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# Zarja

Volume 78 Issue 1  
January - February, 2006

Official Publication Slovenian Women's Union of America  
Uradno Glasilo Slovenske Zenske Zveze V Ameriki

## The Dawn

### New Articles

**MEN IN A SWUA WORLD**

**ENTERTAINING...WITH A TOUCH OF SLOVENIA BY JENKA  
KID TALK**

**TO AMERICA...THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE**

**DISCOVERING THE LITERATURE OF EUROPE'S TERRA INCOGNITO**

**Feature Branches**

**Finding Their Legacy**

**Branch 1**

**Branch 109**

**The Beginning of a New *DAWN***

**Legacy of the  
Written Word  
Part II**

# From the Editor

## 80 Years old..... And LOVING our LEGACY!

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006, the Slovenian Women's Union of America will mark its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have much to hold up and celebrate. Since its formation in 1926, our SWUA has *been LIVING our LEGACY* at the forefront: leading, taking action, speaking and reaching out to members across the United States of America.

In December of 1926 Marie Prislend created an organization for immigrant women to become more Americanized. She did that at a time when women were just getting the right to vote. She gave them hope and courage.

**TODAY, THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO BUILD ON OUR LEGACY.** We have dared to embrace and the vision to preserve the living spirit of the founders and past membership by promoting and nourishing the legacy left to us for future generations. There is much more in our organization's history and work that is worthy of celebration.

Individual branches who have dared to be at the forefront of our organization as well as individual members whose work is worthy of celebration, will be highlighted in Zarja in 2006. Be sure to read which members are celebrating special anniversaries as members of SWUA.

On the special occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Slovenian Women's Union of America, I invite you to join us in making this a special anniversary. We invite you to be a part of the history and the future of SWUA through your continuing support. There is much work still to be done. We are grateful for your solidarity and support in the past and for your faithfulness to SWUA's mission through the years.

### 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](mailto: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 March/April issue must be received by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.



2006 ZARJA TEAM  
Debbie Pohar, Editor  
Bonnie Pohar Prokup, Design Director  
Corinne Leskovar, Consulting Editor

### Special Note:

*In the spirit of SWUA, we have taken on the challenge of making a few modifications in the Zarja. The changes are in hope of producing a more enjoyable magazine for our readers. You will see some new fun articles that we hope you enjoy, mixed in with the traditional features. Our goal is that you will enjoy every part, but we will experience some growing pains and look forward to your valuable feedback. Thank you.*

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**Every family has a journey  
Every heritage has a journey  
Every country has a journey**

**These three comprise the human need for our roots  
and we can only find them by  
LIVING OUR LEGACY**

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# Editor takes on fresh challenge

## 50 plus years experience will enhance new consultant role

When Corinne Leskovar was elected to take over as Zarja-The Dawn's editor in 1952, her biggest challenge was learning how to put together the magazine. Now she expects to take on a new set of challenges as she hands over the editorial reins and becomes magazine consultant, the "go-to" person for everything Zarja related. "It was very exciting then and it's exciting now. The new editors are young, savvy and smart, and now they'll be putting the magazine together using computer software," she says.

**Leskovar has almost single handedly overseen the growth and re-creations of the magazine during the last 53 years**, doing everything from writing and editing to layout and production. As the daughter of former SWUA President Albina Novak, who also edited Zarja from 1933 until 1952, Leskovar was a natural to fill the position.

One of her first tasks was to oversee Zarja through its transition to English. In January 1956, Zarja published eight pages in English and eight pages in Slovenian. Since then the magazine has become 90 percent English with some articles occasionally appearing in Slovenian. Leskovar has also seen the magazine grow in size – it now averages 35 to 40 pages, with some issues having more than 60 pages.

With that growth there were changes in publishing houses. Leskovar helped the magazine transition between those houses, first working with Bohemian Benedictine Press, and in 1971, with Croatian Franciscan Press in Chicago, where the Zarja editor's office remained for more than 30 years, until December 2005. During that time, Leskovar laid out every Zarja issue by hand. "I remember people would say to me 'compliments to your staff,' and I'd laugh and think, 'what staff?'" she recalls.

Throughout the years, she's seen some constants and some changes in the magazine. The sense of sisterhood,

desire for camaraderie and Slovenian spirit have remained, but writers and columnists have come and gone. She worked with SWUA founder Marie Prisland who wrote several columns and with Prisland's daughter Hermine Dicke, who also wrote for Zarja. There was the "Immigrant" column by member Irene Odorizzi, featuring stories of member immigrants. There were the series that ran, such as "This is our Heritage" articles by Milena Gobetz in 1976. Of course, Leskovar wasn't just editing, much of Zarja was written by her as well. In 1951 Leskovar created and wrote the "Member of the Year" feature which is still featured annually.

However, it is the direction of the magazine that has seen the most significant change during her time as editor, says Leskovar. While Zarja used to be primarily focused on helping Slovenian women acclimate to the U.S., now the magazine is more geared toward to helping Slovenian-American women find historical, heritage and genealogy information. Leskovar managed to grow Zarja in a way that balanced both the need for sisterhood and camaraderie with the changing needs of new members looking for heritage information.

Now she's trying to create a new balance for her life. When Leskovar's not giving guidance on the magazine, she plans to use that Slovenian drive to stay productive. "Oh, I'm definitely keeping busy – I'm trying to line up speakers for Lemont's Branch 99 events and we've got our cooking classes which are very popular."

Although it isn't easy to let go of her "baby," she hopes to use her experience to give direction to the next generation of editors overseeing Zarja. "When I put my last issue [the November-December issue] to bed, it was hard to let go. I wondered, 'how can I make anyone understand the spirit I have?' But I'm just going to continue to offer them anything I've got," she says. -by Leslie Cummings, Zarja contributor

*In 1952, her biggest challenge was putting together the Zarja. Now she is to become the "Go To" person for everything Slovenian Related.*



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Photo by Igor Modic: Winter in Slovenia

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# IL/IN REGIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

The SWUA Illinois/Indiana Convention on October 02, 2005 provided members the opportunity to "Live their Legacy" ... and live it they did!! It was a day of Faith, Food, and Friendship. Mass was celebrated by Father Juan Sanchez, Pastor of St. George Church who gave an inspirational homily setting the pace for the entire day. Kudos to Father Sanchez for his tenacious effort to welcome us in Slovenian. Members joined in singing Slovenian hymns to the Blessed Mother and as their voices reverberated through the church, my thoughts were of the many Slovenian immigrants who had lived their Faith and through whose sacrifices and generosity this Church had celebrated its centennial in 2003.

After Mass we went to the Church Hall for registration, refreshments and raffle (the 3R's of any Convention) Evelyn Driscoll of Branch 95 shared her talents for decorating by transforming the Hall's appearance. Red carnation centerpieces were at each table and prayer cards for the Cause of Sainthood for Bishop Baraga were at each place setting. The potica made by the ladies at Holy Trinity Church in Indianapolis, IN was a big hit! (The ladies have made over 900 poticas since August which in itself is an attestation to its delicious taste.) We then traveled to the Crow Bar restaurant for the Convention meeting and dinner. There were many favorable comments on the lovely Slovenian motif place mats created by Branch 16 Dotsi Rossi's daughter.

The meeting was called to order by Regional President, Genevieve Buol and Branch 16 President, Therese Ehnat led the opening prayer asking everyone to join in the prayer for the Cause of Sainthood for Bishop Baraga. National Officers in attendance were Jonita Ruth, Treasurer and Bonnie Prokup, Secretary. National President, Kathleen Dorchak-Hall sent her best wishes for a successful Convention and Mary Turvey sent information regarding changes in the Scholarship program. Bonnie addressed membership and the importance of recruiting new members for the continued existence of our Organization. She also briefed members on proposed plans for the 2007 National Convention at Starved Rock in Utica, IL hosted by all the Illinois Branches.

