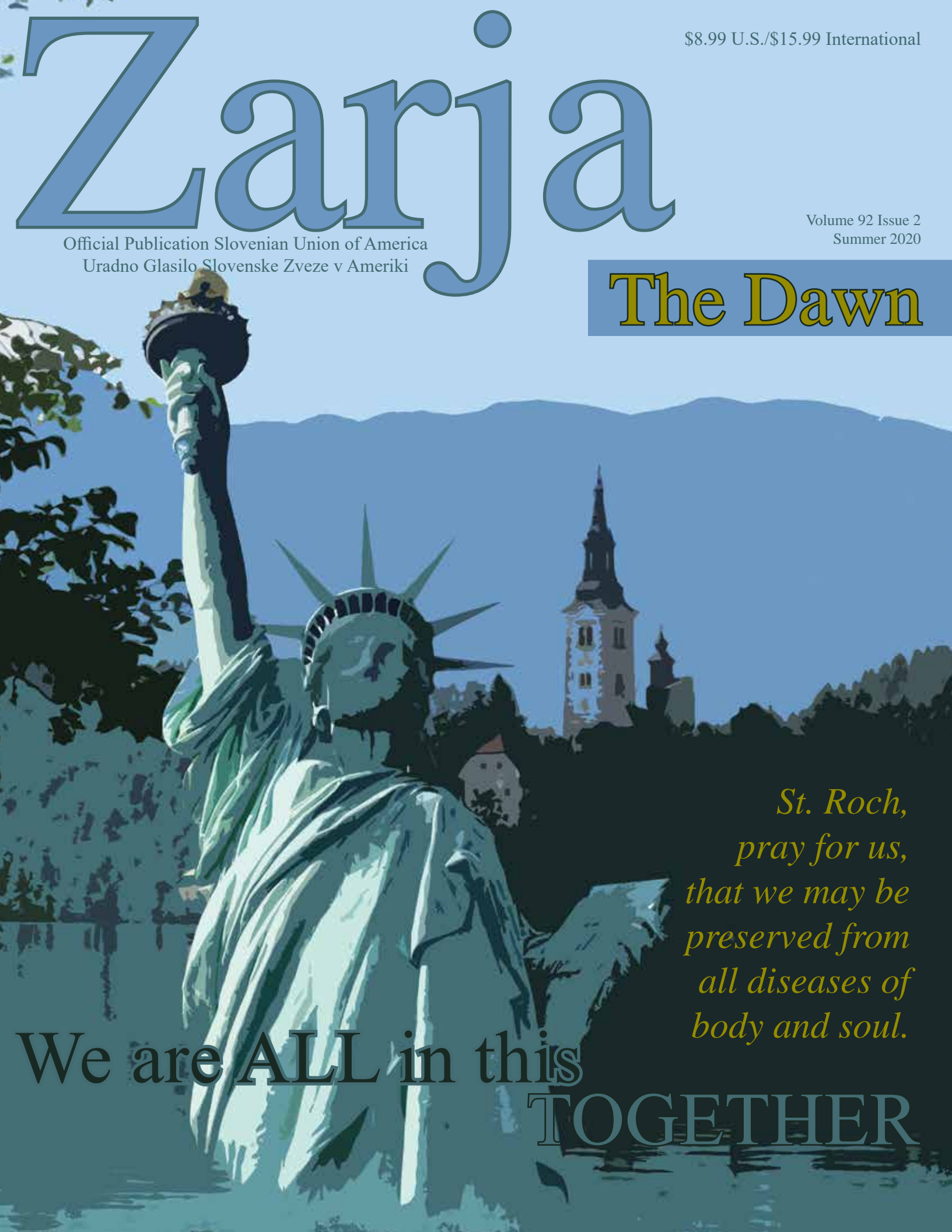
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# Zarja

Official Publication Slovenian Union of America  
Uradno Glasilo Slovenske Zveze v Ameriki

Volume 92 Issue 2  
Summer 2020

## The Dawn



*St. Roch,  
pray for us,  
that we may be  
preserved from  
all diseases of  
body and soul.*

We are ALL in this  
TOGETHER

# *Slovenian Union of America*

431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432-1703

TELEPHONE: 815.727.1926

WEBSITE: [slovenianunion.org](http://slovenianunion.org)

## **2015-2019 National Board of Directors**

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(Branch 23) [marylouv174@gmail.com](mailto:marylouv174@gmail.com)

VP OF OUTREACH: **Annette Charron**

(Branch 3) [amtcharron@gmail.com](mailto:amtcharron@gmail.com)

VP OF HOME OFFICE: **Richard Grill**

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(Branch 109) [bbkochman@msn.com](mailto:bbkochman@msn.com)

NATIONAL TREASURER: **Robert J. Kuhel**

(Branch 16) [rjukuhel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjukuhel@sbcglobal.net)

CORR./RECORDING SECRETARY: **Mary Risner Glaize**

(Branch 30) [tankandfrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:tankandfrog1@yahoo.com)

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **RESEARCH & ADVISORY**

Chuck Debevec (Branch 109) [cfdebevec@live.com](mailto:cfdebevec@live.com)

Richard Terselic (Branch 103) [rat1@verizon.net](mailto:rat1@verizon.net)

### **EDUCATION GRANTS**

Frances Kovatovich (Branch 35) [velike2000@yahoo.com](mailto:velike2000@yahoo.com)

Bill Zerial (Branch 99) [billzer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billzer@sbcglobal.net)

Carol Rutkiewicz (Branch 109)

### **PRESERVATION**

Carol Novak (Branch 20) [sua@slovenianunion.org](mailto:sua@slovenianunion.org)

Carole Terlep (Branch 20) [sua@slovenianunion.org](mailto:sua@slovenianunion.org)

Georgene Agnich (Branch 20) [sua@slovenianunion.org](mailto:sua@slovenianunion.org)

### **FACEBOOK EDITOR:**

Mary Risner Glaize (Branch 30) [tankandfrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:tankandfrog1@yahoo.com)

### **DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

**Allison Hrovat (Branch 50)**

### **MEMBERSHIP MANAGER:**

**Rick Mutz** [sua.members@gmail.com](mailto:sua.members@gmail.com)

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Postmaster: Send all changes of address to this location:

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## LAURIE LEHMAN



*Afternoon Outing 12"x16" (scene of Piran, Slovenia)*

## Original Paintings of Slovenia

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989-560-1645

## *Zarja - The Dawn*

EDITOR: **Bonnie Pohar Prokup**

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN: **Debbie Pohar**

CONSULTING EDITORS: **Annette Charron and**

**Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons**

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### **Communications for the next issue of publication**

Do you have something you would like to share with readers? We would love to hear from you! Please e-mail the editor at [wprokup@aol.com](mailto:wprokup@aol.com). We reserve the right to edit any article submitted. Articles must be related to Slovenia, SUA events, or members. The deadline for articles is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month, two (2) months preceding the issue. For example, articles for the Fall issue must be received by July 10. Thank you.

### **Submission Guidelines**

E-mail your photos attached as jpeg files. If you have an old photo that is irreplaceable, please make a good-quality copy to share with us. (Scanned copies must be a resolution of 300 or higher.)

By submitting material for publication, you grant the Slovenian Union of America the use of the material including your name, hometown, and state. We may modify, reproduce, and distribute it in any SUA-authorized medium and in any manner or appropriate place.



# THE STATE OF THE UNION

It is April 10, 2020. I am writing the State of the Union address. The fear of catching Covid-19 knowing there is no vaccine has caused a frenzy resulting in massive effects throughout the world.

Godspeed to the medical staff and service people throughout the world. With their own lives in peril, they have stepped forward and become the caretakers of the people. During these stress-filled days, weeks, and perhaps longer, taking time to manage our anxieties and bewilderment by sheltering in a place we call home may be the only normal. No doubt, these are perilous times.

Patron saints are known for their miraculous deeds. During times of peril, many humans searching for hope turn to

intercessory prayers to patron saints such as St. Roch, Slovenia's patron saint of plagues. Tradition says St. Roch miraculously cured people with the sign of the cross. When he became afflicted, the saint isolated in the forest. A dog tended to him, brought him food, and licked his wounds. According to tradition, an angel appeared in St. Roch's cell after his death. The angel said that those who invoked his intercession would be cured of the plague. As early as the Council of Constance in 1414, the plague broke out in that city. Prayers and processions were offered in honor of St. Roch. The plague ceased immediately. His feast day is August 16.

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*On March 16, 2020, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, North Carolina asked for intercessory prayers to St. Roch to end the coronavirus.*

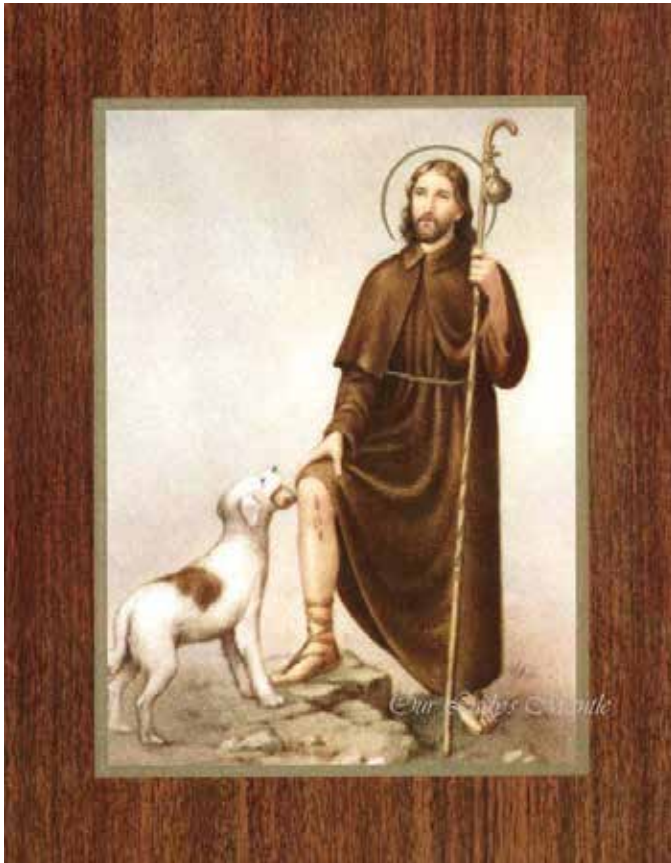
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## *Intercessory Prayer to St. Roch*

*O Blessed St. Roch,  
Patron of the sick,  
Have pity on those  
Who lie upon a bed of suffering.  
Your power was so great  
When you were in this world,  
That by the sign of the Cross  
Many were healed of their diseases.  
Now that you are in heaven,  
Your power is not less.  
Offer, then, to God  
Our sighs and tears  
And obtain for us that health we seek  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

*(Repeat the following 3 times)*

*St. Roch, pray for us,  
That we may be preserved  
From all diseases of body and soul.*



*Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain  
photo of St Roch (holy card).*

### **National Board Meeting, Joliet, IL April 23-25, 2020**

The annual board meeting and Member Rep meeting had been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. To meet the needs/issues of the SUA, the national board will be meeting periodically via Ready Talk during the spring and summer months. The National Board and Member Rep meetings have been rescheduled for early October 2020 in Joliet. The exact dates will be published in the *Zarja* Fall 2020 issue.

Nowadays eBooks offer the biggest selection of books ever. The following article by Debevec and Terselic is right on. Today we are confined to our homes, yet a click of the mouse will bring the library to your computer. Happy reading!

