

# ZARJA

- THE DAWN



URADNO GLASILO  
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKE ZVEZE V AMERIKI

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2004

VOLUME 76

*"Every family has a journey -*

*"Every heritage has a journey -*

*"Every country has a journey -*

*"These three comprise the human need for our roots...*

*and we can only find them by Living our Legacy."*

# LEGACY

# GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

## NOVEMBER

- 11 Br. 5, Holiday Meeting, SNH 11 a.m.
- 13 Br. 20, Bake Sale at St. Joseph Church
- 14 Br. 108, First Anniversary Party
- 21 Br. 2, Penny Social, 1 p.m.
- 23 Br. 10, Fanny's Restaurant, 1 pm, call Steffie Segulin

## DECEMBER

- 1 Br. 55, Dinner, Little Pepino's Restaurant 6 p.m.
- 2 Br. 13, Pot Luck, Call Jo
- 2 Br. 16 Dinner, Jovial Club, call Mary Theresa/Mary Jane
- 2 Br. 33 Christmas party
- 4 Br. 2 Junior Party at noon
- 4 Br. 47 at Valleyview Center 1 p.m.
- 4 Br. 102 Christmas party
- 5 Br. 34 meeting 3 p.m., Legion Clubhouse Dinner
- 5 Br. 42 Brunch, Holiday Inn, Hudson, OH, Blossom Restaurant, 11 a.m.
- 7 Br. 14 Dinner, SSH Rechar Ave., 6 p.m., call Stana
- 15 Br. 54, Luncheon, Café 442 1 p.m.
- 17 Br. 2 Dinner at the "Poinsettia Inn"
- 19 Br. 20 Christmas dinner, Republic Banquet Hall

## JANUARY 2005

- 9 Br. 20, Church Centennial Year Dinner, St. Joe's Park Hall

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

### National Officers:

- Nov. 2 - Lisa McDonell, State Pres., MN, Duluth, MN
- Nov. 3 - Denise Bartlett, Nat'l. Auditor, Milwaukee, WI
- Nov. 9 - Beverly Menart, Nat'l Auditor, Duluth, MN
- Nov. 11 - Mary Muller, Past Nat'l Pres., Oakbrook, IL
- Nov. 15 - Genevieve Buol, State Pres., IL-IN, Chicago, IL

- Dec. 29 - Fran Gazvoda, State Pres., OH-MI, Cleveland, OH

### Presidents:

- Nov. 13 - Josephine Aiuto, Br. 13, San Fran., CA
- Nov. 15 - Dolores Hennelly, Br. 95, So. Chicago, IL
- Nov. 23 - Steffie Segulin, Br. 10, Cleveland, OH
- Nov. 27 - Loretta Story, Br. 24, LaSalle, IL

- Dec. 1 - Mary Therese Ehnat, Br. 16, So. Chicago, IL
- Dec. 31 - Josephine Kapla, Br. 81, Keewatin, MN

### Secretaries:

- Nov. 24 - Pat Lammi, Br. 23, Ely, MN
- Dec. 13 - Sue Pakiz, Br. 102, Willard, WI

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

### Thank you...

...to all the branches and members who celebrated the 75th "birthday" of ZARJA in special ways.

The primary goal of the SWUA is to preserve our heritage and it was fortified many times over by the way you witnessed your love for our organization, brought out your most beautiful Slovenian art and crafts, prepared favorite foods, sang songs at your branch gatherings and even said some prayers.

I also thank you for so beautifully expressing your appreciation and compliments on the 75th Commemorative issue. ZARJA is a treasure and the people behind it are our cherished co-workers.

*Corinne Leskovar*

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Reports on the October 3rd Ohio Slovenian Festival and Illinois-Indiana State Convention in the next issue.

## ZARJA - THE DAWN

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**NATIONAL PRESIDENT'  
Kathleen Dorchak-Hall**



***Congratulations, Ohio!***

At the Ohio-Michigan Regional Convention last fall I proposed the idea of the Ohio branches to work together to organize a Heritage Festival. The idea came from Bernadette

Fitzsimmons who coordinated a successful event with members of Branch 103 in Maryland in the spring of 2003. My goals were two-fold: to unite the members of the Ohio branches and to increase interest with our younger generations. The branches agreed and Rose Mary Toth, President of Branch 50 became the chair of this event.

Each branch was asked to participate by sending a member representative to our bimonthly planning meetings. The date and place was selcted for our event was Sunday, October 3, 2004 at the SNPJ Farm in Kirkland. This event was going to be the first in the Cleveland area and we decided to call it "Keeping Our Slovenian Heritage Alive." We thought it was important to gather different exhibitors from all facets of our Slovenian Heritage: art, food, music, wine, bobbin lace demonstration, genealogy, entertainment, displays, raffles, sell heritage items from our Heritage Museum and a Polka Mass officiated by Father Pizmoht with the Joey Tomsick Orchestra. We tried to think of ev-erything that relates to our Slovenian Heritage.

No one at the time could have predicted how successful this event was going to be. At this time the results are still being compiled, however I believe we had well over 500 people of all ages. Did we accomplish my goals? I believe so. The Ohio branch members were there either working or enjoying the food and fellowship of the day. We had many multigenerational families present. It was wonderful to see our younger generations enjoying the festivities.

The day was truly awesome! I would like to thank all of the members of the Ohio branches for their involvement, the members of the planning committee for their dedication and hard work, and to Rose Mary Toth for her leadership and vision to make this a most memorable day in the history of the Slovenian Women's Union of America. *(Full report and photos in the next ZARJA.)*

May you all have a blessed holiday season with your family and friends. This is a special time of year and I hope you remember your Slovenian traditions to pass down to future generations as we leave a legacy to those who follow.

***May you always love and be loved,  
May you find peace in your days,  
May there be laughter in your heart.***

***Love and Blessings,***

*Kathleen Dorchak-Hall*

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Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262  
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Fax: (330) 688-6203  
Email: kdorchak@neo.rr.com



**A Christmas Prayer**

May all who work for a world of peace and reason be granted the gifts of strength and courage...  
may the good that dwells within every human heart be magnified...  
May the blessings of truth and understanding be ours...  
may the joys of the Christmas season dwell within all of us...  
and as we grow and build for tomorrow may we live in sympathy with all others.

## National Secretary, Bonnie Prohar Prokup:

### Happy Holidays

It seems too early to say this as I was just sitting outside in 85 degree weather dreaming about my upcoming trip to Slovenia. Yes, I am going to Slovenia again. I am going with a group of 28 to Germany/Austria/Slovenia and Italy. I am looking forward to this as this is one of my favorite areas to visit and of course the chance to see Slovenia again! We will be in Slovenia for about four days. I can hardly wait.

Unfortunately this is the same time as the Illinois/Indiana State Convention and the Ohio Heritage Days that I wished to attend. I am sure both events and all of the other Conventions will be a success this year. I already heard back that the Wisconsin State Convention in September was a huge success with over 100 people in attendance. Congratulations, Wisconsin!

Things in SWUA Land are doing well. At the National Convention it was mentioned that people were afraid we

would lose members because of the increase in dues and I have to say it did not really affect it. That means – we have many true devoted members to our SWUA. Congratulations! In addition donations for the general fund came in nicely. When I mention General Fund this is the fund that pays the ZARJA – our largest expense. So every dollar donated is going towards a great cause – our ZARJA! Speaking of ZARJA did you enjoy the last issue? I thought it was spectacular. Corinne Leskovar did an exceptional job preparing 75 years of SWUA history. I enjoyed reading it and learned so much.

Over all I would say 2004 was a pretty good year for SWUA. Now I look forward to 2005 – where action will take place. And anyone wanting to join the action please let me know. We can use help in every shape and form.

**Bonnie Pohar Prokup**  
3119 Carrie Street  
Peru, IL 61354  
Wprokup@aol.com



## Welcome "NEW" Members June–September, 2004

Name	Branch	Name	Branch
Colaric, Anton	108	Baas, Debra	30
Leskovsek, Natasha	108	Baas, Kate	30
Kristoff, Sister Donna OSW	14	Barrett, Kathy Michaels	30
Behrman, Alexis Anne	16	Black, Betsy	30
Charnas, Shirley Kompare	2	Black, Bonnie	30
Lebar, Joseph R	2	Casperson, Cassandra	30
Rodenbostel, Elsie A	2	Ponikvar, Mary	30
Swicioni, Deanna M	2	Stragisher, Mary A	32
Brsan, John	20	Kautz, Kristopher Michael	33
Burk, Mary	20	Ferdig, Dorothy	34
Corcoran, Margaret	20	Pajunen, Nancy J	39
Darovic, Mary	20	Edgar, Thomas J	40
Kallas, Sharon	20	Qualls, Isabel Urbanz	43
McCarty, Carol L	20	Yakos, Anne	43
Osterman, Raymond J	20	Dininy, Nevia	47
Sartorelli, Anne Schoener	20	Kuharich, Maria	47
Staniszewski, Janice M	20	Piety, Margaret E	5
Tezak, Tiffany	20	Mulec, Marian Hoageson	50
Hardy, Jo	23	Fidel, William M	71
Newhouse, Benjamin John	23	Bockaj, Gabika	93
Hurley, Marilyn	24	Cherway, Jean M	99
Kirsteater, Sylvia	24	Cretnik, Anne	99
Spelich, Erwin	24	Goste, Lucille	99
Woodshank, Gail	24	Kaczmarek, Joan D	99
Kellen, Emily	26	Vavken, Karmen M	99
Andrews, Cherryl	3	Vidmar, Dawn E	99
		Vidmar, John P	99
		Vidmar, Joseph Jakob	99
		Vidmar, Michael John	99
		Vidmar, Monika Elizabeth	99
		Vlasic, Maria	99



### Here's a fan for you!

She's reading ZARJA at a Cubs baseball game!

In the stands at Cubs park last month Pat Figurovski, (Br. 20), was obviously more interested in ZARJA than the game! That's a dedicated fan for you! ZARJA's commemorative issue beat out the losing Cubs, eh, Pat?

# Living Our Legacy

*"Slovenia to America"*

The new Membership Campaign will be directed to your attention in 2005. We hope you will remember our SWUA Mission, and in naming the campaign,

## LIVING OUR LEGACY

we are recognizing that it all began with our Slovenian roots and that the legacy left to us by our founding officers and members is beautiful and valuable!

How we keep it strong and viable is up to you and us. The membership numbers need strengthening and it's up to all of us to work now, at this crucial time, when it is still possible to influence the future!

*In the SWUA MISSION STATEMENT the word Legacy is crucial because it gives direction to the work of this organization. We want to preserve it and strengthen it. But, what does the word Legacy mean? This word?*

*To Denise Bartlett, National Auditor, Living it is essential – and thus, she created the name of the membership campaign.*

*To Mary Lou Voelk, Special Projects Director, it is the basis for the Journey of life, told in the words she composed for the cover of this issue.*

*What does it mean to you – and how does this affect us and the Slovenian Women's Union. We would like to know your thoughts. Please write.*

*Editor*

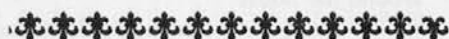
## ZARJA DONATIONS – Jan/Feb 2004

Donor	Zarja	Branch	24 pictures	
Behrman, Alexis Anne (16)	25	Branch 54	*mem Anne Brdek	10
*mem of Anne C. Klobucar		Branch 54	*mem Mary Zuga	10
Bender, Georgeine (68)	5	Joanne, Harry Ponikvar		10
Branch 16 pictures	10	*mem of Anne Brdek		
Branch 16 pictures	10			
Branch 16 pictures	10			
Branch 20 picture	10			
Branch 33 pictures	10			
Branch 89	25			
Branch 89 picture	5			
Branch 89 pictures	10			
Burk, Mary (20) *mem of	5			
mother Louise Schoener				
Cameron, Mary Ruth (38)	30			
Corcoran, Margaret (20)	5			
*mem of Louise Schoener				
Dinardo, Betty Sedmak (50)	10			
Echols, Emily P (103)	5			
Frangesch, Mary (12)	5			
Golobic, Wanda (50)	15			
Guch, Emma (68)	5			
Lakotich, Sharon (20)	20			
Mocnik, Sylvia (32)	20			
Orazem, Anne (35)	5			
*mem of Michael Smith				
Pajunen, Nancy J. (39) *mem of	20			
Josephine Koslucher Erickson				
Photo Branch 39 - Ribich	15			
Priyatly, Christine A (103)	20			
Sartorelli, Anne Schoener (20)	5			
Spelich, Elmer (24)	10			
Stragisher, Mary A (32)	5			
Testen, Mary Ellen (20)	20			
Vineyard, Elizabeth (20)	10			
Williams, Margaret (20)	10			
Zales, Mary (8)	5			

### BIRTHDAY CAKE ADS

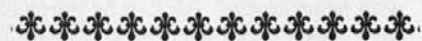
Branch 24 pictures	100
Branch 54 *mem Anne Brdek	10
Branch 54 *mem Mary Zuga	10
Joanne, Harry Ponikvar	10
*mem of Anne Brdek	
Branch 1	80
Branch 102	80
Branch 103	80
Branch 108	50
Branch 12	80
Branch 14	50
Branch 2	100
Branch 20	100
Branch 5	50
Branch 22	15
Branch 24	300
Branch 32	20
Branch 33	80
Branch 35	25
Branch 39	25
Branch 40	25
Branch 43	100
Branch 47	100
Branch 54	50
Branch 89	55
Branch 42	50
Dobersek, Stavia (12)	50
Branch 16	50
Lamm, Dorothy (32)	15
Lustik, Wally & Jo (20)	50
National Officers	100
Branch 55	20
Branch 50	50

**TOTAL: \$2,045**



**If your name is listed below,  
please contact Bonnie  
with your new address**

Missing Persons	Branch
Cooke, Christine Mary	32
Evans, Jamie G	3
Corgiat, Anthony	2
Pastirk, Helen	16
Galich, Helen E	3
Hostnik, Rose	105
Talus, Rose	39
Orazem, Marie J	30
Brandeen, Doris	79
Horne, Wayne	20
Skala, Marguerite	34
Klun, Marie A	23
Modic, Ann	30
Uleplic, Dorothy	32
Laurich, Jennie	50
Jansa, Jean	50
Benedik, Ann	33
Romano, Diana	30
Opalek, Josephine	10
Mladic, Krystal	2
Holmok, Mary Jane	88
Lopez, Theresa T	2
Summers, Amelia G	2
Summers, Nicholas B	2
Zalar, Audrey	88



HERITAGE NEWS:

## Let's begin to show who we are!

**Simple Traditions** was the subject of my heritage report in the July/August issue of ZARJA. To refresh your memory, "cultural rituals not only connect you to your past, they also unite your family, build your child's character and teach strong values."

I did promise to give ideas on "keeping the Slovenian heritage" alive in one's family.

How about starting with giving one's home a Slovenian ambiance! Place "something Slovenian" in important rooms around the house.

\* Make the following a family tradition. Fresh flowers always create an atmosphere in a home. Perhaps every 1st of each month, purchase one or several, fresh red carnations. Displayed in a bud vase, these carnations will create a wonderful Slovenian atmosphere. BTW, Mikasa carries Slovenian crystal; the bud vases are lovely as are small crystal pieces!

\* Display Pots and Pans or More Pots and Pans cookbooks on your kitchen counter. Visitors will take notice when they spot this lovely book on the counter or sitting on an easel!

\* Always, always, display your ZARJA on the coffee table. I have had friends (non-Slovenians) ask to take it home to read!

\* A piece of Slovenian bobbin lace in a small frame placed on an end table, on the piano, in a dining room hutch, on a bedside table, on a bathroom vanity, is a reminder of a talent unique to Slovenia. A larger framed piece is a lovely wall hanging.

\* For those living near IKEA, there are printed napkins made in Slovenia. Just look for those words, "Made in Slovenia!" Use them for special occasions and holidays or for gifts!

\* Slovenia is known for their gingerbread hearts. Keep Pillsbury sugar cookie dough on hand. Kids love stamping out heart shapes and sprinkling with red sprinkles, or cinnamon and sugar. Keep a supply of heart cookies in freezer. Remember; there is "LOVE in every Slovenian."

