

Zarja



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The Dawn

Wayside Chapel in Veliko Mraševo, Slovenia

Slovenian Union of America

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Communications for the next issue of publication

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

Submission Guidelines

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

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



THE STATE OF THE UNION

The Slovenian Club Branch, Ely, Minnesota

Jim Lah, Branch 23 member, high school English teacher, and director of high school musical performances is proud to announce the creation of the Slovenian Club, an offshoot of Branch 23 at his high school. The school principal gave his approval. The club's mission is to share the Slovenian culture. Members will meet once a month at which time a member will facilitate a cultural experience involving food, genealogy, history, present day Slovenia, or music. For an age to age dance on January 26, 2019 club members were taught to dance the polka. More than sixty students participated!



Convention 2019, Cleveland, Ohio

News from Slovenia! Peter Hawlina and Vlasta Knapič will be attending the 2019 Convention!

Peter Hawlina is the founding member of the Slovenian Genealogical Society (SGS) and has been its chairman since the establishment in 1994. He has been intensively engaged with the research of the family trees in the last three decades. He keeps over 400,000 historical records of individuals in his genealogical collection. Much more is available in the SGS collection in Slovenia. As president of the SGS which is based in Lipica, a small settlement in Škofja Loka, Hawlina organizes regular monthly meetings of the SGS, invites experts to lectures open to the public, edits the SGS magazine Drevesa (Trees), and organizes exhibitions of pedigrees which he has done since 1998 when he planned the first genealogical exhibition in Slovenia. The SGS cooperates with related societies in Europe and America. In cooperation with the Slovenian

Genealogy Society International, the SGS participates at genealogy conferences in Bled, Slovenia attended by the descendants of Slovenian emigrants seeking information about family members, their ancestors, and living relatives. The first such international conference was in 2001, and the last one was held in 2018. He is keen also on genetic genealogy. If you have tested DNA and have Slovenian roots, join Hawlina group at <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/hawlina/dna-results>.

Vlasta Knapič is a member of the Slovenian Genealogical Society since 2008. Since 2014 she has been a member of the SGS Management Board. She has been studying pedigrees for the past decade. Beside historical records of individuals in her genealogy collection, she collects historical information of settlements in the South Styria region of Slovenia for further research dedicated to homeland and local history. Vlasta chairs the DNA Club of the SGS. She helps the members to understand their results of DNA testing and make further steps in genetic genealogy. Her genealogy work includes magazine articles and writings in these online sites:

- Slovenian DNA Pool <https://dna-slovenia.com/>
- Slovenian Genealogy research <https://www.scoop.it/t/slovenian-genealogy-research>
- Facebook page SRD <https://www.facebook.com/SRDrodoslovci/>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/SloGenR>
- Portal SRD (in Slovenian) <http://rodoslovje.si/index.php/sl/genetika>

Spominčici

The Forget Me Nots/Spominčici bilingual series has the distinction of being the first Slovenian/English bilingual series of books for children. Read the story in English, flip the book, and read the story in Slovenian. The books are being used in the primary schools in Slovenia. They are prized for their quality, story plot, and illustrations. They will be available at the June 2019 convention. Price \$25.



SUA Collegiate Scholarship: *for your journey down the education road.*
SUA Cultural Grant: *for historical research; for sponsoring heritage activities.*

For Applications: slovenianunion.org

Anna Fooy

SUA Collegiate Scholarship Winner, Spring 2016

How wonderful to hear from a scholarship winner!
Hello Mary, I recently graduated from Oakland University in Rochester Michigan with my Bachelor in Science, Health Sciences. I am currently waiting to hear back from Physician Assistant schools and am praying to be accepted and begin graduate school! In the meantime, I have accepted a job at Cancer Care Associates in Royal Oak Michigan. They are affiliated with Beaumont Hospital and cater to patients seeking help in the following areas: Internal Medicine, Hematology/Oncology and Medical Oncology with 8 physicians. I am a medical assistant at the practice and will work with a variety of healthcare workers. Some of my jobs include taking vitals, assisting doctors, and some office work. I look forward to learning much in this position as I wait to see what graduate school I will be attending. Hvala Lepa! - Anna Fooy

Slovenian Pilgrimage, September 1910

From the publication Egypt and Austria IX Perception of the Orient in Central Europe (1800–1918) a chapter by FRELJH, Marko 2016- Holy Tree in My Room: Slovenes and the Bible Lands.

Intro from “Holy Tree in My Room” Marko Freljeh:

By the middle of the 19th century, much had been written in the Slovenian language about Biblical places in Egypt and Palestine. Most were written by missionaries who had visited Biblical sites and Egyptian monuments. Travelogues and books began to appear. Eager Slovenes responded to an invitation extended to the common people, “God-fearing Slovenes! A unique opportunity is presenting itself to you. The time is right, the prices are low, the journey is tempting.” 540 Slovene pilgrims set off in their pilgrimage September 1910. Read the personal travelogue of their pilgrimage! I found this article to be fascinating, considering the time in history this pilgrimage takes place.



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Do a google search: FRELIH, Marko 2016- Holy Tree in My Room: Slovenes and the Bible

I do wish to hear from readers regarding this historical article. Please feel free to call (251.968.4364) or email (ottolou@gulftel.com) me!

From the SUA National Board

Branches: Regarding the Policy and Procedure Manual, Branch Information, C-1 through C-10: Periodically refresh your familiarity with this by reading and discussing these pages. Utilizing both policies and procedures provides a roadmap for operations; they provide clarity and consistency in decision making. **Nominating and Voting:** To keep the SUA website information up-to-date, it is important that the names of all newly elected board members be promptly submitted to the home office (sua@slovenianunion.org).

Member Representatives: The national board will be meeting on March 14-16, 2019 at the Main Office in Joliet, Illinois. A meeting with membership representatives will be held on Saturday March 16, 2019. Member reps will be notified of the upcoming time and the log in information.

On this Easter 2019, let us celebrate the glory of the Risen Lord.

Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, President
Slovenian Union of America

Slovenian Literary Award

Calling all Writers, Poets and Essayists!

The Slovenian Union of America is proud to announce its Slovenian Literary Award for writers of Slovenian heritage. Budding and seasoned writers are encouraged to submit an entry!

- The deadline to submit your work and application is April 1, 2019.
- Submissions of all types of writing are accepted, limited to recent non-published, self-published, or published pieces.
- Writings in English or Slovene accepted; no residency requirements.
- Include a narrative biography of between 50-100 words.

For questions, please contact
slovenianliteraryaward@gmail.com.

**Vesele
velikonočne
praznike!
*Happy Easter!***

*We hope this Easter
season fills your home
with peace, joy, and a
renewal of life, love,
and happiness.*

The SUA National Board



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Carolyn Engers, 20, \$100-Educational Grant;
\$100-Cultural Grant +Mary Brezovar Tomazic

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Spring 2019

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Let's Sing & Dance!

at the



S.U.A. National Convention **Cleveland, Ohio**

Thursday, June 13, 2019 - Sunday, June 16, 2019

Marriott Cleveland East, Warrensville Heights, Ohio

It's hard to believe it, but this is the last *Zarja* update before the 2019 SUA National Convention! We hope that you are busy making your plans to be with us in Cleveland, Ohio at the Marriott Cleveland East from Thursday, June 13, 2019, until Sunday, June 16, 2019. Convention festivities will begin on Thursday evening with a welcome reception, and the four-day event will offer attendees the chance to participate in SUA business meetings, a bus tour of vibrant Cleveland, cultural learning sessions, delicious meals, and plenty of time to dance, enjoy music, and honor the history of SUA and the traditions of our beautiful Slovenian culture. *Let's Sing & Dance* together this summer in Cleveland!

My name is Allison Hrovat, and I am a lifelong member of SUA/SWU Branch 50. I have been assisting the convention planning committee with the small task of ghost writing these submissions, and in that time I have learned so much about the work that goes into executing this memorable event. The dedication that Kathleen Ferrante and her team have shown in researching, organizing, and planning your convention has just been incredible to witness. The

convention has been designed so thoughtfully with all of you in mind – their decisions have been guided by a commitment to making sure that each and every attendee has the chance to relax, to learn about Slovenian heritage and the SUA, to explore Cleveland, and to connect with their Slovenian sisters and brothers surrounded by food, music, dancing, and celebration. The theme *Let's Sing & Dance!* has inspired their work, ensuring that the events truly highlight the beauty of Slovenian music and dance.

I have never been to the SUA convention, but I will be going this summer, and I can't wait! SUA has been important to our family for my entire life, and much of what I know about my Slovenian heritage is because of SUA. From attending the annual Christmas parties to being selected by SUA (SWU) to receive a grant to travel to Slovenia as a young woman, SUA has impacted my life in so many ways. Now, living in a state where there are no branches to speak of, I stay connected through my *Zarja* issues and updates from my family. Attending the SUA convention feels like an incredible opportunity to learn more about

my family's heritage through attending learning sessions and meeting others. It also feels like a chance to revisit the SUA events of my upbringing – to emotionally connect with my family, both those who have passed and those who will be attending along with me.

