

Zarja

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Uradno Glasilo Slovenske Ženske Zveze V Ameriki

The Dawn



Grand Prize - Garden Contest

Mary Meehan
Story Page 1

Garden Contest
Winners

2nd Place

Maria Selak

Our Slovenian Garden

"Pa po vrtu špenciram, pa go, go, go, go, gobce nabiram; Pa še jaz naj grem z vam, Da se na ju, ju, ju, ju, jurčke spoznam."

Having a flower and vegetable garden has been part of our family's Slovenian heritage. Stara Mama and Stari Ata Selak had a gorgeous garden, especially blessed with potatoes (krompir), and Stara Mama and Očka Kregar grew the best beans (fižol) and turnips (repa) in the Avon Oaks- Girard area. We grew up with fresh vegetables on our table every day-what a treat-from garden to plate! As my husband, Gus, and I planned our landscaping, the garden was a MUST.

Throughout the years, our garden has provided not only nourishment for our bodies but also many treasured memories of our three children and their friends helping "farm." We have planted a variety of vegetables; however, lettuce (solata), beans (fižol), garlic (česen), peppers (paprika), and tomatoes (paradajz) have always been staples, with an occasional weed. Expansion has earned our herbs (začimbe) a spot, too.



We believe that our garden is THE BEST because it is filled with tradition, love, warmth, and it is-

Special

Lovely

Orderly

Vibrant

Edible

Neat

Impressive

Aromatic

Nourishing.

Zarja - The Dawn

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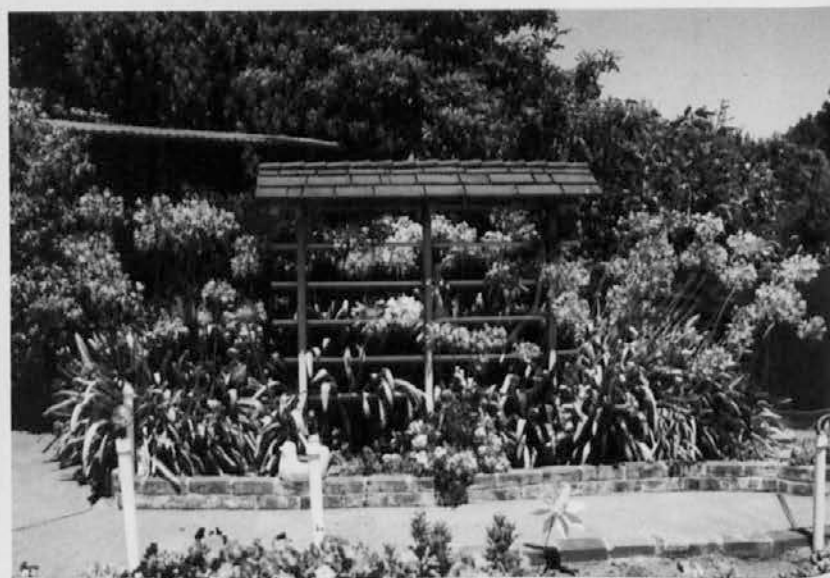
Communications for the next issue of publication:

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

3rd Place

Frances Yenke Chilcoat

I am very happy to send you a photo of the "kozolec" hay rack in our back yard. We were very impressed with the hay racks throughout the beautiful green country of Slovenia. When we returned home my husband couldn't wait to build a kozolec in our back yard. As you may know Slovenia is famous for their kozolec. The only nation in the world with this claim; and we believe our kozolec is the only one within this U.S.A. We are very proud to have a traditional icon of Slovenia in our back yard; and we are excited to share this with you.



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From the Editor



Debbie Pohar in her Slovenian garden

I still cannot believe the great entries that were received for the garden contest. Our judges had such a challenging time deciding on the winners. I am told the winners were chosen not only for the pictures of their garden but, also on the 300 words or less that was written describing how their Slovenian garden is the best. To all of our winners, congratulation.

It is also a very exciting time for SWUA with all the activities going on at the Slovenian Heritage Museum. I am anxiously waiting for my relatives to be scanned into the archival database. What a magnificent approach to

preserve history and we, SWUA, are making it materialize thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers.

I hope you are enjoying the bounties of your garden as much as I am. I was lucky enough to sample Jenka's soup and I have to tell you it is fantastic. It is very similar to the barley soup that my grandmother used to make. Take pleasure in this harvest season.

- *Debbie Pohar, Editor*

ZD

Grand Prize

Mary Mecum

My love for gardening started in the very yard I have now. I was raised by my Slovenian grandparents, Joseph and Josephine Ursic Rady. My grandmother enjoyed the same full old fashion flower beds I do today. We would weed and water together from the old well, which is gone now; except for the pump I've kept to remember those days. I think from heaven she shares the joy I have from my European style flower beds that take me back to a warm special time. I am so glad we purchased her home after she passed away in 1969 to carry on this tradition of Slovenian gardening we both loved.

Letters to the Editor

The Zarja is a national publication and I support limiting the length of articles in the branch news section (much of the material in this section is not relevant to the entire membership). Can branches create their own snail-mail newsletters or e-mail newsletters to supplement their branch reports? Ideas anyone?

Lynn Zalokar, Branch 93

I hope all SWUA members read Lynn Zalokar's thought-provoking article in the last issue of Zarja entitled "Personal Reflection". Read it again. This should give us reason to pause and reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

Stephanie Polutnik, Branch 40



National President's Message

"The Autumn Months Are Faithful Reminders"

This issue of our beloved Zarja is dedicated to the "Harvest." Since harvesting time is indicative of the autumn months, I think of this time of year as a faithful reminder of our much-loved heritage. Enjoy this issue as it may bring back some childhood memories.

Speaking of memories – I was talking to a member recently and she shared a concern about her family with me. It reminded me that I have heard this from many members before. It is the same old story that they wish they could get their children and grandchildren involved with their Slovenian heritage. I was thinking and came up with a couple of suggestions that may work:

- Even though your family members do not realize it now, someday they will wish they knew more about their parents and grandparents. By then it may be too late to ask some very important questions. I suggest you write down all of your favorite stories and memories you want to share with them. This book will then become a treasured item passed down through many generations. You will always be fondly remembered.
- When family comes to visit – fill your house with Slovenian music and offer them some traditional Slovenian foods. Our Zarja food editors have given us many recipes that are easy and simple to make. Why not try them?
- Don't give up! Continue to mention stories from the Zarja with them. They may find the stories on travel or food of interest and want to get the magazine for themselves. Then offer to give them a gift of membership so they can realize the benefits.



*Kathleen Ferrante
National President*

I hope everyone is planning to attend their Regional State Convention this fall. It is one of times that we enjoy food, friendship and learn what is happening in the SWUA. These are the last regional conventions before the National Convention in 2007.

For those members near or in northeastern Ohio, I encourage you to attend the second Heritage Festival at SNPJ Farm on October 1st. This is another exciting event and promises to have much to offer in the way of entertainment, food, and displays. I hope to see many of our members there.

Inspire the Slovenian attitude – love, laugh and enjoy.....
Kathleen Ferrante

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SWUA Seeks New Webmaster

We are seeking a new Webmaster for our growing Web site, www.SWUA.org. If you or someone you know is tech savvy and has the time to volunteer to help us design new Web pages and upload content, please contact Kathy at kdorchak@neo.rr.com. This volunteer position requires several hours of Web work a month and is a great opportunity to give back to the SWUA or to help a college student looking to gain Web design experience for his/her resume.



First Midwest Bank

Joliet, IL (815) 727-5222

FDIC



National Secretary News

Changes on Mailing Labels Means... \$\$\$\$ Savings!

You may have noticed the label on the back cover of your Zarja looks a little different from the old days of a metal plate that was hand stamped on every Zarja mailed out. This is the start of a new and improved method that already is showing cost savings. The savings are coming because everything is updated instantly on the computer. Every time a death, cancellation, new member or address change is reported it is handled on the spot from my computer. This is then sent via email to the printing company for processing approximately one week before it arrives on your doorstep.

In two past issues, the amount of returns from the post office has dropped considerably. Whenever this happens we have to pay the Post Office 70 cents. I realize that may not seem like much but, when you are getting a lot of returns it adds up quickly. Another cost savings is discontinuing sending Zarjas to those who quit years ago and somehow were still in the filing system and to those who have not paid their dues after six months. On the positive side, this will alert the member who did not realize they failed to pay their annual dues and will hopefully contact us.

Zarja continues to be our largest expense and we are doing everything possible to look out for ways to save money. Since postage is so high these days, this truly is one of the first steps.



Bonnie Pohar Prokup
National Secretary

If you do not receive your Zarja by the 15th day of the month it comes out or if you have any other problems don't hesitate to contact me.

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

Join SWUA today...Do not pay again until January of 2008, see page 39 for an application.

Welcome to our new members!

1, Castellán, Ann	20, Makovic, Dorothy
2, Kozlik, Laura	20, Oldani, Marilyn
3, Mikatich, Kathleen	20, Rodeghero, Sandra
3, Snider, Florence	23, Nemanich, Anna
5, Brodnik, Genita	Kristine
5, Brodnik, Jaymie	39, Johnson, Jane
5, Brodnik, Richard	42, Kastelic, Louis
5, Cuson, Angie	50, Huefner, Maureen
5, Leslie, Stephanie	79, Langdon, Theresa
5, McDougal, Victoria	93, Hrubenak, Diane
5, Stanich, Frances	93, Recor, Irene
12, Luebke, Patricia	93, Scanlon, Jeni
12, Overman, Rosemary	99, Rus, Alenka
12, Trobec, Cecilia	100, Stojnsek, Vesna
13, Morrissey, Janet	108, Trampusch, Albert
16, Sebahar, Kenneth George	109, Schwanke, Mary
20, Cabay, Lindsay	Alice
20, Galle, Dennis	

**152 new members
so far this year!**

Zarja The Dawn Donations

\$100 Donation

Cameron, Mary Ruth - 38

\$60 Donation

Moorfoot, Laura - 93

\$50 Donation

McComber, Yvonne - 109

\$30 Donation

Urbancic, Mary - 25

Zuga, Karen - 54

\$25 Donation

Lauritzen, Mary - 24

\$20 Donation

Carroll, Beth Agnes - 42

Edwards, Vera - 24

Podlesnik, Ann - 2

Huefner, Maureen Orel - 50

\$10 Donation

Bartol, Sabina - 103

Klemencic, Frances - 10

Langdon, Theresa *memory

of Theresa Komac - 79

Muren, Julia - 6

Pahula, Frederick L - 34

Papesh, Antoinette Ann - 14

Sanders, Joanne - 5

Spehar, Suntina - 33

\$5 Donation

Baraga, Sophie - 25

Batic-Sciarrabba, Beverly

*memory of Mary Batic - 32

Carroll, Elizabeth - 42

Kelley, Marcia - 26

Kokal, Lisa - 108

Oven, Amalia - 108

Bylaws Amendments/Revisions

Bylaws Committee - Convention Delegate's Votes - Bylaw Items to Consider

Are you familiar with SWUA's bylaws? Please note the following section from the bylaws: **Article IV - National Convention - Section 4.06** Resolutions and motions of branches requesting amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws must be presented no later than three months in advance of the National Convention. If so inclined to do so, that means that branches have until March 20-21, 2007 to submit branch requests. That is the same date of the Zarja deadline for the May/June '07 issue - the last issue prior to the June '07 National convention. The bylaws committee, the SWUA Board of Directors and the Zarja editors all strongly urge submissions well ahead of the deadline.

Every four years at our national convention we have the opportunity, after considerable review, to amend/revise the bylaws to reflect the intentions of the organized membership. It is time once again to hear from the membership regarding bylaws which may be problematic, outdated, vague or restrictive as we provide the authority to our national officers and board of directors to, among other duties, oversee the original burial insurance policies, continue to keep the membership connected through our official organ, *Zarja - The Dawn*, and also to provide guidelines and formats to branch officers in the governing of our branch meetings and state conventions.

A four-person bylaws committee has been formed:

- **Denise Bartlett – Chairperson:** SWUA National 2nd Auditor, Treasurer Milwaukee, WI -Branch 43
- **Yvonne Johnstone Khaldy:** Vice-President Branch 43 and Acting Vice-President of the Wisconsin Region.
- **Jan King:** Branch 30, SWUA's branch for members who do not live within a reasonable distance to a branch. Jan lives in Wasilla, Alaska and serves as SWUA's On-Line Newsletter editor.
- **Norm Setnicker:** Organizer and reporter of Branch 109-Twin Cities, MN.

All four have very extensive, impressive qualifications to offer in service on this important committee. They will be thoroughly reviewing suggestions to improve SWUA's guidelines. In addition Denise Bartlett has parliamentary experience in that she served in 2004-2005 on a Bylaws committee that totally revised the Bylaws of the Slovenian Arts Council of the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

It is suggested that all members become familiar with the SWUA bylaws. Your branch President and Secretary have copies. Members may also go to www.swua.org to print a 16 page copy. Each issue of the Zarja since the July/August '06 issue through the March/April 2007 issue will highlight sections of the current bylaws, and will include concerns and suggestions received thus far. The committee is asking for feedback regarding suggested revisions, information from members regarding the reasons/history of certain sections and lessons learned from past SWUA history regarding the bylaws; in short, members are urged to SPEAK UP. The committee will consider every submission of information before presenting suggested formal (final) bylaw changes for all members to read in the May/June '07 Zarja, review/consider/discuss at their branch meetings and entrust the delegates at the June 2007 Convention to determine with their vote.

An interesting thought from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Robert's Rules* by Nancy Sylvester, PRP, CPP-T, 2004 Edition, page 230 "Unfortunately, delegates are often sent to a convention instructed on how to vote on a particular controversial issue. However, doing so is contrary to the basic concept of parliamentary law. Conventions are held to bring everyone together so everyone can hear the same information, discuss the issue together, and then make a group decision. When a delegate is instructed on how to vote ahead of time, all the discussion is wasted. A delegate is a human being with a brain and that person should be allowed to use his or her brain."

Items to consider from CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS of the SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION of AMERICA:

From pages 12 thru 25 of the blue SWUA Bylaws booklet (page 4 Article III thru Article VI, page 8 of website copy)

Article IV National Convention 4.12 Should there be a provision allowing, in case of unforeseen emergencies, electing substitute delegates outside of the three-month election period now mandated?

Article V Directors 5.02 Several members of the current and past boards feel there is an injustice in naming the three Auditor positions as official board members with a

vote, while those serving as Scholarship Director, Heritage Director, Special Projects Director, Zarja Editor and other positions serve without a vote.

Reorganization proposal #1: Consists of nine board members with a vote and the three Auditors would serve with a voice but no vote. The board would consist of:

- President
- Vice-President of Home Office (including Webmaster)
- Vice-President of Membership (Records, Policies, Membership Drives)
- Vice-President of Heritage Museum (including Library)
- Vice-President of Outreach (including On-Line Newsletter, *Zarja-The Dawn*, Slovenia contacts)
- Vice-President of Special Projects (including Fund Raising, State Conventions, etc.)
- Vice-President of Youth Programs (including Scholarships, Travel Awards, etc.)
- Secretary (Recording and Corresponding)
- Treasurer

Reorganization proposal #2: Reduce the number on the National Board, which a smaller board may be easier to work with.

Other suggestions include: the recording secretary and treasurer should be one position; the Secretary and Home Office position be joined; have a man or men as voting members of the National Board; and paid employees of SWUA should not be National Officers.

Article VI Committees 6.01 If a reorganization of the Board of Directors is made, which members should constitute the Executive Committee?

Article VI Committees 6.05 Should the SWUA Bylaws dictate what constitutes qualified candidates to be eligible for a scholarship? Should Slovenian service or activities be the only qualifier?

These bylaw revision suggestions are of great importance and demand serious consideration. If you would like your opinion or ideas to be heard please contact Denise Bartlett. Thank you.