Delegates from 6 of the 9 IL/IN Branches were present to give their respective reports and submitted reports from the others were read by President Buol. Corinne Leskovar, Editor of the Zarja announced effective January 1, 2006, Debbie Pohar will be the new Editor, Bonnie Prokup, Design Director and Corinne will be a Consulting Editor. The three ladies have been working together on the Zarja since early 2005 to facilitate a smooth transition.

Branch 2, Chicago volunteered to host the IL/IN Convention in 2006 and Branch 20 in 2007 as it will coincide with their respective 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Date and place of the 2006 Convention will be printed in the Zarja.

Branches 16 and 95 were acknowledged for their cooperative and outstanding effort in hosting the 2005 Convention, (75% of Branch 16 members were in attendance). The meeting was adjourned by President Buol. Following a delicious dinner, a raffle of 2 large round poticas made by Vida Kumse of Branch 16 and 3 large loaf poticas from Indianapolis was conducted to the delight of the lucky winners.

Herman Simrayh provided Button Box Music Entertainment to which we sang, danced and thoroughly enjoyed until it was time to leave. Everyone received a souvenir Tote Bag imprinted with our Organization's Logo as they departed.

Respectfully submitted by  
Genevieve A. Buol, IL/IN Regional President

**This article appeared in the St. George Church Sunday Bulletin by Father Juan, Pastor of St. George Church:**  
*I would like to thank Mary Therese Ehnat, President of Branch 16 and our members for hosting a beautiful Mass, meeting and luncheon last Sunday. The Mass attendance and collection was larger. I thank you for your patience with my attempt to share some words with you in Slovenian. I want to thank our woman for wearing their beautiful Slovenian clothes. A special thank you to Ralph Caruso for setting - up the tables and chairs for the meeting. I enjoyed the delicious "potica" after the mass. Fr. Phil shared, with me that he had a great time with everyone at the Crow Bar Luncheon. He enjoyed the joyful music provided by the "button box" player, the food, and the conversation and the "potica" Raffles. Again thank you to our Branch 16 for sharing the important day for you and your Slovenian Sister Branches from Illinois and Indiana. Finally, I want to thank the Slovenian Woman's Union for their generosity and their note "thanking me for my thought provoking homily.*



# WISCONSIN REGIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

The Slovenian Women's Union, Branch 43 of Milwaukee celebrated a very special day on September 25, 2005 at Klemmer's Banquet Center. Branch 43 hosted the Wisconsin Regional Convention in conjunction with the celebration of its 75th anniversary.

The day started at 8:30 a.m. with a special blessing of a gentle rain, which did not dampen the people's spirits. It was a most enjoyable morning spent greeting people as they were coming in. A continental breakfast of juice, muffins, bagels, potica and coffee was enjoyed by everyone. Members from all four Wisconsin branches had a chance to socialize and renew old acquaintances.

The social hour passed all too quickly. President Josephine Janezic enthusiastically welcomed everyone. The business meeting was called to order with an opening prayer at 9:15 AM. Yvonne Johnstone Khaldy graciously accepted being our recording secretary. The minutes from the last convention, held in Sheboygan, were read by Aggie Gruenke. Minutes were approved as read.

Stavia Dobersek, president of Branch 12 for 27 years, was congratulated and honored for being the second Honorary President ever in the history of SWUA, the first being Marie Prislant, our beloved founder. The roll call of branches followed. The attendance from all branches was great. Congratulatory letters were read from National President Kathleen Ferrante, Branch 43 scholarship award winner Michelle E. Goldmann and Branch 1, Sheboygan. Delegates gave their annual reports on their activities and problems during the year. It is encouraging how every branch is working towards recruiting new members. Branch 1, Sheboygan, was very successful, as they have become number one in the nation in recruiting new members. Congratulations go to President Aggie Gruenke, her officers and members. That's the way to go!



*Junior Members Greeting Guests*

Branch 1, Sheboygan, disapproves of paying \$20.00 dues after July 1st, feeling that new member's dues should be pro rated. Branch 12, Milwaukee, has lost many members due to illness and passing on to eternity. They are really trying to get new members, and would like the Board to consider eliminating membership dues for existing members who have attained the age of 80 years. This policy is in effect with the majority of other Slovenian organizations. It is suggested that if dues are not paid by long time members, that the Home Office retain them on the membership list and deduct, from the beneficiary payment, the dues which were not paid prior to the member's demise. Also a problem is the dropping of insurance for members who have been in the organization for decades. The Home Office dropped 16 members from Branch 12 in 2004, with the majority of those dropped being over the age of 75 years. They would also prefer State Conventions to be held on a bi-annual basis, since all the information about branches is now available through the computer. Branch 43, Milwaukee, had great success with the evening meeting in June and will continue the June evening meetings. Their meetings are very interesting and well attended. Branch 102, Willard, with aging membership and not many young people around, is doing its best. They also would prefer State Conventions to be held on a bi-annual basis.



*Honorary Branch 12 President Stavia Dobersek and Josephine Janezic*

Josephine Janezic spoke of all trying harder to keep our Slovenian culture alive through different activities with the purpose and hope of getting our young people interested in SWUA. Some of the many activities within the Wisconsin branches are: Member of the Year luncheons, Christmas parties, Bake Sales, and Slovenian missions. Having speakers on interesting topics at the meetings was very successful, as were the style shows, learning the Slovenian language, hymns and songs. It was suggested to have a Slovenian flag and music for the meetings. All the branches appreciate the communication between member branches and our Home Office. E-mail and web pages are a big help.

Best wishes are extended to Lynn Zalokar, who was instrumental in starting the monthly newsletter on E-mail. She now passes this work on to Tom Zakosek. We all wish him well.

Michelle E. Goldmann of Branch 43 received a SWUA Cultural Scholarship. Michelle is currently attending Loyola University in Chicago. We are honored to have two National Officers: BettyAnn Kolesari, National Vice President and Denise Bartlett, National Second Auditor in Branch 43. BettyAnn read a letter from Mary Turvey regarding changes to SWUA scholarship awards.

I am very proud of all Wisconsin branches for their focus on VISION, MISSION and PURPOSE. The next Regional Convention of Wisconsin will be hosted by Branch 12, Milwaukee in 2006. After a minute of silence and a tribute to deceased members, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

The room was quickly set for a Holy Mass celebrated by Father Joseph Cunningham at 11 AM. Slovenian hymns were angelically sung by the Uspeh Chorus. Three of our young members in ethnic costumes enhanced the appreciation of our Slovenian heritage by doing the readings and petitions. Father Cunningham delivered an impressive sermon to a full room. We are grateful to Mr. Frank Menchak for the Slovenian reading

After Mass, dinner was served in the next room where tables were beautifully set and decorated by centerpieces of red carnations and favors. A delicious dinner was followed by cheese and apple strudel made by Branch 43 member Mici Coffelt served for dessert. Master of Ceremonies, David Bevsek, kept excellent order. He spoke about SWUA and his sense of humor complemented his title.

During dinner, Bill Bregant was our strolling musician. Afterwards, the delightful entertainment included the Uspeh Chorus, directed by Mici Bregant, Slovenian melodies sung by Delores Ivancich, accompanied by Tony Gorenc, a poetry reading by Rita Majerle-Klug and, stealing the show, Mici Bregant's 12 year old grandson, Phillip Bregant, performing on the cello.

We all benefited from this experience of an enjoyable and fruitful day celebrating the 75th anniversary of Branch 43 and our State Convention. May God reward our members who worked so diligently to bring about this success.

Josephine Janezic, Wisconsin Regional President

**Date to Remember**  
**Branch 108**  
**Slovenian Pust Festival -**  
**February 25, 2006**  
**This is open to all guests**

The Slovenian Pust Festival on Saturday, February 25 will take place at the Chevy Chase Christian Church Hall in Chevy Chase, MD. It will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a program, followed by Slovenian musical entertainment, Slovenian style dinner choices, desserts and a raffle. Children are invited to dress in costume.



