



ZARJA

- THE DAWN || 54788

URADNO GLASILO
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKE ZVEZE V AMERIKI

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

NUMBER 4

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VOLUME 68



Maksim Gaspari

K žegnu neesejo -

On the Cover: A beautiful, old Slovenian custom is captured by the artist, Maksim Gaspari: taking special food, beautifully prepared, to church for Holy Saturday Blessing.

F.S. Finžgar:

BLESSED EASTER RITUAL

Velikonočni žegen

All is swept – cleanly – all is in readiness. A white cloth covers the wooden table. Thereon, a colorful basket. The children stand around it. Mother begins to fill it. First, bread, all golden, like a crown of thorns. She places it in the basket and says the words:

This is a reminder of Christ's crown of thorns. He – a crown of thorns; we – a sweet cake. Lord, our gratitude for your holy crown!

Then, she brings five red colored eggs:

These are the five painful wounds of Jesus. Five drops of his holy blood. May the holy blood of Christ be worshipped a hundred thousand times!

At the edge of the basket she tucks in three spears of horseradish root.

Look, children, these are the horrid nails that fastened Our Redeemer to the Cross. When you misbehave and make your mother sad, each time it is as if the hammer falls again on the nails that crucified Christ.

And then, the fragrant ham. The children who have not tasted meat for weeks raise themselves on their toes to look.

This meat will also be blessed as it represents the Sacrificial Lamb, the body of Jesus who was slain for us.

The basket is filled. Mother covers it lightly with a lacy cloth. And, that is how it stands on the table! Beautiful, and mysterious!

The family stands and admires it silently. Mother, the priestness, has completed the ritual. Her words are still floating above the basket... so holy, so godly...

Vse pomito, vse pometeno. Na javorovi mizi je pogrnjen bel prt. Na prtu pisan jerbas. Otroci stoje okrog mize. Mati prinaša. Najprej velik kolač. Ves rumen je kot pšenično polje. Postavi ga prvega v jerbas. – 'To je spomin Kristusove trnove krone. On – trnovo krono, mi – sladko pogačo. Bog, bodi zahvaljen za tvojo sveto krono!' Nato prinese pet pirhov. 'To so petere bridke rane Jezusove. Pet kapelj njegove svete krvi. Sveta kri, bodi počeščena stotavžentkrat!' – Za obod jerbasa zatakne tri korenine hrena. 'Lejte otroci, to so strašni žebelji, s katerimi so pripeli Zveličarja na križ. Kadar ste hudobni in me žalite, z vsakim grehom kakor s kladivom udarite unovič na žebelj, da križate Kristusa!' In nato zadehti pleče in gnjat. Otroci, ki niso cele tedne okusili mesa, se dvignejo na prste. 'Tudi meso bo blagoslovljeno, kar pomeni jagnjička, samega Jezusa, ki je bil za nas zaklan!' Jerbas je napolnjen. Mati ga rahlo zagrne s čipkastim prtičem, ki je ob obodu ves poln šopoteljnov. Tako stoji jerbas na mizi! Sama lepota in sama skrivnost ga je. Družina še stoji, ga gleda in molči. Mati – svečenica – je dokončala obred. Njene besede še spokojno plavajo nad jerbasom. Svete so, božje so



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN APRIL

National Officers:

- Apr. 1 - Kathy Schroeder, Director of Youth, Sheboygan, WI
- Apr. 24 - Charlotte Laurich, Regional Pres. Minnesota, Chisholm, MN
- Apr. 25 - Kathy Emerson, Director of Women's Activities, Orion, MI

Presidents:

- Apr. 1 - Frances Korosec, Br. 59, Burgettstown, PA
- Apr. 4 - Margaret Gricar, Br. 71, Strabane, PA
- Apr. 10 - Jeanette Killoran, Br. 6, Barberton, OH
- Apr. 17 - Virginia Uhernik, Br. 74, Ambridge, PA

Secretaries:

- Apr. 3 - Vida Lanari, Br. 19, Eveleth, MN
- Apr. 18 - Katherine Knuth, Br. 38, Chisholm, MN
- Apr. 24 - Delores Puhek, Br. 2, Chicago, IL
- Apr. 26 - Jennie Crea, Br. 52, Kitzville, MN

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!



JEAN KORSMAN, NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Our eyes are on the future!

I have just returned from my first annual meeting of the SWU Board of Directors, and I am now, more than ever, inspired to work diligently with my fellow-directors to keep our SWU moving forward into the next century and beyond. This can only become a reality if our present Board (in co-operation with the majority of the members) has the vision and foresight needed to keep our Branches joined in a shared purpose, always working to strengthen the bonds of sisterhood.

The Minutes of this meeting will be published in an up-coming issue of our ZARJA. Much was accomplished in a relatively short time. We will continue to work on certain unresolved matters. Each eligible voting member, plus our dedicated appointed Board members, were invaluable in their in-put; and we are discovering the incredible talent and single-minded devotion that this diverse group brings to the Board.

It seems apparent to me that in spite of the many concerns brought to our attention, we will gradually and with everyone's constructive ideas, resolve these concerns in a democratic way and move on to the important job of rebuilding our SWU back to its peak enrollment of the 1950's.

Our new billing system is taking longer to implement than we had anticipated. We continue to make progress, as reported by our National Secretary, Evelyn Majercik, who attended this important meeting just days after burying her husband of forty-nine years. She put "Zveza" business ahead of her own personal loss, and the Board recognizes that great sacrifice with thankful appreciation. Without her combined report and suggestions we could not have reached certain final solutions.

Mary Turvey, a life-long member of Branch 1, Sheboygan, Wisconsin who lives in Marquette, Michigan has been appointed our new Scholarship Director, replacing Carita Girman. The Board is confident that she will carry out her assigned duties with the same dedication and diligence as her predecessors.

Also appointed was a new director of our SWU (ZARJA) Food Column (and Cookbook) to replace Hermine Dicke. This awesome task will not intimidate our choice, **Marion (Juricic) Bowers**, formerly of Joliet, now living in St. Helens, CA. She is one dynamic lady and we feel fortunate that, once again,

from the ranks of our own SWU membership, someone so qualified has come forward to take on the responsibility of this daunting job.

I am very proud of the work accomplished by the Executive Board since July. We have set far-reaching goals for the continuation and advancement of our Zveza; and we are committed (with strict adherence to the bylaws) to doing everything possible to accomplish these goals.

We are nearing the completion of our first annual Direct Billing procedure. We have undertaken a complete and accurate audit of all accounts; we have satisfied the requirements of the Illinois Insurance Code, we will soon have the revised Bylaws and Ritual booklet printed, we have implemented certain changes in the elected and appointed Directors job descriptions, and each Board member has been assigned several extra job responsibilities and duties which they have accepted with willingness and grace. Our new Women's Activities Director, Kathleen Emerson, has outlined a very exciting trip to our homeland, Slovenia, and we hope many of you will be able to take advantage of it, especially since this year marks the 70th anniversary of our Founding.

Much work remains to be done. With God's help, we will prove ourselves capable of this work.

I want to wish you all a Blessed Easter in our Lord Jesus Christ. I am also wishing a HAPPY 94th BIRTHDAY (April 7th) to my mother, Annie Purkat!



My mom's a young 94! God bless her!



NATIONAL SECRETARY EVELYN MAJERCIK



SECRETARIES – MEMBERS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

The process of Direct Billing is well underway. Many of you have already sent in your payments and we thank you for your cooperation. There are notes included in many of the envelopes, and although some are disturbing, others are encouraging and we are thanked for the easy process we have begun.

We fight so hard to keep ZARJA, but are you reading it? Most of the notes inquire when were the dues raised, who raised them and why members were not notified. Check the back issues of ZARJA since May. You were advised; it all took place at the National Convention. One member called to report that their branch was advised that dues were raised to buy a computer. No, the dues were raised to keep up with the increased cost of postage, printing, utilities, etc.. No raises were given to officers in order to keep within our budget. Look back on your own household expenses to see the reasoning we had to content with -- we could not stay where we were, it has been time to move ahead, we have been stalling. As with other increases, the death claims' payments are also increasing every year.

Special assessments were asked for, \$1.00 per year per member. These assessments were either not collected, not paid, or not sent in at the time as requested. I received a check just this month for 1995 special assessments. Your increase in dues **includes** the assessment, you do not have to pay an extra dollar.

At the recent Board Meeting in Joliet, one significant change was approved, on a change of beneficiary. The green form will have to be filled out, however, if you will take your policy to **your branch secretary**, she can notate the change for you; her signature (as secretary) will be honored.

I finally found out what the "OFFICIAL NOTICE OF DEATH" was for. I could see no use for it since it is sent in with a death certificate -- how much more official could we get! But, in searching some records, the purpose of the OFFICIAL NOTICE OF DEATH surfaced. Secretaries, when you are informed of the death of a member, the OFFICIAL NOTICE should be sent **immediately** to the National Secretary. This will be kept on file until the death certificate and the policy/certificate are received. There are thirteen outstanding benefits to be paid, dating back to 1994. We must rectify this problem. Your attention to this procedure is needed and will be appreciated. This will be effective with the April issue of ZARJA.

Members, please **do not send in advance payment for 1997** with your invoice. We are trying to get the system in complete working order before we go on to bigger and better things. We are satisfied to receive what is due for 1996.

I appreciate all the comments that have been received. One member, on the verge of quitting, placed a call and when "things" were explained to her, she decided to stay with us. I was glad she took the time to call, and I thank her for her decision.

By the time this letter is printed, all branches should have received their billing. If you have not heard from us, a short note will be appreciated. Be sure to include your name, address, branch number and certificate number for easy tracing. A self-addressed stamped envelope will help if you expect an answer.

Thank you for taking time to read this "epistle". Please, take time to read your ZARJA, we are keeping it for you. If you wish to address a letter to the National Secretary for publication in this page, please send it to P.O. Box 46539, Bedford, OH 44146. Will try to answer inquiries that may interest other members, too.

Thank You...

To the Executive Board of Slovenian Women's Union, to the officers and members of branches throughout the United States, to the individual officers/members from so many locations, I cannot put into words the gratitude that I feel for your thoughtfulness shown to me and my family during our bereavement.

My husband, Steve suffered for over two years in nursing homes and his struggle became harder after the first of the year. He fought the true fight, he deserves heaven. His pain and suffering ended on February 2nd, and he now rests in peace.

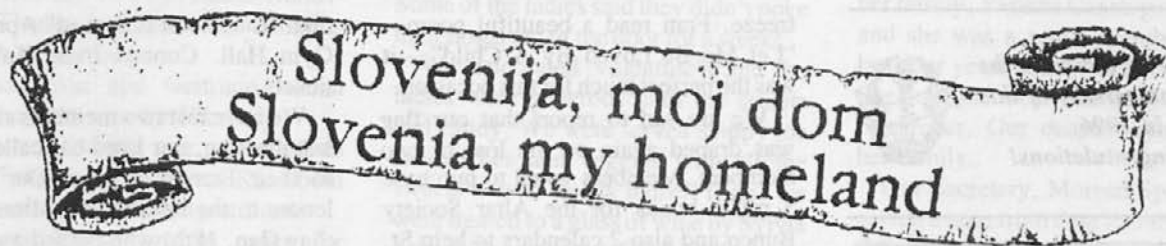
On behalf of my sons, their wives and all the grandchildren, but especially from me -- Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Evelyn A. Majercik



70th Anniversary Tour

September 2-16, 1996



Tour Features

- Roundtrip Airfare from Detroit on board KLM Airlines
- All Accommodations, including first-class hotels and some at Slovenia's Spas
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily, many at Slovenia's finest Gostilnas
- All sightseeing & admissions per itinerary in All Slovenia's Seven Regions!
- Airport transfers & Deluxe Kompas Motocoach on tour
- Special wine-tasting & parties - planned just for You.
- Baggage handling, local taxes & service charges at hotels
- All airline taxes (as of this printing)
- Special "Learn about Slovenia" travel document package
- Gala Farewell Dinner in Venice with "Vaporetto" rides through this Adriatic Jewel
- Tour price also includes connecting air from Pittsburgh, Cleveland or Chicago. Inquire about low add-ons for other cities.

All of beautiful Slovenia... the way it should be seen,
 plus Venice, Trieste & Austria!
 and a Visit to Zagreb, Croatia

Only \$2,717 per person/double occupancy
 (add \$185 single supplement)
 (Non-member surcharge: \$50 per person)

**PRICES GUARANTEED ONLY UNTIL MAY 1ST
 SIGN UP NOW. FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED
 SEND FOR A COMPLETE BROCHURE!**

**Deadline for reservations: MAY 1, 1996
 Final payment due, JULY 1, 1996.
 A \$300.00 deposit per person must accompany
 all reservations.**

ARRANGEMENTS BY: T. STEFL TRAVEL
 603 Laurel Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146
 (412) 856-9290; FAX (412) 856-9285

Detach here & mail with your check payable to T. STEFL TRAVEL
 and mail to: Kathleen Emerson, 41 Sparrow Hill
 Orion Township, MI 48359 - Tel. (810) 370-0015

I/We enclose a deposit of \$ _____ (\$300 per person)
 Deadline for reservations is May 1, 1996

Names(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tele. () _____ Rooming with _____

Departure City: _____

Note: All airline taxes & departure taxes are included as of February 15, 1996.
 Any increase will be surcharged.

INSURANCE: (A reservation will not be accepted unless you select one of the following options.)

- _____ Trip cancellation protection only (\$148.50 per person) OR
- _____ Comprehensive Coverage (\$172 per person) OR
- _____ I/We decline insurance protection.