### **If You Like to Read, eBooks are Important to Know About**

The Bible was probably the first book of which large numbers of people wanted to have a copy. However, back in Old Testament times, the only way to get a copy was for someone else to handwrite a copy for you. It became a lot easier when the printing press was invented (1440). While you can always go to a bookstore or a public library to buy or borrow a book, computer technology has made it even easier for gaining access.

While not everyone has access to a computer, the majority of people worldwide do have access. Personal computers that people have in their homes can display text, and text is the basis of eBooks. If you have received and read long emails from friends, relatives, or businesses, you have been essentially reading “eBooks” via computer.

In 1997 Amazon made it easy to fit actual books onto an electronic device that would fit into your hands and let you read them anywhere that you chose. That device was called a Kindle and initially cost \$399 to buy. Gaining access to eBooks also requires that you have Internet access. However, once you download onto your device, you need not maintain a connection to the Internet; you can read an eBook anywhere you choose as long as your battery remains charged.

In the time since 1997, a fully developed industry of sorts has developed that greatly broadened the means by which you can gain access to tens of thousands of eBooks through the variety of devices that provide the access.

Do You Have to Have a Kindle to Read eBooks? Amazon was the innovator as far as making eBooks available to readers; a Kindle is a type of “tablet” device now available for as low as \$90. The technology that made it possible to display large amounts of text on a small screen has been around since the early 2000s. Thus, you don’t have to have an Amazon Kindle to download eBooks. It can be done to your personal computer (PC), tablet, or even your smart phone. However, reading an eBook on your smart phone may not be as pleasant as reading it on a device with a larger screen.

Where Can You Get eBooks? Whatever your subject matter and whoever the authors might be, it is likely that eBooks of your choosing will be available to you online. Amazon, as the early innovator, has a collection of tens of thousands of eBooks available at prices starting as low as \$0. Public libraries also have them available to you, provided you have a library card that makes you an authorized borrower. The website [www.overdrive.com](http://www.overdrive.com) can help you to determine if your library carries the book you are seeking.

There are also non-public services from which you may gain access. As SUA members there is reason to believe that you have interest in subjects of special interest to persons of Slovenian heritage. The books of Slovenian-American authors, such as Louis Adamic, are probably available.

Further, through the National Library of Slovenia (NUK) one can gain access to books found there as well as in European libraries. NUK has archives containing the full collection of *Zarja* issues, as well as many other Slovenian publications dating back to the late 1800s. The website is [dlib.si](http://dlib.si).

The European community has a system – EODOPEN – with thousands of books available for downloading. The books can be ordered on-line at [search.books2ebooks.eu](http://search.books2ebooks.eu). Some are available in an already digitized form while others can be digitized on order. In the latter case, the price is approximately 0.20 Euros, or 0.22 US\$ per page. The books are supplied as pdf files for which the Adobe Acrobat Reader DC is required. The Reader is available online and can be downloaded at no cost. The pdf files can also be read on a Kindle.

Internet Archive is a non-profit library with millions of free books, magazines, music, and more. It can be accessed at [archive.org](http://archive.org).

This provides the basics related to eBooks. Good reading!

*Chuck Debevec and Richard Terselic*

### **From the Republic of Slovenia, the Government Office for Slovenians Abroad:**



*This office maintains ties with Slovenian national minorities living abroad, focusing on the promotion of cultural, economic, and other relations with Slovenia.*

The Slovenian Union of America has been awarded a grant of \$1,500 for the purchase of the newest scanning equipment. Capabilities such as double-sided scanning, advanced paper feeding systems, and scanning via Wi-Fi are examples of the capabilities of this equipment.

Branch 93, New York City, received a grant of \$1,300 for continued Slovenian language lessons.

**From George Plautz VP of Marketing and Fundraising: Amazon/Smile Program**

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. See details on page 9 of this issue. Also, look for future information on the Benevity program that allows employees to donate to an employer-sponsored charity or non-profit.



**L'Bri** Over \$300 of L'Bri products will be raffled off during the first week of December 2020. Raffle tickets will be in the September issue of *Zarja*. L'Bri is a company located in Wisconsin that makes body and makeup products.

**Men's and Women's Aprons**

A printer has been engaged to produce two designed black aprons for men and women featuring "**Kiss the Cook**" in Slovenian and English.

**Decals**

Selling decals was a suggestion that came from Branch 43. The decal has been designed, and the committee is awaiting the finished project and price quotes.

**Forget me nots books**

Planning is ongoing regarding the creation of a DVD for the story spoken in Slovenian.



**SUA Archival Papers**

In the very near future scanned archival material will be made available at a small cost to those who make such request.

George Plautz  
(813-651-2075)  
or email at  
[doblice@gmail.com](mailto:doblice@gmail.com)



**To readers who requested a recipe for Kidneys and Gravy**, it can be found in the *Pots and Pans* cookbook, page 186, and also on SUA Facebook. While searching for the kidney recipe I came upon the recipe for Slovenian spaghetti, page 177, as prepared by Ron Strele of Stefanich's Restaurant in Joliet, Illinois. In its day, Stefanich's was known for its Slovenian food.



The sauce is thick with a deep taste! It has become the spaghetti sauce served in the Voelk home. In a call to Char Kobe, Branch 20 President, it was suggested the dish might make for a great annual Slovenian Spaghetti Day! It was rumored Diane Hohenwater brought crockpots of Slovenian Spaghetti to a board meeting? While the restaurant at 457 W N Scott Street is no more, its marquee continues to keep watch over the neighborhood.

**Lenten and Easter Window Display**

Thank you to Georgene Agnich of Branch 20 for designing a spiritual story of the Lenten and Easter season. The scene changed as the story unfolded, from Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday to the Crucifixion and the Risen Lord. Also in the window was a poster from St. Joseph Slovenian Catholic Church with the entire schedule of events through Easter Sunday. A large wooden cross, draped in purple satin became the focal point of the story. The cross was made by Georgene's husband Jim. Walkers passing by would stop. Cars would slow down. It was the first time in memory the windows were made to reflect the passion story, and the first time most Christians did not enter a church but attended virtual services in their own home and in front of our museum windows.



To je to, (this is it)  
Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, SUA President

The windows of our Slovenian Heritage Museum in downtown Joliet were a daily reminder of the Easter season and a celebration of our Slovenian Lenten and Easter traditions. They were a beacon to all passersby in the darkest days of the coronavirus pandemic and a testament to our enduring Slovenian heritage. SUA President Mary Lou Voelk, commenting in early February before the pandemic changed our lives, said that “The museum’s Lenten windows will be the only ‘church service’ that some passersby will attend during these forty days. We are not only celebrating our heritage. These windows have become a church service.” How could anyone have known just how grimly true her remarks would become, as the churches in Joliet and elsewhere soon were closed in fear of the pandemic?

Richard Grill, Vice President of Home Office, had suggested the idea of “a window scene for the upcoming holy season” to the other SUA Board members in early February. Mary Lou Voelk then reached out to Joliet’s Branch 20 members and to St. Joseph Church to create “something large that will cause people to stop and read.”

A week before Ash Wednesday, Branch 20 member Georgene Agnich displayed a beautiful poster of St. Joseph Church’s Lenten schedule, along with a hand-painted wooden crucifix and three prayer books from the museum’s collection in one of the windows. In the other window, she presented Pust (Slovenian Carnival), with a large poster created from the Pust article in *The Slovenian-American Table*, along with a framed *Zarja* cover and article about Pust and a Kurent poster from the museum.



The day before Ash Wednesday, Georgene removed the Pust display and replaced it with a five-foot wooden cross made by her husband, James Schaible. She draped the cross with the purple satin Mary Lou had sent, placing a large wooden rosary and two prayer books from the museum at its base. She later added a crown of thorns to the cross.



As Easter neared and the pandemic worsened, Georgene returned to the museum March 25 to hang a large “He Is Risen” wreath on the cross in place of the crown of thorns and to add St. Joseph Church’s Lenten schedule and an announcement that the Diocese of Joliet had cancelled all services as of March 14, 2020. In the other window, she displayed Slovenian Palm Sunday and Holy Saturday customs. For Holy Saturday, she used a large poster, suggested by Mary Lou, of Maxim Gaspari’s folk painting of Slovenians carrying baskets of Easter foods to church to be blessed (Žegen). She included the hand-painted crucifix, a related article from *The Slovenian-American Table*, and a framed *Zarja* cover showing Slovenian Easter eggs. For Palm Sunday, she chose a small poster of Lucille Dragovan’s Joliet mural depicting a Palm Sunday procession in Slovenia, a small poster created from *The Slovenian-American Table* describing the butarice that Slovenians carry on Palm Sunday, and an actual butara from the museum’s collection. She completed the display with candles, vases of tiny cloth flowers, and a copy of *The Slovenian-American Table* opened to “Velika Noč” (Easter).



It is unknown how many passersby viewed the museum’s Lenten windows as human activity drastically decreased during the pandemic, but the windows were bright with the promise of Easter and the hope of better days to come.

## **Congratulations & Thank You for Your Support!**

SUA's 2020 fund-raiser *April's Showers of Dollars* was a huge success. Your 611 entries were very much appreciated! The profit enhanced all aspects of the activities planned for Member Representatives and all attendees at SUA's 29<sup>th</sup> National Convention being held in Pueblo, Colorado, in June 2023.

### **Top Seller Winner's List:**

<b>1st Place (26 Sold) - Loretta Urh</b>	<b>Branch 43 – Milwaukee, WI</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>2nd Place (13 Sold) - Lori Bond</b>	<b>Branch 20 – Joliet, IL</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>
<b>3rd Place (13 Sold) - Barbara Friesenhahn</b>	<b>Branch 5 – Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>

With the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Places being a tie, the prize amounts, \$100 & \$50, respectively, were totaled and divided by two.

