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Zarja

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September/October 2014



The Dawn

Celebrating
85 Years



The Dawn OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION
OF THE SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION
OF AMERICA

When I was asked to consider taking over as editor of *Zarja* the task was intimidating for a couple of reasons. The first was taking over for a SWUA legendary figure in Corinne Leskovar. Secondly, was the task of putting out a quality product without a lot of experience. My degree is in medical technology, but I always had a love for art and design. Under Corinne's guidance and patience, along with the creativity of Bonnie Pohar Prokup, *Zarja* Director of Design, our team was able to blend our talents and passion for Slovenian heritage and culture to produce a quality magazine containing interesting reading for our evolving membership.

The toughest challenge was to bring *Zarja* to a more contemporary style with keeping respect to the tradition and to those who came before us. As we went along as a team, we began to try new techniques - *Zarja* began to evolve into what it is now. With the help of a great group of writers, Branch reporters, proof readers, and advances in technology, we were able to transition *Zarja* into a modern, high quality magazine.

Though, each issue involves a lot of work and time, the end result is so satisfying and is something I hope the entire SUA is as proud to show off *Zarja* as I am. I would once again like to thank everyone who has helped make *Zarja* what it is. I am humbled by both the experience and the support *Zarja* receives both in America and Slovenia and I hope to be a part of *Zarja* and SUA for many years to come.

Debbie Pohar
Editor of *Zarja*



Zarja - The Dawn

EDITOR: **Debbie Pohar**
DIRECTOR OF DESIGN: **Bonnie Pohar Prokup**

EDITORIAL OFFICE: **1696 Illinois St.**
LaSalle, IL 61301-1359
TELEPHONE: **815.223.9596**
FAX: **815.224.1074**

WEB SITE: **slovenianunion.org**

PUBLISHER: **Slovenian Union of America**
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TELEPHONE: **815.727.1926**

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Communications for the next issue of publication

Do you have something SUA-related you would like to share with readers, like an event you want to let people know about or an idea for an article? We would love to hear from you! Please e-mail the editor at pohar4@aol.com. We reserve the right to edit any article submitted. It is preferable that you submit your idea for discussion prior to writing an article. Articles must be related to Slovenia, SUA events, or members. The deadline for articles is the 15th day of the month, 2 months preceding the issue. For example, articles for the November/December issue must be received by September 15. Thank you.

Submission Guidelines

Tell us how to reach you: Include your name, daytime phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address with each submission, including e-mailed submissions.

Go Digital: We regret that we can no longer return submitted materials. It is best to e-mail your photos. Use a 3.2-megapixel (or better) camera set for the highest picture quality, and attach your photos as jpeg files. If you have an old photo that is irreplaceable, please make a good-quality copy to share with us. (Scanned copies must be a resolution of 300 or higher.)

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

Through The Years ...

Zarja - The Dawn

The inaugural edition of *Zarja – The Dawn* came hot off the press from Chicago’s Edinot Publishing House in 1929. Now in the year 2014, without ever missing a publishing deadline, the original bimonthly magazine of the Slovenian Women’s Union of America celebrates its 85th year of faithfully arriving in the appreciative hands of its members across the United States of America. Like the loving melody and lyrics of Kenny Roger’s song, “*Through the years ... I can’t remember when you weren’t there...*”

It was in 1926, when a group of concerned Slovenian women, led by Marie Prisland, realized the importance of building a remarkable fraternal and social network of Slovenian immigrant women. As much as this steering group wished to preserve the traditional gender roles, they also believed that only a reinvented, respected Slovenian woman with authority could become a part of the history of Slovenians in the States and in the homeland. The founding members were inspired to create a “journal” type of magazine that would be interesting, informative, and serve as the vehicle in helping these women address the common frustrations they were facing in their adoptive homeland. Through the encouraging, printed words on the pages of the *Zarja – The Dawn*, the Slovenian immigrants hopefully would be empowered to become American citizens, a tireless pursuit of Marie Prisland. The moniker of the new magazine was envisioned to encompass all the unspoken dreams and hopes for a “new tomorrow” in a new land. So fittingly, the title chosen employed both the Slovenian word of “*Zarja*” and its English translation of “the dawn.” We Slovenian-Americans found ourselves quite comfortable with the magazine’s title so, “... *as long as it’s okay, we’ll stay with you... through the years.*”

The early editions of the magazine were predominately printed in the readers’ familiar and comfortable native Slovenian language. Although, in the back of each edition, there were always several pages written in English, intended to gradually introduce them to their new adopted language. Eventually, the English section received its own recognizable heading and changed to “The Dawn.” By 1956, the editors moved the English section of the journal to the front! Now there were eight pages of English and eight of Slovenian. There would be informative articles, contributed by editorial staff and SWUA members, on health, faith, family, education, cooking, and understanding American culture and experiences. In that bygone era, when many of the founding members and ancestors were freshly immigrating and adjusting to life in this country, *Zarja - The Dawn* was the teaching tool that greeted,

guided, and ushered them into the new American society. You can almost hear them singing their appreciation, “... *through the years, you’ve never let me down... you turned my life around, the sweetest days I’ve found, I’ve found with you...*”

Much has changed in the 85 years since the first *Zarja - The Dawn* magazine was delivered, but one thing remains constant – its readers thirst for continued learning. What was once the desire for learning of the American ways, has since seen a gentle nudge into the 21st century. Today’s members want to hold onto ancestral roots and to learn more of our ethnic heritage and traditions. The name of the parent organization has also evolved from SWUA to now the more encompassing Slovenian Union of America (SUA) to reflect its impact on all Slovenian family members, not just women. SUA now actively embraces male and youth members so families can participate, learn, and grow together in their Slovenian heritage, as well as keep in touch across America. So now, they too can express... “*I can’t remember what I used to do... who I trusted, who I listened to before... I swear, you’ve taught me everything I know... Can’t imagine needing someone so...*” But through the years, we know we’ll need you more and more.

Today our younger generation has become a cross-cultural blend of heritages. Sadly, most of the Slovenian neighborhoods and gathering centers, such as social halls and ethnic-pure churches, are disappearing. Eroding along with them is the awareness and appreciation of their ancestors’ music, dances, foods, and traditions. Once again, *Zarja – The Dawn* continues to accept the challenge to follow the original 1928 vision, mission, and purpose as today’s relevant and official publication for the Slovenian Union of America. She still remains the informational tool; the communication agent that serves to preserve our legacy, promote our culture, honor our traditions, educate through research, and offer scholarship opportunities for our male and female youth.

Zarja – The Dawn may be a seasoned 85 years old in this year of 2014, but she still looks fresh and relevant! She endures as one of the oldest ethnic magazines in the United States, but she still has much left to accomplish. Her continued publication and popularity is truly a milestone in history, and again like the lyrics of the song, we’ve never needed you more and more...so we’re glad you’ve stayed, right here, with us ...“*through all these years.*”

David G. Sodac
Zarja Staff Writer

Zarja – The Dawn

1929 - 2014

Reflecting on Some Old History

Corinne Leskovar (Editor: 1952 – 2006)

How does one reflect on half a century of doing the same thing – working at the same job – having friends who form a circle that just gets larger – holding on to a “Mission” that’s bigger than yourself?

To be able to do this, you would have to be the daughter of a mother like mine. She was a wonder, all by herself. She wrapped herself around her Slovenian family, her church, and neighborhood. She lived surrounded by Slovenians, and in that atmosphere I was brought up, sharing everything she loved.

When I was little the world was a different place; an immigrant world, filled with hard-working, natural, happy, and plain people who made sacrifices to bring meaning to their lives in this new country, their new homeland - America. They were courageous and sensible and they saw the value in community.

All across America, as in Cleveland, Ohio, they found new jobs in towns where they could start families. They were seeking friendship, too, and it was not long before a fresh, young woman found a way to bring all of this together. She did it by writing letters to Slovenian women who lived all around the country. When they began responding she wrote articles in Slovenian newspapers inviting women to keep in touch. This woman, Marie Prisland, soon found an amazing response from the ladies, who, missing their homeland, wanted to be organized in some way. They wanted to become Americanized and help their families to do the same. She invited them to join her new organization, the *Slovenska Ženska Zveza v Ameriki!* The assessment, which included a small, burial insurance policy and the monthly publication, *Zarja – The Dawn*, cost only about 25 cents a month, which a homemaker could afford (or “pilfer” from their household pennies). Many of the secretaries even came to the members’ houses to collect it! One of them was Mary Otonicar, Secretary of Branch 25, who did this religiously – she also enrolled more than 1,500 new members in her lifetime, winning every membership campaign. Another one who answered the call was my mother, Albina Novak.



Corinne Leskovar (Editor: 1952 – 2006)

The old members called me “Korinca.”

That’s what I was called as a little tot when I went with my mother to meetings of the newly formed, *Ženska Zveza*. The ladies were organizing, from Chicago to as far away as San Francisco! Something new for them. They met in various members’ homes, churches, and social halls. But Cleveland was my home and had a multitude of prospects for new members, so my mother was busy organizing and took me with her everywhere. I will never forget how she would dress me up and bring me along, put me in a chair in the back of the hall, and then she’d go up to the front to start her meeting. Most of the time it took so long, with all the ladies talking at once! It was like a lullaby, and I’d fall asleep, cuddled up there where I sat, hearing the hum-m-m of their voices, all talking Slovenian! Whatever they said, I didn’t much understand – but they made me feel like I belonged to all of them. After I grew up and we moved away to Chicago, I occasionally met some of those ladies on visits to Cleveland. They’d still greet me with “naša Korinca” (pronounced Korin-tsa). Many years later, I realized that there was no one left anymore to call me that - the ladies had all passed on while I was living in Chicago.

My life as a child always centered around **Zarja and Ženska Zveza**. My mother was editor for 19 years, beginning in 1933, and in the first years worked from home. This was mostly voluntary work; to be paid a fair salary in those years was a hardship for any organization. But it didn't matter. This was her mission. Many days I would come home from school and find the dining room table covered by "galley" sheets of names with addresses for the *Zarja* mailing list. I spent hours helping my mother correct the wrong addresses. It was backbreaking and tedious work. Actually, the tedium never ended until modern technology took over.

An early printery for *Zarja* was the American Home Publishing Co. in Cleveland, located on St. Clair Ave. During this time, I was in high school. My mother had a small editor's office on the second floor in this building, where they printed many of the Slovenian language newspapers, programs, and tickets, etc., for the Slovenian community. *Zarja* was completely printed, folded, trimmed, and delivered once a month from that location by school boys with wagons, who went from house to house. You see, most of the ladies living there were members, maybe a thousand of them! Some of these boys later grew up to be important people - politically in city government, in business, and as professionals! But, as kids they had a good, steady job delivering *Zarja* by wagon! The copies had no specific address labels, as did those mailed through the post office. This area was also the location of the Ohio Gas Company fire in the 1940s that leveled hundreds of homes and killed many people in the disaster, which I will never forget because it happened near the American Home building and *Zarja* office. Luckily, my mother was not there that day, but much of our *Zarja* material stored there was destroyed.

In the year 1952, when the National Convention of SWUA was in Detroit, Michigan, my mother was elected National President. The question of a new editor replacing her was natural. Knowing many delegates and officers, from my years as mother's companion and helper, I was elected editor. We moved to Chicago where I married a wonderful Slovenian and was blessed with two exceptional children.

I can't say that I have been editor all my life. But more than half of it.

I learned many things during this span of years in office. One is a habit of hardly ever throwing anything away that's written or pictured on paper, always thinking I'll need to print it sometime! I have seen almost every Slovenian community in the USA and met its people. Yes, many have gone to their heavenly rewards, but when I hear an old familiar name, a place and a face

pops out of my memory-bank! From time to time I reflect with loving thoughts about certain people I worked with for many years; the women who became brilliant authors in their own right, and numerous members who submitted their work for publication. For *Zarja*, they were volunteers, doing this for love of the organization!

And, old letters. I sometimes bump into an old file with a letter from some member who extended compliments (not to forget a few friendly scoldings for some oversight, not intended, of course). I still have hand-written or typed letters from Mrs. Priland, and some from husbands and families of non-members who said they liked to read the *Zarja* (this was before membership was opened to them).

Zarja was originally published and printed *only* in the Slovenian language, as all the Branches were Slovenian-speaking. My mother organized the first English-speaking Branch in 1930 - Branch 50 in Cleveland, Ohio - so naturally an English section in *Zarja* began and grew larger



Albina Novak (Editor: 1933 - 1952)
It was once said of her - "She was woven into the fabric of the Slovenian Women's Union!"

August 1954
Number 8 • Volume 26



HOME OFFICE STAFF
Albina and Corinne
Novak, Supreme Sec-
retary and Editor, re-
spectively.



ZARJA *The* DAWN

URADNO GLASILO
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKE ZVEZE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION

through the years. In the 70s, it was already as popular as the Slovenian section. Recently, as we know, *Zarja* has become prominently English. This has become the fate of many foreign language publications, I fear.

It is eight years since *Zarja* changed hands, and it is still very informative and interesting to all readers. I commend Editor, Debbie Pohar, and Director of Design, Bonnie Prokup, for their remarkable insight and skillful, artistic work, and to all the writers and members who help them coordinate it. I am confident that the members appreciate their work.

The past is the predecessor of the future.

In the new *Zarja*, more voices are being heard and members' ideas are being expressed; it's an exciting future to behold.

But, what of the past? The past is as an 85-year-old picture – *Zarja* has become the predecessor, fulfilling the questions of the new generations of members born far from their parents' and grandparents' homeland. They have *Zarja* and they have our SUA Mission that will become their Mission. We have a precious archive that significantly tells who we are, how we began as inspired women, what was important to us, and how we have grown.

The Slovenian Union of America, through *Zarja - The Dawn*, wishes to share this amazingly rich and valuable "Written Word" that has been preserved with love and care.

Our pride in a job well done is well earned!

Footnotes:

Marie Prisland (1890-1979) – Founder, Slovenian Women's Union of America; National President (1926-1946)

Albina Novak (1900-1971) - Editor, Zarja-The Dawn, (1933-1952); National President (1943-1952); National Secretary (1960-1970)

For a historical time-line, first 75 Years of SWUA (SUA), and *Zarja-The Dawn*, see Anniversary Issue, September - October 2004

A special salute needs to be given to the devoted Editors of Zarja, as they have maintained the purpose, integrity, and relevance of its content "through the years." As a result of their determination and dedication, we all sense a connection to one another! Na zdravje!