Note: All flights nonsmoking. _____
 Signature & Date

NOTE: Itineraries are always subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances and in the best interest of the group. Tour prices based upon a minimum of 30 passengers.

Start With Us!

That's the name and that's the message for the current SWU Membership Campaign, now going on!

Sign up a new member today! Use the SWU Brochures that tell the story of our "Zveza" - get your friends interested in the heritage work and women's activities promoted these many years by the Slovenian Women's Union.

Membership Applications are available through the branch secretaries or write to the Home Office, 431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432.

ACTIVITIES

SWU Crest indicates the 65th Anniversary of this branch in 1996. Congratulations!



NO. 1, SHEBOYGAN, WI

After a cold and snowy winter here in Sheboygan, we are looking forward to spring and then, summer. Happy Easter to all members of S.W.U.!

No meeting in March – we will have our regular meeting on the third Tuesday in April at 6:30 p.m. in the Church hall. We have much to discuss. Our Mother's Day Program and celebration, time, place, etc. Our up-coming Bingo Party. Also, the Convention and 70th Anniversary in September. It will be a busy meeting. Let's make it a good one with everyone present.

I want to thank all the people who made our Bakeless Bake Sale in February a success. The money will be used for convention expenses, as will the proceeds from the Bingo Party.

I hope all of you will be paying your 1996 dues when you are billed. Do not send any money to me. I have forwarded any dues paid to me for the year 1996 to the National Secretary.

We want to wish all our shut-in members and those in nursing homes continued good health and a speedy recovery to all who are ill.

God Bless! Happy Easter!

DOROTHY BREZONIK

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

"HAPPY ST. VALENTINE MEETING" – It was a river of red. Ray had the hall decorated in red hearts. Joe Worth donated beautiful flower center pieces, and Jo Lukas and Helen Fitzgerald made cute favors. Almost all the members were wearing red. We had a nice turnout because the weather was really very spring-like, especially since we just came out of the deep

freeze. Fran read a beautiful poem – "Let Me Be Loved By A Child" – it was the perfect touch for this occasion.

We are sad to report that our flag was draped again on the loss of two members. Members voted to purchase 5 raffle books for the Altar Society Bunco and also 2 calendars to help St. Stephen's fundraiser.

For our Mother's Day Meeting **May 9th**, members voted that since we are celebrating the **70th Anniversary** we should honor all members of Br. 2 in memory of all our dear deceased members. We hope that everyone will mark this date on your calendars and especially those members who were honored in the past. Remember MASS will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. prior to our dinner.

July 21, 1996 – ZVEZA DAY – Lemont, IL. Raffle books will be mailed to all members shortly. We hope that members from other branches will be able to attend; it is such a beautiful place. You will have a real good time. There are many hotels in the vicinity for anyone who would like to make it a nice weekend in Chicago, especially if you want to see the new Slovenski dom.

Frankie Zefran is running for Rep. of the 25th District. Good Luck. We know we will do a great job.

Tour to Slovenija – September, 1996 sponsored by S.W.U.

ILLINOIS/INDIANA CONVENTION – October 6, 1996. For the history of Br. 2 we need any pictures of the trips, plays, choir, bowling league, picnics that you may have. Everything will be returned to you, just write your name and address on the back. It seems such a long time away, but the months – go by as fast and there is so much to accomplish. We need help from everyone! Call Fran (708) 485-7306 or Daisy (708) 325-3965.

Jean Hrastar celebrated her birthday and she treated us to a very delicious supper: pasta, salad, French bread and a big strawberry/whip cream cake. Thanks to Jean and also to the other members who brought treats.

Our Lady's Guild will have their an-

nual "Luncheon is Served" April 25th, Gym Hall. Contact Irene Kalina for tickets.

We have lost two members since our last meeting, our Lord has called them to their Eternal Homes. Our condolences to the families of: Minnie Roschay (Jan. 18th) who passed away one day before her 88th birthday. She was a member for 68 years! Margaret Stefancic (Feb. 3rd) was 85 yrs old and was a member for 31 years. Please remember both Minnie and Margaret in your prayers that they will rest in peace.

Condolences also to Angie Blatnik on the loss of her sister, Theresa Ford.

Rosaries were said for our sick: Terry Morison, Irene Kalina, Jennie Worth, Mary Slabe, Jo Sinkovec, Irene Carter, John Zeleznikar, Helen Storch, Josie Squok, Sally Bogolin, Stella Longosz, Kati Sarbernek and Pauline Storgul. Please remember them in your prayers and a card will make them feel better.

For those who are interested in learning Slovenian – Adults and children's classes are being taught at the Slovene Cultural Center/Lemont – contact Julie Lavoie – (708) 241-3310 for more information.

Congratulations to Debbie and Johnny Hozian on the arrival of little Jessica Ann (2/12) and to our members, Grandma Anna Hozian, JoAnne and RoseMary. A new member?

We will celebrate the coming of spring at our April meeting. MASS for the ailing members – 7:00 a.m. – Meeting April 11 – 7:30 p.m. We hope that we will have a good attendance so we can make plans for our Mother's Day celebration, our "Diamond" Anniversary.

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE!
Love,

DAISY

NO. 3, PUEBLO, CO

The number of members attending our meetings has grown considerably. This is great. There were twenty-two present at our February meeting.

A memorial tribute was given for

Catherine Glavich Ahner and daughter, Abigail who passed away January 20. Catherine was the daughter of Sally Glavich and sister of Mary Jo Walsh, Nancy Wimber and Rick Glavich.

The mystery gift was donated by Anna Klun and won by Frances Ondovchik. Thanks to Frances for donating the gift to our lodge.

Agnes Cvar and Gertrude Jordan were the hostesses for February.

Get well wishes are extended to Mary Tekavec and Delores Klun both of whom are recuperating at home.

Congratulations are in order for Agnes and Frank Cvar who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary March 14. This happy couple have five sons, fifteen grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and another one on the way. Dominick Russell DeCarlo, born in December, was added to the great grandchildren's list. Agnes is one of our faithful members who very rarely misses a meeting.

With Easter around the corner, there are many activities at St. Mary's Church. During lent the ladies of the parish serve a meatless soup and bread after the 12 o'clock mass with donations going to the poor.

The spaghetti dinner, bake sale and raffle held in February was very successful. Without the faithful workers this could not have happened.

We would like to have more members attend our meetings and join the comradie we have. Our next meeting will be April 5.

PAULINE PAUCHICK

NO. 6, BARBERTON, OH

Spring is here. Birthdays are celebrated by our president, Jeanette Killo-ran (4-10) and our Florida gal, Julia Muren (4-14). If any one didn't catch March's Dawn she's in Colorado with her daughter recovering from an illness over the winter months. Call if you need an address on her.

Also, my soul-sister, Mary K. She's taken up residence at Doylestown Health Care Center. Give her a call or visit.

On behalf of myself and our president, Jeanette we want to extend wishes for the Holiest of Easter and God bless you all.

LINDA LAMBRIGHT

NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

We have had such awesome weather this year that when our meeting day came we had a very good attendance. Some of the ladies said they didn't poke their noses out of the door for a week!

We celebrated Valentine's and the ladies were generous with the sweets and candy. We were served sloppy joe sandwiches and veggies with all the sweets - who needs more? Then, we were treated to a glass of wine by Sylvia Kotze! There were a few birthday girls this month and they were generous. Thanks.

As you know, we have a new secretary, a very capable person. Any branch business should be directed to Theresa Fedran, 3161 S. 146th St., New Berlin, WI 53151, telephone, 782-0133.

With the extremely cold weather, the snowbirds went south. Leona Zigman, Phylis Pruschick, Estelle Kodlow headed for Florida; Evelyn Laurich headed for Arizona. I'm sure others left, too, but I am not sure where!

Rose Luebke and husband, Ray celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss. Congratulations! Rose is such a big helper for our lunches.

Al Jelinek is having some health problems and we wish him well. He is such a big, big help to us, always giving generously of his time and efforts. Thank you to all the kitchen crew - helpers and clean up!

If you have any news for us, please call me. Be glad to mention it. By the way, our president's husband is ill so say an extra prayer for him. Include all our members, too.

Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Easter Season!

MARY KIEL

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

I just received my March Zarja and I love reading it cover to cover. Once you have the opportunity to go to a Convention and meet all the delightful ladies from other Branches, it's more fun reading about them and thinking of wonderful memories. There hasn't been much news and it seems we are getting smaller and smaller. With much sadness, I report that we lost two dear members recently. Marie Ruth Zwysig

who was a member for 30 years, passed away at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Robert Checchi. Ruth always had a smile and loved to talk to everyone. She was so friendly and we will miss her. Our prayers to her family. Yvonne Cosmi passed away and she was a social member for the last four years and loved our meetings. She lost her dear husband, Reno, in December. Our deepest sympathy to her family.

Our Secretary, Moreen Spencer, received a note from dear member, Marie (Minnie) Heath with her dues. She is now living in Bakersfield, Cal. with her daughter, Carolyn Chesson. She says to say hello to everyone.

Ladies, please remember, you will be billed for your dues from the Home Office. **DO NOT SEND YOUR DUES TO MOREEN...** Please read Evelyn's letter in March ZARJA. You won't be forgotten, it will just take time.

I was very saddened to read of the death of Stephen Majercik, Evelyn's husband. I will remember Steve as a quiet and gentle man. Evelyn and Steve opened their home and their hearts to me at the Cleveland Convention. Evelyn drove, took, fed, entertained, and cared about me for seven days. This is truly one giving and loving lady and she has her work cut out for her. Thank you, Evelyn and my love and prayers to you.

I spent the day with member, Marion Mirabella, recently. We went to a paperdoll party together. She is doing so well after her recent problems. Yes, grown-ups do play paperdolls!!! And love it!

Doreen Sustarich is doing well since her knee surgery. But she is wearing a knee brace that weighs more than she. Hang in there, Doreen.

Next Thursday is our Bingo Luncheon and we usually have a great time. Good food, good company, and good prizes. Hope to see everyone.

Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Easter.

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced.

Live your life in such a manner that when you die the world cries and you rejoice...

BEVERLY JACKSON

Start With Us
on the current membership drive!

As I write today's article, our temperature is promised to zoom up to 60 degrees! A person is immediately energized upon seeing the sun shining brightly after months of bitter cold and snow.

Our President, Marty Koren, had an unfortunate fall and has broken her leg, but will have her cast off within a short time. Best wishes to you, Marty, for a speedy recovery, and to all of our members who might be ailing.

If you haven't set aside Tuesday, May 7, be sure to do so now as that's the date when we'll honor "Woman of the Year" Mary Strazisar (Arrowhead) at our Mother's Day dinner party. Time is 6:00 at Slovenian Society Home on Recher Avenue. Bring your spouses and friends for this gala evening. Call in your reservations to either Marty Koren 585-4227 or Vera Bajec at 481-7473.

Condolences to the family of Frances Plut who passed away in February. May our most merciful Lord and his loving Mother watch over our dear departed loved ones.

Wishing you Easter Blessings. May the joy of Easter fill your heart!

ALICE KUCHAR

NO. 16, SO. CHICAGO, IL

He is Risen! Veselo Velikonoč! Buono Pasqua! I wish all of my readers a most Blessed Easter!

Let's backtrack to January. Our Mary Brozovich celebrated her 80th birthday and I missed it! So sorry. This lovely lady deserves a ton of good wishes for many more years! I apologize for being so late. We all love you, Mary!

We should give thanks to Marie Prislant, our SWU Founder, and her capable co-workers for organizing our Zveza in 1926, 70 years ago! Well done, ladies! We silently salute you!

Our branch was chartered in 1928 – so we will have 68 candles on our cake this year. Sorry to say that none of our charter members is here with us today. The only member close to that anniversary is Alvina Sreboth – 64 years a member! Živijo, Alvina! It would make

all of us happy if only you could come and celebrate with us!

Our travelers have returned from the Cruise, relaxed and filled with happy memories after enjoying the lull of the southern ocean and the warm weather, great food and ship-board fun, Ready for another one?

By the way, do any of you recall my grandson, Sean who sang the Rainbow Connection at one of our parties? He was between 10 and 12 years old then. Well, that young man is now taking himself a bride. Julie Bauer is her name and she's from Springfield, IL. They will exchange marriage vows at Ascension Church in Oak Park on April 13th. Father Dan Montalbano, a long-time family friend will perform the Sacrament of Matrimony. My best wishes for a long and happy life together, Sean and Julie. I love you! 'Candy Gram'.

Pat Schwer, daughter of Ann Lustig, had foot surgery. Hope all is well by now, Pat. Our friend, Marie Vidovich also had surgery. You are in our prayers, Marie. Mary "Martz" Bublich is at present in Mercy Home. We still have some members who are ill and need our prayers: Ana Lustig, Madeline Jerich, Alvina Sreboth, Gloria Serapin, Dolores O'Brien. If there are any others, please let me know.

Please try to attend our April 13th meeting. C'mon down! Lunch is at 1 p.m.

Stay well. Enjoy!

MARGE

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Sorry that the March meeting was cancelled. It was a last minute thing and the March issue of ZARJA already had gone to print. But I am pretty sure there will be an April 16th meeting at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Park. Our guest speaker will be Jerome Terry from Crime Prevention. He will talk and demonstrate to us how to protect our selves. Hope to see you there.

I received a nice letter from Anne Hainsel. She recently moved here from Florida and is now staying with her daughter in Romeoville. She hasn't been feeling very well so I am sure that moving in with Carol was the right thing to do. We also wish a speedy recovery to Rosalie D'Andrea and Ann Kobe. Hopefully everyone will be well



DARLING NEW MEMBER!