\* February 8, Slovenian Day of Culture (Kulturni Dan). It is a very special day in Slovenia, so celebrate with your family or branch. A simple wine toast and a reading from one of Preseren's poems can be a family and/or branch activity. Wear a Slovenian T-shirt and/or a pair of red socks with heart design. All can be purchased in the museum gift store. How about wearing a red carnation? And don't forget the children and grandchildren; they, too, can wear a carnation. When asked, they can tell the class, "my grandmother gave me this flower, because it is Culture Day in Slovenia, the day to honor past poets, writers and musicians."

And yes, there are Slovenian wines sold in the USA! Serving a Slovenian wine at holiday times and special occasions can become a family tradition. Try this recipe by Marie Prisland; it too could become a family tradition for special occasions. And remember it goes with those heart cookies in the freezer!

### Pink Tea

- 1 pint of red wine
- 1/2 pint of water
- 1 stick of cinnamon
- 1 whole clove
- Sugar to taste

Bring the above to boil, remove cinnamon and clove, serve hot with cookies or potica.

*(Marie Prisland from the Woman's Glory cookbook, 1951)*

**Any other ideas? Please share with us**

**E-mail: [swuhome@msn.com](mailto:swuhome@msn.com)**

**ATT: Mary Lou**

To je to!

Mary Lou

A newspaper clipping from a Cleveland newspaper arrived today. I have an aunt in Cleveland who is very alert! This Cleveland newspaper has a section called "Mosaics" that covers the different nationalities located in the Cleveland area. In this issue Slovenia is featured: "Celebrating the Cleveland-style Polka." Cecilia Dolgan is President of the Cleveland-style Polka Hall of Fame and is well known for her musical talent and love of the Slovenian heritage.

I quote from Cecilia: "Preserving your cultural identity adds another dimension to your personality. You feel connected to the whole world." This statement fits right in with our modern day. Heritage is in! Celebrate your heritage!

**Martinovo is a holiday traditionally celebrated November 11th to mark the turning of grapes into wine. Marie Prisland's wine recipe and/or Slovenian wine and a few heart cookies would make for a wonderful traditional moment in your home or at a Branch meeting.**



## In Search of My Slovenian Roots

(Part 1)

By: *Beverly Blaszkowski (Branch 33, Duluth, MN)*

After the death of my beloved father, (Jack Green) to cancer in 1996, I felt the need to honor him by finding out about his birth mother (my grandmother), and so I began the search.

It wasn't until Jack was in his late twenties, married, and the father of three young children that he found out of his adoption at the age of 3 months. He also found his biological father, John Sickich Sr. and a brother, John Sickich Jr. and family living in Mason, WI, just twenty minutes from his Ashland home!

During his initial visit, Jack learned of being placed in a Superior, WI orphanage at the age of 3 months when his birth mother died. He was adopted shortly after by Mr. & Mrs. Max Green of Ashland, Wisconsin.

Jack learned that his father, John, had come to the United States from Croatia, and had settled in Hibbing, MN working as a miner. It was in Hibbing that John met and married his wife, Miss Mary Petek.

And yes, there were other siblings, a living brother, John Jr. and a sister, Helen; two other sisters, Mary and Anna had died at a young age.

From this meeting on, Jack continued to have a family relationship with his father, brother and sister.

And now I needed to find the grandmother I never knew, and never got to love. I needed to find her gravesite. I searched cemetery records and cemeteries in the Ashland area, combed through birth, death, and marriage certificates. I read through years of census records. Nothing! And so the search went on.

And then I recalled my dad mentioning there were cousins living in Hibbing, MN with a surname like "Davich," however, he had never met them. An internet search came up with Peter and John Davich who appeared to be living right next door to each other. By their names I assumed they were not a "new generation," but older gentlemen?

I set their telephone numbers aside for over a week. And then one Sunday I decided to call. The worst they could do was hang up on me! It turned out to be one of the most important telephone calls I have ever made.

Yes, Peter and Joe Davich were brothers. Their mother's maiden name was Johanna Petek, better known as Anna. And yes, their dear mother Anna (Petek) Davich and my grandmother Mary (Petek) Sikich were SISTERS! And my grandmother was of Slovenian heritage. You guessed it, many tears were shed that day.

*To Be Continued*

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## Heritage Donation

Special thanks to George Plautz, Branch 102, who donated a 1996 Atlas of Slovenia to the Slovenian Heritage Library. Stop in and locate your ancestor's village or town. Locating a special place is not difficult, the atlas walks you through the process. We are very fortunate for this donation, it is a fine addition to our library.

ANITA VOVK/

MIRJAM GREMES:

## The Slovenian Archival Experience

Part I

### The Importance of the preserving of documents

We had the honor of participating in a week-long archival seminar, which was held in May, 2004, and organized by The Office for Slovenes Abroad and The Institute for Slovenian Emigrant Studies. Our program was very intensive and lasted from early in the morning until dinner, which was usually around 7 p.m. We loved almost every minute of it. Organizers did everything to make our stay comfortable and incredibly interesting. Participants were Slovenian people from all over the world, Serbia, Bosnia, France, Sweden, Germany, Australia, Argentina, Canada and the United States of America.

We visited the Archive of the Republic of Slovenia (<http://www.sigov.si/ars>). Institute for Slovenian Emigrant Studies, National and University Library (<http://www.nuk.unilj.si/vstop.cgi>), Slovene Ethnographic Museum (<http://www.etno-muzej.si/>), The Oskar Kovacic High School and had an excursion to Trieste where we visited the National and Study Library and then continued on our way to the Režija region in northern Slovenia-Austria-Italy. We also visited the Museum of the First World War in Kobarid. We had many round table discussions which included a presentation of the new magazine "Slovenija.svet" which replaces the "Rodna Gruda." During the course of this Seminar we became aware as to the great importance of the preservation of anything and everything that can give information about our past and present to our descendants. We have also learned how to preserve the items and where to turn for help and information about proper archiving.

At the Archive of the Republic of Slovenia, Institute for Slovenian Emigrant Studies, National and University Library and Slovene Ethnographic Museum, they all save various documents concerning emigration of Slovenian people; we also learned a lot about the regulations that concern the correct preserving of the documents. All documents are important; either personal or belonging to a club, association, dance group, fire department, choir etc. Documents are not only papers such as birth certificates, minutes of meetings, statues, but also photographs, invitations, posters, diplomas, tapes, CD/DVDs, illustrations, articles from newspapers, notebooks etc.

*To be continued*

*(SWU has provided every Branch with one or more archival boxes and given instructions for preservation of Branch documents, photos, etc. Please contact the Home Office for further information.)*

# Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Program Winners' Essays

## MY HERITAGE AND CULTURE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

### *The Student Authors:*

**Elizabeth Spehar** – Branch 33, Duluth, Minnesota – recipient of the Rose Marie Princ Award. Elizabeth is studying English at Gustavus Adolphus College

**John Skalko** – Branch 34, Cloquet, Minnesota – recipient of the Joseph Princ Award. John is at University of St. Thomas, majoring in philosophy

**Natalie Mlakar** – Branch 100, Irvine, California – recipient of the Mary Macek Scholarship. Natalie is studying biology at St. Mary's College of California.

**Hannah Girman** – Branch 20, Indianapolis, Indiana – recipient of the Frances Barman Award. Hannah is majoring in Art Education at Xavier University

**Denise Bucar** – Branch 33, Duluth, Minnesota – recipient of the SWU Culture Award. Dennis is studying Biology at the University of Minnesota

**Robert Orazem** – Branch 35, Brighton, Massachusetts, recipient of a Continuing Education Award. Robert is majoring in Clinical Psychology at Boston University

**Anne Kemmerling** – Branch 47, Twinsburg, Ohio recipient of a Continuing Education Award. Anne is majoring in Masters of Library and Information at the University of Rhode Island.

**Martina Findley** – Branch 5, Indianapolis, Indiana – recipient of a 2004 Travel Award – Essay on 2004 Seminar in Slovenia

**Allison Hrovat** – Branch 50, Brookline, Massachusetts – recipient of a 2004 Travel Award – Essay on 2004 Seminar in Slovenia

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**Ever since I was a little girl**, I remember my large family coming together to celebrate holidays, religious days, anniversaries, and birthdays; anything to give us reason to gather. The center of my ethnic awareness has always been my family and the traditions we keep. Especially in my younger days, food and music left an enormous impression on me. Eating sarma and potica and singing with my aunt in the Singing Slovenes group showed me the fun side of my heritage. Now that I am older, I enjoy sitting quietly at these family celebrations, surrounded by my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins; I watch and observe. I watch everyone enjoying each other and think of the great importance put on family. This no doubt connects to our ancestors who came all the way from Ljubljana – those brave immigrants had to stick together out of necessity and we all support each other today out of love – one stems from the other and both are about family loyalty. I also watch as my grandmother works hard to prepare the meal with help from

even the littlest cousin. The value of hard work, even in celebration, has been passed from generation to generation. The Slovenian immigrants who came here had to carry out exhausting tasks and our work today pales in comparison, yet all work is completed with pride and in service to God. How satisfying it must be for my grandfather, for example, to sit back and see his family -- the one he worked hard to raise and provide for -- come together happily. All of the "founders" of my family can truly be satisfied that they have added to the devout and hard-working line of Slovenians I am proud to come from. By observing them, I have become aware of the responsibility I have to continue traditions of my heritage.

With the generous support of the Slovenian Women's Union, students who are interested in their heritage can learn. I am determined, as college approaches, to add to the history of my family and Slovenian heritage in my own way. I'll be led in example by my relatives and the members of the SWU, and with the Rose Marie Princ Scholarship, I'll remember who will be counting on it in the future.

*Elizabeth Spehar*

---

**Growing up in a small town** where nearly everyone is of Scandinavian or other national origin, I have always been proud of my unique Slovenian heritage. My friends can hardly believe that I am 100% Slovenian.

Long after the days of the Slovenian priest Frederick Baraga's treks through this region, my paternal grandmother emigrated alone from Slovenia at the mere age of fourteen. I ponder at the hardships she endured as she recounted to me her journey to America. Having come from a family of ten children, and losing her mother at the age of twelve, her father felt that she, Ivanka, was of sturdy constitution to capture the golden opportunities of America. Like many Slovenian immigrants, she had the courage, perseverance and faith to overcome the obstacles faced in a land foreign to her native language, customs and ways.

Coming from a long lineage of Slovenian ancestors both paternally and maternally, I have come to learn of the Slovenian culture and heritage. From the early days of my ancestors to ours now in Esko, we have still kept these Slovenian traditions vibrantly alive: on Holy Saturday we have the Easter food (žegen) blessed at church, during Christmas my mom makes walnut potica and we recite the rosary around the Christmas crèche, and on New Year's Eve we bless the house. We even plant pole beans from Slovenia in our garden, keeping extra seeds for the following generations. Today, I can admire not only my ancestor's courage and convictions, but also the serious nature of my maternal grandmother, Victoria Bobence, as a past National President of the SWU. I feel honored to be a part of such a rich culture!

*John Skalko*



I have been a member of Slovenian Women's Union all my life and each year have grown to learn more about my Slovenian heritage and culture.

One of my favorite activities associated with being Slovenian is dancing the polka. When you dance the polka, you don't even think, you just move to the music and have fun. Dancing the polka at polka parties and wedding receptions has definitely brought our family closer together.

Another of my favorite pastimes is learning some Slovenian each time I visit my grandparents. As we play pinochle, I try to make use of my Slovenian such as nič, čakaj malo, and slabo kaže. Every time I go to mass at St. Joseph, I try to catch any words that I may know as I listen to the old Slovenian songs.

I love my heritage and culture, and I am so proud to be Slovenian, descended from the Erjavec-Ancel families. Hvala lepa.

*Hannah Girman*

*More essays next issue.*

## SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS July, August and September 2004

**\$5.00 donations:** Br. 23, Ely, MN (†Margie Gornick)  
Br. 23, Ely, MN (†Mary Jammick)

**\$20.00 donation:** Virginia Strukel, (†Ann T. Paulin)

**\$25.00 donation:** Joanne O'Connor – Vern

**\$65.00 donation:** Anthony F. and Gary Paulin (†Ann T. Paulin)

**\$100.00 donation:** Elaine Drstvensek Edgar (Mother, Agnes P. Drstvensek)

**Travel Award donations totaling \$16.00** – donors:  
Branch 35, Aurora, MN, Margaret Yernatich, Olga & Ed Ancel, Jean "Daisy" Zeleznikar, Carita Girman, Ruth A. Ungrad

*Kind donors, thank you for your gifts! 2005 SWUA Travel Award Applications are due before January 1, 2005. SWUA \$1,000 and \$500.00 Scholarship Applications for 2005 are due before March 1, 2005. Please visit our website for further information:  
<http://members.aol.com/sherryew/SWU/SWUScholarship.html>*

**Wishing each of you many blessings during our most beautiful time of year, CHRISTMAS! Sending love to each of you, dear readers,**

*Mary Turvey, SWUA Scholarship Director*



## SWUA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Committee of 2004:*

**Marge Church**

**Milena Gobetz**

**Dorothy Jerneycic**

**Lisa McDonell**

**Rose Marie Princ**

**Andrea Selak**

**Janice Singletary**

*Special thanks to this fine committee for evaluating scholarship and travel award applications for this year and for three years to come.*

## SWUA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 1960-1970

**1960:** Ann Bresak, Lorain, OH, Larry Pfeil, Cleveland, OH **1961:** Richard Grill, Chicago, IL, Nancy Beck Jagodnik, Cleveland, OH **1962:** Frances Gerchman, Forest City, PA, Arlene Vojtko, Lorain, OH **1963:** Joan Mahaffray Punt, Calumet, MI, Rosanne Savol, Joliet, IL, Joseph Skorjanec, Gilbert, MN **1964:** Beverly Hlasta, Girard, OH, Kathleen Kikel, Cleveland, OH, Michael Francis, Sheboygan, WI, **1965:** John Novak, Warrensville Hts., OH, Diane Schriver, Pittsburgh, PA, Mary Statkus, Chicago, IL **1966:** Donna Sietz Bishoff, Cleveland, OH, Barbara Grasc, Milwaukee, WI, Judith Jesik Chandler, Pueblo, CO, Mary Salakar, South Chicago, IL **1967:** John Schuster, Gilbert, MN, Dorothyann Zakrasek Lindes, Pueblo, CO **1968:** Susan Grahek, Ely, MN, Gary Peterangelo, Duluth, MN, John Strukley, Lorain, OH **1969:** Nancy Hosta, Cleveland, OH, Thomas Mraule, Gunnison, CO, Sharon Planinsek, Joliet, IL, Marlene Skrabec, Pueblo, CO **1970:** Kenneth Cacich, South Chicago, IL, Kathleen Cooke, Euclid, OH, Ann Marie O'Block Birkovich, Vienna, OH, Robert Sever, Vandling, PA

## Bravo, Anthony!

Fifteen year old Anthony McDonell is a bright young man who has been selected for the International 2005 People to People program and will be visiting another country to meet other young students. We're very proud of him as are his mom, Lisa and grandmother, Bev Menart of Duluth, Minn!

This is exactly what our young people need, learning about cultures, others and their own. This is an "adult world" and we need to concentrate on our children, as they become the men and women of tomorrow. This world is depending on them. How proud we all are in this great SWUA. Go, Anthony, Go!

*Mary Lou Voelk*

## Frank R. Bartol:

### Father and Son: The Changing of the Guard

I saw my father yesterday framed in the kitchen window watching me wistfully as I cleared snow from his driveway with my snowthrower, and the moment I spotted him there I knew for certain something that I had been suspecting for the past several months; that he had finally become the watcher and I the doer around the home place. He had always been the driveway cleaner before, employing a Ford tractor that had grown old along with him and a home-made plow.

He boasted, rightfully, that he knew how to combine packing and pushing the snow in such a way as to keep his driveway open with a minimum of effort-and gas (he is a typical frugal Slovenian), and even though he sometimes said that he was prepared to abandon his system toward the end of winter and let me take over with my snowthrower, he took pride in never having to-until this year.