Please send all correspondence to:
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Milwaukee, WI, 53220-1612
Tel: 414-327-4990
e-mail denisebartlett@wi.rr.com



SWUA NATIONAL CONVENTION

JUNE 21-24, 2007

Starved Rock Lodge And Convention Center
Utica, Illinois

Everyone be sure to mark your calendar for the SWUA National Convention in June. Many exciting events are in the works right now for all ages to enjoy. This gathering will be for all Slovenians, no matter your gender or age. SWUA member or not, so bring all your family members and your Slovenian friends with you. Although there will be two morning meetings for delegates from each branch, this is a reunion or gathering of all Slovenians. Let's gather and unite. Ambiance will flare with the warmth of the Slovenian musical entertainment, at the Wine Tasting Party, the Heritage Room to view many old wedding dresses, children's camp and the Slovenian Expo with its cultural venues. You will want to kick up your heels at the Gala 80th Anniversary Party of SWUA. We hope to see you here! As we say around here, see you at "The Rock".

News From SWUA.org

Your SWUA Web Site

Branches: Take Advantage of Free Publicity

It is amazing how Web sites have become such a big part of our lives – and important resources for information in today's world. You may go to your bank's Web site to keep your finances in order, the newspaper's Web site to find out what's happening in your city, or a dating Web site to keep your love life in order! Well, the SWUA Web site is no different – it's a real resource, especially for branches.

Branches are often looking for new ways to publicize their events – meetings, picnics, parties or conventions – and they're on a limited budget. But many branches aren't taking advantage of the free opportunities right at their fingertips – on our Web site. If your branch has an upcoming event, ask your reporter or a Web-savvy branch member to post details about the event on the site. How do you do that? Well, there are a couple of ways.

First, you could take advantage of the SWUA Forum. This is the SWUA's chat site – where people go to talk about everything from Slovenian food and music to genealogy and yes, upcoming events. The SWUA Forum is in the upper left hand corner of the home page of our Web site. Just click on the Forum and it'll take you to a page with a list of chat areas on different subjects. SWUA Live is where you can post information about upcoming events. Just click on SWUA Live, click on New Topic, create a fun name for yourself and drop in your subject line and details about the event.

So, say you post an item on SWUA Live – a visitor who is interested in attending events may click on the SWUA Live link and see your event. If they are a branch member, it serves as a reminder of the event, if they're not, it may not only encourage them to attend the event, but it may also lead them to join your branch because they see that it's active!

Holding a state or regional convention? You can promote it by submitting a "Latest News" item to our webmaster at

webmaster@swua.org. The "Latest News" section is on the front page of our Web site – a great place to put a major event of interest to numerous members. Because we have so many active branches, we can't place local branch events under our "Latest News" section – that spot's for items of regional or national interest.

We also have a conventions page just for information about conventions – upcoming or past. If you go to SWUA.org, the link to our conventions page is on the upper left side of the home page. To submit information about your convention for that page, just e-mail it to the webmaster and let him know you'd like it posted on the conventions page.

In addition, SWUA.org has a page just for branches. If you've got an upcoming event you'd like to post on the branches page, just e-mail the details, including event name, branch number, date, time, location, cost, contact information and no more than three short sentences about the event, to the webmaster, asking him to post it on the branches page. And don't forget – after the event be sure to submit some photos of your exciting event for our Web site Members' Photos page. Free publicity is just a click away! - *Leslie Cummings*

About the Editor: Cummings has been an SWUA member for four years. She has a degree in journalism and has been a writer/editor for more than 12 years. She has been writing for Zarja and SWUA.org for the past three years. You can reach her at lcc0920@ameritech.net with comments or questions.



Leslie Cummings
SWUA.org Editor



Leslie Cummings in her garden

SWUA Scholarship Program

2006-2007 SWUA Scholarship Recipients Share How Their Slovenian Culture Has Influenced Each of Them

The essays are entitled "My Heritage and My Culture"

I feel I am most fortunate to have relatives now living in Slovenia. My grandma has told me this many times and my dream is to be able to take a trip to Slovenia and to meet them.

Having an extended family of Slovenian heritage is great because as the years go by I can learn more about them.

My Slovenian heritage has had an impact on my family, not forgetting to mention the good food that comes from our heritage. A favorite thing of mine is over Christmas when my grandma or great aunt cook up special dishes.

My Slovenian background is important to me. I am interested in looking further back into my family tree and discovering where my first ancestors came from. I hope in the future I will make that one of my goals in life. Until then I will continue to learn more about my Slovenian background as much as I can to enlighten not only myself but the rest of my family.

Kelsey Ivancich, Branch 23

successful. Upon arrival there was a fish fry and polka music in the gostilna with members you could not drag off the dance floor with a hook. There was an abundance of fraternalism. Young adults knew what polka (and could dance it) and potica were, but I still left wondering where I am going to make connections to my heritage in the future. I wonder about the leadership and the desire that needs to exist in order to carry on traditions. I am interested in carrying on those traditions and promoting them amongst other young adults and future generations. I am proud of where I have come from and want people to know that Slovenia is a country, where it is located, and how to pronounce it and that is not too much to ask!

Anne Kemmerling, Branch 47

My name is Nicholas Kuhar and I will be a senior at John Carroll University (JCU) for school year 2006/2007. JCU is the Jesuit University in northeast Ohio, located in University Heights, Ohio. My field of study at JCU is religious studies with a number of courses under the Catholic Institute of Studies at JCU.

I have two other brothers. The oldest is Mark who graduated from Seattle Pacific University (Seattle, WA) in June 2006 with a bachelor of arts in sociology and minor in fine arts while my younger brother, Andy will be a sophomore at Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio. My parents are Stane and Marge Kuhar and we live in Wickliffe, Ohio, a suburb in Lake County.

Our family has belonged to St. Vitus Parish, Cleveland, Ohio for over 50 years. St. Vitus is the first American Slovenian parish founded in the State of Ohio in 1893. Both my maternal and paternal grandparents came to the USA after World War II. In historical terms, they would be considered as political émigrés since they had to flee the (now) Republic of Slovenia due to the imposition of Communism in Slovenia at the end of World War II.

It is an interesting thing being a mid-twenty something living away from home but consistently searching for ways to connect back to home. I try to find pieces of home in many different places. One of those places is my Slovenian heritage. I recently tried to find some Slovenian connections in the Denver area by looking on the Internet for lodges or organizations and my attempts were unsuccessful. During Lent I tried to find some kind of home-cooked fish fry, again unsuccessful. I tried to find some bakery and Slovenian sausage around Easter, nothing. (Although my mom did overnight Slovenian sausage, potica, and egg noodles; she saved the day!) I try to mention my Slovenian heritage in casual conversation with hopes of making a connection somewhere. Those attempts are somewhat successful if you count people who think I say "Slovakia" when I say Slovenia. I recently attended a Slovenian National Benefit Society (SNPJ) Young Adult Conference in Pennsylvania in hopes of reconnecting with my heritage in the place where grandparents had been and current generations of Slovenian-Americans gather. This attempt was somewhat

Support SWUA Scholarship
Contact mturvey@aol.com

My grandfather (Luka Kuhar) was a prisoner of war in a German concentration camp for over two years while my grandmother (Jozica Benedik, nee Kristanc) was a prisoner of over five years by the Slovenian communists. Both sides of my family had family members tortured or killed during or after World War II as well as loss of family, personal and real property. My paternal grandparents were in a displacement camp in lower Austria until 1950 and were allowed to emigrate to Minnesota. After approximately one year they moved to Cleveland, Ohio and we have remained in northeast Ohio since that time.

My maternal grandmother arrived in the USA in the early 1960s to take care of her father who was at that time diagnosed with cancer. Unfortunately, both my paternal grandparents have passed away but my maternal grandmother is still alive and living at St. Vitus Village, an independent living facility built in 2001 for independent living for seniors.

I attended St. Vitus Slovenian School and was a Mass server for number of years. I attended and was graduated from St. Ignatius High School, Cleveland, Ohio with honors in June 2003. I was a drummer in the marching, jazz and jazz combo bands while at St. Ignatius and have continued to play drums in the jazz band at JCU and with a local group of musicians. I enjoy playing drums and creating music. In the summer 2006 I have been fortunate to play and record a number of original compositions on a CD with my brother Andy and four other musicians. Our family house is quite lively: Mark plays stand-up and electric bass guitar while Andy plays guitar.

I have remained involved at St. Vitus by volunteering at various activities such as the Baraga Days 2005, 15th Anniversary Mass for the Independence of the Republic of Slovenia at St. Vitus Church and the just concluded annual summer parish picnic at Slovenska Pristava, a recreational facility in Harpersfield, Ohio.

I have been on the Dean's List each semester at JCU. My immediate goals are to successfully remain on the Dean's list and to graduate in June 2007 from JCU. My long term goals are to either teach or work in campus ministry and after a period of time complete post-graduate studies with a degree and then return to teach. I am grateful to Slovenian Women's Union of America and its many benefactors to have been able to receive two scholarships from SWUA so that I may be able to attend a quality university such as JCU. In conclusion, thank you for providing me the opportunity to give SWUA members a brief background about myself.

Nicholas Kuhar, Branch 25

I grew up in Esko, Minnesota as the youngest of a family of five. It was through my parents and grandmother that I learned about my Slovenian background. My mother taught me how to make potica and polka. My father told stories about visiting Slovenia and shared his pictures with us. The most influential person in my life who I learned so much about my culture and heritage is my grandmother. At the age of twelve she emigrated to the United States, facing a foreign land and language, in addition to earning a living and paying for room and board. This stirring account has instilled in me a deep appreciation and admiration for all of my Slovenian ancestors who relied on courage, perseverance and faith amidst the many obstacles they faced when coming to the U.S.A. I am proud to say that I am one hundred percent Slovenian.

Theresa Skalko, Branch 34

I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Rose Marie Princ \$1000 Scholarship Award. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Slovenian Women's Union of America, the SWUA Scholarship Committee, Branch 33, and Mrs. Rose Marie Princ for making this award possible.

My Slovenian heritage and culture have been an important part of my life and exemplify the person that I am today. The strong work ethics, dedication and a perseverance of the Slovenian people have been rooted in me since I was a young child, and serve as the foundation in my life which I continue to build upon.

In 1952, my maternal great Grandmother, Mrs. Christine Bradish, was crowned SWUA National Convention Queen, the highest honor received for obtaining the greatest number of SWUA members in Pueblo, Colorado, Branch 3. Although she passed away before I was born, the stories of her journeys to Slovenia continue to enrich my life and that of my family's. She brought to our family a Slovenian culture rich in values, morals and traditions. Last, but most certainly not least, her recipes for delicious, mouth-watering potica, apple strudel, pohanje, krofee and my all-time favorite . . . Slovenian zleenkrofee (meat turnovers made with kielbasa) have been handed down to my Grandma Kathleen Starcevich and to my Mom, Bernadette (Starcevich) Spinuzzi.

Following in the footsteps of my ancestors, I am proud to say that my Slovenian heritage and culture will live on in me forever. Someday, I hope to share these same traditions and customs with my own children.

Alyssa Spinuzzi, Branch 3

Scholarship Donations June and July 2006

\$5.00 donation:

Dolores Kozar Maki (+Rose Kozar & +William Slogar)
Branch 23, Ely, Mn (+Teresa Zaverl & +William Slogar)

\$25.00 donation:

Mary Rita Stromback (+William Slogar)
Branch 20, Joliet, IL. (+Angie Nico)

\$30.00 donation:

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(This organization, United Americans for Slovenia recently dissolved after achieving its goal of assisting with the move for Slovenia's independence and the U.S. recognition of Slovenia.)

Tribute to William Slogar

On July 5, 2006, the community of Ely, Minnesota lost was of its finest promoters and volunteers. William "Bill" Slogar was born in 1927 in Ely, the son of Marko and Magdalena Slogar, attended Ely schools and worked at the Eric Mining Company and various construction companies. He spent almost every minute of his free time promoting his Slovenian culture through Slovenian Women's Union functions, KSKJ and the Knights of Columbus. For years, he was a monthly donor to the SWUA Scholarship Fund, giving out our scholarship memorial cards to bereaved families of his friends and sending small checks as gifts to the Scholarship fund. May Bill's generosity to others be a continuing influence to all of those he touched, most importantly those who promote the SWUA Scholarship Program, of which he was so sincerely dedicated.

For further information on the SWUA Scholarship Program and application forms see: <http://www.swua.org>

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The Magical Garden



Lea Flis, Branch 93

The area that is my living space in Ljubljana is called Rožna dolina, the “Flower Valley”. How much more romantic can we get, right?

Let us first return briefly to the time in history (the time of the Roman Empire) when the moor was enclosing the Ljubljana basin and part of what today outlines Rožna dolina was covered by the moorland (The Ljubljana Moor). The fertile soil that we can appreciatively take the advantage of today is the remnant of those days of yore. The flora and fauna of the moorland area were rich and versatile, which is also still noticeable in our area. Just by glancing at people’s carefully tended gardens reveals and proves that. The listing of some historical facts about my neighborhood may be apt before we venture on a tour of our garden, the secret garden of my childhood, with the so far unveiled hidden corners and most importantly, memories, warm and vivid, sweet-smelling and tender.

Until about the year 1895 (the year of a devastating earthquake on Easter Monday) the present-day Flower Valley area was hardly inhabited. It was mainly wetland divided into patches by the more hilly ground covered with beautiful pines and oak trees – nowadays the hill that forms a sort of shield around the Flower Valley is called Rožnik. It is a wonderful natural park that connects with another “recreational” hill Golovec as well as Tivoli Park. On top of Rožnik, there is a tavern that serves delicious Slovenian dishes and is joined with the house where Ivan Cankar lived. He was a famous Slovenian Modernist writer, who commented strongly on social, moral, and cultural issues in his short stories and dramas.

A funny thing about Rožna dolina is also its street system. It is, believe it or not, based on the American, New York arrangement and naming/numbering of



My part of town – Street XVII is where I am located and where I was born and raised.

(<http://www.euroave.com/maps/01map.php?xcity=ljubljana&glj=904>)

streets. Even numbered streets are perpendicular to the odd ones. The reason for the adoption of this system is that a lot of people who were the original dwellers of this lovely part of the world migrated to the US and once they themselves gained some significant money, supported those that they had left behind, the “flower people” who remained.



The residence of the US Ambassador to Slovenia located in Rožna dolina, one of Ljubljana’s most beautiful neighborhoods, across from the rolling hills of Tivoli Park and Rožnik. (<http://www.usembassy.si/residence.html>)

It was already in 1894 that a man named Franc Herzmansky built a hothouse at the foothills of Rožnik, and a couple of years later opened a magnificent horticultural "garden" very close to where our house stands. It has been operating to this day and one can find on Herzmansky's beautiful premises the most amazing flowers, bushes, and decorative trees from all around the world.

Now a peak into my childhood and the magical realm of our garden is in order, I believe. When one walks through the front door, a circle of pink and dark red roses, weaving gently around the door's arch greets each visitor and makes sure one feels welcome.

Then you can proceed through another curtain, this time a curtain made of ivy and some other climber plant that clothes one of our balconies. The little area beneath the balcony covered with all those greens is like a special hiding place for us children, a secluded fairy-tale land where no adult can enter.

There were many fruit trees that not only decorated our garden but gave us totally unartificial, wonderfully tasty fruits – apricots, plums, apples, pears, cherries, as well as smaller fruits like raspberries, currant, strawberries... My grandpa loved his vine and every year he made vinegar

and red wine. He sure took his time and he was fun to watch, swirling diligently around his ancient screw press. The vine covered a major part of our garden, so there was plenty of shadow, and even the hottest days seemed bearable.

I remember sitting in a large deck chair, sipping lemonade and bathing in the summer smells that surrounded me, the roses, the fruits, the grass and yes, let's not forget my grandmother's vegetable section of the garden.

The smell of the omelets with peppermint and chive early in the morning, delicious! Parsley, tomatoes, string beans, zucchini, carrots and eggplants, you name it, she had it. We had it. Granny knew how to turn all these delicacies into more delicacies by carefully combining all these herbs and vegetables, merging them into heavenly tastes and scents. Unforgettable.

I loved our summers. They usually passed fast, but the flavors remained. And as it seems they are still etched in my memory, almost like Proust's madeleines.

So here's to summer, luscious gardens and memorable tastes and smells that flavor and sometimes spice up our lives! I hope your harvest was abundant! -Lea Flis

My Grandparents' Garden Legacy

My grandparents, Frank and Teresa Terselic, lived on Chartres Street in the old Slovenian neighborhood at the west end of LaSalle, Illinois. They had a narrow lot but Grandpa used every inch of it. There were fruit trees, a grape arbor, a smoke house, a pit under the little shed to store potatoes, a worm bed, a wonderful vegetable garden and a flower garden, which included Grandma's special oleanders. In the summer she placed them on the brick paved sitting area and during the winter they sat in a little room off their basement kitchen, which was a typical Slovenian kitchen of that era.