Benjamin Joseph Pucel joins the Br. 20 Junior crowd, thanks to his loving grandmother, Millie!

by Easter, which is just around the corner.

Congratulations to Marion Bowers of St. Helena, California. Marion who is a member of Branch 20 has been chosen recipe editor and the future cookbook editor. We wish you lots of luck on your new position.

Happy 25th wedding anniversary to Helen and Glen Minnick. Hope that the two of you have many more happy years together.

Benjamin Joseph Pucel is our youngest Junior member. He was born on October 16, 1995 to Vic and Jean of Merrimac, WI and is the grandson of Millie and Rudy Pucel of Joliet, IL. Mom, Jean and grandma, Millie are members of Branch 20.

Welcome back, Helen Plut. Helen has just returned from a trip to the Holy Land, Jerusalem and Haifa. That really must have been some trip! I get excited just going to Milwaukee for a bowling tournament. Maybe we can persuade Helen to write about it in the ZARJA. I am sure most of us will probably never have such a wonderful opportunity.

Slovenian Women's Union is organizing a trip to Slovenia September 2nd thru the 16th. Call Jonita Ruth for a brochure at 727-1926. Deadline is May 1st.

Branch 20 extends our deepest sympathy to Margaret Rems on the loss of

SHARING...

Ann Dragovan of Br. 20, Joliet, IL sent us some information to share with all members. It tells of the help being given to cancer patients by surgeries that were unheard of a few years ago. One such surgeon is named and he is Dr. Vinko Dolenc at the University of Virginia. The following is taken from the article:

* * *

"A native of Slovenia, Dr. Dolenc had performed more operations in the region of the brain where my tumor was than any other surgeon in the world. He had developed the procedure for gaining access to this inaccessible area through dissections on hundreds of cadavers and a number of live patients as well - almost all of whom lived to thank him. I turned out to be one of them.

"My experience has taught me that 'miracles' in medicine always start with the right doctor. I also know from personal experience that searching for this person is an arduous task. And when the illness is life-threatening, when the temptation for denial and the urge to emotional surrender are strongest, that search can seem impossible and pointless. No wonder so few Americans take advantage of the choice of doctors available to them, even when their insurance policies permit it.

"But for anyone who is given a death sentence and refuses to die, there is always a chance."

* * *

It is interesting to learn how the human spirit can overcome the impossible. In this story, a Slovenian surgeon is one of the miracle-workers. It makes one feel that life is worth every effort, starting with prayer and perseverance.

Editor

her husband, John. We also send our sympathy to Tony Rozman and family on the death of his wife and our member, Theresa. Also to Bernice Ogulin on the death of her sister. And to the family of Anna Kunich. Anna has been a member since 1928.

Don't forget our bakery sale, April 20th and 21st. Get those recipes out and find one that is really good. This

year's chairpersons are Marcia Judnick and Agnes Dobczyk. Bake sale will be at St. Joseph's Church after all Masses.

Till April 16th, take care and have a Happy Happy Easter.

JOYCE VICICH

NO. 22, BRADLEY, IL

As fast as your selection goes on a tray (mine is hot soup and sandwich, cone yogurt) you pay the tab and off you go to the private conference room at Hardee's Fast Food for a leisurely lunch and meeting! A nice innovation for a so-so February. Hereinafter, hostesses will have the option of entertaining at a restaurant that can accommodate a group for social time as well. It was decided also to send the Mass for deceased members to Fr. Rene Dionne in Spain. He is a former Bradleyan and a missionary priest, a member of a congregation commonly known as the White Fathers of Africa. Our local parish of St. Joe's is too large to be able to satisfy all Mass intentions locally.

Our condolences to member, Mayme Drassler and to Mathilde Beham of Sun City, AZ, on the death Nov. 3 of their sister, Frances Krick (89) in Indiana, six months after her husband, Bill. Frances was Mayme's best friend; both worked in offices at Kroehler's and always traveled together until Frances' marriage and subsequent move to Earl Park, IN in 1950. At Kroehler's she was secretary to VIP, C.B. Kroehler. A life-long neighbor and friend of the Lustig family, she was this reporter's sponsor for Confirmation; I must say, sterling silver signet ring gift is still being worn, albeit now on the little finger. For all her goodness, her soul is surely at peace.

Only eight were present at our Feb. 20 meeting, Mayme D. having returned to Arizona's warmer clime and Mary and Barbara Rittmanic at home to help Leo observe his 91st birthday, graced, too, with the presence of daughter, Katie Ochwat from Texas. A few days later indefatigable Leo was tending the beer/wine table for the CCW ladies' fish fry. January found three members adding one more year to their age: Margaret Planton, Gabrielle Lustig and Emma Znidarsich (Wisconsin). To all,

many more years and please, God, make them healthy and happy ones!

Still more congratulations! On February 26 Leo and Mary celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary with Mass and quiet family gathering. Stay well, friends, so we can participate in next year's bash!

Not so quiet was the 50th anniversary of marriage vows renewed by Francis and Ann Richards at Sunday Mass Nov. 5, after which relatives and friends were treated to a tasty buffet dinner in the church hall. The Richards are rightfully proud of their children, Dr. James, professor in computer science at U of Minnesota, Bemidji, and Barbara Clutter of Bradley, who has a responsible position with the Bank of America. There are four grandchildren. To the Richards, good health and the pleasure of each other's company for years to come. The same wish goes to the Clutters, Alan and Barbara, who had a 25th anniversary in '95.

A geneology search shows that my nephew Jim's children are, oh, so distantly connected to Abe Lincoln by virtue of their mother's family descending from the Hanks family.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 16, after the great and glorious Feast of Easter. So, Happy Easter! Happy Spring! God love you all!

EMMA LUSTIG

NO. 23, ELY, MN

The February meeting of the Ely Branch of Slovenian Women was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Yadlosky, on February 5th. The Auditing Committee reported that everything was in order; and it appeared we should be all right financially. Discussion was held on fund raisers. We will no longer pay dues for members over 90, but will notify the families if they wish to do so.

Florence Markovich was selected as Mother of the Year.

Get-well wishes to Mary Petritz, who has been in the hospital.

The door prize was won by Florence Markovich; and the 50/50 drawing of \$8.50 was won by Mary Bird. 24 members were present. Lunch was served; and Bingo was played.

Submitted by,

MARCELLA ZUPEC

"My art work,

of course, is my career, whether I am working on a commission or achieving goals which I set for myself. I do paint, draw, sculpt or design most of the time in my waking day, but I am definitely not a routine person. Time and intensity vary according to the theme, material, inspiration, goals, etc. My thoughts and my work do not follow formulas but happen in little and big explosions.

While art work makes strong demands upon me, the bit of poetry I write usually comes of itself, a communication to myself of thoughts and emotions that surface into words that play and dance. The two volumes of nature poems were a discipline to open my eyes and thoughts each day to my surroundings.

In the second grade at a creative little neighborhood school, our teacher encouraged us to write both poetry and stories. I was so delighted with the first poem I wrote that I set it to music with my limited knowledge of piano (one octave, one hand!) I loved reading poetry and wrote verses off and on throughout my grade and high school years. Poetic passages from scripture, especially Psalms, became my favorite prayers.

When I had to learn Spanish to go to Panama, I was so busy working on two M.F.A. degrees, learning French, teaching art, and creating a complete chapel, that the only time I had left was the commuter train time on my way to and from Chicago. In those hours I read and memorized Spanish poetry and woke up every morning reciting it. I developed a wonderful but quite impractical vocabulary! Yet, it was a good foundation to build upon; and as a result, I was able to write poetry in Spanish as well." Lil Brulc

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lillian Brulc is our featured poet this month. She is a multi-talented, creative lady that we have come to know for her unique qualities. I requested that "Lil" send me some information about herself that could be included with her poetry so that ZARJA readers would have a better idea of the personality behind the verse. She obliged and when I received her interesting letter, I decided to share the majority of it with our readers in this issue and the remaining portion at another time. Lil is truly a fascinating person and her letter itself, reads as poetry.

We look forward to receiving many more poems written by Lil Brulc of Joliet and the remainder of her letter revealing even more of her remarkable individuality will be then shared with ZARJA readers.

* * * * *

*(Please send your poem for inclusion in this column to:
Irene Odorizzi, 2362 Paddock Lane, Reston, VA 22091).*

Lillian Brulc:

Pleasant day

*Today the season's within reason —
Clouds cleared away
Before the sun was high —
Warmth endows the region —
Light winds play
Passing by.*

Parable of the Talents

*A whistling from the red cardinal
bird —
As clear as a spoken word —
A cooing from the ring-neck dove —
Making soft sounds as of love —
They care little that the day
is hot —
Humidity bothers them not —
Their songs must be sung while
they live —
The gift given, in return they give.*

Lazy Day

*The kind of day when ice cream
is good —
When what we do is not what
we should —
We'd rather be in a swimming
pool —
Keeping cool.*

Summer Dawn

*Before sun-up I went out and
heard
A chorus of sparrows — that ubiquitous
bird —
I noted the broken oak tree branch —
Its open wound beginning to
blanch —
I smelled the odor of a full,
dark pine —
Rich as the bouquet of benedictine
or wine —
And the heady perfume of flowers
adorning
The path that god walks in the
cool of the morning.*

Minnesota Waters

*Lake waters — lapping
The shore — licking
The rocks — laving
Loons — their young guiding —
On the surface gliding —
A sudden dip — diving —
under.*

***Waiting
at the Corner***

*The smallest shadow cools
The blistering walks and streets —
Strong, the torrid weather rules —
The asphalt overheats.*

Olympics '96 in Atlanta



Dozens of Slovenian athletes will participate in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. The Slovenian Nationality House is showcasing the country's Olympic past, national history, culture, tourism and economic vitality.

Olympic heritage comprises much of Slovenian history and includes 21 Olympic medals. Leo Stukelj won a total of 17 medals at World and Olympic Championships, 8 of which were gold medals. At the age of 97, Mr. Strukelj has the distinct honor of being the world's oldest living Olympic champion.

About 30 Slovenian athletes will compete in rowing, shooting and a track and field. The rowing team won two bronze medals at the 1992 Summer Games held in Barcelona and the entire entourage of athletes is expected to bring home many more medals this year.

Slovenska Hiša (The Slovenian House)



Ken Odorizzi Photo

The grand opening of the Slovenian House, located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, was celebrated January 23, with a polka band, delicious Slovenian sausage flown in from Cleveland, Ohio, and highlighted by the appearance of Ambassador Ernest Petric. Slovenia is the first nation to open an Olympic hospitality house in Atlanta.

The House will serve as a central meeting area for dignitaries and athletes gathered for the games but will serve primarily as a Slovenian showcase for visitors during the Olympic year. It is designed to help encourage business ventures in the small country. The house is expected to promote economic benefits for the "green treasure of Europe," stated Louis Lobe attache to the Olympic Committee. Lobe, an American of Slovenian descent, spearheaded the committee which helped establish the house which includes a display of photographs showing outstanding Slovenian participants in past Olympic Games.

The Slovenian House is a corner storefront of a graceful white stone building located at the corner of Forsyth and Walton Streets in downtown Atlanta. Slovenia has already taken an "Olympic First" by asserting its physical presence

in Atlanta with this first tangible evidence of Olympic participation. 195 countries will be represented in these Summer Games.

For additional information write to: Slovenian House, Healey Building, 51 Forsyth St., Atlanta, GA 30303 or phone (404) 223-6666.

Olympic Torch Bearer

The United Way of Ashtabula County has chosen Melissa Ann Snyder, an American-Slovenian young woman of eighteen, as one of the 10,000 runners nationwide, who will carry the Olympic torch as it winds through 42 states on its way to Atlanta for the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Summer Games. Ms. Snyder is senior class valedictorian at Leetonia High School in Pennsylvania and was selected by a panel of 15 regional judges based on an essay submitted by her brother.

The Olympic torch will begin its journey in Athens, Greece, and will arrive in Los Angeles on April 27, where it will cover another 15,000 miles in just 84 days. The torch weighs more than three pounds and will be carried for approximately a half mile through Ashtabula County on June 10th before being passed on to the next runner.

Winter Olympics in 2006

Slovenia, Austria and Italy will make a united bid to host the Winter Olympics in the year 2006. Three Winter Olympics sites have been chosen in the three countries which are within 6-9 miles of each other and they already have nearly all the necessary infrastructure to stage the events. The environmental impact will be minimal as there is no need to building - anything else.

The plan, which was announced recently has the support of all three national governments and was initiated by authorities in the bordering towns of Arnoldstein, Austria; Tarvisio, Italy; and Kranjska Gora, Slovenia.





Grandmother Josephine Flaisman is especially mourned by her six grandchildren – on this photo she is seen with grandsons, Eric Wallin (17), left and Bryan Wallin (20), right.

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of our member, Josephine Flaisman who passed way at the age of 79 years. She and her husband, Albin operated Flaisman's Tavern in Highland Hights and were well-known in the community. After her husband's death in 1988, "Pep" continued in business with the help of other relatives.

Survivors include her two sons, Alan and Aldon and a daughter, Alana Wallin, six grandchildren, a brother and a sister. She was buried from St. Paschal Baylon Church in Highland Heights.

Pep was our member over 25 years and everyone loved her. She was a Cleveland native and always proud of having many friends in this area.

May God grant her eternal peace and rest. Our condolences to the family.

C.K.

* * * * *

The membership met on Feb. 11th in the Slovenian Room of the St. Vitus Auditorium. Jo Perpar, Albina Pozelnik and Josie Valencic did a lovely job of decorating the tables with valentines. We discussed the election of Mother of the Year. Our Recording Secretary, Jan Krivacic is to be our honoree. We will be holding a raffle in May; tickets, as yet, are not printed.