If you, like me, have never been to the SUA convention, this is the perfect year to start a new tradition! In this issue, I am happy to share with you the convention experiences of the following members.

Denise Bartlett: *Branch 43 2nd Auditor; National Treasure; Parliamentarian; Bylaws Chairperson; 2011 National Convention Chairperson; Zarja Proofreader; Director of Special Projects; currently National Corresponding and Recording Secretary*

“I love the SUA National Conventions! I joined SUA's (formerly SWUA) Branch 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the year 2000. I enjoyed the camaraderie at the monthly meetings, the traditions learned, the delicious Slovenian treats baked by the members, and all the conversations about Slovenia. Then in 2003 my cousin, Betty Ann Kolesari, was chosen as delegate, and I was chosen as alternate delegate to attend the SWUA National Convention in Duluth, Minnesota. We didn't know what to expect and were excited to attend. Our husbands, Bob and Jack, willingly joined us. All four of us had a very enjoyable experience! The business meetings, the special topic meetings, the banquet, the food, the music, the raffle, the gift shop - all were very special. Totally unexpected, Betty Ann and I came home holding National Board positions! She was the new Vice-President and I was 2nd Auditor. Our Branch 43 members were so excited at the idea that they had National Officers in their membership! We served our four year terms with much pride. Today, we continue as very active members. Since that first National Convention I attended, my husband and I have attended each one held every four years. We have fond memories of Starved Rock, Illinois, in 2007, Milwaukee in 2011, and Naperville, Illinois, in 2015. Each city's Convention Committee planned special events that we'll never forget. We are looking forward to the 2019 Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, a city known for its Slovenian community. I was the Chairperson of the 2011 Convention in Milwaukee and can attest that a lot of planning, work, and enthusiasm go into the event planning that ensures a memorable event every four years. We cherish the friendships we've made, the Slovenian traditions we've learned, and the special experiences from each convention. I encourage all members to try their best to attend our next National Convention in Cleveland, well-known for its Slovenian ethnic community.”

Kathleen Ferrante: *1995-1999 National Vice President; 1999-2007 National President; 1999 National Convention Chairperson; currently 2019 National Convention Chairperson*

“My first National Convention was in San Francisco in 1995. I was just accompanying my Mom, Olga Dorchak, and my Aunt, Elise Spellacy. They were the delegate and alternate from Branch 47, Garfield Hts, Ohio. I had been a member since my youth and always active in our branch activities. I was not mentally prepared on how attending this convention would affect me. I was captivated by the business sessions. There was so much to learn and be a part of. The members were so involved and enthusiastic. I was motivated to run for a national office and was elected National Vice President. What a life-changing experience! This involvement has given me the opportunity travel to many destinations and to meet many wonderful people. And I haven't missed a convention since my first. I also believe attending the National Convention is a way to honor all of those members that have worked so diligently to keep our heritage and culture a part of our daily lives. I believe it should be on everyone's bucket list.”

Cathy Maxin: *Vice President of Branch 50; past Secretary of Branch 50; Member of Convention Planning Committee*

“I love attending the convention for so many reasons. I love the excitement of visiting a new place and meeting and having fun with fellow Slovenes. I love the chance to make new friends and to hear new stories of my Slovenian heritage. This year, I am looking forward to having the chance to share Slovene food, music, crafts, and traditions with my SUA family. I am really looking forward to the DNA presentation as well! And, of course, I am in charge of organizing the potica contest, and I simply cannot wait to taste all of the incredible member entries. If I could say one thing to encourage others to attend, I'd say that this is an opportunity to share with fellow Slovenes and to enjoy conversation, music, and dancing... and to just have fun. This only occurs once every four years, so don't miss the chance! I have gone twice, and I will never forget the memories of those experiences. SUA is a way that I stay connected to my mom and to those relatives who came before, and this convention is a chance to celebrate just that.”

The SUA National Convention is more than just a good time – it is a transformative experience and truly a chance of a lifetime. As you can see in the testimonies above, many leave the convention with an increased understanding of the way SUA functions and with the honor of taking on an important role at the national level. The SUA is built upon the dedication and leadership of its members – and the convention is the perfect opportunity to enhance your involvement!

Please make your plans NOW to join us for the 2019 SUA National Convention!

Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 13

4:00-6:00 pm – *DNA Presentation and Testing*. DNA testing has become all the rage for understanding more about one's heritage and familial patterns. Join us for a presentation by John Vidmar on the use of DNA testing to uncover more about your family tree. * JUST ANNOUNCED! Learn about information carried by DNA and the DNA Project from our Slovenian guests, Vlasta Knapič and Peter Hawlina. *Note: if you are interested in this opportunity, make sure to indicate it on the registration form so that we will have plenty of space for everyone!*

7:00-10:00 pm – *Welcome Reception*. The welcome reception on Thursday evening will kick off the whole weekend of events. Join us for hors d'oeuvres and cash bar as we reunite and reconnect. Attendees will have the chance to win door prizes, shop from an assortment of on-site vendors, and sing and dance along to our strolling musicians, Anthony Culkar and Hank Guzel. The reception will feature an art display by Joseph Vodlan.

Friday, June 14

8:30-11:30 am – *Morning Business Session*. SUA members are invited to join the member representatives and National Board for the business portion of the day.

12:00-6:00 pm (price: \$45.00 additional) – *Faith, Song, and Dance Bus Tour*. Attendees who elect to include the *Faith, Song, and Dance Bus Tour* will receive a boxed lunch on Friday and will board a chartered coach to travel to the Museum of Divine Statues, where we will get an exclusive arranged tour, and next we will go past iconic landmarks in Cleveland before touring the Polka Hall of Fame in Euclid, Ohio.

7:00-10:00 pm – *90th Anniversary Celebration of the Zarja*. Fred Ziwich and his International Sound Machine will join us for a night to remember – the celebration of the 90th birthday of *Zarja - The Dawn*, hosted by Bonnie Prokup and Debbie Pohar! Come gather to sing and dance along to the band and enjoy an endless variety of sweets and treats on the dessert bar. Show your competitive side in our trivia game, or try your luck at winning a door prize or raffle prize – you can't win unless you come!

Saturday, June 15

8:30-11:30 am – *Morning Business Session*. SUA members are invited to join the member representatives and National Board for the business portion of the day.

12:30-1:30 pm – *Luncheon*. Join us at Saturday's delicious luncheon for a family-style meal of Slovenian favorites, including Slovenian sausage from a local butcher shop, sauerkraut, fried potatoes, and oil and vinegar salad. *Dober tek!* * JUST ANNOUNCED! Our luncheon will feature a performance by dance group Folklorna skupina Kres. Do not miss your chance to see authentic Slovenian dancing by this incredible group of young performers!

1:45-3:45 pm – *Educational Sessions*. Following our theme of *Let's Sing & Dance!*, attendees will have the unique opportunity to learn from two experts on the topic of Slovenian music – Charles "Chuck" Debevec and Joe Valencic.

5:00-11:00 pm – *SUA National Convention Banquet*. Join us for the crowning event of the weekend: the SUA National Convention Banquet. We'll gather before dinner for cocktails at the cash bar, and then Master of Ceremonies Joe Valencic will guide us through an evening of awards, acknowledgements, dinner, and dancing to Cleveland-style polka and other party hits from the Frank Moravcik Band. Save your appetite for the bountiful buffet that will include different meat selections, a baked potato bar, and salad. Saturday's banquet will be your chance to sample the entries from the potica contest as well as meet your new National Board!

Sunday, June 16

8:00-10:00 am – *Brunch Buffet*. We can't send you home or off to church with an empty stomach! The brunch buffet will include fruit juices, seasonal fruit and berries, fruit yogurts, cereal with milk, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon and link sausage, breakfast potatoes, and pastries.

10:30 am – *Slovenian Mass at St. Vitus Church*. Join us for a Slovenian Mass at St. Vitus Church (*optional; on your own*), an integral part of the Slovenian community in Cleveland since it was founded in 1893 by the first documented Slovenian immigrants to the city. Following the Mass, we will be provided with a short guided tour of the church as well as a visit to Joseph House, a partnership between four Catholic churches in the Diocese of Cleveland that provides affordable housing, a clothing bank, and other support to refugees resettling in Cleveland.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Please see the SUA National Convention Registration form.

You may complete the form and register by mail, paying by check, or you may register on line by going to www.slovenianunion.org and using your credit card.

Convention attendees are currently able to book deluxe standard hotel rooms at the discounted convention rate of \$129.00 + taxes.

This is a great rate available to conference attendees only!

To make your reservation, call 216.378.9191 and mention that you are with the “SUA Group.”

Alternately, book through this link: <https://goo.gl/tLdnr2>.

Please make your plans early to ensure that you can take advantage of the convention rate!

Also, please note that dates extended beyond the duration of the convention may not be eligible for the convention rate.



If you have any questions or concerns about the **2019 SUA National Convention** please contact: Kathy Ferrante 2019 National Convention Chair. Call or text to 330.730.8951 or Email to kjferrante@gmail.com

2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION POTICA CONTEST

Enter your home-baked potica for a chance to win a fabulous prize and the honor of holding the title of *Best Potica of SUA 2019!*



Rules and Instructions:

The prize for the Best Potica of SUA will be given on the basis of taste, texture, form, and presentation.