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# CULTURAL SHADES OF SLOVENIA

## A brief outlook of Slovenia's literature: Discovering the Literature of Europe's Terra Incognita

### *That's Slovenia, not Slovakia*

If the name Ljubljana sounds foreign or exotic, and if you have trouble keeping Slovenia and Slovakia straight, don't sweat it. Even James Joyce had trouble getting it right. In 1905, when moving to Italy, Joyce and his wife Nora got off the train in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, thinking they had already arrived in the Northeastern Italian city of Trieste. But if the author's sense of geography wasn't exactly intact, at least his sense of humor was. The two crashed for the night in someone's garden and later enjoyed spreading around the story.

In fact, when discussing my nation's contemporary literature, a reference to Joyce may be apt. Parallels can be drawn between our tiny population of 2 million and that of Northern Ireland. We too are a people who have struggled for independence, and who have always, despite hardship, managed to find hope through the written word. So is there a potential Nobel-prize winner for literature hidden somewhere in a shady corner of the proverbially sunny side of the Alps? That is, after all, how guidebooks describe Slovenia, the tiny nation located in the eastern Alps between Austria and Croatia and that, until recently, has been seen as the terra incognita of Central Europe.

Contemporary Slovenian authors are, regrettably, not well represented on the American and international English-speaking book market. This is, to a large extent, the result of the fact that our nation didn't have its full legal and political independence from Yugoslavia until 1991, a year when a new history, literature, and language, which have always represented the strongest pillars of the fragile identity of our nation, were finally given wings.

Reflecting on a legacy of more than a thousand years of cultural and political subjugation, Christopher Merrill rightfully names melancholia the national disease of Slovenia. The poet who perhaps most masterfully puts into words this ailment is France Preseren (1800), the leading representative of Romanticism and legitimately called the father of modern Slovenian poetry. With his breathtaking and artistically perfected poetry, especially love sonnets, Preseren revolutionized Slovenian poetry by introducing into it a number of Romantic forms.

Less concerned with form than with progressive myth-making, Tomaz Salamun (1941) nevertheless shares his predecessor's national pathos. In the poem, "Eclipse", Salamun can still be heard crying out, "I grew tired of the image of my tribe and moved out." One of the leading Central European avant-garde poets, Salamun has created a solid basis for numerous (not only Slovenian) younger poets. Among them is Boris A. Novak (1953), who

combines neo-romantic sentiments with elements of Modernism and Postmodernism. In the first quatrain of his "Sonnet of Sonnets" Novak reflects:

*Memory has two wings: the first is past, the second is  
future,  
A luxury that hurts, a name of the silence.  
Only dreams can weave time with water:  
A magical mirror, a distant face of milk.*

The past is an understandable preoccupation for Slovene poets, and the struggle to fight despair and solitude is palpable in much contemporary verse. Richard Jackson has called poet Alex Debeljak's (1961) work a "metaphysical combat that offers a hope for the bleak wasteland that confronts contemporary society." And in a world where futile promises are made daily and thousands die at the whim of a consecrated few, Debeljak weaves a net of redemptive images drawn from religion, mythology, and philosophy. Equally powerful are his take on national and global political crisis and issues concerning love and passion. Although the latter two notions are closely connected with bitterness and nothingness, Debeljak's poems tend to burst (back) into an ecstatic acceptance of life in all its forms and versions. His collection *Anxious Moments* (White Pine Press, 1994), and his essay *Reluctant modernity: The Institution of art and its historical forms* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1998), are among his works available to readers of English.

Uros Zupan (1963) revitalized neo-Romanticism with the use of religious incantations. Drawn equally to sophisticated poeticism and the concrete images of everyday life, Zupan lets sentimental questions like "Will I ever again see this gaze that breaks me in two? Will I listen to the falling of your hair? Will I populate this miracle, this name of yours, Marie-Cecile...?" easily intertwine with mundane musings like "And what is left? A quiet room, the smell of the carpet which will fill the room long after we have each gone our own way..." Although selections of Zupan's work appear in the must-have anthology of contemporary Slovenian poetry, *The Imagination of Terra Incognita* (White Pine Press, New York, 1997), none of his poetry collections are yet available in English, a regrettable fact, given the influence contemporary American verse plays on Zupan's work and his explicit interest in introducing Slovenian voices to the outside world. In 1996 Zupan edited a special section on "Young Slovenian Poetry" for the English-American literary magazine *Verse*.



## Accessing Slovene authors in English

As literary translations go, it is not unexpected that poetry prevails, since it has for centuries been the most direct and authentic expression of the Slovene national character. The outstanding works of numerous prose writers, playwrights and essayists have experienced sporadic and more or less courtesy translations. But by taking part in literary readings at various prestigious locations in Europe and the United States, authors Drago Jancar (1948), Alex Debeljak, Andrej Blatnik (1963) and many others are giving the world a taste of Slovenia's fresh literary endeavors.

For those with no real background in Slovene prose, I recommend Jancar's novel *Mocking Desire* (Northwestern University Press, 1998) as a first read. No doubt the most frequently translated fiction writer in Slovenia, Jancar uses a deceptively simple language to deliver a critical outlook on Slovenia's current social situation, as well as our social, political and cultural heritage. Also widely available, Blatnik's short story collection, *Skinswaps* (Northwestern University Press, 1998) energetically alludes to other fictional works and shines a light on the interplay between truth and lies in fiction. American readers may particularly notice Blatnik's indebtedness to Raymond Carver.

Unlike their predecessors, writers born around 1970 have enjoyed few significant English translations, and for the time being American readers won't be able to tap into the strains of optimism and despair that run through their work. Yet their relevancy makes them worth at least a mention. Novelist Dusan Cater's (1968) pervasive "street poetics" echo the styles of Bukowski, Salinger and even Miller, and his fiery bohemian antiheroes hover between hedonism and death. Ales Car (1971) and Katarina Marincic (1968) portray characters standing at the crossroad of multiple existential, sociological and psychological coordinates. Marincic's *Prikrita harmonija* (A Concealed Harmony) is a family novel set in the time during World War I that lucidly reveals the inner worlds of its characters with a Proust-like sensibility.

With her debut novel *Noc v Evropi* (Night in Europe) Polona Glavan (1974), an avid film buff, takes her cue from Jim Jarmusch's 1991 film *Night on Earth*. Glavan brilliantly reshapes Jarmusch's stories of taxi drivers into her own account of young backpackers aboard a Paris – Amsterdam night express. Glavan remarks that "Heterogeneousness is what distinguishes [the writers born after 1970] from the previous, Postmodernistic generation, which was homogeneous mainly in its use of metafictional and intertextual approaches," yet in reference to her own writing and works by Car and Cater, the novelist applies the term "urban prose."

## The future of Slovene literature

As younger writers distinguish themselves from the literature of the past, the future of Slovene's literature is largely up for grabs. In his essay "The Future of Literature

Can Be Discerned in the Last Sentence" (in *The Slovenian Essay of the Nineties, Litterae Slovenicae*, 2000) Andrej Blatnik remarks that:

*The relations between big and small cultures are, at least for the time being, changing. In my view also Slovenian literature will be more closely connected with the fate of world literature in the future than it has been to date...The shrinking of the world has increased the possibilities of and need for knowing its margins. Ethnocentrism, Eurocentrism, Amerocentrism—all of these senseless self-mutilations will have to end.*

Blatnik's vision certainly represents the long view. It has only been a few years after all, since Slovene works have escaped classification under the broad and misleading category of "Slavic Literature." Though American publishing houses express only limited interest in the works of Slovene authors, supply will follow demand as readers seek out diverse voices. All literary works, if they are to resonate with us, must contain an emotional urgency, elevating them above the level of extraneous cultural ornament. Edvard Kocbek calls poetry "the magical revelation of human capability; poetry is the means by which man becomes reconciled with the world, secures himself against it, and mystically rises above it." And this is especially true of Slovenia, where our cultural uniqueness really did arise from poetry.