Last year I was given one of Grandma's original oleanders. It looked pretty gloomy, so I promptly fertilized it, then rooted a cutting. Next I paid a visit to our member, Angie Nico (recently deceased). Angie immediately said, "That's an oleander". She reminisced and told me how everybody grew them when she was a girl and how oleanders were precious and revered. Children were cautioned not to play too near them lest they damage the plants. Mine has pale pink blooms and is the Mediterranean wild pink variety. You can find brighter, showier varieties at garden centers and from TyTy Gardens by mail at www.tytyga.com. Excellent information on how to grow, prune, fertilize and propagate oleanders can be found at www.oleander.org/culture.

There are white oleanders growing in pots by the grotto altar at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Illinois. Mine stands behind a statue of Mary near my garden pond. I feel a direct link to my grandmother and all of our charter members through these unique plants because they provide a direct link to our Slovenian heritage.



Barbara and daughter Kitty Bruch, SWUA member and the great-grand daughter of Teresa Terselic, in whose garden the original oleander grew.

Look for an older member in your branch who might still have an oleander and ask for a cutting. You can grow your own bit of history. Lacking that, buy a new plant and start your own Slovenian garden! - Barbara Bruch, Branch 89

Men in a SWUA World

Fall Mushroom Hunting

Fall is here and for many that means a walk in the woods to look up at all the beautiful colors, but not me, I'd rather look down around the base of those same trees in hopes of finding a nice bounty of mushrooms. For me the fall has always been my favorite time of the year. I love the cool weather the explosion of colors and of course, the activities.

Mushroom hunting is a very Slovenian hobby for a few reasons. First off, it supplies the mushrooms we like to eat, secondly Slovenia is very adapt in providing the mushrooms and finally it is something anyone can do and is very much a family activity, I can never remember a fall that I didn't mushroom hunt and like many I learned it from my father and grandfather.



Don's favorite garden spot

As many of you avid hunters know finding the mushroom is only part of the fun, the real work, and fun, begins when you begin to clean and freeze them. Cleaning mushrooms, though not easy, is something I have always enjoyed, I like to sit at my sink with my knife and pan, turn on the ball game and clean for hours. Now I clean more by myself but growing up it seemed to always turn into a family gathering and a great time.

My first mushroom hunting memory took place at a cleaning party in my grandfather's basement, I was about six and we went out to our spot on a cool fall morning and

being six, I of course ran ahead of everyone else and spotted an entire hillside full of "stumpies" as far as the eye could see. Well, I yelled frantically and we picked for hours, finally we arrived back to my grandfather's house where everybody came to help, with it being

such a large amount we filled a large washtub with water and ice and filled it with the mushrooms. That's when it happened, my mom came down the steps and I couldn't wait to tell her about my great find, as I did I stepped back and fell into the full tub! Everyone screamed don't move you'll crush the mushrooms! So after what seemed like for hours they slowly lifted me up and a story I would have to hear every mushroom season from then on was born.

Before I end this issue, I would like to congratulate the winners of the garden contest. I know you guys think a garden either produces food or is just frilly flowers, but that is not true. Check out old Don's garden etched stones of deer pictures surrounded by pea gravel and a couple of bushes and flowers for balance (garden term). See that, men can garden too. Oh, and do not forget that all important bench so you can relax and enjoy.

Well that's all I have this issue, good luck on your mushroom hunting, give gardening a chance and as always, may good luck be yours. - Don Baldin



*Don Baldin, Branch 24
Taking a break in his garden*

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Hey Kids! I just received this great story from Anita Vovk of Branch 35. She was given this from the Muzejska Trgovina in Ribnica, Slovenija. I thought it would be nice for everyone to read. My mom purchased one of these spoons when we were in Ribnica. Hope you enjoy this! - Babs

The Song of Trees

Once upon a time there was a young boy. He lived in a small country, deep in the vast forest. He had a special gift: he could communicate with the trees. He would place his palm against the tree, lean his ear to it and listen to what the tree had to say. The trees have more wisdom than human beings, so the boy learned a lot of secrets. He went to his people and shared the knowledge he gained from the trees. The people did listen to him, but they didn't believe the source of his wisdom. So the boy went into the forest, placed his palm against the trunk of a white maple tree, and asked: "How can I make people believe me? The crown of the tree rustled softly and the tree answered: "I'll give you one of my branches. Make such a thing out of it to help people scoop up food, the source of life. Thus they will recognize the importance of the bond between life and what preserves it, and they will start to believe you."

The boy picked up the branch the tree had given him, and kept to himself for seven days and seven nights. Then he returned to his people and brought with him a small object, something people had never seen before, and had no name for it. The object was the size of the human mouth at one end and the other end fit perfectly into a human hand. One after another, the people took the miracle into their hands. They scooped up the food with it and carried it into their mouths and realized the importance of the bond between life and what preserves it. The object was named "spoon" (žlica), and the boy from the distant woods was implored to keep listening to the song of the trees, and pass on their wisdom.

Spoon Making in Slovenia

The most suitable wood for spoon-making is the white maple wood. The wood for spoons must be soft to allow working, and simultaneously brittle- and such wood comes only from young smooth trees. The tree is cut down and cut into short pieces, which are then split into fourths and worked at once. At first the form of the spoon is defined by a template, then an axe (žatlaka) is used for hewing it into a rough shape. Next a carving knife (porepač) is used for shaping of the spoon into its final form, and a rasp is used to form the hollow part (kvasalo) of the spoon. Finished spoons are placed on the warm furnace to dry, and to keep the white color. In the end the spoon must be planed until smooth; a special knife (glajavec) or sandpaper can be used. The spoons were sold in dozens. A family was able to make ten to twelve dozens of spoons at the most per day.

Living Your Legacy

The Genealogical Quest

The number of Americans of Slovenian descent is dwindling. If the Slovenian culture is to remain vital in America and our history and genealogy kept extant, then we must come together with other groups of Slovenian Americans trying to do the same thing.



George Plautz

I have asked several experts in the genealogy field to contribute articles to the Zarja, hoping to meld together all our efforts to keep heritage, remembrance and history of all of our immigrant ancestral Slovenian family tree siblings alive. There are several organizations in the United States, whose primary focus is to provide a market to Slovenian descendants. Most of you will recognize SWUA, KSKJ and SNPJ as fraternal unions founded in the early years of immigration. Most of the organizations that catered to the Slovenian immigrants have disappeared. That is why we must work with the remaining organizations to keep our culture alive in the minds of our children. Along with the fraternal unions there are also societies and associations that focus specifically on the history and genealogy of Slovenians and their immigrant descendants. Among these are the Slovensko Rodoslovno Društvo (SRD) in Slovenia (Slovenian Genealogy Society), the Slovenian Genealogy Society, International (SGSI) and the Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association (GHGA).

The first four issues of this year's Zarja contained articles of genealogical interest written by Rose Marie Jisa. Rose is the President of the Ohio Chapter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society, International. She recently retired and has been very active in the science of genealogy by holding two genealogy meetings in the Cleveland area on a quarterly basis. If you live in that area it would be worthwhile for you to attend a meeting. I hope you enjoyed her scholarly articles and that her knowledge aided you in your own genealogy projects. The SGSI was started in 1986 to aid the founder's children in a school project which entailed their family history. The President of SGSI is Al Peterlin. The society's headquarters is in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Gary Gorsha is another very active member of the organization who you may hear from in a future issue and our very own Mary Lou Voelk is President of the Wisconsin Chapter.

I first met Irene Odorizzi in Virginia when I invited her to speak at one the Washington Metropolitan Chapter meetings. She gave us SWUA applications and I know that several of us are still members. Mary Lou Voelk and I met through an SGSI project to photographically record the

cemeteries of Slovenian immigrants and their descendants in Willard, Wisconsin. Meeting Irene and Mary Lou is how I got to write a column for this magazine and my aunt is the president of Branch 102, she is who got me interested in our genealogy in the first place. Small world?

In the future we will have articles from others in the genealogy and cultural history fields. I attended the GHGA Conference in Tampa, Florida in June and was astounded at the amount of work that was done by their membership to document their culture. I have asked GHGA President Elizabeth Nick to write an article for the Zarja to be published in the next issue. We need to know who we are (Slovenian descendants and immigrants) and not focus entirely on our own organizations if we are to retain our culture and history. This issue features articles by Peter Hawlina, Mayor of Škofija Loka, Slovenia, who is the President of the SRD. Peter is working continuously at the archives to document Škofija Loka history and to help all those of us who make the pilgrimage to Ljubljana on genealogical quests. The society maintains web pages in English and Slovenian with contact information if you wish to contact them. Peter coordinated a joint genealogy conference involving the SRD, SGSI, and GHGA in September of 2001. Yes, on that date! He maintains contacts with numerous scholars in Australia, Canada, Germany, Austria and the US. I urge you to become involved in some aspect or function of these organizations. For without you, WE disappear.

I'm working in my garden right now, but I'll be back next issue with more on gathering ancestors and family trees. -
Adijo, George Plautz

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Discovering Your Roots

Škofija Loka

Genealogical Research on Slovenian Roots from Abroad

By Peter Hawlina

Mayor of Škofija Loka, Slovenia, President of the Slovensko Rodoslovno Društvo (SRD)

There are many general and specialized books for genealogists in English along with more and more useful materials available on the internet. So why write about this subject again?

Probably it isn't necessary, but I have been tempted for sometime to write a guide specifically for genealogists outside of Slovenia who were interested in researching their Slovene origin. Most of these people doing this research come from the United States where the majority of requests arose for such a guide. I will try to write this guide from the perspective of those abroad who only recently discovered their roots were in Slovenia. These are mostly grandchildren and great grandchildren of immigrants who usually do not speak Slovenian and have little knowledge about their ancestors' homeland.

Often their parents and grandparents didn't tell them a lot about their homeland. Most were looking for better opportunities to survive and as most of their energy was directed to this end, they had neither time nor motivation to keep in contact with the homeland. They rarely left information about their ancestors and relatives or memories of the "stari kraj" to their children and grandchildren.

Most of this has been lost forever, but it remains worth trying to recover at least a part of what a genealogist requires for his work from the sources available. It is with this intent that this guide has been written.

Slovenia

Slovenia has been an independent country since 1991. Before this, it was a part of Tito's Yugoslavia. Prior to World War II it was part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Until the end of World War I, it belonged to the Austrian Habsburg monarchy for centuries but also for a short time was under the direction of Napoleonic France. More than one thousand years ago the Slovenians lived in a Slavic empire led by King Samo. A more curious reader can read more about this in other publications. As an

illustration, I will name just one example from modern history.

My sister was born in 1940 in the kingdom of Yugoslavia. I was born in 1941 under the Italian occupation in Italy. My brother was born in 1943 in Germany after the Italians capitulated, while my next sister was born in 1945 in the

Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. We all were born in the same house in the suburbs of Ljubljana, so it is important for a genealogist to be aware of the fact that there were changing religious and civil jurisdictions at various times. These changes are of critical importance when conducting this research. I will

not go into details but I will mention those characteristics that would be helpful to the inexperienced researcher.

Civil and Church archives

The most valuable source of information for family research is the Archbishopric Archives of the Roman Catholic Church. Most of the population of today's Slovenia are Catholics and events such as births, baptisms, marriages and deaths were recorded since the seventeenth century by the local parishes. Some of these documents have been lost for different reasons but many have been preserved. Most of them have been kept in local parishes or local city halls. But most will be found in the Archbishopric Archives. A list of these books is available.

In 1972, a catalogue, *Vodnik po matičnih knjigah*, was published and after being updated it remains a good source of information on what is available in local parishes and archives. Another book entitled, *Vodnik po župnijskih arhivih*, is a further reference for genealogists. This guide includes Status Animarum, a very interesting parish census record. These are the two most valuable sources for genealogists. Apart from this there is also additional information available in church and civil archives such as census records, certificates of citizenship and many funds records. Researching these sources are beyond the skills of a beginner. Therefore a detailed study of the applicability of such materials is not within the sphere of reference for a beginner. The above mentioned archival sources are

I will try to write this guide from the perspective of those abroad who only recently discovered their roots were in Slovenia. - Peter Hawlina

relatively well documented and some can already be found in computer files. Before long they will be accessible also on the internet. For the time being it is important to realize that archival sources exist and are more or less accessible to researchers. It can be said without reservations that researching one's roots by means of registers is possible all the way back to generations who lived in the seventeenth century if not even earlier. My opinion is that for a beginner this should suffice.

Registers

I have already mentioned that the main and essential sources of information are three registers with relatively uniform records in all the parishes, known as birth (baptism), marriage and death registers of which either the original document or a copy has been preserved. They are mostly manuscripts and only very few are stored on microfilms or in computer files.

Most of the manuscripts are beautiful and sometimes even amazingly neat but there are also some which are almost illegible either due to their antiquity or bad handwriting. Although most manuscripts are relatively neat a researcher will sooner or later come across several examples of handwriting which will bear little resemblance to modern manuscripts so it might take him a while to get used to them. This is particularly the case with Gothic characters. Today there are only a few experts who can read them while all the others tend to give up the research or turn to an expert for help.

Past centuries documents make our research also more difficult due to the lack of uniformity in the written records of names, surnames, places and other facts. A certain uniformity will thus be found for the first time in the written records from the second half of the nineteenth century. They were mostly written in the Slovenian language and the manner of writing was similar to the way we still write. This is particularly so with the way we record phonemes such as "č", "š" and "ž". Prior to that these phonemes were recorded with two or more letters such as "ch", "sh", "sch" etc. The surname Žnidaršič was probably spelt in the following manner: Zhnidarschich. Sometimes even a surname would be translated into German, for example Wolf instead of Volk or Vovk.

Due to different reasons at different times in our history our towns were also named differently. The country which covered a large part of today's Slovenia was called Kranjska (Krain in German language, which is also the name of the present town Kranj). Ljubljana was called Laibach, Tržič Neumarkt, Jesenice Assling etc. There was barely a town not recorded in the language of the majority - Slovenian.

Dictionaries of topographic names (gazetteers) should help you with the research (they are available on the internet) along with the comparisons made between the old and the new maps of the country.

Also first names were entered differently at different times. Older records contain mainly Latin names but later on German terminology prevailed. Most of those whose first name was Janez were thus recorded as Joannes or Johann. People were seldom recorded in register by the name he or she was really known by. Neža was thus registered as Agnes, Jera as Gertrud(is), Polona as Apol(l)oni(j)a. It is particularly awkward that the one and the same person gets to be recorded differently on different occasions such as birth, marriage and death by the same recording clerk. A researcher should be familiar with all these different written records of first names which can be found in many reference books. In the Slovenian language we have *Leksikon imen* by Janez Keber.

Parish and Local Chronicles and Monographs

Local and parish chronicles can prove very useful since they can help the researcher to unravel many puzzles. Some even contain family records of several different generations along with many interesting details of the town's history. A researcher should therefore always find out if such chronicles exist although there might be language problems as most of these documents are not translated.

Other Sources

These are local censuses, court records, military records, lists of immigrants, funds, records etc. Although they might reveal some very interesting information in my opinion the research work in this direction would be too difficult for a beginner.

How to Start

First I would like to resume what you will also find in many other reference books. My advice to every beginner is to first note down what he or his relatives already know. He should then complete these facts with the information from the family records using two fundamental forms: an ancestral chart and a family group sheet which are both published in several reference books. Next a researcher should get in touch with the local genealogical society and/or Slovenian Genealogical Society in the USA which has numerous chapters. Finally the researcher should use the computer to help him with his work as well as one of the many genealogical programs.

First Steps in the New Country

Although every researcher will set to work differently, he will soon realize that he will work more efficiently if he abides by general recommendations. Upon filling in the form "My Ancestors" a researcher will immediately see what kind of information he lacks and at the same time he will also be able to determine the course of his research. My advice is to first try and look for available information in your new country since this will make your research much easier in "stari kraj". The archives in the new country usually keep some very important records such as the lists of passengers aboard the ships, the lists of immigrants and the documents of naturalization.

