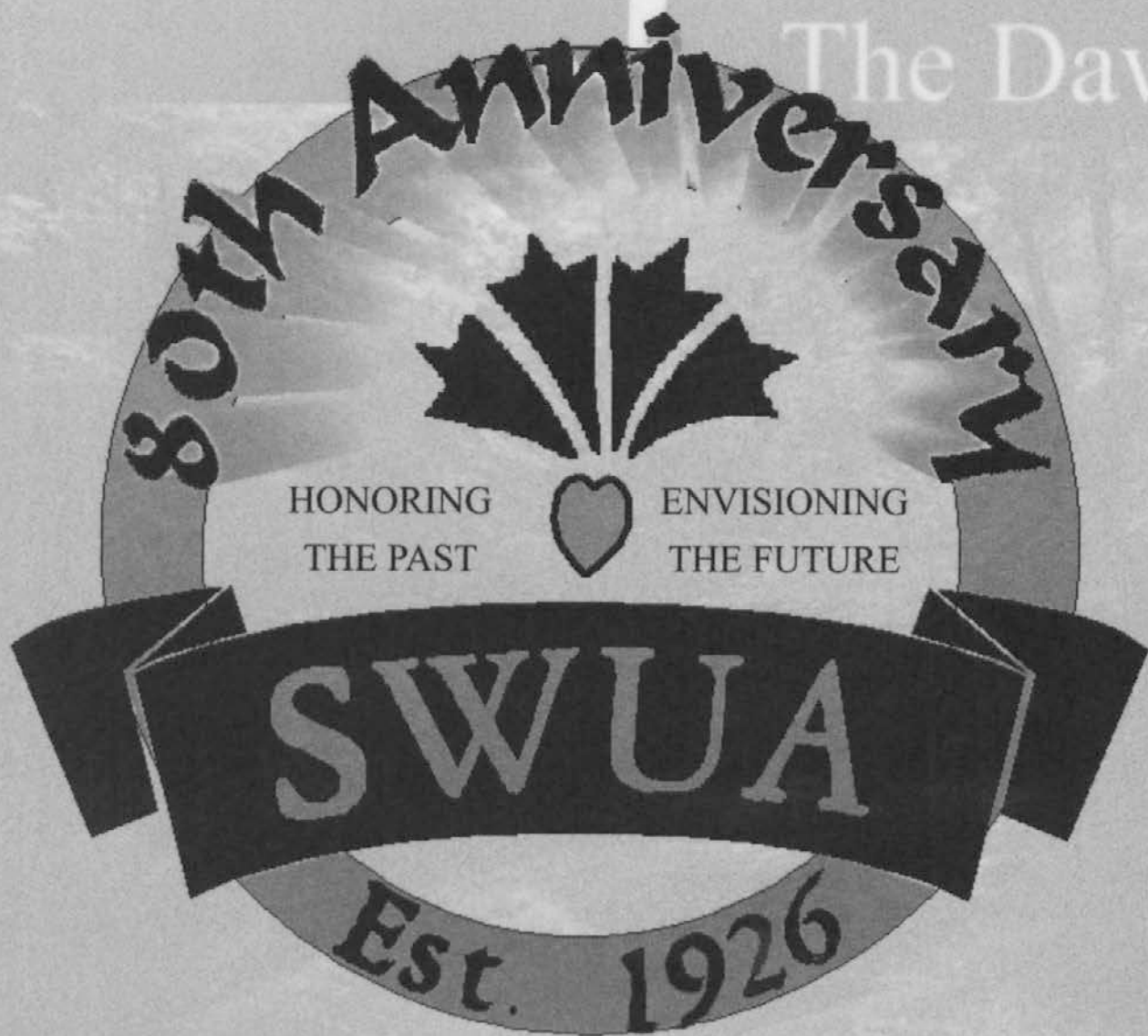


Zarja

Volume 79 Issue 3
July-August 2007

The Dawn



Special Issue



\$ 3.99 U.S./\$ 4.99 International

Zarja

Volume 79 Issue 3
July/August, 2007

Official Publication Slovenian Women's Union of America
Uradno Glasilo Slovenske Ženske Zveze V Ameriki

The Dawn



**SWUA 25th National Convention
and 80th Anniversary Gala**

Special Issue

You Are Our Treasured Members!

It's time to stop a moment and think of this auspicious 80th Anniversary from the standpoint of our membership. Any historical reference to the events in these past years must include the widespread participation of many, many wonderful members.

Who are they? They are those who joined in the beginning years, those who picked up the challenge and formulated programs and activities that moved us along through many decades, the daughters of the first generation of immigrant members who followed their mothers' example, and, finally, they are the recently enrolled members who see in this organization the place where they can fulfill their desires to preserve our beloved Slovenian traditions and culture..

Since I am a member of many years standing I most easily identify with the older members and at this time I wish to express my gratitude and admiration to them. Where would we be without you? Your loyalty and generosity has brought the Slovenian Women's Union of America to this point. You have supported the work of the leaders as they came along from convention to convention, and you have given confidence in the elected officers of this organization that they would always work for the best

interest of SWUA. Because of you, and your sustained faith in us, there is an 80th Anniversary to celebrate. And, there is all reason to believe that this will continue in the future.

You are still the mainstay and backbone of this organization and I salute you and thank you for seeing the beauty and meaning of our sisterhood. Because of you we can take the Legacy farther! - *Corinne Leskovar*



Painted by SWUA member
Marie Čačič Robinson

Photo, Front Page: One of the Starved Rock canyons taken by Kathy Spitzmiller Casstevens - Starved Rock Lodge

Zarja - The Dawn

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Communications for the next issue of publication:

Do you have something SWUA-related you would like to share with readers, like an event you want to let people know about or an idea for an article? We would love to hear from you! Please e-mail the editor at pohar4@aol.com. We reserve the right to edit any article submitted. It is preferable that you submit your idea for discussion prior to writing an article. Articles must be related to SWUA events or members. The deadline for articles is the first day of the month preceding the issue. For example, articles for the September/October issue must be received by August 1st. Thank you.

How Can SWUA Ever Thank You?

Successful events do not happen over night. It takes a group of dedicated people working as a team for many months and in this case, years, for the outcome to be spectacular. SWUA would like to thank the following individuals and groups for all they did to make the 25th National Convention and 80th Anniversary Gala so very special and memorable.

National Convention Co-Chairs Bonnie Prokup and Nancy Henkel went above and beyond in their planning of every detail. Great Job, Ladies!

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Debbie Pohar | Mary Ann Brunner | Mary Mecum |
| Jean Fieck | Mary Lou Voelk | Cathy Lenkaitis |
| Alice Ebner | Donny Baldin | George Plautz |
| Mitzie Banich | Loren Schieffer | Bev Menart |
| Denise Henkel Duffin | Bob Fieck | Denise P Bartlett |
| Tammy Ebner Landgraf | Gene Brunner | Jonita Ruth |
| Terry Ebner Kamnikar | Christine Pohar | Betty Ann Kolesari |
| Jim Ebner | Beth Allen | Mary Turvey |
| Barb Pohar | Linda Ford | Jan King |
| Bekki Prokup | Willa Dellinger | Lynn Zalokar |
| Loretta Story | Corinne Leskovar | |

Branch 99 for the Potica Contest
Josephine Lustik and Branch 20 for the Silent Auction
Genevieve Buol and Branch 2 for Registration
Slovenian World Congress
Forget-Me-Not tour of Slovenian Writers
Kompas Travel Agency - Slovenia
Kollander Travel Agency - Ohio

And a special thanks to all the ladies who baked potica and apple strudel for the four day celebration! And to all those local ladies who have helped in any way from local branches 24 and 89. There are too many to mention but you know who you are and how much you are appreciated!

National President's Welcome

Happy 80th Anniversary and welcome to the 25th National Convention



*Kathleen Ferrante
National President*

In 1926, Marie Prisland and our other founding sisters had a mission of uniting Slovenian immigrant women throughout the United States. And now, 80 years later, we continue their dream as we still unite men and women of Slovenian descent and interests. If Mrs. Prisland would be with us today, I would hope that she would be very proud and amazed at the success of our life long efforts.

It is my fondest hope that all of our members, from the oldest to the youngest will continue to maintain their membership and to always remember their heritage with pride and continue to perpetuate their Slovenian traditions for many generations to come.

Congratulations to everyone as we celebrate 80 successful years! May you enjoy this wonderful time of celebration filled with authentic Slovenian culture and traditions. Love and Blessings. - *Kathleen Ferrante, National President*

Welcome from the Convention Committee

We wish to welcome everyone to the 25th National Convention and the 80th Anniversary of the Slovenian Women's Union of America. It is fitting that such a "rite of passage" for the Slovenian Women's Union of America be set in the Illinois Valley. This is the area where so many Slovenian immigrants settled, labored and died. Today, many third and fourth generations of those immigrants continue to live here.

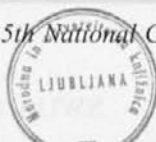
Conventions are a fabulous time to share the gifts of friendship with those who have traveled from Slovenia and with acquaintances we have not seen in years. And while it is impossible for all members to be in attendance at this ANNIVERSARY GALA, our beloved *Zarja*, in upcoming issues, will be bringing the exuberance, the tone and the joy of this convention to all members. For those not attending, you will be able to celebrate in the comfort of your own home as you turn the pages of *Zarja*. For those that attended, it will be a way to relive the wonderful times. And to future generations, this same *Zarja*, will be living testimonial of the Slovenian Women's Union of America and their commitment to the Slovenian legacy.

To our members throughout the land, and to our guests, it has been our pleasure to be Co Chairpersons of this Convention and Anniversary Gala. Hvala lepa, prijatelji! Have a safe trip home.

*Nancy Supan Henkel, Branch 89, Oglesby, Illinois and
Bonnie Pohar Prokup, Branch 24, La Salle, Illinois*



Site of 25th National Convention and 80th Anniversary Gala





THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 5, 2006

I send greetings to the members of the Slovenian Women's Union of America as you celebrate your 80th anniversary.

For centuries, people from around the world have come to our Nation seeking liberty and the opportunity to achieve their dreams. America is more hopeful and vibrant because of the contributions of people from many different backgrounds. With talent, vision, and determination, Slovenian Americans have set a positive example for others and add to the success and prosperity of our country.

I commend the members of the Slovenian Women's Union of America and all those who live and work by the principles of excellence, integrity, teamwork, and personal responsibility. Your dedicated efforts help strengthen your community and contribute to the success of our Nation.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion.

United States Senate Certificate of Recognition

Presented To The

SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

Celebrating Their


80TH ANNIVERSARY

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to the Slovenian Women's Union of America as they celebrate their 80TH Anniversary. Over the years they have preserved the mission set forth by their founders, promoting their rich Slovenian culture to each new generation, and extending friendship and assistance to all of their new members.

The Slovenian Women's Union of America connects Slovenian-Americans throughout the world by offering scholarship opportunities for high school seniors and adults who are considering returning to school; heritage activities and events; publication of their Bi-monthly magazine "Zarja, The Dawn"; genealogical searches; visits to the SWUA Heritage Museum in Joliet, Illinois; and helpful web links and on-line newsletter. Associates can also enjoy the friendship of others member, and their shared affection for all things Slovenian!

Again, congratulations to the Slovenian Women's Union of America on 80 years of excellence. Best wishes for many more years of success!

Sincerely,


George V. Voinovich
United States Senator





EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Washington, 3 December 2006

Dear members of the Slovenian Women's Union of America

It is with great honor and pride that I congratulate you on the upcoming celebration of the 80th Anniversary of your organization.

I want to thank the National President Ms. Kathleen J. Ferrente, the members of the National Board and all the members of numerous Branches across the country for work and dedication to preserve the links with Slovenia as a country and nation that you or your ancestors came from.

It was back in 1926 that your first President Marie Prisland declared a need for an organization which would foster ambitions of women of Slovenian birth and serve to them as an open forum. Ever since and for all these eighty years, the SWUA has been preserving the legacy of Slovenian traditions, heritage, culture and social life.

Slovenian Women's Union of America together with other Slovenian organizations in the United States is most meritorious that there still is Slovenianess very much alive in this country. American Slovenians and their organizations remain an important link between the United States and Slovenia. You are our friends in the United States, whom we can always turn to in need and whom we can always count and rely on. We appreciate and thank you for that.

Dear fellow Slovenians, members of the SWUA, on your solemn occasion and celebration I want to encourage you to continue the great work that you have been doing. I want to encourage the young members to continue the great work of their parents. To continue the vision of the organization "to promote and nourish the legacy left to us for future generations" as stated in the organization's documents. The Embassy of Slovenia in Washington and me as the Ambassador stand ready to help in your efforts.

Čestitke ob jubileju in uspešnemu delu ter z najboljšimi željami za prihodnost,

Vaš

Samuel Žbogar
AMBASSADOR/VELEPOS LANIK

Historical Review of SWUA



What do you think of when you hear “*The 1920’s*”? That they were **Roaring**? And, there were **Flappers**? And, women got the **Right to Vote**? And, **Women’s Liberation**? Probably all this and more comes to mind.

In the 1920’s, society began to notice women as equals to men as now they had the right to vote. They began to wear make-up and threw away their corsets. They were getting jobs outside the home. Their lives began to change and they could now afford to buy modern conveniences. In many families father and mother both held jobs.

Put your grandmother here in this picture; she was probably one of the young Slovenian immigrant women who had just set foot on the shores of this new homeland and was bravely heading for one of the big cities of America. She stepped out from living a simple farm life and fell right smack into a new world where she had to face the unknown, with many new challenges, trying to make some sense of this new world.

And, into this atmosphere came Marie Prisland, filled with inspiration and energy to make something of her life. She would reach out to whoever would listen and encourage

them first, to help themselves by becoming good American citizens, and secondly, to be organized and help each other for the good of all women. Gathering women who would agree with the same goals was her first task and she found the way, she would begin by writing articles in newspapers. Then, she began corresponding with other women who



Marie Prisland, 1926

responded to these articles, inviting them to be a part of the grand idea to organize. Until then there was nothing like it for Slovenian women. Something new was interesting to many. It was all the encouragement she needed.

We have been looking back to see the picture as history told it. Now let’s begin to tell the actual story and learn how these Slovenian-speaking

women moved forward and began their own organization, calling it, Slovenska Ženska Zveza v Ameriki - and in English, the Slovenian Ladies’ Union of America. (It became the Slovenian Women’s Union of America later.)

The odyssey began in 1926 with a tremendous letter-writing effort by Marie Prisland to get enough potential members interested in gathering and organizing. The first meetings were recorded simultaneously that year in Chicago and Sheboygan on December 19th, 1926. Incorporation came later, in the State of Illinois on November 27, 1927.