It was voted on to have our prayer at the beginning of the meeting in Slovenian, translated from English by Cirila Kermavner. Everyone agreed.

Our future meetings will take place on the second Sunday of each month. March meeting was planned for the 10th. Meetings are at 1:30 p.m. in the social room of St. Vitus Auditorium!

To PEP & JOE BASKOVIC happiness and health in their new condo. IVANKA MAJER, thank you very much for the wonderful work you did at the convention!

Happy Easter to all!
Till next time, God Bless!

EMILEE JENKO,
Reporter

NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL

I don't have much news when we don't meet in January and February so I'm looking forward to our March meeting when we can catch up on the activities of our members.

I feel that most of our members have received their statements regarding membership dues. If there are any questions please call Financial Secretary, Betty Stack (phone 224-1949) and she'll help you. Betty has been doing a great job in this regard and will contact our National Secretary, Evelyn Majercik, if there is a problem. The increased dues were explained on page 4 of the September-October 1995 issue of the ZARJA.

Fannie Piletic and her husband, Anthony, were both hospitalized in February and are recuperating at home. We hope Fannie will be able to join us at our next meeting.

Elizabeth Ritz passed away on February 22 at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria. She is survived by a daughter, Betty (Dan) Gunderson of La Salle, and two sons, Frank, of San Diego, CA and James of Arvada, CO and seven grandchildren and a sister. Betty had been a member of Br. 24 since 1963. We remembered Betty by reciting the SWU prayer ritual at our March meeting. Our sincere sympathy to her fam-

ily. Betty Stack and I attended the Memorial Mass at Resurrection Church.

I was happy to see Rita Mae Pyszka who was in La Salle to attend the funeral of her uncle, Frank Gergovich on February 29th. Rita doesn't get to attend meetings and our parties. We had a nice chat.

The following members will celebrate birthdays in April: Recording Secretary, Adele Gensler, Marianne Schweickert, Theresa Wellner, Frances J. Ficek, Mary Ann Brunner, Junior member Ashley Collins, Ann Cassidy, Anne Piletic, Debbie Pohar and Marty Ann Potthoff. Hope you have a very Happy Day and many more.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 o'clock in the La Salle Catholic School library. It would be wonderful to see a nice group of members in attendance, helping us plan our activities and sharing in good fellowship and enjoying refreshments. I wish that you might all have a very Blessed and Joyous Easter.

ANNE M. WANGLER,
Reporter



BIRTHDAY WISHES

It's a little late, but I wish
all these dear people:

**Dr. M.J. CHRZANOWSKI,
KATY, HIS DAUGHTER
AND MY WONDERFUL
HUSBAND, JOHN,**

special moments every day that
will shine in their hearts and
make their days happy!

CIRILA



BR. 25 NEW MEMBERS:

Let's give our new members a great
hip! hip! hooray! Welcome! They are:

LAVERNE KOSCH CARROLL,
her sister, KAREN M. KOSCH BOW-
LEY, KAREN'S daughter, FRANCES
M. BOWLEY, (of course, their
mother-grandmother, FRANCES
KOSCH is also our member), also
MARGE KUCHAR, PEGGYANN
MOORE, ANN R. CLEMENCE...
Wish you all a wonderful stay with our
great SWU organization!

HAVE A BLESSED,
HAPPY EASTER AND A
JOYOUS SPRING!

Cirila

NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN

For our February meeting, we met
again in the afternoon and the ladies
seem to enjoy getting together in the
afternoon--we'll have to plan to do this
again next winter!

As I am writing this, we have beau-
tiful sunshine, after another rather
heavy snowfall--we are tired of all the
snow and have nowhere to put it right
now--we'll be waiting for the "thaw."

Agnes Mattson and Margaret
Mesojedec made a delicious lunch for
us, the door prize was brought by
Agnes Mattson and won by Adrienne
Micklich. Prizes were won by Lucille
Savtos, Lorraine Berg, Marge Skala
and Adrienne Micklich. This was a
lucky day for Adrienne--she and hus-
band, Don, also won prizes that even-

ing at a dinner-meeting of the local cre-
dit union!

Some of our members have gone on
vacations to warmer places, among
them, Helen Adkisson, who spent some
time in Mazatlan. Mary Gornick has
had her daughter, Margie, of
Scottsdale, AZ as a visitor for two
months; it has been nice to see Margie
around in our communities, especially
those of us who were in high school
with her.

Our March 19 meeting had Kay
Dean and Agnes Tekautz as hostesses,
the door prize brought by Agnes
Mesojedec.

May all of you have a most joyous
and blessed Easter -- we will really wel-
come the warmer weather and promise
of spring this year!

ADELINE MUSTONEN,
Reporter

NO. 35, AURORA, MN

Twenty-two adult members, three
Junior members and one guest attended
the dime social meeting Feb. 11th.

Treasurer's books were audited by
Janice Grebence and Phyllis Turk and
all found in good order.

Plans were completed for the Mother
of the Year dinner to be held on May
5th at 1 p.m. at the Community Center.

State Convention plans are progres-
sing, thanks to all the ladies who volun-
teered to chair the committees and
thanks to Tony and Connie Menart who
made and numbered all the raffle tick-
ets.

The dime social was a success,
thanks to all the ladies who donated the
lovely gifts that brought in \$51.50 for
the over "80" members' dues. This year
we will pay the 1996 dues for Mary
Smolich and Margie Ball as a thank
you for their generous donations to the
Nat'l SWU Convention craft table.

Congratulations to Lindsey Antilla
and Alysa Hodnik who were among 40
area 3rd and 4th graders participating
in the Mesabi Literary Project, "I love
to read" on Feb. 10th at the Thunder-
bird Mall in Virginia. Everyone en-
joyed listening to the children doing
the excellent readings. Lindsey and
Alysa said this was so much fun!
(Would you like to read for us at a
future meeting, girls? We would enjoy
listening, too!)

Our Nat'l President, Jean Korsman
was our guest and she enjoyed taking
part in the dime social; yes, she won,
too! She gave an interesting report.
Some of our S.W.U. branches are no
longer active and some have disbanded
and merged. Br. 19, Eveleth and Vir-
ginia have joined Branch 39, Biwabik.
We must keep our present branches ac-
tive and at meetings we can attract new
members by having interesting pro-
grams. Let's all give this some serious
thought and come up with ideas at the
next meeting that we can share in this
column with others who are reading it.

Our sympathy and prayers are with
all the families who have lost loved
ones, especially Jonita Ruth and Evelyn
Majercik. May their dearly beloved rest
in peace.

Thank you to hostesses Rose Antilla
and daughters, Janelle and Lindsey,
and to Barbara Kalar and daughter,
Courtney for the delicious dessert. The
girls helped with the dime social and
will be taking part at our State Con-
vention, too.

Happy Spring to Everyone -- it seems
so far away when all we see are snow
banks!

ANNE M. ORAZEM

Dates to Remember...

April 14 -- Regular meeting at
Community Center, 1:30 p.m.

May 5 -- Mother of the Year Din-
ner, Community Center, 1 p.m.

NO. 38, CHISHOLM, MN

After enjoying several easy winters
in the recent past -- We up here in
Northern MN really got hit hard this
year. The Iron Range earned a new title
-- "The Country's Winter Siberia".
Heaven help us when it begins to melt!
We'll probably all float away and end
up somewhere in Miami! The frigid
temps and mounds of snow have kept
our Feb. and March meetings low in
attendance. Blessings on the perennial
faithful who always show up and help
to keep our branch active.

Several new officers were absent
from our Feb. meeting which caused
us to hold the installation ceremony at
this March meeting. Rose Sterle read
the pledges and the following were
sworn in for the new year of 1996.
Pres. Catherine Sandvick, Vice-Pres.

Jenny Briski, Rec. Sec. Gert Zakrajsek, Treasurer-Kathryn Knuth and Auditor, Rose Niemi.

Plans are well underway to hold a
BAKE, NOODLE, COFFEE
& DESSERT SALE & SOCIAL.

Hopefully, Spring will peek into our lives when we stage this event on April 24th.

Wishes that your lenten journey has taken you to a glorious Easter morning. May the promise of Spring renew your spirit -- to blossom in the fullness of --

The Joy of Christ
The Peace of Christ
--and His Love

GERT ZAKRAJSEK

P.S. See you in Miami in the Springtime!!!



Hi from Chisholm, MN. Our regular reporter, Gert Zakrajsek is leaving for sunny Sicily so I agreed to do the reporting for her this month. Enjoy your much needed vacation, Gert!

The weather finally warmed up for our February meeting, but despite the nice weather, we had only 11 members attend our first meeting of 1996. However, the ones who did attend made a very enthusiastic group. Vice President, Jenny Briski conducted the meeting for our newly elected President, Catherine Sandick, who was visiting her sister in Phoenix, Arizona. I guess that's why our attendance was so poor... the cold weather chased many to warmer climates.

Plans for our fundraising activities in the coming year were made. We will have a Bake Sale with coffee and dessert at the Slovenian Home on April 24th. Of course, some of Fran Zalec's delicious noodles will be available then also. The Noodle Sale/Soup Luncheon was such a big hit last year, we will have another one again this year on election day in November.

We wish to send get-well wishes to Mildred Bashel, Frances Schaefer and Frances Bizal, who were recently hospitalized. Ann Walach, Jennie Samsa's dear sister is also very ill. We will keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

We honored the December, January and February birthday girls at this meeting.

Our traveling prize was won by Jennie Briski.

Our March meeting was to be held on the 6th. Hope all our snow birds were back in Chisholm by then!

CHARLOTTE LAURICH

NO. 40, LORAIN, OH

Our last meeting was in Nov. We cancelled our Jan. meeting due to the weather. We still get snow almost every day and the temperature is freezing, but that didn't stop 20 lovely ladies from coming to our meeting on Valentine's Day. We were rewarded by our birthday girls, Sophie Pogachar, Lee Pavlovic, Agnes Serazin and Sue Tomazic, who treated us to Cherry Strudel and Ice Cream. The Valentine decorations put us in a party mood.

We brought gifts galore for our money making raffle.

Our Agnes Tomazin won the door prize. She picked her own number.

Pres. Agnes brought our meeting to order with prayer. We are sad to report that our long-time member Frances Tilosanec passed away recently. We now donate \$10 to the family of a deceased member. We were sad to hear that our National Secretary, Evelyn Majercik's husband passed away and that our Angie Martin's daughter, Nancy James died recently. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to all their families.

We sent a \$25 donation to the Scholarship fund in memory of Evelyn's husband. A get-well card went to our member, Mayme Erjavec.

I noticed an interesting article in our daily paper about Lisa Nicoloff who is the granddaughter of our Rose Jancar. Four years ago she was a high ranking volleyball player at Admiral King Hi School. The only problem was she wanted to play basketball. Now, four years later, she is enjoying the finest season of her career at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, is a 3 year letter winner and a starting center for the Purple Raiders and she hopes that they win NCAA Division III National Championship this year! We hope they do, too. Lisa is in her senior year and is majoring in sports management. We wish her well in all her endeavors.

We wish to thank Donna Tilosanec for the two needlepoint towel holders

that she donated for our raffle in memory of her mother. And the lucky winner was our Alice Rutar.

We wish to thank all who came to our meeting and helped make it a Happy Valentine's Day for us. Come to our April 10th meeting and help us plan our May Dinner.

Hope you all have a Blessed and Happy Easter.

Love,

MARY MATOS

NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH

"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting -- a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing." So wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson as he enjoyed every breath-taking moment of spring.

The membership of Branch 42 met on February 10 for their 1996 organizational meeting. Our secretary-treasurer Marge Church reported that the Holiday Raffle was a great benefit to the treasury because of the hard work from all of the members. Fund raisers such as these enable the organization to support the Senior Ladies' Membership dues and also to schedule special activities.

New officers for 1996 include: President, Millie Lipnos; Vice President, Diane M. Balach; Recording Secretary, Josephine Stoltz and Secretary-Treasurer, Marge Church.

Hats off to Mitzi Champa for all her years of dedication to the office of vice president. Mitzi has given countless hours of dedication along with her husband, Lou, to all the members of Branch 42. God bless you Mr. and Mrs. Champa!

A new position of program chairman has been included this year on a trial basis. The duties of the chairman include work to promote and supervise the educational, recreational and social activities of the branch. Diane M. Balach will serve in this capacity for the 1996 calendar year.

Auditors include Clara Hrovat, Eleanor Charvat and Mary Tomc. Calling team members are Albina Skocaj, Mary Tomc, Millie Lipnos, Dolores Lipnos and Marge Zupancic.

Our meeting schedule has been

amended to include one meeting per quarter. The following meetings are scheduled for Saturday mornings at 11 a.m.: May 11, August 10 and November 9.

The results of the survey which was mailed to the membership initiated 18 responses and indicated interest in crafts, heritage, cooking and travel.

April birthday greetings: Joyce Kosak, Margaret Roznik, Arlene Legan, Helen Prudic, Eleanor McArdle, Helen Grocky, Imelda Blazy, Terry Anzo, and Dorti Zidar.

ZARJA reported Diane M. Balach has been appointed to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency Alternative Transportation Task Force. The task force will work on a long range plan for other methods of transportation in a five county area.

Donna Wilk, Mitzi Champa's daughter, has rejoined the Cuyahoga Valley Board of Education for a one year term.

Z Bogom,

DIANE M. BALACH

NO. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI

Although the month of February was rather cold, we did get missed by the snow storms.