JULIA GOTTLIEB

1929-1930

JOSEPHINE RACIC

1930-1933

ALBINA NOVAK

1933-1952

CORINNE LESKOVAR

1952-2006

DEBBIE POHAR

2006-Current

VISION: *Dedicated to honor and preserve our Slovenian legacy to promote its ideals and to ensure its longevity for future generations.*

MISSION: *To be recognized with high esteem, as the leading Slovenian heritage and cultural association responsible for promoting interest and awakening passion in those Americans of Slovenian ancestry and serving their diverse interests.*

PURPOSE: *To commit ourselves to keeping the spirit alive by fostering in our membership an understanding and appreciation of our Slovenian heritage and by reaching out to awaken or instill this passion in others through communication, education, and the provision of resources.*

President's Message

Greetings:

September 13 will mark the 35th anniversary of the death of our founder, Marie Prisland. Just imagine your life without SUA! Now imagine being an immigrant woman starting a women's organization in 1926, before the women had the right to vote. Through Ms. Prisland's vision, SUA (formerly Slovenian Ladies' Union and Slovenian Women's Union) was founded, and three years later our beloved magazine, *Zarja - The Dawn* was first published. This magazine was able to fulfill her dream by reaching many Slovenian-Americans across the United States. All of the Slovenian traditions - food, music, language, crafts, stories, etc. - are shared through this 85-year-old publication. How many other ethnic organizations can boast 85 years of a magazine that keeps the Slovenian spirit alive?

A special thank you to past editor, Corinne Leskovar, and current editor, Debbie Pohar, for having the same vision. Through the years you have never let us down. Through your leadership we have been able to continue the dream of our founder, Marie Prisland.

The Membership Campaign, "Show the Love for SUA," is in full gear. Every adult member should have received a letter from me with a special request. Please help SUA by recruiting one or more members. We need this to keep our dream alive. Each year takes us further and further away from that immigrant woman we all had/have in our family. Can you imagine all the things your children/grandchildren would not learn if the SUA were no longer here? Building our membership is very important and we need your help. Remember there are incentives for you. For every new member, whether it's an adult or junior member, your name will go into a drawing for a chance to win \$150 or \$100 in cash. The SUA member who recruits the most new members will receive \$100. Who wants to participate? We hope YOU do! Simply fill out the application inside this issue of *Zarja* or download a copy from our website at www.slovenianunion.org. Write your name on the bottom of the application for your chance to win. The more members you recruit, the more chances you have to win. Let's do this together! If every adult member would recruit one new member - just imagine the possibilities. We can do this!

A Membership Survey is going out to every adult member. Your response is quite important to SUA. Be sure to take

a few minutes to respond to this. It is a great opportunity for us to get to know our members. Thank you to Tanya Vajk and her team from Branch 93 - New York City, NY, for making this possible.

The 2014 Member Representative Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, at 10:00 a.m., Central Time. All Member Representatives have been notified.

SUA's 2015 National Convention is just months away. With that comes the opportunity for an entire new National Board of Directors. Now is the time to ask yourself, "Would I like to become a National Officer?" We have seven positions available. It's a very rewarding opportunity to do your part in keeping our "Slovenian Heritage Alive." Having been on the board for almost 16 years, I can say it has been not only rewarding, but also a major influence for my entire family in furthering our Slovenian pride, traditions, and heritage. I've seen many positive changes during this time and have been proud to be a part of it. We have worked very hard these past years building a new SUA. We welcome YOU to join in furthering our Slovenian heritage for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Pohar Prokup, National President
wprokup@aol.com

Welcome to Our New Members

Stadjuhar, Samantha, 3
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Deckinga, Chris, 16
Marsnik, Ray, 23
Moravtiz, Beatrice (Tootsie), 23
Udovich, Frank, 23
Olson, Edna, 24
Lamut, Anna, 93
Gorham, Judy, 100
Pluth, Mary, 100
Sego, Maria, 100
Debevec, Charles, 109
Zbasnik, Angela, 109

SUA Donations

Thank You!

\$50 Donation

Henkel, Nancy, 89,
Convention - +Paula Mavec
Lamm, Dorothy, 50, Zarja
Maxwell, Frances, 99,
Convention - +Paula Mavec
Mejac, Mary Grill, 103, SUA

\$35 Donation

Cullen, Mary Ann, 3, +Catherine Perko

\$25 Donation

Marubio, Carol, 2, +Mayme Ulepih/Fabian
Tesch, Sandra Yadlosky, 23, +Jane Yadlosky
Gaber, Agnes, 2, SUA
Veit, Alice, 102, +John and Mary Potisk
Peterson, Mildred, 20,
+Bill Petersen & Justine Gregorich
Judnick, Marc, 20, SUA
Kirk, Annette, 93, +Catherine & John Kirk
Maloney, Mary, 24, +Mary Zugich
DelRaso, Karen, 20, +James and Lois Lausch
Princ, Rose Marie, 2, +Rose Moline
Schroeder, Kathleen, 1, +Dorothy Brezonik
Godnavec, Theresa, 50, SUA
Dore, Rosemary, 2, +Anne and Steve Hozzian
Govednik, Joseph, 13, SUA

\$20 Donation

Bruch, Barbara, 89, Zarja - +Paula Mavec
Midman, Josie, 43, +Polde Mulej
Pigat, Jessie, 47, +Pauline Pigat
Pavlovic, Frances, 40,
+Frank and Mary Pavlovic
Glazer, Zory, +Jennie Glazer
Zalik, Ann, +Paula Mavec

\$10 Donation

Staut, Sophie, 102, +deceased family members
Netzer, Patrice, 1, +Ann Lousie Hoffman
Pluth, Mary Ann, 20, SUA
Haneman, Sylvia, 1, +Joseph and Mary Tevsh
Stately, Joan, 109,
+Mrs. Mary Verrant Kosluchar
Minello, Josephine, 50, SUA

\$5 Donation

Rozic, Rev. Peter, 108, SUA

Zarja - The Dawn

Established 1929



My first look at *Zarja - The Dawn* was in the house of my grandmother, Josephine Pohar, when I was little. I remember looking through the pages, pretending I could read Slovenian. Years later, I became a SWUA member at the request of my father's sisters. They recognized a need for the younger generation to get involved. Soon I was Regional President of Illinois/Indiana, then National Secretary for two terms and now I am in my second term as National President.

My biggest pride and joy has been my commitment to *Zarja*. Corinne Leskovar was an inspiration to my sister, Debbie Pohar, and I. Working with Corinne was an important part of *Zarja's* success. We were confident we could continue her mission and vision. We had big shoes to fill and we've enjoyed filling them.

Zarja has come a long way; so much due to technology. Today our writers send everything electronically, truly a timesaver. But I would say the color pages are the best! I remember a time when one black and white photo cost us \$5-\$10 to print. Now, we fill the pages with color photos.

Zarja is made possible by the support from the membership, the writers, and our *Zarja* Staff. All of you make a difference!

Bonnie Pohar Prokup
SUA National President

SWU Scholarship Foundation

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF FINANCIALLY ASSISTING STUDENTS

Mission: To generate funding to financially assist students with hope that they will promote and preserve Slovenian culture.

SWU Scholarship recipients of 2014 have submitted short essays for *Zarja - The Dawn* readers.

COREY K. HOLDEN, Branch 20 - Joliet, Illinois, recipient of the Rose Marie Princ Award for a Graduate Student Majoring in Education:

My Slovenian Heritage: "I never really thought about what it meant to be Slovenian. I knew that my grandmother, Bernice Ursich Suski, was Slovenian. Together with my grandfather, Fred, she was involved with the American Slovenian Home, a Slovenian social club in Joliet, Illinois. I spent a lot of my time as a child at the American Slovenian Home, could identify Polka songs, and even knew some Polka masters (Frankie Yankovic, for example). I didn't realize that I was learning a valuable lesson along the way. My grandparents ran the American Slovenian Home for as long as I could remember. I watched them work hard to keep the Slovenian culture alive. The members of the club became my extended family. The Slovenian people I met were hardworking, determined, nice people. I think this is why I work hard and push myself when it comes to life and school. I experienced some challenges in my life and I drew on that determination to succeed. My grandparents and their friends knew how to have a good time and would celebrate their traditions. In my fast-paced life, sometimes I forget that I need to step back, enjoy life, and remember why I am the woman I am today. I had some influential role models and I will always remember the impact they had on my life.

My grandmother believes in keeping Slovenian influence in our family. She reminded us that Slovenians "take care of their own." She made sure my mother and I were members of the Slovenian Union of America (formerly Slovenian Women's Union of America). In fact, I have been a member since I was nine years old. If I can "grow up"

to be half as hardworking, determined, and fun-loving as my grandmother, I will achieve success. So what does my Slovenian Heritage mean to me? It means family."

GIANNA DE GARBO, Branch 5 - Pueblo, Colorado, recipient of the SUA Branch 2 - Chicago, Illinois, Scholarship:

What My Slovenian Heritage Means to Me: "My Slovenian heritage is a significant part of my life. It has taught me the importance of family, faith, and traditions. Coming from a large Slovenian family, I have learned that when things get tough we will always draw closer together and put our faith in God. While growing up, my Grandma Mutz and my mom set an example of practicing the Catholic faith. I am an active member of St. May Church as a Eucharistic minister, an usher, and an alter server.

Holidays are special to me, because it is the time where my entire family gets together. My relatives live out their Slovenian heritage by preparing meals for Christmas, Holy Thursday, and Easter. On Holy Saturday, my grandma, aunts, and mom fill our baskets full of klobasa, potica, and krofe for the Zegan blessing. I am proud to have been born into a loving Slovenian family!"

NATALIE GORENSEK, Branch 30 - Home Office, of Aiken, South Carolina, recipient of the SWU Mathematics and Science Scholarship:

My Heritage and How it Relates to Me: "My Slovenian heritage is a big part of who I am. Aside from the obvious traditions that my parents and grandparents have taught me, I strive to emulate the Slovenian characteristics of industriousness, hospitality, love of nature, musicality, and devotion to my faith. Growing up in the south, I was one of only a handful of Slovenian-Americans in my

For more information on the SWU Scholarship Foundation, visit website www.slovenianunion.org or please contact:

Mary Turvey, Director, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, MI 49855 mturvey@aol.com
Or Marge Church, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056 yemecl@windstream.net

community, yet my parents kept up the Slovenian traditions they learned from my mother's parents, like celebrating Saint Nicholas on December 6, praying the rosary, and blessing our home with incense and holy water on Christmas Eve, getting our Easter baskets blessed on Holy Saturday, and so on. Years ago, while still in elementary school, I bugged my grandmother to teach me how to make potica. I'm so glad I did, because even though she passed away three years ago, I can still look forward to homemade potica for the holidays and with it the fond memories of my Slovenian-American grandmother. I am proud to call myself an American of Slovenian descent."

AMANDA KINNEY, Branch 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin, winner of the Frances Colnar Barman Scholarship:

My Heritage and How It Relates to Me: "Many teenagers know what their heritage is, but often do not know much about it or do not celebrate it in any way. Fortunately, that is not the case for me. Even though only a small part of me is Slovenian, it is that part of me that I feel I know the most about. Ever since I was little I remember going to Branch 1 meetings, dressing up in traditional Slovenian clothing, attending many local festivals with my family, and even making it to one SWUA national convention. In more recent years, I have helped out at local festivals and found ways to use my talents, like my art skills, to show my Slovenian heritage in ways like painting of traditional, Slovenian Easter eggs for a display. Being involved with those activities has helped me to further explore my heritage and develop connections to others, creating a Slovenian family in a way. Getting together with my Slovenian family at festivals, to eat potica and kransky as polka music is playing, is something I will definitely cherish forever."

ANGELA PEREZ, Branch 5 - Pueblo, Colorado, winner of the Frances Colnar Barman Memorial Scholarship:

My Slovenian Heritage and How It Relates to Me: "With a few traditions, moments, and gatherings I've shared with my family, I've learned what the Krasovec family and our Slovenian heritage is all about - through what my great-grandfather, Martin Krasovec, said: "The

Zarja - The Dawn Established 1929

On June 6, 2014, the Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, North American Missionary, born 1779 in Slovenia, was placed in his permanent sarcophagus in the newly constructed Baraga Chapel at St. Peter's Cathedral, Marquette, Michigan.

This saintly priest was not only of Slovene origin, but also was a highly educated individual, who was able to understand and respect the needs of Native American people of the Great Lakes Region. He wrote the first English/Ojibway dictionary for them, sought legal action for protection of their lands, and most importantly, lead them to a new life in Christ. Frederic Baraga, First Bishop of Marquette, Michigan, lived in a highly aesthetic wilderness, where I live today. He is my mentor.

As the director of the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation for the past 19 years, I am delighted to be able to report to *Zarja - The Dawn* readers about annual scholarship recipients, who are also dedicated to education, as was Frederic Baraga. The young Slovene students of today are strong community and church leaders, generous to those in need, aware of physical conditioning and healthy lifestyle needs, and are strong scholastic achievers. Bishop Frederic Baraga would approve of the paths these young people are taking and the grand future in store for each of them.

Being the editor of *Zarja's* "Ask Toncka" column for four years, meant writing helpful suggestions to those who were searching for their ancestors in Slovenia. It was a project during which time I learned a bit about various Slovenian families from different regions of Slovenia, who likewise settled in specific areas of the United States. Writing for a publication requires a great deal of personal time, some research, and it always results in learning something, and finding new friends through the process. My reporting to the *Zarja* editors with short book reviews of English text books on Slovenian topics, available at the SUA Heritage Museum in Joliet, Illinois, has also been enlightening. These past 19 years have enriched me with some very good friends who are members of the Slovenian Union of America.

Frederic Baraga's blood, and that of our own ancestors, no longer flows through their veins, but their spirits are alive and thrive within our hearts.

Mary Turvey, Director
SWU Scholarship Foundation



Krasovec family name is a colorful tapestry woven with great pride, strong work ethic, and resilience to overcome any adversity.” Today the Krasovec family is growing, with so many new members and additions, that it is because of those who went before and those who have left us that our family has such a strong foundation – our heritage. Individually, and as a family, we have all faced difficult struggles and events, but they have made us stronger, because we have stayed together. We have come into this life alone and we will leave this life alone, but it’s the people who have stayed with us and next to us before, during, and after, are those that make a difference. And this is what family and heritage means to me.”

AMANDA SCHNIEGENBERG, Branch 50 - Medina, Ohio, recipient of the Raymond Delopst Memorial Scholarship:

My Slovenian Heritage and How It Relates to Me: “Ever since I was young, my Slovenian heritage shaped who I am today. This includes everything from traditions and rituals to commitment and hard work. My mother and grandmother have passed down many traditions, like Easter Žegen breakfast and making klobase. They taught me the value of hard work through stories of my great grandparents’ struggles, which set great examples for me to follow. Traveling to Slovenia a couple summers ago opened my eyes to this beautiful country. It brought me close to understanding where my family originated from and to appreciate how the Slovenian culture came to be. This trip also solidified new relationships with family I now know. The pride in being Slovenian is a contributing factor in my drive to reach my goals of being a doctor and to pass along the many traditions I have learned to my children.”

News of Past SWU Scholarship Winners:

LINDSEY STRATTON, Branch 39 - Biwabik, MN, writes that she has just finished her first year as a “K through 12” Guidance Counselor, and she is loving life.

AMY KONCAR, Branch 20 - Joliet, IL, has completed her freshmen year at Fontbonne University with a GPA of 3.9 in the Honors Program, and was recently inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She is involved with a number of community programs and services for those in need.