But now he stood in the identical spot from which I, too young to join him yet, had watched *him* at work so often more than half a century ago. It was a sad changing of the guard, but sadness was an ephemeral feeling as I reminded myself how lucky we both were to have postponed that event until he was just six months away from his ninety-seventh birthday.

Only a few months earlier he had demonstrated who was still where in the father and son hierarchy by pulling down a piece of drywall that he felt I had installed incorrectly during the remodeling of the bedroom my brother Don and I had shared growing up. And I showed I knew where I belonged in it by counting to ten and re-installing it his way, this an act, not of subservience, but of respect and deference to the miracle of his being around to do it at all.

I have inherited much of his tenacity (my mother calls it stubbornness) and his desire to be the guy in charge. The sparks occasionally flew, but there was never a conflagration because around the home place I accepted the 51 to 49 percent distribution of authority that has to be in force between fathers and sons who find themselves living within splitting distance of each other. And he respected and admired me so much for my success in a world that he wasn't part of that I didn't consider that two percent gap to be much of a burden.

Now, in our changed roles, we will go on. I think that in spite of his protestations to the contrary, becoming a centenarian has a certain appeal, and I'm pulling for him if he can get there with the dignity and pride that have accompanied him thus far. But he'll have to be willing to make some concessions. For one thing, I expect him to pass that extra two percent over to me now. My apprenticeship is over, and I think he taught me well enough so that he can do so without risk. After all, I'm getting a little long in the tooth myself, and I'm anxious to have a few years as journeyman top banana in our clan before being bumped by my son some day.

My father came to this country from his native Slovenia when he was just seventeen, and he carved for himself and his family here in what he always recognized as the land of opportunity a pretty good life. It was never easy. He has often told me of battling insects in the woods while he cut logs and dealing with them again in the logging camps at night, and missing the social life that his fellow workers, mostly Slovenians like himself, neglected to bring with them to this country so much that he could hardly stand the loneliness.

But he did stand whatever he had to and eventually taught himself enough carpentry so that he became the primary carpenter for our little ethnic village of Traunik, and he ended his working career operating what was at the time of his retirement one of the biggest poultry farms in the U.P.

So I will say to him here that it's okay to settle for finally becoming a man of leisure and doing no chores other than walking to our local cluster mail box to pick up the mail from now on, gathering memories as he walks by the now quiet general store and the fraternal lodge hall that he helped build more than two-thirds of a century ago. I want him to be proud of his accomplishments and to feel comfortable, down the homestretch, coasting to the finish line, where he is assured of being among the winners.

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#### About the author:

Frank Bartol is a resident of Traunik, Michigan and a retired school teacher. His book of essays is entitled, "A Season of Benign Neglect," from which the above article is excerpted.

## Activities of our Branches



Reports due first of month  
preceding publication.

### NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1926

Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 1 p.m.

St. Stephen lower hall

#### Report on Zveza Day "Piknik"

Thanks to everyone who helped with the success of the Zveza Day picnic on July 18th. Father Metod opened all the shutters at the picnic "kitchen building," and carried in a big pot of water for us to begin the coffee on time for early arrivals. Our kitchen crew came early; thanks to Mrs. Fritz who baked the delicious chicken. Marija Rigler baked 12 poticas! Br. 99 members donated bakery, too. Mihela Simrayh baked her family's favorite, a chocolate potica that was raffled off later. Thanks to all the others who baked and cooked special items, and all who cleaned up afterward. Thanks to Vince Rigler who always makes the day with his fine music. To all our guests, from far and near, thank you for coming and we hope that we will see you all with us again next year. Mother Nature presented us with a wonderful day.

Sept. 18th-19th was a weekend at St. Mary Slovenian Mission church in Lemont. The church was celebrating the 10th anniversary and blessing of the new bell tower that was erected and completed just in time for this celebration. Bishop Alojz Uran from Slovenia officiated. We were so happy to see Fr. David, first pastor of St. Mary's, with us for this occasion. On Sunday, dinner was held at the Slovenian Cultural Center and the hall was filled with happy guests. The young folk dancers performed and singers brought out the theme of the program, in honor of Bishop Anton Martin Slomšek, the patron of St. Mary's "Marija Pomagaj" church. Bishop Uran has a great singing voice and he led everyone in singing special country songs of Slovenia. We all enjoyed the day.

#### IL/IN Convention 10/3, Peru, IL

The Autumn Leaf Express Bus left Chicago at 8:00 a.m. with three stops:

Burr Ridge, Lemont, and last stop at Joliet. Arrived at Peru at 11:00 for Mass at St. Joseph Church celebrated by Father Horzen. Lunch followed in the church hall. It was good and the ladies just outdid themselves with so many delicious Slovenian pastries. Thank you, gals. Father Horzen was the guest speaker; he told some funny jokes, then he got serious, he thanked everyone for their work, and thanked Corinne Leskovar and her mother, Albina Novak for all the years they devoted to ZARJA. We all agree with him, Corinne.

State Pres. Gen Buol chaired the meeting; all branch delegates gave their reports. As of now no branch has come forward to accept next year's convention. Chicago #2 will host the meeting in 2006.

Congratulations to Rose Mary Litwin on the marriage of her son Johnny to Michelle Lauerne. Good luck to the newlyweds.

Remember all our members who have been in the hospital: Irene Kalina, Mary Reich, Frances Silko, Stella Longosz, Geraldine Kramer, Anne Hozian, and Jr. member, Anthony Podder.

Our condolences to the following: Marina Seme on the death of her husband, Dr. Leopold Seme. To: Charles Sejud, children, grandchildren and other relatives on the death of wife/mother Wilma Sejud. To: The family of Jake Wagner (former owner of Wagner's Bakery). His son Wayne Wagner is running the family bakery.

Dates to Remember: Nov. 21 - Penny Social - "Holiday Magic" 1 o'clock.

Dec. 4-12 o'clock - Children's Christmas Party, "Happy Birthday, Jesus"

Dec. 17, 1 o'clock - Adult Christmas Dinner, "Poinsettia Inn".

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas Holiday and hope our soldiers will be coming home soon, and there will be Peace in the world once again.

*"If we are to reach real Peace in this world and if we are to carry on a real War against War, we shall have*

*to begin with children."*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

Vesele Božične Praznike in Srečno Novo Leto!

Love,

DAISY

### NO. 5, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Founding Date: JANUARY 15, 1927

Meetings: 1st Thurs.

SND, from May to Dec.

Happy holidays to all Branch 5 members! I hope this finds all of you safe and snug this holiday season, especially you Florida members who are ready for more "stable" weather...get it? Stable...Christmas? Sorry, lack of sleep tends to do that to me! I get "pun" punchy. That's usually when Steve and the kids leave me alone. Hmmm, maybe I need to do this more often!

Anyway, our Holiday meeting will be November 11 at 11 at the Slovenian National Home. Surely everyone can remember 11-11@11. We will provide the meat and ask that everyone bring a favorite covered dish/dessert. Might even have another one of our World Famous Phyllis and Karen games, you just never know! Please plan on joining us and sharing a favorite holiday memory.

With another year ending, perhaps this is a good time to look back on some things involving our members. Several members became grandparents, or great grandparents, and also celebrated weddings. We had several funerals of members, or of their family. We have some new members, but can always use more! We worked at or attended Holy Trinity Church festival in May, and the Slovenefest in September. We were involved in making the beautiful Community Quilt that will hang in the new Haughville Library. Several of our ladies are the wonderful bakers at Holy Trinity that make and sell the World's Best Poticas!! Our Junior members are involved in many things, including 4-H fairs, college cheerleading, sports, drama, choir and dance. Branch 5 had one of the first

# SHEBOYGAN HOSTS MAGNIFICENT EVENT!



*Top photo, left center: Mary Turvey making introductions; center, Jim and Katie Gorton during their musical performance; and bottom, the crowd enjoying the program in Sheboygan*



Many thanks to Aggie Gruenke and members for their work preparing this event.

This was my first Sheboygan-hosted convention. If I omitted or missed anyone or anything, my sincere apology.

Let us remember our homebound and nursing home residents who were unable to attend. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

September 26, 2004! What a wonderful day!

The Wisconsin Convention day began with Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sheboygan. Fr. Glenn Powers, spiritual director, as celebrant. Many members joined in when the choir sang the Slovenian Angelus.

After Mass, all joined together at Al & Al's restaurant. Approximately 62 members were in attendance. I say approximate, because several members of the Prislant family with infants in mothers' arms arrived after the business meeting. (thoughtful and considerate). Never did get to count them, but the Prislant family was well-represented.

Josephine Janezic, State President of SWUA, and president of Br. 43, opened the meeting. she spoke of current events and future goals of the SWU and was open to questions, which were not many, because she "said it all."

President Janezic was followed by Betty Ann Kolesari of Br. 43, National Vice President, Denise Bartlett of Br. 43, our National Auditor, and Mary Turvey, Br. 1, Director of the SWUA Scholarship Fund. They spoke with enthusiasm about the aims and goals of the SWUA, for members to continue to be involved and to be proud of their Slovenian Heritage.

Delegate reports followed: Branches reporting were 43, 12, 102, and hostess Br. 1.

For his very inspirational talk, thank you, Fr. Powers!

A very good buffet dinner was served. Wasn't the potica delicious?

As Mary Jo Grabner, program moderator, called the names of the 50-year members, Aggie Gruenke, President of Br. 1, presented each with a 50-year pin.

We appreciated having Marie Prislant's granddaughter Katie Gorton and her husband, Jim providing the highlight of the program. They performed beautifully! Frank Horzen entertained us with accordion favorites during dinner.

A few teary eyes were noted as we all sang the concluding song, "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Raffle prizes were beautifully prepared and many door prizes were enjoyed.

ANGELINE FRITZ

Travel Scholarship winners, Martina Findley.

Our members are involved with Holy Trinity Church, our Slovenian church built by our parents and grandparents. The church will celebrate 100 years in 2006 and the Centennial Committee can use help, so consider what you can do to help - remember "Time, Talent, Treasure." There is always a way you can help, so get involved!

We might not have a lot of meetings, but as a whole, we are one busy bunch of ladies! Please consider getting the younger members of your family interested in your heritage. Give the gift of a Slovenian Women's Union mem-

bership. The application is in each issue of ZARJA, or contact Karen or Phyllis. You know how much you enjoy reading the magazine each time it comes in the mail...my husband usually reads it before I get a chance to look at it.

During this holiday season, please remember our members, young and old, in your prayers. Keep our military families, who sacrifice so much each and every day for the good of all the country, in your daily prayers. Stop by and visit an older member, or just a neighbor who is alone this time of year. Your kindness will be returned tenfold.

Keep safe and healthy, and "May God Bless Us Everyone"!! Peace.

PHYLLIS

## Letter from Mary Dragan thanking members for Martina's Travel Scholarship:

*I wanted to write to you and the other members of the Slovenian Women's Union and let you know how wonderful the trip that Martina won actually was! She and Allison, the other scholarship winner, met in Munich and traveled by train to Ljubljana. There they met and stayed two days with cousins on my Dad, Martin Dragan's side! The cousin's grandfather looked very familiar! He has the same physical traits as my Dad's Mom! Their grandson looked just like my dad at his age! (16) A couple of days later they joined the*

group for touring the country! Both girls could not believe the beauty of the Slovenian countryside and the Slovenian people. When Martina joined me in Venice she was bubbling over with stories of the kindness she had encountered everywhere they traveled. She couldn't wait to get home to get her pictures processed, so we had them done overnight in Budapest! I think her favorite was hiking in the mountains and at the Lippizaner horse farm! Martina would encourage everyone to go and visit the country of their heritage. If there is no family connection to Slovenia, she would encourage a trip just to enjoy the people, the beautiful scenery, and fantastic architecture.

Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity for Martina and all of the future recipients!!!

*Mary Dragan  
Martina's mother  
Branch 5 member*

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#### **NO. 10, CLEVELAND, OH**

*Founding Date: MARCH 8, 1927*

**Meetings: 4th Wed. 1 p.m.  
SND Holmes Avenue**

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Hi Ladies! By the time you receive the news of our members, the holidays will be upon us.

Most of our members are still on the sick list and we wish them all well. Hope you will enjoy your family get-togethers.

We lost a very good member, Caroline Stefancic, sister-in-law of Ann Stefancic. Members extend sympathy to daughter, Bonita Quagliata. We will all miss her. God grant her eternal rest.

Wishes to Stephanie Segulin for a happy birthday for November; also to Colleen Collins and Stephanie Vojtkofsky, Steffie's granddaughters.

The Christmas party will be on Tuesday, Nov. 23rd, at Fanny's Restaurant at 1 p.m. Call S. Segulin at (216) 451-1876.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May it bring us peace, good health and good friends. Closing with love to all and God bless us!

STEFANIE SEGULIN

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#### **NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927*

**Meetings: 3rd Thursday  
St. Peter's Church Hall  
except July & August**

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At our June meeting we discussed plans for the September State Convention in Sheboygan. A few members couldn't be with us. Ludy Babich is one of them, and although he never misses a meeting, he was on sick leave. Mary Remic from Crivitz, Wisc. had surgery and is recovering at home. She is a long time member and we wish her a speedy recovery. We discussed hiring a bus to take us to Sheboygan.

Birthday members are Stavia, Fran Remshak, Theresa Fedran, and Nellie Zietlow. Virginia Strukel made chicken and noodles. On Sept. 11th we enjoyed a special 85th birthday party for our member Theresa Fedran arranged by sons, Jimmy, Bill and Kenneth and their wives at the Elks Club Her granddaughter, Dawn made the centerpieces; she is very talented. Flowers were at every table and the food was fabulous. Cocktails were served also. Al Jelinek, his mother, Ann, Virginia Strukel and Stavia were there – and we really enjoyed the party.

On Sept. 26th Mrs. Antonia Vodnik picked up Fanny Smole and me – for the bus to Sheboygan. At 9 a.m. the church was already crowded and beautifully decorated. Rev. Glenn Powers, the pastor, was the celebrant for mass. He welcomed us warmly. We enjoyed the singing.

Heading to the restaurant for the meeting we met State President, Josephine Janezic who gave the opening greeting and then called upon the delegates of Wisconsin branches: Br. 1, Sheboygan, Br. 12, Milwaukee (for which I was the delegate), also Br. 43, Br. 102, Willard. There were a lot of prizes and a delicious dinner concluded the day.

STAVIA DOBERSEK

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#### **NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 30, 1927*

**Meetings: 1st Thursdays  
Slovenian Hall  
Contact Person:**

**Beverly Jackson – (650) 631-1098**

---

We had our meeting today and a lovely lunch was provided – with Hal-

loween decorations – very festive.

Congratulations to LaVerne and George Guilford who celebrated their 50th anniversary with a mass at the Church of the Nativity.

On a very exciting note, Kevin Spencer, son of Don and Moreen, has announced his engagement to Alina Vicol of Chisinaw, Moldova. Much happiness to this beautiful couple.

Get well wishes to Dora Simenc – our love and prayers.

Sympathy to the family of Otilia Kurnick who passed away in October.

It is very hard to believe that we are at the end of another year. We are looking forward to our November meeting where we will celebrate the birthdays of our branch president, Josephine Aiuto and her baby sister, Virginia Sustarich. Jo will be 85 years young and Virginia will celebrate her 80th. Join us for lunch at noon – and the birthday cake. Other birthday celebrants are Krista Devlin Arlene Podgorsek, Agnes Kurnick. In December we wish happy birthdays to Sandra Farrell, Katrina Hernandez, Agnes Leach (who is a Christmas baby), Rebecca Sincich and Evelyn Kinnear.

December meeting has been changed to noon on Dec. 2nd – a Pot Luck lunch. Please call Josephine (863-8632) if you are joining us and we hope you do.

To everyone, a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas and happy and healthy New Year. Another year of wonderful friendship!

*A true friend is one who overlooks your broken down gate and admires the flowers in your garden.*

Joy, happiness and friendship from me to you...