Due to space limitations, I've had to leave out numerous authors who undoubtedly deserve attention. In an effort to offset their absence (and to improve the slightly bitter taste that their exclusion leaves in my mouth!), I've added a list of addresses and web pages that will provide further reference:

Slovene Writers' Association

DSP, Tomsiceva 12, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

<http://www.drustvo-dsp.si>

Center for Slovenian Literature

Metelkova 6, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

<http://www.ljudmila.org/litcenter/>

The Society for Slovene Studies

<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca>

For Slovenian literature in English translation, check:

[http://www.ijs.si/lit/slov\\_lit.html](http://www.ijs.si/lit/slov_lit.html)

For books published in the USA, check:

<http://www.utc.edu/~engldept/pm/>

[pmhp.html](http://www.utm.edu/~engldept/pm/) or Poetry Miscellany

Chapbooks



Lea Flis

Lea Flis was born and raised in the Slovene capital of Ljubljana. She is a doctoral student of American Literature at the University of Ljubljana. Currently she is a visiting scholar on a one-year research scholarship in New York City (Fordham University). She has worked as an English teacher and a translator.

# National President's Message

## Happy New Year - 2006



*Kathleen Ferrante  
National President*

Happy New Year, 2006 is now upon us. I hope everyone had a blessed, safe and happy holiday season with your family and special friends.

With the holidays over, it is time to get back to business. I am very excited about the changes happening in the Slovenian Women's Union of America. Change can be scary and create uncertainty, but in order for this organization to move forward we all must do our best to understand that these changes are necessary if we are to continue to be a viable organization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are continually updating our Website and our Zarja magazine with new and important information and happenings. These adjustments and new ideas are to transform the SWUA with a new spirit; to revitalize branches and recruit new members, who are the key to our future, we need your support!

Another exciting announcement is that we have reprinted the original "Woman's Glory" Cookbook from 1951. I am sure many of you remember what a wonderful cookbook this is with many cherished recipes from our beloved members. Cookbooks are available at the Home Office for \$20.00 and \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Please order them quickly. We only purchased 1,000 as a commemorative keepsake for Slovenian Woman's Union of America's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Your National Board of Directors is planning a Board meeting in late February to discuss many issues. Utmost on the agenda is our National Convention for 2007. One of the most important items I think branches need to consider is their selection of delegates and alternates to the convention. Please talk among your branch members and consider sending a delegate or delegates that help your branch and our organization grow. Our next National Convention is vital to the survival of the SWUA.

Let's all work together to have a wonderful year filled with growth and friendship.

Love, Peace and Laughter,

Kathleen Ferrante  
178 Gaylord Drive  
Munroe Falls OH 44262  
330.688.4949



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## MEMBERS ON THE ROAD FOR HERITAGE

Wisconsin State President Josephine Janezic and Vice-President Yvonne Khaldy helped with the heritage scene. The two members of Branch 43, Milwaukee drove up to Sheboygan, Wisconsin to join Branch 1 in a fund raiser for membership recruiting and they brought along a box full of Heritage Museum items. They were very impressed with the well organized event, the large attendance and the enjoyable company. The museum items sold very well, with the buyers appreciating the opportunity to see all the items in their home city, as they can't travel to Joliet all that easily. It really was a very successful and enjoyable Sunday. Thank you to Josephine and Yvonne for helping with the sales benefiting the Heritage Museum.

The Wisconsin Vice President also went to Joliet last Saturday during the Holiday Open House and picked up copies of the new cookbook, "Woman's Glory" and the CD "Learn Slovenian". Our Member of the Year, 2005, Jackie Smith came along, this was her first trip to the museum and she was thrilled. She found her father's name on the plaques and had to get a picture. They went to view the Slovenian videotape as mentioned in the last Zarja. That was interesting, but visiting with some members of Branches 99 and 20 was the highlight for both of them.

# HANDLING THE DETAILS

## Your National Secretary - Invoicing

Dober Dan friends! When you are reading this issue I can guarantee you that I am hard at work preparing the system for the year 2006. These first three months are the busiest times for me; this is when I send you the invoice and you send in the dues. I am sure the mailman is very curious as to what goes on in this house during these months. Some days the mail is so heavy he has to bring it to the door as it is triple the size of a mailbox, then I sit opening each letter and follow my normal steps to accomplish this task.

It will be very important this year to have your dues paid on time as we are going electronic with our mailing system. This was explained in the last issue. But to go over it briefly - it is where the address system will no longer come from the former Zarja office for mailing of the magazine. Starting with the March/April issue it will come from the master list that is updated by my position. For those members not paid up, they will not receive the Zarja for the months they were not paid. As soon as they do pay their dues they will receive the next Zarja. The end result will save money in print and postage. If you have any questions on this, please don't hesitate to ask.

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



Bonnie Pohar Prokup  
National Secretary

## Welcome New Members

1 Barbuch, Debbie, S	20 Schneller, Julie, S	99 Carmody, Mary, S	100 Koci, James, J
1 Baumgart, Susan, S	20 Skach, Josephine, S	99 Hozjan, Daniel, J	100 Koci, Philip, J
1 Bockin, Mary, S	20 Umek, Sharon, S	99 Hozjan, John, J	100 Koci, Roger, J
1 Hengst, Barbara, S	23 Bird, Cynthia, S	99 Hozjan, Natalia, S	100 Koci, Vincent, J
1 Jelovnik, Maryann, S	23 Deyak, Debbie, S	99 Hozjan, Rosemarie, S	100 Lundgren, Erik, J
1 Jelovnik, Richard, S	23 Golobich, Mary Lynn, S	99 Razpotnik, Magdalena, S	100 Semancik, Maryann, S
1 Laack, Nellie, S	24 Beth Allen, S	99 Skiba, Sonia, S	102 Brierton, Bonnie, S
1 Stancar, Ann, S	24 Eiten, Jean, S	99 Wolf-Astrauskas, Marianne, S	102 Brierton, Sandra, J
2 Bell, Tabitha Dawn, J	24 Klein, Vicki, S	100 Jancich, Garret, J	108 Federko, Jennie, S
2 Bryant, Natasha, S	25 Zidan, Heidi, J		108 Glenn, Hedy, S
2 Bryant, Tana, S	25 Zidan, Hope, J		
2 Cross, Liliana Rose, J	26 School, Beverly, S		
2 Drake, Jack, J	42 O'Neill, Josephine, J		
2 Kulaga, Thomas, J	42 O'Neill, Matthew, J		
2 Urbanski, Robert, J	42 O'Neill, Patricia, J		
2 Urbanski, Taylor, J	42 Ruppe, Patrick, J		
2 Urbanski, Zachary, J	47 Kiml, Irene, S		
2 Weber, Andrea, S	47 Kiml, Renee, S		
5 Jernigan, Tina, S	47 Marchetti, Deborah, S		
5 LaPosa, Josef, S	47 Marchetti, Theresa, S		
13 Gandy, Rose, S	50 Janezic-Engel Kate, S		
13 Luoma, Marian, S	79 Brown, Lisa, S		
16 Minton-Kutz, Janice, S	89 Peart, Joan, S		
20 Alsbury, Janet, S	93 Flis, Lea, S		
20 Bletsch, Jean, S	93 Klanssek, Lucia, S		
20 Dobczyk, Brett, J	93 Louthan, Barbara, S		
20 Hann, Judy, S	93 Whitmire, Maria, S		
20 Plankar, Jacqueline, S	99 Aguilar, MaryAnne, S		

## Donations to Zarja

Branch 1	Photo donation	\$5.00
Branch 10	Photo donation	\$5.00
Branch 16	Photo donation	\$10.00
Branch 16	Photo donation	\$20.00
Branch 20	Schatz, Janet	\$20.00
Branch 20	Mavec, Marylynn	\$10.00
Branch 25	Peterlin, Victoria	\$5.00
Branch 33	Somin, Lucille	\$25.00
Branch 35	Photo donation	\$25.00
Branch 38	Photo donation	\$20.00
Branch 43	In memory of Frances Cera who passed away on 10/5/05	\$10.00
Branch 109	McComber, Yvonne	\$50.00

# NEWS FROM SWUA.org

Your SWUA Web Site

## *This is a time of growth and transition for*

**SWUA** – we have increasing membership, more branches forming, and new ZARJA editors and SWUA.org is leaping forward as well with a new Web site **SWUA** of information for members and visitors. Why is the Web site important to SWUA and its members? Not only does it allow us to reach a larger audience and potentially increase membership, the Web site also provides a place for people to easily access information about SWUA, branches and events as well as Slovenian culture, heritage and genealogy.