I would note here that the original purpose stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the SWUA is a declaration of belief in and commitment to Christian principles and the United States concepts of freedom and democracy. It is a combination of spiritual values and patriotism.

Another historic date for “Zveza” is July, 1929 when the official publication, *Zarja-The Dawn* was introduced. There were 35 branches by then and 3,081 members; they needed a connection between all these members.

Five years later, the membership totaled over 5,000 and only ten years later it was already a different organization, booming with activities in all Slovenian communities, the cities and the towns. Branches were organized from coast to coast. The membership reached over 8,000.



2nd National Convention - 1930, Sheboygan, Wisconsin



3rd National Convention - 1933, Cleveland, Ohio

We have had only nine Presidents in our SWUA history, all strong and dedicated leaders and committed to the organization. They were the Founder and President Marie Prislant (1926-1946), Albina Novak (1946-1952), Josephine Livek (1952-1961), Antonia Turek (1961-1973), Mary Bostian (1973-1979), Mary Muller (1979-1987), Victoria Bobence (1987-1995), Jean Korsman (1995-1999) and Kathleen Ferrante (1999-).

The Officers communicated well through *Zarja* and personal contacts with the branches. Members who were young in the 30's and 40's remember that as children they were often called upon to perform at branch programs.

The Second World War impacted on all these activities of the membership. The military aspect of life was prevalent, drill teams participation as one of the main activities of that decade, with parades and war bond promotions. Young women began working in factories and families were separated when the boys left their childhood communities for good – and with time, this affected the tight Slovenian community/church cohesion that had been such a major part of life for them. Much later in our history, in line with juvenile department promotions, there have been folkdancing groups singing groups and junior baton twirlers and marching units.

At the 20th anniversary convention in 1947, held in Pittsburgh, Mrs. Prislant stepped down as President but was named Honorary President for life. At this time, a Benefit Fund was instituted to help war-torn Slovenia, and simultaneously, a Scholarship Fund (1949) to help our young members attain college. They were subsidized mainly by donations from members and since its inception Scholarships have been awarded to 250 students and have totaled \$ 170,000.00.

With frequent promotions and numerous campaigns to enroll new members the numbers were increased over the years. The most diligent worker of each campaign was honored with the title Convention Queen and pictured in

Zarja. Back in the 1950's there was a decade of member numbers reaching 11,000.

We are an organization of "publications". Besides the ever-popular *Zarja* that began in 1929, SWUA has published two song books, one with musical notes hand written by Slovenian-American composer, Ivan Zorman. There have been three major cookbooks, the first was called "Woman's Glory – The Kitchen" by Albina Novak in 1951 (sold at \$2.00 per copy), reprinted six times and revised in 1974; *Pots & Pans*, by Hermine Dicke in 1981 with 3 revisions and the latest, "More Pots & Pans" in 1998, compiled and edited by the National Officers.

There have been four Home Office locations. The first was the home of the first National Secretary Julia Gottlieb (1926-33), then the home of Secretary Josephine Racic (1933-39) both in Chicago, then to the Joliet home of Josephine Erjavec (1939-52). The office moved to Cermak Road in Chicago when SWUA bought its own building and Secretaries were Albina Novak (1952-70) and Fanika Humar (1970-76). A change was made with the sale of the Chicago location and purchase of the present Home Office on Chicago Street when Olga Ancel was elected secretary (1976-95) and through the tenures of Evelyn Majercik (1995-99) and Bonnie Prokup (1999-).



11th National Convention - 1958, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Zarja has had several changes, too. It has remained in the same magazine format since the first issue July, 1929 but the frequency has changed. In the 50's costs were prohibitive to have it printed monthly, so it was changed to 8 issues per year. Then, in the 70's we went to 6 per year on alternating months. In 1956 the English section was repositioned ahead of the Slovenian text to benefit the newly enrolled English-speaking membership.

There have been only four editors until now. The first two were editors at the same time as National Secretaries, Julia Gottlieb and Josephine Racic. The third was Albina Novak,

(1933-1951) and the fourth, Corinne Leskovar (1952-2006). Since 2006 we have an editorial team consisting of Debbie Pohar, Editor, Bonnie Prokup, Design Editor and Corinne Leskovar, Consulting Editor.

Some memorable promotions have been made as a result of Conventions. In 1967 Convention delegates agreed that SWUA spearhead a national fund drive to build the Slovenian Chapel in Washington D.C. – President Antonia



16th National Convention - 1973, Chicago, Illinois

Tanko was named secretary of the national committee. In 1984, the members supported a really exceptional memorial, as a tribute to the Slovenian Miners and Laborers of Minnesota. This was headed by Fr. David Stalzer and the sculptor/artist was our member, Lillian Brulc. Fr. Stalzer also headed the collection for a tribute to the Slovenians for the Lady at Ellis Island.

Our history and Slovenian heritage have come together many times, especially after 1975 when the organization named its first Heritage Director, Irene Odorizzi. She began the "Immigrant" column in *Zarja* that was popular for twenty years; under her direction, a Slovenian Heritage Festival was held in 1977 in Joliet (to be followed four more times in Illinois, Ohio and Minnesota) and the SWUA Heritage Museum in Joliet was dedicated in 1982. The slide show entitled "Zlati Časi" (Golden Times), a book called "Footsteps Through Time", a subsequent feature in *Zarja* profiling all the Branches followed. In the years since 2000, Special Projects Director, Mary Lou Voelk has continued nurturing the Heritage activity at the Museum, through her video "Come Look In My Eyes" and a flow of heritage promotions taking us right up to our 80th anniversary in 2007.

The organization has sponsored many tours to Slovenia, beginning in 1938 when the ladies went to Europe by steamship! Many years later they traveled in groups by plane which entailed many layovers and delays. After WWII members sent packages and took items to Slovenia to help the post war effort. Finally, with modern flight schedules and lovely group travel available with capable leaders, there have been numerous SWUA European tours, one planned for September 2007, in fact.

Among the most interesting later projects has been the study of Genealogy, and we have come to make great strides in this study. The scanning of old membership records with

the idea of aiding families who are searching their "family trees" is a new activity at the Museum, under the direction of Mary Lou Voelk.

Just ten years ago we began putting our SWUA into the computer world with the Home Office and various other offices "going electronic". For the past 8 years members have been receiving assessment notices by direct billing and many records are kept by electronic means. In the future, the latest system of preservation of records and other information will be all done electronically. The New Neighborhood Online Newsletter initiated in 1999 by Lynn Zalokar and now continued by Jan King,

has become an intrinsic part of our communications service as is the website in existence since 2000. With experts such as Linda Ford who was our first Webmaster, and subsequently, Jerry Sherek and Tony Rizzo, we have progressed in this valuable communication aid. Through their help as diligent volunteers Slovenian Women's Union of America has become accessible all over the globe.



21st National Convention - 1991, Bedford, Ohio

Hopes for the future are in the fulfilled dreams of so many members whose involvement in SWUA is always increasing. There is so much to do. A strong indication that we will be successful is the continuing interest to establish new branches and enroll new members. If we want to preserve our Slovenian heritage and follow the SWUA Mission, these are the signs we love to see:

Branch 93, New York, NY (Brooklyn, NY)
re-organized in 2000 by Lynn Zalokar

Branch 99, Lemont, Illinois (Elmhurst, IL)
re-organized in 2003 by Corinne Leskovar

New Branch 108 organized in Olney, Maryland
organized in 2004 by Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons

New Branch 108, Twin Cities, Minnesota
organized in 2005, by Mary Vidas.

Welcome to our 80th Anniversary! - Corinne Leskovar

History of Slovenia

A Chronological Timeline of Significant Events in the History of Slovenia

In celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Slovenian Women's Union of America, a chronological timeline of significant events in the history of Slovenia is being documented for your reading. This time line excludes famous Slovenian inventors, authors, artists, musicians, scientists and important movements and social history. A thematic timeline for literature, science and music genres is forthcoming.

Also in the thought process is the construction of a timeline featuring the Slovenian organizations in America. Slovenians were gifted in organizing cultural, and heritage clubs, lodges and fraternal unions. Identifying and preserving the history of these organizations speaks directly to the vision, mission and purpose of the SWUA.

Volunteers on this project were wife and husband team, Georgene Agnich, researcher and Jim Schaible, formatter of events. A gracious thank you goes out to Georgene and Jim for the months of research and the diligent formatting process and to John Vidmar for editing the 131 entries.

The Slovenian Heritage Museum is now contemplating the how and when of installing the timeline in the museum. Look for this announcement in the near future. - *Mary Lou Voelk, Director of Special Projects*

Mary Zaller - 80 Year Member

"Not a fancy lady, but a remarkable woman..." son, Jim Dobay

Mary Pižmoht Dobay Zaller

DOB: January 28, 1910

DOD: April 28, 2007

Mary Zaller passed away on April 28, 2007 at the age of 97 years. On the day of her death, a letter arrived from the Slovenian Women's Union of America informing of her notoriety. The SWUA was celebrating its 80th Anniversary; 80 years prior, Mary had become a member of the SWUA.

"Every year, for 80 years, Mary paid her dues. The SWUA was synonymous with her Slovenian heritage, the legacy bequeathed by her grandparents and her parents..." son, Jim Dobay

The life of Mary Zaller will be featured in an upcoming *Zarja*, in the series *The Path Taken - Dopoljena pot*. - *Mary Lou Voelk*

SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

Research by:
Georgene Agnich

Format by:
James Schaible

500 BC

Adriatic Veneti, ancestors of the Slovenes, inhabit modern-day Italy and Slovenia

9 AD

Romans conquer Pannonia (most of modern Slovenia) and keep army legions in Poetovio (modern Ptuj)

40 AD

Romans incorporate Noricum, bringing all of modern Slovenia into the Roman Empire

452 AD

Attila and the Huns destroy most of the Roman city Emona (modern Ljubljana)

536 AD

Pannonia and Noricum fall to the Ostrogoths

550 AD

First wave of Alpine Slavs settles in modern Slovenia, fleeing Avar threat

585 AD

Second wave of Alpine Slavs, fleeing the Avars, settles in Julian Alps and Karavanke Mountains, the "region of the Slavs"

596 AD

Slovenes get vengeance against Bavarian Duke Tassilo for ravaging their lands

612 AD

Slovenes defeat Tassilo's son, Garibaldi II, at Avunt

623 AD

Samo, a Frank, leads the Slavs to victory over the Avars and forms his Tribal Union, uniting the Western and Southern Slavic tribes

627 AD

Slovenes proclaim Samo king

631 AD

Samo's army defeats Frankish King Dagobert I's army in the Battle of Wogatisburg

Longest National Officer

"I just love SWUA and always have!"

We can say that Gladys Buck is truly one of our very special members. She has been the secretary of Branch 16, South Chicago since 1941, that is 66 years, making her the Branch officer with the longest duration in our whole organization.

If you ask her about this, Gladys immediately tells the story of how her mother, Anna Buck, the treasurer of Branch 16 at the time, got her interested in joining just at the time when drill teams were popular, and many young women were interested in military-style marching. In SWUA, it was so popular that drill teams were organized among all branches beginning in 1938 and continuing into the 1950's.



Gladys enjoys wearing her Slovenian costume



*Gladys Buck
Captain of the So. Chicago Cadets*

Not even a year after joining, Gladys was elected secretary of Branch 16 and two years later, became the Captain of their newly formed drill team, the South Chicago Cadets; they were so active in local events that soon they were considered the glamour girls of South Chicago! The convention in Pittsburgh (1943) was one of the highlights for the team as then they were already wearing their brand new blue uniforms that they bought for a hard-earned \$700.

Gladys thanks her mother over and over again, because through SWUA she got the chance to meet so many wonderful people and make many lifelong friends. Another long-time activity enjoyed by this group of young women was bowling - with the Midwest SWU Bowling League.

In the 1960's, Gladys became a regular fashion columnist for *Zarja*. It was natural for her to enjoy fashion because at her home it was of primary interest to her mother, an excellent seamstress who kept up with the latest styles. Gladys says as a girl she never wore a store-bought dress and was considered the best dressed in her school.

In these later years, Gladys and members, including Vida Kumse and Rosemary Petrich, wear their Slovenian native costumes whenever they can, and just this past month were again a part of the annual Branch 16 celebration of Marija Pomagaj's feastday, one of her favorite activities that brings out many members.

She says she has saved all *Zarjas* since 1941, the year she joined, and is looking forward to her retirement years when she plans to read every single issue all over again! It will remind her of how much SWUA has meant in her life and of the many pleasant memories she has had with her favorite organization.

- Corinne Leskovar

SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

658 AD

The death of Samo and decline of the Tribal Union give rise to the Duchy of Karantania under the leadership of Knez (Prince) Valuk

670 AD

Earliest record of the Duchy of Karantania, the first Slovene state and the modern symbol of Slovenian nationality

745 AD

Karantania enters Charlemagne's empire as a free nation with its own law and right to inaugurate its knez (prince) in a Slovenian language ritual on the Duke's Stone at Krn Castle

746 AD

Two Karantanian princes are baptized as Christians

748 AD

Borut is enthroned as first Slovene prince of Karantania

767 AD

St. Modestus, first bishop of the Slovenes, consecrates the first Christian church at Maria Saal (Gospa Sveta)

784 AD

Death of Bishop Virgilius of Salzburg (born 745), the Christian Apostle to the Karantanians

803 AD

Theodoric is appointed Bishop of Karantania

840 AD

Prince Pribina creates the Balaton Principality, an independent Slovene state, in Lower Pannonia

843 AD

Treaty of Verdun divides Charlemagne's empire, giving Louis the German (804-876) control of Karantania.

876 AD

The Balaton Principality becomes part of the Frankish Empire after death of Prince Kocelj

887 AD

Arnulf of Carinthia (850-899) becomes the first Duke of Carinthia and King of the East Franks

The Path Taken...Dopoljena pot

Family Histories Offering Learning and Insight for Everyone!

"Everyone has a story to tell." It may seem like a cliché, but it is true. As descendants of immigrants from Slovenia during the building of America, our family experiences are even more profound. Our family experiences abound from two or more continents and from a time when new inventions in science, transportation and communication were entering the modern world!

Why revisit the past? Why record family stories? Simply stated, they offer prophetic insight into the future. Today, our Slovenian American family stories capture experiences so removed from today's world. They convert irrelevant times into relevance in a world that finds little relevance in what happened 100 years ago.

The family stories in *Zarja* are more than informational. They are about reality, life and people. *Zarja* brings you the printed word. How then to awaken the "dormancy of that printed word"? **THE SPOKEN WORD, READING ALOUD, ORAL READING!** Hearing the word heightens the experience and awakens the mind! Hearing the word allows the mind to travel from the comfort of irrelevance into the world of relevance. How to involve youth? Have you thought of reading these family stories aloud to your children, to your grandchildren? Have you thought of reading these stories aloud at your branch meetings? Have you thought of targeting a map of Slovenia with the villages and towns that are mentioned in the family stories?