BEVERLY JACKSON

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#### **NO. 14, EUCLID, OH**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927*

**Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m.  
Slovenian Society Home**

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As soon as our summer season ends and the weatherman informs us that we can expect the harvest moon in a few days, we're rudely jolted by the fact that winter will sneak up on us in short order. But we can be thankful that most in our area found it unnecessary to sprinkle our lawns and we haven't seen even one lawn that had turned brown from lack of water! But we truly can sympathize with the southern states that

have been deluged with hurricanes and floods.

As I write today's article our Cleveland area branches are eagerly looking forward to the Slovenian Heritage Festival on October 3rd at SNPJ Farm. Rosemary Toth, President of Br. 50 has been very busy putting it all together along with her very capable committee. We'd like to also recognize and thank Pat Habat, our Vice President of Br. 14 who has been assisting as our representative. We're looking forward to an exceptional event.

This is the time of year when we begin to set wheels in motion for Tony Petkovsek's Thanksgiving Weekend at Cleveland's Marriott Hotel Downtown, with an outstanding line-up of entertainment for three days including Denis Novato, renown accordion artist coming in from Slovenia. The Polka Hall of Fame's Annual Awards Show and Meet the Winners Dance tied in with that weekend takes place on Saturday, November 27th. Our area is truly fortunate to have continuous entertainment throughout the year.

And speaking of entertainment... remember ladies... the date for our popular Christmas Dinner is Tuesday, December 7 starting at 6:00 at Slovenian Society Home on Rechar Avenue. Call in your reservations for yourself and family and friends to Stana Grill at (440) 944-0598. We all look forward to the delicious home-style dinners prepared by Sophie Mazi and the fun atmosphere among friends. Don't forget to bring along a wrapped gift to be used for a door prize.

To all of our members who can't get out, and to our ailing ladies we certainly are thinking of you and wishing a speedy recovery prayer and hope you're feeling better very soon.

Have lots of stuffed turkey and pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving, and a Merry Christmas celebrated among family and friends... and a Happy and Healthy 2005 New Year!

Vesele Božične Praznike in Srečno in Zdravo Novo Leto, 2005!

Alice Kuhar

---

#### NO. 16, SO. CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 13, 1928

Meetings: 2nd Saturday, 1 p.m.  
monthly except Jan.-July-Aug.

St. George's Hall

Contact: Mary Therese Ehnat  
Tel. (773) 646-5758

---

Congratulations Corinne on the 75th



Br. 16 members at Canadian Niagara Falls (from left) Gladys Buck, Mary Jane Strus, Dotsi Rossi, Connie Saviana, Julie Pastor, Gen Marco and Sylvia Spretnjak; (front) Andrea Kral and Dolores Franko. – Br. Michael August Spretnjak O.P. and Aunt Sylvia at his Profession of Simple Vows of the Dominican Order of Preachers.

Anniversary commemoration issue of the ZARJA. Not only was it beautifully designed and presented, but all the historical information and pictures brought back many memories. It was a very tremendous undertaking on your part and you put your Love, Heart and Soul into it. Thank you. (I did! And I thank you! C.)

Our September meeting was opened with a prayer and a moment of silence to remember and reflect on 9/11.

Br. 16 will have our Christmas Party on Dec. 2nd at 2 p.m. at the Jovial Club. For reservations please call Mary Therese Ehnat 646-5758 or Mary Jane Strus 768-5127 or sign up at the November meeting. Price of the buffet luncheon is \$15.00 – \$2.00 reservation fee is payable when the reservation is made. Bring your friends.

The "Cookie Sweets Table" was such a success last year, we are asking the members to bring a plate of their favorites again this year. Thank you.

Rosemary Petrich was our delegate to the Illinois-Indiana Convention held in Peru. Gladys Buck and Vida Kumse also attended.

Tina Sertich has volunteered to be our Social Chairlady to oversee the Hostesses, Kitchen and Supply Cabinet. Thank you, Tina.

Congratulations to Andrea and Ed Kral on the birth of their first Great grandchild – Paige Marie Kral.

Congratulations also to my nephew, Br. Michael A. Spretnjak, O.P. who was welcomed into the Dominican Order of Preachers with the Profession of Simple Vows on Aug. 15th in Denver, CO. He is now residing at the

Dominican Priory in St. Louis, MO for further studies. There were 19 of us there to help him celebrate – 11 immediate family (Chgo. and So. Bend area) – 4 extended family (Denver) and 4 very dear friends from Indianapolis.

More travelers – still in a religious mood, not being able to go to Lemont with the Slovenians this year, Andrea Kral and I went on a Pilgrimage on 8/21 to Holy Hill, National Shrine of Mary at Hubertus, WI with the members of Sacred Heart Croatian Church. Andrea and Ed were off to Nevada in Oct. and again for Thanksgiving.

The next trip had 9 of our members (see picture) and 2 husbands, John Strus and Jim Rossi, going to Canadian Niagara Falls (Awesome!) sponsored by the St. George Seniors where we are also members. It was a Casino trip and we all came home with emptier pockets. Gladys and her niece, Barbara Ireland are going back to Canada next week to the "Agaua Canyon." Gladys and Vida were also in Vermont in July. Gladys has the "wanderlust."

A week after we were gambling, we were praying at the Carmelite Monastery (Polish) in Munster, IN – again with the St. George Seniors. (We should have gone here before Canada). Those attending were – Mary Therese Ehnat, Gladys Buck, Dotsi Rossi (Jim), Mary Jane Strus (John), Tina Sertich, Helen Battista (John), Gen Marco, Ann Ksiazek and myself.

Our deepest sympathies to Manda Maggio and Ana Lustig on the death of their brother, Anthony Bublich. May he rest in peace.

Members please attend our meetings

the second Saturday of the month. If you don't like Bingo because you have to be quiet, join us for Bunco – we are loud with laughter.

SYLVIA SPRETNJAK

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## NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Founding Date: JUNE 11, 1928

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m.

St. Joseph Park Hall  
Sister Marlene Ambrose  
(815) 724-0731

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Welcome back to our schedule of meetings, festivals, conventions, etc.

Our meeting on Sept. 21 consisted of the minutes of the last meeting, discussion of the Grape Harvest Dance. Sister Marlene Ambrose, Br. 20 reporter, gave a short report on how she prepares the article in the ZARJA. The 50/50 prize was won by Vicki Hodgman. The accumulative attendance award was for Darlene Marquardt, but she was not present. We celebrated the 75th Anniversary of ZARJA with a birthday cake.

Oct. 3. The Illinois-Indiana Convention in LaSalle-Peru, Illinois was attended by a group of 24 women of Br. 20.

Oct. 19. A meeting was held at St. Joseph Park Hall when nomination of officers took place. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Frederic Ratio, a Chiropractic Physician who talked about 'Depression.'

Nov. 13-14. SWU Br. 20 will hold a bakery sale at St. Joseph Church before and after the Masses. Please donate bakery or money generously. Proceeds will be used for the Br. 20 Scholarship Fund.

Nov. 16. Election of Officers will be held at this meeting. The speaker for the evening will be Brian McDaniel, the Community Outreach Coordinator from the Office of the State's Attorney. His topic will be "Identity Theft."

Dec. 19. The Republic Banquet Hall will be the place for our 'Christmas Dinner-Family Style.' Come and celebrate Christmas with us.

Jan. 9, 2005 Come and have fun at the 'St. Joseph Church Centennial Year Celebration Dinner Dance' sponsored by SWU Br. 20 at St. Joseph Park Hall. Music will be by Bob Doszak Band.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Angela Chytracek, member of SWU Br. 20 was honored for being



## PROUD GRANDMOTHER

**Our SWUA National Treasurer, Jonita Ruth, of Joliet, Illinois attended Central Region Senior Baseball Tournament held in Peru, Illinois in mid August to watch her 16 year old grandson, Kyle Singleary and his team. The team journeyed from Ankeny, Iowa, near Des Moines for the five day event. Kyle hit a home run and contributed other important plays for the team with Grandma in the front row cheering them on. Ankeny finished in second place. Teams came from various states, including one from Hibbing, Minnesota. Any Slovenes on that team? Ankeny has two and both are named Kyle. Kyle, his sisters and mother are all members of SWUA. Several SWUA members from Peru stopped by the baseball field to visit Jonita. Congratulations, Ankeny!**

named 'Woman of the Year' at St. Joseph Church in Rockdale, IL. Angela received this honor because of her active involvement in the Council of Catholic Women of the Parish.

Lillian Cepen was featured in the Joliet Herald News in August, 2004. For 23 years she has been cooking for events at St. Joseph park Hall in Joliet, the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, and has her own catering business. Her specialty is delicious fried chicken.

Jerry and Jean Herbst on their 50th Anniversary on Nov. 13, 2004. Their children, Fr. Robert Herbst, O.F.M., Conv., Rita Bottomley and Renee Herbst joined in with their celebration.

We pray for Geri Thayer, Mrs. Margaret Stalzer, and Marge Franze. May God bless you with good health.

### WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS!

Courtney O'Brien and Eric Pucel were married on July 24 at St.

Raymond Cathedral. Eric is the son of Chris and Judy Pucel and grandson of Rudolph J. and Millie Pucel. The best men were Eric's brothers, Zachary and Nicholas. Rachel Pucel, Eric's cousin was one of the flower girls.

Barbara Kaluza and Bob Kagay who were married on Sept. 18 at St. Joseph Church. Barbara is the daughter of Tony and Julie Kaluza.

Kristine Cepen and Peter Collins on their wedding Oct. 9 at St. Joseph Church. Christine is the daughter of Frank and Lillian Cepen

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the brothers and sisters of Kenneth Kambic who passed away on Aug. 17; to the sisters and brother of Helen Horwath who passed away Sept. 4. Helen was one of the original volunteers at our Heritage Museum; to Lorraine M. Wedic's husband and daughter; to the family of Susan C. (Glavan) Kowalski. Susan was a member of SWU Br. 20 since 1938.

Christmas shopping?? Come to the Heritage Museum for cookbooks, aprons, music, etc. Call 727-1926. Remember to get your Museum Magic Month Calendar for Jan. 2005. This would be a nice Christmas present for someone on your list.

Happy birthday to all of you celebrating in Nov. and Dec.

*"The best thing about the future is -- that it comes one day at a time."*

—Abe Lincoln

SISTER MARLENE AMBROSE, OSF

\* \* \* \* \*

## Grape Harvest Dance

I know all of you members are waiting for the results of our yearly fund raiser, the Slovenian Grape Harvest Dance.

Two hundred ninety-five (295) people attended. Bob Mutz was our honorary mayor. We had many guests from the Chicago area, plus some from Aurora (who said we were such a friendly group) and attendees from Dwight, Elwood and other places. Many traveled far and wide for the toe-tapping music of Bob Doszak's Band.

Members who attended the dance signed in and a lucky winner was awarded a prize of their dues paid for year 2005. The winner, Millie Pucel. Congrats to Millie, a hard working, dedicated member.

We had returns from 201 member/families who actively participated by purchasing (or selling) their 12 raffle tickets for \$10.00. That is about one-third (1/3) of our membership. Our branch is only as strong as the number of members that actively support the Branch. Next year we hope to see more of you participating.

Because of their participation, Peter & Theresa Papesh of Joliet won first prize in the money raffle. Second prize went to Hanna Hemmingson of Tempe, AZ. Last but not least, Elaine Weber, another faithful member from Des Plaines, IL, was awarded 3rd place.

Many thanks also to Fr. Jim Radek for his constant support of Branch 20. Also we want to thank Pat Massucci, Fran Ruggera, Jane Polnaszek-Gray, James Lilek, and Renee Rozman for their most generous special contributions. Many hands and countless hours went into making the Grape Harvest Dance possible. Oh yes, one more: thanks to the National Officers who supported us.

*Jean Herbst, Secretary*

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#### **NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 17, 1928*

**Meetings: 3rd Thursdays**

**Eureka Savings Building**

**Monthly except July and August**

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Dober Dan!

Who ever said, the lazy, hazy days of summer! They might have been hazy but they sure weren't lazy, and, I don't know where the time went so fast!

My husband and I attended the Franciscan Fathers' Honey Picnic at Lemont on the last Sunday of August and, honestly, we thought we had died and gone to Heaven. The singing was so beautiful for the Mass and later for the Litany. I couldn't help but think how lucky we were to have been there to hear all those voices lifted up in song.

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#### **Wanted:**

**Slovenian Heritage Vol. 1  
By Prof. Edward Gobetz**

If you have a copy for sale,  
please contact:

**Dolores Mikolich Fass  
784 Maui Place  
Diamondhead, MS 39525  
Email: dolorefa@cs.com**

While there, I accepted Corinne's gracious invitation to sit in on Br. 99's meeting in the Slovenian Cultural Center and was warmly welcomed by the members.

Several members of our Branch attended Oglesby's Br. 89 ZARJA birthday party at LeHigh park in Oglesby. The food was delicious, the cake was beautiful and a good time was had by all.

We celebrated our own ZARJA birthday party at our September meeting which was hosted by Delores Spelich and what a magnificent job she did! She, herself came in the traditional Slovenian costume and brought with her a wide variety of laces that were crocheted by her grandparents. They were displayed so beautifully along with the lovely variety of food she prepared, complete with Slovenian wine and candy! Martha Lushina made a beautiful birthday cake and I don't think there was a piece left.

Speaking of birthdays, two of our dear members celebrated 90 years - Minnie Carter on September 27 and Frances Puetz on October 18. Minnie doesn't get out too much these days. I remember her taking wonderful care of the babies in the nursery at St. Mary's Hospital in La Salle. She touched many lives, as did Frances, who was a school teacher for many years in La Salle. Also, Josephine Grabowski turned 75 on October 5 and she rarely misses a meeting. Happy birthday, ladies!

Warmest congratulations go out to Theresa and Henry Wellner as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 9. Many thanks go out to Theresa who has always been our faithful organist at Resurrection Church and she plays for all of our Slovenian events. Congratulations also to Steve and Arlene Borys who celebrated 46 years of wedded bliss on October 25th, Helen and Ray Swietek, 52 years on September 27 and Clarence and Jo Grabowski, 56 years on July 3. What good role models!

Our son, John and his wife, Stacey, of Omaha, Nebraska, welcomed their third child, a daughter, on September 18th. They also have a daughter, 4 years old and a son, 20 months. We now have 20 grandchildren!

It was a lot of fun co-hosting the Illinois/Indiana State Convention with Nancy Henkel, president of Oglesby Br. 89 and Genevieve Grile, president

## *In Loving Memory*

### **MARY BATIC**

**First anniversary of her passing,  
December 25, 2003**

\* \* \* \* \*

Can't believe it has been a year!  
I miss your voice, and our visits.  
There isn't a day that goes by  
I don't think of you.

Please say "hi" to grandma  
and grandpa  
and all your friends for me.  
Soon we will be a family again,  
in Heaven.

With all my love, Your Daughter,

*Beverly Batic Sciarrabba  
Branch 32, Euclid, Ohio  
Clearwater, Florida*

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of Branch 85 of DePue, (which has since merged with our Branch 24). Genevieve has always been helpful and pleasant and Nancy and I probably burned more telephone wires in the last several months. She is a joy to work with as are all the ladies in her Branch! It was with this spirit of friendship and co-operation that the convention came together so nicely. Thank you, ladies!

Our December hostesses, Mary Mecum and Linda Struna will be working with the hostesses from Branch 89 for a combined Christmas party in early December. These ladies always do a lovely job and we'll all enjoy ourselves.

Until next time, may your hearts be happy and filled with peace and love.

LORETTA STORY

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#### **NO. 33, DULUTH, MN**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 8, 1929*

**Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month  
St. Elizabeth Church**

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A lot has been happening in Branch 33 this late summer and early fall.

Our happy birthday ZARJA party was held in September. We played a ZARJA game and Lucy Olaf was the winner of the prize.

Thanks to the hard work of Sharon Bucar and Mary White and their committee for the excellent planning of our



## Our 75th Diamond Anniversary

75th Anniversary celebration on Oct. 16th. It started with a polka Mass, followed by a Buffet Banquet and Program. The Polka Mass and entertainment was Frank Bucar and the Singing Slovenes. We also honored our 50 year and over members: Frances Danko, joined in 1935, Winnefred Ellena, joined in 1954, Elizabeth Smolnikar, joined in 1939, Suntina Spehar, joined in 1953, Dorothy Janchar, joined in 1943, Margaret Radosevich joined in 1951, Roseann Schomber joined in 1949 and Susan Skull joined in 1949. I hope we haven't forgotten anyone but these are the ones we had at press time. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Rosemary Donald is a new grandmother. Congratulations!