*Leslie Cummings SWUA.org Editor*

Some of the information you'll find on SWUA.org includes:

- a list of Slovenian merchants selling food, wine and other items across the U.S.
- news on upcoming conventions
- updates on the membership drive campaign
- Slovenia-related Web links
- a page just for kids

In addition, the Web site helps keep members connected to SWUA and each other. SWUA.org recently added The Forum, where members and visitors can sign in and chat with each other on everything from cooking and music to events and art – or even about non-SWUA stuff (like whether you saw the recent episode of *Desperate Housewives*). The Forum is a great place to ask questions about genealogy research, your favorite polka song or the best potica recipe. The Forum is also an excellent spot to announce upcoming events or to generate talk about the event afterwards i.e. get feedback. Trying to reach SWUA leaders? The Web site provides contact information for various branches and leaders, so members can easily stay in touch or ask those important questions.

And there are other benefits to be found at SWUA.org: We can bring you much more timely information and updates about projects and events; you can now more easily access forms such as the scholarship, travel award and membership applications; and you can read or sign up for the SWUA eNewsletter, *The New Neighborhood*.

How can you be a part of SWUA.org? That's easy! Just go to the Web site and assist us in one of these ways:

- Visit our Merchant's List and see if you can add the name of a merchant we've missed.
- Check out The Bookshelf and see if you know of any titles to add.
- Submit a photo for our Member Photos section.
- Start up a chat on The Forum.
- Become your branch's Web site Liaison. Liaisons provide information about their branch's activities to SWUA.org.
- If you're an experienced writer, help us out at the Web site.
- Give us feedback on the site or tell us about what you'd like to see added.

**Finally, please be sure to check out the Web site yourself and tell your family members and friends about it. If you don't have a computer, go to your library and get online for free. Or if you're not tech savvy, ask your children or grandchildren to show you the Web site. We hope you'll find it interesting, exciting and informative!**

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 two years. You can reach her at [lcc0920@ameritech.net](mailto:lcc0920@ameritech.net) with comments or questions.

# LIVING ZARJA

## ANOTHER MILESTONE - Thoughts on the future of our Zarja

Recently, I read an article entitled: Change or Die by Alan Deutschman. The premise of this article is that people don't change - that is, the odds are that people don't want to change or find it too hard to change. It is hard for individuals but especially hard for groups of people, says the author, because here you are confronting people "working within various frames of thought". Change is too difficult, so they fight it.

I think the only way we can face any changes in the Slovenian Women's Union that impact on the future is to know what are the things that unite us and to build on those things which have brought us together and kept us together all these many years. Then we gather our resources to understand and accept changes and if possible, fly with them!

As your Editor of *Zarja-The Dawn* for more than five decades I have certainly seen many changes and possibly have indirectly influenced some of them. There were crucial reversals of old ways and many new innovations instituted. As an example, at the beginning in 1929, *Zarja* was printed almost exclusively in Slovenian with just a few pages in English. Through the years the English language became more and more prominent and in 1954 took precedence over Slovenian. Another change was in the frequency of *Zarja* production due to needed cost reduction; in 1983 to nine issues, and in 1998 to six per year. Although some of these changes were disappointing to many members, with their cooperation and understanding we have managed to stay strong and united. Some say it's better than ever to be a member of SWU!

Another more recent change took place in 1999 with the election of a new, young executive staff of officers intent on new ideas and programs and the adoption of a new Slovenian Women's Union Mission Statement. In a few sentences, it insists on a new central goal, that is, the Preservation of Slovenian Culture and Heritage. By 2007, at the next National Convention, we will have successfully accomplished eight years of serious work on achieving this goal, such as: *expansion of the Heritage Museum, Library and gift shop, promotion of our popular Slovenian-American Cookbook, various culinary programs and heritage projects with member participation, five years of The New Neighborhood, an electronic monthly newsletter directed to Slovenians living all over the world, three guided tours to Slovenia, six annual Student Scholarships to American colleges*

*and Student Travel Awards to Slovenia, and lastly, the auspicious observances of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of SWU in 2001 and Zarja in 2004, all of which have been promoted extensively to benefit branches and members, and to bring them in touch with their cultural roots. Therefore, with hard work and vision, the Directors have changed an out-dated course of action that provided no growth to one of successful advancement for our organization.*

After 78 years of uninterrupted publication, there will be something new for *Zarja* in 2006. Debbie Pohar and Bonnie Prokup are the new *Zarja* editorial team and beginning in this issue, they will spread the spirit of the "SWUA Mission". They have already begun putting their energy into it with this first issue for January-February. Their goal is to preserve our historic past and adhere to the SWUA Mission, while incorporating new ideas and technical advances in printing. For this they will need our support and cooperation, especially from the reporters and all contributors. Your voice and comments will always be accepted, especially during the transition, and with your help, *Zarja* will flourish.

Now, as for accepting this change, and all those that may come along in the near future, I would like to ask you to join me in a mental and emotional exercise. We all have a little empty spot in our souls that needs to be filled sometimes. I fill it by recalling precious times with my friends in the Slovenian Women's Union. This helps me to know who I am, where I come from and that there are others just like me. I belong. I am the recipient of a beautiful legacy, and I more than appreciate it. I love it.

Think of this, and if you agree, then you will know why this organization has already become a significant part of your life and will continue to be for a long time to come. - by *Corinne Leskovar, Consulting Editor*

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# KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS OF 2006-2007

### COLLEGE STUDENTS

\$1,000 and \$2,000 SWUA Scholarships will be available to those attending a college or university full time during the 2006-2007 school year, nominated by the SWUA Scholarship Committee. All applicants must hold a three year paid membership prior to application. "Average" students with financial need are encouraged to apply. For more information and to download application forms visit <http://www.swua.org>.

All applications must be postmarked by DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2006.

\$500.00 Continuing Education Awards are being offered to adults returning to school either part or full time during the 2006-2007 school year. See <http://swua.org> for further information.

### YOUNG SWUA MEMBERS

One of the requirements needed for application for a scholarship is a letter of recommendation from one of your branch officers. Many branches do not offer activities for young people, and others are living at a great distance from a home branch. This makes writing a letter of recommendation difficult for an officer. You may want to write a little note to your branch secretary annually to update her on your activities and interests.

### THOSE INTERESTED IN SCHOLARSHIP PROMOTION

The SWUA Scholarship Program needs the help of additional trustees, persons interested in developing our scholarship program and with time to work on projects. Please contact Mary Turvey, 52 Oakridge Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855 or [mturvey@aol.com](mailto:mturvey@aol.com).

### THOSE NEEDING A REWARDING TAX DEDUCTION

The Slovenian Women's' Union Scholarship Program is a tax exempt 501c3 which permits donors to claim exemptions on their 2005 tax reports. PLEASE CONSIDER our Scholarship Program as a way of personal involvement in the educational pursuits of our young people.

### OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2005 DONATIONS

\$5.00 donation: Branch 23, Ely, MN (+Rose Lobe)

\$10.00 donations:

Marge Church (+Antonia Leban Matis)

Branch 42, Maple Hts, OH (+Antonia Leban Matis)

Richard Grambow (+Ann Grambow)

Branch 1, Sheboygan, WI (+Mary Ann Lange)

\$100.00 donation: SWUA Regional Ohio-Michigan Convention in honor of Edward and Milena Gobetz

\$100.00 donation: Dr. & Mrs. Edward Kompare in memory of Anne Kompare

Correction: Marge Church (+ Marge Zupancic) – November 2005 Zarja

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*New Year's Day 2006 has arrived and a special celebration, the Feast of the Three Kings is coming up shortly. The Three Kings made their visit over 2,000 years ago by following a star to find their God as an infant. Today the Lord still calls us, showing us the way to Him. Let us heed the example of those three Wise Men of the ages during this New Year of 2006 by bearing gifts of GOLD as charity to others, FRANKINCENSE as our devotion to God, and MYRRH of our lives poured out in the service of others. Let us follow the star during 2006.*

Mary Turvey, Director

52 Oakridge Drive

Marquette, Michigan 49855 [mturvey@aol.com](mailto:mturvey@aol.com)

# 2004 TRAVEL AWARD NEWS

**Martina Findley, Branch 5, Indianapolis, Indiana** recently submitted a report on her experiences of the 2004 Travel Award Seminar sponsored by the Student Organization of Ljubljana and funded by the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Program.

*"July of 2004 I was able to travel abroad to Slovenia. The experience was life altering and I have the Slovenian Women's Union to thank! The tour was two weeks long and there were 17 other young adults my age. I made friends that would last a lifetime! I had the time of my life in Slovenia. I met other people my age that were just as enthusiastic about their heritage as I am! The program was two weeks long and it showed us how students live in Slovenia! We were able to tour the different regions and enjoy the different customs and food. I hope I can try to put this into words.*

*The giving of black bread has so much symbolism behind it. The people would give me their last slice of bread, even if they themselves were starving. I've never met people so kind as that. Everyone gave us the most wonderful hospitality and every city greeted us with loving and open arms. We always had other students greeting us at every city. They thought it was great that we wanted to know so much about our heritage. They loved that we remembered where we came from and wanted to experience it instead of just hearing stories about the old country. My grandpa tells me stories of the old farms and people in the Old Country, but I actually got to meet those people. I was able to meet people that looked like me and could polka like me! I didn't want to leave. I felt so at home.*

*The time I spent with my family in Ljubljana was wonderful. There were so nice to me and they spoke*

**"I can't express the gratitude I have for this chance to travel across the world. I have learned so much from my trip to Slovenia. I hope that others will travel to the old country. It is truly an experience you will never forget."**

*Everyday we would experience new things or see something we've never seen before. We would visit huge caves and beautiful gorges. The vineyards were beautiful and every wine tasted different with the regions. All the wines and cheeses were amazing. The rolling hills were the most beautiful I had ever seen. I couldn't believe that my great grandpa had left all of that to live in Indiana, land of the flat. The waterfalls took my breath away. The oceans were beautiful and cities were rich with history. There was always a story to be told about every city. Many of the churches we saw were over 200 years old. There were castles in every city and mountains that cast shadows on the cities below. We learned about the history of Slovenia and how things have changed after the war. The churches in Ljubljana were ornately decorated with paintings hanging on every wall. The ceilings were beautiful domes and each one told a story. One church had a door on it that told Slovenia's history all the way up to the visit of the Pope in the 1990's. They were so proud of the Pope coming to visit them. His picture is on the top of a large door at the entrance to the church. At the center of this door is a young lady giving bread away. Slovenia respects their women and the saying is that the Slovenians will share their last loaf of black bread with anyone that needs it.*

*perfect English! I was very worried about being able to talk to them. They took me everywhere and opened their home to me. I made a lot of friendships while I was in Slovenia. Just recently I made a trip to Pittsburgh to meet up with some people from the trip. I stayed with Shanna Spalla in Canonsburg, PA and we met Mike Reynolds at the SNPJ Slovene Fest. We had so many stories to tell one another and lots to catch up on. The festival was exactly one year after our tour in Slovenia. It was an experience we could never forget.*

*Allison Hrovat also won the trip from the Slovenian Women's Union during which we have become really close. She's like a sister to me now. I never knew that winning this trip would grant me the opportunity to make so many new friends. I recently went to visit Allison in Ohio. Shanna Spalla and I surprised her at her surprise engagement party. Allison is engaged! We had so much to talk about. **We call ourselves the Slovene sisters!** I'll never be able to thank the Slovenian Women's Union enough. I can't express the gratitude I have for this chance to travel across the world. I have learned so much from my trip to Slovenia. I hope that others will travel to the old country. It is truly an experience you will never forget."*

# MEN IN A SWUA WORLD

## Information on Winter Olympics and St. Valentine's Day

This section is dedicated to things men like, such as sports, food, beer, hunting, fishing, wine making, travel and of course the Slovenian women we love. I just threw that last part in to keep the women curious. This section will feature things that I find interesting about being Slovenian and I hope you'll enjoy them too.

The Winter Olympics will be held this year in Torino, Italy from February 10-26, and Slovenia has some athletes to cheer on. Here are just a few medal hopefuls to keep an eye on. The best chance Slovenia has is a fantastic skier named Tina Maze, Tina currently holds the best finishes in world cup events for Slovenian women in each of the following: giant slalom – first, downhill- eleventh, slalom-nineteenth and super g-third. She has won a cup event this year and will be without a doubt a factor in the medal standings in Torino. Slovenia also has a rich history in ski jumping and though they might be a long shot at a medal they are world class competitors, so keep an eye on Rok Benkovic, Peter Zonta, Robert Kranjec and Primož Peterka on the men's side and Maja Vtic and Monika Pogladič on the women's side. Those are just a few members of the Slovenian team and I'm sure there will be other's that will shine in Torino as well. We should try to follow these great athletes and see how they do and see if they pop a Union Pivo after their event, I know I would.



*Don Baldin  
Oktoberfest - Munich, Germany*

Guys, let's not forget that there is another event in February that we must pay attention to, that of course is Valentine's Day. So, in that spirit I have a few pointers for you, first off, forget about the roses, in Slovenia the flower of passion is the red carnation (which is a beautiful and less expensive flower). Trust me, your sweetie will love some. Secondly, the old traditional gift in the Slovenian region is clothing, yes clothes, but there's a catch. It is said that if a man buys his love clothes that he wishes to clothe her for ever and marry her, so be careful when you pick her up that outfit. Finally, a little tip from old Don, if you're going the clothes route think real hard about gift certificates, after all you're a man and you have no taste or fashion sense. Thank god, we have the women to dress us, so for that and everything else they do for you, make them feel special on Valentine's Day.

I would love to hear from you, e-mail me at [doomtribe@aol.com](mailto:doomtribe@aol.com). Send me any comments or suggestions of what you'd like to read about and I'll do my best to keep this column fun and interesting. Until next time, may good luck be yours. - Don Baldin

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# SLOVENIAN CULINARY SOCIETY

## Potica Pin/Charm Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place the number of charms or pins you are requesting on the line(s) below:

# \_\_\_\_\_ Charms      # \_\_\_\_\_ Pins

REMIT \$10 FOR EACH PIN OR CHARM ORDERED

Send to: Slovenian Women's Union of America  
431 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Qualifications for membership and to receive a pin/charm

Check one:

- Mastered at least one potica
- Assisted making a potica
- Observed the making of a potica
- Have good intentions of making a potica
- Love eating potica

For any questions, e-mail Mary Lou:  
[ottolou@cheqnet.net](mailto:ottolou@cheqnet.net)

## Culinary Society

### Not for Women Only

Recently while having lunch with friends, the conversation led to the SWUA and our common interest of Slovenian culture and traditions. I reached in my purse to show my friends the "potica" pins and charms and immediately one of them said "I NEED a pin for my husband Dan". I was a little startled, but then realized, she was excited about the "culinary society" and the pin. There begins my story.