Parents, grandparents and branches you have the teaching tool, *Zarja*. Make it a "home schooling" project. Branches, enliven your meeting times. You will hear things that you "never read". You will "see things you never saw".

The Path Taken by Johanna (Ivana) Lusina Artac

- Life was hard and then there was death
- They road a rail handcar, with daughters tied on so they wouldn't fall off
- On May 11, 1941 Johanna organized Willard Branch 102

The Path Taken by Pavla Matko Lukancic

- Janez Matko gave his blessings, knowing he would never see his daughter again
- found a home where the roof did not leak
- She would often say, "*Tako gre na svet...so it goes on earth*"

The Path Taken by Marija Petrich Machek

- In Europe the word was out, there were pathways of gold in America
- She remembers the family having one cow, but they never drank milk
- Her specialty was making *močnik*

Searching for more family stories? Immigrant Stories, by Irene Odorizzi are in the back issues of *Zarja*. These are wonderful stories of human struggle, love, and perseverance. Again, read them aloud at your branch meetings, to your grandchildren. Slovenian tenacity needs to be told!

Have your family stories published. Only you have the story! You do not have to write the article! With several phone calls and an exchange of your notes, and photos your story can be written. Email or call Mary Lou Voelk-251.968.4364 - ottolou@gulftel.com

SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

907 AD
Magyars enter Slovene territories

955 AD
German King Otto I (912-973) defeats the Magyars at the Battle of Lechfeld, halting their advance into Central Europe

976 AD
Karantania becomes the Duchy of Great Karantania after King Otto I's defeat of the Magyars

1000 AD
The Freising Manuscripts, religious texts that are the oldest texts in the Slovenian language, are compiled

1072 AD
Archbishop Gebhard of Salzburg founds the Diocese of Carinthia

1135 AD
Cistercian monks found the Sticna Monastery near Ivanca Gorica

1144 AD
Laibach (modern Ljubljana), a town built by the Dukes of Carniola, first appears in records

1220 AD
Laibach receives its town rights, such as right to coin its own money

1224 AD
A music school is founded in Maribor

1278 AD
Carniola falls under Habsburg rule

1335 AD
Austrian Duke Albrecht takes control of Carinthia, making it part of the Habsburg Empire, and Ljubljana becomes the capital of Carniola

1414 AD
Habsburg Duke Ernest the Iron is the last duke installed on the Duke's Stone in the ancient Karantanian ritual

1461 AD
Ljubljana Diocese is founded and the Church of St. Nicholas becomes its Cathedral

The Slovenian Heritage Museum

Why Visit the SWUA Heritage Museum?

- This is your museum! BE PROUD!
- Learn, grow and expand your knowledge of Slovenia's history
- Feel the presence of those Slovenians who paved the way
- Make the past relevant to younger generations

This is your museum, a tribute to those tenacious Slovenian people who down through the centuries survived the odds. Help us grow! Please....

Visit Your Museum! Support Your Museum! Volunteer at your Museum!

VISIT:

Each month, SINFO, the official English language magazine of Slovenia arrives. Read about politics today, crafts, recipes, culture. Enjoy reading this beautiful magazine. We have all the back issues! Bring your lunch!



*Envisioning the Future
Honoring the Past*

SUPPORT:

- Donations of materials
 - Historical archives, documents
 - Books, photographs, music
 - Branch archives
- Donation of Funds

VOLUNTEER:

Each Wednesday scanning of documents is a recurring event. Stop in and watch the action. Get involved! It is all about supporting your museum, making new friends, and expanding your knowledge. This museum needs **you, you and you** for an array of tasks.



Slovenian Women's Union of America (SWUA)
Heritage Museum/Library and National Headquarters
431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432
815.727.1926 swuhome@msn.com or www.swua.org

SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

1492 AD

The second-largest mercury mine in the world is discovered at Idrija and it will influence European science and technology for the next 500 years

1493 AD

Nearly 6000 peasants arm to defend Carinthia against the Turks, but they flee in fear and thousands are captured

1511 AD

An earthquake devastates Ljubljana

1515 AD

Slovene peasants revolt for a better administration of justice

1518 AD

The Slovene Peasant Revolt is resolved and Celovec becomes the capital of Carinthia

1551 AD

Lutheran Primoz Trubar (1508-1586), the "Father of Slovenian literature", publishes Katekizem, the first book printed in Slovenian, and Abecedarium, a primer, in Germany

1576 AD

French legal historian Jean Bodin writes about the ancient Karantanian ritual, conducted in Slovenian, in which the Slovene peasants grant permission to a duke to rule them. This unique ritual influences Thomas Jefferson's ideas on democracy 200 years later

1580 AD

Austrian Archduke Karl II founds the Lipica Stud farm (Kobilarna Lipica), where the famed Lippizaner Stallions are bred for the Spanish Riding School in Vienna

1584 AD

Protestant Jurij Dalmatin translates and publishes the Bible in Slovenian

1591 AD

Death of Jacobus Gallus Carniolus, great Slovenian composer of Church music, who introduced polytonality to Central European music

SWUA Scholarship Program

Mission Statement

To Generate Funding to Financially Assist Young Students, With Hope That They Will Promote and Preserve Slovenian Culture

Marie Prisland, Founder of the Slovenian Women's Union in 1926, proposed a SWUA Scholarship Program based on scholastic achievement and financial need at the 1943 SWUA National Convention. The proposal was approved and funding through membership donations resulted in the first SWUA Scholarships being awarded in 1949. Since that year, over 250 scholarships in value of approximately \$170,000 have been issued annually.

The SWUA Scholarship Program became a tax exempt Foundation in 1999 and since then has given tax relief to those who generously contribute to the SWUA Foundation. Scholarships are awarded through generous gifts of individuals. \$1,000 and \$2,000 SWUA Scholarships are named in honor of a donor or of his or her loved one.

Currently five officers as required by the Federal Government, are steering the SWUA Foundation:

Mary H. Turvey, President

Member of Branch 1 since birth, SWUA Scholarship Director since 1996, editor of the "Ask Tončka" genealogy column of *Zarja* for four years, and current compiler of SWUA family histories. She has written various columns for *Zarja* in the past as well as being an officer in the Marquette County Genealogy Society and researches Upper Michigan's ancient American culture, as a member of AAAPF.

M. Marjorie Church, Vice President and Treasurer

Member of Branch 42 since 1983, current President of Branch 42, Past National Vice President of the SWUA, Interim Director of the Scholarship Program, past SWUA National Auditor, organizer of the SWUA Calendar fund raiser project, provider of the first computer and set up system in the SWUA Home Office, advertiser of SWUA cookbooks in various Slovenian media, developer and preparer of a three phase makeover of the Heritage Museum along with doing the ground work for creating the Museum's 501c3 tax exempt status and assisting in the process of attaining SWUA Scholarship Foundation's 501c3 tax exempt status.

Mary Prisland, Secretary

Member of Branch 1 since birth, holds a PH. D in Psychology, practicing first in California as a child psychologist and currently working at Madison, Wisconsin's Crisis Intervention Services. Mary is a very gifted artist, specializing in landscapes of pastel and oils, exhibited in several galleries of the West coast. From her studio in Madison, she contracts work for commercial and noncommercial patrons.

SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

1593 AD

The Battle of Sisak ends the expansion of the Turkish Empire into Slovenia

1602 AD

Archduke Ferdinand II's Counter-Reformation is established throughout the Slovenian territories, but nobles are allowed to retain their Protestant faith

1628 AD

Emperor Ferdinand II requires Protestants to revert to Roman Catholicism or leave the land

1689 AD

Janez Vajkard Valvaser (1641-1693), the first important Slovenian scientist, publishes the 4-volume work, The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola

1701 AD

The Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, one of Europe's oldest orchestras, is founded in Ljubljana

1797 AD

The first Slovenian newspaper, *Lublanske Novice*, is published until 1800 by Valentin Vodnik (1758-1819)

1800 AD

France Prešeren, Slovenia's greatest poet, is born. A portion of his 1844 poem, "A Toast", set to Stanko Premrl's music, becomes Slovenia's national anthem in 1990

1803 AD

Joseph Docen finds the Freising Manuscripts, the oldest texts in the Slovenian language, in a 10th-century bishop's codex the Munich National Library got from the Freising Diocese

1809 AD

Napoleon makes Ljubljana the capital of his conquered Illyrian provinces, but loses them in 1813

1830 AD

Bishop Frederick Baraga (1797-1868) comes to America as missionary to the Chippewa and Ottawa native peoples in Upper Michigan, creating a Chippewa dictionary and grammar. First bishop of the region, he is a candidate for canonization

Kathleen Wheeler, Trustee

Member of Branch 35 since birth is currently employed at Compass Marketing as a rep. Formerly, Kathleen worked for the FBI at Dow Chemical. Kathleen has two sons, one just graduating from college. She enjoys Slovenian traditions and branch meetings when ever possible and creates lovely greeting cards, using photos, native plants and rubber stamps as part of the process.

Stane Kuhar, Trustee

Member of Branch 25 is the Financial Administrator of St. Vitus Church of Cleveland, Ohio. He established and has coordinated the St. Vitus Scholarship Program since 1989. Formerly he worked in corporate banking business as a bank manager, and did small business credit underwriting among many other financial endeavors. Stane holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication and a minor in Business. He writes for a number of Slovenian periodicals and newspapers, including "American Home".

Applications are evaluated each year by the Scholarship Committee. Criterion used are financial need, scholastic achievement, civic, community and religious activities and promotion of Slovenian culture, not necessarily in that order. SWUA bylaws state that committee members are nominated from various branches and serve a four year term. The present retiring SWUA Committee members, who have served faithfully the past four years, are: Milena Gobetz, Janice Singletary, Lisa McDonell, Dorothy Jernycic, Marge Church and Rose Marie Princ. The Foundation continues to thrive due to their difficult work of discernment each spring.

Contributions are tax exempt, recorded in *Zarja* and gratefully welcomed!

For more information on the
Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation
visit <http://www.swua.org> or 1-815-727-1926

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SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

1848 AD

Slovenian intellectuals codify Slovenian into a literary language and issue the first political program for a United Slovenia

1849 AD

The Southern Railway between Celje and Ljubljana opens

1851 AD

The Society of St. Hermagoras, the first Slovene publisher of Slovenian books, opens in Celovec

1863 AD

The Carinthian Railway between Maribor and Celovec opens

1867 AD

The Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy is established and Slovenia becomes part of its kingdom

1869 AD

Nearly 30,000 people rally at Vizmarje to demand the United Slovenia program

1895 AD

An earthquake devastates Ljubljana

1900 AD

The Credit Bank of Ljubljana, Slovenia's first bank, is founded

April 12, 1913

Ivan Cankar, one of Europe's foremost authors, gives a speech, in Ljubljana, calling for Slovenes to unite politically, but not culturally, with other South Slavs

June 28, 1914

World War I begins with the assassinations of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Countess Sophie in Sarajevo

May 30, 1917

Anton Korosec signs the May Declaration in Vienna for a unified state of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs within the Austro-Hungarian Empire

July 20, 1917

The Corfu Declaration becomes the basis for a Yugoslav state

October 24 –November 9, 1917

Austrian, German and Italian armies clash at Kobarid, one of World War I's bloodiest battles. Eyewitness Ernest Hemingway narrates the carnage in [Δ Farewell to Arms](#)

Two years ago Bonnie Prokup asked me to write a column for the *Zarja* on genealogy. Time has flown by and now I will be attending my first convention. In my column, *Living Your Legacy Through Genealogy*, we have covered my personal journey in genealogy; the use of books and periodicals as sources of information in genealogy research; descendant repositories of information; Why We Remember—electronic references to death indexes and cemeteries; working together as organization to keep our culture alive; ending up with the introduction of a new column.



George Plautz

In my *Genealogy by George* column in 2007 I urged members to conduct a letter writing campaign to organizations to generate interest in a Preservation Movement of the Slovenian American experience, covered the preservation movement and introduced electronic links favored by noted genealogist Mary Urban, I also invited guest columnists to write for the *Zarja*. In the first four issues of 2006, Rose Jisa, the President of the Slovenian Genealogy Society, International, covered the following topics: Beginning Your Genealogy Research; Researching Slovenian Ancestors at the Archbishopric Archive, Oral History-Passing on Family Lore and Discovering Clues to Ancestry through Old Photographs. In the September 2006 issue of *Zarja*, Peter Hawlina, the President of SRD, covered Genealogical Research on Slovenian Roots from Abroad and Genealogy in Slovenia. The last issue in 2006, Elizabeth Nick, President of the Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association, wrote about her organization and the Kocejve (Gottschee) area in Slovenia. In the second issue of 2007, Branka Lapajne, PHD, wrote of "Starting the Search for Slovenian Ancestors in the U.S." I seek additional contributions by genealogists who specialize in seeking information about their Slovenian heritage for publication in the *Zarja*. But the major question is, "What have you learned from reading all of this wonderful information"? Please, let me know what other topics you would like to see included in this column. Is there anyone you know who would like to write a guest column? You can help us by contacting Bonnie Prokup with your suggestions.

Did you know that you can order extra copies of the *Zarja*, beginning with the first issue of 2006, from the Museum? The price is \$3.99 per magazine. My coverage of Preservation efforts will be ongoing. We continue to index Death Benefit records and all the issues of *Zarja*, for genealogical and research purposes. I work closely with Mary Lou Voelk on development of projects and with the new Slovenian-American Memorabilia Preservation Study Group on preservation issues.

Our new column, FAMILY CONNECTED, which began in 2007, concerns stories of families who connect or reconnect with family either in America and Slovenia. The introduction of this column shows you that by contributing a small idea that a larger one can develop. What started as a paragraph in branch news turned out to be a full page article. Already we have had several people contribute stories for this column and there are several more in production for future issues. I am very excited about working with all the contributors on the article for the this column. These stories, if we consociate them with those of Irene Odorizzi, "The Immigrant" and, Mary Lou Voelk, "The Path Taken" and donated stories about our members search and reunions,

October 29, 1918
The National Council of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs breaks with Austria-Hungary to form the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs

November 18, 1918
World War I ends with Germany's surrender.