One of our Junior members, Anthony McDonell has been accepted in the People to People Junior Ambassador Program and will be spending 21 days in Australia in summer, 2005. He was recommended to apply, which he did, got three recommendations and was interviewed and accepted the next day. The program was started by Pres. Eisenhower who said that Peace would be brought about by the people of this country and not the military. We are very proud of Anthony.

Our Christmas Party will be Dec. 2. Hope to see a lot of you there.

By the time you read this we will probably have some snow on the ground. Winters here are beautiful, just not the cold, cold air.

We wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a wonderful Happy and Successful New Year.

BEV MENART, Reporter

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### NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 12, 1929

Meetings: 3rd Wed., 1 p.m.

St. Martin's Church Hall

Jan. to May; Sept., Oct. & Nov.

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Best of the summer was the planning and celebration of our 75th anniversary. Members of Br. 34 were guests of Ely, Br. 23 at a pot luck supper in August. We had a great time! Seventeen members attended – and we all say thanks for the pleasant meeting!

Members, Ann Byrne and Kay Bergland died this past summer and we will miss them. They were so much a part

With an overflow attendance of 100 members and friends, we observed the 75th anniversary of Br. 34 on September 12th. We met early and had a coffee reception before going into church for the mass at 11:30. Father Rudy Pakiz officiated and the Poderzay Brothers played with Denny Erchul.

New members pitched in with Robin Majerle as 1st time Lector and children, Tucker and Laura were servers. Kathy Anderson gave the Communion. Offertory, my daughter Beatha Jean Zimmerman, granddaughters Jenna Frances, Maria Zimmerman, also Macy Barrett, Mary Jean Kriznar, my sister; Kathy Wright, hostess.

We left church for Fortune Bay to take part in a wonderful buffet in an elegant setting. Member Theresa Berg with the help of her sisters decorated. Members Theresa Glaski and Pauline Trucano played accordion selections during dinner. Mary and Paul Ravnkar of Mpls. gave a beautiful address on Medjugorje.

Special thanks to the men of our group, Rusty Berg, Ralph Chibotti, for making a Slovenian "hayrack" (kozolec) and to Helen Adkisson's son, Greg for the miniature wooden kozolci favors and Maria Lanari for burning the designs into them. Adeline Mustonen's son, Larry made the beautiful programs. We appreciate the donations for the raffle tickets (Embararass Credit Union and Cyko Arts). Winners were Mike Barrett, Jane Micklich, Tom Mesojedec, Bea Zimmerman and Theresa Berg.

The bus came with guests from Chisholm, Aurora, Biwabik and Ely. We also appreciate very much the work of the members of Br. 34 for being good hostesses and making all this possible. To Ag Mattson, Helen Adkison, Betty Dolinar, Adeline Mustonen, Lucille Saratoes, Pauline Trucano, Theresa Glaski, Hvala Lepa!

ADRIENNE MIKLICH

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of our group, good cooks and fun to be with.

Darlene Pecks was ill but is now on the mend. Good for her!

On Sept. 15th we had our meeting at the upper room of St. Martin's and discussed the convention business. Happy memories of the state convention were recalled. Card was sent to Jean Zupancich wishing her a speedy recovery.

ADRIENNE MIKLICH

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### NO. 35, AURORA, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 15, 1929

Meetings: 6 times per year

Community Center

Contact: Anita Vovk

E-mail: AMV@cpinternet.com

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On Sept. 12th the Minnesota State Convention brought together 105 members and guests to the St. Martin church in Tower. We enjoyed coffee an', and visiting before the meeting, followed by the polka mass. Afterward we were on the way to Fortune Bay by bus for a delicious dinner and program. Thank you to Helen Adkisson's son who made the miniature "kozolec" (hayrack in Slovenian) favors for each of us. It even

had a "diamond" in the center to remind us that it was Br. 34's 75th anniversary. Thank you to all the ladies of Br. 34 for another successful state convention.

On Sat., Sept. 25th fifty KSKJ members traveled by bus to L'Anse, Michigan to celebrate Bishop Baraga Days in Baragaland. A special Slovenian mass was celebrated by Bishop Alojzij Uran from Slovenia and on Sunday, Marquette Bishop James Garland celebrated the mass in L'Anse. We could not leave Baragaland without viewing the large statue of Baraga, the Snowshoe Priest on the cliff overlooking Keweenaw Bay which was created by the same artist as did the Iron Miner at Ironworld in Chisholm. Oh, yes, the Knights of Columbus prepared the meals for us and they were delicious. Thank you to the Baraga Days committee and all their helpers.

A belated thank you to Julie Pirnat who provided the lunch and to Bernice Ceglar and Anita Vovk for the dessert at the August meeting. And, congratulations and thank you, Corinne, for the 75th Anniversary commemorative issue of our ZARJA!

Our prayers are with all our members who are ill and those in the nursing homes, and also with all who serve our

# 75th Year Br. 34 Soudan

The 75th Anniversary (Diamond) of Soudan, Br. #34 of Slovenska Ženska Zveza was held on the annual Minnesota Day, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004. We celebrated with a Remembrance Polka Mass, celebrant Rev. Fr. Rudolph Pakiz (member), the altar servers were Laura and Tucker Majerle, and lector,

their mother, Robin Majerle (a member). Mary Barret, Mary Jean Kriznar, Beatha Jean, Jenna and Maria Zimmerman (all members), presented Offertory Gifts; Cathy Anderson was Eucharistic Minister (a member); Dennis Erchul was our organist and Tony and Tom Poderzay were accordionists. The spray of red carnations, white baby breath and blue ribbon were beautiful and a special candle was lit to honor our deceased.

We opened our day with registration, coffee/tea and delicious blueberry and lemon-poppysseed muffins. The meeting room at St. Martin's Church was decorated with preserved autumn leaves, small Chinese lanterns and sprigs of pine and frosted pine cones reminding us that it is fall here in the northwoods. Each of the 106 attending received a real, preserved autumn leaf with a magnet for display.

President, Adrienne Micklich presented a bulletin board honoring ZARJA with a Slovenian flag and greetings, which complimented the four windsocks fluttering on the lamp-posts up the ramp outside the church that bore the Slovenian flag symbol. Following, we had our meeting and Mass.

Our luncheon was next at Fortune Bay Resort in Tower. Delores and Floyd Blazer of Fortune Bay were exceptional in their help and presentation of our luncheon. Adrienne welcomed all and blessing was made by Father Pakiz. During lunch, two members entertained us with beautiful, easy-listening Slovenian accordion music, namely, Pauline Poderzay Trucano and Theresa Poderzay Galeski. They belong to a family where music has been a part of their life since birth. Decorations were red, white and blue, each table of eight had votive candle, bouquet of carnations, baby breath and fern, and four beribboned gifts (red, white and blue), a conversational antique to remind us of the "olden"

times. Also, a very special miniature "kozolec" was placed at the top of the plate, a symbol of Slovenia. Member, Helen Adkisson's son, Scott made each one to perfection with the lettering "Živio" (to cheer) made by member, Margy Grahek Johnson and wood-burning design on the roof by artist, Maria Lanari. Each was completed with three tiny autumn leaves and a tiny diamond, signifying our 75th year. To compliment the "Kozolec" theme, Ralph Chiabotti (Italian and son of deceased member, Louise Chiabotti) and Russ Berg (Swede) constructed a Kozolec that could be used as a house sign, that was our main prize. This, along with a gigantic basket full of goodies, a three-row potica and money prizes were awarded to ticket winners from all the branches. Paul and Mary Ravnarik (a member) spoke on their trip to Medjugorje which left the people spellbound. Their daughter, Jacklyn was presented a scholarship from SWUA and is now a junior in college. Mary is the daughter of Margaret and Jack Yernatich and Margaret is the daughter of Agnes Tekautz. This is four generation family; their cooperation, wisdom and wit carries our branch forward!

Adeline Mustonen, past president of 20 years presented a brief commemoration of our history. She had the original minutes transcribed from Slovenian into a historical archive presented to SWUA. Jean Korsman, former National President presented an outstanding speech in tribute to Tory Bobence, who served as Branch #34 President, Regional and National President and worked diligently to bring SWUA into the 21st century. Don Micklich presented the report on the ZARJA. Each table had a hostess as member of Branch #34 and they did a grand job of welcoming, answering questions, presenting gifts and flowers and thanking everyone who came. Father Pakiz closed with prayers praising our SWUA, as it is the most active and dedicated group in our small parish.

*Theresa Berg, Reporter*

*I'd like to add a personal note: At the first meeting, my mother, Angela Pavlich was elected first president. It was noted none had a pencil or paper to write the minutes of the first meeting. The husbands were certain they would have to have men officers, warning that it would fail because the women didn't "know" about such things. Also, four of Angela's ten daughters were in attendace at this happy time! Emma Betourne, Theresa Berg, Adeline Mustonen and Agnes Yapel!*

*T.B.*

country so we can enjoy the freedom that we have.

Happy Thanksgiving and Holidays, Everyone!

ANNE M. ORAZEM

## NO. 39, BIWABIK, MN

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 3, 1930

Meetings: 1st Sunday monthly  
St. John's Church

Well, ladies, it looks like our short summer is over and the leaves are tel-

ling us that fall has arrived and the snow will soon follow. All the guys are gearing up for their fall hunt and the ladies are meeting for their annual shopping trips. What a great time of year.

The annual Minnesota Zveza Day was a success, thanks to the hard work of Branch #34 of Soudan, who were celebrating their 75th Anniversary. Anita Vovk, President of Branch #35, Aurora, again arranged a bus to pick up the Iron Range members from Chisholm to Aurora. What a fun bus

trip to visit en route. We were met with the smiling Tower Branch members serving our morning coffee and muffins. Our meeting moved right along with many items of interest. We were especially happy to see some members that were in attendance from branches that have combined with ours. Mary Ann Kwiecinski from Virginia and Pep Kern, a 52-year member from Gilbert, joined us. It was fun to renew acquaintances and visit with those we have not seen since our convention in Duluth in

# A Tribute to Tory Bobence

Dear Tory:

In all your years of "belonging" to our beloved SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION you couldn't possibly realize the positive impact your membership would have on all of us; not only in Minnesota, but in all 15 states where our Branches were chartered and still remain active.

You joined Br. 34 Soudan in 1951 at the age of 25. In those past 53 years you were elected (over and over) to serve as an officer on that level. You then became our Minnesota State President for 8 years; encouraging all of the Branches to increase their interest in, and knowledge of, the workings of our organization.

One of my earliest memories of you was when Soudan hosted our Minnesota Zveza Days in the early 80's. It was my first attendance at a State Convention, and I was impressed with your professional handling of the meeting, and especially your efforts to be so warmly inclusive of all the Branches.

Because of your active participation, your enthusiasm, and your leadership, you were elected to the National Board of Directors as an AUDITOR for a four year term.



In 1987 you accepted the great honor of being elected to the highest office of the Slovenian Women's Union of America: The NATIONAL PRESIDENCY! You were re-elected in 1991 in Ohio. During those 8 years you patiently guided and set an example of respect and perseverance to all 67 branches in 15 states.

I quote from ZARJA: *In this capacity you overcame many difficulties, including financial belt-tightening and working with some long-time Board members who refused to cooperate be-*

*cause they wanted NO CHANGES to occur in the operation of THEIR SWU!*

Your articles in every issue of the ZARJA encouraged all of us to "TILL IN TORY'S GARDEN," for recruitment of new young members into our Branches; a spin-off of this recruitment policy is in place right up to this day!

My own desire to emulate you resulted in a deeper devotion to SWU, culminating in my accepting the National Presidency in 1995 after your 8 year term expired. I will never forget your kindness and your helpful advice over those next 4 years.

You have been a role-model and an inspiration to all of us, and for this we honor you, and thank you today.

I don't knit or crochet, but I want you to have one more of my precious possessions; it's another clothes hanger, from my mom's hands. She held you in such high regard, that in spite of her pride in my becoming National President, her first comment was, "You mean you're going to be like Tory Bobence?" I know you will accept this as a token and use it with fond memories of our years of friendship.

Love,

Jean Korsman

2003. I especially enjoyed meeting and visiting with Veda Ponikvar, an outstanding member of SWUA.

We enjoyed the service of the Remembrance Mass by Rev. Fr. Rudolph Pakiz, with the Polka Mass music by Tony and Tom Poderzay. The bus was waiting for us to take us to Fortune Bay Casino where a delicious dinner was served to all in attendance.

We were especially honored with the presence of our dear Tory Bobence, who served as Nat'l. President for eight years and State of MN SWUA President for eight years. Jeanne Korsman, our Branch #39 President, honored her for her time and many years of service to the SWUA. A beautiful presentation of a trip to Medjugorje was given by Paul and Mary Ravnkar. A delightful day it was for the eighteen members of Br. #39 of Biwabik and all the rest of the MN members. Thanks, Adrienne, and all of your Branch #34 members.

We planned to join with the Aurora

Branch to help celebrate their 75th Anniversary in October. We must also congratulate our sister Branch #33 on their 75th celebration on October 16th. I will miss the entertainment of the "Singing Slovenes" since I have a granddaughter that will be getting married that day. Have a wonderful celebration to all our sister Branches and we hope to have you join us next year when we celebrate our 75th year.

We plan to have our branch Christmas party in January.

We hope the blessings of the upcoming holiday season are with you all.

ROSEMARY SERTICH RIBICH  
rribich@lcp2.net

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**NO. 40, LORAIN, OH**  
Founding Date: APRIL 21, 1930  
**Meetings: 2nd Wed., 1 p.m.**  
**SS Cyril & Methodius Hall**

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What a wonderful keepsake we all received when we got our 75th anniversary

issue of ZARJA. What beautiful memories were brought to mind!!! Thank you, Corinne, and all those whose efforts make us all proud and happy to have the history of our SWU brought to life in such a grand fashion. Again, thank you, thank you!!! (*You are very welcome. C.*)

It is with sadness that I report the death of Mary Mihelic. Mary was born on April 20, 1903, thus at 101 years old, she is our oldest member and also the oldest member of our Slovenian Church here in Lorain. Mary had been a resident of Anchor Lodge Nursing home where she had the love and respect of all. Her husband Lojze was a blacksmith by trade. He died many years ago. She also lost three of her children and is survived by one daughter, Lillian Keron, grandchildren, great and great great grandchildren. A large number of mourners attended her funeral mass at the church she loved - SS Cyril and Methodius - with Father Paul

**What a great Christmas gift! Give a calendar!  
Remember...January is SWU Museum Calendar Month!**

For only \$10 you can buy the calendar and give it to someone! She will have 31 chances to win a cash prize, from \$100 to \$500! Every day in January, some lucky person will be awarded a prize!

(Calendars were inserted in the last ZARJA.)

Fill out the coupon and send with remittance to the SWU Home Office  
431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432

*It's a great gift! Or buy it for yourself!*

Krajnik as celebrant. Rest in peace, Mary.

The other sad report is the closing of our Lorain Slovenian Home after 81 years of being the center and core of many activities here. What are the factors that caused this? To put it simply, there is no longer the support that pulled the community together so long ago. The older generation still may have the interest, but not the energy that is needed, and there are fewer of us. Everyone is saddened by this. Where will we go for our Friday night fish fries – without a doubt the very best in the county – and we will surely miss the monthly polka jam sessions. Our Board of Directors made a valiant effort to keep the doors open, but after exploring all avenues, they recommended closing and in the end, that is what happened. Thank you, Linda Sekular, and your committee, for your hard work in trying to avoid this. A sad day. The end of an era. If there is a lesson in this, it is to support your Slovenian institutions at every opportunity, in every way you can.

Many of our members, under the leadership of Aggie Serazin, will be busy making apple strudels to benefit Sts. C & M church. They have standing orders for the delicious pastry. Many hands are needed to get the job done. Can you volunteer a few hours when called? Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving, and may God Bless Us, Everyone!