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges from outside of SUA.

The winner will be featured in *Zarja - The Dawn* along with their recipe.

In-person entries will be accepted Thursday afternoon, June 13 through Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Marriott Cleveland East Hotel in the Hospitality Room. A registration receipt will be given for each potica by the Potica Contest Committee. Member representatives may bring potica entries on behalf of another member. For delivery in person, present potica, fully baked, unsliced with complete recipe, entry number, and name of baker attached.

Entries will also be accepted via mail. Please make sure to follow the instructions carefully: Ship potica, fully baked, unsliced, with complete recipe, entry number, and name of baker attached. Potica should be well wrapped to preserve moisture, shape, and texture. Shipped potica must be received no later than Wednesday, June 12, 2019. Entries should be shipped to Cathy Maxin 37524 Ocean Reef Willoughby, Ohio 44094.

If you plan on entering, you need to notify Cathy Maxin by e-mail (cookie.maxin@gmail.com) or by phone (440.488.6314) no later than May 10, 2019. She will provide you with an entry number to be secured to your potica when submitted.

Winners will be announced at the banquet on Saturday, June 15, 2019.

Attention! We need your assistance!

We are asking members and branches to donate an item for the Slovenian Raffle at the National Convention or a monetary donation. If you are able to donate an item, please let Lynn McKittrick (information below) know what item you will be bringing and the approximate value. *You can then simply bring the item to the convention.* If you or your branch are able to make a monetary donation, please make the check out to SUA and send to Lynn McKittrick. We greatly appreciate your participation in making the 2019 SUA National Convention an event to remember.

Lynn McKittrick 5521 Carol Jean Blvd, Garfield Hts OH 44125
Phone number: 216.663.0305 Email: lmckitt@sbcglobal.net

No contribution is too small!

Wayside Chapel *Wanderings*

By Staff Writer David Sodac, Branch 89 Oglesby, Illinois bd sodac@gmail.com

Should you ever be driving the twisting roads through Slovenia's scenic countryside, you can't fail to notice the countless phone-booth sized chapels that dot the roadside landscape. They are called wayside chapels and shrines. A Slovene responder to an open online discussion group on the topic of wayside chapels posted the following comment: "...the land is just lousy with them! But, I mean that in a good way." Wayside chapel and shrines have had a purposeful history in Slovenia as well as throughout most European alpine countries. America doesn't quite have the passion for wayside places to pray that many European countries demonstrate. These petite praying places have been a feature of many religious customs, including the Catholic and Orthodox religions. Since Slovenia is predominantly a Catholic country, the religious motivation to erect them as places of devotion makes sense.

My first introduction to Slovenia's prolific wayside chapels and shrines was through a native Slovenian cousin, David Smukovic, from the small settlement village of Račja vas and also a member of Branch 89. He had attached an online newsletter from August 2012 with his email. The article featured his hometown community's Centennial Celebration of the Chapel of Marije Pomočnice *Mary, Helper of Christians*. My cousin was also recognized at this celebration for writing a historical publication on the history of the village. The community members had faithfully and reverently maintained this chapel throughout

all these hundred years. The chapel remarkably contains a 400-year-old statue of Mary from the Cistercian Monastery of Kostanjevica na krki built near the Krka River in the late 11th century. Studying the ten photos that had accompanied the article, I wondered how small the settlement of Račja vas must be, given the diminutive chapel shown in the photos. There hardly seemed much room to enter the chapel for veneration or Mass. After we were given a tour of Račja vas during a visit to Slovenia, I understood... the Kapelica Marije Pomočnice is a beautiful example of a functional wayside chapel. It was constructed near the boundaries as one approaches the village territory. It is a place to stop for a moment and to meditate, reflect, and maybe leave a lighted votive candle. That experience began a fascination with roadside chapels and shrines, and it overtook my lifelong traveling attraction for searching out homemade bathtub Madonnas encountered in front yards throughout Northeast Iowa and Southwest Wisconsin.

Wayside chapels and shrines have historically served a variety of purposes. There are some that still exist today from the time when roads were mostly populated by foot traffic and horse-drawn carts. Early roadside monuments were built by the Romans as mile markers in aiding travelers to safely reach their destination. In the settlement of Ivančna Gorica, there is a wayside shrine known as Abbot's Shrine. The shrine was originally a Roman milestone that was re-carved in 1583 by the local Abbot of the Cistercian Abbey. Some shrines are erected to commemorate the victims of the plague or disaster. Occasionally, you'll see an inscription or notice that a specific deceased individual is commemorated. Some seem to mark a site where there was a fatal accident, similar to what you see in America, many with makeshift crosses. In



Kapelica Marije Pomočnice in Račja vas.



The Abbot's Shrine in Ivančna Gorica.

Zarja - The Dawn

some more isolated rural areas, you will discover the wayside chapels are even used for holding outdoor Mass. They also provided an early morning, momentary stopping place for farmers so that they could say a prayer before they went on to work their fields.



Walkers shrine at Stahovica.

Most wayside chapels and shrines are generally situated along rural roads and frequently at intersections. Some mark parish or other boundaries, such as the edge of a settlement or landholding. Wayside chapels and shrines were erected along pilgrimage routes. However, some are located along routes taken by pilgrims to famous shrines or placed at crossroads or major geographic sites, such as mountaintops or springs and fountains, offering a spot to rest and pray. You can also encounter them randomly while hiking somewhere, such as the Walkers' Shrine at Stahovica.

There are striking "kalvarij" or calvaries built on the slopes of hills. Calvaries are the Stations of the Cross comprised of a series of ornate chapels that represent the Passion of Christ. In the hills above Smlednik, there is a beautiful Calvary that was originally built in 1772 but extensively refurbished by 2001. Throughout most of Central Europe, one can find many wayside shrines or chapels that honor local saints. For example, Saint John of Nepomuk is the patron saint of the Czech Republic, and wayside shrines honoring him can be found alongside rivers



A Calvary In the hills above Smlednik.

and waterways, many to seek his intercession against flooding. He was martyred by drowning. Another is Saint Florian, who was set on fire. He is a patron of many roadside shrines in Poland, often placed near wooden buildings. This patron of firefighters is often shown holding a pitcher of water.

Many of the chapels most commonly found throughout Slovenia, are built to resemble a small church structure, yet with enough room for several to enter and pray. Some appear to be almost a small

garden shed size and have only a niche or a small altar that may display a depiction of a saint. The main two varieties are the open chapel, which has no doors, and the closed chapel, which has a door. The closed chapel is the older form, with examples known from the 17th century onward. The wayside



Chapel of the Virgin Mary in Črni Vrh.

chapel dedicated to Virgin Mary in Črni Vrh is a good example of the closed structure with doors. The earliest open chapel dates from the 19th century. One example is the open chapel built in 1852 in Brezje nad Kamnikom. This chapel is now registered as a cultural heritage site. Also, commonly seen in Slovenia are the belfry chapels and shrines.

There is a small chapel in the settlement of Stahovica, a village in the Municipality of Murska Sobota, dedicated to the Holy Spirit. It was built in 1852 and is a good example of having a belfry with an onion-domed copper-covered roof. An-



Open-designed chapel in Brezje nad Kamnikom.



Chapel of the Holy Spirit with a belfry in Stahovica.

other variety of construction design is the polygonal chapel-shrines such as this six-sided built in Gorenje Skopice. Wayside shrines are still being erected today and older ones continue to be attentively cared for by the local townspeople. Often the shrines have niches, steps, or small altars for visitors to place votive candles and vases of fresh flowers such as the one in Krška vas. Unfortunately, limited print space prevents me from including all of my photo collection of wayside chapels, but here are a few more to admire: The Chapel of Hrastjic in the Municipality of Šetjernej, the chapel in Zasip built in 1905, and one in Črešnjice.

Such wayside chapels and shrines definitely do exist throughout some of America's roads and highways, but they are just not as common as in Europe. Off of Highway 61 outside of Schroeder, Minnesota, there is a wayside shrine called



Chapel in Krška vas.



Six-sided chapel built in Gorenje Skopice.

Father Baraga's Cross that we visited last year. It is positioned on a slice of jutting land with a scenic backdrop of Lake Superior. This simple memorial wayside shrine was constructed in thanksgiving for what Father Baraga viewed as his prayers being received after a treacherous lake crossing during a violent storm. Father Baraga was a Slovenian Catholic priest who dedicated his life in attending to the needs of the Native Americans in the Great Lake regions. Since that time, the original wooden cross

has been replaced by the granite cross found on the site today. There also is an interesting wayside chapel in the tiny mountain town of Trust in Madison County, North Carolina. The Chapel of St. Jude of Hope is a petite wayside chapel built by Beverly Barutio fulfilling a promise she had made to God during her fierce battle with cancer. The chapel was opened to the public in 1991. It



Chapel in Črešnjice.