NEWS RELEASE ON CHANGES IN SWU SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION QUALIFICATIONS

Slovenian Women’s Union Scholarship Foundation

This note is in regard to SUA membership applications and a change in the SWUSF policy regarding scholarship applications. Its purpose is to stimulate growth in young adult membership in SUA and provide more applicants for scholarship awards.

Currently, 30 students are eligible annually to apply for scholarships, however only seven to eight applications are received annually. This has been a problem within the past years, not just this year. Added to this issue, Rosemary Princ, a generous donor, has eliminated her graduate school award due to the lack of number of applicants. A lengthy discussion ensued at the SWUSF board meeting this past April, and a final proposal was made and accepted to open membership and advertise in appropriate media, as well as communicate to all SUA Branch Representatives, that these awards are now available to all of Slovenian descendency who belong to SUA. The change is in the waiving the three years membership prior to making a scholarship application.

The result would be those who are not members may complete a membership application to join SUA at the current rate of the adult membership fee. Membership applications must be completed and into the home office by January 31 of the year the scholarship application is submitted. Once those applications are accepted and approved by the SUA Home Office, the new member may complete all forms required to qualify for a scholarship. This proposal was put forth by Trustee J. Zab and unanimously accepted.

For those applicants who have not been fortunate to receive an award, they will be given a \$100 merit award as has been the practice in the past. It was decided that details be developed and this process of change be implemented immediately.

To summarize: A person of Slovenian descent (whatever percentage), may apply for a scholarship once they have become a member of SUA. We waive the three year membership as part of the scholarship application criteria.

This is an opportunity and incentive for the young adults to become members of SUA, create a growth in membership, and develop a new generation of Slovenes who may enjoy learning more about their heritage.

We recognize that the new member might just give up their membership at the end of the year, so a practice of maintaining and nurturing the new member should be undertaken.

Kind regards to all,
Marge Church
Mary Turvey

5/21/2014

Scholarship Donations

\$200 Donation

Pat & Bob Figuirowski - "In Thanksgiving"

\$50 Donation

Robert & Mary Ann Schellinger,
+Mary Ann's father, Edward Fedran
Michael & Marilyn Heinl, +Olga Dorchak
Janet Davis, +Olga Dorchak
Robert Lea, +Olga Dorchak

\$40 Donation

Joanne Green, +Olga Dorchak

\$35 Donation

Karen M. Tolhurst, +Olga Dorchak

\$30 Donation

Catherine Maxin, +Olga Dorchak

\$25 Donation

Sandra Farrell, +Edward Kurnick
Becki Nieciecki, +Olga Dorchak
Julie Davian, +Olga Dorchak
Dee Ulichney, +Olga Dorchak
Mary McGowan, +Olga Dorchak
Madelyn McKittrick, +Olga Dorchak
Frank N. Sadar, +Olga Dorchak
Slovenian National Home, +Olga Dorchak
Karen E. Kljun, +Olga Dorchak
Ruth K. Durand, +Olga Dorchak

\$20 Donation

Bonnie Prokup, +Paula Mavec
Lenore Hradek, +Olga Dorchak
Delores C. Hrovat, +Olga Dorchak
Eve M. Kisley, +Olga Dorchak

\$15 Donation

Marge Church, +Virginia Reeves
Marge Church, +Sophia Marie Rosel

*Hvala! Hvala! Thank you kind donors for
your support of our scholarship program.*

The Updated Library at the Slovenian Union of America Heritage Museum

SUA LIBRARY LISTINGS:

Louis Adamic, born 1898, Grosuplje, Lower Carniola, Slovenia, came to the United States as a young 15 year old during 1913. He first settled in San Pedro, California, where he worked as a laborer, later serving as a U.S. soldier in World War II, and then becoming a writer and journalist. Adamic worked for a time at "Narodi Glas." He was a prolific writer and much of his focus was on the welfare of immigrants entering the American "melting pot." Historians will find his reflections on political events and immigrants valuable information. Listed here are Adamic's books available at the SUA Library Museum, 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432.

A Nation of Nations, 1945, Harper & Brothers, New York. A collection of letters from Americans living in foreign countries.

My Native Land Yugoslavia, 1933, copyrighted 1943.

The Natives Return, 1934, Harper & Brothers, New York. An American immigrant visits Yugoslavia and discovers his old country. (Best seller)

Laughing in the Jungle, copyright 1932, Harper & Brothers, New York. An autobiography of an immigrant in America.

Two Way Passage, copyright 1941, Harper & Brothers, New York. War and its effect on Western Europe and the United States.

Many of Louis Adamic's books are available through interlibrary loan: *Peoples of America*, *Common Ground*, *From Many Lands*, *Grandsons – A Story of American Lives*, *My America 1928-1938*, *Dynamite, the Story of Class Violence in America (1830-1934)*, *Cradle of Life*, *The Story of Man's Beginning*, and *The House in Antigua*, a novel.

SUA NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 18-21, 2015

Chicago Marriott Naperville Hotel, Naperville, IL
Slovenian Catholic Center, Lemont, IL



Branch 99 of Lemont, Illinois, is pleased to host the 27th SUA National Convention next summer. It will be held from June 18-21, 2015, at the Chicago Marriott Naperville Hotel in Naperville, Illinois, and a day spent on the beautiful grounds of the Slovenian Catholic Mission and the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. Lemont and surrounding areas have a very proud, active, Slovenian community and we welcome you to enjoy a long weekend enjoying Slovenian food, entertainment, and friends. The convention is not all business. Attendees will have

The Member Representative (Delegate) Role.

The member representative is an important role. While all are welcome and encouraged to attend the business meetings, only the member representatives sent by the Branches may vote on matters presented to them. Serving as a member representative is a rewarding and educational experience. They come prepared to represent the interests of their Branch, take part in all meetings and activities at the convention, and return to their Branch to give a full report to those that were unable to attend.



Downtown Naperville.

the opportunity to participate in many activities, including a celebration at the SUA Home Office/Heritage Museum in Joliet, Lipizzan horse performance, Slovenian fashion show, potica contest, apron contest and auction, polka lessons, beehive tour and presentation, tour of the Slovenian Catholic Center and grottos, Slovenian art show, entertainment, and more!

The convention is open to all SUA Branch delegates/member representatives, members, and guests of all ages. All are welcome to join in the meals, activities, and business portions of the convention. Room reservations may be made at the Chicago Marriott Naperville Hotel at special convention prices beginning later this year. We know you will enjoy the beautiful downtown area of Naperville with its many shops and restaurants.



Slovenian Catholic Center.

How can YOU and the Branches Help?

You and your Branch can help make this national convention and the entire SUA organization a success by first encouraging attendance at the convention. You can also help by offering financial assistance to the member representative, help with transportation, share your talents, donate money for a specific purpose, bring items back from Slovenia, and volunteer in so many ways.



Slovenian Catholic Center Grotto.

Watch for future *Zarja - The Dawn* issues with more information and details.

Watch for future *Zarja - The Dawn* issues with more information and details.

If you have questions, please contact Julie Lajoie, Convention Chairperson, at jamp817@comcast.net or 630.854.5400.

Zarja - The Dawn

Membership Application and Renewal

Slovenian Union of America

(Formerly known as Slovenian Women's Union of America)

slovenianunion.org sua@slovenianunion.org 815.727.1926

For RENEWALS use form at BOTTOM of this page

Adult Dues \$25.00 Adult Dues (International Address) \$35.00 Junior Dues (Birth to 18) \$5.00

If this is a gift and you agree to continue paying for this membership next year, please advise us of billing address:

Dues are for January through December

If you join after August 31 you will not be billed in January of the next calendar year

Membership Renewal Notifications are sent annually in January

Please print the requested information below and send this application form with a check payable to:

Slovenian Union of America, 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432-1703

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M ___ F ___

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Branch Affiliation Number (if known)/Location _____ / _____

Maiden Name _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry and provide SLOVENIAN SURNAMES

How did you hear about us? SUA Member ___ Newspaper ___ Website ___ Other _____

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

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Recommended by:

Name _____

Address _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name _____ Member ID No. _____ (located on back cover)

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Dues Amount _____ Donation _____

Mail to: SUA/SWUA, 431 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432-1703

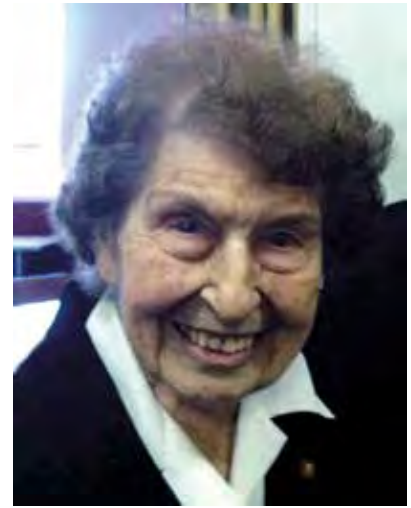
Veda Ponikvar, Editor/Journalist

The Daughter of a Slovenian Iron Ore Miner Whose Focus in Life was Shaped from the Conditions of the Times

- by Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, Zarja Staff Writer ©

“Recognized by the Historical Society as one of Minnesota’s 150 most important people, Veda helped shape the political culture of the Iron Range. For generations, her opinions have influenced the development of the region, and the political careers of many.”

- From the Website of Iron Country Free Press



She was the oldest of five children. Her interests were vast; learning was her passion. Slovenian was spoken in the home and in the community. One day, her knowledge of the language would thrust her into the big, wide world.

Veda Ponikvar was born on May 26, 1919, to Slovenian immigrants, John and Frances Ponikvar. Her father was an underground ore miner in Chisholm, Minnesota. “My father could not read much English, but he knew an A from an F. Immigrant parents had a tremendous respect for school.” Veda’s life was shaped by the Great Depression, mine closings, and impoverished families.

Veda graduated from Chisholm High School in 1937. She was granted a scholarship in journalism at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, where she studied radio-journalism and political science. During the school year she lived with the Vickery family, doing the cooking, cleaning, and caring for the children in exchange for room and board.

Veda was an active student at Drake. She represented the university, touring the entire west, as a varsity debater and debate manager. She won every debate for the university. She was elected vice president of Theta Sigma Phi, the national fraternal society for women journalists. In her last year of college she became editor-in-chief of the yearbook, which was acclaimed by the National Scholastic Press Association as the most beautiful book printed in the history of Drake.

Veda had obtained Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. to speak at a mass meeting before Drake University students. Against the rules of the university, she went over the head of the president of Drake. When Roosevelt was refused admittance, she did not stop, but went through with the mass meeting.



Veda graduated cum laude with a degree in journalism on June 5, 1942. Back home on the Iron Range, her brother and a large number of young people were enlisting in the military. Veda joined the U.S. Navy WAVES. Her knowledge of Slavic languages, Slovenian at home and German and French in college, was highly prized. She was sent to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she earned a Master’s Degree in six months. After her graduation she was sent to language school at Frederick, MD, then on to Washington, D.C., as head of the Yugoslav desk in the Office of Naval Intelligence, decoding intelligence reports for her country. She was discharged from the service on December 31, 1946, earning the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

At age 28, Veda returned to Chisholm and founded the Chisholm Free Press. She had entered the men’s world, becoming the first female and the youngest newspaper publisher in the nation. Perhaps it can be said that Veda’s voice was as strong or stronger than her pen. For almost 50 years, Veda worked as a writer, editor, publisher, and northeastern Minnesota’s opinion leader. She was a key player in countless causes in the Iron Range’s landmark events. She helped shape public policies, using her newspaper to prod politicians, and giving the reader the facts. Political leaders such as Hubert Humphrey, John Blatnik, Rudy Perpich, Walter Mondale, and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, Gerald Heaney, looked to her as a reliable and important leader and indicator of Iron Range opinion.

During WWII, she wrote of the service people in the area, and became involved in the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. She was instrumental in establishing the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

programs in high schools in Minnesota. In 1987, Ponikvar was appointed Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA). Her duties included visits to hospitals, attendance at military funerals, and helping families cope with military separations. In 1999, she was named CASA Emeritus, a lifetime appointment.

During the October 1960 presidential campaign, John F. Kennedy visited the Iron Range. Noting there was no facility for developmentally disabled children and adults north of the Twin Cities, he empowered Veda and others to establish such a facility. "Who could turn down a request from none other than one John Fitzgerald Kennedy?"

Together with John A. Blatnik, the region's congressman, support was rallied at the local, state, and national level for construction of one of the first day treatment centers for children with developmental disabilities in the state of Minnesota. It took 13 years, but on February 4, 1973, Eunice Kennedy Shriver was on hand for the dedication of the Range Center, Inc. Today, with an annual budget of nearly \$6 million and a staff of 200 employees, Range Center, Inc. is a major regional employer. Fifteen residential group homes are located throughout the Iron Range, with a vocational training center located in Chisholm. Veda sits on the Board of Directors for the Range Center.

When the rich ore of the Iron Range had been depleted, taconite plants began processing this low grade of iron. Once the ore was crushed, magnets extracted the iron, formed into pellets, and shipped through the Great Lakes. When other states began building taconite plants, Minnesota saw the need to change the old laws that had been on the books since the 1920s governing the taxing of precious metals and ores. The Taconite Amendment gave the state the means to attract investment money for semi-taconite projects and any jobs that may spring up. In other words, it would keep the jobs in Minnesota. The Chisholm Free Press, with Veda on board, gave readers the information.

Today the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) is a vast preserve of pristine lakes and woods in northeastern Minnesota, stretching 100 miles along the U.S. and adjacent to Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. No homes are allowed, and there is no electricity nor motorized vehicles. Most of the 1,000 lakes are designated as paddle only. Veda's Free Press kept the public informed during this very controversial deliberation.

Inspired by Veda's poem "Yes, the Iron Man Lives," is the 81 foot tall miner. It stands at the turn off to the Iron Range Discovery Center, a living history museum, that



showcases the heritage of northern Minnesota. The statue has become an iconic representation of the hard-working generations of Iron Rangers who helped build this country. The ore they mined was forged into steel for bridges and rails and weapons of war to help save our country. At the feet of the mighty miner is the inscribed poem by Veda. It reads:

The Emergence of Man Through Steel

They toiled with purpose. These miners of ours... moving tons of iron ore for massive steel towers.

This devotion to a nation, they adopted as one, makes the heritage of the iron range foremost 'neath the sun.

The legend lives. They were the "Iron Men" who dug the mines and contributed to the building and expansion of this country, during an industrial age. They helped to provide the iron needed when freedom was threatened.

Today, as the industrial age ebbs, and the technological age advances, the Iron Men are honored with a shrine that tells us they will never be forgotten. The magnificent sculpture evokes strength and embodies past history and ensures continued remembrance of the "Iron Men."

Look at the contentment in the chiseled face, and you will see the soul of all the Iron Men who ever were.

This statute, the third largest free-standing memorial in the United States, is a lasting tribute to the Mesabi, Vermilion, Cuyuna, and Gogebic ranges' men of steel, who carved out of a sylvan wilderness the iron ore that made America the industrial giant of the world.