Love,

STEPHANIE POLUTNIK

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**NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH**

*Founding Date: MAY 31, 1930*

**Meetings: Feb., May, Aug. & Nov.  
2nd Saturday – 11:00 a.m.**

**Contact Person: Lil Sadowski  
(216) 398-4367**

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I can't believe this is the last column of the year. Where in the world did 2004 go? I had just received my Sep/Oct. issue of ZARJA and it was time to submit Nov/Dec.! Wasn't the 75th anniversary commemorative issue outstanding? I think Corinne outdid herself in coordinating the historic publication. It is so easy to take for granted the job she does with our Zveza's voice but it is obvious by its quality that it is truly "a labor of love." Congratulations, Corinne, on a superb journalistic endeavor. We are so fortunate to have you as our editor. *(Many sincere thanks! C.)*

Our member, Kelly Gaines, from Doylestown, OH graduated from Wayne County's Career Center Adult Nursing Program and is currently anticipating her state board exams to become an LPN. Kelly is the daughter of Sue Harris and granddaughter of Josie Perko Gruden.

While visiting my sister, Antonia Matis at Light of Hearts Villa I had a nice chat with our member, Mitzi Champa, who also resides there. Her husband, Lou, is a resident of Mt. Alvernia and Mitzi tells me they are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on Nov. 3rd. What an example for their 3 children, 12 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren!

This past September saw the passing of Frances Stepic, the sister of our

member, Dorothy Budimlic; and just this week our new member, Joe Habjan, lost his sister, Anne Arko. To Dorothy and Joe we extend our deepest sympathy – may their loved ones rest in peace.

Our Nov. birthday celebrants are: Jo Stoltz, Eliz. Gravier, Marie Zimmer, Elyse Harr, Betty Kosak Gawor, Edmund Yemec, Aggie Haslup and Teresa Gorup. Happy Dec. birthdays to: Joe Offutt, Nicholas Lipnos, Beth Carroll, Chris Gravier, Eleanor Lipnos, Albina Skocaj, Jenny Lockard, Mary Lipnos, Marge Church, Teresa Stanonik and Christine Stropki.

After living in sunny Calif. for the past 18 years, my daughter, Lynn, and family are now calling New Hampshire home. They moved in early July and in August I drove up to visit them before the kids went back to school. They have replaced the hustle and bustle of Southern California with the peace and tranquility of New England in the town of Walpole, a lovely rural community. Now we are only a day's drive away. How sweet it is.

As we go to press the plans for our Christmas brunch have been made as follows: Sunday, Dec. 5th at 11 a.m. at Holiday Inn Hudson in their Blossoms Restaurant off Route 8 at the Ohio Turnpike. The address is 240 Hines Hill Rd. This Holiday Inn is adjacent to the Boston Hills Golf Course. The charges are \$14.95 plus tax and tip for adults, \$12.95 plus tax and tip for seniors and \$7.95 plus tax and tip for children under 12. Your check will be presented at the customary time of service. Reservations are a must so please call Marge at (330) 467-0696. This is a very central location and should accommodate both east and west guests. Please join in the spirit of the holiday and bring your family members, too. Just remember that we must have reservations.

Get well wishes to any ailing members or those home-bound or in nursing homes. Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

See you at the Christmas brunch on Dec. 5th.

Zbogom!

LIL SADOWSKI

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## Celebrating with Victoria Sporis

Starting with Theodore Roosevelt in 1901, there have been 18 (yes, eighteen!) presidents of the USA since Victoria Sporis was born. The oldest member of Branch #43, Milwaukee, WI, Victoria was born on December 18, 1901.

She was interviewed recently and shared some memories of her life. Born of a German father and Polish mother, Victoria had 5 sisters and a brother. Her father worked for The Milwaukee Road, fixing the engines if they broke. Victoria learned how to bake bread at an early age and states that the family always had freshly baked bread to eat. Her first job was in a movie house – not much money, but she saw all the movies for free. She married in 1923 and had one child, Delores (Talaska), also a member of Branch #43. Victoria has 4 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren.

Her father-in-law taught her how to drive. It was a "big, big Buick" with a stick shift. Victoria's husband was an engineer on the car ferries that crossed Lake Michigan, so she had a lot of time on her own. One of her jobs was working for the Robert A. Johnston Cookie Company. She was paid two dollars a week – two silver dollars. Sadly, Victoria's husband died at an early age (45) and she never remarried. Victoria worked until she was 80 years of age!

A neighbor was Rose Kraemer (Rose was Branch #43 president from 1950–1953 and secretary from 1954–1992). Rose got Victoria interested in the Slovenian Women's Union and Victoria recalls how they had bowling clubs, card parties, went visiting other branches and, during World War II, the ladies rolled bandages for the Red Cross. Victoria was president of Branch #43 from 1976–1979. The meetings were held in her home. Many of the ladies she "ran around with" are still active members of Branch #43. Victoria reads each issue of the ZARJA from cover to cover. She fell recently and broke her hip, but is recovering quite nicely at the South Shore Manor, 1915 East Tripoli Ave., St. Francis, WI, 53235.



**Members of Br. 43 celebrated two birthdays last month, 75 for ZARJA and 102 for member, Victoria Sporis! In the forefront, from left, Elizabeth Gallun, Mrs. Sporis, Anne Konczal, Betty Ann Kolesari (with the button box) and Angie Johnstone join other residents at South Shore Manor where the party was held.**

Victoria had expressed a wish to attend a meeting of Branch #43 again, but inasmuch as she could not make it to our regular meeting place, the Branch came to her. We held our ZARJA 75th anniversary celebration and regular business meeting at South Shore Manor! Twenty-four members were able to attend. Betty Ann Kolesari brought her button box and we sang Happy Birthday to ZARJA in English and Slovenian. Victoria later said she greatly enjoyed seeing all the "girls" again. When the ladies wanted to know the secret to her beautiful, smooth complexion, Victoria stated she owed it all to Fels Naptha soap and water!

She thanks all who thought enough of her to make her wish come true.

Oh, those eighteen presidents: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, Warren Gamaliel Harding, John Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Clark Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight David Eisenhower, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Richard Milhous Nixon, Gerald Rudolph Ford, James Earl Carter, Jr., Ronald Wilson Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, William Jefferson Clinton and George Walker Bush.

*Thanks, Yvonne Johnson Khaldy for submitting this interesting story about Victoria and the presidential trivia, too!*

*Editor*

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**NO. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI**  
*Founding Date: JUNE 4, 1930*  
**Meetings: 4th Wed., noon**  
**St. Mary Help of Christian**  
**Contact: Yvonne Johnstone Khaldy**  
**YJK1013@AOL.COM**  
**(414) 744-3837**

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Year 2004 is disappearing rapidly! Before you know it, it will be Christmas. Prior to our last meeting at South Shore Manor, we went for a brunch at I.Q. Buffet. Twenty-four of our members attended, and they all seemed to

enjoy the Chinese food. When we arrived at South Shore Manor Vickie was waiting for us. She was very happy to see some of her old friends. She was given a corsage and a bouquet of baby's breath and red carnations. I haven't seen her for a long time, but she has changed very little. Some of the members took pictures.

Meeting was opened with a prayer, minutes were read, and the financial report was given. Bob Bartlett had a knee replaced and Ray Delopst had his left shoulder replaced. They are both doing very well. Yvonne Khaldi said

that our wonderful cookbook isn't included on the shelves of our libraries, so she suggested that members purchase these books and donate them. Mici Bregant was selected to be on our Election Committee. She was also selected to be our delegate for the Convention in Sheboygan in September. Three of our members, Yvonne Khaldi, Josephine Janezic, and Kathy Smith, offered to take care of the transportation.

### State Day

Before we went to church for Mass at SS Cyril & Methodius Church we were treated to a Continental Breakfast. The church is very old but very beautiful. The choir sang one of our favorite songs, Češčena si, Marija.

The meeting was conducted by Josephine Janezic, our President, and the Minutes of the previous convention were read by Betty Ann Kolesari, Nat'l. Vice President. She and Denise Bartlett, National Auditor congratulated Br. #1 for the wonderful convention, and both spoke about keeping up with our Heritage, and to do our best for SWUA. We were entertained by Frank Horzen on his accordion and after the brunch we were entertained by Katie and Jim Gorton. Katie is the granddaughter of Marie Priland, our Founder. The first song that she sang was composed in honor of her grandmother. She called it MARIE. The melody was beautiful and the words were very touching. Katie and Jim sang other songs, in Slovenian and English accompanied by their guitars.

ANNE E. KONCZAL,  
Reporter

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### NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH

*Founding Date: JUNE 17, 1931*

**Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month  
Maple Heights Library, 1 p.m.**

**Contact: Elsie Spellacy**

**(440) 232-8733**

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Our September meeting was held at President Olga Dorchak's House. We had a picnic lunch and 20 members and guests were present.

A Slovenian flag was donated to the Heritage Museum by Mary Kociancic. Guest Terry Anzo, Branch #42, donated a cookbook for our Slovenian

Festival. Guest Florence Mirtel, Branch #101 donated a Wine Basket for our Chinese Auction at the Festival.

Our Branch donated a Cookbook to the Maple Hts., Library. We will also be donating one to the Bedford Library.

We had a great turnout for the First Slovenian Heritage Festival. Everyone had a very good time.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 14th at 1 p.m. at Maple Hts. Library.

Our Christmas Party will be Dec. 4th at 1 p.m. at the Valleyview Center.

Birthday wishes go out to all our November and December members.

Happy holidays to all.

KATHERINE WALLACE

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### NO. 54, WARREN, OH

*Founding Date: AUGUST 22, 1932*

**Meetings: 3rd Wed. Feb. thru May,  
Sep., Nov., Dec.**

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Our group celebrated ZARJA's 75th anniversary by having a Slovenian luncheon at my home. We had Slovenian sausages, sauerkraut, potato salad, stuffed cabbage, green beans, apple strudel, potica, cake and coffee. Wasn't that a good Slovenia menu?

I had the table decorated with my Slovenian dolls, vases, etc. and a large wooden, handmade rosary from my cousin in Ribnica. We spent the afternoon reminiscing about our mom's cooking and our home-life. A wonderful time was had by all.

Back from Michigan is our charter member, Vic Zuga who celebrated her 90th birthday at the end of October. She sold her condo and moved into a senior citizens' residence. God love you, Vic! You are so special and we wish you God's blessings and good health.

We are planning our Christmas luncheon for Wednesday, December 15th at 1 o'clock at Café 422. I will be calling you for reservations.

Our daughter and family have been affected by the devastating hurricanes in South Carolina and we are going there to help them. It is so nice for us to see Pat and Mark who are perfect hosts.

We have a new bundle of joy to report. Tyler Edward Ponikvar was born on Sept. 1st - parents are Paul and Carla. We now have 5 boys and 2 girls

and we love them so much.

No meeting in January - happy Thanksgiving to all and pray for world peace.

JOANNE PONIKVAR

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### NO. 55, GIRARD, OH

*Founding Date: JUNE 8, 1933*

**Meetings: 3rd Wed. Feb. thru May,  
Sept., Nov., Dec.**

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Greetings from Branch 55!!! Autumn is such a great season to go and enjoy being outdoors with activities like apple picking, football games, and hayrides. I hope everyone took time out to stop and look around at nature's autumn wonders.

Speaking of fall, President Maria Selak and other members of St. Rose Church in Girard were busy making apple strudel for the St. Rose Applefest that was held on Oct. 16. Over 400 strudels were made using the recipe from the Slovenian Women's Union cookbook. That's a lot of apples! The strudel was delicious and enjoyed by all who had a chance to buy a slice during the festival.

In other news, the annual Christmas Party will be held December 1 at 6 p.m. at Little Pepino's Restaurant in Girard. Please remember to bring non-perishable items to be donated to the Emmanuel Community Care Center. Don't forget to mark this on your calendars!

That's all the news for now from Girard! God bless!

MONICA SELAK,  
Reporter

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### NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL

*Founding Date: MAY 9, 1938*

**Meetings: Second Mondays  
Dickinson House**

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Hello to all!

On Monday, September 13, we gathered together for our annual potluck picnic for 2004/2005. It just seemed fitting that we meet at our Lehigh Park shelter, donated in 1977 to Oglesby by SNPJ and SWU.

Needless to say, the polkas were playing, the food especially delicious, and the fellowship wonderful. Our President, Nancy Henkel, welcomed all of us and our guests from LaSalle,

## Branch #89 Celebrated Zarja's 75th Birthday



On September 13th, Branch #89 celebrated ZARJA's 75th birthday at their annual fall picnic with members of La Salle and Joliet as their guests in Lehigh Park, Oglesby, Illinois. SWUA National President, Kathy Dorchak-Hall and Heritage Director, Mary Lou Voelk were also in attendance for the evening of fun.



T. Kamnikar and T. Langraf



Members and guests from Branches #20 and #24 enjoy picnic

Birthday cake, Slovenian music, door prizes and raffles were enjoyed by 45 happy ladies and 3 junior members. It was a lovely evening to remember our ZARJA.



Five SWUA National Officers attend #89's celebration



Br. 24 LaSalle had another birthday party at their meeting and Delores Spelich went "all out" to make it a special occasion – even dressing up in her Slovenian costume, bringing Slovenian artwork and baking the cake!



E. Supan and J. Argubright celebrate

**Br. 89:**

Branch 24; ladies from Joliet, Branch 20; our Heritage Director, Mary Lou Voelk from Wisconsin, Branch 23; and our National President, Kathleen Dorchak from Ohio, Branch 47. Nancy also welcomed two new members to Branch 89, Doris Ambrose and Margie Walter. Congratulations, ladies! Thanks for joining us, we're looking forward to being with you!

We celebrated ZARJA's 75th birthday with a birthday cake and we wished Branch 89's junior member, Natalie Landgraf a happy 5th birthday. A great big thank you to all who contributed to the beautiful 75th edition of our ZARJA magazine!

When our National President, Kathleen Dorchak was introduced to Josephine Schmidt, a member of Branch 89 Kathleen was surprised to hear that Josephine's mother, Josephine Livek, was also a National President of Slovenian Women's Union, from 1952-1961.

Winners of the drawings were as follows:

50/50 winner - Ann Batty (Br. 89); Potica Raffle - Bonnie Prokup (Br. 24); Apple Strudel - Jonita Ruth (Br. 20); Potica Door Prize - Doris Ambrose (Br. 89). Congratulations, ladies! Thanks to all who bought tickets and patronized our mini-bake sale.

I'd like to mention what a joy it was for Branch 89 to have all these "special" guests with us. To our dear neighbors from LaSalle, thank you so much for being with us. To our ladies from Joliet, who traveled over an hour to be with us, we truly enjoyed your fellowship. And to our ladies, Mary Lou Voelk and Kathleen Dorchak, your presence was an honor.

Until we meet again, peace to all.

Alice Ebner

**NO. 95, SO. CHICAGO, IL**

*Founding Date: MARCH 1, 1939*

**Meetings: 2nd Wed. Apr.-May-June  
Sep.-Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 12:30 p.m.  
Sacred Heart Church Hall**

What a beautiful magazine, the last issue of ZARJA! Congratulations on the 75th anniversary. Corinne, you have done wonderful job. Everyone has enjoyed it over the years. Thank you from all the members of Br. 95! (xo.c.)

We had a nice meeting in September and I brought a birthday cake for ZARJA. Several of the ladies brought goodies, so we enjoyed a nice party.

I have already left for Florida for the winter. Be back in May, 2005. Meanwhile, remember to say a prayer for our sick and home-bound members and happy birthday to those celebrating during the winter months. Wishes to all for a blessed Thanksgiving and happy Christmas and New Year holidays.

Dolores Hennelly

**NO. 99, LEMONT, IL**

*Original Founding Date: JUNE 13, 1940*

**Meeting: Fifth Sundays of the month  
Slovenian Cultural Center  
Contact: C. Leskovar (773) 275-1115**

Hi, members! Wishes to you all for a Happy Thanksgiving and of course, the happy Christmas holiday to come!