Zarja - The Dawn



The chapel of Hrastije.

has since become a large tourist destination and a lasting testimony to her strong faith. There is a collection of wayside votive chapels in Northeast Wisconsin's Door County representing an old-world religious tradition brought to this area by the 1870s immigrant Belgians, many of them devout Catholics. Most of these are very simple wooden structures with a plain cross upon the roof. Given its early 1870s history, the Chapel of St. Roch is one of several chapels that were moved for preservation to a safer site maintained by the Peninsula Belgian American Club. Then there are the simple bathtub shrines planted in yards from the Midwest to the U.S. East Coast, often adorned with various crystallized rocks, geodes, seashells, and decorations. These, too, are considered wayside shrines. Made from half-buried cast iron bathtubs, these shrines most often hold a statue of Mary but can also hold a cross or a statue of another saint.

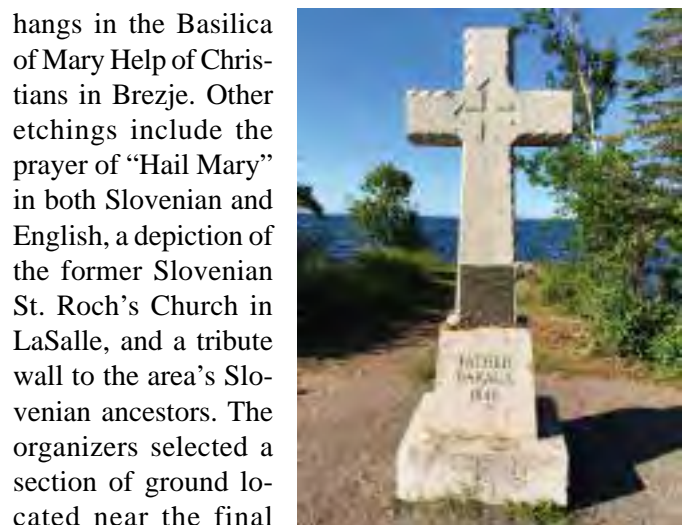
Now there is a new wayside chapel in America constructed through the funds collected from an endowment bequeathed by Marie "Mitzi" Washkowiak. It proudly sits beside a road inside St. Vincent Cemetery, in LaSalle, Illinois. The chapel is nestled among age-old cedars and the final resting places of hundreds of immigrant Slovenians that had settled in this valley area. The endowment was matched by the Slovenian Union of America Branch members of LaSalle County through a fund drive. It was inspired in the style and func-

Spring 2019



Chapel of Zasip built in 1905.

tion of Slovenian wayside chapels and is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States. The Slovenian Union of America's Consulate General of Chicago conveyed that they were unaware of any roadside chapels erected by Slovenian-Americans here in America. The chapel is dedicated to Marija Pomagaj "Mary Help of Christians". The impressive structure is a tall monument made of beautifully grained grey granite from India and inscribed with several etchings. One of the beautiful illustrations is of the miraculous icon that hangs in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Brezje. Other etchings include the prayer of "Hail Mary" in both Slovenian and English, a depiction of the former Slovenian St. Roch's Church in LaSalle, and a tribute wall to the area's Slovenian ancestors. The organizers selected a section of ground located near the final resting place of Rev. Michael Zeleznikar



Shrine of Fr. Baraga's Cross in Shroeder, Minnesota.



The Chapel of St. Roch in Door County, Wisconsin.

(1892-1983) to house the chapel. Fr. Zeleznikar was a former pastor of St. Roch's Catholic Church in LaSalle, Illinois who arranged for persecuted Slovenian Catholics to emigrate from the old country and enjoy religious freedom in Illinois.

On my annual cleanup of the family gravesites in preparation for Christmas decorating, I made a visit back to the new chapel in St. Vincent's cemetery. It was a sunny day, and the sunlight reflected off the marble walls. I knelt inside and proudly asked out loud what my deceased parents, brother, grandparents, aunts, and uncles thought of their newly installed chapel. Then I said a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the Slovenian immigrants buried in the land surrounding these chapel walls.



Bathtub Madonna Shrine.

How wonderful that these souls have been given a way to keep alive their motherland's customs, traditions, and spirit here in America.



The Chapel of St. Jude of Hope in Trust North Carolina.



Chapel Marija Pomagaj "Mary Help of Christians" in LaSalle, Illinois.



Slovenian Union of America

“April’s Showers of Dollars” Drawing

April 2019 Fund-Raiser



The monies received will benefit the SUA National Convention in 2019. Here is how the fundraiser works: Each day in the month of April 2019, one (1) winner will be chosen to win the listed cash prize for that day - \$65 or \$200. In addition, the person who sold that day’s winning ticket will win \$10. The daily winner and the seller can be the same person and win both prizes.

The winners chosen on April 1 - “April No Fool’s Day,” April 15 - “Help With Tax Day,” and April 30 - “Here Come May Flowers,” will win \$200 each. In addition, the top sellers (1st, 2nd, and 3rd places) will win \$150, \$100, and \$50 respectively. A minimum of 300 entries must be sold. It’s a WINNING opportunity for everyone!

Good Luck!



Top Seller Prizes

- 1st Place: \$150
- 2nd Place: \$100
- 3rd Place: \$50

April 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 \$200 Prize	2 \$65 Prize	3 \$65 Prize	4 \$65 Prize	5 \$65 Prize	6 \$65 Prize
7 \$65 Prize	8 \$65 Prize	9 \$65 Prize	10 \$65 Prize	11 \$65 Prize	12 \$65 Prize	13 \$65 Prize
14 \$65 Prize	15 \$200 Prize	16 \$65 Prize	17 \$65 Prize	18 \$65 Prize	19 \$65 Prize	20 \$65 Prize
21 \$65 Prize	22 \$65 Prize	23 \$65 Prize	24 \$65 Prize	25 \$65 Prize	26 \$65 Prize	27 \$65 Prize
28 \$65 Prize	29 \$65 Prize	30 \$200 Prize				



\$10.00
per entry

Cash prizes
totaling
\$2,955

Your “April’s Showers of Dollars” drawing entry will be eligible for all daily drawings in the month of April 2019. Sellers of the winning entries will receive \$10 as an award for their selling efforts. The daily drawing amount and the seller’s \$10 prize will be mailed to the winners of record. A complete list of winners will appear in a future issue of *Zarja - The Dawn*. **Thank you for your support!**

If you have any questions, please contact Denise P. Bartlett at 414.327.4990 or sua@slovenianunion.org.

Entry Form (Copies Accepted)
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Entrant’s Information:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Seller’s Information:

Name: _____
Branch Number and Location: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please complete form and mail with your check in the amount of \$10 **payable to SUA**. Send to:
 Denise P. Bartlett • 5275 S. 15th Place • Milwaukee, WI 53221-3865 • 414.327.4990

Branch 20 - Joliet, Illinois Celebrates 90 Years

by Georgene Agnich with photos by Jim Schaible

Branch 20 celebrated its 90th anniversary on October 21, with an open house at the Slovenian Heritage Museum, a Mass at St. Joseph Church, and a banquet at St. Joseph Church Parish Hall. Founded by Barbara Kramer of San Francisco and Josephine Erjavec of Joliet, Branch 20 held its first meeting on June 11, 1928, at the Joliet home of Mary Russ with fourteen charter members in attendance. The branch had 292 members by year's end and became one of the largest and most active branches in the ensuing decades.

Diane Hohenwater, member and Vice-President of Home Office, greeted guests at the museum's open house prior to Mass and offered them refreshments of potica, Slovenian wine, and slivovitz as they toured the museum in the historic building which prominent Slovenian immigrant George Stonich built over a century ago.



Mary Lou Voelk and Diane Hohenwater welcome visitors to open house at the Heritage Museum.

Across the street, members and guests arrived at St. Joseph Church, founded and built by Slovenian immigrants, for a special 1 p.m. Mass given to Branch 20 by Pastor Timothy Andres. Father Thomas Paul, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst, Illinois, a Branch 20 member and also its Spiritual Advisor, was the celebrant. Father Metod Ogorevc, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Mission in Lemont, Illi-



Fr. Metod Ogorevc and Fr. Tom Paul reflect during Mass at St. Joseph Church.

nois, was the concelebrant. Eli Zelinski and Olivia Zelinski, grandchildren of member Joyce Vicich, were the altar servers. As the sun streamed through the beautiful stained-glass windows, organist Susan Barelo played "Lepa si, lepa si, roza Marija" as a prelude on the recent-



Pat Figurowski presents flowers at Marija Pomagaj altar.

ly renovated pipe organ, followed by the Entrance Hymn, "Joyful We Adore Thee," led by cantor Mary Lynn Bruno and members of the St. Joseph Choir. Father Paul welcomed the congregation in English, and Father Ogorevc welcomed them in Slovenian. Member Barbara Guardia gave the First Reading, and Branch 20 President Charlene Kobe gave the Second Reading. Father Paul, a graduate of St. Joseph Grade School, whose mother was a Branch 20 member gave an impressive homily in which he masterfully blended his personal tribute to Branch 20 with the day's scriptural readings. Members Lorraine Belom and Marla Lustik presented the Offertory gifts during the hymn, "Kraljica Venca Roznega." The Communion Hymn was "Panis Angelicus." After Communion, member Patricia Figurowski presented a large vase of red carnations at the Marija Pomagaj altar in memory of all deceased Branch 20 members, as the congregation faced that altar and sang "Angelsko češčenje." The Mass ended with the Recessional Hymn, "All Creatures of our God and King," as the bells of St. Joseph Church rang.