December 1, 1918
The State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs unites with the Kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro to form the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes under King Peter I of Serbia

June 28, 1919
The Treaty of Versailles formally ends World War I

September 10, 1919
The Treaty of St. Germain breaks up the Austro-Hungarian Empire into several separate nations, including the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

1919
The University of Ljubljana opens

October 10, 1920
The Carinthian Plebiscite is held to resolve Slovenian border issues in World War I's aftermath

June 28, 1921
The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes adopts the St. Vitus Day Constitution

1927
The Slovene anti-fascist organization TIGR, the first of its kind in Europe, is founded at Gorisko

January 6, 1929
King Alexander I, in a coup d'etat, establishes the January 6 Dictatorship, abolishing the St. Vitus Day Constitution and freedom of the press

October 3, 1929
King Alexander I renames the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes the "Kingdom of Yugoslavia" and bans all political parties

can provide an illumination of how life was and is in America. Years from now people will be able to read these articles and get a real feeling of what life was all about for Americans of Slovenian heritage.

If you have an idea or experience you would like to submit for our consideration please tell us! I am willing to work with you, if necessary, to write up your

experience.

I recently interviewed a 19 year-old Harvard student who was certified in the Slovenian language, for a future article. If you would like copies of Family Connected, The Path Taken, or The Immigrant articles, send a request to the Home Office and they will (previous to 2006) Xerox a copy for you or send you a printout (2006 and hereafter) for a modest charge. An Index to the *Zarja* is being prepared and soon everyone will be able to get copies of anything formerly printed in the *Zarja*!

Congratulations to the women who worked tirelessly on behalf of this organization! Without them the community would not have the many artifacts and information preserved for future generations. See you at the convention! -
George Plautz

Happy
80th Anniversary
SWUA

SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

February 9, 1933

The Kingdom of Yugoslavia unites with Romania, Greece and Turkey to form the Balkan Entente

February 16, 1933

The Kingdom of Yugoslavia unites with Romania and Czechoslovakia to form the Little Entente

October 9, 1934

Yugoslav King Alexander I is assassinated in Marseilles by Croatian nationalists

1935

Milan Stojadinovic becomes prime minister and moves the Kingdom of Yugoslavia economically and politically toward Germany and Italy

March 13, 1938

Adolph Hitler annexes Austria, including many Slovenes in Carinthia, to Nazi Germany

April 6, 1941

German, Italian and Hungarian armies occupy Slovenia

April 17, 1941

The Royal Yugoslav Army surrenders in Belgrade

April 26, 1941

The OF (Liberation Front) in Ljubljana is organized

May 9, 1945

World War II in Slovenia ends when German General Alexander Lohr surrenders near Topolsica

May 15, 1945

Josip Broz Tito, leader of the Yugoslav Communist Party, establishes the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with Slovenia one of its republics

March 18, 1948

Jozef Stalin expels Yugoslavia from the Communist bloc, imposes an economic blockade and threatens military intervention

1955

Tito and Nikita Khrushchev sign the Belgrade Declaration, recognizing Yugoslavia's form of socialism

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Hidden Highlights of Slovenia

The Slovenian Women's Union invites all!!

to enjoy this special Autumn trip designed to be relaxing and full of the sites, sounds and great tastes unique to Beautiful Slovenia!

Visiting: Krajnska Gora, Habakuk Spa in Maribor, Smarjeta Spa near Novo Mesto, and Ljubljana
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Historical Review of SWUA Officers

National Presidents of SWUA

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Marie Priland (Founder) | 1926 - 1946 |
| Albina Novak | 1946 - 1952 |
| Josephine Livek | 1952 - 1961 |
| Antonia Turek | 1961 - 1973 |
| Mary Bostian | 1973 - 1979 |
| Mary Muller | 1979 - 1987 |
| Victoria Bobence | 1987 - 1995 |
| Jean Korsman | 1995 - 1999 |
| Kathleen Ferrante | 1999 - 2007 |



National Secretaries of SWUA

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Julia Gottlieb | 1926 - 1933 |
| Josephine Racic | 1933 - 1939 |
| Josephine Erjavec | 1939 - 1952 |
| Albina Novak | 1952 - 1970 |
| Fanika Humar | 1970 - 1976 |
| Olga Ancel | 1976 - 1995 |
| Evelyn Majercik | 1995 - 1999 |
| Bonnie Pohar-Prokup | 1999 - 2007 |

Editors of *Zarja The Dawn*

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Julia Gottlieb | 1929 - 1930 |
| Josephine Racic | 1930 - 1933 |
| Albina Novak | 1933 - 1952 |
| Corinne Leskovar | 1952 - 2006 |
| Debbie Pohar | 2006 - |

1926 National Officers

Marie Priland
Julia Gottlieb
Matilda Duller
Frances Jazbec

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Bonnie Pohar-Prokup, Secretary
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Beverly Menart, 1st Auditor
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Nancy Henkel, 3rd Auditor
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Josephine Janezic, Wisconsin State President
Lisa McDonnell, Minnesota State President
Genevieve Buol, Illinois/Indiana State President
Debbie Pohar, Zarja Editor
Corinne Leskovar, Consulting Editor
Mary Lou Voelk, Heritage Director
Mary Turvey, Scholarship Director
Leslie Cummings, SWUA.ORG Editor
Jan King, Online Newsletter Editor



SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

1957

Death of Jozse Plecnik (born 1872), the prominent Slovenian architect of Ljubljana's Triple Bridge, its open air market, and planner of its Krizanke Summer theater

1963

Tito declares himself president of Yugoslavia for life

May 4, 1980

Death of Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslavia's Communist leader since 1945

1988

"Slovenian Spring" begins as Slovenian nationalism and a desire for independence from Yugoslavia intensifies

January 20, 1990

Slovene delegates, headed by Milan Kucan, and Croatian delegates leave the 14th Extraordinary Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia when Slobodan Milosevic's Serbian delegation opposes their demands for democratic changes

March 29, 1990

France Preseren's 1844 poem, "A Toast", set to Stanko Premrl's music, becomes Slovenia's national anthem

December 23, 1990

In a Slovenian referendum, 88.5% of the electorate vote for independence from Yugoslavia

June 25, 1991

Slovenia declares its independence from Yugoslavia

June 27 - July 6, 1991

The Ten Day War begins when 2,000 Yugoslav Army troops take over Slovenian border posts, only to be shut in their barracks and denied water and electricity by the Slovenes. The war ends with fewer than 100 deaths and the agreement for the troops to leave in 3 months

July 7, 1991

The Brioni Agreement ends Yugoslav Army involvement in Slovenia

October 25, 1991

The last Yugoslav troops leave Slovenia

December 23, 1991

Independent Slovenia adopts a new democratic constitution

SWUA Convention History

Year Convention City

1929 Chicago, Illinois
 1930 Sheboygan, Wisconsin
 1933 Cleveland, Ohio
 1936 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 1939 Chisholm, Minnesota
 1943 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 1946 Indianapolis, Indiana
 1949 Pueblo, Colorado
 1952 Detroit, Michigan
 1955 Cleveland, Ohio
 1958 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 1961 Ely, Minnesota
 1964 Chicago, Illinois

Year Convention City

1967 Washington, D.C.
 1970 Euclid, Ohio
 1973 Chicago, Illinois
 1976 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 1979 Duluth, Minnesota
 1983 Chisholm, Minnesota
 1987 Joliet, Illinois
 1991 Bedford, Ohio
 1995 San Francisco, California
 1999 Orlando, Florida
 2003 Duluth, Minnesota
 2007 Utica, Illinois

A special welcome to Ambassador Žbogar and Consul General Zigon and Mrs. Zigon for their participation in our 80th Anniversary Celebration. We truly appreciate having them join us during this important occasion.

SWUA Timeline of Slovenian History

January 15, 1992
 The European Union recognizes Slovenia's independence

April 7, 1992
 The United States recognizes Slovenia's independence

May 22, 1992
 Slovenia joins the United Nations

June 24, 1992
 The Vatican appoints a papal nuncio to Slovenia

December 6, 1992
 Slovenia elects Milan Kucan president for a 5-year term

May 14, 1993
 Slovenia becomes a member of the Council of Europe

December 23, 1994
 Slovenia becomes a founding member of the World Trade Organization

January 1, 1996
 Slovenia becomes a member of the Central European Free Trade Association (CEFTA)

May 17-19, 1996
 Pope John Paul II visits Slovenia during its 1,250th anniversary of Christianity and celebrates his 76th birthday there

November 23, 1997
 Milan Kucan is re-elected president of Slovenia

January 1, 1998
 Slovenia becomes a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council

December 1, 2002
 Janez Drnovsek is elected president of Slovenia

March 23, 2003
 Slovenia passes referenda for joining NATO and the European Union

March 29, 2004
 Slovenia becomes a member of NATO

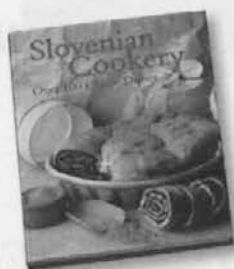
May 1, 2004
 Slovenia becomes a member of the European Union; Germany welcomes Slovenia to the EU by loaning the Freising Manuscripts for display in Ljubljana's National and University Library

January 1, 2007
 Slovenia adopts the Euro as its currency



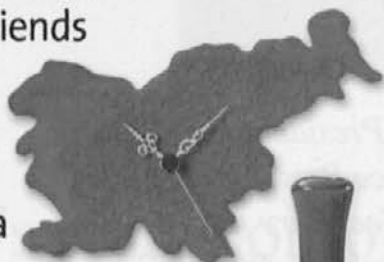
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Congratulations Slovenian Women's Union Of America Members!

We're 80 Years Young!



It's an honor to be your President
To celebrate this grand accomplishment!

*Wishing Love and Blessings to all,
Kathleen and Lou Ferrante*

CONGRATULATIONS ON 80 YEARS!

From the Staff at *Zarja - The Dawn*

Official Publication of Slovenian Women's Union of America



Editor: Debbie Pohar

Consulting Editor: Corinne Leskovar

Director of Design: Bonnie Prokup

Writers

Scholarship News: Mary Turvey

Heritage News and The Path Taken: Mary Lou Voelk

Genealogy by George and Family Connected: George Plautz

Men in a SWUA World: Don Baldin

Kids Talk: Babs

Entertaining with a Touch of Slovenia: Jenka

Congratulations

Slovenian Women's Union of America



Velikonočni motiv - M. Gaspari

Eighty years of friendship,
How quickly they have gone.
Working, cooking, laughing,
Always with a song.

The ribbon of our heritage
Has bound us, state to state.
And, in sharing our gifts and talents,
The ribbon's strength is great.

For those who have gone before us,
And for those who are yet to come,
We salute this grand organization.

God's blessings on everyone!

Branch 24, LaSalle, IL

Praznujemo



1926 - 2006

*Drawing by Mary Foys Lauretig
Late Member of Branch 2*

Congratulations and Best Wishes
from
Slovenian Women's Union Branch 2

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Vice-PresidentJoseph Worth
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KitchenMarija Rigler



The Four Wisconsin Branches of SWUA



*Branch # 1, Sheboygan
Branch # 12, Milwaukee
Branch # 43, Milwaukee
Branch # 102, Willard*

*Join together to wish all members and guests
a most enjoyable and rewarding
25th National Convention and 80th Anniversary Gala*



The Singing Slovenes, Inc., an all volunteer, non profit organization from Duluth, Minnesota, is dedicated exclusively to preserving and promoting the Slovenian heritage through music and traditional native costume. Their performances are always filled with excitement and enthusiasm and have thrilled audiences time and time again.

Under the direction of Frank Bucar and assistant director Mary Spehar White, the group has performed throughout the Great Lakes Region including; Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin providing audiences with a variety of traditional songs in the Slovenian and English languages. The group has also performed numerous Polka Masses throughout this entire region.

Singing Slovenes release their 2nd CD

Early this year, the Singing Slovenes recorded a new CD, "**The Heavenly Strains of the Singing Slovenes**", a musical collection of songs of the Polka Mass. This new CD is a **must for every Slovenian family**. Included in this New Release are the beloved Slovenian favorites, "*Češčena Si Marija*" and "*Lepa Si, Lepa Si, Roža Marija*". A full listing of songs is provided below:

1. Beloved Mother - (Serdeczna Matko) - traditional - K. Kurpinski
2. Glory, Glory - (Tiha Noči - traditional) Lyrics - Mary Cvek Arr. - Frank Bucar
3. Undying Love - (Glas Harmonika - L. Slak) Lyrics - Tom Zakula
4. We are Christians - (Ej Prijatelj - L. Slak) Lyrics - Father George Balasko
5. We Offer Bread and Wine - (Slovenian traditional) Lyrics - Father George Balasko
6. Lord, We Bring You These Gifts - (Lubav je Ruža - A. Baša - A. Tartichio) Lyrics - Seann McGovern
7. Let the Son Shine In - (Polish Melody/B. Czupta/words adapt. Father George Balasko)
8. Under the Skies of Blue - (Pod Mojem Okencem - Slovenian traditional) Lyrics - Mary Cvek
9. Češčena Si Marija - (Slovenian traditional)
10. Precious Blood -
11. Lepa Si, Lepa Si, Roža Marija - (Slovenian traditional)
12. In My Heart - (Moja Dekla - Slovenian traditional) Lyrics - Mary Cvek
13. High Above the Clouds - (L.Slak/arr. Frank Bucar)
14. Sweet Maria - Lyrics/ Tom and Marlene Zakula
15. The Mass is Now Ended - Lyrics/ Seann McGovern/ arr. Frank Bucar
16. Battle Hymn of the Republic - (Steffe/ arr. Frank Bucar) Vocals - Mary Spehar White, Barb Hudson

The CD can be purchased by sending \$17.00, which includes shipping and handling, by check or money order to:

Singing Slovenes
3910 Stebner Rd
Hermantown, MN 55811

Information regarding live performances may be obtained by contacting the Singing Slovenes on their website, www.singingslovenes.com or by contacting Frank Bucar, (218) 626-1928



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Josephine (Clarence) Grabowski
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Mary H. Turvey

SWUA Scholarship Foundation

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mturvey@aol.com

80 Years Strong
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from

Branch 89

Oglesby, Illinois

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AND PROGRESS OF THE

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*LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE!
OUR BEST TO ALL*

BRANCH 20 – JOLIET, IL

80 YEARS OF SWUA and THE ERJAVEC FAMILY SINCE 1926

OFFICERS:

1939 – 1952 Josephine Setina Erjavec
National Secretary, Branch 20 Zarja Reporter in English
and Slovenian and co-founder of Branch 20

1976 – 1995 Olga Erjavec Ancel
National Secretary and Branch 20 Zarja Reporter

1985 – 1989 Mildred Erjavec Pucel
Branch 20 President and Corresponding Secretary

1999 – 2007 Jonita Erjavec Ruth
National Treasurer, Home Office Manager and SWUA Top Campaigner for New Members

MEMBERS:

Joseph Erjavec, our father and honorary member and dedicated to Branch 20 and SWUA
Ronald Erjavec, our brother and supporter