We had a very good attendance at our February meeting. We also had a special guest, our State President, Joan Yaklich who treated us with her special Jello dish. We were also treated to a very good luncheon by our Birthday Girls, Mary Martino, Jo Zahn, and our President, Josephine Janezic. Minutes were read and the financial report was given, and all was approved. We are purchasing one Scratch-off lottery ticket for each meeting, and we were lucky, we won \$2.00.

I want to thank all of the members for selecting me to be the Mother-of-the-Year for 1996. Time and place for the luncheon will be noted in a future issue.

We lost two of our members who were called to their heavenly home, Mary Mohorko and Pauline Plesko. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to their family and friends. Let's keep both Mary and Pauline in our daily prayers. At the meeting we said prayers for all of our deceased members.

This year we will be honoring our

50 year members, Rose Lee Otto, and Judith Rechlitz. Time and place will be decided at a future meeting.

After the meeting we played our special game, which was enjoyed by all.

Here's hoping that Spring is just around the corner. Hoping to see all of you at our next meeting.

ANNE E. KONCZAL,
Reporter



50, EUCLID, OH

Dober Dan! Easter may be observed as a religious holiday by Christians throughout the world celebrating the resurrection of Christ or as a secular one that announces the arrival of Spring – when the reawakening of life in plants and trees occurs.

Today, on Easter, we dress in our best clothes to go to church or to walk around. To most children, Easter means the Easter Bunny pays them a secret visit leaving an Easter basket filled with candy and colored hard-boiled eggs for them.

At our February meeting, Carolyn Lokar became our Valentine Queen. She recited a small synopsis of her life to the present time proving she was well endowed with a full life of love to manage four wonderful husbands, one at a time of course.

Jean and John Kastelic celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. This is a remarkable achievement in today's world.

We wish to give Evelyn Pipoly our devoted thanks for doing such a super job being our Membership Secretary for so many years. Our Union caught the "Downsizing" bug and it stung Evelyn.

We are pleased to announce that Ann Dolgan, Jennifer Hrovat, and Renee Golobic have applied for the ladies scholarship. Good luck to each of you.

Our Christmas/65th Anniversary Party will be held on December 8, 1996 at the Slovenian Society Home on Rehar Avenue in Euclid, Oh. More details later.

Don't forget to send in your 1996 dues payment to Evelyn Majercik when you get your dues notice. We, in the Union, want Evelyn and her family to accept our sympathy on the passing of her husband, Steven.

We also send our support to the fol-

lowing members who are ailing. Jean Berkopic, Albina Mrsnec, Veda Rupnik and Francis Kajfes. We hope the approach of better weather will help you come around.

We do have a few about to be travelers who are venturing elsewhere this month. Frank and Ella Skoda with Charles and Ann Tercek are going to be entertained in Branson, MO. While yours truly will be steamboating down the Mississippi to New Orleans. It will do us all good to get away.

Are you superstitious? The origin of "God bless you" is nothing to sneeze at. An old superstition had it that when someone sneezed, their soul momentarily left their body thru the nostrils. This enabled the devil to creep in and prevent the return of the soul, but by saying "God bless you," the devil was stopped cold from entering the body. With that, ACHEW! Gesundheit!

Nasvidenje!

VI MORAVCHEK

"Smell the Roses"

by Bill Carr

Slow down and smell the roses on your busy, active day.

Slow down and breathe their fragrance, where they grow along life's way.

Take a minute of your lifetime to enjoy a pretty bloom.

Pick a rose from nature's garden, it will brighten up your room.

Be not hasty in all your doings as you hurry through the day,

But enjoy what God gives freely,

Smell the roses while you may.

NO. 54, WARREN, OH

Happy and Blessed Easter to all!

Our branch is planning our annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon on May 15th at the Elks Clubroom on Rt. 422 at 1 o'clock. You will be contacted for reservations. We'll have the usual raffle – paper goods, pasta, etc., in a basket. No canned foods, please!

You are welcome to bring a guest and we're hoping to have Delores Di-

Pietro again, to entertain on her button box.

Our sympathy and prayers to our National Secretary, Evelyn Majercik on the death of her husband.

Vic Zuga, our Charter Member, will be spending some time in Arizona to visit a niece and will enjoy a needed and deserved vacation. She has taken care of her husband, Frank for almost eight years after he had a debilitating stroke. He will be well cared for while she is gone.

Happy birthdays to Angela Kaferle, Margaret Lunder, Isabel Rek, Wanda Shine, Mary Zuga, Anne Tomazin and Elsie Shine.

Our sympathy to Isabel Rek on the death of her brother recently.

Mrs. Ann Savor was at our last meeting and will be 90 years young in June. She is amazing!

Happy Springtime to all!

JOANNE PONIKVAR

NO. 55, GIRARD, OH

It's been a few months since our branch has reported any news. Yes, folks, we're still alive in Girard, Ohio, and yes, we do have wonderful news to report. Yours truly, Dori, is getting married on August 17, 1996. I met my future husband, Thomas Fooy, through a mutual friend. We had our first date on March 5, 1994. However, I do need to back track a little because of the way we met. You see, I used to see Tom on my way to work every day. I never knew who he was, but I'd see him with his Dalmatian every morning. Our friend, Phil, gave Tom my phone number, and after I spoke to Tom the first time and found out where he lived, I realized it was the gentleman I saw on my way to work every day!!! We've been together ever since that day! Tom and I are getting married at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Niles, Ohio at 2:30 p.m.

Tom is originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan. He managed the Red Wing Shoe Store in Niles, Ohio until December of 1995. At that time, he received a promotion and a larger store in Roseville, Michigan. We have recently purchased our home in Warren, Michigan, where we will be living after our wedding. Any of the ladies in the Detroit branch who may be reading this

article, will be happy to know that I would like to get together with them after I get settled in my new life and home. Tom and I ask that you keep us in your prayers as we prepare for our wedding.

My niece, Andrea, is also getting ready for a big step in her life. She will graduate from Ursuline High School on June 1, 1996. As her aunt, I am so proud of her. Good Luck to you, Andrea!!

Maria Selak and her husband, Gus have been very busy with their family and also taking care of Stanley and Ivanka Selak. Please keep them in your prayers so that God will grant all of them the strength and patience they need.

My godchild, Monica, is becoming quite the artist. Maybe she'll have her creations in a museum some day. Her brother, Mark has been busy playing basketball for St. Rose School. He's quite the player.

My nieces and nephews in Richmond Heights are all doing well. Luke will be making his first Holy Communion in May. Where is the time going??

Easter is also upon us. My wish to all of you is that you gather with your family and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Vesela Aleluja!

Our April birthdays: Jason Sefcik and Virginia Bestic. May birthdays: Dori Kregar, Virginia Rostan, Andrea Selak (18) Anka Kregar, our Secretary-Treasurer, and Frances Lukz.

Hope you all have a wonderful Easter and a terrific Spring!

Nasvidenje,

DORI KREGAR

NO. 56, HIBBING, MN

Meeting for February was held at First Ave. Apt. There was no meeting in January. Feb. meeting opened with prayer. It was announced that Sylvia Latick, our member, is in a nursing home in Grand Rapids. She broke her arm. Mary Okorn, another member, is in Virginia Hospital. Speedy recovery, Sylvia and Mary.

Mary Massich gave an excellent report on the Convention in San Francisco which was held last May.

Ann Satovich will check at St Leo's to see when we can have our annual mass for deceased members in November.

Birthdays for February were: Mary Drobnik, Katherine Lapson, Rose Maras, Mary Sporer. Door prizes won by Edith Jones. Liz Spolar, Bunco; Valeria Carlson, 500.

Lunch committee for March 5th meeting were picked and they were Dorothy Oberstar and Jennie Star. Meeting closed with prayer.

EDITH JONES

NO. 73, WARRENSVILLE, OH

Allow me to start this article on a personal note.

Many of you are aware that on February 2nd, my husband, Steve went to his heavenly home. He always believed that our time here on earth was borrowed time, that we belonged to God, and dying only meant going home. It is this thought that carries us through our sadness. The entire family is happy that his long suffering, his agonizing pain, all his handicaps are no more. Restful peace, it's his, he earned it.

Joy was brought into our lives just five days previously when Andrew Michael came into the world. He makes ten in our count of grandchildren. His dad is our son, Michael, and Mom is Lisa. Ironically, in 1952 it was written in ZARJA (on the passing of my mother) that God gives new life when He is ready to take a life. Michael was born just five days before my mother died, 12-9-51.

Happy birthday to Josphine Turk who marked up 90 years on March 12th. A family celebration was held. We gave Jo credit last month for being a great grandma, but neglected to congratulate her daughter on being a new grandma. Joanne (Tomsick), sorry for the oversight.

Get well wishes to Ann Yoger and Margarita Franchini. Both ladies had surgery, we hope they are feeling better and mending well. With the freshness and warmth of spring soon to arrive, it will make everyone feel better. We hope it reaches you two first.

Our sympathy to Helen Kunka on the sudden death of her son-in-law. Our prayers are with you and the family.

If the magazine reaches you in time, remember our anniversary mass at St. Jude's Church, Sunday, April 14th at 10:30 o'clock a.m. And please join us at the annual K. of C. Pancake Breakfast immediately following.

Yours truly will take a short vacation in Florida for the Easter holiday. May you all have a Happy and Blessed Easter. Don't eat too many of those chocolate eggs!

Respectfully,

EVELYN A. MAJERICIK

NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL

Our first meeting of 1996 was held Feb. 12th with installation of officers installed by Angie Nico. Auditing of the books took place.

The Oglesby Veterans have started a drive to raise money for a monument for all veterans, so their names will be displayed and remembered. Dorothy Cusick, President of Oglesby Woman's Club spoke at the meeting and invited the members to participate in the fundraising. She is the chairperson for the Oglesby Veterans group. They plan to have the dedication on Sept. 8th, with a parade and food stands along the parade route.

Bake sales and chicken suppers are helping to bring in the money needed to defray expenses. Church organizations are also active in the drive and we were very proud to be asked. We will try to keep you posted on our "Oglesby Project."

Barbara Bruch, one of our new members, was commended on her bringing five new members to Branch 89. Good work, Barbara!

We will not have a Mother of the Year for 1996. We will honor all Mothers at a Mass celebrated at Holy Family Church. No definite date has been set but members will be contacted.

Spring seems to be around the corner so it won't be long before we'll be outdoors in the garden.

Branch 89 wishes all members a Blessed Easter.

Love,

EUNICE KOMATER

NO. 95, SO. CHICAGO, IL

Time is limited, as president I have got to get the word out. Our scheduled meetings which were held every first Saturday of the month are now changed to every second Wednesday of the month, as of April 10th at 12:30 noon. Please mark your calendar and join us.

Remember this will be our first meeting of the year.

I would also like it to be known that the State Convention for Illinois and Indiana was a big success. We have finally elected youth! GeriLynn Bima is the State President and Bonnie Prokup, Vice President. I am so pleased with this selection that my cup of happiness is filled to overflowing. To me this has created an unbreakable bond between generations and among all the members of their generation. We have come to grips with the fact that a new generation is the new beginning that we all want. They must take over the reins of leadership of the Slovenian Women's Union.

The enthusiastic support which has come from Branches 24, 22, 85, 89 has been inspiring and a stimulant to me. My heartfelt thanks to Betty Stack and Angela Nico for your support and cooperation. I have also contacted Mary Fran Mohr, Secretary of Br. 5 in Indianapolis and she was very supportive. She also said that they have a lot of youth and will try her best to activate them.

In conclusion, I would wish to express my gratitude and thanks to Marie Maras, our Recording Secty., for a job well done; to Evelyn Driscoll, our ticket Chairlady; to Marge Krmpotic, our Treasurer who was in charge of all the prizes; to Helen Santy and Ann Yousue, Raffle Chairladies. They did it all! Thanks to Helen Spelich for her kindness and gracious food service.

Thanks to all our members for being there and helping to support all the branch activities. We were proud to have had such a good crowd of members from branches 2, 16, 20, 24, 85 and 89 and National Board representation by Pat Figurowski, Auditor and Corinne Leskovar, Editor.

The church service was beautiful. Thanks to Fr. Paul Maslach, OFM, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, whose sermon was so inspiring and to the choir for the lovely songs. We were happy to see Fr. Paul and our youthful priest, Fr. Jago Soce at the banquet.

My last thought on the State Convention is: I salute our two young leaders and wish them the best in the tasks that they will undertake as State Officers.

God willing, we will see all of you at our next State Convention when Br. 2 will be the hosts.

MILDRED JAMES

NO. 102, WILLARD, OH

Our Valentine meeting was held on Sun. Feb. 11th, with 15 members present. A pot luck lunch preceded the meeting. The meeting opened up with a prayer.

Mary Djubenski, sec. and treas., read the treasurer's report which was approved as read.

A discussion was held on having a bake sale on Palm Sunday weekend. A plant sale will be held on Sun. May 5th. After the meeting, we played Bingo. The door prize was won by Mayme Kezele.

Msgr. Malnar, a native of Willard, made 2 trips to Bosnia (Medjugorje) recently. He was ordained in 1966, so this year will be his 30th anniversary. We are planning a celebration in his honor on Sunday, May 26th.

A suggestion was made to have a money tree for him with \$30 on it. Pat Stremikis will make a box for envelopes for Msgr. Malnar. Sophie Trunkel will take care of decorations.

Avis and Stanley Suda spent the month of February in Texas and visiting other places of interest.

On Feb. 3rd, a fire completely destroyed a Willard home and garage owned by Randy Bogdanovich. The Greenwood fire department was on the scene for about 4 hours. It was, indeed, a tragic loss.