You will probably find a genealogical society in your town or in the vicinity. Do not fail to visit it because the information you will get there may prove valuable later. You must also pay a visit to Family Research centers which you will find in most larger towns and were founded by Mormon Church. Although their files include very little information about the Slovenian people the visit may still be worth the trouble.

A Visit to "Stari Kraj"

When you have exhausted the home records together with the archives in the new country it will make sense to continue your research in "stari kraj". First you will have to locate the parish your ancestors were from which can be a rather difficult task since all you may know is that they came from a town or village somewhere near Ljubljana, Novo mesto or Bled. In today's Slovenia there are hundreds of parishes whose information is fundamental for genealogical researches of the past centuries. In Ljubljana alone there were at least four parishes in the past century all of which a researcher who wants to collect some information about the ancestors from Ljubljana should not fail to visit. On the other hand these ancestors may not have lived in Ljubljana but in one of the neighboring parishes. There were ten or even more of these and this might discourage many researchers. Once the parish has been located and you have information such as the date of birth or marriage you are already relatively close to the successful continuation of the research. Now you can write to the parish, civil or the (Arch-)bishopric Archives and ask them for a copy of the register. In the case of birth you will find out who the parents of the person you have been looking for were, and in the case of marriage you will find out the names of the parents on the bridegroom's as well as on the bride's side both of which will help you go on

with your research. Mere correspondence though will not take you far, firstly because the archives usually do not employ enough people to conduct thorough researches and secondly because one can easily lose track in the very same town or parish, so a beginner will once more find himself up a blind alley.

Upon having located the parish your ancestors came from you may decide to visit "stari kraj" and/or the archives where the materials are kept. I strongly recommend this if you have time to spare.

Searching for Relatives

In "stari kraj" there have probably remained your ancestor's brothers or sisters who also must have had families of their own. Future generations often still live in the same town and house their parents did. Perhaps you have kept in touch with them by mail in which case your job will be much easier. Or you may come across some letters your parents exchanged with them previously. You may even find out that a relative of yours has already done some research into his ancestry in which case you can

both benefit from the information exchange without having to double your work.

Most Slovenian people nowadays have no difficulty understanding English so there should be little if no language barrier. Before setting off it would be smart to get in touch with your "cousins". If you have lost their addresses just look them up in Slovenian directories available on the internet. The Telekom Slovenia directory should satisfy your needs.

Field Research

If you decide to do some research work on your own you will probably adjust the aim and the course of your research to your interests. If you are mainly interested in tracing back your ancestry as far into the past as possible, most of your work can be done in the archives. The (Arch-)bishopric Archives are those who will serve your purpose best. There are two main ones at present, one in Ljubljana and the other in Maribor, the procedure being similar in both.

You have to inform them about your arrival in advance and specify the materials you'll be needing. The working hours are usually from 8 am to 13.30 pm. and there is no fee. None of the books is photocopyable but you will be allowed to take photographs or use your video camera. In theory you will have access to all the archive documents

Most Slovenian people nowadays have no difficulty understanding English so there should be little if no language barrier.

prior to the year of 1900, the procedure being the same in both the archives where also most of the materials can be found. Nevertheless many books can only be located on the premises of parish or civil archives, visits to which you will have to discuss separately as there are no general rules. This task could be a bit more complicated mainly because it is difficult to agree upon the time of the visit. Moreover these archives do not have librarian facilities so you will depend on the kindness of the person in charge and the time he has at his disposal since he can not leave you unsupervised with the materials. Unfortunately theft and damage to property are not uncommon on these premises.

Professional Researchers

In Slovenia there are also some experts skilled in genealogical research who do the job for you on request. But as far as I know there is nobody whose primary activity is conducting researches on a professional level. Sometimes experienced researchers might accept your request and charge you global tariffs. You will also find it useful to study the standards in various reference books when hiring a professional. It will be mutually beneficial if the contents and the range of research are precisely defined from the very beginning. The best way to start the research is to give all the basic information to the researcher you have hired. He will then look into the case and make plans for the research localizing the area and available sources. Next he will spend a day or two conducting research into the archives and finally let you know the results in his report for which he will charge you around 300 dollars. Depending on the results the person placing the order will initiate further research. At such an early stage you will have to take certain risks since no one can guarantee you success in advance.

Computer and the Internet

It is highly advisable to use the computer; no further recommendations are necessary on this. I also equally recommend the use of the internet and the electronic mail. Thus you will be much more efficient at your work and you may come across some amazing facts which will help you with your research.

Reference files

Members of Slovensko rodoslovno društvo (Slovene Genealogy Society) occasionally produces accumulated indexes of persons in their genealogy files. The index is experimentally posted on www.genealogy.si. There are some other reference files. A very useful one is the mentioned Telekom Slovenia phone directory. It is available on the web. - by Peter Hawlina

The Addresses of the Archives

Arhiv Republike Slovenije
Zvezdarska 1, 1000 Ljubljana, tel. 00386 1 2414200

Zgodovinski arhiv Ljubljana
Mestni trg 27, 1000 Ljubljana, tel: 00386 1 3061303

Nadškofijski arhiv Ljubljana
Krekov trg 1, 1000 Ljubljana, tel: 00386 1 1337044

Škofijski arhiv Maribor
Koroška 1, 2000 Maribor, tel: 00386 2 2511542

Škofijski arhiv Koper
Trg Brolo 11, 5000 Koper, tel: 00386 6 6117204

(These are only the most interesting repositories for genealogists although I could add at least ten more to the list)

Associations

Slovensko rodoslovno društvo

Lipica 7, 4220 Škofja Loka,
Tel: 00 386 4 5154 261
E-mail: srd@guest.arnes.si
url: <http://genealogy.iip.si>

Federation of East European Family History Societies

P.O. Box 510898, Salt Lake City, Utah 84151-0898
url: <http://feefhs.org/>

Slovenian Genealogy Society

52 Old Farm Road
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011-2604
Tel: (Home): (717)731-8804
E-mail: apeterlin@panetwork.com
url: <http://feefhs.org./slovenia/frg-sgsi.html>

Reference Materials

Dr. Branka Lapajne:
Researching Your Slovenian Ancestors
108 Hollywood Ave.
Willowdale Ontario, M2N 3K3 Canada

Vasja Butina:
Moj rodovnik (My Family Tree), Cankarjeva založba

Janez Toplišček:
Rodoslovje, Trzin, Pernetova ul. 13
Rodoslovni časopis Drevesa

Genealogy in Slovenia

Slovensko Rodoslovno Društvo (SRD), a society of Slovenian genealogists

(An edited translation of the Slovenian language article submitted by Peter Hawlina, President (SRD).)

The study of Genealogy began in Slovenia about the same time as in other countries when people began to value their family connections and sought to find their ancestry. A variety of research methods resulted in different kinds of family documentation so that much of the work of recording family ancestry has been, more or less, incomplete. The widespread use of computer software has, however, had a profound influence on the science of genealogy and in the last fifteen years or so groups of people doing genealogical research has widened and there are now many organizations dedicated to it. In Slovenia the Slovensko Rodoslovno Društvo, a society of genealogists was founded on March 14, 1995, although one year before, in January, a publication of the genealogical society already existed, called, *The Tree*; since 1996 the publication has enlarged its contents and changed the format becoming a quarterly.

The Slovenian society has made great inroads in the more scientific and organized methods of research. Not only are we better prepared for genealogical work, but the general public is also becoming more aware, e.i. the popular website of Dr. Thomas Pisanski called Genealogy and Heraldry in Slovenia (1995) has had over 200,000 visits and is also given in English, and since 1997, another website by Janez Toplisek, M.A., has had over 90,000 visits.

Work is done by volunteers and the income we have received from our 6,000 members is used to cover most expenses. Besides the above-mentioned internet sites and publications, we have also circulated some printed work on special topics, such as for the first international meeting of genealogists in 1998, the second conference in 2001, the third to introduce a method of family chronicling, the fourth, a genealogical directory in 2004, and the fifth in 2005 on heraldry.

Two of our colleagues have each written a book: *Moj rodovnik* (My Family Tree), 1998, by Vasje Butina, and *Genealogy*, 2004, by Janez Toplisek. Dr. Branka Lapajne, a Canadian-Slovenian wrote, *Researching your Slovenian Ancestors* in 1996. In the past ten years we have fulfilled the great need for genealogical literature, and feel that the most extensive of all has been our quarterly publication, *The Tree*.

Since the beginning, we have followed global activity in this field and we are collecting newspapers, journals,

programs, etc. No other Slovenian library can offer as much in this type of literature. Furthermore, the library is gaining with new publications by many of our members.

We have paid special attention to the protection of our archives and to disseminate this material through various media. When one looks at the reference databases which we ourselves generate or have received from over 100 donors, the combined collections of databases total almost 500,000.

After various attempts to help our members organize their research we have found that the program "Brother's Keeper" is the most helpful for the preservation of family research. For now, this program and others have been translated into Slovenian (DftCom, GenWeb, Genbox), and we will continue to find better and improved research methods.

It would be impossible to compile the results of all existing work; however, we are pleased that we were asked to cooperate with the organization World Europe to organize their program called "Guidelines", dedicated to archival work. In 2005, the Republic of Slovenia invited our society to select experts for the Ministry of Jurisprudence.

We are answering the inquiries that flood our website facilities, up to 4,000 responses were made in the past five years, of course, free of charge. For those who wish to have individual attention, we are also prepared to find other professional help.

We have been associated with world-wide genealogical organizations and exchange our publications with many of them. There are also many lectures planned and conducted by our colleagues outside of Slovenia. It is important to note that we are receiving great support from the Slovenian World Congress which provides an ideal location for our society in the center of Ljubljana. Cooperation between us has precipitated some worthwhile mutual programs.

Our hopes for the future are very ambitious. We wish to maintain a widespread network among all genealogists notwithstanding the lack of funds that are needed to continue our work. We have received little financial help from organizations and individuals although we have appealed to many of them for donations. - Peter Hawlina
Translated by Corinne Leskovar

Heritage News

SWUA Archival Records for the Future of Our Organization

Why is the SWUA putting so much effort into the scanning of our documents? What is the purpose? Please read this very carefully, read it over several times. It is imperative that every member understands what these documents mean for the future of our organization. Follow me.

I just spent 6 days at the museum, removing staples and paper clips from these old documents, readying them for scanning. While in the process of this laborious, yet necessary task, a great realization came to me.

This organization was established as a burial society! Because of this status, the SWUA needed to follow certain guidelines that were in accordance with the state of Illinois. These guidelines are still in effect and will be until every burial benefit is paid. Because of this status we have in our files, the Application for Membership and a Death Certificate for each person who continued their membership until their death. In those early days, cancelled checks were returned to the issuer. Also included is a Certificate of Membership, a very lovely 8" x 11" sheet with a red and blue lined border and a gold seal. Marie Prisland signed them. Each document has profound information.

The Application for Membership:

Filled out by the applicant, it includes their handwriting and signature and their place of birth in Slovenia.

Cancelled Checks:

The signature of the beneficiary(ies).

Death Certificate:

Length of illness, the time of and cause of death. Names of father and mother - most of these first members were born in Slovenia in the mid to the later 1800's. Thus the names of the parents now go back one generation, which would be the early 1800's.

Certificate of Membership:

Shows proof of membership

The wording on this document says it all. It gives the reason why this society for women was established; to educate, help each other and to mentor. These early women attended meetings, listened to each other, helped each other, and learned from each other, they were mentors. **Today, these same early members continue to be our mentors.** These records, preserved with remarkable care, have become our

"insurance policy". These documents are the future of the SWUA. We have now become a Slovenian Research Center for the Slovenian American woman.



Carol Ryba scanning documents

There are thousands of records in those file cabinets. It takes at least 15 minutes to scan each member's records. So why do we not hire a university or the Family History Center to scan our records? By doing so, we give away our records, they

become public information. Remember, these records are the "insurance policy" that will keep the Slovenian Women's Union of America a viable and active organization for decades to come.

So when an appeal goes out for people to scan records, please take it seriously. **WE NEED PEOPLE EXPERIENCED IN TECHNOLOGY TO OFFER THEIR TALENTS.** This project must continue.

In addition, these documents must now be placed in acid free folders and containers and placed in a safe repository. Please remember the Slovenian Heritage Museum in your donations. The Gift Shop receipts and your donations are the only funding we receive and they are meager.

Joining me at the museum were 5 women. Many thanks go out to Carol Terlep from the Slovenian Genealogy Society (SGS), Carol Novak, Carol Ryba, from the SWUA and SGS and Georgine Agnich and Vicki Hodgman from SWUA. These women gave hours and days of their time. This could not have been done without them. And to Theresa Burns, my right arm in Joliet, I am forever grateful.

Please call me or email me. I need to hear from some dedicated people. - *To je to!*

Mary Lou Deyak Voelk Director of Culture and Heritage

Marylou@swua.org Home: 715.372.8578

Tell Your Family Story

Your Family's Path

The story of Ivana Bozic, as told by her great granddaughter, Barbara Friesenhahn has created much interest within our readership. This story as it appeared in the June/July Zarja, and a CD of family photos has been added to Ivana's archival folder at the museum. This is a wonderful way of preserving family photos and memories for future generations. Most important, it is an active gesture of "volunteering".

Please pause to read the names of our deceased members. On the other hand, if you know the DOD of an ancestor and would like your family story published, just call or email me with the information.

Remember, in either case, this is what is called "volunteering". Zarja looks forward to printing family stories; the heritage museum looks forward to building the archival history about the Slovenian American woman, and our membership enjoys reading of other Slovenian American families.

This is called a win, win, win situation. -To je to!
Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, Director of Culture and Heritage

Marylou@swua.org Home: 715.372.8578

Documents Scanned

Mary Lopatic	Branch 8	Date of Death: 1/2/1929
Helen Moran	Branch 10	Date of Death: 1/29/29
Johanna Platnar	Branch 11	Date of Death: 7/30/1929
Mary Puhek	Branch 9	Date of Death: 10/22/1929
Karoline Vene	Branch 15	Date of Death: 11/1/1929
Gertrude Boitz	Branch 11	Date of Death: 1/3/1930
Agnes Tomazin	Branch 24	Date of Death: 1/3/1930
Frances Nemgar	Branch 19	Date of Death: 4/1/1930
Mary Laurich	Branch 2	Date of Death: 4/2/1930
Cecilia Lorbar	Branch 14	Date of Death: 4/10/1930
Mary Planinsek	Branch 7	Date of Death: 4/29/1930
Ursula Starman	Branch 10	Date of Death: 5/13/1930
Tina Kastelic	Branch 3	Date of Death: 5/21/1930
Lena Patrick	Branch 13	Date of Death: 5/21/1930
Romana Plevnik	Branch 20	Date of Death: 6/13/1930
Johanna Fink	Branch 11	Date of Death: 6/26/1930
Frances Mestek	Branch 14	Date of Death: 6/30/1930
Anna Pozun	Branch 25	Date of Death: 7/23/1930
Karoline Bradish	Branch 3	Date of Death: 7/25/1930
Frances Svetek	Branch 10	Date of Death: 8/1/1930
Martha Ursulac	Branch 26	Date of Death: 8/14/1930
Frances Kastelic	Branch 14	Date of Death: 8/19/1930
Theresa Babic	Branch 14	Date of Death: 9/2/1930
Mary Smilanovich	Branch 16	Date of Death: 10/25/1930



Three of the volunteers who are helping to make this program a success. Left to right: Carol Terlep, Vicki Hodgman, Carol Novak

Heritage Donations

\$10 Branch 13
In memory of Mary Coppinger

\$10 Branch 13
In memory of Eleanor Hnilo

Help SWUA

Volunteer! This is a wonderful way of preserving family photos and memories for future generations.

The Path Taken - Dopoljena pot

Story of Joseph and Antonia Mikulich Kostelec, Branch 64 as told by their granddaughter, Julie Dearborn. ©

Joseph and Antonia Mikulich Kostelec were born in Slovenia. Joseph came from the village of Drašiči, located near the city of Metlika. Antonia came from Loški Potok, which was part of the municipality of Ribnica. I introduce you to my Grandpa and Grandma, Joseph and Antonia Mikulich Kostelec.