*It was June of 1995 and Kerry Saarela, daughter of Dan and Marlene (Pucel) Saarela was to be married. Grandma Pucel of Ely, MN was in failing health and told Kerry she would not be able to make the poticas for her wedding reception. Kerry's mom, Marlene, was employed and unable to make them. Kerry's father, Dan, thought about it for awhile and wondered why it would be so difficult to make potica. Dan was teaching and on summer vacation. So, he began with a hand-written recipe from Grandma Pucel. Dan had a little difficulty with the first dough and called upon our local "potica queen" Marilyn (Glavan) Smith, for a demonstration. That was all he needed and the challenge was on.*

*Need I say more? It was a beautiful wedding, and as the guests approached the buffet table, there was the perfectly*



Dan making potica

*sliced potica with a table marker above the platter, "POTICA MADE BY KERRY'S DAD". What a loving and memorable tribute from a dad to his daughter on her special day.*



Dan Saarela and daughter Kerry

Dan made five poticas for that celebration and they were delicious. It is most interesting to note that Dan Saarela is of Finnish heritage. It reflects on a statement that Mary Lou (Deyak) Voelk made about our diverse ethnic cultures and how we can all be united and proud to be "LIVING OUR OWN LEGACIES". It also can be noted that our culinary society and appreciation of ethnic recipes is "NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY". - Rosemary (Sertich) Ribich Branch 39

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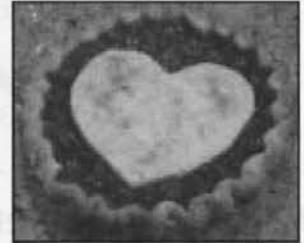
# ENTERTAINING...

## With a touch of Slovenia by Jenka

This Valentine's Day invite your sweetheart and friends to a special dinner in the comfort of your home. Treat your guests to a majestic meal by serving a feast fit for the royal family. Start with your favorite salad and bread along with the quick mushroom soup and then feature the Crown Roast stuffed with apples, raisins and home made Slovenian fresh pork sausage, perfectly placed on an oversized platter surrounded by sprigs of rosemary, greens, roasted carrots, onions and candied apples. It is a picture worth a thousand words. Dinner guests will also be delighted with horseradish served in a red cabbage head.



For dessert, not only is Valentine's Day associated with hearts but so is a favorite American saying about our heritage – *There is LOVE in every Slovenian!* Serve a conventionally shaped pie topped with a heart shaped center crust that will leave your guests in awe of your culinary skills!



Create a cozy atmosphere with a touch of Slovenia by creating a truly Slovenian feel. Just like red is the color of Valentine's Day – it is also a part of the Slovenian and American Flag. So, drape your table in an elegant red cloth topped with your grandmother's hand made lace. If you don't have an heirloom like this you can purchase an inexpensive imitation at any home store. White dishes look the best accompanied by red napkins. For your centerpiece use red carnations; they can be purchased by the dozen in different sizes and a package of baby's breath is always a nice touch. How do you display them you ask? Simple, just place them in a crystal vase or try a vase similar to the one used in the picture to create a full effect. Remember, if you have crystal from Slovenia, don't be afraid to use it, it is a nice conversation starter! It will make your dinner table look like a million dollars. Finally, when you take a sip of your favorite Slovenian wine don't forget to say *Na zdravje*, which means cheers in Slovenian.

Play a Slovenian CD for background music as a final touch. A nice choice would be the new CD out by the Singing Slovenes from Minnesota. You can purchase a copy at the Museum for \$17.00, which includes shipping and handling. (See back page for more information)

*Growing up I remember, pork was always one of our favorite meals; the freshest meat was readily available because my parents raised their own pigs. I can still remember the smell of the summer kitchen with the old coal stove where my father did his own butchering. As a grown-up, I longed for that smell and realized that that is what started our wonderful meals. Once my father had finished, my mother would add her favorite seasonings of kosher salt, pepper, caraway seeds and chopped garlic and an amazing meal would always appear on our family table. Till this day I also use these seasonings for my every day cooking, because as you know, mother knows best.*

Remember, a recipe is not written in stone, it's more of a guide, if you have different tastes and thoughts go with it, cooking is fun, enjoy yourself! Lastly, this article is our little secret, so you take the credit at your wonderfully successfully dinner party! - by Jenka

# Valentine's Day Menu

## CANDIED APPLES

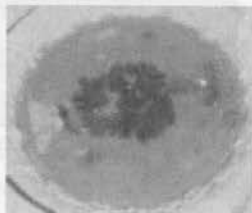
- 6 small apples
- 2 cups of sugar
- 2 cups of water
- ¼ cup cinnamon candies

Boil together for 5 minutes: sugar, water, and cinnamon candies. Put in apples that have been peeled and cored and cook slowly until done.

## QUICK MUSHROOM SOUP

- 2 cans condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cans beef broth
- Parsley
- 2 cups of mushrooms sliced
- ¼ cup of onions chopped
- ¼ stick of butter

Dilute the cream of mushroom soup with beef broth and heat. Meanwhile sauté mushrooms, onions in butter until golden brown. Add to liquid soup and boil for five minutes. Add a sprig of parsley to each serving.



## SWEET HORSERADISH



- 21 slices white bread (remove crust)
- 8 ounces fresh horseradish
- 1 cup vinegar
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 red cabbage head

Place horseradish in food processor until fine. Add bread, vinegar and sugar to horseradish. Mix until blended. Put into jar. This will keep for months. Serve horseradish in a red cabbage head. Cut in half and scoop out the center. Place horseradish in center.



## STUFFED CROWN PORK ROAST

- 1 pork crown roast (14 ribs, about 8 pounds)
- 2 garlic cloves (use garlic press)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper

## APPLE RAISIN STUFFING

- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup boiling water
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped celery
- ½ cup butter
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 3 cups seasoned croutons
- 1½ cups chopped peeled tart apples
- 1/8 cup minced fresh parsley
- ¼ pound fresh sausage
- 7 ounces of beef broth soup
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt



## ROASTED CARROTS AND ONIONS

- 1 pound peeled carrots
- 2 large onions cut in half
- ¼ cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Put two pieces of garlic in the garlic press and add to olive oil. Rub mixture over entire roast. Sprinkle with kosher salt and pepper. Place in a shallow roasting pan. Cover rib ends with foil and bake uncovered at 350 degree for 1 hour, then remove from oven.

Meanwhile, for stuffing, place the raisins in a small bowl; pour boiling water over raisins. Let stand for 2 minutes; drain and set aside. In a skillet, sauté the onion, celery and garlic with sausage until tender. Add the season croutons, apples, parsley, salt and raisins; mix well. Melt ½ cup of butter. Add to stuffing mixture and beat one egg and add to stuffing mixture. Add beef broth soup. Mix well.

Place carrots in bowl with olive oil, salt and pepper to coat. Use remaining mixture to coat onions

Carefully spoon stuffing into center of roast (all will not fit – put some in a buttered baking dish with foil on top). Place carrots and onions in roasting pan. Bake for an additional 1½ hours or until a meat reaches 160-170 degrees and juices run clear. Let stand for 10 minutes. Remove foil and stuffing. *Yield: 8 servings*

# KID TALK

## From the Mind of a Puncka - Slovenia Travels

### *This part of the Zarja is for us kids.*

I am a 10 year-old Slovenian-American girl, who enjoys softball, traveling, singing and eating ice-cream. I am looking forward to writing this column so that more of our younger members will be interested in Slovenian things. I hope that this article will be fun and interesting to everyone who reads it.

First thing I would like to talk about is my trip to Slovenia last summer with my sister and mom. We met some very nice people, we visited a castle, we visited a farm, and we ate tons of ice cream (mostly me). My favorite ice cream is cokoloden sladoled, which is Slovenian for chocolate ice-cream. It was very chocolate delicious. After eating ice cream we went to my cousin's farm. At the farm we saw Iceland ponies. They are medium sized horses that were very fun

to ride. What was really cool was when I was riding the horse we ran into a flock of sheep. It was kind of scary, but it was worth it when I got to see the guy milk the sheep. Only a couple of sheep can go into the shed at a time. While we were watching him milk them, it was neat to see how he did it. When he was finished all the sheep had us blocked in while they waited for their turns. Finally the sheep started to move with us, then we were able to get out.