By the time you read this our first annual Halloween Bunco Party will be over! We hope you were there. This was quite a venture for us - the first time. We thank you all for your help, prizes and attendance!

For Christmas we have plans to have a Slovenian cookie sale - and this event is still in the planning stage. You'll be hearing about it as we finalize plans.

Our main activity now is to get some more new members. We are inaugurating a "Family Membership" plan - so, please consider enrolling your family members. Everyone is welcome. It's the easiest way in the world! Just sign up your children, sisters, brothers, grandmothers, mothers, aunts! All of them!

Our first NEW full family members are the Vidmars! John and Dawn and their three grown children are new members, as is mother-in-law, Jean Cherway. Wow! What a great group. Just think of them and do the same. Ask Joan, Mihela or any other member for an application form.

Hope to see you soon! And, have wonderful holidays! P.S. Our Marija Pomagaj church in Lemont is having a fund-raising dinner on November 21st at the Slovenian Cultural Center. Please support this cause.

Corinne Leskovar  
(Corleskovar@aol.com)

**NO. 100, FONTANA, CA**

*Founding Date: MARCH 7, 1957*

*Ottawa, CA - June 26, 1940*

Summer is over, but in California we will be enjoying some continued warm weather through the next few months. It has been a busy summer here for many of our members. Rosemary Mlakar had two trips to Minnesota during the summer. Ken and Teresa Koci and family took a one-month trip through the northern states, culminating in Minnesota for a special gathering there. The Lundgrens went to Hawaii. Frank and Mary Lou Vidergar are always on the go...especially enjoying their young granddaughter, Anna in Virginia and the newest one, Mia in Half Moon Bay, CA. Congratulations to Lisa and Keith Lucas on the adoption of Mia earlier this year. She is an absolute doll! Tillie Skebe traveled to Florida with her niece, and then to Cleveland with her son's family.

During the summer, some of our members were able to meet and spend time with Dr. Nada Sabec from the University of Maribor who visited us after her research project was completed at Georgetown Univ. in Washington, D.C. She met with the Branch in D.C. while there. (Some of us also had fun with the FLIP Acrobatic Club from Piran during their time in Southern California in July and August. This group of 39 kids and coaches perform wonderful acrobatic dances to music. They have won awards all over Europe and during this trip appeared at Sea World in San Diego. While here they had the opportunity to visit Disneyland and other amusement parks, see Hollywood and Los Angeles, Santa Monica and meet with a large group of Slovenians for a beach party here in Orange County. They are really a great group, and some of us have met with them several times over the past eight years. Of course, each time there is a new bunch of kids, but the coaches and directors have become our very good friends through the years.

We are happy to report that Anne Kapel is doing well after a bout with West Nile virus. Daughter, Mary Lou Jensen, traveled back and forth from Hawaii several times to help with her



care, along with Anne's local family, Bob and Linda.

Congratulations to our SWU Scholarship winner, Natalie Mlakar. Natalie is attending St. Mary's College near San Francisco and is enjoying her classes and her environment very much. We wish you all the best, Natalie!

We all enjoyed our Member of the Year luncheon in honor of Pauline Buzan in May. Pauline talked about her life experience and entertained us with her stories of days gone by. It was an enjoyable day for everyone in attendance. We were able to welcome four new members that day as well. They are Paula Morales, Connie Swiderski, Marge Ostrowski and Dolores Glivar. It is wonderful to have you all as members of our branch!

We are looking forward to another happy holiday luncheon in December. Unfortunately we do not have a date yet, but it is usually one of the first two weekends in December. We will try to notify you of the time and place. If you are interested in attending and do not get a call, please call Rosemary Mlakar at (949) 654-8229 or Jean Koci at (949) 495-0097 or in Fontana, Anne Kapel, (909) 822-0287.

Na svidenje!

JEAN KOCI

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### **NO. 102, WILLARD, WI**

*Founding Date: MAY 11, 1941*

**Meetings: When convenient  
Parish Center (715) 267-6764**

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Our meeting was held Sept. 12th with 11 members and 7 guests. Our next meeting is Dec. 4th.

We also celebrated the 75th birthday party for ZARJA! A beautiful cake was made by Sue Pakiz. As decorations, Frank and Rose Pakiz brought artifacts and souvenirs from Slovenia collected from their many trips there. Pat Zifil brought a Slovenian flag and Ed Bayuk read an article explaining the features of the flag. A potluck lunch was served. Mary Staut read the Slovenian birthday wishes followed by a sing-a-long.

Rose and Frank Pakiz planned to attend the Wisconsin State Convention in Sheboygan.

This past year we lost two members; Agnes Lesar and Ann Perme passed away.

We miss Sarah Fleishman and Angie

Levesque. To Angie and Katie Plautz our best wishes for recovery.

Our new member is Candy Kaltinger Johnson of Eau Claire. Sophie Trunkel and Frieda Klancher, two of our very active members, moved to the Angelus Home in Neillsville. They are doing well. In the last issue I mistakenly reported that Jean and Frank Govek moved out west – but, they moved to South Bend, Indiana, Sorry!

The church bazaar went very well and we were praised for our breaded chicken and potica – it brought in many people.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Judy DiPasquale's husband, Ray. Judy lives in Pennshield, NY and is a very active member. Our deepest sympathy.

AGNES DEBEVEC

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### **NO. 103, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Original Founding Date: May 22, 1941  
in Colerain, MN*

*Rededication: November 14, 1965*

**Meeting: 1st Sun. except July & Aug.  
St. Columba's Ch. Albemarle St.**

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Greetings from Branch 103.

Our first meeting this year was held in September. We spent much of the time planning for our annual Social Evening in October. We also discussed the sending of packages to our military in Iraq and making a donation to Father Alojz Snoj endeavors to start a Catholic preschool in Slovenia. Everyone was looking forward to a pleasant evening of good food, good music and stimulating conversation. It is always fun to meet with old and new friends to celebrate our Slovenian heritage.

We would like to continue highlighting news or interesting facts about members of Br. 103.

Molly Jerich Thomas (Treasurer) has been singing in the Catholic choir at Fort Myer Memorial Chapel for over 20 years. On May 23, the Choir, which is also the Archdiocesan Choir, sang at the tenth annual Memorial Day Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. The Mass was televised over Global Catholic Network (EWTN) and also via satellite overseas on Memorial Day. Molly has also been participating in Fort Myer Memorial Chapel's ecumenical program to prepare and serve breakfast to the needy

in D.C. as part of the S.O.M.E. program (So Others May Eat).

Ana Skopec has written a book, "My Life in Three Countries," which will be published soon. (Please watch for the book review in ZARJA). Ana's daughter, Marlene, also a member of Branch 103, has made Ana a very happy and busy grandmother.

Ica Zebot unfortunately had a bad fall while vacationing in Florida and is recuperating slowly.

Mary Lou Terselic's son, Major Robert J. Terselic, has returned from a second 6 month tour in Iraq. He tells us that our military welcome packages from home including written messages are very appreciated. (Mary Lou is President of Branch 103).

Matilda Ausich was visited by family from various parts of the States. She also visited the Constitution Center in Philadelphia, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. and the World War II Memorial when it was opened. This visit led to memories of her brothers and of some difficult and trying times in the history of the United States. One was a Naval Officer assigned to the USS California Battleship which suffered a direct hit from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and who, after assisting personnel into lifeboats, was left with his aide to swim ashore. The other brother, a Glider Pilot Flight Officer, was stationed in the European Theatre.

Frances Motta was working on her plans to go on a cruise to Alaska when we heard from her. Before that she spent some time in Ocean City and enjoyed a visit from her brother, Jerry from Chisholm. This meeting also rekindled some memories since Jerry was stationed at Fort Meade in 1944 before being sent to Europe.

Virginia Roland, with her husband, spent their time in Cape May, New Jersey, where they bicycled and enjoyed the ocean view and their trip back via Lewes Ferry.

Several of our members have moved and we miss seeing them at our meetings and helping out at our events. Mara Chokal is now in Arizona with her son and daughter-in-law. Cindy Kukenberger moved to upstate New York but hopes to visit us in October.

We are saddened to hear that Matilda Ausich, Recording Secretary since the beginning of the branch, has decided

Matilda "Tillie" Ausich was appointed Recording Secretary in 1965, when Branch #103 was first organized and she has held that position for the past 39 years. Since Tillie was a charter member of the branch, it seems fitting and proper that I acknowledge her many years of dedicated service to the branch since I was its founder and first president.

It has always appeared to me that Tillie was the epitome of a Recording Secretary. Her training and work as a Secretary for the U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon made her a "natural" for the position with our branch and she has fulfilled that expectation through these many years. I personally, am very grateful for her many years of continuous service.

Tillie attended all branch meetings, driving 45 minutes each way from her home in Arlington, VA to St. Columba's, in northwest Washington, D.C. There were only a few meetings missed because of health. The minutes she kept reflected her outstanding secretarial skills and were accurate, grammatically correct, perfectly typed, and presented at each meeting for review.

For over 20 years, Tillie was also Branch #103 Reporter for ZARJA writing about the branch activities and meetings until she was relieved of that position in 2002.

Branch #103 had many activities: Folk Festivals, picnics, Mother's Day

## Recording Secretary of Br. #103 Retires



celebrations; special concerts, religious events, dinner dances where she assisted during the day in setting up tables, arranging deserts, assisting in the kitchen and serving at the buffet table. Whenever requested she also prepared delicious pastries for special events or refreshments for the monthly meetings.

Ms. Ausich also attended SWU National Conventions: 1965 in Wash.; 1983 in Chisholm, MN; 1995 in San Francisco and the Regional Convention in 1990 held in Chevy Chase, MD.

Tillie could always be counted on for assistance with a heritage project whether it be typing, collecting information or wrapping heritage gifts. In addition she assembled the Heritage and Immigrant articles from ZARJA into booklet form. Tillie would always

help when requested and her work was perfection.

When the Heritage Museum was formed in Joliet, she donated some antique items that were her mother's and during her visit to the Museum in 2001, her mother's suit jacket was on display, Tillie's interest in heritage led her to compile the Ausich Family History which was a huge undertaking. Since Tillie is the sole surviving member of her immediate family she felt that it was imperative that she document the history of her family for the many nieces and nephews.

This interest in her heritage also prompted her to join the SWU tour of Slovenia in September of 2001. Following the tour, she and her traveling partner, Nika Kovacic, (Branch #108) traveled to the village of Posreda, where her mother was born and where her grandmother and mother worked at the castle, Grad Posreda. This was a highlight of her tour and a life-time wish fulfilled.

In 1983, Tillie was appointed "Woman of the Year," by Branch #103, a title she truly deserved. A lady with a very quiet manner, Tillie has been a conscientious member and officer of Branch #103 and at the age of 84, we laud her outstanding contributions to the branch, thank her and wish her "Happy Retirement."

*Irene M. Odorizzi*

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to resign. We appreciate all her efforts on our behalf.

We wish you all happy and blessed holidays.

MARYLOU TERSELIC/MIMIMEJAC

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### NO. 108, OLNEY, MD

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The members of Slovenian Women's Union Branch #108 met at Mamma Lucia's Restaurant in Olney for a luncheon meeting on Sept. 12. Members enjoyed a great meal followed by an interesting and educational talk on Slovenia given by member, Helena Schweiger. Helena is from Črnomelj located in the Bela Krajina region in southern Slovenia. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate studying Economics

at The University of Maryland. Helena feels fortunate to have this opportunity to study at a major research university in an international atmosphere, where she meets researchers from the whole world. Naturally, Helena misses her family, and recently traveled home to Slovenia and brought back some Slovenian gift items, brochures, and photos to help us learn more about Slovenia today. She reviewed basic facts for us such as: population, tourism, geography, and economy then compared and contrasted our two countries. We all learned something from the talk and are better able to appreciate the importance of staying in touch with Slovenia "in the modern day." It was such a blessing to have Helena share with us and offer current facts about Slovenia

today. Thanks again to Helena for giving us her time and we wish her good luck in her studies.

Ten members of Br. 108 had a chance meeting at an Ocean Fair at the Ocean City, MD Convention Center in August. May Kokal casually asked one of the exhibitors about her accent and the lady just happened to have a Slovenian accent and be from Slovenia! A completely coincidental meeting of ten members (six children and four adults) from Br. 108 descended upon Rosalia's booth to not only learn about ocean animals, but her Slovenian heritage. She said she bakes potica, strudel and gibanica and couldn't stop smiling when she met us. Rosalia lives in Millersville, MD and we hope she joins our branch for an occasional activity.

What a fateful meeting it was for us to meet a prospective member at the beach in our home state of Maryland.

Nika Kovacic and Bernadette Fitzsimmons' family attended artist member Estelle Dawn Zorman's opening art exhibit presenting "Recent Works" on October 3 at Kentland's Market Square in Gaithersburg, MD. We welcome new Br. 108 members Laurie McGuicken, (Estelle's daughter) and Tim Weber (mother's maiden name was Zalokar) to our branch. They just happen to be of Slovenian descent and were recruited at the art exhibit reception. The best way to describe Estelle and the gift of creativity she shares with others, is by reading her Artist's Statement. Each of her original paintings includes the statement, and it is also available at her public exhibits throughout art galleries in Maryland. In a forthcoming issue we hope to do a feature on Estelle's art.

Our branch is preparing to celebrate its first anniversary on Sunday, November 14 with Slkovenian music, travel/music videos and sharing special desserts. As always, we welcome members, guests, and friends to join us at our meetings.

Vesele božične praznike in srečno novo leto!

ERIKA KOKALJ RODA  
Br. 108 Historian

## SVETEMU MIKLAVŽU

*By Erik A. Kovačič*

Prav po stari še navadi  
vsako leto prideš v vas,  
vsi te še imamo radi,  
ni pregnal te Dedek Mraz!

Pridni naši so dekličiči,  
naj dobe rožičev, fig!  
Malopridni pa fantiči,  
kar boje naj se verig!

Parkelj hudi v kotu čaka  
in z verigo že rožlja  
pa Miklavž tam prikoraka  
in prijazno se smehlja!

Nič ne bojmo se dekličiči,  
parkelj nima nič moči,  
nič ne bojte se fantiči,  
bodimo vsi brez skrbi!

Pridni bodimo vse leto  
in ubogajmo doma,  
vsak večer molimo sveto,  
pa Miklavž darov nam da!

Prav po stari še navadi  
vsako leto prideš v vas,  
vsi te še imamo radi,  
ni pregnal te Dedek Mraz!

## TO SAINT NICHOLAS

*Translated by  
Erik's daughter, Bernadette*

By an old custom each year  
you come to our village,  
we all still like you,  
banished not by Grandfather Frost!

Girls and boys so well behaved,  
receive necklaces made of figs!  
Misbehaved boys,  
fear those devil's chains!

The mean devil waits  
in a corner rattling chains,  
St. Nicholas marches by closely,  
smiling so pleasantly!

Have no fear girls,  
the devil has no strength,  
Have no fear boys,  
no need to worry!

May we be good all year long,  
listening well to our parents,  
Saying holy prayers each night,  
St. Nicholas shall bestow us with gifts!

By an old custom each year  
you come to our village,  
we all still like you,  
banished not by Grandfather Frost!

Spesnil moj stari oče – Erik Kovačič. This poem was written by my grandfather as he remembered St. Nicholas from his childhood. He wrote this poem for my mom to recite at the annual KSKJ St. Nicholas celebration when she was a little girl. My mom told me it was subsequently recited by other Slovenian/American children to help remind our Washington area Slovenian community of this Slovenian custom we hope to preserve in our St. Nicholas program and annual celebration. Last year, when I was eight years old, I recited this poem from memory in Slovenian at the St. Nicholas day celebration.

*Matthew Erik Fitzsimmons  
SWUA Br. 108, Olney, MD  
junior member  
(KSKJ Bishop Baraga  
Society Lodge 257,  
Wash., D.C. youth member*



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### A Unique Cultural Event in the Washington, D.C. Area

Musica Viva, a well-known Slovenian choir from Kranj-Primskovo, presented a series of concerts in the Washington, D.C. area on September 17, 18, and 19. The choir's tour was organized and hosted by Mosaic Harmony, a local multi-faith, interracial community choir. The friendship between the two groups began a year ago when Mosaic Harmony performed in Slovenia.