Grandpa Kostelec, my grandfather, was handing out peppermints, those soft, round, white, peppermints he always carried. I can see him in a brown suit during winter, and brown pants and a short sleeved, plaid cotton shirt in summer. He walked slowly around the room. He was very old. And there were all his grandchildren sitting in the small living room waiting their turn to get a piece of candy. "Take two" was his refrain. So I always did. I loved the way they dissolved in my mouth with that mild, peppermint taste, and the chalky texture. It was a kind of communion wafer; he was a kind of priest.

To the adults, Grandpa Kostelec offered whiskey or red wine. He grew up in the wine region of Slovenia. Wine was as fundamental a part of his life as bread. He came to America during prohibition years. When he could not buy it legally, he made his own and kept it in the drafty basement known to his family as the "wine cellar". Hard liquor was also available to the Slovenian and Croatian immigrants during prohibition. There was always someone in the neighborhood distilling bootleg whiskey in a basement still. My oldest uncles remember a neighbor telling his daughter to go to the house up the street to "get some holy water".

Grandma Kostelec was always in the kitchen. It was sunny there, and the surfaces were hard; linoleum, Formica and porcelain. She always seemed to be chopping ingredients that would be mixed to produce those delicious foods that had so many warm, satisfying tastes; apple strudel, cheese strudel, bread with ham stuffing. Then there was povitica*,



Grandma Kostelec, photo by Karen Carter, granddaughter

a walnut-honey pastry somewhere between bread and cake. Povitica was standard fare for holidays. Chicken noodle soup was the best, simply the best, with soft, slender noodles, and broth perfectly seasoned with only salt and pepper and chicken juices. It was a wonderful "noodley" chicken soup; its noodles were the most perfect I would ever eat.

I can see her in a pink cotton dress, a white apron, big black, clunky old-lady shoes worn by grandmothers and nuns; her legs slightly bowed from arthritis. She chopped serenely, contemplatively. My mother, Mary Kostelec Dearborn, remembers her peeling piles of potatoes, the skin of each coming off in a perfect spiral. She put creative energies into her cooking. The food she cooked was always so much greater than the sum of its parts, so much more than just salt, pepper, carrots, celery, onion, chicken and egg noodles. So much more than honey, walnut, flour or sugar.

She had ambitions that went beyond the kitchen. She had always planned to write a book. It was going to be called "Good Things Come from Bad Things" and would tell about her journey from the old country to America.

She never got to write this book. Daily living got in the way. Cooking took up her creative energies. She must have realized at some point that as a woman with eleven children and a husband, she was going to have to do a lot of cooking. If she had put as much time into writing as she did into cooking, she would have finished a library of books.



Grandpa Kostelec, photo by Karen Carter, granddaughter

Grandma Kostelec has been gone for years, but her cooking is still remembered by anyone who ever ate it. Sadly, she did not pass on her cooking traditions/talents to my mother, who was married in 1954 and embraced the belief that there is no shame in the short cut.

My grandmother made everything from scratch. She only had basic ingredients. My mother was both bolder and less traditional in her cooking. New food inventions were now changing food preparation. Mom tried new things like Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup to make the infamous green bean casserole. And then there was the tuna noodle casserole with Cream of Celery Soup with a sprinkling of potato chips atop the casserole.



Kostelec family photo 1937, from the archives of Karen Carter, granddaughter

My grandmother made povitica for every holiday. First came the dough she had kneaded for 10 minutes, that was then stretched over the entire table. Then the walnuts that had been ground with a hand grinder were mixed with honey and spread over the sweet dough. Mom made a quick and easy version of the traditional Slovenian holiday food called potica cake, which was made from a Betty Crocker spice cake mix! Mom got her fix of the real thing when she visited Grandma Kostelec. Now that Grandma is gone, Mom orders povitica on-line from a bakery called Strawberry Hill in Kansas.

My Mom was a housewife of the sixties. She did not own a copy of Woman's Glory. Most of her recipes were clipped from Redbook or McCall's. Whenever I was sick she would bring me Campbell Chicken Noodle Soup and saltine crackers in bed. It was a comforting medicine. The soft

children, so I have no responsibility to feed anyone but myself. My days are spent writing and teaching writing to high school girls. Like my grandmother, I use fresh ingredients, but unlike her or my mother, I go weeks without cooking anything but toast and scrambled eggs. I buy most of my meals from the gourmet deli sections of supermarkets that cater to the busy professionals in San Francisco. My glory is definitely not in the kitchen.

At Christmas I can count on receiving a walnut povitica made by the Strawberry Hill Povitica Company from my Mom. About once a year, I spend a rainy afternoon chopping and sautéing carrots, celery and onions that I bought from the organic produce market. I simmer all those fresh vegetables in a big pot with a free-range chicken and salt and pepper. And yes, I am thinking of Grandma Kostelec as I gently drop in the egg noodles.

- Julie Dearborn, Branch 13

* Same as potica; povitica is used instead of "potica" in areas near Croatia, where grandma came from.



Grandma Kostelec reading Zarja The Dawn. Photo by Karen Carter

noodles and salty broth were soothing sliding down my throat. While this canned soup was in a different league from Grandma's chicken soup, I craved it when I was sick.

I am not married and have no

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Slovenian Heritage Museum

Volunteering Just Got Easy Let's Go For 100 Shirts

In the May/June issue of Zarja, a plea went out. If you cannot volunteer in person, then purchasing a tee/polo shirt is another way to volunteer. The response was outstanding. 56 shirts were sold. Molly Jerich Thomas, Branch 103, purchased the 25th shirt and received a discount of 50%. Anita Koscak of Dearborn, MI received a free shirt for purchasing the 50th shirt.

But the bonus was talking with members all across the country, and their message was loud and clear.

People cherish their Slovenian heritage!

Liz Vinyard, Branch 20 gets honors for being the 1st person to place an order. Two people from Ely, MN came back into my life, Dolores Faas, a school chum, and Molly Jerich Thomas who lived across the

street from my father when they were growing up. Mary Palcic wants to wear her pink polo in her Florida garden! Mike Skorich ordered polo for his 91-year-old mother! The yellow and white shirts purchased by Bob and Olga Klancher, Branch 14 were bought especially for their performances with their Slovenian chorus!

For those of you who have purchased shirts, how about some photos! Wearing those shirts in public has surely brought comments. Let's hear about them also. E-mail photos and your stories to me for publication!



So now I am challenging the membership to make it 100 shirts! Here's the deal! The 75th shirt sold gets a free shirt; the 100th shirt sold gets a free shirt and a surprise bonus gift. You can count on me to be there to take your order; I am counting on you to "to volunteer". My phone numbers and email are listed below. **Now I would like to hear my phone ring!**

Men's Shirts: Slovenian Triglav crest on pocket

Polo: white or grey M, L, XL, XXL (\$18 + \$4 S&H)

Tee: grey or sand S, M, L, XL, XXL (\$16 + \$4 S&H)

Baseball Caps: Slovenia written across front

Blue or khaki (\$12 + \$4 S&H)

Women's Shirts: Red carnation and the word, Slovenia

Polo: white, pink or yellow S, M, L, XL, XXL (\$18 + \$4 S&H)

Tee: grey, natural or blue S, M, L, XL, XXL (\$16 + \$4 S&H)

ottolou@cheqnet.net

Mary Lou: 715.372.8578 (June - September)

Mary Lou: 251.968.4364 (October-May)

Slovenian Heritage Museum: 815.727.1926



Joliet by Marianne Wolf

The Slovenian Heritage Museum became a gathering of inquisitive people, as they peered through the book **JOLIET**, by local author and SWUA member, Marianne Wolf. Button box music by Joe Wolf, and strudel by Cecilia Wolf, parents of the author, added to the festivities. Since its release on June 26th, **JOLIET** has been named the #3 best seller at Barnes and Noble in the Joliet area.

Get your autographed copy of this 1st edition. Think ahead for those special people in your life; birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries. The Slovenian Heritage Museum continues to carry this pictorial documentary! Stop in or call the museum to place an order.

JOLIET by Marianne Wolf

Pages: 128 Binding: Paperback

ISBN: 073854020 Publisher: Arcadia Publishing

(Images of America Series)

Price: \$20.00 + \$2 S & H

Contact: Slovenian Heritage Museum

815.727.1926 swuhome@sbcglobal.net



*Author Marianne Wolf signing books
at the Slovenian Heritage Museum.*



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Questions? E-Mail Mary Lou: marylou@swua.org Mary Lou: 715.372.8578 SWUA: 815.727.1926

Slovenian Gardening

A Family Tradition

I wish I had taken a picture of my mom in her garden. She would work every morning and after supper in her garden. She would continue gardening almost every day until the age of 88 when she broke her shoulder. I have always helped her in the garden and she passed on to me what she had learned from her mother and father. When I was younger, I considered gardening a chore, but, today it is a hobby and something I want to pass down to my children and grandchildren.

Years ago everyone in our neighborhood had an acre or more and no space was wasted like it is today for lawn. Where there wasn't a garden, there were fruit trees, berry bushes, asparagus or horseradish. We used a scythe around the trees to do the cutting and Mom would always share her bounty with many as there was always a huge harvest and she was not one to waste a thing.

Some of my jobs in the garden were pulling weeds, hoeing and to pick the potato bugs, we were given a can with a little kerosene in it and we would pick the bugs and put them in the can. Another job I had was looking for the tomato worms, they were one of the ugliest things I have ever seen. I also learned how to sucker the tomatoes, when to plant the endive and how to can and preserve everything we grew and got from others.

In February mom would decide what she was going to plant and would check her supply of seeds that she gathered from the fall and order the seeds she needed for the upcoming planting season. The seeds for the hotbed were ordered earlier so they were ready to be planted in the second week of April; these plants were tomatoes, cabbage, eggplant and peppers. When the plants came up in the hotbed, we had to water them twice a day and the windows had to be taken off and on according to the weather. The plants were then transferred into the garden.

Next came planting the potatoes, lettuce, spinach, carrots, onions, cabbage and beets. The rest of the planting was after May 15th when the danger of frost was less. The next battle was against the weeds and that became the kids' job, I would have blisters on my hands from hoeing.

In July mom planted her endive, I haven't in my lifetime seen anyone grow it like she did. It was served wilted with potatoes and bacon. Once it reached maturity it was either covered or tied up with rags to bleach out, most of time we covered it with a tarp and we had it until December.



Janice Bedenko Mueller, Branch 24 and her mother.

Next came the canning and preserving, we made sauerkraut and pickles in crocks, jelly and homemade wine with the grapes and we canned whole tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato juice, chili sauce and catsup with the tomatoes. The catsup was bottled and canned and I still have the gadget used for capping the bottles; it took me years to get use to eating store bought catsup. We would also can peppers, beans and chow chow in addition to all the fruit we got in the yard.

In the fall, the onions and garlic were pulled from the garden and braided with rags to make a loop to hang them. They were hung under the back porch, on a nail, until they dried and then hung in the root cellar in the basement for the winter. Potatoes, squash, apples, carrots, pears and anything that would keep through the winter would be placed in the root cellar and lasted most of the winter. Mom also gathered seeds from her tomatoes, beans and lettuce. Parsley was dried or frozen for soup, she used a bunch of parsley in all of her soup. In the fall and winter it seemed like there was always a pot of soup cooking and for everyone to take home. She always used the vegetables from the garden and her soup has yet to be duplicated by anyone in the family.

During the depression, my grandparents on both sides and my mom and dad depended on their gardens. I was always told that they had enough to eat which wasn't the fate of many people.

I can't end this without telling you about one of the little plots she had near the house that wasn't a garden. Here she had peonies, lilies and other flower plants. Most of these were from other people who passed on slips or were dug up and divided.

Gardening is part of my heritage and it is now part of my children's heritage. I know that when I eat vegetables from my garden, I learned it all from my mom and nothing tastes like home grown, unless it is! - Janice Bedenko Mueller

Happy 100 Years

Mary Ann Kowachek (Kovacic) Jamsek Branch 105

Mary Ann Kowachek (Kovacic) Jamsek was born to Franc and Anna Erazem Kowachek on July 30, 1906 in the town of Radeče, the parish of Jelevo, Slovenia. When Mary Ann was 4 months old, she and her mother Anna set sail for America to join with Franc Kovacic who was working in the Spring Valley, IL coal mines. They entered into the Port of New York, Ellis Island. Franc died leaving Anna with 7 children to care for.

Anna was an inventive; she opened a grocery store, with living quarters above for her family. We have been told she made moonshine during Prohibition, had a passion for horse racing and would travel by several buses to arrive at her destination. Grandma Anna passed down great traditions. Special memories are the Easter plate with ham, sausage; sliced hard-boiled eggs topped with freshly scraped horseradish and the traditional potica. On Holy Saturday we carried these foods to church for the priest's blessing, not forgetting the pasties with rutabaga!

Mary Ann was 5 years old when she first met Anton Jamsek, the man who would become her future husband. It was years later that Anton ended up on Grandma Anna's doorstep looking for a room to rent. The rest is history. After their marriage, Anton and Mary moved to Highland Park, MI. Anton and Mary Ann had 5 children: Frank, Victor, Albert, Mildred, and Edith. Also raised with the children was Agnes, the younger sister of Mary Ann. There were many Slovenian families living in this area including our family with 2 sets of grandparents, 4 aunts, 3 uncles and 8 cousins plus the church organist and then the church, all on the same street!

It was Grandma Anna who commissioned the Bishop to establish the church of St. John Vianney as a Slovenian parish. The Altar and Rosary Society was established as a result of Mary Ann and Anna's crusade. Each had a strong and profound faith.

When Agnes' son, John was born with a leg that would not straighten, Grandma Anna went to the renowned Father Solanus and he gave Anna holy oil to rub on John's leg. Yes, the leg straightened. Praying the rosary in our home or a neighbor's home was a frequent event during the period that the Iron Curtain sealed off part of the world.

Mary Ann's family and her church were foremost in her life. Her home seeped in Slovenian tradition. She led a simple life, she toiled hard caring for her children, keeping a tidy home, doing the mundane daily chores required of a mother and homemaker in those early years in America.

Happy Birthday Mother. Thank you for your dedication, love and the legacy of our Slovenian heritage.

- The Family of Mary Ann Kovacic Jamsek



Mary Ann Jamsek



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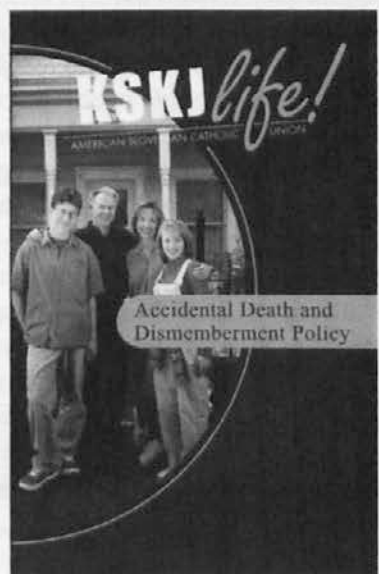
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Branch Reports

Poročila Podružnic

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin



Narodna noša doll

Vacations and family visits have limited our branch activities this summer. But many of our members worked at and attended the SS Cyril and Methodius Slovenian festival in July. The kranski, potica and apple strudel were all delicious!

Our "Narodna noša" doll project is on-going. Several members have offered their sewing talents and are putting together the costumes for the dolls. The results are beautiful!

With the arrival to our homes of the Sept-Oct Zarja issue, the Wisconsin State Convention will probably have taken place. The convention is on September 10, 2006 and hosted by Branch 12 in Milwaukee. Beforehand we can be assured of a wonderful day, and as always, renewed friendships and acquaintances. Best wishes to all,

ANGIE FRITZ

BRANCH 2 - Chicago, Illinois

SALUTE - POZDRAV - 1926-2006

SLOVENSKA ŽENSKA ZVEZA

SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

To the ladies all over America who followed Marie Prislant's ideas and dreams to form an organization for the Slovenian speaking immigrant women. A place they could meet, talk and broaden their outlook on their life, educate themselves and adapt to become better citizens of their new country. Mrs. Prislant sent out letters to Slovenian women and to Slovene newspapers trying to contact as many women as possible. A meeting was held on October 30, 1926 and the first ladies - young with families and husbands (who mostly thought it was foolishness) met at St. Stephen's Church basement in Chicago. With much hardship and determination SWUA was organized. The first branch began on December 19, 1926 and Branch 1 was awarded to Sheboygan, Wisconsin; it was Mrs. Prislant's

home. Branch 2 went to Chicago, Illinois. The following year branches were formed - Branch 3 Pueblo, Colorado and Branch 4 Oregon City, Oregon. Little did these Slovenian ladies know they were making history.