Erjavec Family

**Congratulations to SWUA on our 80th Anniversary and on the 25th National Convention!
From the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Josephine and Joseph Erjavec!**

In Loving Memory of my Parents
Anna and Anton Murn (Moran) Bedenko

In Memory of
Tony and Fannie Piletic (my Godparents)
Milly Vogrich Faerber (my Friend)
Louis and Mary Bedenko (my
Grandparents)
Teresa Livek Hollerich (my Friend)

Always proud of their Slovenian Heritage

Janice Mueller
Branch 24 LaSalle, IL



Anna and Anton Murn (Moran) Bedenko

In Memory of Our Immigrant Families

- By their many descendants

Mary Brunskole and Jacob Adam - Minnesota
Frances Brunskole and John Jellen - New York
Frances Gerdesic and Jacob Vertin - Michigan
Katharine Gerdesic and Matthias Stefantz - Michigan
Anna Geshel and Joseph Klobuchar - Michigan
Anton Geshel and Margaret Jerman - Michigan
George Geshel (Theresa Miller) - Wisconsin
John Goeschel (Theresa Eichert) - South Dakota
Mathias Geshel and Theresa Musich - Michigan
Michael Geshel and Frances Kasun - Michigan
Stefan Geshel and Mary Moravec - Michigan
Maria Lamuth and John Rom - Montana
Maria Lamuth and John Stayer - Michigan
John Maurin and Anna Jerman - Washington
Mathias Maurin (Lillian Greene) - Kansas
Mathias Maurin-Lost
Stefan Maurin-Lost
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Antonia Plautz and Anton Swetich - Michigan
John Plautz and Mary Ilenich - Michigan
Joseph Plautz and Josefa Gerbec - Michigan
Joseph Plautz and Mary Strucel - Michigan
Josephine Plautz (Elisha Andrews) - Minnesota
Katherine Plautz and Peter Zunich - Michigan
Mary Plautz and Mathias Vertacic - Michigan
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Stefan Plautz and Maria Popovich - Wisconsin
John Puhek (Anna Likovic) - Wisconsin

Joseph Puhek (Theresa Jaklek) - Michigan
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Joseph Steyer (Frances Butala) - Michigan
Mary Steyer and Mathias Kobe - Michigan
Anna Vertin and George Lasich - Dominion of Canada
George Vertin and Anna Plautz - Kansas
John Vertin and Maria Krakar - Michigan
John Vertin (Katharine Long) - Michigan
John Vertin (Abby Burlingame) - Kansas
Joseph Vertin (Martha Klagstad) - Michigan
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Anna Vidosh (Matthew Shvager) - Michigan
Anton Vidosh and Mary Strucel - Michigan
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Joseph Vidosh and Katharine Gregorich - Michigan
Katharine Vidosh and Michael Butala - Michigan
Sebastian Vidosh and Margaret Bukovec - Michigan
Joseph Wertin (Anna Marvinko) - Kansas
Mathias Wertin and Maria Butala - Kansas

- by George Plautz

Čestitke ob 80. letnici Slovenske Ženske Zveze v Ameriki!

Happy 80th Anniversary from Branch 99, Lemont, Illinois



Standing, left to right: Tom Zakosek, Paula Mavec, Jean Cherway, Jean Gale, Mary Mavec, Anne Germaine, Corinne Leskovar; Middle row: Fran Schultz, Suzi Rus, holding her daughter, Alenka, Mihaela Simrayh, Betty Ann Kolesari, (National Vice-President), Maria Vlastic, LaVerne Schwab; front: Olivia Schultz and Julie Partyka.

Ponosni smo na našo zgodovino! - We are proud of our history!

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z Blestečo Slavo!

In remembrance of my parents and their PATH TAKEN –
our loving grandchildren and great grandchildren
are joyfully marking their own PATHS
in Blazing Glory!

- by *Mary Lou Voelk*



*Frank and Mary Rose
Perovshek Deyak*

Debbie Voelk Good and James



James

Tom Voelk and Mariko Kakiuchi



Maya



Sean

Michael and Donna Aguayo Voelk



Abigail



Nicholas



Matthew

John and Beth OConnor Voelk



Claire



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Connor



Camille

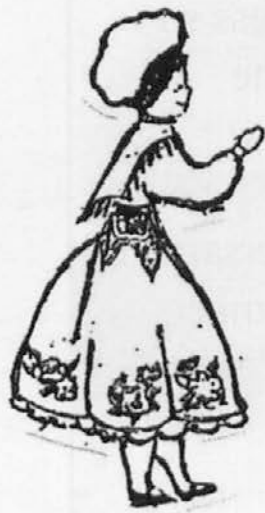
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Happy 80th Anniversary

May the Delegates to the SWUA 25th National Convention 2007
be enlightened in their decision making process so
they never lose sight of what is best for the
common good of our Organization.

Looking forward to celebrating our 100th Anniversary and
sending my Best Wishes to all the SWUA Members,
current and future, for God's Blessings and Peace.

*Genevieve (Puhek) Buol
IL/IN Regional President*

In Memory of Mary Zaletel Kastigar

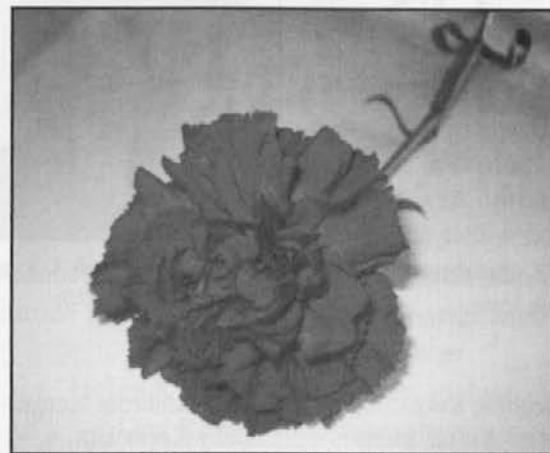
Charter Member and Officer of
Branch 24 – LaSalle, IL
Daughter: Dorothy Parola
Granddaughter: Rosemary Parola



Mary Zaletel Kastigar

In Loving Memory of Josephine & Louis Lustic

You were the best parents.



With much love,
Your daughter, Ilene Collins

In Memory of Mrs. John (Mary) Lesnik

1903 – 1972
Branch 20 – Joliet, IL Mother of the Year 1958



Mary Lesnik

From her sons Joe, Bill and John

A SLOVENIAN HERITAGE

Franc Zakrajsek (dob: 11/29/1880 in Rob) and Karolina Marolt (dob: 5/20/1885 in Velike Lasce) arrived in America in 1900. They were married in 1901 at St. Vitus Church in Cleveland, OH. They moved to Joliet, Illinois around 1903 and finally settled on a farm in Harrietta, Michigan in October 1920. They had 17 children and 43 grandchildren. Their great and great-grandchildren are like the stars that shine in the sky.



**Their legacy is a great family love and
Slovenian pride. For this we thank them.**

– Marlene Bechtel & Debbie Briggs

Celebrating 80 Years of Slovenian Women's Union of America

Five generations of the Kernz Family have been active members of Branch 89 Oglesby, Illinois for a great many years. Today we honor Aloisa Gergovich Kernz, the flower of our family, our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother with much love.



*Aloisa Gergovich Kernz
(1887 - 1970)*

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Josephine Kernz Argubright | Alice Ambrose Kernz |
| Eunice Kernz Supan | Kathy Kernz Utz |
| Mary Kernz, deceased | Terry Ebner Kamnikar |
| Alice Argubright Ebner | Tammy Ebner Landgraf |
| Margie Argubright Walter | Courtney Ebner |
| Nancy Supan Henkel | Natalie Landgraf |
| Denise Henkel Duffin | Jordan Duffin |

In Memory of My Loving Mother Mary Krogulski

Past President of Branch 24 - LaSalle, IL



Mary Krogulski

Your loving daughter, Paula Illman

Best Wishes on your
25th National Convention
and on 80 Years of the
Slovenian Women's Union of
America!



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*From one Slovenian to another -
Na Zdravje!
The Knafelc Family*

In keeping connected to our heritage
and a vision for the future,
Slovenian Women's Union of America
has achieved 80 years
of extraordinary success.

CONGRATULATIONS!



*From left to right: Darren, Wally,
Jo, Marla, Jeff and Kevin*

*Wally and Jo Lustik & Family
Branch 20 - Joliet, IL*

In Loving Memory of
Antonija and Louis Kastelic

Branch 42 – Maple Heights, OH



Antonija and Louis Kastelic

Bernie and Joe Rudolph

CONGRATULATIONS SWUA FOR 80
WONDERFUL YEARS!

*From Five Generations
of Komater Girls
Branch 89–Oglesby, IL*

Frances Komater – Mother & Charter Member
Eunice Komater – Daughter & Charter Member
Anne Komater – Daughter
Helen Komater – Daughter-in-law
Ona Rehn – Granddaughter
Mitzi Banich – Granddaughter
Chris Sabotta – Great-Granddaughter
Megan Rehn – Great-Great-Granddaughter
Annalise Sabotta – Great-Great-Granddaughter

In Memory of my Grandmother
Marija Bajc Bucar

SWUA Member
1932-1941



Marija Bajc Bucar

*Happy 80th Anniversary
Slovenian Women's Union of America
Carol Ryba*

**HENKEL FARMS
OF PERU
CONGRATULATES
SWUA ON
CELEBRATING 80
WONDERFUL
YEARS!**

***BILL, NANCY AND
DOUG HENKEL
DENISE AND
JORDAN DUFFIN***

A note to heaven:

Thank you Grandma Gertrude Delopst for starting our families' tradition of service to Branch 43 - Milwaukee.

You'll be proud to know that four of your granddaughters have served as Officers of Branch 43. And two granddaughters are SWUA National Officers. Lots of work - but also lots of pride! We're certainly proud of you, too, for being Branch 43's first President.

Love to you and Grandpa. Thinking of you as we celebrate SWUA's 80th Anniversary....

Granddaughter Denise Delopst Bartlett

Congratulations and Best Wishes on a Successful Convention and 80th Anniversary Celebration.

*SWUA Branch 14
Euclid, Ohio*

*We honor our heritage,
We continue our endeavors
in the present,
We remain hopeful and
prayerful for the future.*

*Maple Heights, Ohio
Branch 42 salutes SWUA!*



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In Memory of
Martin G. Juricic
First Generation Slovenian

*Parent of: Jean Juricic Herbst
Branch 20 – Joliet, IL Treasurer*

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Greetings from Branch 50
Euclid, OH
to all our members and friends



Best Wishes for a wonderful
convention and Happy 80th
SWUA!

*Gus, Andrea, Mark, Molly,
Monica and Maria Selak
Girard, Ohio*

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Congratulations on SWUA's
80th Anniversary
Best Regards for a successful
National Convention

*Ohio Regional President,
Olga A. Dorchak*

In Honor and Memory
of Frances Zibert

*By Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Schultz
& Children, Grandchildren &
Great-Grandchildren*

Congratulations Zveza on
80 Years of Slovenian-
American Heritage.
Best Wishes for a successful
National Convention!

*Julia Pastor – Branch 16 –
South Chicago, IL*

Congratulations and Best Wishes
to all Slovenian Women's Union of
America members on 80 Years!

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**Congratulations to the
Slovenian Women's
Union on their 80th
Anniversary**

from SWUA - Branch 16

**Best Wishes for a successful
Convention and Congratulations
on 80 wonderful years!**

*Branch 33
Duluth, MN*

Congratulations to the Slovenian Women's
Union of America for 80 years of dedication
and love for our Slovenian Heritage.

*Members of Branch 54
of Warren, Ohio send
best wishes!*

**Congratulations from
Branch 55 – Girard, Ohio**

President: Maria Selak
Vice-President: Joan Twaddle
Secretary/Treasurer: Anka Krakora
Reporter: Monica Selak
Auditors: Anka Krakora, Milka Kregar
Paulette Kren

**Congratulations to the
SWUA on your 80th
Anniversary!**

**From the Officers and Members of
Fontana, CA
Branch 100**

**Congratulations
Slovenian Women's Union
On Your 80th Anniversary and
25th National Convention**

**Michael, Sandra and Nicholas
Vidmar
Joliet, Illinois**

Congratulations Slovenian Women's Union
On Your 80th Anniversary and 25th National
Convention

Illinois Federation of K.S.K.J. Lodges
Pres. Michael Vidmar V.P. Mary Ann Jereb
Sec. Joanne Sierzega Treas. Sandra Vidmar
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Mary Ann Strus
Tony Kaluza

**Congratulations Slovenian Women's Union
On Your 80th Anniversary and 25th National
Convention**

St. Francis de Sales #29 K.S.K.J.
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Pres. Michael Vidmar Auditors: Tony Kaluza
V.P. Joyce Vicich Bernice Ramsak
Fin. Sec. Kathy Lovati Ken Velasquez
Treas. Sandra Vidmar Athletic/Youth Dir. Bob Zelinski
Rec. Sec. Paul Boettcher Sentinel: Genevieve Klainsek
Spiritual Director Fr. George Klepec

**The Officers and Members of
Branch 108 in Maryland
extend best wishes and congratulations
to the SWUA on this
special National Convention
celebrating the 80th Anniversary
of our great organization
To many more years of growth, success
and recognition of our shared
Slovenian identity**

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Angeline Grayson - Branch 40

Dorothy Lamm - Mentor, OH

Branch 10 - Cleveland, OH

Mary H Palcic - Branch 93

Branch 39 - Biwabik, MN

Gerry Petrich - Ely, MN

Joanne Ponikvar and Family - Warren, OH

History of Slovenes in the Illinois Valley

by Loretta Story, President Branch 24, LaSalle

Our history in the Illinois Valley began with the first Slovene settlers arriving in 1886. Most of them were from the Dolenjska region and the village of Radece. Friends from the same or neighboring regions began to follow and soon there were approximately 200 families - all together about 1,200 Slovenes. Many of them were store and tavern keepers and many began work in the cement mills and coal mines in the surrounding area. Regardless of their trade, each and every one brought unique gifts of traditions, culture and characteristics.

Rev. Frank Sustersic, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Joliet, Illinois, would come to La Salle to minister to the spiritual needs of the Slovene community and, over a decade, their religion flourished to the point where they yearned for their own priest and parish. In 1900 the Bishop of Peoria received a delegation from La Salle, including Fr. Sustersic, Anton Sorcic, Matt Komp and Anton Kostello, who presented him with a petition requesting their own priest. The Bishop responded to their plea by sending Rev. Anton Podgorsek, who arrived with much zeal and who took upon his shoulders the burden of planning for and building a church, school and rectory.

The Slovenes worked diligently to raise funds and were very generous in donating their time and labor for this project. In 1902, land at the corner of Crosat and Sixth Streets in La Salle, was purchased for \$3,000. In one year Fr. Podgorsek built the school for \$13,000 and for 15 years the upstairs served as a church, the downstairs was a school and the priest lived on the south end of the building. The new, infant church was called St. Roch's.