Eighty-eight guests attended the reservations-only banquet at the parish hall, where member Sandra Rodeghero offered them sips of slivovitz as they bought raffle tickets, viewed an historic video created by Diane Hohenwater, picked up a 90th Anniversary Souvenir Book, and got seated. Member Georgene Agnich gave the "Welcome," in which

she honored Branch 20's twenty-one nonagenarian members, gave a brief history of Branch 20, and paid tribute to those devout, hard-working Slovenian immigrants who taught their descendants to love, live, and preserve their



Congratulatory message fills St. Joseph parish hall marquee.



"Welcome" banner hangs on parish hall door.

Slovenian traditions. Next, the all-male a cappella choir Zbor Spendov from the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Zdravljica," the Slovenian national anthem. As the guests remained standing, member Jean Herbst led them in the "Pledge of Allegiance," Father Paul gave the Invocation, and Branch 20 President Kobe invited them to the buffet.

The dinner, prepared



Zodnja Kaplja plays Slovenian music before and after dinner.



Lemont a cappella choir Zbor Spendov performs Slovenian songs after dinner.



Georgene Agnich gives "Welcome" address.

onsite by St. Joseph parishioner and Branch 99 member Lillian Cepon, included baked chicken, mashed potatoes, mostaccioli, sausage and sauerkraut, vegetable medley, salad, rolls, and potica on the dessert table. Pete and Barbara DeLaney sponsored the delicious two-layer anniversary cake, filled with fresh strawberries, from Milano Bakery. Coffee and tea were served and a cash bar was available. Sandra Rodeghero created

the table centerpieces that featured a red gift bag decorated with floral paper and cloth fringe to resemble an old-fashioned Slovenian window; each bag held red carnations and other flowers, small American and Slovenian flags, and a tiny bee wired onto a flower. After dinner, Zbor Spendov, wearing Slovenian costumes, performed a program of Slovenian songs, including SWUA foundress Marie Prisland's favorite, "Gor čez Izaro."



Branch 20 President Char Kobe addresses dinner guests.

After-dinner ceremonies began when President Kobe introduced head table guests Father Tom Paul, Father Metod Ogorevc, Father Christopher



Guests mingle before dinner.



SUA National President Mary Lou Deyak Voelk delivers keynote address.

Groh, SUA National President Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, Diane Hohenwater, Georgene Agnich, and herself. She introduced SUA National Board officers Mary Lou Deyak Voelk of Foley, Alabama; Annette Charron, accompanied by husband Frank, of Pueblo, Colorado; Beverly Kochmann of Twin Cities, Minnesota; Diane Hohenwater, accompanied by husband George, of Channahon, Illinois; Robert J. Kuhel, accompanied by wife Donna, of Highland Park, Illinois; and Denise Delopst Bartlett of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Norm Setniker of Twin Cities, Minnesota was unable to attend. President Kobe gave a special thank-you to the National Board officers for scheduling their business meeting to coincide with Branch 20's 90th anniversary celebration.

President Kobe then introduced Branch 20 officers Jeanne Warsaw, Diane Hohenwater, Robyn Coyne, Georgene Agnich, Nancy Horwath, Josephine Lustik, Jean Herbst, and Mary Kay Demick. Sandra Kehring was unable to attend. The priests, National Board officers, Branch 20 officers, and 90th anniversary committee members each wore a corsage or boutonniere from Palmer Florists, who also created the Marija Pomagaj vase and other flowers, as well as the three head table centerpieces that were later donated to St. Joseph Church and Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home.

SUA National President Mary Lou Deyak Voelk delivered the keynote address, commending Branch 20 members for being "stewards" of the museum's Heritage



Illinois Senator Patrick McGuire presents Senate's honorary proclamation to Branch 20.

Room, which opened in 1983, by volunteering countless hours to catalog the museum's collection, preserve its records, create its library and card catalog, and digitize its burial insurance archive. She attributed these accomplishments to "doing what you love" because "passion puts you to work." President Voelk said that the "90th anniversary gala is proof that the Slovenian spirit has not gone away in Joliet." She reminded Branch 20, "You are a



Illinois Representative Larry Walsh, Jr., presents House's honorary proclamation to Branch 20.

perfect example of the importance of heritage for life on this earth. Remember, it is holy to cherish family traditions. Remember, it is holy to know who you are and where you came from."

Senator Patrick McGuire (43rd Illinois District), Representative Larry Walsh, Jr. (86th Illinois District), and Joliet City Councilwoman and Branch 20 member Jan Quillman presented proclamations from their respective governing bodies, honoring and congratulating Branch 20 for ninety years of preserving and promoting Slovenian heritage.



Joliet City Councilwoman and Branch 20 member Jan Quillman presents City of Joliet's honorary proclamation to Branch 20.

Diane Hohenwater read a tribute to four other SUA branches that were founded in 1928 and were also ninety years old in 2018: Branch 16 – South Chicago, Board member Robert Kuhel's branch; Branch 23 – Ely, Board President Mary Lou Deyak Voelk's branch; Branch 24 – LaSalle, the branch of *Zarja's* Bonnie Prokup and Debbie Pohar; and Branch 26 – Pittsburgh.

President Kobe recognized several Branch 20 members for various achievements. Marie J. Gulas, born in 1922, was congratulated as Branch 20's eldest member and

Zarja - The Dawn



Branch 20 honors its eldest member, Marie Gulas.

given a bouquet of flowers. Judith Gronwold, Marla Lustik, Evelyn Marvic, Vera Muir, Annette Nelson, and Joyce Vicich were awarded 50-year member certificates. Sandra Rodeghero read a "Special Recognition" of Jonita Ruth in honor of her 79 years of dedicated Branch 20 membership. Jonita's brother, Ron Erjavec, accepted Jonita's certificate in her absence, thanking Branch 20 for the honor and asking members to phone or write to Jonita in Florida. Jonita's daughter, Rosanne Ruth, also gave a brief address in honor of her mother.



Eileen Plese sells raffle tickets.

Eileen Plese and Marla Lustik conducted the raffles. Nancy Horwath won the lovely Slovenian doll and Barbara Guardia won the 50/50 money raffle. Several guests won various gift baskets featuring wine, store gift cards, toiletries, and other items. One lucky person at each table won the table's centerpiece.



Branch 20 displays treasured 1930s banner.

Following President Kobe's brief closing remarks, Father Paul gave the Benediction and Zbor Spendov singer Vince Rigler led everyone in singing "God Bless America." The band known as *Zadnja Kaplja*, which includes members of Zbor Spendov, rounded out the evening with Slovenian music.



Nancy Horwath wins Slovenian doll raffle.



Pat Figurowski and Jo Lustik work the reservation table.



Anniversary cake sponsored by Pete and Barb DeLaney.



Slovenian Union of America

Across America - Branch Reports

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Contact information: Mary Ann Schellinger
920.457.7946/rhmas@yahoo.com

The time had passed so quickly in 2018. The month of November started out with a “bang” as dough was being raised and rolled and poticas were baked by many members of our branch for the SS Cyril & Methodius pre-Christmas bake sale. Over 130 poticas were sold.

On November 10, my husband Bob and I drove to Milwaukee to participate in the Martinovanje celebration hosted by Branch 43. The celebration was an evening of good food, Slovenian wine, Slovenian music, and of course potica, strudel, and lots of singing and laughter. It is always great to get together with friends made through SUA.

Our members gathered at the KC hall on December 11 for the annual Christmas party. Traditional Slovenian food

was served including potica and pink tea. Memory angels were presented to members who lost a family member this past year. We sang a few holiday carols and also “The Twelve Days of Christmas” Slovenian-style which was put together by our President, Mary Sandwick. The evening ended with some polkas, and a few members took advantage of the dance floor.

MARY ANN
SCHELLINGER



BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information:
719.569.7125/amtcharron@gmail.com

Our November 6 meeting was well attended, and the members enjoyed a pizza party for lunch. Attendees received several different prayer cards. Madeleine Khosla distributed Novena Prayer Cards to Obtain Favors. Eileen Kaplan passed out prayer cards with a Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Annette Charron and MT Karlinger gave attendees holy cards in English and Slovenian from their stop at the Marija Pomagaj Basilica in Brezje during

Zarja - The Dawn

the Zarjafest tour last June. Annette showed photographs of the Zarjafest stops at Lake Bled, Bohinj, and Brezje while members enjoyed kifeljcki (butter crescents) that she prepared from the recipe in *The Slovenian-American Table* cookbook. Madeleine Khosla brought the mystery gift which was won by Barbara Karlinger.

The Christmas luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 4 at Park East Restaurant with over 30 attendees. Eileen Kaplan gave a presentation about the history of snowmen, and everyone went home with a Santa gift from the gift exchange. Madeleine Khosla provided goody bags filled with small bottles of wine, candy, and other treats at each table setting.