*They shall live forever!
Yes, the Iron Man lives.*

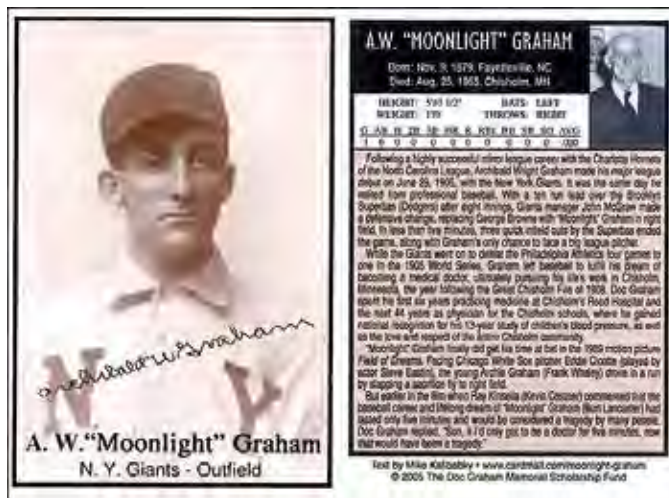
And now a side story: Dr. Archibald Wright Graham

It all began in 1908, when a Dr. Archibald Wright Graham became the Chisholm hospital doctor. During his stay at the hospital, he averaged 30 births a month, delivering American-born children of immigrant parents. From infancy he watched them grow and then years later, treated their children. During the 1910 typhoid epidemic, the 1914 polio epidemic, and the 1916 diphtheria epidemic, Doc Graham was there.

After eight years, Doc Graham left the hospital setting and became the Chisholm School physician, a position he would hold for the next 40 years. A man ahead of his time, he introduced an inoculation program during the 1918 flu epidemic, inoculating children and adults. Veda Ponikvar and hundreds of school children received their immunizations or were under his care throughout their school years. He rode the school bus to athletic events. He also set up his dental practice in the schools, and partnered with another Chisholm doctor, and began a preventative dental care program. Students were all issued tooth brushes and toothpaste; brushing became a regular part of the school day. Also trained in eye care, Doc Graham had boxes of eyeglasses sent to his Chisholm office. On Saturdays, children of the Iron Range miners, from Grand Rapids to Virginia, came to his office to have their eyes checked, and then fitted with the proper set of glasses, all free of charge. In 1926, Graham began a 15-year study of childhood blood pressure, involving more than 25,000 Chisholm students. Before his career was over, Doc's data spanned 30 years



and involved 50,000 children. In 1945, Graham's findings were published in the April issue of the American Journal of Diseases of Children. He died in 1965, shortly after retirement.



But there was another side to Doc Graham.

On a hot, Friday afternoon in the mid 1970s, a 1930 era rumble-seat Ford pulled up in front of the Chisholm Free Press. Two men got out and introduced themselves to Veda Ponikvar as W.P. Kinsella and J.D. Salinger, author of *The Catcher in the Rye*. Kinsella had run across Doc Graham's name and statistical information in the Baseball Encyclopedia. Archibald Wright Graham was the right fielder who played in a single major league game for the New York Giants on June 29, 1905. It was his major league debut, playing the last two innings of a one-sided 11-1 victory over the Brooklyn Superbas. Graham was the next to bat when the last out in the top of the ninth inning was recorded. It would



be his only appearance. Not wanting a life in the minors, he left baseball for a medical career.

Kinsella decided to use Graham's story for a character in his novel about Chicago White Sox outfielder, Joe Jackson. The novel, *Shoeless Joe*, turned out to be a huge success. In 1989, the story was made into the movie *Field of Dreams*. Ponikvar is also in *Field of Dreams*. The actress, Ann Seymour, reads the obituary of Doc Graham that Vida wrote: "And there were times when children could not afford eyeglasses or milk or clothing. Yet, no child was ever denied these essentials, because in the background there was always Dr. Graham. Without any fanfare or publicity, the glasses or the milk or the ticket to the ballgame found their way into the child's pocket."

Doc Graham's name will be forever known by baseball fans throughout the world. On June 29, 2005, the Minnesota Twins commemorated the 100th anniversary of the lone, major league appearance of Archibald Wright Graham. Ponikvar threw out the first pitch at the Minnesota Twins-Kansas City game at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

The words of the late U.S. Representative, Jim Oberstar, the Iron Range's longtime Congressman, at a civic gathering in honor of Veda Ponikvar:



*Veda Ponikvar with
U.S. Representative, Jim Oberstar.*

She is the conscience of our community. She's our moral compass, our historical record. She has fearlessly praised and criticized, scolded and provoked, prodded and soothed, advised and rhapsodized.

Ponikvar reminds me of the prophets from the old testament: This is my word, I want it said to my people. You will be reviled, mistreated, misunderstood, and rejected for saying it, but I want the word said.

She had a way to say what troubles our comfort, and what disturbs our ease of living, to force people to think in ways they are not accustomed to thinking.

Without her printer's ink that was her pulpit, those goals might have just remained dreams.

She had the talent, but yet she chose to stay here because of her love and commitment to her town of Chisholm.

Veda Ponikvar, editor/journalist, the daughter of a Slovenian iron ore miner, whose focus in life was shaped from the conditions of the times, recently celebrated her 95th birthday at her home in Chisholm, Minnesota.

Sources:

John Hatcher, 2012 University of Minnesota Imagine Fund Annual Award for a 29 minute interview with Veda Ponikvar, "The Iron Lady on an Iron Town."

Internet Search, Veda Ponikvar accolades:

Archibald Wright Graham

Zarja - The Dawn, September 1942,

Branch 38 - Chisholm, MN News

Duluth News Tribune

Minnesota History Center: Winning Nomination, Minnesota 150,

Susan Latto discovery.mnhs.org

September/October 2014

Zarja - The Dawn *Established 1929*

As far back as I can remember, I knew I was 100% Slovenian. I felt inner pride knowing this; after all, anything 100% meant it was very good! I remember sounding out words in the Nova Doba, using the phonics I was learning in school. Being an inquisitive, motivated child only increased with age. The advent of technology made knowledge just a click of the mouse away. One of the first search words I entered was Slovenians, an omen of my immersion into culture and heritage with the SUA?



It was a question to then SWUA President, Kathy (Dorchak) Ferrante, "Where do I find the information?" Her reply, "In *Zarja*." The end result of this conversation was a *Zarja* Indexing Project, an amazing walk through the years of *Zarja* publications, and a listing of 43 categories of information.

Such foresight of the original *Zarja* staff to document a library accounting system of each publication; another omen of the longevity of *Zarja*; another omen of *Zarja* being available on a worldwide scale for research or historical reading, with just the click of a mouse?

Today *Zarja - The Dawn* is recognized as the written history of Slovenian-Americans, the oldest continuing Slovenian publication in the world. It is the highest of honors to be a contributor to this history.

Mary Lou Deyak Voelk
SUA Vice President of Culture and Heritage

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

BRANCH 99 of Lemont, Illinois, to host a Member Lunch Brunch at 11:00 a.m. at the Slovenian Catholic Center. The event is free to all Branch 99 members. Guests are welcome to attend - Adults \$10 and Children \$5. RSVP is required by August 31 to MaryAnn Partyka at 630.661.3600 or e-mail craftymar304@comcast.net.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

BRANCH 5 of Indianapolis, Indiana, to celebrate "Taste of Slovenia" dinner at Slovenian National Home. Please check the Slovenian National Home website for more info.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

BRANCH 93 of New York, New York, to host a special children's event featuring storytelling, music, songs, games, activities from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 62 St. Mark's Place in New York City.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

BRANCH 20 of Joliet, Illinois, to host their annual Grape Harvest Festival Dance at St. Joseph's Park in Joliet. The Bill Koncar Band will perform.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014

ALL EAST COAST SUA BRANCHES have been invited to attend a reception in Washington, D.C., where Ambassador Dr. Bozo Cerar will introduce The American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF), www.ase-fun.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2014

BRANCH 99 of Lemont, Illinois, to host annual Bunco Game Day at the Slovenian Catholic Center from 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$3 per person. For donations of door prizes or bakery contact Julie LaJoie at 630.854.5400 or e-mail jamp817@comcast.net.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

BRANCH 43 of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to host a bake sale at the S. 88th Street School on Election Day. To volunteer your help call Jan Gehm at 414.321.1413.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014

BRANCH 93 of New York, New York, to host a Slovenian Thanksgiving feast - *Martinovanje* - at 11:00 a.m. at 62 Saint Mark's Place in New York City at the Slovenian parish, Church of Saint Cyril.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2014

BRANCH 99 of Lemont, Illinois, to host a Genealogy class at 2:00 p.m. in the small hall of the Slovenian Catholic Center. Learn how to start and what to do with your family's genealogy.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

BRANCH 1 of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, to host their annual Christmas Party at the K.C. Hall.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015 - SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015 27th SUA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Hosted by BRANCH 99 of Lemont, Illinois. Convention will be held at the Chicago Marriott Naperville hotel with side trips to the Slovenian Union of America Heritage Museum, Slovenian Catholic Mission, Slovenian Catholic Center, and Lipizzaner Horse Performance. Special activities include Slovenian fashion show, Potica Contest, Apron Contest, Auction, Polka Lessons, Beehive Tour and Presentation, and more.

Hotel reservations can be made at a later date. The business meetings, meals, special events, and side trips are open to all Branch delegates (Member Representatives), members, and guests of all ages.



Going Places

A New Book by SUA Friend Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik

Going Places is a narrative of a century of Slovenian women's immigration stories. The book traces the migration of these Eastern European women to several destinations, including Argentina, Egypt, Italy, and the United States. The research has been carefully culled from the subjects' letters, personal diaries, and oral interviews. What results is a story that covers the span of three or four generations.

The book highlights the biographical story of identity under construction. Each woman's identity surpasses ethnic, national identity, or belonging, but at the same time, contains different elements of identity transformation at different stages of the narrator's life. As one participant said, "While their suitcases may be light with personal belongings, their stamina, strength, determination, and emotional commitment would sink a battleship." - Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik and Jernej Mlekuž, editors.

Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik is a research advisor at the Slovenian Migration Institute at the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana. She is a well-known researcher and has collected life stories and testimonies among the Slovenian women migrants and their descendants in the United States of America (where she also lived for five years), and that was a basis for a number of articles, published in Slovenia and internationally, and also for a critically acclaimed, documentary film, *100% Slovenian*. Ms. Hladnik, as part of the research, also did fieldwork on the importance of the internet for the preserving of Slovenian cultural heritage, during which she recorded stories of Slovenian migrants, explaining what new communication technologies mean to them. She has always known how to present the research work to wider audiences, be it with a film, lectures abroad and in Slovenia, and by carrying out study programs for Slovenian and international students. Ms. Hladnik regularly participates in round tables and public discussions, not only those dealing with the questions about the Slovenian emigration, but also contemporary immigration to Slovenia, and questions on intercultural relationships and active citizenship that develop from there.

***Going Places* can be purchased through
Amazon or the University of Akron Press.**

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Zarja - The Dawn Established 1929

Below is a photo of Corinne Leskovar and I at the Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje's 25th Anniversary gathering, celebrated in summer, 1996, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.



Through my young, adult years, Corinne inspired me to write for *Zarja - The Dawn* and to take on numerous leadership roles with SWUA, now SUA. Corinne's knowledge and commitment to Slovenian ideals shined through in every *Zarja* publication for over 50 years, inspiring editors, Debbie Pohar and Bonnie Prokup, all the contributors, and proofreaders of *Zarja* to produce a magazine, streamlined by the benefits of new technology, to help connect SUA members from east to west, to all corners of the globe. In decades past, I was fortunate to hear Corinne speak at large SWUA gatherings, and to me on a personal level, about her dreams and aspirations for *Zarja*, which have unfolded to continued brilliant success in our 85th year. May Corinne's inspiration and that of her mother, Albina Novak, continue through this 85th Anniversary of *Zarja* and touch the hearts and minds of the current and future generations of SUA leaders.

Bernadette Kovacic Fitzimmons
Zarja Proof Reader

Louise Recher Troglia

Tribute to Long-Time Members

by Patricia Budzilek



Louise Recher Troglia, daughter of Louis and Mary (Strah) Recher, was born on East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio, when it had a population of about 1,000 people, and was an area of farms and vineyards. Looking out the living room window one day, she saw a cow staring at her, a cow which had escaped from a farm about a mile away! Louise graduated from Euclid Central High School, and was active in the 1940s in the “Adria” choral group which was based at Recher Hall.

Her family was always involved in athletics. As a child, Louise was a member of Sokol, where she learned acrobatics. They practiced at a Slovenian picnic area on a farm on East 260th Street, which today is a residential neighborhood. Louis Recher operated Recher Athletic Club, which was located in a convert-

ed hospital building on East 222 St., where the family lived in the back. In his 80s, Louise’s father was still in great physical shape and worked as a hall monitor and cafeteria aide at Euclid High School. Her mother bowled in two leagues while in her 80s. Louise had two sisters, Marie and Ruth, who were both involved in water skiing, snow skiing, tennis, and basketball. Marie is now 91 years old and still has no problems driving.

Louise followed the family tradition of playing softball. She was chosen to play on an all-star softball team in Chicago as a pitcher and infielder, but circumstances prevented her from participating. She once made an unassisted triple play! An excellent water skier, Louise appeared on the front cover of the “Cleveland Plain Dealer’s” Sunday magazine, the “Rotogravure,” water skiing with John Habat on Lake Erie in the 50s.

Louise was “Miss Euclid,” and later went on to the Miss Ohio pageant, where she was the first runner-up. This led to the Billie Tilton Modeling School, where she became a teacher and model. She later worked as an Executive Secretary and participated in her company’s sports programs in baseball, horseshoes, and bowling.

While on a skiing trip in Pennsylvania, Louise met Frank Troglia from Cleveland who became her husband on November 26, 1953. He was teaching math and coaching at that time, and later became Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Euclid High School. They were married 56 years when he died in 2009.

Louise and Frank taught ballroom dancing at night school classes and various other locations. They were always seen stylishly dressed, and were a striking

Note: Please notify me if you would like to suggest a SUA/SWUA member to be profiled in this feature.

Remember - they must have been active for many years, and are probably in their 80s.

My e-mail is pbudzilek@oh.rr.com.



couple. The Troglia was responsible for the Euclid Lions Club (a civic organization) “300 Club” raffle for many, many years; each year ending with a delicious Slovenian dinner held at, of course, Recher Hall! Louise was president of the Lions Club for seven years, and chaired the raffle herself for a few years after her husband’s death, until her health slowed her down. She continued to teach ballroom dancing for 64 years and even taught for Arthur Murray!

Louise’s friends depended on her for her sewing skills, as she was an excellent seamstress and often made clothing for them, and even made the dress her mother wore to her wedding. Some years, she made herself three outfits for Easter Sunday - one for church, one for the afternoon, and one for the evening.