### **Daily Entry Winners:**

<u><i>Entrant</i></u>	<u><i>Amount Won/Seller/Branch #, Location</i></u>
Apr. 1 Mike Knopick, Broadview Hts., OH	\$210 Same – BR 111, Northeast Ohio
Apr. 2 Kay Lennon, Joliet, IL	\$75 Same – BR 30, At Large
Apr. 3 Michael Regis, Joliet, IL	\$65 Dorothy Regis – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 4 Diane Varney, Akron, OH	\$75 Same – BR 111, Northeast Ohio
Apr. 5 Kathleen Starcevich, Pueblo, CO	\$75 Same – BR 3, Pueblo, CO
Apr. 6 Janyce Eviston, Loves Park, IL	\$75 Same – BR 24, La Salle, IL
Apr. 7 Pat Drasler, Waukegan, IL	\$65 Loretta Urh – BR 43, Milwaukee, WI
Apr. 8 Terrance Haggerty, Joliet, IL	\$65 Lori Bond – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 9 Dolores L. Ambrozich, Joliet, IL	\$75 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 10 Lori Bond, Joliet, IL	\$75 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 11 Anna Lomshek, Pittsburg, KS	\$65 Jerry D. Lomshek – BR 100, Southern CA
Apr. 12 Ralph Dottai, Sheboygan, WI	\$210 Same – BR 1, Sheboygan, WI
Apr. 13 Judith Howard, Wilmington, IL	\$65 Helen Walsh – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 14 Tony Kambich, Winnetka, IL	\$75 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 15 Brett Johnstone, Wind Lake, WI	\$65 John K. Johnstone – BR 43, Milwaukee, WI
Apr. 16 Jessica Reesman, Savannah, GA	\$75 Same – BR 89, Oglesby, IL
Apr. 17 William Ferguson, Joliet, IL	\$75 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 18 Donna Chesko, Morris, IL	\$75 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 19 Jennifer Grah, Chicago, IL	\$65 Julie Grah – BR 2, Chicago, IL
Apr. 20 Candy Johnson, Eau Claire, WI	\$75 Same – BR 102, Willard, WI
Apr. 21 Joan Lesnik, Lockport, IL	\$75 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 22 Christine Label, New Berlin, WI	\$75 Same – BR 43, Milwaukee, WI
Apr. 23 Mary Terselic, Frederick, MD	\$75 Same – BR 103, Washington, DC
Apr. 24 Delores A. Spelich, La Salle, IL	\$75 Same – BR 24, La Salle, IL
Apr. 25 Tony Kambich, Winnetka, IL	\$75 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 26 Diane Data, Peru, IL	\$75 Same – BR 24, La Salle, IL
Apr. 27 Barbara Carnes, Maple Lake, MN	\$75 Same – BR 109, Twin Cities, MN
Apr. 28 Sam Murphy c/o Norm Setnicker	\$65 Norm Setnicker – BR 109, Twin Cities, MN
Apr. 29 Joanna Johnston, Hawthorn Woods, IL	\$65 Dorothy Mahan – BR 20, Joliet, IL
Apr. 30 Tony Kambich, Winnetka, IL	\$210 Same – BR 20, Joliet, IL

### **Top Branch Support – Entries Sold:**

- 140 – Branch 20, Joliet, IL
- 84 – Branch 30, At-Large
- 57 – Branch 43, Milwaukee, WI
- 53 – Branch 111, Northeast Ohio
- 38 – Branch 109, Twin Cities, MN

**The Slovenian Union of America's Slovenian Literary Award Committee  
is pleased to announce our 2020 winner: *The necklace*. by Allyn Howey.**

Allyn Howey is a food service worker and sometime poet living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Allyn's great-grandmother immigrated to the States from her hometown of Ptuj, Slovenia. At 10 years old, Allyn was lucky enough to travel to Slovenia with her grandparents and tour the gorgeous countryside, sight-seeing, visiting cousins, and being fed like royalty. While her grandparents were living, they instilled in Allyn a sense of pride and passion for Slovenian culture, food, and polka. Though they have been gone for a long time, Allyn strives to keep their legacies alive in her life and poetry. Congratulations, Allyn!

---

***The necklace.***

**prologue.** The necklace itself is nothing remarkable. A frail gold medallion, etched to glimmer in the light. I remember it dangles from my grandmother's neck, sometimes she lets me touch it. It quivers rolling potica, and in the echo of rare belly laughs.

It belongs to her mother, who is there with us and has never been there with us all in the kitchen. My aunt and my mother lean easily on the dark wood cabinets that my grandfather built (he is somewhere compelling my father and uncle to drink jagermeister from tiny crystal goblets) - and my grandmother always half-minding the pot (I barely remember this) - this is where the belly laughs live.

Grinning, emanating another moment in another kitchen, where I am not, but Tonchka is there, my great-grandmother, dropping the silverware and saying company's coming! (You see, we just miss each other.) I remember I think, what a lady she must have been, to have commanded my own grandmother! More formidable, even, than my grandmother's sister, Aurelia, who once, at a tepid cocktail party, lay herself upon the serving table, arms folded like a cadaver with a green onion corsage, and trilled: This party is dead! We're going to have a wake! And who could yyyyyyyyyyip! Like a true Slovenian on the polka floor, Aunt Really.

We are always in the kitchen, it is our HQ. At least for a little each time we convene. We come to air our secrets, read back the minutes, preserve our kitchen history.

i. The necklace, it seems to me, is at this very moment worn by every woman in my family and very likely many women from very many once-Catholic immigrant families, the gold is thin, the chain cheap, and the medallion depicts Theotokos, God-bearer, whom we like to call mother.

Perhaps Tonchka is wearing this necklace right now while she is waiting three days at Ellis Island for her name to be called. It's November 1920, and perhaps she

is rolling the necklace between her fingers, superstitiously, listening, when she realizes the official simply doesn't have the tongue to pronounce her. [According to my father's genealogical records: "This may explain some of the markings on the ship's manifest that look like a name was crossed out and the name "Antonija Pecuh" was written in later."]

In the corner of a room in 1990, there rests a cane which belongs to her, which is not really a cane, but a stick. Yes, a plain branch Tonchka plucks from the bare ground in a moment of need, loves so much she has it smoothed and varnished, has the bottom leveled and a small metal plate added that says words I can't remember, a date. I glide my hands over the canestick, touching the carved signatures of all the marvelous strangers she meets in her travels.

ii. It's June 1956, and maybe the Theotokos is swaying gently away from Tonchka's neck as she leans over the rail of her ship, bound home to Slovenia. Surely she clutches it from time to time, praying for her three small grandchildren. She is 58 now and will not return to the States for six months.

These letters are the last remaining written record of her life, and I anoint my skin with the words, flexing and folding my hands.

[My mother transcribes: "After super went up on the deck", Tonchka writes, "in a little while somebody tap me on my shoulder and here was my spanish lady friend a verry nice person and she said to me kosce vola plaja di canasta si ha, and I said bona signora me plaja canasta and her answering to me a ki swe bona signora mia gracia."]

Tonchka rises early the next morning, as every morning on the ship, to show the Theotokos' face to the sunrise, and to write to her daughters: "me and spanjolka won 3 games, Ivan and Captain Pesoli one game. At 11:30 went to sleep. The wheater still is beutifull. Last night I saw another ship far far away."]



iii. The necklace, it must be admitted, would be a far more omnipotent narrator. Theotokos is there a few days later when Tonchka (age 58) accepts the arm of an anonymous gentleman from California to go exploring in Casablanca because her friends are taking too long. Theotokos catches the glint of Tonchka's tears when she says goodbye to her Spanjolka there ["I believe if she stayed on for the rest of the trip I would learn Spanish"] gleams like a medal on her breast when she is called, aboard the ship, "canasta champion."

Theotokos follows her into Casablanca, Tangiers, Pompeii, God-bearer is there weeks after the pen runs out of ink, when Tonchka arrives in her motherland, the necklace is around her when she returns to her daughters and tells them every detail and perhaps Theotokos knows everything while I know so very little.

iv. Read back the minutes from our last meeting. [According to my father's genealogical records for my grandmother: "She witnessed the death of Antonia Pecuh 31 January 1982 at Zebrugg Memorial Hospital, Riverside."] Theotokos, seer of all, trinket who will survive us, is there, grasped, bequeathed, matter that can never be destroyed.

Theotokos. Always everywhere right now, always alone, always belonging to someone else, crossing unfathomable oceans, Theotokos diaspora.

She is there when Spanjolka taps on Tonchka's shoulder, rippling with inscrutable light wherever two women conspire to cause trouble together.

Theotokos is already there during WWII, toiling alongside my grandmother in the South Philadelphia shipyards, whispering "wars make armies of women, too." **epilogue.** It is June in the early 1990s, and we are in the kitchen, and Theotokos is there, many of her, polysemous. Tonchka is there, I can see her because my grandmother, my mother, my aunt, breathe her into the room and she mingles with the smells of the tomato gravy, and because I am a child, her image more definite than the tiny golden face on the necklace.

It is Thanksgiving 2011, 2012, 2013. The meal is over, my mother, my aunt, and I in the kitchen, scraping, rinsing, washing plates, containing and distributing leftovers (all of the nightmare organizational aftermath of a great family meal) we delegate wordlessly, a time-oiled tupperware machine. And after that, chatting while we dry dishes (each piece of China by hand, helped by the bottomless drawer full of clean, dry towels), though I am

not a child, I still see my grandmother, nine years after her passing, real and close as the necklace is to me.

Where my grandmother followed Tonchka, each year more extraordinary women of my acquaintance are bound. The one place Theotokos never goes. She stays and shows us how to anoint our skins with their words, light the incense, read back the minutes. It's the most and the least we can do. Remember them, remember and survive.



001, Brager, Joseph F.  
001, Mintner, Gary  
001, Pentek, Sharon A.  
002, Kuhel, Ashley  
002, Prinz, Emily Ann  
003, Cucek, Mira  
003, Cunningham, Bridget  
003, Cunningham, Sean  
003, Cunningham, Shannon  
003, Douglas, Caleb  
003, Douglas, Rylee  
003, Kennedy, Carol  
003, Kihn, Sara  
003, Myers, Carol  
003, Nunez, Emily  
003, Nunez, Haley  
003, Shelton, Mary Beth  
003, Ulisse, Patricia  
003, Zallen, Sloan  
003, Zallen, Zara  
016, Ewan, Brandon M.  
016, Ewan, Megan K.  
020, Boudreau, Denise  
030, Douglas, Belle  
030, Douglas, Cole  
030, Thomas, Mary  
089, Gorenz, David  
089, Kuhel OSU, Sister Marie Ellen  
100, Gray, Amy Anne  
108, Hester, Daniel  
108, Kokal, Erika  
108, Kokal, Lisa  
108, Kokal, May  
108, Sanders, Jonna Ann  
109, Vovk, Frank  
111, Globokar, Paul  
111, Zakrajsek, Katelyn

# Donations

*Thank you! - Hvala lepa!*

## **\$100 Donation**

Barbara Bruch, 089, + The Terselic Girls  
Carleen Ozanich, 109, + Jennie Ozanich  
Charles Dolinar, 023, SUA  
Frances Oldenburg, 020, Building Improvements  
George J. Plautz, 102, SUA  
Jim Miklich, 100, SUA  
Kathleen DeMuth, 002, Educational Grant  
Marcelene Brann, 111,  
+ Albina Marsey & Charlene Glass  
Michael J. Kravcar, 100,  
+ Joseph T. Kravcar RIP 8-30-2019  
Richard Smolich, 020, + Anton & Mary Smolich  
Stacy Mavec, 099, + Paula Mavec  
William Ferguson, 020, Building Improvements

## **\$70 Donation**

Anthony Kambich, 020, Educational Grant  
+ Anton J. & Helen M. Kambich  
Georgina M. Varani, 030, SUA  
John Zakelj, 109, SUA  
Kathleen Clime, 093, SUA  
+ Josef Kozole & Marija Gmajnic  
Leslie Ferguson, 020, SUA  
Mariana Burger, 093, Educational Grant  
Peggy Argubright, 100, SUA  
Rosemary Kostansek, 111, + Rose Gerlica Zuzek  
Sonja Mosquin, 093, SUA

## **\$65 Donation**

Barbara Friesenhahn, 005, SUA

## **\$50 Donation**

Aggie Haslup, 111, + Teresa (Vrcek) Gorup  
Anne K. Stratton, 108, + Louise Tamse Hagan  
Boris Durjava, 100, + Stefan & Sonja Durjava  
Frances Oldenburg, 020, + Mary Rojic  
Hermine Blatnik Morrow, 111, + Albin J. Blatnik  
Jacob Yakos, 003, SUA  
Joyce Ferlic Arredondo, 111, + George & Mary Ferlic  
Karl Ocepek, 108, Educational Grant  
Karl Ocepek, 108, Cultural Grant  
Kathleen DeMuth, 002, SUA  
Mary Ann Greiner, 111, SUA

Mary Ann Teitelbaum, 111,  
+ Mary Ferlic & Mary Mlach  
Mary M. Ravnikar, 023, Educational Grant  
Nancy Jagodnik, 111, + Marie Beck  
Renata Weber, 093, + Ivana Slavec