Regular monthly meetings began again on February 5. In the next *Zarja* issue, we will report on the annual Slovenian Heritage Dinner held in November at St. Mary's which was a great success!

ANNETTE SABO CHARRON
& BARBARA KARLINGER

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Greetings all Branch 5 Members! Spring has sprung! I've got my fingers crossed that my tulips will bloom even though they started to peek through the soil during our 55 degree temperatures we had in January, only to be dumped on and frozen two days later! I guess I'm an eternal optimist!

It was wonderful to see so many of our members and their families at the 100th Birthday Bash for the Nash! The food was wonderful: Slovenian sausage, cheese strukjli, herb pork roast, fried potatoes, zganci with bacon... a veritable Slovenian feast! A huge cake, decorated as the Slovenian flag, along with crispy sugared rosettes and potica provided plenty of energy for singing and dancing to the music of Bob Klemens n POLKAMOTION! The Nash was packed with over 200 people during the evening, many visiting friends and family, many visiting for the first time in years! Hopefully people will return often, keeping the Nash a great meeting place! Don't forget to make plans to bring friends and family to the Annual Nash Picnic in June! Always a great day of food and fun!

2018 was a year that Branch 5 lost two longtime members. "Polka Pete" Barbarich, who always had his trusty accordion by his side ready to entertain for any occasion, left us in March. Stella Valant Watson, who turned 100 years young on November 10, 2018, passed later that month. Both of these members have wonderful families who support the Slovenian Community here in Indy. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Keep our Junior Members in your thoughts as they finish up their school year. They are the future of SUA, and the next leaders of our communities... they need our help and prayers! Enjoy the warming spring weather, and have a Blessed Easter!

MARY, KAREN, & PHYLLIS

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Contact Information: Georgene Agnich
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We wish to thank the officers of the SUA National Board for attending our 90th Anniversary celebration on October 21, 2018, and also our fellow branches for their support and good wishes on our special occasion.

We drew the winners of our Money Raffle at our November 13 meeting: Betty Scolp won first prize (\$300), Liz Engelman second prize (\$200), and Kathy Hartong third prize (\$100). Sandy Rodeghero demonstrated how to make "Curried Pumpkin Soup" and served samples. Members viewed the historic video created by Diane Hohenwater for our 90th anniversary banquet. Jo Lustik read the names of members who had passed away in 2018, and we offered prayers in their memories. Rosemary Rogel presented a painting of Marie Metesh Malnarick by our late member and artist, Lucille Dragovan, as a gift to the SUA Museum.

Our Christmas Party at Merichka's Restaurant on December 16 was a very enjoyable time with delicious food, a gift exchange and poinsettia raffle, and table favors of chocolates and small Santas, elves, and snowmen. Weeks earlier, we had placed a wreath in the grotto of St. Joseph Cemetery in memory of the parish's war dead.



Painting of Marie Metesh Malnarick, by late artist and Branch 20 member Lucille Dragovan, presented to SUA Museum by Rosemary Rogel on November 13, 2018.

Members are reminded of our St. Joseph Table on March 19, our annual Bake Sale on April 6 and 7, and SUA's "April Showers of Dollars" fundraiser for the 2019 National Convention.



Jeanne Warsaw conducts the gift exchange at Merichka's on December 16, 2018.



Eileen Plese, Mary Barrett, Mary Fran Smaron, and Barb Guardia enjoy our Christmas party at Merichka's.

sincere condolences to the family of member Irene F. (Likovich) Vicic, who passed away on October 20, 2018.

GEORGENE AGNICH

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Contact Information: Diane Data
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Zivijo! Happy New Year to all! At our October 25 meeting, officers for 2019 were selected. Taking on the task of President will be Mary Mecum. Barb Krogulski will remain as Secretary and Mary Pryde has agreed to the Treasurer position for another year. Thank you ladies for giving of your time to the SUA.

As mentioned in my last report, our annual All Soul's Day Cemetery Walk was held on Sunday, November 2. It was a cold and windy day, but the event was well attended. Prior to starting the walk, a dedication of our Slovenian Roadside Chapel was held with a blessing by Brother Luke McLachlan. The chapel is made of granite imported from

India. Etched on the left inside wall is the Hail Mary in Slovenian and on the opposite wall the prayer is in English. The inside back wall has a large etching of Marija Pomagaj welcoming all to come in and say a prayer. The outside wall has a tribute to "Keeping the Slovenian Spirit Alive." The back wall bears the names of the generous donors who made this chapel a reality. We believe our roadside chapel is the only one like it in the United States. The chapel is located in St. Vincent's Cemetery, 371 N. 2979th Road (North St. Vincent's Avenue) in LaSalle, Illinois. Following the cemetery walk, we met at the Paramount Club for a dinner buffet and very much enjoyed listening and dancing to the music of Branch 20 member Eddie Korosa, Jr.



Inside of Slovenian Roadside Chapel, Marija Pomagaj.

In November, a group of members of Branch 24 and 89 visited Letterkraft Printers in Peru, Illinois to watch the Winter 2018 issue of *Zarja* being printed. A few of our



Branch 24 and 89 at Letterkraft.

Zarja - The Dawn

members were not able to attend since they were busy with Thanksgiving preparations; therefore, a future tour will be planned.

The Uptown Grill was the setting of our annual Christmas Party. What a festive night with delicious food, dessert, and candy to celebrate Branch 24's 90th Anniversary.



Liv Karun and incoming President, Mary Mecum at Christmas Party.

In a recent survey of foreign countries with the best English speakers, Slovenia ranked 6th. Dober Dan!

DIANE DATA

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact Information: Jan Gehm

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Happy New Year and good health for everyone in the new year! Several of our branch members traveled to Sheboygan in October for our Regional Convention hosted by Branch 1. Our members reported that it was another lovely event planned by their members. We are proud of our Branch 43 member, Jackie Smith, who does a wonderful job of



keeping our three Wisconsin branches connected in her role of Regional President.

On November 10 we hosted a wonderful celebration for the

Slovenian community. On that day we celebrated *Martinovanje*, St. Martin's Day, one of the largest celebrations in Slovenia and one of our Slovenian community's largest with 100 guests. The evening started with cocktails and proceeded with a delicious buffet dinner and beautiful desserts. What an assortment! After dinner the *Zadnja Kaplja*

Spring 2019

Band (The Last Drop) from Chicago continued the festivities with their Slovenian dancing music. What an outstanding group! During



intermission we had two 50/50 raffles. Over 30 bottles of Slovenian wine were won by many of the partygoers, and

a large money prize was won by the youngest attendee. At 9:00 pm out came the snacks - another beautiful array. The evening ended with smiles on everyone's face and our feet still tapping. A good time was had by all! Branch



43 is looking ahead to November for another successful *Martinovanje*. Many thanks go out to Helen Frohna and Betty Ann Kolesari who were our co-chairpersons. Also



thank you to the ticket takers, the wonderful bakers, servers, and all who donated items and contributed to our event.



We ended 2018 with our popular Christmas luncheon on December 1 at Alioto's Restaurant. On this day we offered congratulations to our branch officers as they took their oath of office – all elected to serve for another term. May this be another good year. God bless you all!

Please join us on Wednesday, February 27, for our regular luncheon meeting at the West Allis Library at 12 noon. In March we will meet on Saturday the 23rd, same time and location. Our delicious luncheons are prepared by our members. All are welcome!

JANICE LUZAR GEHM

BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Contact Information: Debbie Duris
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Greetings! Our members had a delicious Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 1 at Lockkeepers in Valley View. I was able to chat with them briefly from my Florida home. I sure do miss attending the Christmas celebrations.

Our first luncheon in 2019 will be on May 4 at Rose Italian Kitchen in Solon. Our September 14 meeting will be at the Glenwillow Grille in Glenwillow, and our Christmas luncheon will be December 7 at Creekside Restaurant and Bar in Brecksville. All luncheons are on a Saturday and start at 1 p.m. We encourage everyone to attend as the luncheons are fun and tasty.

Our members are busy working on the upcoming convention to provide a memorable and fabulous event. I am looking forward to seeing many of our members from all over the United States in attendance this June in Cleveland.

Members are encouraged to share branch information with Debbie at her home at 330.467.2281 or email her at dcduris@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter. I'd love to share any member stories. Call me on my cell 330.730.8951 or email me at kjerrante@gmail.com.

KATHLEEN FERRANTE

BRANCH 50 - Euclid, Ohio

Contact Information: Rick Tomsick
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Greetings from the "5-0" on America's North Coast! The new year has started out fairly calmly for us in Cleveland. The weather today is only about 25 degrees, but it's typically much colder this time in January, so we're happy, especially after a high in the 50s last week!

Cookie Maxin has asked me to remind everyone that **our next branch meeting will be on April 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovene Home for the Aged.** We are so happy to be welcomed for our Branch 50 meetings at this historic institution, which is both easily accessible and a perfect fit for our mission. I'm sure many of our members have family who has been residents there, and a few of our current members live there now.