Louise volunteered at Richmond Heights Hospital, and at the Slovene Home for the Aged for 36 years until she could no longer, due to a stroke in 2012. She also ushered at St. Christine’s Church, and was an active member of SUA Branch 50 - Euclid, where she had been an auditor. When I visited Louise to interview her for this article at the Slovene Home, where she coincidentally currently resides, she was dressed perfectly, wearing a lovely pant suit and with every hair in place. Her dream is to get well enough to return to her home.

Throughout this article I have mentioned “Recher Hall” and “Recher Avenue.” Louise’s grandfather sold real estate and purchased the land where the current Recher Hall (Slovenian Society Home) now stands and donated the property. The street was renamed Recher Avenue, and the Hall was called, by most people to this day, Recher Hall.

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Tribute to Long-Time Members

My goal in writing the articles about our older members was to make our newer and younger members aware of all that these remarkable women accomplished throughout their lives in support of the SUA and their Slovenian heritage. Some women did their work anonymously, while we are familiar with others only because we recognize their names, but know little else about them. Some people think that all our “old timers” did was cook and clean and raise large families, but that was far from the truth! These were women of many talents and abilities who were always giving of themselves. The obstacles some had to overcome were tremendous, but these obstacles just inspired them to higher achievements. Women of this determination would be hard to find today.

I tried to put a personality to the names and in doing so I met many wonderful women with various interests and accomplishments, whose lives honored their Slovenian heritage both directly and indirectly. It was my pleasure to interview them and hear about fascinating events in their lives. I thank them for this opportunity. From the feedback they and I have received, I think I am accomplishing my goal.

Patricia Budzilek
Zarja Staff Writer

A Tantalizing “Taste” of the New ZARJA Heritage Cookbook

- by David Sodac Branch 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

My wife and I had been cordially invited for a firsthand experience and foretaste of the upcoming recipes that are being carefully selected for inclusion in the much anticipated 2014 *Zarja's* Anniversary Heritage cookbook. We were forewarned to arrive hungry and ready to sample the food selections. We reached the front entranceway of



SUA President Bonnie Pohar Prokup's home and rang the doorbell, we heard an inviting voice holler, “*Just come in, it's open!*” As we entered, our taste buds were gripped by the tantalizing aromas that came wafting in to greet us from



the back kitchen. We glanced at the obviously purposeful clutter in the front living room strewn everywhere with clusters of seasonal props and Slovenian memorabilia that would be used for the final staging of the photos that would be taken of the finished Slovenian food dishes. We were drawn into the kitchen and witnessed the busy beehive of weekend baking, cooking, and food preparation of the recipes being considered as outstanding and delectable enough to be chosen. Our eyes quickly were directed to the counter where plates of various foods were resting. In an instant we were told, “*Those can't be eaten yet, they're awaiting their photo sessions with Debbie!*” A collection of seemingly seasoned kitchen-whizzes were swarming around the kitchen, carefully kneading sweet bread dough, thinly slicing almonds, boiling potatoes, dicing onions, and peeling chestnuts.

The *Zarja* editor, Debbie Pohar, was grabbing a couple of the colorful plates of food in front of our watering mouths to take out to the outdoor “staging table”. The table was arranged with appropriate props, focusing on the “Feast of the Three Kings” featured recipes. After the photo session in the natural outdoor light, she brought the dishes into the kitchen and alerted everyone that it was time to dig in! It seemed everybody was waiting to hear those words, left their counter stations, and quickly consumed the delectable





morsels of food. But with limited time to spend sampling, the chefs promptly returned to their recipe preparations.



Many of our *Zarja* readers may already be aware of the various committees of volunteers working diligently in crafting a new cookbook for the Slovenian Union of America, the first one since 1998. The groundwork was already laid out to make this cookbook much different. The previous cookbooks included many recipes submitted from SUA members' families. This new cookbook will feature Slovenian-American recipes that will fittingly coincide

with holidays. The inspiration for this book is to blend traditional foods of the old world with modern American conveniences. This cookbook will offer more than recipes. It will have vibrant color photos, and offer written synopses of cultural and heritage traditions. As the preface to the new cookbook reads, "Recipes and traditional crafts are like folk tales, they become small parcels of our Slovenian culture."

There are two teams of chefs preparing the selected recipes. One in Peru, Illinois, where team members Bonnie Pohar Prokup, Debbie Pohar, Jean Ficek, Cathy Lenkaitis, Karen Taylor, and Barb Pohar were gathered during our visit. The other is in Ely, Minnesota, at the summer vacation home of the Vice President of Culture and Heritage, Mary Lou Voelk, where the recipes are focusing on the entire Christmas holidays piece. The cookbook committee aspires to make the new cookbook available in time to purchase at the National Convention in 2015 and hopes that it can be offered in both hard-bound and soft-covered options. Our hope is that it can find a niche in your homes and be used as a guide for modern families to bring Slovenian culture and heritage into their festivities.

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I first became aware of the *Zarja - The Dawn* publication in the mid 1990s. I visited the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C. to get materials for a presentation at a Family Day, which was being held in the courtyard of the FBI building, where I worked. A contact was provided and I called her, Irene Planisek Odorizzi, who asked her SWUA Branch for some volunteers to stand at the table. That is when I met Nika Kovacic and Marie Robinson. After the event I asked Nika to speak to our local Slovenian Genealogy Society chapter about heritage; she deferred saying that Irene was a much better choice. So I called Irene and she made a presentation at the home of Carol Ryba (SUA's current National Treasurer), where our members met. After the presentation Irene gave out applications for membership in the Slovenian Women's Union of America, and three of us joined - myself, Carol, and Diane Cherne. I then started attending the Branch meetings where I met many of the longtime members and started to read the *Zarja*. I really enjoyed Irene's articles and her book. Irene and Nika became my mentors in things Slovenian and supported my appetite for history and genealogy. If it weren't for Irene, Nika, and her daughter, Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons, I would not be as involved as I am. My second influence was my aunt, Rose Plautz Pakiz. In 1985, Rosie asked me to type up a list of all her nephews and nieces; she had 12 siblings, each of whom had a family. After that first initial flutter of interest, it wasn't until 1994, when I obtained a computer at home, that my interest resumed. Rosie sent slips of paper with names, laughing, and telling me, that they were related to us; find out how. She has sent me photos and other bits of ephemera. And without her memory, along with a few aunts and my dad, we would never know or remember some of the high and low points of their family life, growing up in the wilderness in the middle of Wisconsin. Since I am the family historian, no one seems to want to take on the work of maintaining data and archives. I have no idea where this wealth of information will go. But without the connection to some women in Washington, D.C., and my aunt in Greenwood, Wisconsin, I would not have become a heritage and genealogy writer for *Zarja - The Dawn*.

George Plautz
Zarja Staff Writer

Slovenian Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Božo Cerar, visited the Iron Range

Slovenian Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Božo Cerar, visited the Iron Range on Friday, July 18, 2014. Dr. Cerar had quite a busy schedule in a short visit to the North. He was traveling with Miro and Karen Medved, (Miro formerly of Biwabik) from Roseville, MN. Miro is an Honorary Slovenian Consul.



John Stark, President of Branch 35 and Vice President Sharon Zaverl Starkovich at the reception for the Ambassador.

Their first stop was in Virginia, MN, at the home of artist, Albin Zaverl. Recently Mr. Zaverl had a large display of his artwork at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington D.C. Dr. Cerar expressed interest in meeting Mr. Zaverl and agreed to visit Ely at the invitation of Bina Medved, who was at the Embassy with her sisters, Rosie and Nadi, demonstrating strudel making. In Virginia the Ambassador was greeted by Mr. Zaverl's nieces, Sharon Starkovich and Joanne Coombe, who is executive director of the St. Louis County Historical Society at the Depot in Duluth, MN. Joanne, working with Mary Lou Voelk, SUA Vice President of Culture and Heritage, was instrumental



Jim Lah Family (Branch 39 - Ely, MN) with the Ambassador Left to Right: Ruth, Dr. Cerar, Jim, August, and Blaz Lah.



Honary Consul to Slovenia, Miro Medved (Twin Cities Branch) and Adolph Levar, Ely, MN.

in getting the paintings displayed at the Embassy.

The day continued with a reception at Vermilion College. John Stark, of Aurora, welcomed the Ambassador with the playing of music on his Slovenian button accordion. The Slovenian National Anthem was sung at the direction of Jim Lah, and all joined in with the beautiful mu-



Dr. Cerar with artist, Albin Zaverl, in his Virginia home.

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Ross Peterson, Mayor of Ely, presenting Dr. Cerar the key to the city.

sic. Gerry Petrich, President of Slovenian Union of America, Branch 23, introduced the Mayor of Ely, Ross Peterson, and welcomed all who were in attendance. The Mayor of Ely presented Dr. Cerar the key to the city, and thanked him for honoring the people of Ely with his visit. The Ambassador was sincerely impressed with the beauty of the area and the warm reception. "Ely reminds me of Slovenia without the hills," he said. Many of the people attending the reception enjoyed a personal visit with the Ambassador. They also had many ethnic foods to enjoy, including Slovenian sausage, potica, and strudel.

In the evening a dinner in honor of the Ambassador, with music provided by the Barich Brothers, was held at Creek Ridge Lodge. Dr. Frank Udovich, the proprietor of the Creek Ridge Lodge, welcomed the Ambassador, and Father Bill Skarich, Pastor of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely, said Grace. The Ambassador spoke at length about Slovenian-American relationships. He expressed appreciation for the hospitality and warmth of the Iron Range residents, many who were from the Ely area. He shared some of the history of Slovenia, some of his experiences at his various other diplomatic assignments, and expressed pleasure in his experience in Minnesota. He promised to be back again.

The dinner of chicken or prime rib was served with dessert, dobosh torte, a Slovenian favorite. Once the music started, it soon became a Slovenian "sing-along." All guests were enjoying music which brought back many memories from the past. The Ambassador enthusiastically joined in the singing.

A big thank you goes out to the Ely Branch of the Slovenian Union of America and to all those who worked hard with the preparations for the visit of Ambassador Cerar, making it a memorable event for all who attended.

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I have been accused of being a hoarder – which is not true – unless you consider my stockpile of every issue of the *Zarja – The Dawn* magazine I've received since my SWUA membership began in the year 2000. I cherish these issues and could not bear the thought of discarding them. I have been known to give my yearly speech to the members at my Branch 43 – Milwaukee meetings – to NEVER toss away their copies of *Zarja*! I ask them – if they de-clutter rather than save – to leave them at their hair stylists' shops, their dentists' and doctors' offices, anywhere that others may see them, read them, and get hooked on everything Slovenian. If they can't see themselves doing that, I ask them to bring them to me – and some do just that. I then plan to deliver them around town.

I am hooked on reading and have always eagerly anticipated the arrival of each issue and would read the *Zarja* from cover to cover. Several years ago you may have read some of my many articles about SWUA's proposed amendments to our bylaws. That was tedious and boring to some – but very interesting to me. Now, I think we're all glad that part of our SUA/SWUA business is over. I do enjoy reporting on special events and the promotion of and results of our National Convention fund-raisers. However, things have changed for me. For the last couple of years - I now no longer get excited when the issues arrive in my mailbox. Allow me to explain! I am now a proofreader for the *Zarja* before they go to print. Misspellings and punctuation errors used to pop right out at me whenever I read any publication. But now, I have a responsibility! I read, and reread, and then again once more all articles submitted. I think I'm pretty good at this assignment – but realize I, too, can miss something. By the time the *Zarja* arrives in my mailbox it is all old news to me. I no longer have that eagerness for their arrival, but now eagerly await the next submissions. I must read them on my computer screen and do miss holding the issues in my hands to read. Don't feel badly for me – my stockpile allows me to pull out the very old issues, reminisce about events of years past, and enjoy the articles all over again.

Denise P. Bartlett
Zarja Proof Reader



Slovenian

Union of America

Branch Reports

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Contact Information: Mary Ann Schellinger
920.457.7946/rhmas@yahoo.com

On June 19 we held our annual pot luck dinner in Fr. Cherne Hall at S.S. Cyril & Methodius Church. Many traditional Slovenian dishes were served, including breads, bean salad with pumpkin oil, kransky klobasa, rice sausage, potica, roscky, potato salad, and pink tea.

Branch President Mary Ann Schellinger gave a brief talk on Slovenian traditions. She talked about family gatherings, music, and traditional foods.



Tom Repenshek, Betty Repenshek, Aggie Gruenke, Mary Ann Govak, and Jerry Govak in the bakery tent getting ready to sell the goodies.



Mary Jo Grabner, Dick Jelovnik, and Mary Ann Schellinger - SUA members who walked in the 4th of July parade.

On July 4 some S.S. Cyril and Methodius Church parishioners, along with a few members of SUA, walked in the parade to promote attendance at our Slovenian festival.

Sunday, July 13, we celebrated our annual church picnic at Deland Park on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. Father Paul Fliss celebrated a Polka Mass. It was attended by hundreds of people. After Mass, the games, food, and beer stands opened. This year over 100 loaves of potica were sold. We also had cherry and apple strudel, cookies, and cakes. The bakery stand is always a huge success, along with the ice cream stand.

The food stand featured brats, hamburgers, chicken, and kranskys with sauerkraut. We also served Slovenian potato salad, cabbage, bacon, and dumplings. Music was featured all day. The day was a huge success thanks to all who attended and to the many volunteers.

Our next events will be: September 14 - Brunch at Al & Al's, October 6 - Election of officers after Mass in Fr. Cherne Hall, November 6 - Mass at 9:00 a.m. to honor all past members of the SUA, and December 9 - Christmas Party at K.C. Hall

BETTY REPENSHEK

BRANCH 2 - Chicago, Illinois

Contact Information: Judy Stoll judystoll@att.net

Our last meeting before our summer break was on Sunday, June 8. We enjoyed meeting in the beautifully refurbished "church basement" that the Cristo Rey High School allows us to use. A few of the smaller, stained glass windows that once graced St. Stephen Church are displayed around the

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room, and they never fail to bring back memories. Placed along one wall is a stunning, wood decoration that was once part of the church's choir area. I wonder what talented craftsman created that lovely piece. Our Branch is really so grateful that the Cristo Rey High School has kept these reminders of our heritage to share with their students and with us.

On a sad note, we report that our member, Dolores (Oviik) Nauheimer, passed away this past June. We offer our condolences to her family. Keep in your thoughts and prayers the very active, long-time members of our Branch, Mary Reich, and her sister, Elsie Cizak. Also, Mary Newbould, daughter of our president, Jean (Daisy) Zeleznaker, continues to struggle with health issues. Pray for Mary, Elsie, Mary, all our ailing members, and those in service to America.

Our picnic committee met at Rosemary Litwin's house to discuss the last minute details of our annual fund-raiser and, of course, to enjoy the lunch that Rosemary provided.

Our next meeting will be in September. Until then, enjoy the rest of summer everyone!