The first Mass was celebrated on July 12, 1903 and the church was blessed on September 13, 1903 by Bishop J.L. Spalding from Peoria. Some 32 Catholic societies took part in the festivities. Among them were the Society of St. Joseph, Society of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the Society of St. Franciscus, the Knights of St. George from Joliet, St. John's Society from Menoma and Rutland, the Holy Family Society (formed in 1893), and St. Barbara's Society (formed in 1898) from La Salle. Croatian, Irish and German Societies sent representatives and approximately 3,000 men marched in the parade. The main speaker for this event was Fr. Frank Sustersic.

It is no surprise that numerous societies were formed for the social life of the Slovenes. The first, Holy Family No.5,

K.S.K.J. formed in June 1893 was followed by St. Barbara No.3, K.S.K.J. in August of 1898. Then came St. Martin K.S.K.J. January 1904, St. Anne No.139, K.S.K.J. February 1911, Holy Family No.3, D.S.D. January 1914, Slovenian Women's Union in October 1928 and the Holy Name Society in October of 1931.

In 1905 Fr. Podgorsek built a two-story frame home which was to become a rectory. In 1907 the Rev. Aloisius Kastigar, who remained until 1914, succeeded Fr. Podgorsek. In that year the Rev. Francis Saloven was appointed to St. Roch's and he built the present brick and tile structure in 1918 at the cost of \$40,000. The cornerstone was laid in 1917 and Bishop E.M. Dunne dedicated the church in 1918. Benedictine sisters from Nauvoo, Illinois staffed the school for many years, first living in a residence at 6th and Tonti Streets and then in 1944 the parish purchased a home directly across the street from the school, which served as their convent.

In 1930 Father Saloven retired from his service and returned to his homeland. Slovenian Franciscan Fathers of Lemont then staffed the parish until 1943. During this time, several men of St. Roch's parish helped build an outdoor shrine to the Blessed Mother - in Lemont. In 1943



St. Roch's Church, LaSalle, IL

Rev. Stephen Kassovic was appointed pastor and his brother Rev. Kalman Kassovic served as his assistant. They served the parish until 1950 when Rev. Michael Zeleznikar was appointed pastor.

With the rapid growth of their population, Slovenes spilled over into neighboring towns of Oglesby, Cedar Point, Granville, Utica and DePue. Branch 89 of Oglesby proudly boasts a continuing and active membership. DePue, with its dwindling numbers and advanced age of their members, dissolved their branch, however, they, too proudly maintained their heritage customs and contributed as long and as best they could.

In 1962 a new St. Roch's School was constructed northwest of the church. Its name was changed to La Salle Catholic School in 1978 after St. Hyacinth's Parish and Holy Rosary Parish agreed to consolidate. On July 16, 1979 Resurrection Parish was chartered as a result of a merger between St. Joseph's and St. Roch's parishes, located only two blocks apart in La Salle. St. Joseph's had been established in 1870 to serve German-speaking Catholics. St. Joseph's name was changed to Resurrection parish and St. Roch's church and rectory were sold to Catholic Charities. The former church now serves as a day care center for the elderly and houses Catholic Charities branch office.

The Holy Name Society, originally established at St. Roch's, has remained active through the years and has sponsored numerous events and weekly bingo games for

over 30 years. The Sanctuary and Rosary Society has assisted with church cleaning, decoration and various events, also. And, our Slovenian Women's Union Branch 24 is enjoying it's 79th year! This is truly something to be proud of!

Theologian and author, Michael Novak writes that, "Unconsciously, most Slavs feel that the world is in order only when their connections with family are in place. Long-distance telephone bills are only one sign of it. Slavic families also spend a disproportionate amount of vacation time visiting other family members. Life is not quite real until the family is included: events have not completely happened until the family knows of them."

The northeast corner of La Salle, where it all started, is filled with a wonderful history of families, names too numerous to mention; of traditions and characteristics that are mentioned above and are still in existence today. We are blessed with countless wonderful memories, such as men climbing the tall steeple of St. Roch's to ring the church bells by hand with little hammers; of church socials and chicken dinners; more poticas, strudels and krofe than you can count, polka dances at The Dom; the Slovenian choir singing the beautiful hymns of their homeland; solemn processions and May crowning and the sheer joy of being together celebrating life and being moved by the beauties of nature. We hold these memories close to our hearts as we continue to make more of them for those who will follow.

They lived in uncertain times such as we do now, however they forged on with hope and determination and faith. We are forever grateful that we have been blessed by the legacy of these strong people who have been inspired by ideals of bravery and loyalty. We salute them and honor them by continuing with our vision, mission and purpose. - *Loretta Story*

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The Influence of Slovenian Music on our Heritage

by Frank Bucar - Director, Singing Slovenes

The music of Slovenia is closely related to German, Austrian and Istrian because of its common history and Alpine and littoral culture. In the minds of many Slovenes and foreigners, Slovenian folk music means a form of polka that is still popular today, especially among expatriates and their descendants in the area of Cleveland, Ohio. In fact, Slovenian folk music consists of many different styles and is far from being only polka and waltz.

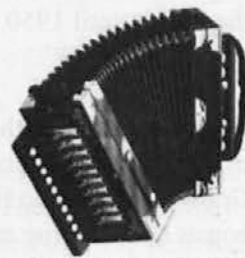
Slavko Avsenik is one of the most influential and popular polka and waltz musicians in the world. Oberkrainer music, which the Avsenik Ensemble popularized, remains very popular today and is always a strong candidate for country (folk) music awards in Slovenia and Austria. Slavko and his brother, Vilko, are usually credited as the pioneers of Slovenian popular music, having solidified its style in the 1950's. (The previous two paragraphs were taken from Wikipedia)

Several examples of Slavko Avsenik's influence goes back to the late forties and early fifties. One of his most beautiful waltzes, "Tam Kjer Murke Cveto", was recorded by Frankie Yankovic as "Where the Flowers Bloom" and Johnny Pecon recorded it as "Little Fella". Another waltz which goes back to the early seventies is "Tam Daleč Preko Morja" which means "A Long Way to the Sea" and recorded in the United States by a number of polka bands as "The European Waltz". One of his most famous polkas, "Na Golici", is recognized worldwide and is known and played in the United States by many polka bands as "The Trumpet Echo Polka". Avsenik's composition of "Slovenija, Od Kod Lepote Tvoje" is endeared by all Slovenians and even by those who are not of Slovenian heritage.

While Slavko Avsenik is known for his Oberkrainer style of Slovenian music, Lojze Slak is known throughout Slovenia for his Button Box style of Slovenian music, his singers and numerous compositions to include "Triglav" and "Ej Prijatelj". Lojze Slak has had a profound effect of the resurgence of the Button Box in such areas as Minnesota's Iron Range, Cleveland, Ohio, western Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Illinois among many other areas of the United States, Canada and even Alaska. Though Slavko is now retired, he can be seen from time to time at the famous family gostilna, "Pri Joževcu", and the Avsenik Music Gallery in Begunje, Slovenia. Lojze Slak and his group are still actively performing throughout Slovenia.

I would personally consider Slavko Avsenik and Lojze Slak pioneers of their particular styles of music amongst a field

of many, many excellent groups of musicians. I recently returned from a Cultural Seminar which was held this past March in Ljubljana and I observed first hand how serious Slovenians are about their music, whether it is Oberkrainer, Folklore, Pop or Opera.



I travel to Slovenia annually to get my Polka and Waltz "Fix" and I would like to assure you that Polka's and Waltzes are alive and well in Slovenia. There are numerous young groups such as "Mladi Dolenci", "Vesele Štajerke", "Mlade Frajle", "Gašperji", "Gorenjski Kvintet", "Igor in Zlati Zvoki", "Boštjan Konecnik", world class button box player "Denis Novato" and one of the "hottest" groups in Slovenia today, "Atomik Harmonik". These groups will assure us that this music will continue for the next several decades.

The music of Slovenia is unique and so very beautiful and melodic. Many of Slovenia's songs reflect on its beauty, love and romance. How can you not help but think of love and romance when Slovenia is the only country in the world with the word LOVE in it and Slovenia's capital is Ljubljana, which means "City of Love".

As the director of the "Singing Slovenes", I have considered it a blessing and a privilege to be able to carry on with the music and traditions of Slovenia and to promote our Slovenian heritage. Our group, the "Singing Slovenes", is a very diverse group of individuals of many ethnic backgrounds. Both of my parents were Slovenian from the villages of Poženik and Šmartno near Cerklje, Slovenia. We have 26 adult members and 9 junior members of the "Singing Slovenes". The group now ranges in ages 3 to 82. Fifteen of our members are of Slovenian descent and many other nationalities to include Croatian, German, Polish, Italian, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Czech and Irish round out the group. It is a tribute in itself to have this dedicated group of individuals singing in the Slovenian language. It is very heart-warming to travel to Slovenian enclaves across the Upper Mid-West and to play and sing the songs which are so dear to Slovenians of all ages. The "Singing Slovenes" have converged on a Slovenian enclave in Utica, Illinois to share our music and happiness with the Slovenian Women's Union of America, to celebrate their 80th Anniversary. Also, at the end of July we will travel to the Slovenian enclave of Willard, Wisconsin to celebrate the 100 Year Centennial of this central Wisconsin farming community. *Lep pozdrav, Frank Bucar*

Keeping Our Heritage Alive!

Unforgettable Slovenian Holidays and Traditions

Almost all memorable Slovenian traditions began centuries ago and were connected to religious observances of the holy days. The most beautiful traditions are still known and kept today. In Slovenian-American communities they are widely observed and in some cases the churches and organizations take part., e.g., making *Velikonočne butare* (Easter bouquets) for Palm Sunday Processions, or having *Sveti Miklavž* (St. Nicholas) come in person to give presents. It is especially interesting to combine them with purely American customs as we do for Christmas, e.g. Santa Claus surely comes to every home regardless of the religious observances.

Here are a few favorite Slovenian traditions that will bring added joy and meaning to special days and holidays. Some of them are generally observed, or can be re-enacted, and some are just fun to know about. Let's follow the calendar, beginning in January.

Feast of the Three Kings – Epiphany Sveti Trije Kralji - January 6th

The Three Kings were, Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar and on their feast day the family gathers to watch the father mark their initials and date of the new year, **20+G+M+B+07**, with chalk on the inside lintel of the main door in their home. It signifies the entrance of the Three Kings into the stable at Bethlehem. As the family looks on, they pray for blessings. This is a very old annual tradition in Slovenia.

Slovenian Culture (Prešeren) Day – Slovenski Kulturni (Prešernov) Dan – February 8th

Poet Laureate of Slovenia, France Prešeren, (1800-1849) is honored by this holiday in Slovenia and now also in other parts of the world where Slovenians live. Many of his poems are set to music and are beautifully lyrical. One of his best known poems is the *Zdravljica – A Toast*, the National Anthem of Slovenia since its independence in 1991.

St. Gregory's Day – Gregorjevo – March 12th

The feastday of St. Gregory marks the beginning of spring, it is said, and the day the birds get married! An old tradition has children sailing paper boats lighted by candles, down rivers and streams, signifying the farewell to winter.

Pust and the "Kurent" – February or March

Shrovetide is called **Pust** in Slovenian and is celebrated as a week-long Carnival with sumptuous feasting. Among

favorite Slovenian traditional foods and pastries of the pre-Lenten season are *Krofi* (Fried donuts) and *Flancati* (Crisp fried pastry).

The **Kurent** is a carnival character dress in shaggy sheep skins tied with leather belts that holds huge cow bells. On his head are mounted two cow horns decorated with feathers, so he looks half human and half animal!

He rings his bells as he runs around the fields calling spring and chasing winter away. The Kurent (also called *Korent*, *Laufar*, and other names depending on the region) is enjoyed by all.



Kurent

Easter – Velikonoč – March or April

Numerous Slovenian traditions are connected to Easter. Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week has a special feature which is the "*Butarica*" or Olive Branch that symbolizes the awakening of the earth. A Butarica is made from a specific number of twigs and branches, such as willow, pine and boxwood, and is decorated with colored ribbons. Individuals carry them into church during the Palm Sunday procession. They can be handmade with any spring greenery from your garden.

Blessing of Food – Žegen – Holy Saturday

This is the first day after the long Lenten season when church customs include blessing of fire in church. In the old days the hot coals were carried by children to their homes to start the oven fires which had been closed down for 40 days. The church bells ring again and water is blessed. A basket of food is prepared for blessing "*žegen*". The basket represents the sepulcher of Jesus, the cloth covering the food is the Holy Shroud, bread is the Body of Christ, *Potica* represents the crown of thorns and "*klobase*" are the ropes that were tied to Him on the Mount of Olives. Five red colored eggs are the wounds of Christ and an orange is the vinegar soaked sponge offered to Him. *Hren*, "horseradish" roots symbolize the nails used to fasten Him to the Cross. (Taken from *Easter Traditions in Slovenia*, by Bernadette Fitzsimmons in "*More Pots and Pans*" cookbook).

Carrying a basket of food for “Žegen” (blessing) is a wonderful family tradition. All the blessed foods are eaten before any other food is consumed on Easter morning.

Decorated Easter Eggs

Pirhi (Pisanice)

Hard-boiled eggs are another beautiful Easter tradition, especially in Bela Krajina, one of Slovenia’s 8 provinces. Designs are made on hard-boiled eggs with a wax marker and colored dyes. The motifs include words, designs and symbols of Easter. Another egg decoration is made by wrapping small leaves, such as parsley, flat against the egg with a bit of cheesecloth or hosiery, tied tightly and dipped into strong tea made by boiling onion leaves. Depending on the strength of the tea, the color appears surrounding the silhouette on the finished egg. A nice activity for your children.



St. George Day – Jurjevanje - April 23rd

When the bushes turn green in spring, it’s time for the children of Bela Krajina to travel around in groups to the farmlands of the village, singing rhymes about a good harvest for farmers who give them treats. The leading child-figure wears a costume of a shroud of greens, made from branches of the blooming young trees. The idea is similar to our Halloween (Trick or Treat!).

Slovenian Patroness, Mary, Mother of Help — Marija Pomagaj – May 24th

At *Brezje*, in Slovenia, is the Shrine of Mary, Our Help, where thousands of pilgrims have traveled since the early 19th century to honor the painting of the Madonna and Child by Leopold Layer, and to ask her intercession. The breathtakingly lovely vision in the painting is seen in a golden, ornate frame. In America, we have seen reproductions of “*Marija Pomagaj*” in our Slovenian churches and there are many observances on her feast day. Almost every Slovenian recognizes it.