We thank Irene Odorizzi for all her stories on the immigrant families in Zarja. We really enjoyed reading them and it made us aware just what our families went through to settle in America.

Branch 2 celebrated their 80th year at Zveza Dan Piknik in July. We thank everyone who helped make this picnic a huge success; the beautiful Mass and Litany honoring Bishop Baraga, co-celebrated by Father Metoed and Father Peter and St. Mary's choir with the young singers from Slovenija sang beautiful Slovenian songs. We were honored to have Dawn and John Vidmar celebrate their 30th anniversary on this day with us. We were blessed with nice warm weather and we enjoyed dancing and singing to Vince Rigler's music. Mrs. Fritz organized the kitchen with good food and thank you everyone for your donation of bakery goods. Special thanks to Robert Hozjan and Keith for roasting the chickens. Our poticas were baked by the ladies of Indianapolis and delivered by Phyllis Fon. It was a great day for our juniors as well, good to see so many participating in the games.

On October 1, the IL/IN Convention will be held in Chicago with Branch 2 hosting. This will be a combined meeting and celebration of SWUA's 80th year. We hope, and invite, all of our sister branches to attend.

Special prayers for our service personnel, who are in harms way, that our Lord will keep them safe. Love,

DAISY

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Greetings Branch 5 members: Where did the summer go? I don't really mind that summer is over, it was too hot for me this year. Autumn is my favorite time of the year, with the changing leaves and cooler weather. It is a time to sit back and reflect on the things you still have time to accomplish before another year passes by. Maybe, that is why autumn is the time of year for novenas and rosaries and remembrances of friends and family who are no longer with us. Take a few moments to think of someone who might need a phone call or a short note to cheer them, or just say a quick prayer for someone who may not be in good health. You might be surprised how it will not only make their day a little brighter, but yours also!

At our house we are awaiting the return of our son-in-law Pat, Katie's husband, from a tour of duty in the mid-east. Please keep all our servicemen and women in your prayers. Think also of all our members who are returning to school for another year and pray for their safety in their travels.

Our October Mass and pitch-in will be Saturday October 14th, 4:30 Mass at Holy Trinity Church, with our pitch-in

following at Bockhold Hall. Family and friends are always welcome to join us.

Thanks go out to the ladies from Chicago who once again purchased poticas from Holy Trinity for their summer picnic! Aren't they the best poticas? The ladies who bake every week are a blessing to do so much for Holy Trinity. Thank you.

Our Sister City in Slovenia, Piran, once again hosted a delegation led by two of our members, Josef Laposa and Joanne Sanders. We are working on a student exchange program with IUPUI involving language and law. IUPUI Chancellor Charles Bantz met with Piran's Mayor Vojka Stular (she was here in 2001) and faculty from the University of Ljubljana, and fell in love with Slovenia. We hope to have students here soon. Stay safe and enjoy the colors of Indiana in the fall!

PHYLLIS

BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

Another summer is behind us, and we are looking forward to getting back to our meeting in September. Our "Hello to Summer" luncheon was delicious, and everyone had a good time in June.

The tribute to all our members was a huge success. President, Louise Petrusich did a great job of handling the entire event. We had 36 guests, and our raffle was very successful. We had wonderful prizes, donated by members who then bought tickets to win. Talk about great support! The handmade quilt, made by Bev Jackson, called "When life gives you lemons—make lemonade",



With quilt are Bev Jackson, Ivanka Lukezic and President Louise Petrusich



Left to right:
Joe Jr., Anna and Gayle Nanut

was won by a very happy, and excited Ivanka Lukezic. Lunch was excellent, and everyone said they can't wait until next year.

I am very sad to report the death of Anna Nanut. This beautiful lady joined Zveza in November of 1960. She was always very

involved, and loved coming to our meetings. She and her late husband, Joe, were very active in the Slovenian Hall for many years. He cooked some very wonderful meals, at the hall. Anna's sister, Sophie Troya, is also a member and now lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our sympathy, prayers, and thanks to her son, Joe, and his wife, Gayle, and the entire family.

Our Zarja magazine gets more beautiful with each issue. Well done, ladies! I love reading about old friends all over the country. I feel like I am visiting with them.

Marjorie Schleiger's husband has had difficult health problems lately, and I hope he is doing better. Margie is going to receive her 50-year pin at our September meeting.

Here is wishing a very happy birthday to all our members who celebrate in September, and October. Please join us at our meeting. A lovely lunch is provided, and a lot of friendship too.

What a world this would be if we could forget our troubles as easily as we forget our blessings.

BEVERLY JACKSON

BRANCH 14 -Euclid, Ohio

Hello to everyone from Branch 14. It may seem a bit Hearly, but it is time to make your plans for our annual Christmas dinner, which is always held the first Tuesday of December, December 5th this year. As usual it will be at the Slovenian Society Home on Recher Avenue starting at 6 p.m. The delicious meal will include everything from liver dumpling soup to strudel for dessert. Many families attend. Maybe you would also like to make this dinner a family event for your family? It's a memorable evening with a traditional Slovenian meal and a most interesting raffle with lovely prizes donated by dinner attendees. Contact Stana Grill for tickets as seating is limited and we are usually close to the limit in attendees.

Our members are preparing for SWUA's Slovenian Heritage Festival on Sunday, October 1st, at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland. Along with displays and craft tables, there will be a polka Mass with Bishop Edward Pevec and the Joey Tomsick Orchestra.

I have sad news to report. My daughter, Monica Mikolic, a multiply handicapped person who resided at Deepwood Center in Mentor, died recently. We now have a new angel in Heaven. It was unbelievable the tender care she received during her 18 years there, but especially during the last weeks of her life! May we be fortunate enough to receive such loving care if we are ever in a similar facility. Don't forget the Heritage Festival and also our Christmas dinner. God bless.

PATRICIA BUDZILEK

Remember WWW.SWUA.ORG

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Our meetings will commence Tuesday, Sept. 19th at St. Joseph Park Hall at 7:00 p.m. Special guest speakers were chosen for the meetings of 2006-2007. These will be listed on your calendar of events. Sunday, Sept. 24, we will enjoy our annual grape harvest dance from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with the Bob Doszak Band. Doors open at 3:00 p.m., cash bar, refreshments. Plan on coming, having fun, and meeting the new honorary mayor of 2006.

Sunday, Oct. 1, Branch 2 will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of their branch and will host the Illinois-Indiana Regional Convention.

Bakery Sale - October 28-29 will take place at St. Joseph Church. Bakery will be sold before and after Masses.

Congratulations to: Marianne Wolf, Branch 20 member, author of "Images of America, JOLIET." Get your copy at the SWUA Heritage Museum. (See page 25.)

Ben Pucel is a member of the Portage, Wisconsin Little League. The team captured the Minor's Crown in June 2006. Ben is a member of Branch 20, the son of Vic and Jean Pucel and grandson of Millie Pucel.

Ron and Beverly DeJule who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 7, 2006

Ron and Mary Lou Erjavec who were married at St. Joseph Church on July 21, 2006

Ed and Olga Ancel who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. All their family gathered at a restaurant in Frankfort, IL to celebrate this happy occasion. In their honor a Mass was celebrated on August 27.

Best wishes to Nora Primiano for a speedy recovery from her accident.

Prayers and condolences to Dorothy (Sebalj) O'Connor whose husband passed away.

Sister Marlene Ambrose whose brother, Valentine, entered eternity on July 6.

On November 1st remember your departed loved ones by lighting a candle at their graves on the eve of Poor Souls. This is an old Slovenian custom.

Come to the SWUA Heritage Museum in Joliet for your Christmas gifts. *"To get to Heaven, turn right and keep going straight."*

SR. MARLENE AMBROSE

BRANCH 23 - Ely, Minnesota

Seems like it was only yesterday that we were looking forward to celebrating with our Member of the Year, Julie Puzel! The celebration was held on May 7, 2006 but I never made it. I ended up in the hospital in St. Cloud with a broken hip. (It's a long story.) My daughter, Val, and I felt very bad about missing the event while all of our members in attendance enjoyed the celebration. Congratulations, Julie!

Our Branch has had quite a few elderly members passing on as well as some of the younger members. One of these was Theresa Zaverl, our newly appointed reporter. She had become a favorite writer for many people and was the author of "The Baby Boomers" which was a weekly article in our local newspaper. We also have to give a tribute to our faithful member, Bill Slogar, who was known for his pleasant personality as well as for his ability as a salesman in selling raffle tickets. I'm sure his mother would have been so proud of him. Many of you may remember his sister, Ann Saari, who was very active in the SWUA. May God bless all of our deceased members!

On Saturday, July 22nd, Branch 23 helped host a reception for the Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Zvone Žigon, and his wife, Irena, who have their headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. The reception was held at Dr. Frank Udovich's Creek Ridge Sportsmen's Club on White Iron Lake, and what an afternoon it was! We started out with a traditional Slovenian welcome...breaking bread together with a "shot" of Slivovitz. After that Mayor Roger Skraba welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Žigon and his wife. Dr. Žigon explained that his duties include helping people in the United States with any questions they might have in regards to his country and informing them about how to do things such as travel arrangements, etc. He also familiarizes people with his country (its location, size and customs) so that they will understand it is not Slovakia or 'Transylvania' but a very small and beautiful country called Slovenia.

Afterwards, the people had the opportunity to visit with the Žigons during an informal and traditional Slovenian lunch that was served. Available for everyone were blood sausage, polish sausage, klebasa, soured potatoes salad, vegetables and dip, a cheese tray, krofe, walnut potica and a fruit tray as well as a dessert table with a variety of strudels, bars, cookies and homemade doughnuts. The food was fantastic!!

President Gerry Petrich and her committee of Gloria Smuk, BeBe Lobe, Virgie Ivancich and Jane Yadlosky want to thank the members for their cooperation and wonderful response in providing all of the delicious baked goods. They also want to thank Bernie Petrich who provided his bartending services for the event and the Medved family for their potato salad, sausage, and wine. This was most generous of them. Another big thank you goes out to Jean and Carl Stueland for getting the building ready for the event and then cleaning up after the reception was over. Of course, we can not forget the musicians and singers who added so much to this wonderful day. Lastly, a huge thank you to Dr. Frank Udovich for his generosity in allowing the party to be held at his Club and for his monetary donation which made the party such a success. Thank you, Frank. We hope that we have not omitted anyone in our sincere appreciation for all the help we received, because

we would not have had such a huge success without the help of everyone! Thanks again.

July 28-30th, Ely had its well-known "Blueberry Festival". As for me, I graduated from the walker to a cane for short distances and was lucky to get to the park for the kettle corn, fried bread and a roasted turkey leg.

Yes, it seems like only yesterday that I was looking forward to celebrating with Julie Puzel. We'll have to go out for lunch...okay? See you at Minnesota Days in September.

JANE YADLOSKY

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Dober Dan! Approximately 65 members and guests attended our annual "Taste of Slovenia" picnic on Thursday, June 15 at Pulaski Park in LaSalle. Vince Rigler of Lemont provided wonderful toe tappin' music, the food was delicious and plentiful and everyone enjoyed the beautiful evening.



Left to right: Florence Dondelinger, Florence Smorkel, Vince Rigler, Frances Kasik and Anne Matthews at Branch 24's picnic

Barb Kuzma was the lucky winner of the 50/50 and several ladies went home with some treasures from the silent auction. Wendy Lauer cleverly designed Slovenian pens, which were a big hit, also.

It was a trip down memory lane for most of us because Pulaski Park is located across the street from "old St. Roch's Church". We recalled the many church picnics held there along with the chicken dinners prepared by the ladies.

We were saddened by the death of Angie Nico, a beloved member of Oglesby's Branch 89, our "sister" branch. It's safe to say that Angie was a truly dedicated member and we always enjoyed her company. She will be missed.

With the summer quickly passing, we look forward to our meetings, beginning in September, and a new and productive year. We especially look forward to the National Convention in June and welcoming each and everyone to our Illinois Valley. It promises to be a wonderful time to renew old friendships and make lots of new ones. Until next time, may your hearts be filled with peace and love.

LORETTA STORY

BRANCH 25 - Cleveland, Ohio

Dober dan. We plan to get together to discuss the future of Branch 25. We must get some of the problems straightened out. Please call me at 216-261-3427, so we can plan a meeting to your satisfaction and go ahead with our branch.

Hope you are enjoying the summer! Don't forget the festival on October 1st 2006 at SNPJ Farm. See you there, if not before. Enjoy! Zbogam,

EMILEE

BRANCH 32 - Euclid, Ohio

Wednesday, June 21st the Branch 32 members welcomed summer with a Hot Dog Picnic/Pot Luck at our meeting. Tickets are now available for the Slovenian Heritage Festival to be held on Sunday, October 1 at SNPJ in Kirtland. Branch members will be working on two baskets to be donated for the auction. Reports were offered by Sunshine and Treasurer. A suggestion had been offered for a service project, after meetings, the activity of making rosaries.

The contract for our meeting room at the Euclid Public Library is up for renewal. The tentative date for our next meeting is Wednesday, September 20th. Meetings for the upcoming year 2006-2007 will be September, October and November, then, March through June. Good health to those on the sick list. Happy Birthday to those celebrating in July, August and September.

LAUREN PENKO

BRANCH 39 - Biwabik, Minnesota

One thinks of summer as lazy hazy days, but those of us who love our heritage have no difficulty finding time to enjoy all the ethnic things that are offered to us.

The last weekend of June found members of SWUA gathered at the annual Polkafest in Chisholm, Minnesota listening and dancing to many of our favorite polka entertainers. Reuniting with other branch members from Duluth, Chisholm, Aurora, Ely and also from Cleveland is always a highlight of the weekend. It was fun to renew our friendships with Frank and Sharon Bucar and the Singing Slovenes and to see them dancing to the music of Joey Tomsick of Euclid, Ohio. See you all next year.

On Saturday, July 22nd, the Ely Branch of SWUA invited sister branches and other area Slovenians to meet Dr. Zvone Žigon. He was welcomed in grand style to the home of Dr. Frank Udovich at White Iron Lake. The area Slovenian Singers entertained with a sing-a-long and many area accordion players entertained us that afternoon. Dr. Žigon, Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland, was also invited to the home of Veda Ponikvar of Chisholm

on the previous Friday. He toured the Ironworld Museum in Chisholm and I am sure he went back to Cleveland with a real taste of Slovenia displayed on the Iron Range. We were happy to be notified of his arrival. Slovenians know how to throw a great party!

We will gather for an August meeting and pot luck picnic at the "hiša" of Bob and Rosemary Ribich at Bass Lake. Plans for attending the Minnesota State Convention in Chisholm will be made and raffle tickets distributed. The meeting will be held in the morning and the Aurora Branch 35 will join us for the noon picnic. More on that in the next report. Zbogam.

ROSEMARY (SERTICH) RIBICH rribich@lcp2.net
218-865-6600

BRANCH 40 - Lorain, Ohio

The month of June and part of July have been very busy for the Slovenians in the Northern Ohio area with the month-long celebration of Slovenian Independence. This included a month during which the Slovenian flag hung in Cleveland's City Hall, where there was a display of Slovenian art and archives. There were concerts, banquets, picnics and church functions, all attended by many dignitaries and a huge outpouring of proud Slovenians. I was fortunate to have attended several of these functions with members of my family and they were very impressive. There were many people working behind the scenes to coordinate all these activities and to them we owe a debt of gratitude and thanks for a job well done.

I hope all SWUA members read Lynn Zalokar's thought-provoking article in the last issue of Zarja entitled "Personal Reflection". Read it again. This should give us reason to pause and reflect on where we have been and where we are going. Also Lynn, thank you for your work on the newsletter you produced online. It was truly a labor of love and it was great!