JUDY STOLL

BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: Annette Charron

amtcharron@yahoo.com

Branch 3 has suspended business meetings over the summer. However, our Branch organized a bus trip to the casinos in Cripple Creek on July 13, and this summer the city of Pueblo sponsored activities relating to the Slovenian neighborhood surrounding St. Mary's church.



The bus trip to Cripple Creek, a fund-raiser for the Branch, was a success. Participants enjoyed the breathtaking views of Pikes Peak and the surrounding mountains on the way up to the old mining town. Possible fun activities in Cripple Creek include gambling in the casinos, eating at the



Some of the Branch 3 gamblers taking a break in Cripple Creek.

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Established 1929

Zarja - The Dawn Branch Reporters were asked to tell us, what it is like to be a writer for *Zarja*. They were encouraged to send in a photo of themselves, their family, or with their favorite Slovenian foods or treasures. - Enjoy!

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Once upon a time (May 1906) a young girl named Marie ventured from her homeland a long, long ways away and landed in the New York Harbor of America and then later came to Sheboygan. Life in the new country was not easy and as the years went by she was aware of all the struggles the newcomers had to endure. She had a dream, which came true in 1926 as she founded the Slovenian Women's Union of America, now known as SUA. Since that time, our members strive to continue to "live Marie's dream." Whether it is sharing a smile with a member (Pauline Rugar, 103½ years of age, and Mary Ann Schellinger), carrying on the tradition of making potica (Aggie Gruenke and Shirley Vertacic), sharing a musical talent and proudly donning a traditional costume (Alec Lindstrom), or lighting a Slovenian candle at a funeral with vases of red carnations as a colorful farewell (funeral of Ed Fedran) - writing articles for *Zarja* gives me the honor and privilege of hopefully carrying on the dream that Marie had to "Let our Slovenian Heritage Shine."



BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Writing for *Zarja* is a lot of fun. We have been writing since 2010. This assignment gives us the opportunity to get to know the Branch officers better and to interact with a variety of people. Annette concentrates on creating and typing

restaurants, taking walks around the historic town, and touring the local museum, which has memorabilia and furnished rooms representative of Cripple Creek in its heyday. The weather was cool and partly cloudy, which was perfect for sightseeing.

A documentary movie about the history of the St. Mary's Church neighborhood, where many Slovenians settled and still live (officially called Eiler's Heights Neighborhood by the city planners, but "Bojontown" by locals), premiered at the Rawlings Library earlier in July. The event included potica, pohanje, and other Slovenian treats prepared by neighborhood residents and there was standing room only. The movie was one of the results of a historic survey of the neighborhood. If you would like to see the 14-minute documentary, "Potica, Pints and Prayers in Old Bojon Town," about the history of Pueblo's Slovenian neighborhood, here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXylbbBBvZs>.

The historic, Slovenian neighborhood may become a national historic district. Branch 3's next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at St. Mary's Church hall.

ANNETTE SABO CHARRON
& BARBARA KARLINGER

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Contact Information: Phyllis Fon

phylliswu5@aol.com

Greetings all Branch 5 members! Hope you are enjoying our beautiful, autumn weather; trees changing to colors of golden orange and red, late gardens bursting with turnips, potatoes, and cabbages, ready to be saved for warm, winter soups. Autumn apple trees always have the biggest and juiciest fruit for pies and cinnamon applesauce. Farms, here and in Slovenia, are at their busiest, picking crops and filling freezers with farm-raised beef, chicken, and pork. Nothing goes to waste; making such delicious dishes



Cline Family: Scott and Sara (Fon) Cline with Ava Rose at her baptism, and big brothers, Jonathon and Charlie.

as hogs-head cheese, pickled pig's feet, ox-tail stew, and my favorite, SAUSAGE!! Every family has their own "secret recipe," passed down from generation to generation; from small, breakfast links to large rings of blood sausage. Today, many

families, in rural and urban settings, still gather and make the family klobasa, usually accompanied with much storytelling and plenty of pivo and slivovitz. ZIVIJO!

There are several events to mark on your calendars for the coming months. September 14 at the Slovenian National Home, come join us as we celebrate a "Taste of Slovenia" dinner! Several groups are joining together to present a scrumptious array of Slovenian delicacies for your enjoyment! Please check the Slovenian National Home website for more info.

Our popular "Koffee 'n Krofe" event and our "Iron Skillet" holiday dinner are also in the works. Watch your mail for exact dates and times for these events. As always, family and friends are welcome to join in the fun!

Families and friends... are they members of SUA? Christmas is coming... how about a gift membership? Remember those cousins who moved out of state? They would love to receive *Zarja*, and would thank you for it! How about that guy who had the Slovenian grandmother? He always wanted to know more about Slovenia! The campaign for new members is on right now, with a cash prize for the most new members. Sign up someone today! Keeping all of you in our prayers!

MARY, KAREN & PHYLLIS

BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

Children are back to school and October ends with Halloween. We are off and running into the holidays. We sure hope California is blessed with rain this year. Newspapers say we have only two years of water left in our reservoirs. Think Rain!

Our treasurer, Michele Twers, had very painful hand surgery, leaving her with a cast up to her elbow. To Michele, and all our members who are under the weather, get well soon. Auditor, Virginia Sustarich's granddaughter, Priscilla, has moved out to California. Grandma is very happy. We would like to wish a happy 10th anniversary to Alina and Kevin Spencer, and happy 5th anniversary to Bernadette and Kenneth Spencer. Also celebrating its 85th anniversary is our beautiful *Zarja* magazine. Branch 13 is 87 years old and was very active in the early days when everyone lived on Potrero Hill. The 101 freeway went through our neighborhood moving many homes out of the way. In those days, our secretary sent post cards of coming events and also collected all of the Branch dues, then sent it to the Home Office in Joliet, IL.

In 1961, Frances Chiodo led a group of Slovenian Women Union members to Hawaii. In 1995, the SWU National Convention was held in San Francisco. A fabulous time was had by all. SUA members now meet for the Member of the Year luncheon and still meet at the Slovenian Hall for our monthly meetings. Those of us that attend have a wonderful time.

MOREEN SPENCER

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois
Contact Information: Diane Hohenwater
dhohenwater@comcast.net

Plans are in full swing for our annual Grape Harvest Festival Dance. Our September meeting has been moved to Tuesday, September 23, allowing us to finalize arrangements closer to the event. This year's dance will be held on Sunday, September 28, at St. Joseph Park in Joliet. The Bill Koncar Band from Minnesota will perform wonderful music. Bill hails from Joliet and is a popular, strolling accordionist and bandleader in the Midwest. The Bill Koncar Band plays a variety of music, including polkas, waltzes, fox trots, swing, Latin rhythms, as well as classic rock and pop tunes.

Bill Koncar began playing the accordion at age nine in his hometown of Joliet, Illinois; taking accordion lessons from a family friend. Bill, and his brother, Ray, who plays Slovenian button accordion, and some friends formed the Koncar Brothers' Band in Joliet in the early 1980s, playing engagements in the Joliet/Chicago area. After Bill, his wife, Sue, and their three sons, Matt, Andy, and Joe, relocated to the Twin Cities, Bill (accordion), Andy (drums), and Joe (accordion & drums) began performing in the Twin Cities area. Besides playing numerous band engagements, Bill is a popular, strolling accordionist. Bill and/or the band perform approximately 250 gigs per year at a variety of venues and events in the Midwest.

We appreciate the great support we have received from neighboring Branches in the past and hope to see you again this year! Our event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome! We work hard to make this a traditional Slovenian event, and will be serving Laško pivo and Slovenian wine again this year. One of the most enjoyable parts of our Grape Harvest Dance is when the honorary mayors from past years gather together at the stage and drink a toast before parading through the hall playing their button boxes and accordions. You truly feel as if you are in Slovenia!

Happy 63rd Anniversary to members Peter and Theresa Papesh! On a sad note, our sincere sympathy goes out to our Spiritual Advisor, Father Tom Paul, whose sister, Roseanne, passed away. We also mourn the loss of member Adrianna Vidmar, as well as Richard Churnovic, husband of member Audrey Churnovic. The Churnovics had just celebrated 60 years of marriage. Branch 20 offers condolences to the family of Branch 99 member Paula Mavec. Paula was a lovely lady whose kindness was extended to members of all SUA branches.

DIANE HOHENWATER

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Contact Information: Loretta Story 9_lives@att.net

Our summer picnic, held on June 19 at Starved Rock Family Fun, was a huge success! The ethnic food, music, and camaraderie was so enjoyable. Whether it's 20 or 50 members, we love being together and sharing our time and stories.

President Diane Data has a wonderful agenda lined up for us, including a visit to SUA's Heritage Museum in Joliet and to St.

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the report, while Barb proofreads for correct spelling and takes the lead in contacting branch members for information. Being the writers of our branch is very rewarding because members are always excited and thankful when they read a newsy report covering our local events.

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

As a writer for *Zarja*, there are many things that I wish I could write about. I wish that I could have talked to some of the older Branch 5 members who are no longer with us, and gotten their stories of their journey to America. I wish that I could have talked to the Slovenian women of Haughville who were the first to sign up for the Slovenian Women's Union, something that I am sure was unheard of in most households in the 1930s. Most importantly, I wish that I can write of something, an event or a location, that will trigger a memory or a tradition in the members who read *Zarja*, and that those readers will share that thought or teach that skill to the next generation of American Slovenians, to continue to keep our Slovenian heritage alive and growing!



BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

Bara Kramer went back to see Marie Prisland about starting a branch out west, 87 years ago. It would bring our Slovenian women together

Joseph's Church. We look forward to the fall when our meetings will resume.

In the meantime, enjoy *Zarja*, and thank its Editor and all those who make it the wonderful magazine that it is. By the way, I NEVER throw my issues away!

Happy 85th Birthday, *Zarja*! Thank you & God bless all those who make it possible!

LORETTA STORY

BRANCH 33 - Duluth, Minnesota

Our Branch members are a close and loving group. We try to do things for others, as well as ourselves. Josie Rzatkowski sends cards out when someone is ill. Renee Doble and Jackie Rukavina do quite well in taking care of the shut-ins at Christmas time. We see to it a little gift is given to them.

ANN MENART

BRANCH 35 - Aurora, Minnesota

Contact Information: John Stark

johnks6@yahoo.com

Summer arrived mid June, but the furnaces have been running periodically. The gardens were behind on growth, and like so many places around the U.S., the rains just keep coming. Fortunately, we didn't experience flooding, and we are thankful for that. The year 2014 has been different climate-wise, beginning with the cold, snowy winter.

Longtime member, Dottie Jamnick, passed away. Also, Rose Anttila's and Tom Bajda's sister, Paula Mavec, passed away. She was a dedicated member of Branch 99 in Lemont, IL. Climbing Mt. Triglav was a passion of hers; collecting donations and giving them to the SUA for the 2015 National Convention. Her sisters will finish the climb for her. Due to weather, Paula was not able to reach the summit. May Dottie's and Paula's souls rest in peace.

Many of our members enjoy the Northern Lights Music Festival held every year in Aurora and area communities. Students and teachers from all over the world spend three weeks here for training and performances. We were entertained with Bizet's opera, *Carmen*, as well as Britten's opera, *Noye's Fludde*. The concerts began on July 1 and ended on July 19. Veda Zuponic, former Aurora resident, and internationally known pianist, is the Festival coordinator and teaches music at Rowan University in New Jersey. Vida's mother is deceased member, Helen Zuponic.

St. John's Church, Biwabik, MN, (Branch 39 was originally the Biwabik Branch until they transferred to the Aurora Branch) hosted a Slovenian Mass and Dinner on July 26. Fr. Milan Dimic, from eastern Connecticut, celebrated Mass in Slovenian, and the Singing Slovenes provided music. Our Branch president, John Stark, is a member of this group. Mass was followed by a Slovenian dinner.

Until the next issue - wishing good health to everyone!

MARLYS RABB

Agnes Starasinich Galleberg

Turns 90 on September 16

A Life-long Member of Branch 33

- by Margaret Clancy, daughter

Agnes was born to Slovenian parents, Mary Rot and Frank Starasinich. She is the youngest of three Starasinich children; Frances and Edward have passed away. While her mother was pregnant with Agnes, Frank passed away in March of 1924. Mary, now alone with three children, went to work. In February of 1926, Mary married Peter Ivanovich and they had Tony and then Julia. All are gone now except Agnes, our matriarch.

Agnes learned English when she started kindergarten. She went to Stowe school, in Duluth, MN, until the eighth grade. During WWII Mary worked at the cement plant in Duluth, MN.

She married and gave birth to two children, George and Margaret. Agnes divorced shortly after and then married a wonderful man, Clarence Galleberg. He adopted both George and Margaret.



Left to Right: Agnes' sister, Julia, cousin Veronika from Slovenia, and Agnes.

They worked hard, built their dream house, and had a wonderful life. Clarence passed away in 1996.

In 1984 mom and I visited Slovenia and stayed in the village of Nova Vas with Agnes' first cousin, whom she had never met. We had the most wonderful time. We discovered wonderful family history. We still communicate with our relatives in Slovenia. Mom still speaks Slovenian and she was a great interpreter on our visit. So far we have genealogy going back to 1742 on the Rot side and 1856 on the Starasinich side.

Agnes had a book published in 1969, one she had been writing for years. She also got her GED. At the age of 89 she is still in her own home; mowing her lawn, not because she has to, but because she wants to. She is also in the process of writing a sequel to her first book, "Daughter of an Outlaw." She is the most amazing 90 year old I know. Agnes taught herself to play the accordion and has performed for some community events and Slovenian Ladies' socials. She plays by ear; she can hear a tune and play it with a few rehearsals. For family gatherings at the house Agnes will play at least a few tunes.

A most Happy Birthday wish from friends and family.

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact Information: Jan Gehm

414.321.1413/twogames@wi.rr.com

Due to conflicting activities, our summer picnic had to be canceled. Many thanks to Josie Midman for her most kind offer to have the picnic at her home. We hope to reschedule in 2015.

November 4, Election Day, is our Bake Sale. Won't you please help us by baking your favorite recipe? Let's make this a team effort. It will take all of us to make it a success. Please HELP! Bring your goodies to the S. 88th St. School after 7:00 a.m. or call Jan Gehm for a drop off site. To volunteer your help on that day, please call Jan.

Congratulations to our young member, Becky Kaye, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, with a degree in Arts History. We wish Becky all the best in her chosen career.

An invitation is extended to attend the performance of Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets on October 18 at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall. It will be an evening of music and fun. Tickets are \$20. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Jan Gehm at 414.321.1413, or Mici Bregant at 414.543.6695.

Hope to see you at our next luncheon meetings on Wednesdays, September 24 and October 22, both at noon in the Constitution Room at the West Allis Library.

MICI BREGANT

BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Contact Information: Debbie Duris

330.467.2281

Happy 85th Anniversary, *Zarja*! To all Branch members - please plan to attend our meeting on Saturday, September 6, at 1 p.m. at Panera Bread in Solon. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

I will gladly share any of our members' activities. Just call me on my cell at 330.730.8951 or e-mail me at kjferrante@gmail.com and I will include your news in the next Branch report. Have a beautiful autumn!