Musica Viva's repertoire included songs from the Renaissance choral literature as well as national Slovenian folk songs. Musica Viva first performed at the 5:15 p.m. Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 17 during the Preparation of Gifts, Communion and a 15-minute postlude.

On Saturday, September 18, at a fundraiser of Habitat for Humanity, the choir joined Mosaic Harmony in a joint concert – during the first half the latter sang a selection of African-American Gospel music and was followed by Musica Viva during the second half. The groups united their talents to sing songs in both Slovenian and English. Ambassador of Slovenia, Samuel Zbogar addressed the choirs and audience at the finish. His contribution of potica from Cleveland added to the table of treats served at the reception that followed the concert.

On Sunday, September 19, the Slovenian choir gave a full concert (also joined several times by Mosaic Harmony). A farewell party on Monday closed this event.

The concerts, both solo and joint, were greeted enthusiastically and warmly by the audiences with rousing rounds of applause and standing ovations. The theme as enunciated by the director of Mosaic Harmony and by Ambassador Zbogar was one of unity and brotherhood reaching across the ocean. The friendship begun in Slovenia has led to the strong bonds between the two groups as typified by "Make Us One," a composition sung jointly by both.

MIMI MEJAC

### Slovenia has new Archbishop

The recent selection of Bishop Alojzij Uran as the new Archbishop of Ljubljana was received with great joy by the immigrant population in the USA who know him well because of his many visits as Auxiliary Bishop and head of the archdiocesan office for Slovenians living outside Slovenia. In September this year many of us met him as he visited the U.S. to attend the Bishop Baraga Days in Baraga, Michigan and also the 10th anniversary of St. Mary "Marija Pomagaj" Mission in Lemont, Illinois.

May God bless him in his endeavors.

Editor

### BARAGA DAYS IN BARAGALAND

The Baraga Association in Lemont organized a charter bus trip for the annual Baraga Days event, this year held Sept. 25–27 in the Upper Peninsula, specifically, at Baraga, Michigan. We had a full bus of happy pilgrims. Bishop Alojzij Uran was with us as was Fr. Vendelin and his sister and niece from Slovenia. It was truly a spiritual trip with the Bishop leading the prayers and songs. We arrived in time for the Slovenian mass at St. Anne Church in Baraga. Later we enjoyed a great supper prepared by the K.C.'s and entertainment by the Singing Slovenes of Duluth, Minnesota. How nice it was! Sunday mass was held at Sacred Heart Church concelebrated by Bishop James Garland of Marquette, Bishop Uran and the Prelate of the Ukrainian Orthodox church. The K.C. again treated us to breakfast.

Then we headed in our bus to the Keweenaw Peninsula, up first to Eagle Harbor to visit the 150 year old church built by Fr. Baraga and then to the tip of the peninsula, Copper Harbor. It was so beautiful to see the northwoods in their glorious change of color and to realize that we were in the same place that Fr. Baraga trudged by foot with his Native Indians so many years ago. We were snug and warm in our bus, thinking about how cold Baraga must have been in those winters.

We left Baraga early Monday morning and went directly to the Cathedral in Marquette where Fr. Vendelin offered a special mass for us and our intentions. Many of us said prayers for the health of Irene Kalina. We prayed that Bishop Baraga will soon be canonized for he truly deserves it – since he brought faith to the Indians he loved. In 2005, Baraga Days will be held in Cleveland, a little different from the UP.

A great experience awaited us as we stopped to see Traunik (traunik in Slovenian means meadow), Michigan, a small town that is about 50 miles from Marquette. This town was once home to about 500 Slovenians who worked in the mines, the farms, and forests. After World War II when the young men went to war and saw other parts of the country, many did not return and that, along with a mine strike, affected the town. The old building they had used as a center for dances, weddings, etc., was restored and is now used by those Slovenians still living in the vicinity for social events. A man who was born there, and came back to live there in his retirement from a teaching career, Frank Bartol, met us at the Slovenian Hall and took us on a tour. We saw many wonderful, old pictures of the people who lived there almost 100 years ago. They are still upgrading the hall and when we heard this, Gen Buol suggested we take up a collection to help them out. So, this was done and given to Mr. Bartol in the name of all of us. Mr. Bartol pointed out the big boulder standing alongside the hall with a plaque that tells that the town was built by Slovenians. We all thought it would be nice to go back there sometime.

Daisy

# MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

## Recognized for her citizenship and accomplishments

The Chisholm Minnesota Tribune Press recently featured one of their most wellknown citizens on the front page, as she was given the key to the city and honored by the state. At a special testimonial event on July 30th, Mayor of Chisholm, John Champa told Veda Ponikvar that she was not to consider actually retiring from her many civic activities because "we still need you!"

We know that was music to her ears, because the Veda Ponikvar would never stop, never hold back, or never call it quits, when she saw something she could do to benefit her town, her church, or her Slovenian community. "Her accomplishments... have affected everybody's life," said State Senator David Tomassoni as he spoke on "Veda Ponikvar Day," so named by the mayor and governor. Veda, the first woman publisher of a newspaper in Minnesota, (back in 1947), the Chisholm Free Press, has spearheaded numerous city-wide projects through her fifty plus years as a civic leader, and any visitor to Chisholm can just walk from one grand monument to another, all of them honoring the people in some way or another. There is Ironworld, the Iron Man Miner's Memorial, the Range Center and the Bridge of Peace, to name a few.

*"Veda is a teacher and historian who wants people to remember their roots, values and the unique mix of immigrants that makes up the Iron Range."*

Walter Mondale

In his address before the capacity crowd honoring Veda at the Ironworld Discovery Center, U.S. Congressman James Oberstar added that she has given her heart and soul to every project that was important to the community and was still an amazing lady with boundless spirit.

We have talked about Veda at many times in ZARJA and applauded her work on behalf of her hometown and also the Slovenian Women's Union and Branch #38 of which she is a staunch member.

Congratulations, Veda; we are walking alongside your many friends!

**Corinne Leskovar**

*(Thanks to Anita Vovk of Br. 35, Aurora, MN for sending us this information)*

## Lillian delights in cooking!

"Everyone loves my chicken!" says Lillian Cepon, caterer of Joliet, Illinois who was featured in the Food section of the Joliet (Illinois) Herald News in August. She's talking about the fried chicken that the people seem to love and that she serves for crowds, such as guests at weddings, banquets and church picnics! This favorite chicken recipe originated with her mother who raised chickens at their home in Slovenia and from whom Lillian learned a lot about cooking.

Lillian's career began in Joliet about 1980 when she began to cater to church events at St. Joseph Slovenian Catholic Church. "It happened gradually," she says, "after I volunteered to help another Slovenian lady, Evelyn Lustik who was the cook for many events." Delighting in the work, Lillian progressed to having her own customer-base and now she is called upon to cook for parties on weekends, holidays and many other days in between. How she fits it all in is amazing to her husband, Frank, and family. But, Lillian says they are very understanding, and she operates from her home with a good crew of helpers, besides getting lots of gratification from the happy diners who say they enjoy her wholesome cooking!

On the photo, Lillian is shown at the stove with a panful of Slovenian "krofi," one of her specialties.

JOLIET HERALD PHOTO



**Lillian Cepon turns over the Krofi (Slovenian donuts) to get that perfect golden color.**

## They're calling it a "miraculous recovery!"

Member Grace Doerk looks the picture of good health now, but it was not so long ago that she was undergoing serious chemotherapy to check the numbness in her hands and feet. Grace found that she had peripheral neuropathy, an impairment of the circulatory system that damaged the nerves in her hands and feet. That's when she was referred to the Provena Physical Rehab and Sports Injury Center in

## A New Series: CHURCHES IN SLOVENIAN COMMUNITIES

### THE CHURCH IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN

To the first immigrants who came to America at the beginning of the nineteenth century, New York was the new world. They came with courage and determination and searched for a way to form their own community in this big city. They found many compatriots at a German church where the priest allowed Slovenian masses. In 1907 the idea for their own church took hold and in 1916, St. Cyril church was finally consecrated and the first services held on July 4th of that year.

Most of the parishioners were immigrants from the Slovenian town of Domžale, and were skilled in making straw hats. The ladies found work in New York's hat district and the men got jobs working in the fish factories at the port of New York. The population was never too large but it was tenacious. Now, altho the congregation is mixed and comes into the city from



**The Façade of St. Cyril Church**

many outlying states such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut, they still like to come to St. Cyril's because it's their religious as well as cultural and social center, especially at holiday time.

They come as if "blown in by the wind!" says the pastor for the past ten years, Franciscan Fr. Krizolog Cimerman under whose direction the church and ground floor hall were renovated in 1997. It is now a modern and brightly lighted premises, much different from the original brownstone row house architecture. Inside are beautiful statues of St. Francis and St. Anthony and the main focal point is the large front window showing Slovenian missionary, Bishop Frederic Baraga, Apostle of the Indians, completed by New York artist, Miro Zupancic in stained glass.

*Excerpted from Slovenija.svet  
Nov. 3, July 2004*

Joliet, Illinois for specialized therapy using the Anodyne Monochromatic infrared Photo Energy system.

A recent edition of the St. Joseph Hospital newsletter cites Grace's case. She was a brave patient, willing to undergo this special treatment and we, her sister members of SWUA are delighted to know how well it has helped her regain health., "My therapy was wonderful," says Grace. "I'm very thankful that I was introduced to this system of therapy because I had a miraculous recovery. I'd never be where I am today, without it," she says.

Members of Br. 20 are especially pleased to have Grace back as their secretary and wish her the very best and complete recovery.

#### **Erika Pell is a real Indiana 4H-er**

4-H is a viable activity for youngsters, especially in states like Indiana where the farmland is very conducive to animal husbandry. 9 year old Erika Pell showed her sheep at the Hancock County Fair this summer and actually took

home two prizes, first and second place! She also entered several events in the 4-H event, including scrapbooking, and gift wrapping. She is shown here with one of her prize-winning sheep.

Erika is the daughter of Rosemarie Mohr Pell and granddaughter of Mary Frances Mohr, former president of Br. 5 in Indianapolis.

We expect there will be lots more exciting things in Erika's future – two blue ribbons is just the start!



**Erika with her sheep**



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# RECIPES FROM THE FARM

Food Columnist, Jean Korsman

4222 McKinley Rd., Gilbert, MN 55741

When I was growing up in the small village of McKinley, (pop. then, 250, now 85), almost every family raised their own chickens, at least one pig and of course, vegetables. There was no refrigeration so the chickens were never packaged or stamped with a "use before" date... they just went from the "coop" to our dinner table. We had them roasted, fried, fricasseed and boiled for soup.

The pig wasn't slaughtered until November when the chops, sausage and hams could be processed and kept cold. To this day I still love both chicken and pork; so for my last column this year I picked just one of my mom's favorite meals; (mine, too). In her later years she loved to go to KFC after Sunday Mass, but she agreed this at-home-meal was more than comparable.

## CRISP CHICKEN

- 12 drumsticks (or other cut pieces)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 cup flour

Rinse pieces well and pat dry. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Beat eggs well, add spices. Roll in egg mixture (FIRST) then dredge in flour. Let stand about 15 minutes, to coat. Brown chicken in about 1 cup hot vegetable oil. Place pieces on a foil-lined buttered baking pan. Bake in pre-heated 375° oven for 40 to 50 minutes or until done.

We most often had mashed potatoes and gravy with our meal but you might have another favorite. Our home-grown cabbage, thinly sliced, mixed with vinegar and oil, and either beans, peas, carrots or rutabagas completed our feast! My mom canned whole apples in syrup or made chunky applesauce from our own "wild" apple trees. We grew up enjoying good food, well-prepared.

The following recipe is from the internet.

## BILL COSBY'S BETTER THAN KFC COLE-SLAW

- 1 small head cabbage sliced thin or chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 or more carrots, coarsely grated
- 2 cups miracle whip
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil

Cut cabbage, add green pepper, onion and carrot. Mix dressing ingredients, add to cabbage. Let stand in refrigerator about one hour to meld flavors.

## GREEN BEANS WITH MUSHROOMS

- 1 lb. fresh or frozen green beans (I prefer french-cut)
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh or drained canned mushrooms. I found wild button mushrooms on an old mine dump and picked them, under my mom's expert supervision!
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- salt and pepper to taste

Cook beans according to directions. Saute mushrooms in butter until tender. Add onion and garlic powder. Drain beans, add to butter mixture and toss. Season with salt and pepper.

Serve this with cranberries for added taste and color!



## PUMPKIN PIE IN WALNUT CRUST

### Filling:

- 1-15 oz. can pumpkin pie (I prefer FESTAL)
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup cream or evaporated milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ginger

Combine eggs, sugar, salt and spices and beat well. Blend in pumpkin. Add milk and mix well. Pour pumpkin mixture into pastry lined pie plate. Bake 10 minutes at 450°, then reduce heat to 350° and bake for 40 to 45 minutes, or until knife inserted in center come out clean. Cool to room temperature and serve or refrigerate.

### Walnut Pastry - Crust

In medium bowl combine 2 cups flour, 1/2 cup ground walnuts, (or finely chopped) 3 tablespoons sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon salt. With pastry blender cut in 2/3 cup chilled vegetable shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add 4 to 4 tablespoons ice water, gradually, and stir lightly with fork just until soft manageable pastry forms. Divide into 2 balls and roll out one ball between 2 sheets of floured wax paper. Remove top sheet of paper and invert pastry into 9 inch pie plate. Remove remaining sheet of waxed paper. Trim pastry edge even with rim of pie plate. To make braided edge, roll out remaining ball of pastry and scraps to a 10 by 4 1/2 rectangle. Cut lengthwise into twelve 3/8 inch wide strips. Braid 3 strips together. Repeat 3 times with remaining strips. With water, moisten rim of pastry in pie plate. Place braids around rim. Trim off any excess braid and pat braid ends together where they meet. (This is fancy; you can use your usual fluted edge).

*Have a wonderful Thanksgiving  
and a Blessed, Holy Christmas!  
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*Jean Korsman*

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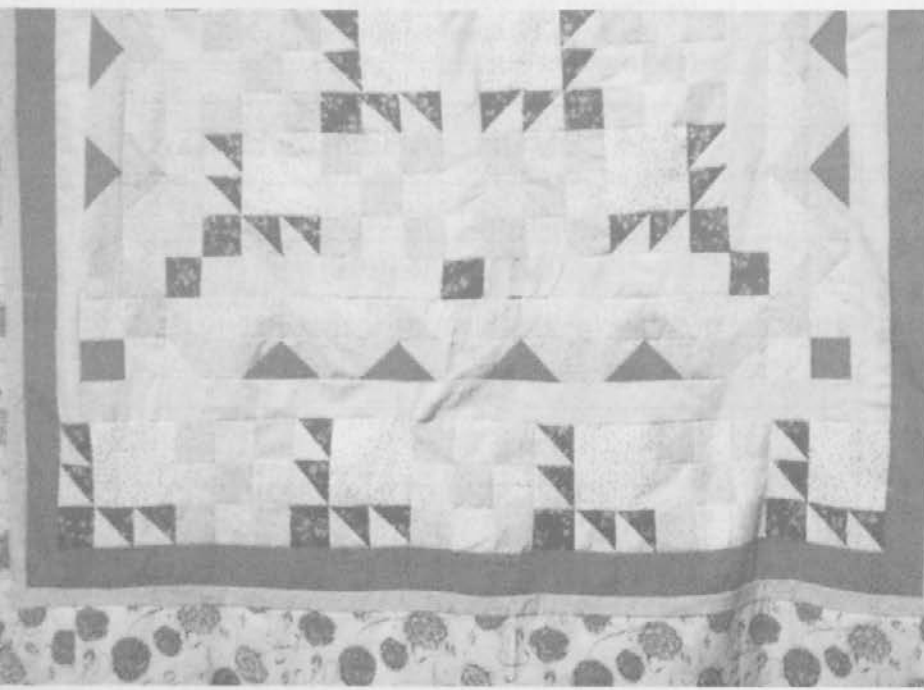
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