We all take pride in the accomplishments of our children and grand children. Our member Tina Woelfl's granddaughter Mary Christine Ewers is currently enrolled in Suny College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse N.Y. working toward her Master's degree in Environmental Interpretation Education. Recently her studies took her to the Commonwealth of Dominica in the Lesser Antilles chain of islands in the Caribbean Sea. She was there with a class studying tropical ecology, during which time she conducted a research project that will culminate with a guide to some of the common birds of the area. Mary Christine attended Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. She graduated from there in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology. She has one more year at Suny College. After that she plans to work in the education department of a zoological institute. Congratulations and our best wishes to her and her family.

Agatha Donges, Aggie Serazin, Fran Pavlovic, Babe Grayson, Rose Jancar and guest, and I came for our luncheon last month. We all shared a few laughs and enjoyed each other's company for several hours. Please come to our meetings at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. I have promised that I would bring a special dessert for our September meeting. Please come.

STEPHANIE POLUTNIK Step@alltel.net

BRANCH 42 - Maple Heights, Ohio

Can you believe we are coming to the end of another summer? For my special birthday this year my children surprised me by reserving cottages at Buckhorn, Ontario, Canada in the Kawartha Lakes region. Early in my marriage my late husband, Ed, an avid fisherman, introduced me to this wonderful spot where for many years thereafter we spent our family vacations. It all ended with my husband's demise in 1987 until now when the kids felt it was time for their children to see what they had so loved. My son, Gary, took up where his dad left off and caught some really nice fish. We enjoyed the fruits of his labors when he grilled fish so fresh they were literally "jumping out of the pan". Of course we couldn't leave without the aroma of traditional Slovenian smoked sausage and "želodec" cooking on the stove permeated the whole area. How sweet it was!

During Cleveland's observance of the 15th anniversary of Slovenia's independence, Marge Church and I had an opportunity to hear the visiting Slovenski Oktet at one of their scheduled appearances. These extremely talented young men performed to a packed St. Stanislaus Church in Slavic Village and were introduced by the new Slovenian Counsel, Zvone Žigon, who was in Cleveland to appear at several of the celebratory functions.

Don't forget the Northeast Ohio SWUA Heritage Festival at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland on October 1st. Gates open at 11:00 AM with a Polka Mass celebrated by Bishop A. Edward Pevec at noon. Advance tickets are \$3.00 and \$4.00 at the gate. With good food available, many displays and on-going raffles of assorted gift baskets, you are sure to enjoy the day, all while listening to the music of the Joey Tomsick orchestra. The activities take place in the SNPJ pavilion so rain should not be a deterrent. Bring your family and friends and help promote our Slovenian heritage through SWUA. Nasvidenje

LIL SADOWSKI 216-398-4367 LRSadow@aol.com

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Our June meeting was very well attended and we were served a delicious supper prepared by our birthday ladies. Since it was the anniversary of the Independence of Slovenia our meeting opened with our National Anthem

followed by the Slovenian National Anthem as both flags were proudly displayed.

Denise Bartlett introduced a special guest from Sweden. The young lady is a niece of our Treasurer and was a house guest of Denise and her family. I hope that she had a safe trip home and that she enjoyed her visit here.

REMINDER: Please remember our September meeting will be held at the West Allis Public Library at noon. The date is September 27 (the fourth Wednesday). Luncheon will be served at noon followed by our monthly business meeting.

The second Annual Balina Tournament will be held on Sunday, September 17, at Triglav Park. If you are interested in playing, please contact Stanley Vidmar at 543-9143. This is also the day of the Vinska Trgatev hosted by the Triglav Cultural Society. There will be food, music and lots of cool beverages.

Condolences are extended to the family of Rose Schubert, who passed away this past month. Rose was a member of our branch for many years. May she rest in peace.

Keep in mind that the Wisconsin State Convention will be held on September 10, at Sacred Heart Church on N. 49th and W. Wells St in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Branch 12 promises an interesting day and an invitation is extended to all.

I hope all are enjoying the carefree days of the season and all travelers have a safe and happy vacation. A big HELLO to all of our sick and shut ins.

MICI BREGANT

BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Hi everyone. Our September Meeting will be on the 10th at Olga Dorchak's. Please keep the dates of October 1st and the 22nd open. On October 1st we will have our Heritage Festival at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. It is located on Heath Rd. off of Route 6, three miles East of Route 306. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. A Polka Mass will begin at Noon. On October 22nd we will have the Ohio/Michigan Convention. Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church. Meeting and luncheon will follow at the Slovenian National Home off of 80th Street.

Kathleen Ferrante, Olga Dorchak, Elsie Spellacy and Diane Fornaro spent from August 1st thru August 6th in Las Vegas. They went to celebrate Kathleen's son, Jason Hall's wedding. A good time was had by all. Congratulations to Jason and his new bride.

Congratulations to John Wallace, son of Katherine Wallace and grandson of Elsie Spellacy, on his graduation from the University of Akron.

Birthday wishes go out to all September and October members. September members: Albina Jordanek, Madelyn McKittrick, Bernice Novak, Wanda Sever, Agnes Slak, Barbara Sostakowski, Mary Ann Sray and Annette

Yuratovac. October members: Dorothy Cabot, Olga Dorchak, Mary Ann Drobnick, Deborah Duris, Kathleen Dorchak-Ferrante, Linda Ford, Josephine Godec, Josephine Klun, Allison Mundson, Elsie Spellacy, Stephanie Spellacy and Mary Taucher. Best wishes to all.

KATHERINE WALLACE

BRANCH 50 - Euclid, Ohio

Following the long summer break, we anxiously anticipate our next meeting on September 20, 2006. Rose Mary Toth, Branch President, and her energetic staff are excited about the 2nd annual Slovenian Fall Festival on Sunday, October 1st, at SNPJ farm in Kirtland, Ohio as they put the finishing touches on what promises to be a bigger, better, and more exciting event. Other Ohio branches of SWUA will also participate! Among other features, there will be a Polka Mass with Bishop Pevec accompanied by the *Joey Tomsick Orchestra* at noon, followed by music for dancing. The *Circle 2 Chorus* will once again make an appearance. Advance sale tickets are now available from members and at the Polka Hall of Fame in Euclid, Ohio.

In celebration of the 15th year of Independence of Slovenia in June, the Consul General in Cleveland, Dr. Zvone Žigon, initiated a month-long variety of events from displays at City Hall to official recognition in the state capitol, and visits here by Prime Minister Janez Jansa, and Slovenian Ambassador to the US Samuel Zbogar, who spoke at the City Club Forum. Phil Hrvatin, saxophonist with the *Joey Tomsick Orchestra*, and our newest SWUA member escorted PM Jansa to Washington D.C. Having official security clearance, Phil photographed Mr. Jansa with President Bush in the Oval Office. The culmination of the month long Slovenian Days was a Mass celebrated by Bishop Pevec, and a day of entertainment at the Slovenian National Home with various cultural groups including the highly regarded *Slovenski Oktet* from Slovenia.

Welcome to our new members, Florence Pirnat (Boynton Beach, Florida), and Loretta Anne.

Our sympathy goes out to friends and family of long-time members Stella Koporc (sister of Angela Shine) and Mary Sterling, who recently passed away. Both of these fine ladies will be missed.

Get well wishes to Ann Arhar's husband Ed, convalescing at the Cleveland Clinic following back surgery. Special congratulations to Jean and Rudolph Paik of Omaha, Nebraska, celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary. Jean was a former secretary and reporter for Branch 50 in the 70's. It is such a pleasure to hear from our members near and far.

We received a call from Christine Basca, a resident at the Lutheran Nursing home in Westlake, Ohio. Christine will be 98 years old in October and is one of our few remaining charter members. A former cadet, she joined SWUA at age

22 along with her sister, Nettie. Christine's daughter Rosemary promised us to bring her mom to our Festival on October 1st. What a special guest for this affair! Speaking of founders, Stella Rupe, Ernestine Jevic, Julie Sadar, and Carol Traven, are also among the founding members in the 1930's. We hope they would also join in the festivities in October!

On a recent trip to Boston our President, Rose Mary became a great grandmother to twins Mallory Rose, and Miles Henry. Proud parents are Kelly and Greg. How exciting to Rose Mary as she also is a mother to twin daughters.

Honoring the Feast of St. Anne (July 26), our annual luncheon for ladies named Ann (including myself and several other of our members) was held at the Dubrovnik Gardens, in Eastlake, Ohio.

Sr. Mary (Myra) Avsec and Sr. Mary Barbara Knuff recently spent a July afternoon at our 'house on the hill' in what has become an informal annual get-together. My husband Ken and I were prepared to surprise them with a new video produced by the East Ohio Gas Company about the 1943 East Ohio gas explosion. These wonderful Notre Dame nuns were little girls at the time of the accident. In a remarkable coincidence, they also surprised us, as they brought with them archived newspaper stories about the same tragedy.

ANNE TOMSICK 216.531.2745 cjaynow@yahoo.com

BRANCH 54 - Warren, Ohio

Hopefully you all are having a good summer. We have had floods in Northeast Ohio and extreme heat. All this combined with the fighting in Israel and Lebanon makes for very sad news—We must pray for World Peace.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Elsie Shine and family, on the passing of Elsie's husband, Tony, who was a young 96. He was a very special person and Elsie certainly took wonderful care of him. When we had our luncheons, Elsie always took take out for "her honey". He was buried from our parish, St. James, and laid to rest at All Souls's Cemetery. He leaves a son, Eugene and wife and two grandchildren in Augusta, Georgia, and a brother, Albin, who is very active in AMLA and was on the Supreme Board for many years.

Fran Sainato had cataract surgery and is doing great.

Our next meeting will be at my home on September 20th at noon. I'll be calling you.

Again, to the editors of Zarja - it is wonderful! Get well to our shut-ins and good health and God's blessings to all.

JOANNE PONIKVAR

**Remember to shop at SWUA Heritage
Museum for your Christmas gifts.**

BRANCH 55 - Girard, Ohio

Greetings from Girard, Ohio! With the weather warming up outside, it is a wonderful time to be spending time outdoors, planning summer vacations, and spending time with family. It certainly has been an active time here at home with the seemingly endless planting of flowers and gardens, yard work, and home improvement projects!

In branch news, I had the pleasure of sharing a scrapbook from my recent trip to Slovenia at our May meeting. Last November, I had the opportunity to visit my extended family in Ljubljana and the surrounding region, meeting relatives, exploring the Slovenian countryside and learning about my ancestry. It was extremely advantageous to be fluent in Slovenian as I discovered that many members of my family do not speak English. Thank you Mama and Ata for teaching me! As evident by my collection of photographs and souvenirs, it was an experience that I will never forget. Members enjoyed looking through the photographs and sharing vacation stories over ice tea and some of Maria Selak's delicious rhubarb dessert.



A picture from the scrapbook, Bohinj Jezero

First, I would like to recognize and congratulate Andrea Selak, daughter of Branch President Maria Selak and my sister, on her recent graduation from The Harvard Business School this past June. Andrea was awarded her M.B.A. and has returned to New York City to begin working at McKinsey & Company, an international consulting firm. Congratulations Andrea and best of luck in New York!

Second, several branch members were involved in the wedding preparations and celebration of the union of Molly Hartman and Mark Selak, son of Maria Selak and my brother, that took place on June 17, 2006 at St. Edward Church in Youngstown, Ohio. Family and friends baked dozens of delicious cookies, strudel, and other delectable items that were shared with the nearly three hundred guests that attended the reception held at DiLucia Banquet Hall in Warren, Ohio. Perhaps the most special part of the celebration was incorporation of the traditional Slovenian Unveiling Ceremony with red carnations. The entire evening

was lovely. Congratulations and best wishes Molly and Mark as you begin sharing your lives together!

In other branch news, Milka Kregar continues her recovery after hip surgery this past June. She is actively participating in rehabilitation therapy at Liberty Arms. Please keep Milka in your prayers. Also, thanks to my Aunt Anka Krakora, I have recently begun crochet lessons. I am so excited to learn this traditional craft and look forward to working on projects in the future. Thanks Teta Anka!

That's all the news for Branch 55. Members will be notified about the next branch meeting to be held in September. In the mean time, please let me know of any news that you would like included in the report. Enjoy the rest of summer and stay cool!

MONICA SELAK

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Sadly I must report that our premier member Angie Nico died recently. Angie was our convention delegate for many years and was our branch's authority on all things Slovenian. She had served as Illinois President and in many other roles. What will Branch 89 remember about Angie



Nico? Without a doubt, her love and devotion to her Slovenian heritage! Angie was 100% Slovenian. In 2005 Angie was featured in the film "Američanke 100% Slovenian" by Mirjam Hladnik. Angie hand made her Slovenian costume and loved to wear it every chance she got with such pride and dignity. She lived her life with a passion and love we will never forget. We miss Angie very much, but the love she left us will live in our hearts forever. *Eternal rest grant unto her; O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen - Branch 89.*

We have more new members. They are Jill Argubright, Janell and Mary Jane Gunderson, Megan and Ona Rehn and Chris and Annalise Sabotta. We are so happy you have joined.

The LaSalle Branch 24 picnic was a lot of fun. The food was delicious, the company was great, and the music was

fun and all in the shadow of St. Roch's Church in the same park where we spent recess so many years ago. Thank you Branch 24 for including us in your activities. Best regards,

BARBARA BRUCH 815-339-2714

barbarabruch@yahoo.com

BRANCH 93 - New York City

Summer has brought us many wonderful cultural events among which we highlight the following: Two branch members attended a June 15th recital by member Cynthia Shaw Simonoff, pianist, soprano, composer and musical director (originally from Pueblo, CO). Cynthia is the Music Director of The New York Revels and this year's theme is 'Eastern European' - the dates are December 8, 9, and 10. For more information please visit www.cynthiashaw.us. A number of members attended a two piano concert performance by two of Slovenia's well known and celebrated musicians, Bojan Gorišek and Milko Lazar, at the Kaufman Center in New York on June 26th in celebration of the 15th anniversary of Slovene independence. They are one of the rare piano duos in Europe, performing almost exclusively newly composed music including the works of contemporary composers from Slovenia, characterized as a crossover between contemporary chamber music, improvisation and jazz, often compared to the Kronos Quartet. Many thanks to the Consulate General of Slovenia in NY for organizing and promoting this event and providing complementary tickets.

We also have numerous changes in members' personal and professional lives to report. We held a farewell gathering for Tea Rozman-Clark, who recently finished a graduate degree program at NYU and will be heading to Kosovo to continue working with various NGOs and refugee assistance/development programs. Lea Flis is back in Ljubljana. Lea was a visiting scholar in the English Department at Fordham University in NY. She will continue to contribute to Zarja and would still like to come back here! We thank Lea for her articles and stories. We hope all SWUA members and friends enjoyed hearing from a "native Slovenian". Adrienne Bonser, originally from Breinigsville, PA (near Allentown/Bethlehem), will receive an M.A. in Statistics with a finance concentration from Columbia University in October. She is elated and looking forward to resuming a more normal lifestyle again. Her goal is to work in quantitative equity investment management or in private equity. We welcome back Andrea Selak (originally from Girard, OH) who graduated in June with an MBA from Harvard Business School. She lived in Cambridge, MA during the 2-year program and recently moved back to NYC. She will be working as a consultant for McKinsey and Co. in Manhattan (a strategy consulting firm with offices in 45 countries). And finally, our webmaster Sonja Knezevic-Kong will be moving to Seattle

later this year to take up a new position at Guy Carpenter, a reinsurance brokerage firm, where she is currently working in NYC.

SONJA KNEZEVIC-KONG <http://www.swuanyc.org/sk117@cornell.edu>

BRANCH 99 – Lemont, Illinois

Hi members! This will be a fun fall for our branch! We're sure you all plan to attend our Culinary Classes Sept. 30th and Oct. 14th and don't forget the other two biggies: on Sept. 17th is our meeting in the Library of the Slovenian Cultural Center at 1 p.m. and on October 29th, our HALLOWEEN BUNCO!

Fran Schultz and her girls are asking us all to help gathering prizes for the Bunco and she already has a number of great main raffle prizes for which we are asking you to help sell the tickets. This is our major fund raiser of the year and helps pay our expenses. You'll be getting a letter from our Secretary, Julie Partyka all about these events.

For the Sept. meeting, we hope to show videos and answer questions about anything you want to know about Slovenian traditions, especially for holidays.