KATHLEEN FERRANTE

FIND YOUR SLOVENIAN ROOTS!

... maybe you don't know where to begin ...
... maybe you have hit that proverbial brick wall ...



Contact us:
Slovenian Genealogy Research Center
6415 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103
E-mail: sgsi.rc@gmail.com
Phone: 1.440.655.3954
Website: www.sloveniangenealogy.org

Our mission is to help you!!!!

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in the bay area and keep us in contact with our sister members way back east. The Slovenian Women's Union had the wonderful idea to publish a monthly magazine with articles and recipes from each Branch, called the *Zarja*. One of our first reporters for Branch 13 was Frances Pechavar Chiodo. Frances was our reporter for over 25 years. Taking over for Frances was Beverly Chiodo Jackson, also a 25 year reporter. Then there were Jackie Kambick Lowe, Barbara Chiodo, and Moreen Sustarich Spencer. When the *Zarja* first started, the reporters job was time consuming and true dedication. The monthly article was handwritten and mailed to the editor in Illinois, hoping it would arrive by the deadline. *Zarja* is now computerized and six beautiful issues per year. Congratulations on your 85th anniversary, *Zarja*!

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

My favorite Slovenian is my great-grandfather, Anton Duša. Like so many others, he left Slovenia at age 19 in search of steady work and a better way of life. Anton's journey to the U.S. took an entire month, including his voyage aboard a cargo ship. Anton settled in Joliet, got a job at the local steel mill, saved his money, and sent for his siblings. Anton married Katarina Mihevc in 1905, and shortly after giving birth to their sixth child in 1918, Kate died, leaving Anton to raise their children. Despite his protests, Anton's sister and her husband adopted the baby to help ease his burden. Anton was saving money to buy a house, but lost his savings during the Great Depression. Anton was a proud, hard-working man, and I hope he would be pleased that a descendant he never met has, in a limited way, examined and appreciated the life he lived.



BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Dober Dan! I am 72 years old and I can't remember a time that there wasn't *Zarja* in my life! I recall how excited my Mom would be when it arrived in the mail. Never did I

BRANCH 50 - Euclid, Ohio

Contact Information: Rick Tomsick

440.655.6735/ricktomsick@gmail.com

Greetings from the "5-0" on America's North Coast, Cleveland, OH! The next regular Branch meeting is going to be on September 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the Euclid Public Library.

Special wishes go to our member, Florence Stopar, who has been a resident at the Slovene Home for the Aged since 2012. I had the chance to visit with Florence and her husband, Ray, who makes an effort to be with her every day. The Stopars will celebrate 63 years of marriage in August! Ray and Florence got married while Ray was on furlough during the Korean War. At her bedside is a painting that was done of the young couple when they got married (see attached photograph). Many continued blessings!



Prayers and best wishes to Christina Blatnik (in hospice care as of this writing) and her family.

Let's each remember to keep one another and all members of Branch 50 and all of the SUA in our prayers. Please write to me at ricktomsick@gmail.com with any family news and I will add you to our list of updates for Branch 50 (you don't need to be a member of Branch 50). That way, you'll get more up-to-date information on activities, member notices, and news. That's all for now. Many thanks to everyone for all you do in SUA!

RICK TOMSICK

BRANCH 55 - Girard, Ohio

Contact Information: Monica Selak

mselek3@gmail.com

Greetings from Girard, OH! It has been a busy few months for Branch 55. Back in April, several members of Branch 55 and AMLA Lodge 42 attended "Polka Night" at McMenamy's in Niles, OH. Member Dolores DePietro was one of several folks who shared their talent on the button box. It was a great night!

In June, member Anka Krakora helped host an afternoon tea at the historical Barnhisel House in Girard. She decorated one of several tables for the occasion. Finger foods, sweets, and tea were served. Joan Twaddle helped her son, Jack, with beautiful background music. A brief history of the Barnhisel House was given and everyone attending was invited to wear a hat for the event. The hats were judged anonymously during the event and prizes were given for originality and beauty. Maria Selak won third place for her creation.

In other news, Maria Selak, head children's librarian at the Girard Free Library, facilitated another successful children's, summer reading program. This year's theme was "Fizz, Boom, Read."

As always, members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. Information for the Holiday party will be available soon. Please contact Maria Selak for details.

In closing, a haiku, "All Around the Pumpkin Patch" by Robert Dufresne:

*Summer yawns at rest,
Autumn kaleidoscopes in
Ominous beauty.*

MONICA SELAK

FOR RENT: Slovenian Rustic Retreat

This quaint little hillside cottage is located in Bela Krajina in the town of Semtč. Sleeps 6

Contact: Mitch Vlahovic-McIlvene
mihelamitch@hotmail.com





BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Contact Information: Jim Ebner

815.883.3268/deadendbluff@yahoo.com

Members of Branch 89 gathered for the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church, Oglesby, on Wednesday, June 4, to remember the deceased members of Branch 89, followed by a delicious breakfast at Delaney's Family Restaurant. Branch 24 of LaSalle graciously extended an invitation to our Branch as they hosted a delicious, potluck meal and enjoyable evening with live musical entertainment on the patio of Starved Rock Family Fun on the evening of Thursday, June 19. Our members greatly enjoyed this evening of shared Slovenian food and friendship, and this closes out our planned activities for the summer. We begin our new year with our potluck in September. We wish everyone safe travels and good health, with blessings to your families and friends in the coming months. A special "Hello" to our members in Washington D.C., Wisconsin, Ohio, and Florida! For the summer, Dober dan!

JIM EBNER

BRANCH 93 - New York, New York

Contact Information: Elizabeth Gross

718.335.8459/Lizg669@gmail.com

In July we met Branko Jordan, Katarina Stegnar, and Primož Bežjak, Slovenian actors who were in New York for one month for the Republic of Slovenia Culture Residency. They are creating a new theater work to be produced in Slovenia next year about the current waves of migration to and from Slovenia. Our members met them at a performance of "Shen Wei Dance" at the Prospect Park band shell in Brooklyn.

The east coast Branches of the Slovenian Union of America have been invited to a reception in Washington, D.C., on October 2, where Ambassador Cerar will introduce "The American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF)" - www.ase-fund.org.



The ASEF's purpose is to fund academic exchanges between the USA and Slovenia - for students and faculty in each country to spend short periods of time in the other country. The ASEF was

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think I would one day be submitting articles for *Zarja*! I consider it a great privilege and pleasure to be able to contribute to this wonderful international publication. I have seen it grow from the black and white, all Slovenian magazine, to the colorful, news-filled magazine that it is today. And I salute all those pioneers who began the undertaking, 85 years ago, of publishing such a magazine for keeping the Slovenian heritage alive.

The two people that influenced me the most in my heritage were my parents, Louis and Frances (Luzar) Ahcin. In a way we had our own little Slovenia on Chartres Street in La Salle, Illinois. My father, having arrived from Slovenia at the age of 17, was a hard-working husband, father, butcher, bell ringer, wine maker, sausage maker, gardener, singer and polka dancer! My mother worked right beside him and together they would polka around the kitchen table. The summer picnics on Janko's "farm" with the annual pig roasting was just one of the customs I grew up with, along with singing. Everyone sang when they got together! Visitors from Gary, Indiana, after a good Sunday meal and some homemade wine, would start the chorus of Slovenian songs that I still love today! St. Roch's Catholic Church in La Salle was a huge contributor to my upbringing with its Slovenian Masses, singing, Holy Day celebrations, and the annual chicken dinners outside on the lawn. I thank my parents for giving me such a gift!

I am so proud to be a Slovenian and writing newsworthy items from our little band of members of Branch 24. We are continually striving in all areas to keep our heritage alive and members well-informed.

In the meantime, enjoy *Zarja*; thank its Editor and all those who make it the wonderful magazine that it is. By the way, I NEVER throw my issues away!

Happy 85th Birthday, *Zarja*! Thank you and God bless all those who make it possible!

BRANCH 33 - Duluth, Minnesota

I enjoy putting into words what goes on in our members' lives. When there is a funeral of a dear member, I am in a prayerful state writing about it. Sometimes I don't get an article written because of a lack of time or just no news comes

launched in Silicon Valley a year ago and is seeking to expand its outreach to the east coast and to Slovenia this fall. Branch 93 is working with Društvo v tujini izobraženih Slovencev (VTIS) www.drustvovtis.si - an organization of Slovenians Educated Abroad which is based in Ljubljana and has members in Slovenia, throughout Europe, the Americas, Australia, and New Zealand - to identify potential participants, donors, and sponsors and to raise awareness of the ASEF foundation and its mission.

We are planning our annual Martinovanje, a Slovenian Thanksgiving feast, on November 9, 2014, 11 a.m., at 62 Saint Mark's Place in New York City at the Slovenian parish, Church of Saint Cyril. In honor of Saint Martin's cloak, we collect coats for NY Cares. Let us know if you will be in town and would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you!

ELIZABETH GROSS

BRANCH 99 - Lemont, Illinois
Contact Information: Jana Hlade
jmhlade@hotmail.com

Summer has ended and school is back in session. We're looking forward to the fall colors and cooler temperatures. We would like to thank Fanika Fritz for hosting a Slovenian stew culinary class on August 16 at the Slovenian Catholic Center (SCC). This tasty stew, called Ijmoht, is traditionally made with veal, but can also be made with chicken or beef.

This September 6, our Branch is hosting a new event, a Member Lunch Brunch, at 11 a.m. at the SCC. We really encourage all our members to attend this free, catered lunch to celebrate our Branch. Non-members are also welcome, priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. RSVP is required by August 31 to MaryAnn Partyka, 630.661.3600, or crafymar304@comcast.net. This is a luncheon prepared by our members to celebrate our members!

On October 26, please join us for our annual Bunco game day at the SCC from 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$3 per person. Donations of door prizes are welcome prior to game day (contact Julie LaJoie at 630.854.5400 or jamp817@comcast.net). Donations of bakery are needed by 12 p.m. on that day.

On November 16, our Branch is hosting a Genealogy class at 2 p.m. in the small hall of the SCC. Learn how to start and what to do with your family's history. We will also discuss the National Convention and elect the 2015 officers. Light refreshments will be served.

Plans for SUA's 27th National Convention, hosted by our Branch, are underway. Look inside this issue for details!

On a last note, it is with great sadness to report that member, Paula Mavec, passed away this June. Paula was our Branch vice-president for several years, a 2008 Member of the Year, organized the culinary classes, spear-headed the Cookie Sale with her sister at Christmas, hosted the summer bocce tournament, collected pledges for the Na-



Paula Mavec

tional Convention by climbing Mount Triglav in Slovenia in 2012, was a good friend to many, and was my amazing mother. She will truly be missed!

Have a wonderful fall season!

JANA HLADE

BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Contact Information: Jean Koci ajkoci@cox.net

It was another very enjoyable meeting and luncheon on Saturday, May 10, when Southern California members, family, and friends gathered at Napoli's Italian Restaurant. We had the opportunity to honor our Member of the Year, Bonney Zupan.

Also, through the generosity of Francine Phaller, over \$100 was earned by the raffle of several shawls and afghans that she had made. This time the Branch decided to donate the raffle proceeds to the Scleroderma Foundation. We have at least two women in our midst who have this little known disease, and we felt it appropriate to make this donation with them in mind.

Three young adults from our Branch were home for part of the summer - James Koci and Garret Jancich, SUA Scholarship recipients, as well as Sara Lundgren, who received an Honorable Mention.



Part of the Fontana Button Box Club performing and keeping us in a dancing mood!



Most of the members of Branch 100 who attended the Temecula Wine Tasting.



Paul Jensen, Marie Bajc, Sara Lundgren, and Ken Koci all of Branch 100.

James Koci just completed his first year at Notre Dame. Garret Jancich was home for a bit, then left for New York City to work for the rest of the summer before returning to Cornell for his senior year. Sara Lundgren graduated from the University of Chicago and is busy preparing to enter a PhD program at Dartmouth in the fall. All three of these young people have traveled in Slovenia and have met many of their family members while touring and soaking in the culture and beauty of this incredible country.

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along. All in all, the people in our Branch are good, loving people and when I do write of them, my heart beats lovingly and peacefully for them; we are family.

I am a member of the Singing Slovenes and it is a joy singing with these wonderful people. Other Branch members in the group are Mary Spehar White, Polly Stojevich, and Sharon Bucar. I make potica at Christmas time and a Slovenian cucumber dish that my mother-in-law taught me to make; she was 100% Slovenian. I also make a special dish, called Zgance, with yellow cornmeal and white buckwheat flour, which is hard to find - Mmmm good with bacon bits!

I'd like to give credit to Mary Spehar White. Without her, many of these articles would not be included. She is a gem to me and she helps get these articles in on time. God Bless her and all our members.

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Writing for *Zarja* can sometimes be a very challenging experience, but reading what other reporters write about can be a very rewarding one. During a lull in activities in our Branch, the challenge is there as you try to at least write a few words to keep in touch. Members could be a big help by letting their reporters know of interesting happenings within our Branch and experienced by our members. I am also a reporter for the VOICE (KSKJ Paper) and the same holds true. I am active in the Slovenian Community in Milwaukee and have met many wonderful people through my efforts as a reporter for both of these communications.

On June 22, over 25 members of SUA took part in the Temecula Wine Tasting Picnic sponsored by the Orange Coast SNPJ Lodge. Almost all of Branch 100's members are also members of SNPJ; it makes for a very strong workforce and a base for long and loyal friendships. The picnic featured the Fontana Slovene Button Box Club, plus additional musicians who all volunteered to entertain those of us who came to this beautiful park in the midst of Southern California's vineyards. Wiens Family Cellars is our host winery, so if you are ever in Temecula, please stop by and visit.

Congratulations to our beloved magazine, "Zarja - The Dawn"....85 Years of Memories!

JEAN KOCI

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

Contact Information: Bernadette Fitzsimmons

bettekfitz@verizon.net

Several members were present on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia and Armed Forces Day on June 24 at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar and Mrs. Martina Skok are most welcoming and hospitable to visitors. We enjoyed partaking in the traditional Slovenian-style feast of foods and desserts at the reception and socializing with the many guests from near and far.

Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons and her mother, Nika Kovacic, were delighted to meet with guest artists, Miro Zupancic and Joze Vodlan, at this occasion. They are long time friends of the family from when France Gorse, deceased Slovenian sculptor, used to travel with them as a trio from New York City to the Washington, D.C. area for visits and art exhibits. Joze Vodlan recently wrote a biography of his life, and presented his book "Za mavrico preko oceana," (For a Rainbow Across the Ocean) to friends and acquaintances. In addition, this was a very special evening, as his works of art were on display at the Embassy.

Below is a photo taken with Branch 108 members at the Embassy event, from left to right: Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons, Joze Vodlan, Nika Kovacic, Marinka Zupancic, Miro Zupancic, Lynn Koiner, and Margy Whitmore.