My grand-niece, Kelly Hribar, received a grant from St. Louis University and is spending a year studying in Lyons, France. She is hoping to become a High School math teacher.

Helen Krainz lost her sister, Mary Klune on Jan. 31st. Our sympathy goes to the family.

Another note of interest:

Grandma Adella Herkert, of Marshfield, has 45 grandchildren, 100 great grandchildren and 5 great great grandchildren. Some of these grandchildren live in the Willard and Greenwood area. What an impressive record!

Agnes Lesar is presently receiving a series of radium treatments. This has been a trying time for her, so please continue to remember her in your prayers.

May you all be blessed with the best of health.

Sincerely,

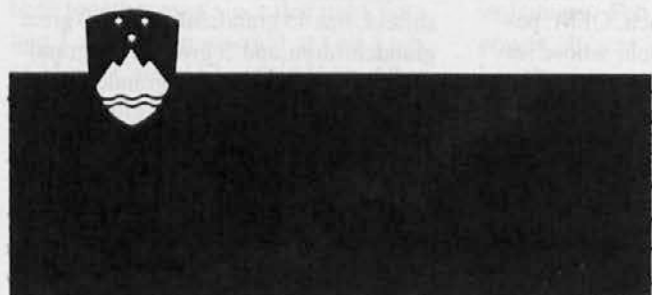
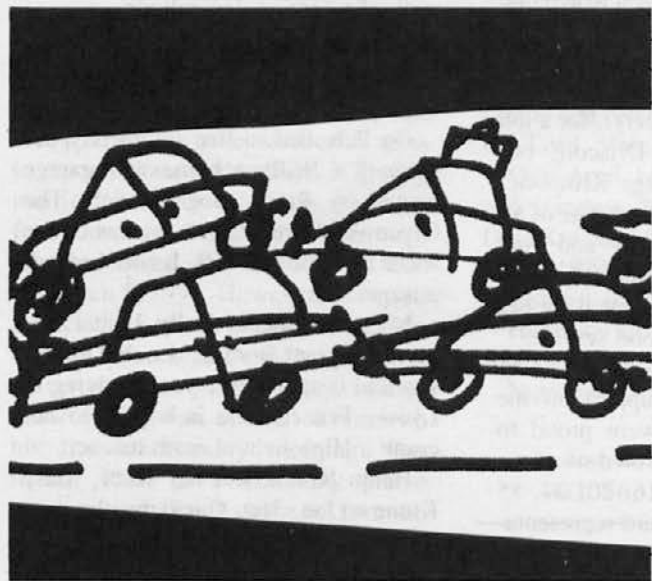
FRIEDA KLANCHER

WONDER AND DELIGHT - Car-Touring in Slovenia

Let's hope that Slovenia will not sacrifice the beauty of the countryside in its pursuit of major economic reform!

The following interesting travelogue was submitted to ZARJA by Len Zuga of Los Altos, California, son of our loyal Br. 54 member, Victoria Zuga of Warren, Ohio. Len hopes that the "economic and technological transformation of Slovenia can take place without appreciably changing the beauty of the country." He reminds us to look at Switzerland, a country protecting its cultural and rural beauty while at the same time, it has become one of the most technologically advanced in the western world.

Our heartfelt thanks to Len for his loyal "Slovenian-ness" and willingness to share his feelings with us.



Slovenija

Dear Editor.

As a second generation pure blood American-Slovene, one of a truly rare breed outside certain ethnic enclaves in the Midwest, my wife and I have had the great fortune of being able to visit the cousins of my parents on repeat visits to Slovenia. We recently returned from a short visit to Ljubljana and made the following observations which I thought your readers might be interested in.

Len Zuga:

A Slovenian Vignette

Just minutes after we crossed the Italian border into Slovenia we were reminded of true beauty of this country of my roots. Though not truly an agrarian economy at this stage, the country's combination of rich farming valleys and majestic granite and limestone mountains and its lack of visual pollution, makes for a most pleasant country side dotted with small villages and pastoral scenes.

As Eastern Europe develops its individual economies it appears that tourism may play a large part in that progress. The inefficiencies of the previous socialist economies have permitted the region to retain what western travelers may value most, sweeping views of pleasing landscapes in their old world settings.

Slovenia, even as a part of pre-war Yugoslavia, has long been a successful developer of tourism. With mountain and seaside resorts and a good public relations campaign the country has attracted mostly Northern European tourists. The few Americans to visit the Slovenia were mostly members of guided bus tour groups. Without the necessary language skills visiting Eastern Europe by car is accomplished by only the more venturesome traveler. But car touring is an experience that permits close up view much different than that of the limitations of the standard thirty person plus bus tour. Slovenia's successful prosecution of a mercifully short war and its early break away from the Yugoslav government in 1991 have indeed brought change to the country. Since our first visit, in 1982, increasing prosperity is perhaps most evident in the growing capital city parking problem and in the number of larger, more expensive, and brightly colored cars which now dominate motorway traffic.

From its wide and smooth black top ribbon to its toll booths and rest stops, the new motorway speeding its increasing traffic load from the capital of Ljubljana to seaside and mountain resorts is modeled on the turnpikes of the north eastern U.S. The one major difference is the paid rest room attendant, a common European amenity that ensures your stop will be a pleasant and sanitary experience. No longer confined to two lane blacktop winding through the picturesque villages, the traveler now whizzes by those villages to view them from a distance. The beneficial change to commerce and traffic flow has been skillfully woven through the landscape to preserve pleasing views of the countryside.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT

February Donations

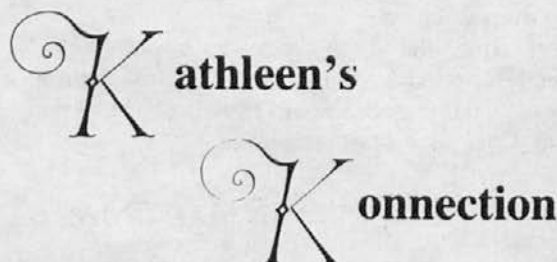
Donor	Amount
Professor Max L. Schuster	\$100.00
SWU Branch 101, Bedford, OH	100.00
Josephine Debevec	20.00
SWU Branch 50, Cleveland, OH	25.00
SWU Branch 32, Euclid, OH	25.00
Barbara Bruch	10.00

Donor	In Honor of:	Amount
Tony Colnar	Frances Barman Scholarship Fund	\$1,000.00

Donor	In Memory of:	Amount
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Romaine Jablonski	\$10.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Frances Dolenshak	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Eugene Berglund	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Catherine Merhar	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Charles Merhar	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Joseph Chiodo	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Mary Reichensperger	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Dr. Frank Dragavon	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. John Bobence	Margaret Erchul	10.00
SWU Branch 47	Jennie Praznik	5.00
Garfield Hts., OH		
Edna Winters & Gladys Buck	Larry Alonzo	10.00
Edna Winters & Gladys Buck	Fr. Bonaventure Borgola	10.00
SWU Br. 16, S. Chicago, IL	Margaret Liptak	10.00
SWU Br. 16, S. Chicago, IL	Fred Ruth	10.00
SWU Br. 16, S. Chicago, IL	Dorothy Perko	10.00
Edna Winters	Dorothy Perko	5.00
Gladys Buck	Dorothy Perko	5.00
Marge Prebil	Dorothy Perko	5.00
Mary Brozanich	Dorothy Perko	5.00
Stefanich Family	Ann Stefanich	10.00
Hermine Dicke	Fred Ruth	10.00
Kathleen & John Starcevich	Christina Bradish	10.00
Marjorie Church	Stephen Majercik	10.00
Jonita Ruth	Stephen Majercik	10.00
Teresa Mlakar Koci*	Rose Baraga	20.00

*Teresa is a former scholarship recipient.

Many, many thanks to all who contributed. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.
Marge Church, Acting Scholarship Director



"Gone to China! - See you in the next issue!"

Kathy Emerson

APRIL 1996 /17

Industry, and Slovenia, has long been the most successful industrial region of the old Yugoslavia, certainly takes its toll. Just across the border from Slovenia the Italian countryside is now littered with light industry along many of its roads between small cities. Driving between Italy's major cities and its pockets of heavy tourism in the Veneto, Umbria and Tuscany has lost its charm.

Crossing Slovenia by car remains a visual and cultural delight, drawing the traveler's eye to each sweeping landscape and village church spire in the distance. Taking the time to eschew the motorway and thread more closely among the tapestry of farms and villages from mountains to sea is still the best way to see Slovenia. Modern gas stations, recent changes in commerce and a hospitable welcome to travelers that was developed long before the break up of Yugoslavia make Slovenia a travel destination filled with wonder and delight.

All travel is relative in time. Europe will always be different from the United States. But as the world economy truly takes hold the merge of cultures is evident. Technology and telecommunications have changed the traveler's experience of Europe and now they are changing Eastern Europe as well. The convenience of calling home via ATT Direct Dial has also permitted the annoying distraction of frequent "beepety-beeps" followed by the "pronto" answer of what seems to be every Venetian resident's response to what is still a notoriously inefficient phone system, the cellular phone.

Cellular, and all of its intrusions, have also invaded Slovenia. Interestingly enough, the viewpoint of the average Slovene regarding these electronic leashes is similar to my own. Is all this really necessary? Culturally, cellular technology appears to be looked upon similarly on both sides of the Atlantic. For the very few it may be a business necessity, especially where phone systems are inefficient, but for the majority it appears to be the status symbol of the nineties.

Where ten years ago our respective status symbols were vastly different due to the differences in our economies, now they are virtually the same, a big car and a cellular phone. What will become of the Slovenian countryside and its still peaceful villages? The only certainty is that Slovenia will be as different ten years hence as it is now from our first visit over ten years ago.

* * * * *

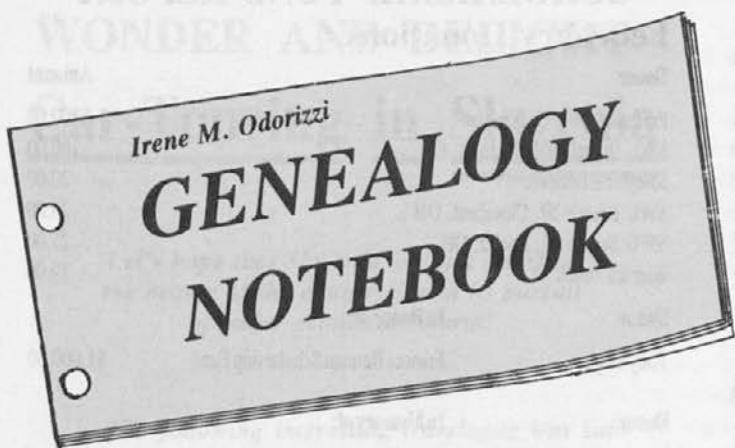
We are planning to return to Slovenia again next October following a visit to Italy where we will share a villa with eight others. We plan to rent an apartment in the tranquil Lake Bled region. Passing through Bled on our way out of the country this year we longed to return to this serene location. The golden leaves, the castle and the island church were reflected in the calm waters of the lake beckoning us to stay this time, but we were bound to complete a schedule for scouting locations in Italy for next year's visit.

Regards,

Len Zuga

If you are inspired to follow Len's suggestion to visit Slovenia, and don't think you want to do it alone, perhaps the SWU's excursion this fall will interest you. Read more about it in this issue.

Editor



This month we continue to share the genealogical adventure of Cynthia Groom Jensen of Corpus Christi, Texas. In her letter to me Cynthia mentions,

"My purpose for submitting my story about successfully locating missing relatives here and abroad is for the encouragement of those who think the task is impossible. My experiences were high drama, to say the least..."

I never realized I was an 'ethnic' until the age of forty... I found a traceable heritage and one that has enriched and given real meaning to my life. Having spent so many years in research and now in writing my parents' biographies, I have chronicled many wonderful experiences."

Thank you, Cynthia, for sharing your experiences with the ZARJA readers. I'm sure there will be other SWU members who read your story and be encouraged to delve into their family treasure chest of memories and experiences so that they too may identify with the past and their rich Slovenian heritage.

Discovering My Lost Heritage

by

CYNTHIA GROOM JENSEN

PART II

CROATIAN CONNECTION

Mama's baptism was held in Cleveland at the mother-church of the Serbian Eastern Orthodox church. Grandmother's first name was listed as "Simka", but it listed no maiden name. Mama had always believed her mother was not Serbian, in 1980 I ordered two passenger lists from the National Archives in Washington, D.C., one of Simka Vracaric and the other of her niece, Julia Regusic. Both documents listed their last place of residence as Rajevo Selo, Croatia. I was thrilled. I wrote to the American Ambassador in Croatia requesting the address of the postmaster in Rajevo Selo, then wrote a letter inquiring about the Regusic family. My letter was sent to Mama's cousin, Josip Regusic, whose family has lived there for over 200 years. Josip's grandmother, Maria Regusic, was grandma Simka's sister, and her mother's name was Anna Paunovic. The family had not heard from America since Simka's death in 1923. Locating grandma Simka's family 57 years after her death still overwhelms me.

Mother's family in Croatia have, unfortunately, been directly affected by the present war, losing their homes, farms, and livestock. Some have sustained injuries but, thank God, none have been killed.

RELATIVES IN SLOVENIA

My father, John Groom (Grum), comes from a very large family with numerous extended family members. Because of this, tracing my Slovene lineage, on my Father's side, has been much easier. However, there is ten times the

material, photos, and other data to catalog, confirm, and record in his biography. I have obtained a wealth of information regarding my Slovene relatives here and abroad. Even so, there were three mysteries to be solved: Did Grandpa Grum still have relatives in Rakitna? Who were his parents? The third mystery was, where was my long, lost brother from my father's first marriage in 1928?