Just returned from Slovenia and it was so beautiful with the mountains all around, the lush green fields, everything ripening for harvest, and the beautiful flowers at every window and post! I also went to Brezje and asked Marija Pomagaj to bless you all.

CORINNE LESKOVAR

BRANCH 100 - Fontana, California

The members of Branch 100 have had a busy summer with their families and various travels, so there has not been any branch activity since our very nice "Member of the Year" luncheon in April. We were delighted to honor Dorothy Jerneyecic, who, although a newer member of our group, has contributed, not only to us, but to the National Society with her participation in the scholarship program. We held a meeting that day with suggestions for activities and ideas concerning membership, scholarship and other factors in our organization. Dorothy spent most of the summer traveling, first to Slovenia and Croatia and then to Africa. I'm anxious to see her photos as she just returned from the second trip a couple of weeks prior to this writing. Ken and Teresa Koci and children James and Ellie were gone for a month traveling in Europe. About half the time was spent in Slovenia, touring and visiting with family members on both sides of the family. Touring special places in Germany, France, Austria, Italy, and Belgium were also highlights. They were able to meet up with friends made years ago in Austria and Belgium and were able to connect with the families of the Slowind Quintet of Slovenia and old friend Dr. Nada Sabec in Maribor.

Our Slovenian language class is taking a recess during the summer. Pauline Buzan, our instructor, is currently visiting her daughter up north. Mary Lou and Frank Videgar spent some time on the East Coast with granddaughter, Ana. We just recently met an old member of the SWUA, who now lives in Orange County, Katherine (Kitty) Salontai. Kitty is the sister of Rev. Fr. Francis Horvath, who was instrumental in building and maintaining the Catholic Church and commemorative services in the Fontana area years ago. Many May Masses and celebrations took place under his direction. We hope that Kitty and her daughter, Andrea Preissler, will be able to take part in more Slovenian gatherings now that we have made this contact. The Branch is still working on a special activity for our Christmas holiday get together. Even though we have just come to an end of a month-long heat wave here in Southern California, we hope that these next weeks will be cool and comfortable and that you will all have enjoyable times and abundant blessings! Na svidenje!

JEAN KOCI ajkoci@cox.net

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

All are invited to the branch luncheon meeting 1:00 p.m. Sunday, September 10 at the Hunan Restaurant in Olney, MD. We will have a short presentation about "Cleveland Celebrates Slovenia" day; program of events, photos of the Mass for Slovenia at St. Vitus church, a video of the festivities, including the Slovenski Oktet (Slovenian Mastersingers) and the dancing group Folklorna Skupina Kres of Cleveland that performed along with other groups in celebration of the 15th Anniversary of Slovenia's independence on June 25 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Secretary, Eveline Lawrence is recovering from surgery this past summer and hopes to join us again for branch activities soon, as she gains her strength back. She appreciated the cards and phone calls received to cheer her.

Recent months brought some unexpected interest by prospective members of Slovenian descent who found us via the SWUA web site. Another way new contacts are made is by seeking out people with possible Slovenian last names in the business and church communities. I personally had the experience of telephoning the Hren Family here in Gaithersburg, MD who also happen to attend our parish church. What a surprise it was for them to learn that I telephoned just out of curiosity to find out if they knew that hren in Slovenian means horseradish, and the last name is likely Slovenian. They knew the name was Slovenian, and were aware of ancestors in Milwaukee, WI. They asked where they could get some fresh hren; we grow it in our garden and gave them hren plants so they can grow their own. There is a chance again for our branch to grow by at least one!

Five members of Branch 108 had the opportunity to visit Branch 103, Washington, DC member Tončka Cigale this past summer. Tončka was delighted with the visit and her youthful personality, good memory, and steadfast determination shined through. She would be happy to receive mail from those who still remember her from eight years ago when she made the decision to move from Washington, DC to Cleveland to be closer to her sister. Tončka Cigale's address is: Manor Care Health Service, 16101 Lakeshore Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44110.

Congratulations to member Joan Simmons on the birth of her new granddaughter Megan earlier this year. We invite Megan to join as junior SWUA member and trust Grandma Simmons will initiate the membership process, just as she enrolled grandchild, Analhi. All parents and grandparents are invited to enroll their families in SWUA. Be part of the legacy you leave for the next generation by playing the primary role in sowing the seeds for the future. As I quoted in a previous article of the September-October 2004 issue, *"The Heritage of the Past is the Seed that brings forth the Harvest of the Future"*, words engraved on the building of the United States Archives in Washington, DC.

BERNADETTE K. FITZSIMMONS

Bettekfitz@comcast.net

BRANCH 109 -Twin Cities, Minnesota

The Twin Cities Slovenians have taken a respite from the unseasonably hot weather and kept our activities rather informal from June to August. Miro Medved hosted a reception and Slovenian "Petje" for Zvone Žigon, the Slovenian Consul General and his wife, Irena. He and Miro led the singing of many traditional Slovenian folk songs. Gospod Žigon was in Minnesota touring the Twin Cities, Duluth, Chisholm and Ely. A heartfelt thank you to Miro and his wife, Karen for providing the food, drink and true Slovenian hospitality.

Yul Yost, our native Slovenian and early organizer of our Twin Cities Branch 109, hosted a picnic for a small group of "Slovenians" which turned into a dedication of a painting



Miro Medved along the Baraga mural at Yul Yost's

depicting the life of Slovene missionary, Bishop Frederick Baraga. In 1986, Archbishop O'Connor of New York said, *"The rich faith that he received in Slovenia gave him the courage and dedication to come to the United States and devote himself to the spread of the gospel among the American Indians."*

Bishop Baraga's life has become a passion for Yul to the point of commissioning a local artist to paint a 5 panel art piece which will be attached to the outside of Yul's home in Roseville, Minnesota. The inspiration for this painting was the "Baraga Window" at St. Cyril Church in New York City. The window was the work of painter, sculptor and graphic artist, Miro Zupancic, born in Slovenia and who came to the United States in 1963.

Our group was also honored by the presence of Martin Strel, the Slovenian swimmer who swam the Mississippi River, The Nile River, and the Yangtze River and is preparing for his most challenging swim-the Amazon River in 2007. Needless to say, we had a lot of questions for Martin and we wish him well as he prepares to take on the Amazon River in South America.

NORM SETNICKER



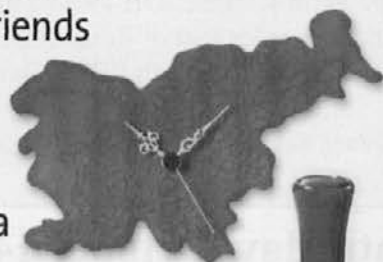
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006

Sunday, September 10 - Minnesota State Convention

Mass: St. Joseph's Church – 10:00 a.m.
113 4th St. SW in Chisholm, MN

Cost of the banquet is \$13.00, raffle tickets are available for prizes of \$100/\$50/\$25

Registration, banquet and convention meeting at the Msgr. Schiffrer Social Hall

Contact Charlotte Laurich, President of Branch 38 for more information at charmlaurich@fnbnet.com or by phone at 218-254-3492 if you plan to attend.

Sunday, September 10 - Wisconsin State Convention

Mass: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Noon
917 N 49th St. in Milwaukee, WI (half block north of West Wells St.)

(Guest Speaker Dr. Zvone Žigon, Consulate General – Republic of Slovenia)

Tickets are \$17.50 – Make reservations as soon as possible.

Breakfast and business meeting at the school hall at 9:30 a.m. Dinner, program and entertainment following Mass

For more info call Nell Zietlow at 414-258-0385

Saturday, September 30 – Culinary Class

Potica Baking Demonstration by master baker, Vince Zajec

Cost is \$5.00, includes demonstration, recipe and taste

Slovenian Cultural Center Kitchen 8:00 a.m.
14252 Main in Lemont, IL

Call 773-275-1115 for reservations

Sunday, October 1 – Illinois/Indiana State Convention

Mass: St. Stephen's Church, Chicago, IL - 11:30 a.m.

Banquet 1:00 p.m. Mayfield's - 6072 S. Archer Ave.

Registration 8:00 a.m. in church basement, continental breakfast 8:30 a.m., convention meeting 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

This will be a combined meeting and celebration of SWUA and Branch 2's 80th year!

Sunday, October 1 – Slovenian Heritage Festival

Theme - "Passing Our Slovenian Heritage on to the Younger Generation"

SNPJ Farm Kirtland, OH located on Heath Road, off of Route 6, 3 miles east of Route 306, opens at 11:00 a.m., Polka Mass at noon with Bishop Pevic

Slovenian related vendor tables, Chinese raffle, displays of Slovenian art, Slovenian food and music by Joey Tomsick Orchestra

Advance ticket sales \$3, \$4 at the gate, under 12 are free

For more information contact Rose Mary Toth, Chairman of the Heritage Festival 440-358-9141

Saturday, October 14 – Culinary Class

Krof'ki (Little Krofi) hands-on class by Frances Rus
Slovenian Cultural Center Kitchen 1:00 p.m.
14252 Main in Lemont, IL

Cost is \$5.00 includes instruction, recipe and taste

Call 773-275-1115 for reservations

Sunday, October 22 – Ohio/Michigan Regional Convention

Mass: St. Lawrence Church - 10:00 a.m.
3547 East 80th St. Cleveland, OH

Guest Speaker Dr. Zvone Žigon, Consulate General – Republic of Slovenia

Immediately following Mass, dinner and meeting at the Slovenian Home at 3563 East 81st St.

Contact Olga Dorchak at 330-468-7989

Membership Application

Yes! I want to join the S.W.U. I want to preserve and promote the legacy of our Slovenian-American heritage. As a member I will receive the publication, ZARJA-The Dawn; I can affiliate with branches and events across the country and best of all, I will come in contact with fellow Slovenes.

Please type or print legibly. Choose type of membership:

☐ Junior (Birth to 18), Annual Dues \$5.00

☐ Adult, Annual Dues \$20.00

Name and Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry _____

How did you hear about us? _____ S.W.U. member _____ newspaper _____ website _____ other _____

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Branch Affiliation No. (if known) _____ Location: _____

Please make checks payable to the Slovenian Women's Union of America and mail to:

SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA, 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432
(815)727-1926 email: swuhome@sbcglobal.net webpage: www.swua.org

Please allow four to six weeks for membership processing.

In addition to my dues, I wish to contribute to the General Fund:

\$ _____

For Office Use:

Date Received: _____

In honor of _____

Membership No.: _____

In memory of _____

Branch Affiliate: _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

I would like to volunteer for the S.W.U. My area of interest or expertise is: _____

Tell a Friend! If you wish us to send information to a friend or relative just fill in name and address here:

My friend's name _____

Address _____

City

State

Zip

ENTERTAINING...

With a touch of Slovenia

Fall time, for a famous chef or an average cook it is a special time of the year. The reason is that in many areas this is harvest time and everything tastes better fresh and especially out of your own garden.

As you will see from the pictures of my garden, I have a waterfall with a small stream running down to a pond. I felt strongly about having this feature because as a child, I grew up near a natural creek which meant so much to me. The running water gives me the feeling of life, the way the vegetation is always green at the water's edge, the movement of the fish and the frequent visits of the animals as they come for a cool drink. Along with the feeling of life, the sound of running water is so soothing and relaxing that I had to incorporate it into my wonderful garden. My favorite place to eat or just relax is next to my waterfall.

Let's get on to the harvest, can there be anything better than accepting nature's gifts? Some we plant such as the fruits and vegetables as we nurture and tend to in hopes of the bountiful fall harvest and then there are the ones God supplies us like all the delicious mushrooms we so eagerly search out.

With all the hustle and bustle of harvest time, I have chosen to make a simple beef barley soup, a family favorite of ours. I am going to serve it with homemade bread, a variety of cut cheeses, salami, proscutto, and of course fresh fruit and vegetables from the garden. This was a very typical menu in my house growing up during harvest time. After a long day of hard work, we owe it to ourselves to have a simple, tasty, meal for all to enjoy and be proud of.

Finally, if you are not fortunate enough to have your own garden or fruit trees to enjoy, instead of the supermarket, look for a farmer's market or even a roadside stand. The difference is worth the effort. You may pay a bit more, but the freshness and usually the people you'll meet make the trip rewarding.

Until next time, enjoy your freshly harvested goods and remember cooking is fun, so don't be afraid to have a glass of wine while you're preparing. - Jenka



Looking for More Slovenian Recipes?

Be sure to purchase one of our two cookbooks *Women's Glory* or *More Pots and Pans* by calling 815.727.1926

Slovenian gardens, photos by Corinne Leskovar taken in Slovenia

Jenka's beloved waterfall and stream. *"Along with the feeling of life, the sound of running water is so soothing and relaxing that I had to incorporate it into my wonderful garden. My favorite place to eat or just relax is next to my waterfall."* - Jenka



Beef Barley Vegetable Soup

2 pounds shin of beef or boneless beef
 Butter or margarine – small amount
 Unsalted shortening – small amount
 About 8 cups cold water
 8 cloves
 3 small bay leaves
 ¼ teaspoon thyme
 ¼ teaspoon marjoram
 1 tablespoon crushed black pepper
 About 1 tablespoon salt
 ¼ cup chopped parsley
 ½ cup sliced carrots
 ½ cup sliced turnips
 1 large onion, sliced
 1 cup sliced celery
 1 cup fresh or canned tomatoes, broken into small pieces
 1 ½ cup or more uncooked peas
 1 cup quick all-purpose pearled barley

Cut meat in about 2-inch pieces, dry it well and add onion and brown it thoroughly in a small amount of butter or margarine combined with a small amount of unsalted shortening, to prevent scorching. Cover meat with the 8 cups of cold water, and heat slowly to the boiling point. Start adding all ingredients except peas and barley; simmer about 3 hours. Now add the quick barley and peas and simmer for about 30 more minutes.



Na zdravje

Slovenian Consulate General
55 Public Square Suite 945
Cleveland, OH 44113
USA

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COBISS

Garden Contest - Honorable Mention



Mary Ann Foster

My mother, Anna Rossman, a many year member of SWUA Branch came to live with my husband, Joseph, and me in North Ridgeville, OH in 1998. She had lived in Euclid, Ohio for 40 years and was a member of Slovenian organizations. In 1994 she was the Woman of the Year at Recher's Hall in Euclid, Ohio. She always had a wonderful typical Slovenian garden with lettuce, tomatoes and plenty of garlic and horseradish surrounded by many flowers, especially roses that seemed to bloom for her when she walked by! Many meetings displayed her bouquets of rose. She showed how to plant a garden, helped make a rock garden honoring the Holy Mary and a giant sun flower patch in the middle of the yard. We were busy all summer long. To top off her many talents during every holiday she would make potica and strudel. One of the amazing things is she was already 90 years old while helping us. She passed away in 2004 at the age of 92. Our gardens haven't been the same without her, (even the weeds won't grow).



Flower gardening is one of my favorite pastimes. I begin to plan and anticipate the growing process as soon as the snow is gone. At the very first signs of Spring I go outside inspecting the ground to see what is beginning to "sprout" up. As I begin to see the wonders of nature I feel so lucky to be able to be a part of it – nurturing it and watching it grow. My flower garden brings me a great sense of peace and satisfaction and closer to God. Sitting with my cup of coffee in the early morning hours it brings back wonderful memories of my Mother and the beautiful flowers and vegetables she grew. I have a small angel sitting on a bench in the garden which I like to think of as my Mom – watching over me and my flowers. I also have a rosary stepping stone and one that says, "Love Grows Here". My garden is my little piece of heaven.

Loretta Story



Helen Lukancic Valerugo

One picture just doesn't do justice to our garden of wild and domestic flowers. I carry on my mother's tradition that she learned from her mother, growing up in Slovenia. She always planted flowers in our yard and also on my father's grave at St. Joseph's cemetery in Joliet. I now plant flowers on their graves as a remembrance.



Denise Bartlett

On April 23rd, 2006 our side yard was all grass and had many weeds and bare spots. On April 24th, my husband, Bob and I decided to start our first garden. Bob was retiring on June 30th and wanted a new hobby. It took us a long time but we finally finished our first garden in June. We both worked very hard and my Slovenian determination kept us going. We are so pleased with our creation. We took this picture just after planting. Already it has blossomed to beautiful colors helped by "Miracle Grow" and lots of rain. To us "It's the best".