St. John the Baptist Feast – Kresovanje – June 24th

Another ancient custom is connected to the appearance of the nocturnal firefly in late June. There is an amusing tradition in Bela Krajina whose native costume is white linen. There, at dusk, women run among the fireflies, through the village and fields, first the little girls, then the unmarried girls, then the older ladies. They sing and call out their wishes for husbands, happiness and blessings. This falls every year on the feast day of St. John the Baptist.

St. Martin Day – Martinovanje – November 11th

St. Martin is the patron of the vineyards of Slovenia and of wine, which is the fruit of the vine. Slovenian wine dates back to the Roman times and is known to be of fine quality, equal to the best in the world. Slovenians like to believe

that on the feast day of St. Martin the grape juice that has been kept in barrels, and which is known as “must”, turns sour and becomes wine. Wine-lovers have a reason to have parties on that day with wine and special menus including roast goose.

Village Pub – Gostilna

In Slovenia a gathering place known for good food and drinks and meeting friendly people is called a “*Gostilna*”. The crowd that gathers there is usually entertained by musicians and singers. An old Slovenian saying is: “Life without holidays is like a long road without a *gostilna*!”

St. Nicholas Day – Sv. Miklavž – Miklavževanje - December 6th

St. Nicholas comes to visit the good little girls and boys on the night before his feast day. At bedtime, children leave out a plate, a shoe or a bowl for him to fill with treats which they find upon awakening on the 6th of December. There is the old admonition that if they were not good they would not get treats but a stick or piece of coal. In Slovenia, getting a gift from *Sveti Miklavž* is the same as getting one from Santa Claus in America. *Miklavževanje* is the public celebration of his feastday.

Christmas – Božič — December 25th

Customs for this holiday abound according to family and church traditions. Besides its religious meaning, there are special breads and cookies Slovenians bake for the holiday.

Little Christmas — Božičnik

Božičnik is made in the shape of a round loaf of mother’s best bread. It is made on Christmas Eve day and called by different names, depending on the area: *Župnik*, *Miznik*, *Močen*, *Kruh* and *Božič*. Topping the bread are dough figures of the Nativity (not eatable – just as decoration). The ancient tradition began in the farm homes of Slovenia. The *Božičnik* is placed on a cloth covered table while mother and family members gather around. She sprinkles seeds on the table, asking for a good yield from their fields and that food will be plentiful for all. She covers the bread with a decorated cloth and places the house key next to it for the safety of the house and a rosary is draped around the bread in hopes that they all go to heaven one day.

Christmas Creche - Jaslice

The nativity scene is also very popular in Slovenia and has been for hundreds of years. Usually it was made by hand of paper and paste and paints – before manufactured figures became available. The duty of the father in the family was to set it up in a prominent place on Christmas Eve, perhaps at the corner altar (Bogov kot). After placing the figures in order, the family would gather to pray the rosary. And this was usually followed by a procession through the house, led by the father and oldest child, sprinkling holy water in every room of the home and outdoors. Incense also was also used wherever available to add solemnity to the occasion. Afterward, the family attended Midnight Mass at their village church, carrying lighted torches to light the dark way.



Animal figures enhance Slovenian creche scenes

Reconciliation –Spravanje

New Year's Eve – December 31st

One of the most beautiful customs that Slovenians believe is to make all things right on the last day of the old year. Neighbors meet to shake hands and agree that they will be friends in the new year. Disputes are processed and resolved. This occasions a family gathering and celebration.

St. Sylvester Day – New Year's Eve

Silvestrovanje –December 31st

Although most people celebrate the end of the year just as New Year's Eve, Slovenians call it Silvestrovanje in honor of St. Sylvester, one of the few Popes who became a saint.

The Red Carnation

To American-Slovenians the red carnation is the symbol of our heritage. We choose this beautiful flower as our theme for the 25th National Convention of the Slovenian

Women's Union of America. It represents the binding of our present day members and all our Slovenian ancestors, whether or not they bravely ventured to make this country their new homeland or remained to live in Slovenia. This red flower tells of the love that connects the Slovenian family heritage no matter where we live. The red color is deep as the Slovenian blood lines that run so deeply in all our people. The velvet petals that tightly unite to form a beautiful flower symbolize our feelings between the family of origin and those we visit in the homeland of our people, Slovenia. We stand tall like the carnation and are a proud nationality that will preserve and honor our culture and heritage for the generations to come.



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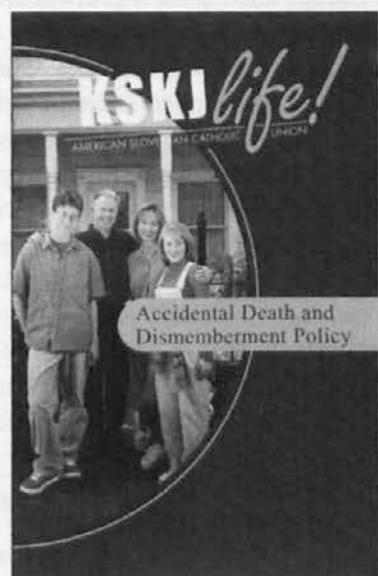
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Slovenian Culinary Traditions

Slovenian Cuisine Used in American Kitchens

Slovenian author, Andrej A. Fritz, in his cookbook called "Slovenian Cooking", prefaces his book by painting the following scene in words that bring us right into the Slovenian peasant kitchen as we imagine it.

"Grey smoke is pouring from the chimney of an old farm house where a bundle of wood is crackling in the old farm stove. In the bowl on a stone shelf by the stove is a half risen yeast mixture ready to be kneaded into dough for bread and potica. In the black hall behind the fireplace, ham, sausages and bacon are hanging from the ceiling. They are already slightly cured and their attractive, smoky smell permeates the air."

"Two more beech logs go into the old stove and the water begins to boil. Mother puts in two pinches of salt and waits until it is boiling vigorously, then pours in a cup of buckwheat flour and makes a hole in the center with a wooden spoon handle. Hot water erupts like a volcano. She pulls the pot to the side of the stove and leaves it to simmer gently. In the meantime, the sweet smell of coffee fills the room. She takes melted cracklings and sprinkles them on the crumbled buckwheat žganci."*



Chicken soup is simmering in a big pot and homemade noodles are drying on a wooden tray near the stove. Mother is still busy in the kitchen preparing the gibanica and before lunch delicious smelling bread and potica are taken out of the stove. Hungry mouths are already looking forward to budlan tongue, mežerli and štruklji."*

"Every mention of traditional cooking stirs up memories of these wonderful smells. The different regions of Slovenia, Primorska, Notranjska, Dolenjska, Štajerska, Prekmurje, The Ljubljana Region and Gorenjska offer a great variety of dishes. Every season brings different delicacies. Religious holiday and feasts, national customs, birthdays, influences from neighboring countries also leave their mark in Slovenia's rich and varied culinary chest."

*(*Žganci are crumbles of cooked cornmeal or buckwheat flour; Tongue is usually smoked, sliced or mixed in pork dishes; Mežerli is a smoked pork casserole; Štruklji are filled, cooked dumplings.) - See recipes for soup and žganci in this issue.*

HORSERADISH (Hren)

Horseradish is an herb whose root is used to make a pungent food relish. It is a member of the mustard family, *Cruciferae*. It is an underground root plant with long green leaves.

Every Slovenian grew some in the home garden. It is native to Europe and its use was brought here with our ancestors for cooking.

Slovenians traditionally shave horseradish and sprinkle it on top of smoked sausage on their Easter "žegen" breakfast meal. In the past, this chore, or honor was reserved for the man of the family and everyone watched to see if the aroma from the root made his eyes water. It was a good piece of hren if he "cried". Everyone would laugh and tease as he wiped away the tears.

Basic recipe:

Wash horseradish well. Peel, grind or grate. Add salt and vinegar enough to moisten. Use the raw horseradish

immediately so it will not darken. Store in tight container and refrigerate. Add vinegar occasionally so it won't turn brown. It keeps well and can be used with sausage, cooked beef, tongue or any cooked or smoked meat.

Shaved horseradish:

Wash root well and peel skin like a carrot. With a sharp knife shave the root by going back and forth, to make thin pieces. Sprinkle over prepared sausage just before serving.

An old time recipe for Horseradish Sauce:

Grate root to make one cup. Set aside. Combine 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/2 cup water, 1/2 tsp salt and 1 tablespoon white sugar. Combine liquids and seasoning; bring to boil. Pour hot liquid over grated horseradish and blend well. Place in jars and refrigerate. Keeps a lengthy time.

You know you are Slovenian if you love horseradish!

It is customary to wish others at the table "Dober tek" (Bon appetit) before starting your meal and we wish you the same!

Slovenian Desserts

Slovenian immigrants brought these recipes from their homeland in their hearts and then used them in their daily life. Many of us remember them and still use some today. Let us pass these on with love and remembrance of our ancestors today and future days. It is living our legacy!

Slovenian cuisine boasts of the lovely desserts that are an art to make, but loved by many. Ours are like none other, anywhere.

SLOVENIAN WALNUT POTICA

Slovenska orehova potica *A Slovenian Favorite!*

Ingredients:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 pkg. regular dry yeast, not fast rising | 1 cup Half and Half |
| 1 cup sour cream | 4 egg yolks, beaten |
| 4 T. sugar | 6 1/2-7 cups all purpose flour |
| 1 stick butter | 1 t. salt |
| 1/2 cup warm milk, not hot | 3 large loaf pans, greased |

In a small bowl, sprinkle 1 T. sugar over dry yeast, add warm milk, set aside until foamy.

In another bowl, mix beaten egg yolks and sour cream, set aside. Melt butter add Half and Half, cool slightly. In a large bowl place flour, add 3 T. sugar and salt. Make a well. Add egg yolks and sour cream mixture, butter, and Half and Half mixture, and foamy yeast. Mix until liquid is all absorbed.

Place dough on floured board and knead 10 minutes. Add small amount of flour if needed, or until dough is not sticky. Place in greased bowl, turn once so top is greased also. Cover with cloth and let it rise until double in bulk, about 1 1/2 hour in warm place. Meanwhile grease pans and make filling.

Filling:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 stick butter | 1 T. vanilla |
| 3/4 cup honey | 1 1/2 lbs. finely ground walnuts |
| 1 cup Half and Half | 4 egg whites, stiffly beaten |
| | 1 1/2 cups sugar |

Heat butter in Half and Half, pour warm over nuts, add sugar, honey, vanilla, mix well, then fold in beaten egg whites. Set aside. When dough has doubled in bulk, place on floured cloth. Roll out to 30x40 inches. Then gently begin stretching dough with your knuckles to stretch from center as far as it can go.

Spread filling over entire dough except 1 inch at the widest end to be rolled up last. Start rolling dough with fingers, tightly all along one side to make a long roll. Take cloth in hand, pull up and continue rolling gently. When half way, pierce the entire roll with tip of knife about every 2 inches to prevent cracking while it bakes. Continue rolling with cloth to about 1 inch from end. Paint this edge with egg white to seal. Cut into 3 loaves, place in greased pans, prick top again 2-3 times, cover, and let rise until double in bulk. Brush top with egg and milk mixture. Bake at 325 degrees for about 1 hour or until golden brown.

Let cool in pan 20 minutes and then turn loaves onto wire rack to cool. Dust with powdered sugar when cool.

SLOVENIAN APPLE STRUDEL

Jabolčni štrudel *A Very Popular Slovenian Dessert*

Ingredients:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| 2 cups flour | 1 cup white sugar |
| 10-12 cups peeled Jonathan apples, sliced thin | 3 T. vegetable oil |
| 1 egg | cinnamon |
| 2 cups plain bread crumbs | 1/2 cup tap water |
| 1 T. salt | 1 stick butter |
| | 3-4 T. Butter Crisco |
| | 1 large tin foil pan |

Sift flour and salt together, put in medium bowl, make small well in center. Mix egg and 1/2 cup tap water, pour into flour well. Add 3 T. vegetable oil. Mix well with spoon. Knead mixture with hands for about 15-20 minutes on slightly floured cloth or board. Place in medium bowl sprayed with Pam spray, cover lightly with cloth. Let rest in a warm spot 1/2 hour, such as slightly warm oven. Meanwhile melt 1 stick butter and add about 1 1/2-2 cups bread crumbs, mix and set aside. After removing rested dough from oven, preheat oven to 350 degrees

Roll out dough on floured cloth as far as it will reach. Stretch dough by gently pulling all around edges with hands as far as you can without tearing. Snip off any thick outside edges. Cover entire dough with thinly sliced apples, one at a time, no double layer. Sprinkle 1 cup sugar and cinnamon over apples. Add small dabs of butter on top of apples here and there, about 10-12 dabs. Sprinkle cooled bread crumbs/butter mixture on top of apples

Gently roll up strudel with fingers, starting with longest end form a long roll, tight at first, then take cloth and begin to slowly roll up, gently patting it to form a long firm log. Carefully place it lengthwise in a cookie sheet that has been sprayed with Pam. Dab several (3-4) tablespoons of Butter Crisco on the top of strudel

Bake about 1 hour at 350 degrees until golden brown, ovens vary, so watch for golden color. Baste with juices on the top several times during baking. Cool and serve slightly warm, not cold. You are a true Slovenian if you like to eat it cold!

CRISPY FRIED PASTRY or "ANGEL WINGS" (Flancati)

Flancati are served at all special Slovenian occasions, such as weddings and christenings. Many a Slovenian stara mama and teta make hundreds of flancati the day before a family wedding. It is their privilege to bless the couple and their guests by serving this very old lovely pastry as a special touch for the wedding banquet.

Ingredients:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 3 cups flour (reserve 1/2 c. for kneading) | 6 egg yolks |
| 3 T. butter | Powdered sugar |
| 6 tsp. sugar | Vegetable oil |
| | 1 T. white wine or brandy |

Reserve 1/2 c. flour. Sift 2 1/2 c. flour. In bowl add 6 tsp. sugar and 3 T. butter to sifted flour. With fork work in butter. Mix 6 egg yolks, 1 T. white wine or brandy, and combine with flour mixture. On floured board or cloth knead until blisters show, (about 15 minutes). Cover and let rest for one hour. Roll out very thin on a slightly floured cloth. Cut in rectangles, 4x3 inches. Make 2 slits down the middle, then taking one corner pull it through slits. It will look like a bow tie. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Cool and dust with powdered sugar. They can be frozen for 1-2 months, but do not dust with sugar until ready to use. Some call them "angel wings" as they are so light.

SLOVENIAN RAISED DOUGHNUTS (Krofi)

In Slovenia, it is a tradition to serve Krofi twice a year, on the day before Ash Wednesday and the feast day of the patron saint of the parish in their town. They are also served at christenings and funerals. They are delicately plain, but tasty.