I obtained the address of the parish priest in Rakitna and contacted my cousin Jože Grom (Jože spells the family surname as Grom). My cousin, Jože was young enough to retain the family's history and old enough to remember the past accurately. Jože's family hadn't heard from America since Grandpa's death in 1959, a span of 35 years.

DADDY'S WISH FULFILLED IN 1994

My father searched for his son continuously from 1930-1940 without success. Even into his latter years he would inquire about his son, Richard, on his trips back home. Daddy kept Richard's baby pictures in the family album along with ours. Richard was so much a part of our family we have no memory of not having known about him. Our father made certain we understood that we had a brother, not a half-brother. Before my father's death in 1983, I obtained Richard's birth record and his parent's marriage certificate, but these, too, would prove to be useless in finding him. With Daddy's health failing him rapidly, I promised if I ever found Richard I would be sure he knew that his father searched for him and had always loved him.

Finally, in August of 1994, I decided time was of the essence and gave one last aggressive effort to locate Richard. Since his mother was, also, of Slovene heritage I prepared a flyer with his childhood picture and available pertinent information. I mailed 25 flyers to the surnames I needed,



Cynthia's work space!

which were listed in the U.S. Telephone Directory in our library, plus every Slovenian and Croatian church, society, and club I could find. Letters and long-distance calls began to come in from all over the U.S. I was truly humbled by these caring strangers. Some writers bid me good luck, and others send notes of encouragement. Five different "Richard Grooms" responded, expressing their best wishes for my success.

Then in early November 1994, a young man called from New York State requesting permission to send my flyer to the Forest City News, my father's home town. His aunt was a former resident and he thought it would benefit my search. I readily consented, although I wasn't overly optimistic. I thought, who would remember, after nearly 65 years? The holidays came and went, and I busied myself with a new job and gave no further thought to my efforts.

On January 18, 1995, a letter came from a Richard in Brooklyn, New York. I thought it was just another well-wisher and I laid it aside. When I did open the letter it was from my dear missing brother. In short, he said, yes, he was interested in learning about his father and his sister. Enclosed were photos of his wife, children, and grandchildren. I hadn't cried that hard since the loss of my parents. Our resemblance is uncanny. He asked that I call him, which I did the following day.

Our talk went remarkably well considering the circumstances and an absence of nearly 65 years. In my excitement I hadn't realized I called Richard on what would have been our father's 85th birthday. How profoundly appropriate! At the very least, his son, my brother, was found.

Richard made plans to fly down to meet John and me in September, but an auto accident and further health complications took priority. We are in regular contact, and the lost years seem only secondary now. I didn't think anyone could bond together by telephone, but we sure have. We are still optimistic that we will meet soon now that his health is on the mend. If all goes well, Richard and his wife are planning a trip to our home in April, 1996.

I would never have found him had his aunt's friend not mailed him my inquiry from the Forest City News. God bless that lady! His mother remarried and his surname was changed. Another bitter-sweet milestone in my life, but will remain with me throughout my lifetime.

This has been just the tip of my ancestral iceberg. There are far too many other surprising disclosures to mention. I think my experience proves that time, most often, has no boundaries and it's never too late to research your beginnings. I hope this rendition of my success will stimulate curiosity about your personal history.

My sincere thanks to my cousin, Mary Petrič Kovačič, member of Branch 6, Barberton, Ohio, for information which helped to locate my brother, Richard. Mary was very special to my father, John, and she is to me as well. Mary has been in ill health and could use our prayers and cards of cheer. Her address is: Doylestown Health Care, 95 Black Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230.

Finally, I would like to appeal to anyone in the U.S. for information regarding my grandmother's maiden name, **Paunovic**, and the village of **Rajevo Selo** in Croatia. Also, anyone with information on the Grum or Grom family name would be very helpful. I hope to learn more about my great grandmother, Helena **Grum/Grom**. My address is: Mrs. Cynthia Groom Jensen, 1317 Sealane Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5310.

In conclusion, genealogy gave me the need to know how my ancestors lived; their joys, tribulations, successes, and sacrifices. I learned very quickly that one's heritage and the understanding of that birthright is the true value in our lives.

If there is a message to deliver from my experiences it is this:

You will never regret having taken the time, burned midnight oil, or absorbed the expense, if necessary, to know from where you came.

THE END

Newly Released Genealogy Book

The genealogical guidebook entitled, **Researching Your Slovenian Ancestors**, will be released in April. The guidebook written by Branka Lapajne is a result of more than 20 years of experience and contains numerous important items of information on problem solving, the location of land registry records, military conscription lists, census records, tithe books, emigration lists and other documents of interests to researchers.

One section deals with customs relating to marriage, christening and death in Slovenia. Addresses of local archives and museums in Slovenia are also included. For further information write to Branka Lapajne, Ph.D. at 108 Hollywood Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2N 3K3, Canada.

A Crafty Idea

With a friend expecting a baby, and while awaiting a new arrival in our own family, I looked for a pattern for a baby shawl. However, I found the yarn I wanted to use, before I knew what I was going to make. The pattern was on the wrapper of the yarn, "Bernat Coordinates, Sport Weight." I am using a delicate peach color. The **KNITTED** pattern is called "Baby Chevron". It is easy and so pretty.

If you would like to try this one, send \$1.00 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Evelyn A. Majercik
31 Eldred Avenue
Bedford, Ohio 44146

All monies go to ZARJA.

NO. 103, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Drage Sestre!
(Dear Sisters!)

We're happy to report that we have, at last, had our first meeting of 1996! Our scheduled Jan. 7th meeting was snowed out, and Feb., our usual winter recess month, offered more of that dreaded "white stuff"! Egad, what a winter we've had!

Although we held no meeting in Feb., we did meet on Feb. 2nd at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception's Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje where a Slovenian Mass was said for our dear departed members, Jean Markmann and Ivana Trost. Jean, a S.W.U. member since 1979 died on July 31st in Albany, GA. She lived with her daughter, Ruth Goodson, and was 72 years old at the time of her death. Ivana, a native of Slovenia and a 29 yr. member of Branch 103 died in her sleep on Dec. 17th one week after celebrating her 93rd birthday. She is survived by her daughter, Bozhana Kelley. They will long be remembered and missed by their sisters at Branch 103.

Our March 3rd meeting was expanded to include a special program which was opened to both members and guests. In all, 38 attended this featured event including Mr. Miklavz Borstnik, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia and his wife, Irene Borstnik. Speaker Paula Konan, President and founder of the International Peace Garden Foundation, explained how she started this remarkable organization and how Slovenia had been chosen as the most recent recipient country

to have a Peace Garden planted in its capitol city. In the six years since its existence the following countries have been so honored: U.S.A. 1991, Poland 1992, Germany 1993, Hungary 1994, France 1995, and now, Slovenia in 1996. Dedication ceremonies for the Slovenian garden will take place in Ljubljana on May 7th and will be the high point of a 9-day tour of Slovenia*. Look for more coverage this exciting event in an up-coming issue of ZARJA.

Until next time,

JILL AUGUSTINE
President

**Fore more information on the May 2-11th tour call Sterling Cruises & Tours at 1-800-367-2328.*

P.S. If you are planning a trip to Washington, D.C., please join us on the first Sunday of the month for an 11 a.m. Slovenian mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception's Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje. Our S.W.U. meetings often follow at 2 p.m. at St. Columba's Episcopal Church. Please call for more details at (703) 444-5378.

NO. 105, DETROIT, MI

Due to the absence of our President, Kathleen Emerson, who was attending the SWU Board meeting in Joliet, our February meeting was conducted by Vice President, Frances Adamic.

Our Mother of the Year luncheon honoring Valeria Jacklich will be held at The Masters Restaurant on 13 Mile Road and Dequindre on May 18th at 1:00 p.m. We selected our entrees and

reservations and monies will be due at our April meeting.

Our annual picnic will be held on June 15th at Licht Park and all members, children, grandchildren and guests are welcome. Licht Park has been refurbished and offers many activities for the children. There are a lot of trees and grass as well as a pavilion for our use. As always, we will barbecue hot dogs and our hostesses, Dorothy and Angie Bernick will provide the desserts.

We voted to purchase an ad in the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament booklet. This tournament will be held in the Detroit area in early May and we feel we may recruit new members through this ad.

Although it is very early in the year, the subject of our Christmas luncheon was raised. Since we do not meet during the months of July and August, it sometimes is too late to get reservations at the restaurant of our choice. Pat Hostnik, Co-Chairman for Entertainment, will contact Merriweather's Restaurant for a luncheon menu and we hope to hold our Christmas luncheon there.

At our April meeting, we will have an Easter Bonnet Contest with an appropriate prize to the best decorated hat. We also will bring clean, used women's clothing which will be donated to St. Mary's Residence, an adult foster care home for women which operates mainly on donations. Any and all items of clothing will be appreciated.

We are all busy getting ready for the first Slovene Polkafest to be held in Sterling Heights, MI on July 26, 27 and 28th. We hope to have a booth highlighting our Slovenian Women's Union. We will sell Slovenian crafts and other items depicting our Slovenian heritage. Also, we hope to recruit new members by having an opportunity to showcase our Branch.

We have reserved the Slovene American Club for our 70th Anniversary Celebration of the SWU for October 12th. We are holding a multi-cultural dance and inviting our guests to wear their national outfits. We plan to serve several different kinds of sausages and desserts. The Eddie Adamic Orchestra will play for our dancing and listening pleasure.

As you can see, we have a busy year planned. Our President, Kathleen

Emerson, also is promoting the SWU trip to Slovenia and we hope the membership will respond in a positive fashion.

PATRICIA ADAMIC

Mourning dear husband

Detroit, MI

It has taken time, and much effort to get these lines on paper as I have been grieving deeply, at the loss of my life's partner, which occurred suddenly and unexpectedly on the early morning of December 14th.

Two days before, we had gone to the Eastern Market and purchased a beautiful tree and on the day before his death, he had put it up and decorated it. We were both so happy, and agreed this was the most beautiful tree ever; we were looking forward to a peaceful and happy holiday season, since by now I was doing so well, and did not need medication or oxygen.

Only someone who has experienced a similar loss, can begin to fathom the hurt, and the painful loneliness it provides. The loss of my Mother -- 45 years ago this year -- and the loss of my sunshine now, have been the two greatest blows in my life. I feel I cannot go on -- nothing matters anymore. I don't have my cheering squad with me now. Though he was of a different nationality, and a different denomination, he always supported my efforts. He was so happy for me, when I won the Slovenian couple dolls last year.

He was a great apostle of Detroit's own Saint: Venerable Father Solanus, whom both of us credited for return of his sight, and my recovery (which incidentally is being considered as one of the miracles to be presented to Rome as one of the ones to be considered for the beatification process; my Doctor and I have filled out all the necessary papers.) Now, he is WITH Father Solanus, praising God, but I am still down here. Everyone says the Lord still has something for me to do. I doubt I am up to it.

I enjoyed the article by my friend, Cynthia Groom Jensen, on her search for her heritage. She joined our Branch 105 some time ago, at my urging.

Marie Bombach Dye

POTS AND PANS

Recipes submitted by Jo Lustik, former National Auditor of Br. 20, Joliet, IL.

BEEFY RICE CASSEROLE

1 ^{1/2}	lbs. ground beef	1	medium onion, chopped
1	bell pepper, chopped	1	can 10 oz. Cream of Mushroom Soup
1	small can Whole kernel corn (drained)	2	cups cooked regular rice
1	can tomatoes (16 oz.)	1	small can mushrooms
1	cup grated cheese (cheddar)	-	

Saute meat, chopped onion and bell pepper. Add all remaining ingredients, except cheese. Pour into a greased casserole dish. Top with grated cheese. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until cheese melts and is slightly browned. Serves 6-8.

BANANA CREAM PIE

1	(9 inch) baked pastry shell	3	tablespoons cornstarch
1 ^{2/3}	cups water	1	(14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk, such as Eagle Brand
3	egg yolks, beaten	1	teaspoon vanilla extract
2	tablespoons of butter or margarine		Whipped cream
3	medium bananas, sliced and dipped in lemon juice and drained.		

In heavy saucepan, dissolve cornstarch in water, stir in the condensed milk and egg yolks. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Remove from heat, add margarine and vanilla. Cool slightly. Arrange 2 bananas on bottom of prepared pastry shell. Pour filling over bananas, cover and cool to room temperature. Chill 4 hours or until set. Spread top with whipped cream, garnish with additional banana slices. Refrigerate leftovers.

ALL AMERICAN CORNBREAD

2	cups cups biscuit mix	1	cup butter or margarine
1	cup half and half	1	cup yellow cornmeal
1/2	teasp. baking soda	1/2	teasp. salt
3/4	cup sugar	2	eggs, slightly beaten

Scald half and half with butter, add to thoroughly mixed dry ingredients. Mix in eggs. Pour into greased and floured 13x9 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Allow to stand for several minutes before cutting.

VELIKONOČNO UPANJE

Pripravljene na največji praznik Kristusovega vstajenja, ki smo ga pričakovali s štiridesetdnevni postom, s čudovitimi prazniki sv. Gregorija, sv. Jožefa, z začetkom pomladi – smo šli v daljni domovini ob jutranji rosi k Vstajenju.

Praznovanje nam je dajalo nove moči, nove vere, največ pa upanja, da bomo tudi mi vstali kot naš Odrešenik. Peli smo: "Jezus naš je vstal od smrti..."