## **\$45 Donation**

Jeanne Just, 020, + Ann Krasovec Kraus

## **\$40 Donation**

Frank Pohar, 024,  
+ Helen Swietek & Josephine Pohar  
Katherine Gorton, 001, + Fannie Smole

## **\$30 Donation**

Angela Nankin, 043, + Alice Delopst  
Barbara Sostakowski, 111, SUA  
Connie Newberg, 023, Building Improvements  
Elizabeth Gross, 093,  
+ Rozi Klansek & Johan Martincic  
Linda Edgington, 100, SUA  
Patricia Warren, 026, Building Improvements  
Wileen Dragovan, 100, SUA

## **\$25 Donation**

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Bonita (Bonney) Zupan, 100,  
+ Joseph & Francesca Klaus  
Deborah Voelk Good, 033, Cultural Grant  
Dorothy Andrews, 111, + Margaret Slavec Ostroska  
Edward A. Tesovnik, 001, + Olga Saye  
Georgene Agnich, 020, Building Improvements  
Helen Baumann, 001, + Daniella Zagozen  
Jo Ann Dryden, 102, H/O Dolores Kozar Maki  
Jo Ann Dryden, 102, + Rose Peritz Kozar, Koschak  
& Francel Families of Willard, WI  
Kathleen Schroeder, 001, + Dorothy Brezonik  
Mary Louise Terselic, 108,  
Educational Grant; H/O Richard A. Terselic  
Michelle Carlson, 023, + Florence V. Markovich  
Michelle Carlson, 023, H/O Julia Puzel  
Richard Terselic, 108, Cultural Grant  
+ Mathilda Terselic  
Terri Kashman, 005, + Rosie Dugar

### **\$20 Donation**

Angela M. Zaida, 020, SUA  
Anne M. Antich, 099, SUA  
Bernadine Gudac, 020, SUA  
Beth Ann Manion, 002, Cultural Grant  
Betty Wiley, 003, + George & Elizabeth Skube  
Catherine Bokar, 020, H/O Mother - Magaret Bokar  
Dorothy Govednik Cummings, 030,  
+ John Govednik Family  
Elizabeth Walker, 005, Educational Grant  
Frank Udovich, 023, SUA  
Fredrick Mlakar, 100, SUA  
Genevieve Buol, 002, + My Mom Jennie Puhek  
Janice M. Krebs, 111, Educational Grant  
+ Jane & Frank Berkopec & Mary Hrovat  
Jean A. Herbst, 020, + Joyce Korst  
Jean A. Herbst, 020, Building Improvements  
Jennie Kovacic, 002, + Frank Kovacic  
Joan Steinman, 002, Cultural Grant  
Julie Grah, 002, + Julia Petrich, Branch 2  
Karl Dovnik, Jr., 043, + Rosalie Dovnik  
Lizette Kay Miller, 109, Building Improvements  
Lucinda Soltesz, 109, + Edward A. Skapin  
Lynn M. Zalokar, 093,  
+ William & Marilyn (Kovacic) Zalokar  
Marcelline Mills, 111, SUA  
Martha A. Pecharich, 099, + Maria Vlastic  
Mary Ann Govek, 001, + Sophia Govek  
Mary Ann Hozjan, 111, SUA + Frances Rigler  
Mary Ann M. Tarro, 030,  
+ Mother, Father, & Brother Anthony  
Mary Ann M. Tarro, 030, H/O Our Families  
Mary Anne Kwiecinski, 035,  
+ Mary Krebs & Johanna Belay  
Mary Lou Vidergar, 100, + Frank J. Vidergar, Mary  
Lipovec, Glad & Mary Vidergar  
MaryAnn Brunner, 024, + Pohar Family  
Michele Kochevar, 002, + Helen Kochevar  
Nancy Slapnik, 111, + Antoinette Gerbec  
Paul Lambert, 005, + Martin & Theresa Lambert  
Peter R. Janes, 111, Building Improvements  
Susan Smith, 043, SUA  
Susan Smith, 043, + Patricia Glatch  
Vera Muir, 020, SUA  
Vesna Straser, 093, SUA  
Vida Lanari, 035, SUA  
Wayne Krempach, 099, + Joan Kaczmarek  
William F. Koncar, 020, + John & Dorothy Koncar

### **\$15 Donation**

Lorraine Ovnik, 002, + Marie Ovnik  
  
**\$10 Donation**  
Antonia Burich, 111,  
H/O Vernerable I. Bishop Baraga  
Catherine A. Kramer, 020, + Charles Kramer  
Daniel Ivanich, 020, + Susan Ivanich  
Daniel Ivanich, 020, H/O Mayme Ivanich  
Diane Lister, 030, SUA  
Fran Hrastar, 108, + Gary Daum  
Jan King, 111, Building Improvements  
Jessica Dusich, 023, Educational Grant  
Jo Ann Dryden, 102, Building Improvements  
Jo Ann Dryden, 102, SUA  
Kathleen M. Recht, 023, + Mary Omerza  
Marjorie Mitchell, 016, + Albert Salakar  
Mary Jane Hiti, 111, SUA  
Maryann Mayer, 111, + Jennie Zalek  
Milena Stropnik, 001, SUA  
Nika B. Kovacic, 108, + Eric A. Kovacic  
Rosemary Kalfas, 111, + Christine (Basca) Duche  
Sandra Rodeghero, 020, Building Improvements  
Sandra Schiffler, 002, + Antoinette Gradishar  
Sandra Schiffler, 002, H/O Gloria Schiffler  
Valerie Sorensen, 003, Educational Grant  
Vincent Rigler, 002, Cultural

### **\$5 Donation**

Alyssa Owens, 093, SUA  
Antonia Burich, 111, + M & C Kroll  
Antonia Burich, 111, + Anton A. Burich  
Barbara Krogulski, 024,  
+ Paula J. Illman; H/O Barbara J. Krogulski  
Rosemary Ribich, 035, Educational Grant

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# Member of the Year

## Slovenian Union of America

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### **ED AND GERMAINE TESOVIK** **BRANCH 1 - SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN**

Germaine is of Swiss and German ancestry and Ed is 100% Slovenian. His parents were born in Slovenia in the Recica ob Savinji region. They came to America in 1912 and settled in Sheboygan. The family homestead is located on South 9th Street where Ed still maintains a garden with lots of “solata” every summer. Ed met Germaine in 1951, and they were married in 1960. They are members of the Slovenian parish of St. Cyril & Methodius.

Ed remembers Marie Prisland as a young boy. His mother had given him a handful of change and asked him to take it to Marie’s house to pay for her dues.

Ed and Germaine love to travel in the U.S. and Europe and have been to Slovenia four times. In 1972, they found the area where Ed’s father grew up and learned that relatives were still living in the original homestead. In the 90s, they paid for four family members to come to the States and have wonderful memories of sleeping in the family homestead.

Ed and Germaine have been SUA members for a long time, remembering that Olga Saye was the president when Germaine joined in the 1960s. They enjoy the Slovenian food from the Sheboygan community and participate in many of the holiday traditions such as taking a basket for blessing at Easter time.



They are active members of our branch enjoying the sociability, participating in the games in which we learn some Slovenian words. Ed speaks Slovenian quite well as he spoke it at home when he was growing up. When asked why they are in SUA they said, “the Slovenian people are great” and they enjoy being with them. Smiles are on their faces when talking about Slovenians. They are proud of their heritage, and they let it shine for all to see.

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### **DIANE SLATEN** **BRANCH 3 - PUEBLO, COLORADO**

Branch 3’s Member of the Year is Diane Slaten, a dedicated SUA member along with others in her family. Diane is currently serving as the Branch 3 Treasurer. She and her husband, Chuck, have two sons, Matthew and Michael. Diane’s MOY photo shows her enjoying apple strudel and spiced tea in a small café in the Julian Alps.

Diane received all of her sacraments at her parish, St. Mary Help of Christians Church. After graduating from Gonzaga University and obtaining her Master’s

degree from Adams State College, Diane worked for 32 years as a Speech/Language Pathologist for Pueblo City School District 60.

Diane and Chuck enjoy traveling in the United States and internationally, including a cherished trip to Slovenia. They spend much of their time at their cabin in beautiful Westcliffe, Colorado, about 50 miles west of Pueblo, where Diane enjoys taking long walks, gathering firewood, and even splitting kindling for the fire.

Because her maternal grandfather immigrated from Spain, Diane holds dual citizenship (United States and Spain). Her mother and son, Matthew, also have

*Zarja - The Dawn*

dual citizenships (both Spain and Slovenia). Diane's paternal grandparents immigrated from Slovenia; Glavich, Okorn, and Kamby are the family's Slovenian names.

Diane's fond childhood memories include her relatives gathering to make klobase. She remembers the backyard smokehouse where the klobase were hung to be smoked and the huge vat into which lard and potatoes were dropped. The taste of those scrumptious potatoes is still a vivid memory! Žegen continues to be an Easter tradition. Diane and her family enjoy making žlinkrofi using the ham and klobase which were blessed on Easter Saturday. Making krofi, potica, and apple strudel from family recipes are also treasured traditions.

Diane feels truly blessed to be influenced by her strong Slovenian heritage, from traditions and food, to the music and language!



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## **SHERYL AND TERRY THORPE**

### **BRANCH 5 - INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

Our 2020 Members of the Year are Sheryl and Terry Thorpe, longtime participants in all things Slovenian in Indy! Terry, a United States Air Force veteran and retired USPS worker, acquired his Slovenian background when he married Sheryl Loviscek over 30 years ago, and the two of them can always be counted on to help out. With her business background, Sheryl has helped out with bookkeeping and accounting advice with the Indianapolis-Piran Sister City Committee and SUA. For over 30 years, they have attended Holy Trinity reverse raffles, bazaars, National Home dances and sausage feasts. Sheryl and Terry often participate in KSKJ Christmas and Easter parties with their nephews and nieces and are excellent bowlers in the Thursday Night KSKJ LEAGUE! Congratulations Terry and Sheryl, our 2020 Members of the Year!!



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## **SANDY BROWN RODEGHERO**

### **BRANCH 20 - JOLIET, ILLINOIS**

Sandy's Slovenian roots originate from the Tomsicks and the Juricics on her maternal side. Her great-grandparents, grandparents, and mother were 100% Slovenian. Before settling in Joliet, her ancestors lived in Cleveland, Ohio, and Leadville, Colorado. Sandy's cousins are active in the Cleveland branch of the Slovenian Union of America, while her mother, Dorothy

Juricic Brown, and her aunt, Marie Juricic Gulas, are members of the union's Branch 20 in Joliet.

Sandy was born in Joliet and is a lifelong resident. She graduated from St. Raymond's Grade School and from St. Francis Academy there, then earned her B.S. in Chemistry from St. Mary's College of Notre Dame, Indiana. She married Dale, her high school sweetheart,

# Member of the Year

## Slovenian Union of America

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### **SANDY BROWN RODEGHERO continued...**

and they will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this summer. They have two sons, Christian and Benjamin, and two granddaughters, Taelynn and Cambrey.

Using her education in chemistry, Sandy worked for the Illinois State Bureau of Identification (the original “CSI” of television fame) before starting her family. She has also worked as a chemist in environmental laboratories at Arro Labs and as a Q.A. Chemist at Ecolab in Joliet.