Planning is well under way for the big national convention which will be at the Marriott hotel on the east side of Cleveland from June 13 to June 16 this year. Yours truly will be unable to attend much of the convention because my daughter, Johanna, is getting married that same time. But I will look forward to any moments that I can be there.

Please keep all members of Branch 50 and all of the SUA in your prayers, especially remembering the sick, the poor souls in purgatory, and those they have left behind, to bring comfort and joy to all who mourn.

The best way to stay up-to-date with the SUA is on its **Facebook** page – and feel free to look for me there as well. There is a lot of up-to-date information on the page, and of course you can get directly in contact with fellow members.

Please write to me at ricktomsick@gmail.com with any family news, and I will add you to our list of updates for Branch 50 (you don't need to be a member of Branch 50). I always like to hear from members near and far.

RICK TOMSICK

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Contact Information: Barbara Bruch
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The City of Oglesby invited our Branch to have a Slovenian bake sale in conjunction with the town-wide Christmas celebration. We sold strudel and potica by the slice and were very successful. We also had bread and cookies.



Rose Bell and Alice Ebner at the bake sale.

Zarja - The Dawn

Every single thing sold! Thank you to our members who baked for it; it was great!

Our Christmas dinner meeting at Canal Port in Utica was attended by 18 members, and since it was the day after the bake sale, we were in an extra celebratory mood. Thank you to Brigit Gunderson and Janelle Lukach for organizing our dinner.

Our next big event will be our Slovenian Heritage Day on April 13, the day before Palm Sunday. We always have such a good time and are always pleased to see so many Branch 24 members come across the river. Last year the National Board members came from Joliet to be with us. We have had groups of cousins come from different directions to enjoy their Slovenian heritage.

BARBARA BRUCH

BRANCH 93 - New York, New York

Contact Information: Kathleen Simmonds
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On the arts front, we have been incredibly lucky in New York this winter. In November, two Slovenians performed in the United Solo Festival in NYC. What an amazing achievement! We wrote about Miha Rodman's show "The Jewish Dog" in the previous edition of *Zarja*. However, Branch 93 members in the audience were also treated to Cynthia Shaw Simonoff's one-woman show "Velvet Determination: A Young Pianist's Journey to New York." Before being invited to be a part of United (the world's largest solo theatre festival), Cynthia performed her autobiographical piece set to classical musical to sold-out audiences in her hometown of Pueblo, Colorado and now plans to travel it around the world. Congratulations Miha and Cynthia!

MoMA exhibition "Toward a Concrete Utopia: Architecture in Yugoslavia, 1948-1980" ran until mid-January and featured works by Edvard Ravnikar, Jože Plečnik and Niko Kralj, with contribution by Martina Malešič, Department of Art History, University of Ljubljana. In addition, Shepherd W & K Galleries presented paintings and works on paper by the Slovenian artist Zoran Music (1909 – 2005).

On the social front, our December gathering of Slovenians in New York began with a stimulating round table organized by the VTIS Society featuring three outstanding Slovenians - Sara Oblak Speicher, Marko Mihalec, and Luka Uršič. Then in January we met at Madison Square Garden to watch the NY Knicks take on the Dallas Mavericks, a team which includes fellow Slovenian Luka Dončić. It was a thrill to watch a fellow countryman playing basketball at such an elite level - even though he was on the opposing team!

On the news front, we are excited to announce that Andrej Grebenc is our Slovene Conversation Online teacher! We resumed beginner classes in February. If you are interested in participating, please contact Stephanie Owens at nycslovenianunion@gmail.com for information and details.

KATHLEEN SIMMONDS

BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Contact Information: Jean Koci
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Branch 100 in Southern California had a very nice gathering at our Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 8 at Napoli's Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda. We also had a meeting that day and a collection of toys for underprivileged children. Everyone is so generous with these Christmas gifts, so thanks to all!

At our meeting we also discussed some ways for the National Society to raise funds to keep the *Zarja* funded. One possibility is the sale of tea towels and aprons with a logo for members to purchase as gifts or for their personal use. Also try encouraging new memberships and consider the possibility of a slight increase in dues. In the meantime, we are planning one of our favorite pastimes/events. Saturday March 9 at 11:30 a.m. will feature a cooking demonstration at the home of Bonnie Zupan, 2276 San Geronio Avenue, Banning. Quite a few members live in the desert communities, so we hope you will be able to attend. We will make Slovenian cabbage rolls, but to complement that main dish, please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share.

Most of you will not receive this magazine for the article announcement, but should receive an email or regular mail invitation with details. We always have a great time getting together to cook, bake, and eat together! Of course, there is always lots of socializing and catching up at these events. We hope many will carpool to make the trip back and forth more enjoyable as well. Until next time!

JEAN KOCI

BRANCH 102 - Willard, Wisconsin

Contact Information: Candy Johnson
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I'd like to say welcome to 2019 from Branch 102 where the fields are nestled under a blanket of pristine, white snow. But I can't. Instead I can say welcome to 2019 from Branch

102 where the fields are brown (but still lovely). As of early January, when I am writing this, we are experiencing a brown winter. That's okay with me, it makes traveling easier, and I never have liked to shovel snow. Some of the beauty is lost, but I know



Home goods donated by Branch 102 members for the House of Mercy.

the snow will come. It is, after all, Wisconsin!

Branch 102 had a very nice December meeting at Sue Pakiz's home. Her home was decorated beautifully for Christmas. Members brought household items (paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies) to donate to the House of Mercy, a homeless shelter located in Loyal, Wisconsin. It's amazing how many items can be collected from eight people! We also gave them a monetary donation. Members enjoyed holiday spirits at the meeting. There was wine and slivovitz! The slivovitz was made locally. I'd like to



Holiday spirits, wine, and slivovitz!



Sue Pakiz presenting a check to director of the House of Mercy.

say, "Yum!," but once again, I can't. Slivovitz is definitely an acquired taste, and while I haven't "acquired" it yet, I keep trying!

CANDY JOHNSON

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

Contact Information: Bernadette Fitzsimmons

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Branch 108 is preparing to participate in the Annual Embassy of Slovenia Open House in Washington, DC. This has become an annual tradition where we have the opportunity to showcase a Slovenian theme and promote the SUA in the Maryland, DC, Virginia, and Pennsylvania area. It is always fun for our branch to meet with native Slovenians from Slovenian and from around the country at this event and to partake in the various activities offered at the open house.

This past winter we met for a cultural day celebration luncheon and learned about Slovenian poet France Prešeren and his thought-provoking poetry, which is still honored in the present day all over Slovenia on Prešernov Dan, a national holiday celebrated on February 8.

Charlie Koiner, our oldest branch member, was featured on Maryland public television in a short documentary about Maryland farmers. To learn more about the Koiner urban farm and to view the documentary, go to <https://video.mpt.tv/video/episode-606-jmunks/>.

Our branch members have expressed interest in attending the National Convention in Cleveland and to visit the Slovenian capital of the United States in June. We look forward to the events offered, meeting new friends, and conversing in person with old friends once again.

Vesele velikonočne praznike in veliko pirhov želimo vsem podružnicam v Ameriki od Branch 108, Olney, MD.

Understanding Slovenian Sayings by Bernadette:

Ponavljanje je mati učenosti

Repetition is the mother of learning

BERNADETTE FITZSIMMONS

BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota

Contact Information: Elaine Barthelemy

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As of this writing we are enjoying a mild winter in our part of Minnesota and have had great turnouts at our meetings and events. For our annual Martinovanje celebration, we returned to the home of Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, Miro Medved, and his wife, Karen. After a reading by our branch president Mike Koski, we joined in strains of Živijo, oj živijo, oj živijo na svet and toasted with the fruit of the vine. The BriNotes entertained us with their harmonious tones. Then we indulged in Slovenia sausage, an amazing potluck buffet, and friendly camaraderie. Later Hank Thunander encouraged singing and dancing to his lively accordion music.

At our December member meeting, Hank again played while Mary Ann Palmer led us in singing both Slovenian and English Christmas carols. A few of us reprised our



Cindy Gauthier, Denise Perhay, and Karen Medved organized the potluck.

dancing action from Martinovanje, and we even had a “Christmas Conga line.” In *Summer in sLOVEnia*, Josh Cardinal talked about his recent experiences in a new six-week program with eight other students where he attended lectures, interned with Visionect (an electronic



Mary Ann Palmer and Hank Thunander lead the singing.

paper company), and was able to visit Lake Bled and other sites. Josh’s expert presentation had many of our members wishing we could be the right age to attend ourselves.

For January, this writer shared a slide show of the trip my adult sons, Mark and Matthew, and I took across Slovenia in September in honor of my mother. Experiences included



Christmas Conga line at our December meeting.

eating cevapčiči in Maribor, hiking Velika planina, braving the fifty hairpin switchback turns of the Vršč Pass, and swimming the Adriatic in both Portorož and Piran. Kobarid



Norm Setnicker, Raphael Kraljic and John Perhay celebrate Martinovanje.

found us touring the WWI museum and feasting at Ana Ros’s restaurant *Hiša Franko* (featured in *Chef’s Table* on Netflix). However, the best parts were visiting my mother’s original cottage in Vrhnika and meeting relatives who welcomed us with open arms and fine homemade wine.