Bili so čudoviti časi mladosti, sreče in upanja. Danes so tam zapuščene vasi, zarasčene stezice, opuščene domačije, kjer se je razlegala pesem v čast Bogu in življenju. Kolpa in Krka tečeta svojo pot in čakata na odmev: "Skalovje groba se odpre..."

Naj nam; vsem vernim, bo s praznikom Kristusovega Vstajenja omogočeno, da se bomo v duhu pripravili na Kristusov pohod in na pohod naših bratov in sestra na Golgoto trpljenja in smrti.

Kristus je odpuščal na križu. Sv. vera nas uči po božjih naukih odpuščanja.

Hodimo v procesije in pojmo: "Zveličar naš je vstal iz groba, vesel prepevaj, o kristjan, ..."

Jana Bevec



MOLITEV ZA PAPEŽEV OBISK V SLOVENIJI v maju, 1996

Vsemogočni in dobri Bog!

Po sklepu svoje modrosti si na apostolu Petru zgradil svojo Cerkev in ga postavil za voditelja drugim apostolom. Blagoslavljal našega papeža Janeza Pavla, k prihaja k nam na obisk, da nas potrdi v veri, upanju in ljubezni. Kot Petrov naslednik po tvoji volji vodi sveto Cerkev, ki ji že tisoč dvseto petdeset let pripada tudi slovensko ljudstvo. Hvaležni za dar vere, ki so nam ga izročili naši verniki, Te prosimo:

– za vse člane našega naroda, da bi živeli v miru in spravljeni s teboj in med seboj;

za Cerkev na Slovenskem, da bi bila skupaj z vesoljno Cerkvijo vidno znamenje odrešenja za vse ljudi;

– za naše škofe in duhovnike, da bi mogli v polnosti uresničevati novo evangelizacijo med nami;

– za vse državne oblastnike, da bi odgovorno opravljali svojo službo, ki jim je zaupana.

Posebej pa te prosimo za svetega očeta: podpiraj ga s svojo milostjo pri njegovem neutrudnem oznanjevanju evangelija;

– ohranjaj ga krepkega in zdravega, da bo mogel nadaljevati svoje apostolsko delo;

– dajaj mu moči v uri preizkušnje.

Marija, božja Mati! Skupaj z učenci svojega Sina si vztrajala v molitvi in pričakovala Svetega Duha. Bodi med nami, ko se pripravljamo na obisk svetega očeta. Naj bo vsakdo izmed nas kako on ves Tvoj!



CIRILA:

OBRISI...

Še nekajkrat bomo zagledali belino snega, veter se bo še podil okoli vogalov kakor kak poreden paglavец, a pomladno sonce že prijetno sije in tali trdo skorjo zamrznjenih tal in ledu. Pomlad je tu! Cvetna nedelja! Butarice so nas oživele s svojim pomladnim zelenjem z obronkov gozdov in z bahavimi oblanjčki vmes... Vse se pripravlja na upapolno veliko noč. Ko gremo Bohka kušniti, ko natrgamo prve zvončke, kronce, velikonočnice, Marijine srajčke, za pred božji grob, s potico, pirhi, z žeganjem jedil... In na veliki praznik Kristusovega Vstajenja ob pritrkavanju velikonočnih zvonov zapojmo veselo:

**“Kristus je vstal, aleluja, vstanimo še mi!
Želim vsem veselo veliko noč!**

— PATER AŠIČ SVETUJE —

ALERGIJE NASVETI:

Izogibajmo se snovi, na katere je naš organizem alergičan. To so naprimer: Cvetni prah, jagode, aspirin, pencilin, itd.

ZDRAVLJENJE:

ČAJI: kolmežčaj iz korenin – (calamus roots – sweet flag roots), pijemo po šest požirkov na dan, pred jedjo in po njej in sicer izmenoma s čajem ognjiča – (calendula officinalis), in slezenovca (mallow), koprivo – (nettlesing), 3 do 4 skodelice na dan.

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FRANCIS BARAGA

VIII. BARAGA APOSTOLSKI VIKAR V SAULTU SAINTE MARIE

DELO V LETIH 1855 IN 1856

Človek bi pričakoval, da je Baraga v prvih škofovskih letih užil še mnogo več duhovnega veselja, kakor ga je pa užil v prvih misijonskih letih, saj sta njegova gorečnost in požrtvovalnost našli zdaj še več priložnosti. Pa ni bilo tako. O vseh svetih leta 1856 je zapisal v dnevnik: "Danes je tretja obletnica mojega škofovskega posvečenja. Zelo žalosten dan. Najrajši bi rekel z Jobom: Tisti dan naj se povrne v temo!" O velikem dušnem trpljenju priča tudi opomba k 15. decembru: "Spet so me obšle misli, da bi se odpovedal. Ko bi le vedel, kaj je božja volja!" Pri svojih belokožcih, rudarjih in trgovcih, je videl mnogo slabosti in hudobij, pri svojih maloštevilnih duhovnikih pa včasih le malo gorečnosti, potrpežljivosti in svetosti. Zato se mu je prihodnost vikariata kazala v zmerom bolj temni luči. Očital si je, da je mnogih neuspehov sam kriv, zato je postajal malodušen. Obletavali so ga dvomi o lastnem zveličanju. Spraševal se je: Kaj hoče Bog od mene? Kako naj mu služim?

Da, pri vsej tihi notranji sreči v Bogu je bilo Baragovo življenje polno duševnega trpljenja. Tudi v njegovem življenju se je očitno kazalo, da Bog svoje izvoljence s trpljenjem vedno bolj trga od sveta in vleče nase. Po 23-letnem misijonskem delu ga je postavil na vzvišeno mesto misijonskega škofa; a to vzvišeno mesto je bilo zanj Kalvarija, na kateri je stal velik križ.

V zimskih mesecih, če ni bilo treba kam potovati, je bil večinoma doma v Saultu, v svoji sobici pri jezuitih. Z veselo požrtvovalnostjo je opravljal vsa dušnopastirska dela in lajšal službo jezuitu o. Menetu (Mneju), saultskemu dušnemu pastirju. Dne 1. decembra 1856 je zapisal v dnevnik: "To jutro mi je o. Menet povedal, da me je bil prišel iskat brat Franca Granta, da bi šel previdet njegovega brata. O. Menet mu je pa dejal: "Ali res mislite, da bo škof hotel o polnoči iti k vašemu bratu?" In tako je mladi mož odšel, ne da bi mi bil mogel povedati svojo željo. Jaz sem pa takoj, ko sem to zvedel, hitro šel z obhajilom k bolniku in sem ga dal tudi v sveto olje." In 12. decembra je zapisal: "Danes zjutraj so me klicali na ono stran Reke svete Marije k starki, ki je že hudo priletna in že

čisto otročja. Dal sem ji sv. obhajilo in sv. poslednje olje." – V Saultu so živele štiri narodnosti: Indijanci, Irci, Francozi in Nemci. Zato jim je pridigal vsako nedeljo zaporedoma v drugem jeziku, ali pa isto nedeljo v vseh štirih jezikih – Pri 18. decembru je ljubka pripomba: "Vsak večer poučujem dva mlada Indijančka; predvčeranjim sem začel in ju bom učil vso zimo, če bosta le hotela prihajati." Tudi kot škof si torej ni štel pod čast, potrpežljivo se truditi z dvema divjačkoma; tudi njuni duši sta pred njim imeli neskočno vrednost.

15. decembra si je dal, kakor je beležil v dnevniku, v naprsni križec nove relikvije.

Na koncu decembra je zaradi prehlada za nekaj časa skoraj popolnoma oglušil.

V letu 1856 je Baraga pisal sestri Amaliji: "Zvedel sem, da naj bi po moji smrti izšel moj življenjepis. Še tega se manjka! Ali bi mi radi podaljšali in povečali moje trpljenje v vicah? Rotim Te pri presvetem Jezusovem Imenu, da vržeš v ogenj vse, kar bi moglo služiti v to. Gorje Ti, ako mi tega ne storiš in ako mi ne sporočiš, da si res vse sežgala!" Iz te njegove zahteve se vidi, kako velik sloves je imel in kako se je bal vsega, kar bi bilo zoper krepost ponižnosti. K sreči, da Amalija njegovega ukaza ni celotno izvršila.

Novo leto 1857 se mu je začelo z novimi bridkostmi. Verniki v Mackinacu in pri Sv. Ignaciju so prišli s svojim dušnim pastirjem spet hudo navzkriž. Štirje izmed njih, Indijanci, so ga prišli Baragi tožit. Zima je bila dolga in mrzla, kakor je ljudje že dolgo niso pomnili, sneg zelo debel; a klicala je dolžnost in dolžnosti se je Baraga vselej odzval. Navezal si je krpelje in s temi štirimi Indijanci potoval tri dni. V dnevniku pravi, da je tam doživel žalost in sramotenje.

Vračal se je s šestimi Kanadčani, ki so potovali proti Saultu. Dvakrat so morali prenočiti na prostem v gozdu. V noči od 21. do 22. januarja je bilo 40 stopinj mraza; debela stoletnih orjakov so pokala okoli njegovega ležišča. Bil je v nevarnosti, da ozebe po vsem obrazu.

7. marca je zapisal v dnevnik angleško pesmico s štirimi vrsticami o božji previdnosti: "Bog ničesar ne stori in ne dopusti, kar bi tudi ti ne storil in dopustil, če bi mogel vse dogodke tako dobro pregledati, kakor jih on."

Konec marca leta 1857 je Jožef Buh, četrtoletnik ljubljanskega bogoslovja, pisal Baragi, da bi ga sprejel v svoj apostolski vikariat. Baraga mu je odpisal, da naj le pride, če zna vse potrebne jezike, brez katerih pri njem ne bo mogel shajati. Buh jih pa takrat še ni znal, zato je ostal v domovini. Leta 1864 se je Pirc po naročilu šentpavelskega škofa peljal v Evropo po duhovnike in bogoslovce. Jožef Buh se mu je priglasil. Peljal se je z njim v Minnesoto in postal sloveč misijonar, svet po življenju, preprost in nesebičen kakor otrok. Slovenskim ameriškim duhovnikom je bil kakor oče, pri katerem so se radi zbirali in ga hodili izpraševati za svet. Tudi Buh je bil eden izmed pionirjev krščanske vere in kulture v Severni Ameriki. Pa kako skromen in pozabljen je njegov grob!

— Nadaljevanje —

"FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART"

DAVY'S COLUMN

Easter: Customs and Legends

Did you ever wonder how other boys and girls in other lands celebrate Easter? I have. Here are a couple of the more interesting customs I discovered:

Denmark

In many of the seaport towns, a **Fas-telvan** (Shrovetide) boat is used as a means of collecting money for sick and needy seamen.

The boat is placed on the bed of a truck, surrounded by horn players. Members of the Seamen's Guild lead the parade carrying the Danish flag. As the parade passes, onlookers dance in the street as the players collect donations.

Austria

Bonfires on Easter Eve are very common. Young people gather around them, trying to jump over them. Then they dance and sing Easter hymns.

Luxembourg

The 4th or middle Sunday of lent is known as "Pretzel Sunday". Boys give their girl friends beautifully decorated cakes shaped like pretzels. If the girl wishes to encourage the boy, she gives him a decorated Easter egg (usually chocolate), and walks with him in the park Easter Sunday. The bigger the cake, the bigger the egg. During Leap Year, it's the girl who gives the cake and the boy who gives the egg.

Of all the customs, my favorite is the traditional folk legend from Sweden on how the Robin earned his redbreast.

When God created the world, He named each of the world's inhabitants as they were created. As he was painting the birds, he turned to a small gray bird and said, "You are Robin Redbreast, though there's no red in our feathers, now. You must earn your name, for red is the color of courage."

Wondering how she would earn her name, she flew into a rose thicket and built her nest. To the other birds it looked as though she was waiting for a rose petal to fall and stick to her breast. For a long time she and her fledglings tried to earn their promised red breasts, but neither their song or the encounters they had in fighting other birds worked.

Then one day, when all the world seemed to be in chaos, a robin flew over a hill in the Holy Land called Golgotha. It was near noon, the day Christ was crucified. The robin saw the suffering Christ, nailed to the cross, wearing a crown of thorns on his brow. The robin was filled with sadness and pity. Forgetting his fear of people, before



the soldiers and crowd of witnesses, the robin dove towards the brow of Christ and plucked a large thorn from Christ's brow. When he did so, his breast was splashed with the Savior's blood. Upon his return to his nest, his family greeted him saying, "At last, the red badge of courage God promised is ours!"

DAVY

Easter The World Over
by Priscilla Sawyer Lord & Daniel Foley
Chilton Book Co. 1971@.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Apr. 14** ANNIVERSARY MASS, Br. 73, Warrensville, OH, at St. Jude's Church, 10:30 a.m.
- Apr. 17** SPAGHETTI DINNER, Br. 33, Duluth, MN
- Apr. 20-21** BAKE SALE, Br. 20, Joliet, IL, St. Joe's Church after all masses
- Apr. 24** MOTHER OF THE YEAR DINNER, Br. 35, Aurora, MN at Community Center
- May 5** PLANT SALE, Br. 102, Willard, WI
- May 7** MOTHER OF THE YEAR PARTY, Br. 14, Euclid, OH
- May 9** MOTHER OF THE YEAR PARTY, Br. 2, Chicago, IL
- May 9** ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON-COVERED DISH, Br. 5, Indianapolis, IN, 11 a.m.
- May 18** MOTHER OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON, Br. 105, Detroit, MI
- June 15** ANNUAL PICNIC, Br. 105, Detroit, MI at Licht Park



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