Sandy is proud of her Slovenian heritage and has been a member of Branch 20 for several years. She is currently Branch 20’s Member Representative, and she enjoyed serving as a Branch 20 delegate at the 2019 Slovenian Union of America National Convention in Cleveland. Sandy has given several cooking demonstrations highlighting traditional Slovenian delicacies at Branch 20 meetings. With her 100% maternal Slovenian heritage, of course she loves potica of all kinds, especially her Grandma Marie Juricic’s apple potica with frosting - delicious! Sandy’s special interests include cooking Slovenian dishes of all kinds (no potica, yet), as well as researching and learning about Joliet’s Slovenian history.



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### **SHARON STARKOVICH** **BRANCH 35 - AURORA, MINNESOTA**

Sharon joined Branch 35 in 2010 to gain more knowledge of Slovenian culture and history. In 2013, she became the branch secretary and holds the position currently. Also a member of the Aurora All Slav Club, she has been their vice president for several years. She is 100% Slovenian and was born in 1949 to Anton and Agnes (Skraba) Zaverl. Along with her sibling, Gary, she grew up in Ely, Minnesota and resided above the family business, Zaverl’s Bar. Three children, Shannon, Shane, and Slade, complete her family along with her special granddaughter, Paige.

Being a court clerk for St. Louis County’s judicial system in Hibbing and Virginia kept Sharon busy for 25 years up until retirement in 2013. Since then she enjoys her cabin outside of Ely along with her hobbies of reading, handwork, puzzles, scrapbooking, baking, skiing, Zumba, power walking, and vacationing. She joined the “Živijo, Zarja” to Slovenia. Such a wonderful group of new friends, fun times, breathtaking sites, and great Slovenian cuisine was enjoyed!

In 2013 Sharon was active in hosting the SUA State Convention in Aurora, Minnesota. In July of 2014, she helped host Slovenian



Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Bozo Cerar, along with her cousin JoAnne Coombe, Executive Director of the St. Louis County Historical Society at the Depot in Duluth. This took place at the home of her uncle, Albin Zaverl, who had his artwork displayed at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Dr. Cerar admired his paintings of Slovenia and wanted to

meet him. On December 6, 2015, a Polka Mass and St. Nicholas Honor Day at St. Joseph's in Gilbert, Minnesota was sponsored by Branch 35. Sharon was an active participant in helping with this memorable event.

Sharon is honored to be part of the Slovenian community and is willing to help!

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## **JOHN AND JANET CERAR**

### **BRANCH 43 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

Branch 43 - Milwaukee is very proud to recognize John and Janet Cerar as our 2020 Members of the Year. It was just seven years ago that they discovered the Slovenian organizations in Milwaukee. Of the nine Milwaukee Slovenian groups, John has become active in six of them and Janet has joined three. Married for 53 years and parents of six children and grandparents of five, this couple keeps busy as they support John's quest to explore and experience John's 50% Slovenian heritage. Both now retired, John was an experimental and service mechanic for 38 years at Harley Davidson Motor Co., and Janet was a teacher's aide for 13 years in The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District. They are now very enthusiastic, supportive, and generous members of Branch 43. They have attended the last two SUA National Conventions and traveled to Slovenia two years ago with the *Zarja Fest 2018* tour. Upon returning home they have raved about their experiences at all three events and cherish their Slovenian souvenirs. Janet enjoys all of our local Slovenian events, going to movies, reading, and jigsaw puzzles, while John is very interested in exploring his Slovenian genealogy, singing in the USPEH Slovenian Chorus, and serving on the UWM – Slovenian Arts Council. John also serves as a Chorus Representative



to Milwaukee's umbrella group, the United Slovenes to Preserve Our Ethnic Heritage (U.S.P.E.H). Both John and Janet enjoy the SNPJ Balina League and the Slovenian Social Club. Our branch lunches always have delicious homemade contributions from the Cerars. John especially enjoys making recipes from SUA's *The Slovenian-American Table* cookbook and follows its holiday traditions. Congratulations and Thank You to both John and Janet Cerar for this well-deserved recognition! A celebration luncheon will be planned.

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## **MIKE BRIERTON**

### **BRANCH 102 - WILLARD, WISCONSIN**

Branch 102 is proud to announce Mike Brierton as our Member of the Year. Mike started attending Branch 102's meetings in 2005 with his grandmother, Vicki, who had been a longtime member of the branch. Although a junior member, he found himself being welcomed by the members of the group. Mike has helped with many meetings, including being "tech support" when our state president attended a meeting and needed assistance with audio/visual equipment for a presentation.

Mike is currently a sophomore at DC Everest High School in Weston, Wisconsin. He is active with the Finance Bowl Team, History Team, a varsity letter winner for the curling team, and a member of the track team. He was also recently elected to a state office for the Wisconsin Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) and will be attending the national convention in Salt Lake City this summer. Mike is also a Boy Scout, earning his Eagle Scout rank in 2019, and was honored to receive a congratulatory letter from the

# Member of the Year

## Slovenian Union of America

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### MIKE BRIERTON continued...

Ambassador of Slovenia for this achievement. Mike is a regional officer for the Order of the Arrow, which is considered the honor society for the Boy Scouts of America, and had the opportunity to attend training at Florida Sea Base near Key West.

Besides being actively involved with scouting, Mike's other hobbies include sailing, boating, and water skiing. Although he does not live in Willard, he has deep ties to the area with both sets of his maternal great-grandparents being some of the earlier founders of Willard. Mike enjoys the friendships he had made with Branch 102 members and is proud of his Slovenian heritage.



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### LIZ MILLER

#### BRANCH 109 - TWIN CITIES OF MINNESOTA

The daughter of a Slovenian father and Scandinavian mother (Bill and Doris Skull), Liz grew up attending Slovenian activities and learning songs for holiday parties. As an adult, she and her dad sang with *The Slovenian Singers*, a group started by her cousin, Sue Skull. This group was a precursor of *The Singing Slovenes*. The treasured photo shows Liz and her father at an event in Chisholm, Minnesota in 1989 shortly before he died.

A long-term member of SUA and a lifelong member of KSKJ, Liz originally belonged to Branch 33 in Duluth and served there as recording secretary. Living in the metro area, Liz joined Twin Cities Slovenians and soon became an active member, serving as recording secretary for seven years, keeping photo albums and archives, and participating in Slovenian language classes. Liz volunteers at the Slovenian booth of the Festival of Nation and often bakes large quantities of strudel for events.

When Liz and her son John traveled to Slovenia in 2019, they used Liz's genealogy work to connect with many relatives, some of whom had been lost for two generations. Most were from Gradec and Kaplanovo, southeast of Ljubljana. The oldest cousin they met was ninety-year-old Gabriela, who had corresponded



with Liz's paternal grandmother, Angela, years ago. In a poignant moment, Gabriela asked why letters stopped abruptly during WWII and was saddened to learn that Angela had passed away in 1941. Another trip is planned, and John is studying Slovenian in preparation.

Liz is a cytotechnologist at University of Minnesota Health in Minneapolis where she assists in the collection of small biopsy material in OR and other suites and screens specimens for cancer. Professionally, she has held offices including President in the Minnesota Society of Cytology; she has also served as den leader and the Advancement Coordinator for Boy Scouts.





## BECOME A MEMBER OF SUA TODAY!

### Benefits of Membership

- ✓ Receive quarterly issues of *Zarja – The Dawn Magazine* that highlights Slovenia, its rich heritage, culture, traditions, recipes, and more.
- ✓ Participate in local branch activities which promote “Keeping the Slovenian Spirit Alive.”
- ✓ Educational Grant and Cultural Grant Opportunities
- ✓ Research both of SUA’s historical and genealogical resources – the *Ivana Project* and the *Matti Register*, both long-term scanning projects of member documents since 1926.
- ✓ Visit SUA’s website with links to numerous Slovenian-American interests.
- ✓ Visit SUA’s free Heritage Museum in Joliet, Illinois, with Slovenian heritage exhibits and library.

## New Member Application

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Membership Renewal Notifications are sent annually in December

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Affiliation Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Do you speak Slovenian? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your interest in Slovenia: \_\_\_\_\_

Slovenian Surnames (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? SUA member \_\_\_ newspaper \_\_\_ website \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer for the SUA. My area of interest or expertise is \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant’s signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# BIG ANNIE

# C O P P E R

## COUNTRY'S

By Staff Writer David Sodac  
Branch 89 Oglesby, IL  
[bdsodac@gmail.com](mailto:bdsodac@gmail.com)



Annie Klobuchar Clemenc became a noted, colorful folk hero during her most prominent years as a union activist leader for the copper miners during the 1913-1914 miners' strike in the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan. Her contagious passion spirited the miners who were striking for a union contract that would provide safer working conditions and pay. Annie became the heart and soul of the strikers' cause. The long-standing, contentious strike took place from July 23, 1913 to April 13, 1914. She was arrested and jailed on numerous occasions because of her vocal and active role in leading daily parades in support of the strike. Annie was an imposing figure over six feet tall as she led the street marchers through the

streets of town in a plain gingham dress and carrying a huge, billowing American flag secured to a ten-foot pole. She became a national media sensation, and the newspapers across the country referred to her as the "Joan of Arc of Calumet." On one occasion, Annie, with her flag and a thousand marchers behind her, was attempting to march into a neighborhood housing non-striking workers. They were met and blocked by armed militia on horses with sabers fully raised. In the midst of the melee, Annie held her American flag across her body and dared the militia screaming "Kill me!" at the militia. "Run your bayonets and sabers through this flag and kill me, but I won't move. If this flag will not protect me, then I will die with it."

There is no doubt, Annie was probably the best-known person, even today, from the Copper Country during its boom period.

Anna Klobuchar was born in 1888 in Calumet, in Michigan's Copper Country on the Upper Peninsula in Lake Superior. She was the oldest of George and Mary Klobuchar's five children. George and Mary were born in Slovenia, in the Municipality of Črnomelj. Her father was born in Dobljče and her mother from Dolnja Paka. Her father became a copper miner employed in one of the Calumet and Hecla Mines (C&H), and her mother worked as a domestic. They were among the thousands of immigrants who had flocked to the Upper Peninsula to work in the booming copper and iron mines. She graduated from the eighth grade at a school operated by the Mining Company. She then began working with a local church giving aid to injured miners and assisted her family financially by doing laundry. Because of her 6-foot-2-inch frame, Anna was nicknamed "Big Annie." At the age of eighteen, she married Joseph Clemenc, a Croatian miner, who worked for the C&H Mining Company.

Before the strike years, Annie became actively involved with various Slavic fraternal organizations. In 1910, she helped to organize and then became president of the People's Slovenian Women's Lodge (#128) of the Slovenian-American fraternal benefit organization, the SNPJ. This was a prominent role for a young Slovenian-American woman of that era - she was likely the first woman of Slavic descent to have a public leadership role in Houghton County. Annie later became the president of the Calumet women's local of the Western Federation of Miners. Her involvement in this fraternal organization propelled her into taking an activist role in leading the strike.

The once plentiful, high grade copper was becoming harder to find and mine. The veins of copper were becoming less pure and were deeper underground. To increase profits, the C&H Mining president ordered that the usual two-man drilling procedure be replaced by the more dangerous but cheaper one-man drill operation. The one-man drill was a 150-pound machine referred to as the "widow-maker." The two-man drilling provided a safety feature enabling one man to watch for difficulties. In addition to the fear of the one-man drill, the miners were working eleven hours a day and being paid only \$2.50 a day. Rumors

spread that miners in Montana were making \$4 an hour. Dissatisfaction grew amongst the workers. They wanted shorter hours, more pay, and the elimination of the one-man drill. The miners were ripe for organizing and uniting against the mine operators. The Denver-based Western Federation of Miners (WFM) saw viable opportunities and arrived in Calumet to help solve their problems. The WFM had earned a well-deserved reputation after winning workers higher wages and shortened workdays for the copper miners in Montana, Idaho, and Colorado. By February 1913, five federation locals and nine thousand card-carrying members had organized in the Copper Country. The C&H Mining Company bigwigs refused to hear their concerns.