Ingredients:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 packages dry yeast | 1 cup milk |
| 6 T. butter | 1 c. sour cream |
| 6 T. margarine | 1 cup half and half |
| 1 tsp. white sugar | 3/4 cup sugar |
| 6 large eggs | 1/4 cup lukewarm tap water |
| 2 T. flour | 1/2 cup grated lemon rind and juice |
| 1 tsp. salt | 9 1/2 cups flour |

Crumble yeast in water; stir in 1 tsp. sugar and 2 T. flour. Set aside to rise, 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in saucepan heat milk, half and half, butter and margarine; cool to lukewarm. In a large bowl, beat eggs, sugar, salt and sour cream

together. Add milk mixture to egg mixture. Stir in yeast, lemon rind, juice and 2 cups flour. Beat until smooth. Gradually mix in enough remaining flour until dough is easy to handle, about 7 cups.

Place on floured cloth or board and knead about 10 minutes until a soft non-sticking dough forms, adding more remaining flour as needed. Place in greased bowl, turn over to grease the top. Cover and let rise until double in bulk, about 1 1/2 - 2 hours. On lightly floured cloth, place dough and stretch (no rolling) to 1/2 inch thickness. Reaching from underneath the dough, pull outward to slightly stretch. Cut rounds with top of floured glass or doughnut cutter, (but no hole in Krofi). Place rounds on floured cloth; cover with cloth and let rise about 30 minutes. Repeat with remaining dough.

Fry in hot deep oil (3 inches of oil) in deep fry pan until golden brown on both sides, turning only once. Then place on brown bag to absorb grease. When cooled dust with powdered sugar. *Makes about 65 pieces.*

BUCKWHEAT CRUMBLES (Ajdovi žganci)

A traditional Slovenian staple!

Ingredients:

| |
|---|
| 1 qt. water |
| 2 cups buckwheat flour or substitute cornmeal flour |
| 1 tsp. salt |
| 2 T. melted butter |

Boil the salted water, add all the flour and cook for 10 minutes, The flour will congeal and form a large ball. After ten minutes pierce the center of this ball with a fork so that its interior also cooks and allow to boil further for 15 minutes. Pour off half the water and save it. Stir the flour ball with as fork and break into small, dry pieces (known as žganci). If too dry, add some of the discarded boiled water. Place the žganci in a bowl and dress with hot pork cracklings, chopped bacon or milk. If you use cornmeal for this mush, you may pour coffee over and serve it for breakfast!

Meet Chef Charlie

Executive Chef at Starved Rock Lodge and our SWUA 25th National Convention and 80th Gala Anniversary

Chef Charlie has been at Starved Rock Lodge for the past 11 years, and in the food service industry for 32 years. He spent 12 years in the United States Navy as a Mess Management Specialist. He has an Associates Degree in Business from Mesa College of San Diego, a degree from Century Schools for Chef's training, and is the proud father of six children and grandfather of a beautiful baby girl named Nevaeh.



Chef Charlie has helped Starved Rock achieve its award as one of the "Seven Wonders of Illinois". Charles Klinefelter believes in "cooking from within" so as to feed the soul, more than just the body. He oversees all aspects of the kitchen, dining room and lounge at Starved Rock Lodge ... from purchasing to creating menus and preparing special events (often with many occurring on the same day).

80th Anniversary Gala Recipes

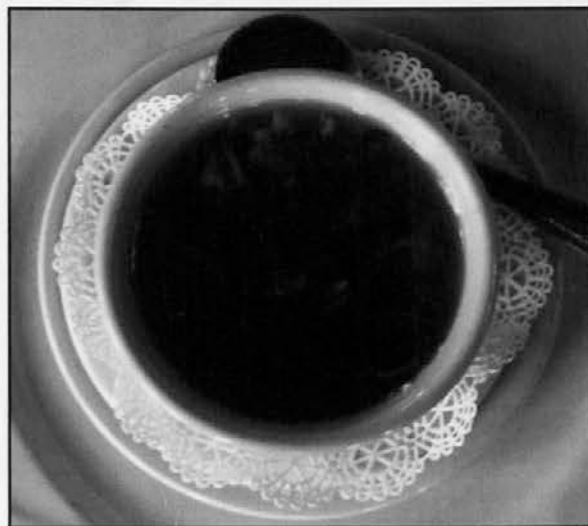
The 80th Anniversary Gala meal features delicious Slovenian foods selected by Jenka. Following are the recipes used by the chef to prepare a special meal in honor of SWUA's anniversary.

CHICKEN SOUP (Kurja juha)

Soup was served before each meal almost daily by early Slovenian immigrants, along with homemade bread. It was served before any other food and immediately after the blessing or grace before meals.

Method:

Wash one whole chicken, cut into parts. Add whole onion, salt and pepper and cover with water. Bring to a boil and then simmer until tender, about 1 1/2 hours. Do not let chicken fall from bone. Skim off fat from the top several times during simmering. Remove meat and skin from bones and add to broth. Strain broth. Add already cooked and drained carrots, celery, fresh parsley, with noodles to the broth. Serve in tureen placed in center of table, just as grandma did.



For the noodles:

1 cup flour and 1 egg

To make the noodles, sift the flour onto a board, then make a well and crack an egg into it. You can add an egg white or a little water. Mix with a wooden knife. Test the dough with your fingers to make sure it is damp enough, then knead until the pastry becomes elastic and does not cling to your hands and the board. Make a loaf, spread it with oil, and let it rest on a floured board for half an hour. Cover it with a bowl to prevent it from getting dry. Roll the loaf out. Keep adding flour to stop the pastry from sticking to the surface. Dry the rolled out pastry on a board or a cloth. Cut it once or twice and place the sheets on top of each other, then roll them up and slice into very thin noodles. Scatter them around the board and leave them to finish drying or, alternatively, you may cook them straight away. Boil them slowly for about 8 to 10 minutes in the soup.

Green Beans

Ingredients:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 pound fresh green beans, cut into short lengths and cooked, or 2 packages (10 ounces) frozen cut green beans, cooked, or 2 cans (16 ounces each) cut string beans | 6 slices of bacon 2 medium onions, chopped 4 teaspoons cornstarch 1 teaspoon salt 1/2 tablespoons dry mustard 2 tablespoons brown sugar 2 tablespoons vinegar |
|---|---|

Drain beans and reserve 1 cup water fresh or frozen beans were cooked in, or 1/2 cup liquid from can. Set aside. Fry bacon until crisp and drain on paper towel. Sauté onions in bacon fat until golden. In small bowl, mix cornstarch, salt, mustard, brown sugar, and vinegar. Add reserved liquid from bean and beat until smooth. Then add this mixture to the bacon fat in pan and boil until thickened slightly. Add string beans and stir well. Crush bacon and sprinkle bacon bits on top of casserole. *Serves 8*

Boiled Red Beets

Ingredients:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Sliced beets, 14 medium sized (boiled) | 3/4 cup vinegar |
| 1/2 cup onion, chopped | 1/4 cup oil |
| | 1/4 cup sugar |

Blend, add salt and pepper to taste.

Applesauce

Ingredients:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 8 cooking apples | 1/2 cup of salt |
| | 1/2 cup of sugar |

Wash, pare and core 8 cooking apples. Add about 1/2 cup water and 1/2 cup salt. Cook in covered pot until soft. Add about 1/2 cup sugar while hot. Simmer just long enough to melt sugar. Amount of sugar and water varies with sweetness and juiciness of apples.

For additional flavoring, add sugar, nutmeg, cinnamon, grated lemon rind or juice, or a combination of spices. *Serves 8*

Salad Dressing

| |
|-------------------------|
| 1 1/2 teaspoon of basil |
| 1/2 cup Vinegar |
| 1/2 cup Oil |
| 1/2 cup Sugar |

Mix well.

Food Photos taken by Kathy Spitzmiller Casstevens - Starved Rock Lodge, Branch 24



80th Anniversary Gala Recipes continued...



Pork Cutlets

Because they take up so much space, breaded cutlets for more than two servings must be prepared either in relays or in two large frying pans at the same time.

Ingredients:

- 4 pork loin cutlets, each about 1/3 in thick
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- ½ cup (2 oz) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs
- ½ teaspoon olive oil
- Semidried bread crumbs
- Peanut oil
- 1 lemon, quartered

Press the cutlets firmly with the side of a large knife blade to flatten them slightly. Sprinkle on both sides with salt and pepper. Assemble side by side: a plate spread with half the grated cheese; a soup plate in which the eggs, olive oil and a few drops of water have been beaten with a fork; and an opened newspaper spread abundantly with bread crumbs. Place a cutlet on the bed of Parmesan. Sprinkle some of the remaining Parmesan on top, pressing it in lightly with the palm of your hand. Transfer the cutlet to the beaten eggs, spoon some of the egg over the top and lift the cutlet rapidly to the breadcrumbs. Sprinkle crumbs generously over the top and press on gently. Repeat with the

remaining cutlets and leave the cutlets on the bed of crumbs to dry for 1 hour or so before frying.

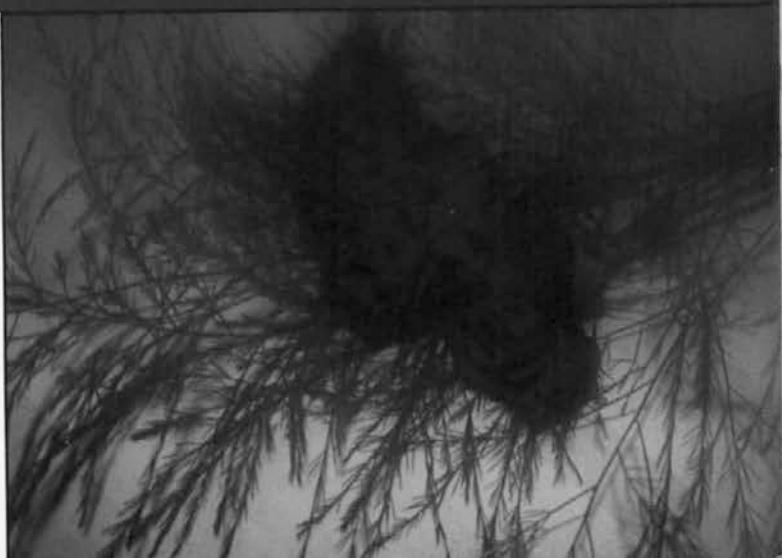
In a large frying pan over high heat, pour in oil to a depth of ½ inch. Slip in the cutlets and turn down the heat to medium or medium-low if necessary to prevent the cutlets from browning too rapidly. When they are golden around the edges, turn them by piercing, near the edge of the cutlet, with a single tine of a long-handled, two-pronged fork. When both sides are golden and crisp, after about 8 minutes, use a spatula to transfer them to paper towels to drain. Serve accompanied with the lemon quarters.
Serves 2

Cucumber Gravy

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1-2 large cucumbers | ¼ cup vinegar |
| 1 medium onion | 1 cup water |
| 1 T. fat or butter | Dash pepper |
| 1 heaping T flour | ½ tsp. sugar |

Pare and slice cucumber and onion thinly. Add salt and let stand in a warm place for 2 hours. Melt fat and add flour. Stir until very brown. Combine vinegar, water and sugar. Slowly add to the fat and flour mixture. Squeeze cucumbers and onions to remove excess liquid. Add to above mixture. Cook for 5 minutes, add pepper. Serve over mashed potatoes.



**80th
Anniversary
Gala**



**Slovenian Women's
Union of America**

**Starved Rock Lodge, Utica, Illinois
June 23, 2007**



Honoring Our Past... Envisioning Our Future

WELCOME
SWUA 80th Anniversary

In 1926, Marie Prisland and our other founding sisters had a mission of uniting Slovenian immigrant women throughout the United States. And now, 80 years later, we continue their dream as we still unite men and women of Slovenian decent and interests. If Mrs. Prisland would be with us today, I would hope that she would be very proud and amazed at the success of our life long efforts.

It is my fondest hope that all of our members, from the oldest to the youngest will continue to maintain their membership and to always remember their heritage with pride and continue to perpetuate their Slovenian traditions for many generations to come.

Congratulations to everyone as we celebrate 80 successful years! May you enjoy this wonderful time of celebration filled with authentic Slovenian culture and traditions.

Love and Blessings,

Kathleen Ferrante
National President



Cocktail Hour

Traditional Slovenian Welcome

Slivovtz - Bread - Salt
Music by the Singing Slovenes

Appetizers

White, Cheddar and Semi Soft Assorted Cheeses

Crackers

Slovenian Sausage
with Fresh Horseradish

Slovenian Wine Selection for Dinner

Red Wine - An excellent Merlot from Vinakoper. Intense ruby red in color. The flavors are of ripe raspberries and plums rounded off with sensations of vanilla and smoke. On the palate it is smooth and velvety with a nice balance acid and elegant tannins.

White Wine - A great Malvazija from Vinakoper. A light golden color with shades of green. It has a nose of white flowers and tropical fruits. On the palate it is fresh and delicate.



Honoring Our Past... Envisioning Our Future

Menu

Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup Seasoned
with Carrots and Leeks

Salad

Mixed Greens with Tomatoes, Sliced Cucumber
Served with Vinegar and Oil Salad Dressing

Applesauce

Boiled Red Beets Topped
with Vinegar and Oil Mixture

Entrée

Pork Cutlets, Breaded in Parmesan Cheese and Sautéed in
Olive Oil Accompanied
with Horseradish Sauce

Mashed Potatoes with Cucumber Gravy

Green Beans Sautéed with Bacon and Onion

Dessert

Home-Made Potica Made
by SWUA's Illinois Branches

Assorted Fruits



80th Gala Program

Cocktails (*Cash Bar*) 6 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

- Welcome:** Kathleen Ferrante,
1999 - 2007 National President
- Bonnie Pohar Prokup,
1999 - 2007 National Secretary
- Greeting:** Boris Pleskovic PhD, President
of the Slovenian World Congress
- Ambassador Samuel @bogar
- Consul General Dr. Zvone @igon
- Grace:** Father Bernard Horzen

Special Performance by the Children of Camp Heritage

Music and Dancing Following Dessert
Reception, Dinner and Dance Music Featuring
The Singing Slovenes

Silent Auction Ends at 9:00 p.m.
**Please Check the Board in the
Starved Rock Room for the Winners**

Cash Bar Available



Honoring Our Past... Envisioning Our Future

*The Republic of Slovenia,
the Office of Slovenia for Slovenes
Abroad (URAD) has honored the
Slovenian Women's Union of America
with a monetary gift in recognition of
the 80th Anniversary of the
Slovenian Women's Union of America.*

*We graciously thank the Republic of
Slovenia (URAD) for their recognition
of our historic achievement
with this gift of money.*

**Slovenian Women's Union of America
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