In February, Mary Kay and Shazore Shah presented about their 2018 trip to Slovenia. David Ross Kess’s March presentation, *Cultural Diversity*, centered on the diversity of the ethnic groups that settled the Iron Range. More on that next time.



Matt and Mark Barthelemy hiking on Velika planina.

Attention: Twin Cities Slovenians invite you to a special afternoon of wonderful music by the *Singing Slovenes*, one of the premier Slovenian singing groups in the Midwest, on Saturday, May 19 at the Rosetown American Legion Post 542 in Roseville, Minnesota. Advance tickets are \$13, and the doors open at noon with the event continuing until 3:30. We hope you can join us for singing and dancing, snacks, a cash bar, and a raffle for Slovenian wine and collectibles. If you have questions, write to Twin Cities Slovenians at TCSLO2013@gmail.com or call 612.254.5225.

ELAINE BARTHELEMY

Young Men Carrying on the Tradition of Cooking Slovenian Comfort Foods

by Bernadette Blatnik - Branch 47, Garfield Heights, OH

Our family really looks forward to reading every issue of the *Zarja*. We appreciate our heritage, giving us a strong work ethic and an appreciation of family. My husband and I are both proud Slovenians (however, only 92% according to Ancestry.com) by name, Anton Blatnik and Bernadette Kenik. I tend to cook from scratch like my mom and grandmother. We make all of our favorite comfort foods: potica, strudel, and žlinkrofi. However, we have noticed that every time the *Zarja* features a group of people making potica, it is about the women.

Our daughter, Anita, was a recipient of the SWUA scholarship in 1980. Her essay encompassed the fact that watching her mother and grandmother make potica was a way of binding the generations and a continuation of the art of Slovenian cooking. Certainly, I agree with that, but I wonder why the young men cooking are never featured. Anita's daughters, Elizabeth and Anna Gombert who live in Tennessee, are the strudel makers in the family; however, my father cooked and so do my son and grandsons.

Our grandsons have been making our potica for years. They fight about who will grind the nuts with the hand grinder, who will roll, and so forth. Here are some pictures that were taken last fall. The boys are sons

of our daughter, Kathy Blatnik Kraus. The oldest, Jacob, is the supervisor. He manages the ingredients from scratch, carefully adding each component and



mixing. Matthew grinds the nuts with his great-great grandmother's old grinder. Lucas spreads the filling, and Jacob usually does the rolling and the placing into the pans for baking. This is not a "once in a while" happening. An older grandson, Roland Blatnik, now 26 years old, helped make our potica for years. (Roland is the son of Anton Jr. and Deb Blatnik.)



I still have some potica in the freezer, so I wasn't planning on making any this fall. However, Jacob asked me last week when they can make potica. Also, when are we going to make žlinkrofi?

Many of our Slovenian friends have never heard of žlinkrofi. It's a meat-filled noodle (similar to Italian ravioli). Žlinkrofi is shaped like a bow. It is tedious to make, especially the hundreds we make, but certainly



worth the effort. We love it, especially at Christmas and Easter in our soup. I enclosed a picture of our žlinkrofi... not too pretty. Our quality control isn't very good when five or six young children are the makers. Still, it tastes wonderful!

I hope to share with your readers that it is important and fun to include your sons, grandsons, nephews, and other male family members in the continuation of our food heritage. I'm sure many of you already



do. We count our blessings every day. Here's a shout out to all the men in our lives!!



The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation (SWUSF)

Applications for School Year 2019-2020

The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation (SWUSF) is pleased to announce that applications for school year 2019-2020 will be available on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019. The applications may be picked up at St. Vitus Parish Auditorium, 6111 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 during the annual Palm Sunday benefit event (11 a.m - 1:30 p.m.) or by letter request to this address: SWUSF, c/o 6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103, Attention: S. Kuhar.

Deadline response for an SWUSF application is MAY 12, 2019.

Core criteria include the following:

- Applicant is a member of Slovenian Union of America (SUA).
- Applicant has applied or is applying for admission to an accredited two-year or four-year college or university with preference given to a four-year program.
- Service in the local American Slovenian communities.



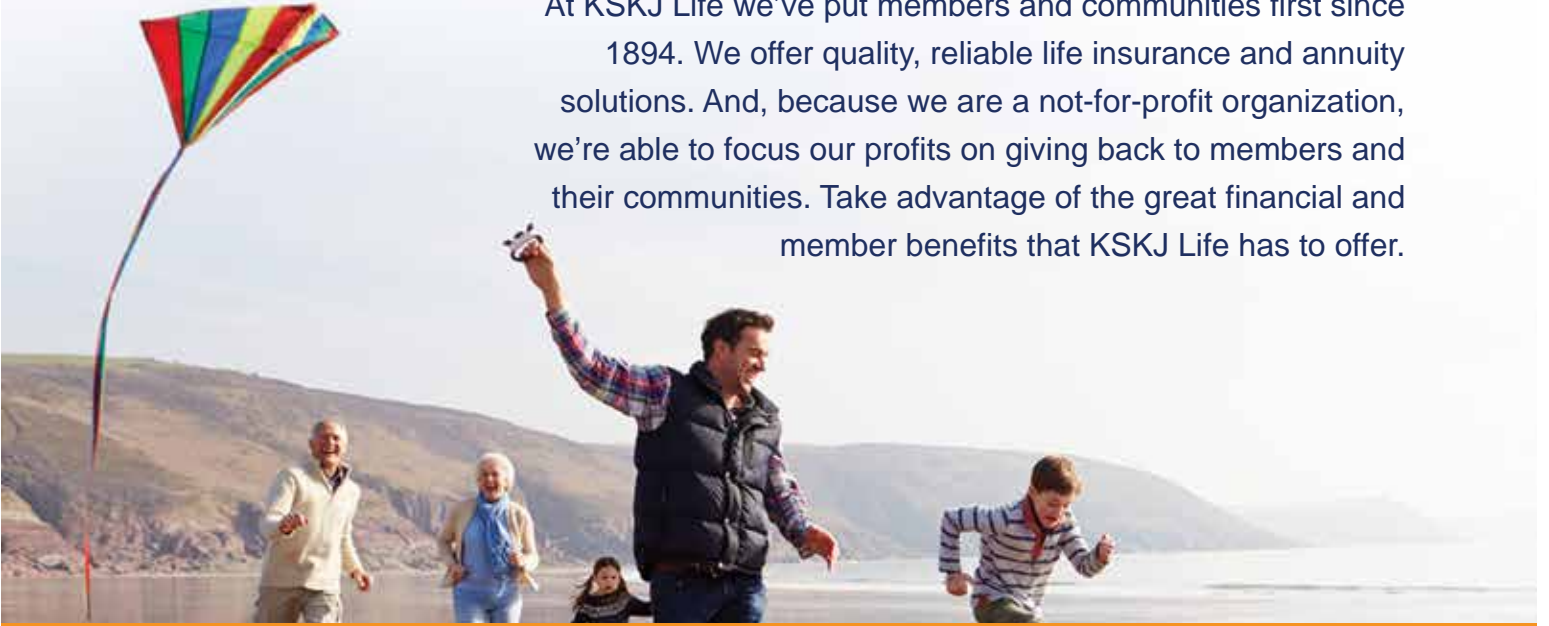
My son Asa, a hockey playing 7½ year old, got a dream meeting with his favorite LA King and fellow Slovenian, Anze Kopitar. Upon their initial meeting, my son exclaimed, "I am Slovenian like you!!!"

- Lisa Zalokar-Radosavljevic



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S.U.A. National Convention Cleveland, Ohio

News from Slovenia! **Peter Hawlina and Vlasta Knapič will be attending the 2019 Convention!**

*Learn about information carried by DNA and the DNA Project
from our Slovenian guests, Peter Hawlina and Vlasta Knapič.*

Announcing: A special performance at the SUA National Convention by

Folklorna skupina Kres

As always, the convention planning team has been busily working to bring you the very best Slovenian cultural activities that Cleveland has to offer. We are thrilled to announce that dance group Folklorna skupina Kres will be joining us at Saturday's luncheon for a special performance! This group of talented young dancers will truly transport you to Slovenia as they perform with heart and enthusiasm in traditional dress.

Founded in 1954, Folklorna skupina Kres is a Cleveland-based Slovenian youth organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating the traditions of our beloved Slovenia through the arts of song and dance. The group currently consists of approximately 75 members, all of Slovenian heritage, ranging from the ages of 5-19. The senior group, made up mostly of high-school age dancers, stays active

throughout the entire year performing at various events, picnics, and festivals. Additionally, each year Folklorna skupina Kres hosts an event in which the members from every age group come together to perform before a large audience of guests and friends from both inside and outside of the Cleveland-Slovenian community.

We are so fortunate that Folklorna skupina Kres has agreed to perform at our luncheon! Their performance is sure to be a memorable experience for all involved and a highlight of this year's convention. For more information about Kres, visit their website at: <http://fskres.wix.com/folklornaskupinakres>.