On July 23, 1913, the miners voted to strike. The members began organizing daily to march down the street in protest. A few days into the strike, Annie, marching with her ten-foot pole and massive American flag and followed by hundreds of wives and children who joined her, stepped in front of the striking men. Every



morning afterwards, Annie would lead the over two thousand women and miners in their seven-mile march down the street to the mine company's administration office. As the strike began to receive more notoriety and newspaper coverage, leading labor movement officials from across the country joined in the protest. Leading figures like Attorney Clarence Darrow, AFL's president John Lewis, and union activist Mary Harris "Mother Jones" arrived to march side-by-side Annie and her flag. She was arrested multiple times for fighting with deputies, assaulting non-striking miners, and inciting riots. She spent ten days in jail, but her strong will and determination never wavered.

The County Sheriff's Office was becoming alarmed



about the strikers' increasing confrontations and proposed to the General Manager of the C&H Mining Company to hire out professional "strike-breakers" from the Waddell-Mahon Company to interfere and disrupt the strikers. The strike-breakers were generally considered strong-armed thugs with guns from inner New York City and referred to as "Waddies." In addition to the Waddies, the County Sheriff deputized over a hundred and fifty men to help enforce order. Needless to say, things got very ugly in Calumet. In August 1913, the Governor of Michigan sent in the state's entire militia to prevent loss of life and destruction to the city. After personally visiting and assessing the situation, Governor Woodbridge Ferris publicly stated that the mining conditions were indeed unfair and urged the Mining Company to work on settling disagreements. On August 14, two Waddies and several of Cruse's deputies killed two strikers in a shooting spree at a boardinghouse in Seeberville, south of Calumet. Warrants were issued, but there was no action taken to track down and arrest the killers. The day of the two strikers' funeral, Annie and her flag led the funeral procession of over five-thousand

people down the streets of Calumet. During the following weeks and months, she was engaged in many confrontations with the strike-breakers and was arrested several more times.

As the strike entered into its fifth month, Annie and her WFM Women's Auxiliary No. 15 organized a Christmas Party for the children of the miners. It would be a grim Christmas for everyone, but especially for the children. Because of the strike, money was scant, and debts were piling up fast. The children deserved a relief from all the tough times their families faced. The Christmas party was held in the Italian Hall, a two-story wooden building. Its lower floor housed a grocery store and a saloon, but the party was held upstairs and featured a ballroom, balcony, stage, and a small kitchen. By noontime on December 24, over seven-hundred attendees had noisily gathered in the ballroom pushing excitedly to the stage. Annie and some other WFM Women's Auxiliary ladies were on stage next to Santa Claus handing out the bags of candy, hand-knitted scarfs, and gloves to the eager children. Somebody yelled "FIRE!" inducing an anxious stampede to exit the ballroom down the eight-foot-wide, winding staircase to the outside. Only there wasn't a fire. Annie tried to calm the crowd, but it was impossible to make her voice heard over all the screaming. Panic and terror took over. Frantic, people



pushed, stumbled, and fell down the stairs. An alarm was sounded in Calumet. When rescuers opened the doors to the stairwell's street-level entrance, they found a tangle of bodies piled five feet high. Some appeared to jump over the tumbled bodies beneath them to escape, but the door was blocked. When the stairwell was finally cleared, seventy-four people were dead, and all but eleven were children.

Witnesses at the inquest swore they saw a man in black with his collar turned up and a hat on his head yelling "Fire." Some were certain that the man was wearing a white Citizens' Alliance button, the button representing the group organized to support C&H Mining Company. Outraged over the possibility that a "company man" might have riled the crowd into the deadly pandemonium, union strikers and sympathizers sought revenge. Charles Moyer, president of the WFM, told reporters that the disaster was a mass murder, and he laid the blame squarely on the C&H Mining Company. On Christmas morning, Charles Moyer was beaten in his hotel room, shot, dragged through town and thrown onto a Chicago-bound train. The assailants, openly wore their white Citizens' Alliance buttons.

Big Annie, carrying her flag one last time, led the solemn procession of over seven thousand mourners through the streets of town to the mass burial site in Calumet's cemetery. After they buried the seventy-four victims of the Italian Hall disaster, the city of Calumet started to die. Spirits were broken. Trainloads of miners and their families began leaving the Copper Country, heading for the industrialized cities of Detroit, Cleveland, and Chicago where working conditions and pay were better. Calumet, once a bustling city of 80,000 people, increasingly shrank to a population of 726 as recorded on the 2010 Census. Annie Klobuchar Clemenc divorced Joseph sometime shortly after the Italian Hall disaster. She went on a speaking tour across the Midwest to raise money for the families whose members were victims in the stampede. She eventually fell in love with Frank Shavs, a Chicago reporter who had been sent to cover the copper mine strike and had frequently interviewed Annie. They moved back to Chicago, married, and had a daughter they named Darwina. Big Annie died there in the summer of 1956 at the age of sixty-eight. All that remains of the Italian Hall is the stone and brick doorway arch after the building was demolished

in 1984. The empty space has now become the focal point of a memorial park site in Calumet. An informational marker was engraved with the list of the seventy-four people who died in the disaster.



Annie Klobuchar Clemenc Shavs was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1996. Her likeness was one of three important figures in Michigan history that were designed into a medallion given as an achievement award presented annually to the organization's inductees. The three women were Anna Howard Shaw, a leader in the national women's suffrage movement; Sojourner Truth, a former slave who became an outspoken crusader for human rights; and Anna Clemenc, a union activist who helped lead the historic 1913 copper strike in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Hall of Fame stated that "Together, these women represent the three principal themes of the early women's movement: the striving for political, social and economic justice." A portrait of Annie was also commissioned and hangs in the Women's Historical Center in Lansing, Michigan. She was admitted into the Labor's International Hall of Fame in Detroit, Michigan during the 2013 centennial of the copper union strike. Several books have chronicled the heroine of the Michigan miners including: *Big Annie of Calumet: A True Story of the Industrial Revolution* by Jerry Stanley, published in 1996; *Annie Clemenc and the Great Keweenaw Copper Strike* written by Lyndon Comstock, published in 2013; and *The Women of the*

*Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell, published in 2019. It looks like our "Big Annie" has definitely made a name for herself.





# Slovenian Union of America

## Across America - Branch Reports

### BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Contact information: Mary Ann Schellinger  
920.457.7946/[rhmas@yahoo.com](mailto:rhmas@yahoo.com)

We did it again. On February 11th SUA Branch 1, Sheboygan, Wisconsin met in Fr. Cherne Hall at Ss Cyril & Methodius Church for a potluck dinner. A variety of Slovenian foods were shared and of course lots of desserts. Slovenian wine and pink tea were also available.

February is noted to be a month of love, hearts, and flowers. Well, we took it one step further to make it an evening of food, frosting, and fun. One of our members baked and base frosted 100 sugar cookies. After enjoying our wonderful potluck (which also included a smoked fish caught



by one of our Slovenian members), we set out to the task of decorating the cookies. Who knew we could all be so creative - even the guys!



After the frosting dried, our president, Mary Sandwick, delivered the cookies to the Salvation Army to share with the residents at their facility.



We want to make sure that we “let our Slovenian heritage shine,” and since there is “love” in every Slovenian, what better way than to share our good fortune

with others. It truly was a “Happy Valentines” for many.  
MARY ANN SCHELLINGER

## BRANCH 2 - Chicago, Illinois

This report begins with the sad news that our two oldest members have passed away. Mary Reich (101 years old) and her younger sister, Elsie Cizek (99 years old), died only 6 hours apart on the same day in January. Mary and Elsie lived together for many years just a block away from St. Stephen Church. In their younger days, they were both very active in the SUA and participated in numerous branch functions. A funeral Mass was performed at St. Stephen Church which is now the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School Chapel. Our condolences to their families.

Twenty-one members and guests showed up for our Christmas celebration at Buck's Pit Stop in early December. A huge, tasty buffet, highlighted by delicious lemon chicken and roast pork, was really special and enjoyed by everyone.

Gen Buol is a happy first-time Grandma! Her grandson, Matthew Gabrie, was born on December 9<sup>th</sup> to Matt and Holly Buol. What a wonderful pre-Christmas gift!

Joan Steinman came from California to help her sister, Jennie Kovacic, observe her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday, Jennie, from all your friends at Branch 2.

The Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont hosted a traditional ethnic dinner called Koline. It featured homemade turnip soup, blood sausage, and other Slovenian delights including krofi for dessert. Our members, Judy Ovník, Ben Buol, and Lorraine Ovník attended this event, and they especially enjoyed the wine tasting contest.

Our next meeting will be held at Buck's Pit Stop on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. We always have such a nice time just getting together. Try to join us! Contact Judy Stoll 708.479.2864 or Deborah Morris 708.478.1279.

DEBORAH MORRIS

## BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information:

719.569.7125/[amtcharron@gmail.com](mailto:amtcharron@gmail.com)

Due to the social distancing requirements resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, all Branch 3 meetings and events have been suspended until further notice. We hope that everyone will stay safe and healthy!

Branch 3's regularly scheduled meeting for February was cancelled due to the snowy weather forecast. The March meeting was hosted by Annette Charron who served cream puffs from Shuster's Banquet Bakery. The mystery gift was provided by Eileen Kaplan and was won by Andrea DeGarbo. Plans for the Member of the Year luncheon were discussed, and Elaine Volk, Barbara Greenwood, and Angela Mock signed up to be in charge of the luncheon entertainment. Branch members voted to replace the usual gift exchange with a donation to be used for a charitable cause.

On Sunday, February 16, Branch 3 hosted a mixer at St. Mary's church hall with the purpose of providing Puebloans the opportunity to share their Slovenian heritage. The mixer attracted twenty-one participants who had fun sharing family stories and photographs. Because of the success of the event, future mixers are planned with the intent of documenting and memorializing Pueblo's rich Slovenian immigrant history.

The Slovenian-American community in Pueblo is mourning the loss of Monsignor Marvin Kapushion, who passed away in April just a few days before his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Monsignor Kapushion was born to George and Anna (Matkovich) Kapushion in Crested Butte, Colorado. He received a Master's Degree in Social Work from the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. and spent decades



working as a state and national leader on social services issues. Until a few years ago, for more than 30 years he commuted to Rye, Colorado to care for parishioners at St. Aloysius Church. Parishioners of St. Mary's Help of Christians Church have fond memories of the Masses Monsignor Kapushion offered for Slovenian-Americans to celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas and the Masses prior to the annual Slovenian Heritage Dinner.

ANNETTE SABO CHARRON  
& BARBARA KARLINGER

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### **BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana**

I would have never imagined that I would be writing this article today from the "safety" of my house! Spring in Indiana means strong winds, spectacular thunderstorms, and deadly tornadoes, but nothing prepared us for this invisible danger, COVID-19. A wonderful Disney trip in January with many fun family memories, to a total "no-contact," family distancing, social cancelling event of epic proportions... did anyone see this coming? As Indiana, and the country, shut down around us, the "stay at home" order brought a new panic into our lives... do we have necessary supplies to last through a lengthy quarantine? Many of us were alone in houses or apartments, but because of the Tech Age we live in now, there are so many ways to pass the long days.