Please check your e-mail for upcoming Branch 108 meetings and events this fall.

BERNADETTE K. FITZSIMMONS

BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota

Contact Information: Norm Setnicker

651.777.6106/normas188@msn.com

The TC Slovenians have emerged from the bitter cold, Arctic vortex to the record, summer flooding in areas of the Twin Cities. This year we moved our anniversary dinner, traditionally in January, to the weekend of Slovenian Independence Day (June 22). Honorary Consul, Miro Medved, and family hosted over 70 members with a sit-down dinner, featuring Goveja pecenka "tenderloin," at their lovely home in Roseville, MN. Prior to dinner, everyone joined in singing the national anthems of the United States and Slovenia. Miro proceeded to read a heart-wrenching piece written by Ivan Cankar in Slovenian



Karen Medved prepared a fantastic Slovenian dinner for 70 people (with help from Albina Medved and many others) while Karen's husband, honorary consul Miro Medved, took care of their grandchild.

and Sara Medved reading the English version. One could sense the beauty of Slovenia as the words of Cankar stilled the festive atmosphere of our members. The piece was titled “Nebesa pod Triglavom” - Heaven Under Triglav.

What was to be the highlight of the day - The Tina Balininje Tournament (bocce ball) - was rained out. This was to be the first tournament in honor of Kristine Medved Nelson, who passed away this past winter. “Trije Prijatelji” Bob Grahek, John Skubitz, and Rick Pisa organized the participants into eight teams named for different Slovenian towns and cities. Even though it was a beautiful day, the court was drenched and unplayable. We look forward to playing later this summer or fall.

Throughout the afternoon, live Slovenian music was supplied by John Stark of the Singing Slovenes, Sylvester Vicic, Alexi Medved, and Mike Koski. Miro led the members with a variety of Slovenian songs and many “kolkor kapljic, tolko let” toasts. Anton Medved, Miro’s son, provided four varieties of homemade beer, which helped fuel the enthusiastic singing.

July 19-20, a contingent of the TC Slovenians traveled to St. Stephen, MN, the oldest Slovenian community in the United States, celebrating their 150 years of Slovenian heritage. Highlights of that weekend were Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar’s speech, as Grand Marshall of the mid-afternoon parade, which touched on Slovenian migration to the United States, and the Singing Slovenes leading the Polka Mass at St. Stephen’s Church. Our own, Sue Rademacher, and her sister, are from St. Stephen, originally with the

family names: Zumer-Kozel and Blenkus-Smolej.

August 15, Mary Lou Deyak Voelk presented her preservation project titled, “Salute 2014 - It’s Who You Are” - a gallery of family wedding photos depicting married couples of Slovenian ancestry, who were either born, raised, lived, or married in Minnesota. This project held special interest for Norm and Mary Ann Setnicker, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 8. They were married in Gilbert, MN, in 1964.



Norm and Mary Ann Koroshec Setnicker, 1964.

NORM SETNICKER “Born in USA with Slovenian Parts”

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BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Happy 85th Anniversary *Zarja*! It is an honor and privilege to be a reporter for our outstanding and long-lasting magazine. I enjoy being connected to the members across the United States. My husband, Lou, and I are very fortunate to have a winter home in Florida and a summer home in Ohio. We have the best of both worlds. Each winter we always enjoy going to Hermann’s Lipizzan Stallions show in Myakka City, Florida. Not only do we see a training show, but we can also interact with the horses and feed them carrots. It reminds me of seeing these beautiful horses in our beloved city of Lipica in Slovenia.



BRANCH 50 - Euclid, Ohio

It’s a great privilege to write Branch 50 news updates for *Zarja*. As many of you know, I inherited the job from my mother, Anne Tomsick, upon her passing in 2011. I always enjoy hearing from Branch 50 members, whether by e-mail, or telephone. It gives me pleasure to be able

to carry on the tradition that my mom was so happy to fulfill for many years. It’s also nice to meet the many members of Branch 50 at various functions, although at times it’s



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difficult for me to attend because of my full-time job as a corporate lawyer. I have a wonderful wife, Mery, and three successful and brilliant children. I have much to be thankful for!!

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Being the reporter is enjoyable because our Branch has interesting activities in addition to our meetings, and a fun-filled, annual Slovenian Heritage Event that attracts Slovenians from all over the surrounding area. I enjoy seeing people share their Slovenian culture and have a good time doing it. Interesting topics, an active membership, and good times are easy to write about.

BRANCH 99 - Lemont, Illinois

I became involved with SUA with the encouragement of my mom, Paula Mavec. My mom loved her Slovenian heritage and she taught me so much about my background. Sadly, my mom passed away this June, so preserving the Slovenian traditions and customs is even more important to me. While writing the *Zarja* reports can be challenging because of the early deadlines, it's fun to see the magazine come together with so many reports and articles.



BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Congratulations to the many staff members and contributors who made *Zarja* such a wonderful magazine for 85 years! It



is a pleasure to receive and read this publication time after time and always finding something very special to read.

As a reporter for *Zarja* from Southern California, I am blessed to be able to work with such a caring staff... knowing that when I write something it will be presented just as I had hoped. Debbie and Bonnie are constantly looking for articles that will be interesting to our members, and they have succeeded in keeping Slovenia in the spotlight and in our hearts and minds. I thank Branch 100 and *Zarja* for this opportunity. Congratulations to our beloved magazine, *Zarja - The Dawn*... 85 Years of Memories!

BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota

Being the reporter for TC Slovenians these past 10 years has made me feel like a historian. At our first meeting as a Branch of the SWUA (2005), I volunteered to be the reporter and have since continued to record its happenings and to serve as President for five years. If, and when, people look back at our SUA reports, they will get a sense of the Slovenian culture as practiced and preserved within a metropolitan area. I report what is to be the only written record of the TC Slovenians for future generations of Slovenian Americans.

Anita Volk and Rosemary Ribich, past presidents from the Iron Range, once told me that we (TC Slovenians) must preserve the Slovenian culture in Minnesota because of the demographic changes. I have taken this directive



seriously and have demonstrated our Slovenian legacy through the many activities, which I write about in *Zarja*. When I hear comments like - "We really enjoy reading your articles, Norm!" - I get a true sense of accomplishment. Mom would be pleased.

Zarja - The Dawn

Established 1929

September 2014

Dear Slovenian Union of America members:

After our successful transition to a 501(c)3 status we are embarking on a strategic planning process to see where we, you, our members, want to go from here – by building on our accomplishments.

Our first step is a short “get to know our members” survey – when you get a chance, fill in the questions you are comfortable with and return the completed questionnaire before **November 1, 2014**. This survey is designed to be completed in 10-15 minutes.

The goal of the strategic plan is to find the best way for us to preserve and honor the legacy and heritage of our members who have worked to make the Slovenian Union of America what is today – our sisters, mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who created this organization.

We look forward to your responses and to a collaborative process that involves you.

There are several ways in which you can participate in the survey:

1. By mail: Tear out, fill out, and mail this survey to:

SURVEY
Slovenian Union of America (SUA)
431 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432-1703

2. Online (preferred): We are sending you an e-mail which includes a link to a **Survey Monkey which you can fill out online** – all other surveys that we receive will be entered into Survey Monkey by our volunteers so that the results can be tabulated and we can produce reports to share with you. If you do not receive an e-mail, let us know by sending an e-mail to vajkusa@gmail.com with SURVEY on the subject line and we will reply with a link to the survey.

3. By e-mail: “Reply” to the e-mail we send you by filling out the survey in the e-mail and e-mailing it back.

4. Free form: If you would prefer to write a letter or an e-mail, please do so, and indicate on the envelope or in the e-mail subject line “SURVEY” so that we can include your comments in the report.

5. By telephone: If you would like one of our volunteers to phone you and go through the questions on the phone with you, call 815.727.1926 and leave your name and number and the best time to reach you and we will call you back – please indicate in your voice mail message that you are calling about the survey.

Additional information:

- If you have friends, family, or colleagues who are interested in the activities of SUA, please encourage them to fill out the survey as well – we want to reach out to all those interested in Slovenia and in SUA (there is a question in the survey which will identify whether or not they are members).
- If you have additional comments, please include them. Also, it is OK to skip questions and leave them blank.
- Your responses to the survey will be included anonymously in the report, even if you do include your name.
- If you would like to speak with us about the survey, you can write, e-mail, or phone to let us know your name and contact information and we will reach out to you. Here is how you can reach us:

SURVEY
Slovenian Union of America (SUA)
431 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432-1703

815.727.1926 (leave a voice mail mentioning the survey)
vajkusa@gmail.com (e-mail with subject line “Survey”)

THANK YOU, *HVALA!*

Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee members:

Branch 93 - New York City: Elizabeth Gross, Joan Walker, Maria Whitmire, Tanya Vajk

SUA Board Liaisons: Jan King, Mary Lou Deyak Voelk

SLOVENIAN UNION OF AMERICA (SUA) – SURVEY 2014

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 1, 2014

1. WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN SLOVENIA?
(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

- ACADEMIC
- ART AND CULTURE
- BUSINESS
- CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH SLOVENIA
- CURRENT EVENTS IN SLOVENIA
(ECONOMY/POLITICS)
- FAMILY
- GENEALOGY
- HISTORY
- LANGUAGE
- PLANS TO LIVE/STUDY IN SLOVENIA
- RELATIVES IN SLOVENIA
- SPORTS
- TRAVEL TO SLOVENIA
- OTHER _____

2. HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT SLOVENIA, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TRAVELED TO SLOVENIA, DATE OF LAST VISIT?

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS TO SLOVENIA: _____
YOUR LAST VISIT TO SLOVENIA: _____ (YEAR)
FREQUENCY – IF APPLICABLE – EVERY _____ YEAR(S)

3. WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SLOVENIAN EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES AND HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE (ON LINE, IN PERSON), WHERE AND WHEN, WITH WHAT ORGANIZATION?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

4. DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS, ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES, ZARJA COLUMNS, OR OTHER SUGGESTIONS?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

5. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING SUA IS DOING OR CAN/COULD/MIGHT DO FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR COMMUNITY?

IS DOING: _____

MIGHT DO: _____

6. WHAT YEAR(S) DID YOU OR YOUR FAMILY FIRST COME TO AMERICA FROM SLOVENIA? WHO CAME?

- SELF YEAR: _____
- PARENT/PARENTS YEAR: _____
- GRANDPARENT/GRANDPARENTS YEAR: _____
- GREAT-GRANDPARENT(S) YEAR: _____

7. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: RELIGIOUS, PROFESSIONAL, NON-PROFIT, BUSINESS, ACADEMIC? WHICH ONES AND FOR HOW LONG?

ORG. #1 _____ # OF YEARS: _____ DATES: _____

ORG. #2 _____ # OF YEARS: _____ DATES: _____

ORG. #3 _____ # OF YEARS: _____ DATES: _____

8. WHAT IS YOUR AGE RANGE?

- 11-25
- 26-50
- 51-75
- 75+

9. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF SUA?
IF YES, FOR HOW LONG?

- 1-5 YEARS
- 6-10 YEARS
- 11-20 YEARS
- 21-30 YEARS
- 31+ YEARS
- NOT A MEMBER

10. WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED MODE OF COMMUNICATION WITH SUA?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- E-MAIL
- U.S. MAIL
- MEETINGS/EVENTS – IN PERSON
- TELEPHONE
- WEBSITE
- ZARJA MAGAZINE

Welcome to a Year of Food Celebration in *Zarja*

In our house, rarely was there a Slovenian meal without what I would call in English a “pickled” cucumber salad. We were charged with the seemingly impossible task of slicing cucumber circles that were ever-so-fine, but in our over-focused states, it seemed that every 10th slice was as wide as a XX, which did not pass our mother’s or grandmother’s quality control inspection. Eventually, we had enough cucumbers on the cutting boards that we could put them in a bowl, salt them, and then take a break. While we poked around for other goodies such as the *Štrudelj* or *Potica* that would likely finish off the meal, the cucumbers softened and released their excess water that is so important to remove. Once we found what we were looking for, but were clearly told not to take any before the appropriate time, the cucumbers were roughly ready for the next step. We then wrung out as much liquid as possible and doused

them with vinegar so that the recently removed water could be replaced by the flavorful combination of acidic vinegar with sweet cucumbers that had recently become salty. Wait a while longer and then it was done. For us, this was always used as a “salad” in the menu composition, but could also be used as a condiment.

In this second article in a series on foods of Slovenian origin, we present sliced, cucumber salads made two different ways. Both keep cucumber as the focal point of the dish but have very different tastes and textures. The first is the vinegar-based recipe for the salad we eat at home, and the second is a step-by-step demonstration of a cream-based recipe, which is more common in many areas of Slovenia. *Dober tek!* - Alisa Tugberk

Pickled Cucumber Salad

3 cucumbers (American or English are both fine to use)
2/3 cup white vinegar, or more if desired
1-2 tbsp dill or parsley, finely chopped (optional)
Salt

Peel cucumbers and slice into very fine circles – the thinner the better – not more than the width of a dime. If you have one, a mandolin will make the task of cutting uniform slices easy. Be careful – they are very sharp. Evenly cut circles will ensure an even amount of pickling.

Place slices into a bowl or colander and salt liberally. Let sit 30 minutes. Drain and squeeze out as much liquid as possible. Return to bowl. Pour in vinegar and let sit another 30 minutes, or longer. Optional garnishes include dill or parsley. Serve cool. *Serves 4.*

Creamy Cucumber Salad

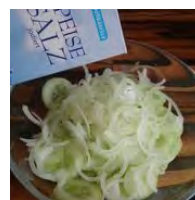
2 cucumbers
1 small onion
2 small cloves garlic
½ cup full fat sour cream, more if needed
(Full fat ensures that it does not separate when mixed with the naturally, watery cucumber.)
Salt and pepper to taste (optional)
½ tsp caraway seeds or a dusting of paprika or red pepper (optional)

Step 1: Prep ingredients

Remove ends of cucumbers, peel and slice evenly. Halve onion and finely slice. Peel and mince garlic.



Step 2: Salt, sit, and squeeze



Place cucumber and onion in a bowl and sprinkle generously with salt to coat evenly. Let sit 20-30 minutes.



Drain and squeeze out as much liquid as possible, being careful not to squeeze so hard that cucumbers break. Return to bowl.

Step 3: Finish it off



Add garlic, sour cream, and caraway (if using) and mix together. Garnish and serve cool. *Serves 4.*





THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 19, 2014

I am pleased to join in celebrating your 85th anniversary.

In America, history is not only made by presidents and generals. Change often comes when caring and engaged individuals join together to build a brighter, stronger future for themselves and for the generations to come.

For years, you have carried forward a proud tradition. By daring to imagine the world as it could be and working tirelessly to realize that vision, you are helping America reach a better tomorrow.

Congratulations on your anniversary. As you reflect on your years of service to your community, I hope you take pride in what you have achieved. I wish you all the best for the years ahead.