What did our Slovenian families do during the 1900s? Newly arrived in Indiana, not speaking English, and with a short supply of Slovenian-speaking medical personnel, neighbors relied on each. Corner grocers ran tabs for families, taking small money amounts when families could pay. Men worked in foundries, women took on odd jobs, washing and ironing laundry, cleaning and cooking for the grand houses on Washington Boulevard and Meridian Street, for very small wages. In 1918, the Spanish Flu hit, wiping out many families, making remaining family members ponder their decision to come to the U.S., with many returning to their homelands. In the 1920s, numerous Slovenian families left Indy for the Chicago area and promises of better jobs. What they found were few job opportunities and no housing, forcing them to camp out along the shores of Lake Michigan. Illnesses from using and drinking the unclean waters of the lake ran through the camp, causing several children and adults to die. Tuberculosis and polio were constant threats to families until vaccines were found in the 1950s. These Slovenian families stood strong during these trying times, with little medical or safety information available to them. Imagine how scary to see your parent or child fall ill to high temperatures, a horrible cough, loss of muscle control, hallucinations, and not being able to understand. How strong these immigrants were to persevere in those difficult times!

We were asked to stay at home. We know the illness; we know good people are working very hard to come up with

a vaccine to keep us all safe and healthy. We know good people who are working long hours as first responders, medical personnel, and hospital staff, sacrificing their safety to help others.

We were asked to stay at home. Did you reach out to family and friends through the wonders of technology? Did you FaceTime your grandchildren, just to see their faces? Did you text an old friend, knowing he was out of a job and might need help? Did you call someone and just listen to her because you knew she lived alone? Reach out today to neighbors, school friends, church acquaintances, or a Slovenian family members and reconnect! Share stories, memories, recipes, concerns, and laughter, but most importantly, listen to them. You may be the bright spot in their day, and they will certainly make your day memorable!

Hopefully, we will be meeting up at the Slovenian National Home again soon! Until then, please stay healthy, stay safe, and stay in touch!!

Your Fellow Home Detainees,  
MARY, KAREN & PHYLLIS

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### **BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois**

Contact Information: Georgene Agnich  
[773.205.1326/jamesschaible1469@att.net](mailto:773.205.1326/jamesschaible1469@att.net)

We offer our sincere sympathies to the family of member Dolores Klepec, who passed away on April 4, 2020, and to the family of member Lucille Gregorash, who passed away on April 4, 2020.

Diane Hohenwater introduced SUA Membership Manager and new Branch 20 member Rick Mutz at our February 18 meeting. Rick later gave a summary of his duties as Membership Manager at our March 10 meeting. Georgene Agnich gave a talk at the February meeting on "St. Joseph's Church: The Slovenian Rome."

We had an excellent turnout of 23 members for our March 10 St. Joseph Table and meeting. We served catered chicken, with each member bringing a dish to pass. Diane Hohenwater brought "Slovenian Spaghetti" made from a recipe that SUA President Mary Lou Voelk discovered in SUA's *Pots and Pans* cookbook; this dish used to be made by Ron Strle at the former Stefanich's Restaurant in Joliet. We honored all members named after St. Joseph and St. Patrick at our meeting and discussed plans for our annual fundraiser Bake Sale at St. Joseph Church on March 28-29.

Alas, as the coronavirus pandemic worsened, the Diocese of Joliet closed all its churches starting March 14, and the governor of Illinois soon issued a stay-at-home order to reduce the spread of the virus. We cancelled our Bake Sale, with the hopes of having it at a later date. We did not participate in the St. Joseph Day "holy hour" devotions at St. Joseph Church on March 19 which were cancelled because of the virus. Likewise, we cancelled our May 21 "Member of the Year" banquet and will honor Sandra Rodeghero at our 2021 banquet. KSKJ cancelled the annual Maria



Pomagaj Mass at St. Joseph Church as well.

The Catholic Mission in Lemont has scheduled “Baraga Days” on September 19 in Joliet and on September 20 in Lemont. There will be a Mass at St. Joseph Church in Joliet on September 19 and a reception. The Slovenian Heritage Museum across from the church will be open to visitors that day.

In these unprecedented and difficult times, may we all rely on God’s mercy, may we sustain each other, and may we reflect on the hardships our Slovenian ancestors endured.

GEORGENE AGNICH

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### BRANCH 23 - Ely, Minnesota

As I am writing this our small town of Ely is preparing for the coronavirus. We are just like all the rest of the United States doing what needs to be done – cancelling meetings, closing schools, bars, and restaurants. I am not going out unless I absolutely have to! I have asthma, and I am afraid of getting the coronavirus. Stay safe everyone!!

One of the special things Branch 23 did was to donate a Slovenian dinner for four to be auctioned off at the Ely Community Resources money raising event. Jodi and Mike Chaffin of Ely outbid everyone else! Pat Koski and Mary Icenhour from our branch cooked and served up a delicious meal. Thanks to Pat and Mary for all of their hard work. The two couples thoroughly enjoyed the meal!



On May 4 Professor Klemenc who wrote a book about Ely Slovenians is going to present a program. It will be at 3 p.m. in St. Anthony’s Church Hall classroom. Pat Koski has been working closely with him on this book. It is written in Slovenian, but he hopes to get it written in English soon. Refreshments will be served. Mary Icehour will make a potica.

On Sunday January 19 we had a luncheon at the Grand Ely Lodge. Beth Haakensen was our guest speaker. he showed us a very interesting film about the accordion museum in Superior, Wisconsin along with a speech. May 6<sup>th</sup> is World Accordion Day.

Taste of Slovenia is set for Saturday, August 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in St. Anthony’s Church Hall. We will be selling noodles, cookbooks, towels, potholders, and various other items. Bernie Palcher will be playing accordion music. Come one, come all! Enjoy Slovenian food and music. Mark your calendars!

I want to take this time to congratulate Maya Kakuichi Voelk, granddaughter of Mary Lou Voelk, who are both members of Branch 23 here in Ely. Maya is the recipient of the 2012 Slovenian Women’s Union scholarship. Maya is a graduate of Ballard High School in Seattle, Washington. She attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where she graduated summa cum laude with a major in journalism and marketing from the Medill School and a minor in Asian American Studies. Afterward she took a marketing analysis position at Pepsi Co. in the Quaker Oats and Tropicana divisions in Chicago, Illinois. In 2018 she moved to Los Angeles, California to work at the Wonderful Co., marketing Fiji Water, Halo clementines, and Pom pomegranate juice. Maya is excited to announce that she has been accepted to Harvard Business School in Cambridge, Massachusetts beginning in the fall of 2020. The Harvard Business School only accepts 100 students each session. Maya will be in the two-year master’s program. She plans on sharpening her marketing skills. She is the daughter of Tom and Mariiko Kakuichi Voelk of Seattle. If you know of any students in your branch, let them know there are scholarships available. Maya is proof of how good a scholarship is. P. S. Due to the coronavirus, events we have planned may be cancelled.

CHOSTIE HARRI

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### BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Zivijo! It is April and snowing in Peru, Illinois as I type this branch report. Welcome Spring! We had our first meeting of 2020 scheduled for mid-March, but it was cancelled due to our meeting site, the LaSalle Public Library, having to close because of the virus and social distancing regulations. Due to this situation, any further meetings or activities are on hold until the world is safe again to proceed with planning for 2020.

Marilyn Jean (Bedenko) Temple, our longtime member, passed away on March 9. She is survived by her husband, Wayne, and son and daughter-in-law as well as two grandchildren and several nieces. She enjoyed reading, knitting, and showing cattle at various local fairs. Please keep her family in your prayers.

While you are offering prayers... add our world to those prayers! During this time of sheltering in place, have you found out something new about yourself? Have you found a new love of baking? Did you open that old *Pots and Pans* cookbook and try a new recipe? Have you read any new authors? Or did you finally finish all those books on your reading list? Same with movies? Has your daily walking

increased from around the block to around the entire town? Are all your closets cleaned out? Has your family used Zoom to get together on a regular basis? And finally, are you back to your “real” hair color yet? Pray that soon we can all hug our families again!

DIANE DATA

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### **BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Contact Person: Jan Gehm

414.321.1413/[twogames@wi.rr.com](mailto:twogames@wi.rr.com)

There is not much news here in Milwaukee as our last meeting was held in February before this pandemic erupted. We are in the same position as everyone else, but I wanted to greet all of you with Best Wishes and encouragement to try and make the most of this unexpected situation.

A bit of sad news. Our president, Jan Gehm, after a long illness and then the death of her husband, Tom, in December, is now settled in her new home. If anyone would like to send a greeting, you can do so. Her new address is as follows: Jan Gehm c/o Clifden Court 6801 W. Loomis Road Greendale, WI 53129.

No definite plans have been made for our upcoming Member of the Year celebration as yet, but John and Janet Cerar have been chosen to share this honor. Hopefully, we will be able to gather once again in May and celebrate our honored members.

Our deepest sympathy is to extend to the family of Fannie Smole who passed away on March 13 at the age of 93. Fannie was a longtime active member of our branch. May she rest in peace.

Let's storm heaven with our prayers for this pandemic to be over soon. May God keep you all in the palm of His hand.

MICI BREGANT

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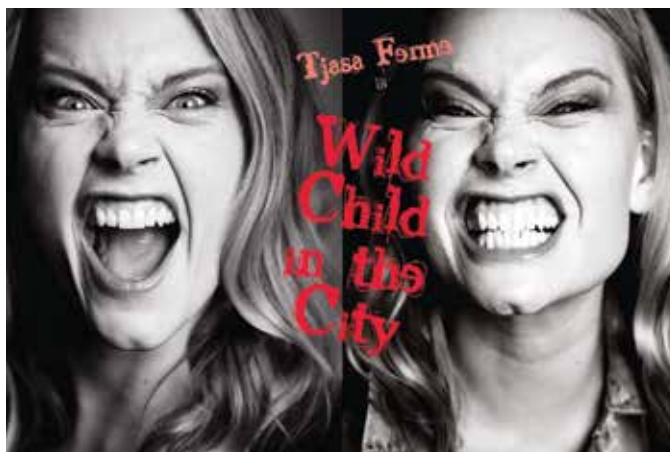
### **BRANCH 93 - New York, New York**

Contact Information: Kathleen Simmonds

917.780.9412/[kathleensimmo@gmail.com](mailto:kathleensimmo@gmail.com)

We are so proud of Tjasa Ferme. During quarantine, she re-defined entertainment at home by bringing her one-woman show “Wild Child In the City” online. The show is an award-winning absurdist comedy structured to invite interaction with the audience. Directed by acclaimed Romanian director Ana Margineanu, the piece combines Tjasa's European sensibility and Kafkaesque sense of irony with down-to-earth toughness of a New York single girl who's seen it all. It is a story so unbelievable, twisted, and smelly that it must be true. Tjasa, who is also the writer, has received three international awards and has performed her show in New York and Russia.

Another member of our Slovenian community, Kathleen Simmonds, produced and stars in a new web-series called “Woe is She.” Over the last year, this show has received numerous awards and official selections in over 25 festi-



*Tjasa Ferme in “Wild Child in the City”*

vals worldwide. She has also secured a 1-year distribution deal on a ROKU channel. All 7 episodes of season 1 are available at [www.vimeo.com/channels/woeisshe](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/woeisshe).

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of our oldest Branch 93 member. Mary Palcic (born September 7, 1925) passed away on November 29, 2019, at the age of 94. Mary, who lived in Ridgewood, New York, was a big fan of *Zarja* and read every issue cover to cover. She will be sorely missed, and we send our love and condolences to her family and friends.

We are excited to announce that our Slovenian language classes will resume again in the Fall. If you are interested in participating, please contact Stephanie Owens at [nycslovenianunion@gmail.com](mailto:nycslovenianunion@gmail.com) for information or to sign up!

KATHLEEN SIMMONDS

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### **BRANCH 108 - National Capital Area**

Contact Information: Bernadette Fitzsimmons

[bettekfitz@verizon.net](mailto:bettekfitz@verizon.net)

On February 23, 2020, Branch 103 and 108 members met for a luncheon meeting to formally discuss the merging of the two branches. Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons and Mary Lou Terselic, Presidents, and Lynn Koiner and Ana Sonc Jevtic, Vice Presidents of both branches were present. In addition, Rich Terselic, Treasurer, and member Ana Skopce of Branch 103 were present in support of the merger. Other Branch 108 members in attendance, Nika Kovacic, Estelle Zorman, Margy Whitmore, May Kokal, and Jonna Sanders enthusiastically contributed their positive feedback to support the merger. Officers for this year will remain; Bernadette, President and Lynn, Vice President and elections will take place at the end of the year to fill other positions.

We voted to keep Branch 108, and to change the location to National Capital Area. The newly established 108 will strive to encompass a wider geographic range of membership in the DC, MD, and VA areas. The transiency of the area has diversified the membership, with members primarily from the state of MD, followed by VA, PA, DC, and

FL. Branch 108 members are also from OH, TN, NC, NJ, TN, and TX. Having members from so many geographic regions presents its challenges, so we will work together stronger, as one chapter now with over 70 members from 10 states, and the District of Columbia.

Somehow, we were so wrapped up in conversation and the Slovenian National Anthem, “Zdravljica,” to commemorate France Prešeren for Cultural Day in the month of February that we regretfully forgot to take a photo at this monumental occasion. We also thank Lynn Koiner for sharing about her trip to Slovenia in November, 2019, offering tips and anecdotes of her interesting travel excursions through the countryside.

We are glad to have met for our meeting just three weeks before the COVID-19 situation changed our lives with statewide stay at home restrictions. There is no doubt that life has changed, but many of us still celebrated Easter Sunday Mass and Slovenian Easter traditions by baking potica and dying eggs, just as our ancestors passed down the customs through the ages.



We hope our fellow SUA members in all the other branches across the US have stayed safe and well during this unprecedented public health crisis. May the Mercy of Our Lord protect us and our loved ones, today and always.



*Understanding Slovenian Sayings by Bernadette:  
Resnica ni veselica.  
Reality isn't a festivity.  
Veselo srce je pol zdravja.*

*A happy heart is half of taking care of one's health.*

**BERNADETTE FITZSIMMONS**

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**BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota**

Contact Information: Elaine Barthelemy  
[elaineab@yahoo.com](mailto:elaineab@yahoo.com)

Writing about our Twin Cities Slovenians branch 109 is usually a matter of choosing what to highlight from many great options. Not this time! Our January membership meeting was cancelled due to a winter storm. We weren't able to cheer on Slovenian Nordic skier Anamarija Lampic as she competed in Minneapolis in the first World Cup event held on American snow in twenty years. Our April and May member meetings and our special May event featuring polka music by *Bill Koncar and the Boys* were not meant to be. Then, for the first time in its eighty-eight-year history the *Festival of Nations* in St. Paul, an event in which our branch has shined for years, was cancelled. “Sheltering in place” and “social distancing” are the buzzwords and

important safety measures that have distinguished the spring of 2020.

Thank goodness we had been able to hold two events earlier. Each year beginning in 1945, Slovenians have celebrated Prešeren Day on February 8<sup>th</sup>, honoring national poet France Prešeren with a public holiday. It was fitting that, on that day, we gathered in St. Paul at the Julian H. Sleeper House, the home of a comprehensive exhibition on the history and culture of Slovenia.

After host Seth Hawkins welcomed us, Mike Koski, Cindy Gauthier, and John Zakelj shared about the many trips they each had taken to Slovenia, during which they found ancestral homes, visited relatives, and, in Cindy's case, got an authentic traditional Slovenian outfit. Both Mike and John also wear their traditional garb to many of our events.

Our February member meeting began with Miro Medved describing his many responsibilities as Honorary Consul of Slovenia. The extent of his work in this position is impressive, and we are grateful that Miro and his wife Karen play a key role in our organization, sharing their musical talents and opening their home to us every year for our Martinovanje celebration and other events.

Our main speaker, Sue Rademacher, shared her wonderful PowerPoint presentation to teach us about the history of St. Stephen, Minnesota, the earliest Slovenian settlement in the United States. We learned about Father Francis Pierz, an early missionary from Slovenia who worked with the Ojibwe tribe for years in Central Minnesota and recruited many Slovenians to settle in the area. In addition, German migrants crowded one thousand to a ship and traveled for six to eight weeks across the Atlantic and then on to the St. Stephen area. Settlers built log cabins, cleared land, and built their first church, St. Stephen of the Woods. What had been called Brockway Township was renamed St. Stephen after the church. In 2021 a celebration will be held honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> year of St. Stephen's Church.



***Sue Rademacher shares her presentation on the history of St. Stephen, Minnesota.***

Our Slovenian fall language classes had a record participation of over thirty people led by visiting professor Dr. Ksenija Renner Sitar. After she returned to Slovenia, our connections with her through Skype turned out to be a great

preparation for the current stay-at-home scenario. Monthly Saturday classes and Tuesday evening classes continue via videoconferencing. On March 26, in a videoconference with thirteen participants, we heard about the current situa-



***Slovenian language instructors, Dr. Ksenija Renner Sitar and John Zakelj.***

tion in Slovenia - they have plenty of toilet paper. We also learned the current Slovenian closing greeting, *Ostanimo zdravi*, which translates to, "Let's stay healthy!"

In closing, *Hvala* to our wonderful Slovenian language instructor, Frank Medved, who has worked with us in person for many years, to our online lesson facilitator, John Zakelj, who faithfully shares lessons and notes, and to John Perhay, our technical guru, who constantly updates and improves our Twin Cities Slovenians website. And to all who are reading this, *Ostanimo zdravi!*

ELAINE BARTHELEMY



***Frank Medved, longtime Slovenian language teacher.***

# Word Search Puzzle

K A R S T P S R A I S P R E S E R E N  
 R O B Z L I L B E E A O I Z A R J W A  
 A B L N V C O Z S A N G B R I O A T R  
 N S E I A B V A C C A A Z P A D P U O  
 J D D M N K E R I I J G O F E N M I D  
 S N E B O E N R T P L A T H C A V Z N  
 K A J R G A I N A I B U T A R A Z S A  
 E L N N A A A N I L U A P I I L O Z N  
 K S A I R K N E R O J L B T I C I R O  
 L I V K D N U G D R L O A N A E P A S  
 O R O A E Z N E A P R C K V I P D V A  
 B P N I L B I Z I O N R A E A A P O N  
 A E I R R T O S E A O L C V I C E K L  
 S I T P I N N H L F L A O E G I J S I  
 E R R O K R O F I E U I D V O T U E T  
 R A A R O U F U Y N K S C K I O L L S  
 T M M T A K A F P E J E T S U P I E O  
 U S V E T I M I K L A V Z E G P A N G  
 I A N M E L E S O T S E M O V O N N K  
 O V A L G I R T T N U O M I L K A I C  
 P A V S E N I K B R O T H E R S L R R  
 Z I S A R I C S Z A L O U S R Z P O I  
 S E K E J N A V O R T S E V L I S C A

*See how many of the following words you can find.*

*Words can be discovered horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards.*

ADRIATIC SEA	KOLINE	PIVO
AVBA	KRANJSKE KLOBASE	POGAGA
AVSENIK BROTHERS	KROFI	POTICA
BLED	LAKE BOHINJ	PRESEREN
BRNIK AIRPORT	LIPICA	PUST
BUTARA	LJUBLJANA	SAVA
CORINNE LESKOVAR	MARIBOR	SILVESTROVANJE
CVICEK	MARIE PRISLAND	SLOVENIAN UNION OF AMERICA
DRAGON	MARTINOVANJE	SOCA VALLEY
FLANCATI	MOUNT TRIGLAV	SVETI MIKLAVZ
GOSTILNA	NARODNA NOSA	ZARJA THE DAWN
JULIAN ALPS	NOVO MESTO	ZEGEN
KARST	PIRAN	ZLINKROFI

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# Logic Puzzle

Four women traveled from the village of Šmarjeta for a weekend trip. While there, they each visited the local market and brought home a special treat. Which city did they travel to, in which month, and what was the special treat they picked up from the market?

The woman who traveled to Ljubljana is neither the woman who traveled in April or purchased the sea salt.

Mojca purchased the carnations.

Špela went to the seaside in April.

Pepca traveled sometime after the woman that traveled to the capital of Slovenia.

Mojca traveled one month after the woman who purchased potica.

The potica was not purchased in April.

The woman who purchased the potica traveled one month before the woman who traveled to the city with a church on an island.

The woman who purchased the sea salt is either Pepca or the woman who traveled to Piran.

		City Visited				Souvenir				Month			
		Bled	Ljubljana	Piran	Novo Mesto	Sea Salt	Honey	Potica	Carnations	April	May	June	July
Names	Marija												
	Mojca												
	Pepca												
	Špela												
Month	April												
	May												
	June												
	July												
Souvenir	Sea Salt												
	Honey												
	Potica												
	Carnations												

Answer:  
 Marija - Ljubljana - Potica - May  
 Mojca - Bled - Carnations - June  
 Špela - Piran - Honey - April  
 Pepca - Novo Mesto - Sea Salt - July

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# Plan a Picnic

NON-PROFIT  
PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
LASALLE, IL

We all need a little fresh air and sunshine during these trying times to remain sane. All over the country, parks, forests, hiking trails, and beaches are closed. Summer weather is often perfect for outdoor adventures, and while travelling is highly discouraged, why not try a Slovenian-style picnic on your outdoor porch or in your backyard? This means you can maintain the social distancing the CDC is recommending while still having fun.

Most Slovenian picnics would last the entire day and built many family memories. They were full of good food, drinks, music, games, and plenty of laughs. We are sure plenty family favorite recipes come to mind that would be great for a picnic, but if your mind goes blank, look to the many pages in the *Slovenian-American Table* cookbook that SUA produced to get your creative juices flowing.

Also, all the hassles of taking your picnic on the road do not exist. You do not have to worry about keeping food hot or cold, packing a cooler, running out of something, etc. So, set aside the whole day for your family picnic and create new memories. Set up a table with a pretty tablecloth, pick some flowers, play fun music, have plenty of games available, and turn off electronic devices.

Hopefully you have a great garden with many fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to use for your picnic. Of course, do not forget the pivo, vino, and slivovitz. Živijo!

The Zarja Staff



We hope you enjoy the puzzles with a Slovenian theme in this issue. We would love to hear from you on what you have done during this time to “Keep the Slovenian Spirit Alive”. Whether it is cooking, planting, musical, artistic, writing, etc. please e-mail us at [wprokup@aol.com](mailto:wprokup@aol.com) and tell us all about it.