My favorite part was when we climbed the Ljubljana castle. When we were at the top you could almost see everything in Ljubljana, it was awesome. What made it even better was that I got a lolly pop and of course I had some cokoladen sladoled.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this as much as I did writing it, and I would like to hear any suggestions for my next column. Until then have fun and don't forget to eat tons of cokoladen sladoled.



*Babs riding Iceland pony, Summer 2005*

Babs

Instant Messenger Name: babsj78

## Junior Members in the News



*James Koci - age 10*

*James and Ellen recently performed at the "Vinska Trgatev" (Harvest Dance) in Fontana. They are members of Branch 100 - Fontana, CA.*



*Ellen Koci - age 8*

Hey kids!  
Are you in the news? Send me a picture - [wprokup@aol.com](mailto:wprokup@aol.com)



*Caitlin Collins - age 16 as Clara, and her sister Emily - age 8 as a mouse/party child, performed with the Manassas Dance Company in the annual production of the Nutcracker. They are members of Branch 24 - LaSalle, IL.*

### Word Search Puzzle (Search for the Slovenian name only)

Slovenian	English	
hruska	pear	H R U S K A M T O M A T O E
jabolko	apple	A E M E R K N B A N A N A A
pomaranca	orange	V S B W O L B J A G O D A R
cesnja	cherry	E C P O M A R A N C A U S L
breskev	peach	O U R S P V S B R E S K E V
jagoda	strawberry	U B E A I C E O L S V B N A
krompir	potato	K U M A R A N L I N P E A S
kumara	cucumber	G A P L E S K K K J I O L S
		V C E B N T Y O E A N T W Q

# TO AMERICA... THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

## The Indelible Trace

It was a beautiful morning in May 1906, when a 15 year-old Slovenian girl stepped on Ellis Island. Decades later she remembered:

"The day was warm and we were very thirsty. An English-speaking immigrant asked the near-by guard where we could get a drink of water. The guard withdrew and returned shortly with a pail of water, which he set before the group of women. Some men stepped forward quickly to have a drink, but the guard pushed them back saying: "Ladies first!" When the women learned what the guard had said, they were dumbfounded, for in Slovenia, as in all Europe, women always were second to men.

Happy at the sudden turn of events, one elderly lady stepped forward, holding a dipper of water, and proposed this toast:

'Zivjo Amerika, kjer so zenske prve!  
(Long live America, where women are first!)"

The girl was Marie Prisland and the quote is from her book *From Slovenia to America*.

Of course, Slovenian immigrants are not often mentioned in the vast literature available on American immigration history and Slovenian women immigrants are paid even less attention. But a prominent scholar, Maxine Seller, used the description of this Ellis Island event at the beginning of her influential book *Immigrant Women*. After the quote she adds: "For Prisland, who later founded Slovenian Women's Union of America and created a woman's magazine, *The Dawn*, the American dream

became reality. Not all immigrant women were so fortunate. For many, life in the United States was bitter and the slogan, "ladies first", cruelly ironic. "Ladies" were first to be underpaid, unemployed, and abused".<sup>1</sup> Marie Prisland knew a lot about this



Mirjam M. Hladnik

cruel irony and included some stories about the hardships of Slovenian women in her book. The difficult life of Slovenian immigrant women was also the reason why she founded the Slovenian Women Union of America in 1926. The Union's main goal was to help the Slovenian women living in America financially, to assist them in education, citizenship and participation in civic affairs, and provide moral and sisterhood support.

In a bibliography on immigrant women in the United States by Donna Gabaccia<sup>2</sup>, she listed two books by Slovenian authors. Under the section of "Biography" we find Mary Molek's *Immigrant Woman*, which is described as a fictionalized biography of her mother. Marie Prisland's book is listed in the section "Autobiography" with the following description: "Includes considerable information on community work and notable women, but also her autobiography". In the ever growing literature on the women's immigrant experience in the United States there is a visible trace made by the auto/biographical books of Slovenian (American) women immigrants and their descendants. As modest as this trace is, it is undoubtedly noticeable and indelible. by Mirjam M. Hladnik

<sup>1</sup> Maxine S. Seller, *Immigrant Women*, State University of New York Press, 1994.

The quotation was later re-quoted by Donna Gabaccia, *From the other side: Women, Gender, and Immigrant Life in the U.S.A., 1820-1990*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis, 1994, p. 111.

<sup>2</sup> Donna Gabaccia, *Immigrant Women in the United States: A Selectively Annotated Multi-Disciplinary Bibliography*, New York, Greenwood, 1989.

# LEGACY OF THE WRITTEN WORD

## Part II: Short biography of Trubar, Bohoric and Dalmatin

The *Legacy of the Written Word, Part 1, Nov/Dec 2005* introduced the Freising Manuscripts and three liturgical texts written in early Slovenian between 972 and 1039.

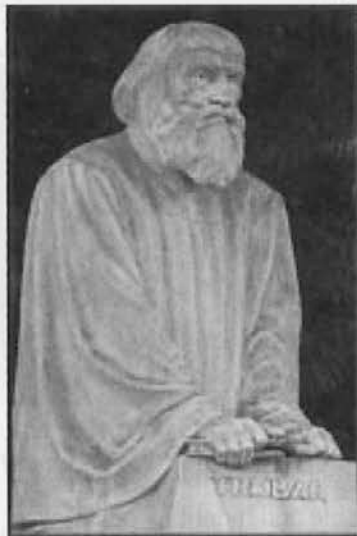
*Legacy of the Written Word, Part II*, moves into the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the period of the printing press and the Protestant Reformation. Until this time only a few religious persons could read and write. The printing press made the written word available to the masses. Literary Slovenian emerged from the works of Reformation activists, Primoz Trubar, Adam Bohoric and Jurij Dalmatin. Their works mark the beginning of a literary and unified Slovenian language.

### PRIMOZ TRUBAR

Primoz Trubar, reformer and writer, is known as the father of the Slovenian nation and the Slovenian language. Trubar was born in the village of Rasica near Velike Lasce in Slovenia.

While studying for the priesthood, Trubar became inspired by the teachings of Martin Luther. He left the university, became a preacher and a leader of the Protestant movement in Slovenia. During this time he established a boarding school and the first public library in Ljubljana.

Expelled from Ljubljana in 1547, and excommunicated from the Catholic Church, he was forced to leave Slovenia. He became a preacher in



PRIMOZ TRUBAR

June 9, 1508 - June 28, 1586

*Catechismus* is a summary of the basic principles of Christian religion and includes the first Slovenian written music with songs and musical notation that give proof to his support for the Reformation.

In *Catechismus*, Trubar labeled his compatriots by the current name “Slovensci” (Slovenians), and signed himself with the pseudonym Philopatridus Illyricus (The patriot from Ilirsko).

*Catechismus* became the foundation for the Slovenian written language. It was printed using the Gothic alphabet and in

Trubar’s native dialect from the Kranjsko region. This dialect became the basis of Slovenian literature for more than 200 years until the Gorenjsko dialect became popular. In the following years he published over 22 books in Slovenian, smuggling them into Ljubljana in barrels and carts to be distributed among the Slovenian population. His most important work was the complete writing of the New Testament.

In 1909, a statue of Trubar by France Berneker was erected in Ljubljana’s Tivoli Park. On the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in 1986, his birthplace was renovated as a cultural monument and has since become a national attraction. Almost every larger town in Slovenia has a street or monument in his honor. Primoz Trubar is featured on the 10-SIT Banknote of Slovenia.

### Reflections on Language

by Primoz Trubar

CATECHISMVS.  
Vslouenskim Ieliku fano  
kratko fastopno Islago. Inu  
me Molyoe tar Nauhi Bedy. v feni  
is zhitiga facti ga pisma.



Psal. VIII. Math. XXI.  
In ih uall hie se amio gaueriti inu hie  
fstaio, si ti Gofud inu xhail gos  
15 rinardel. 55.

Taken from:

Fragments From Slovene Literature, 2005

*In my translating I endeavoured, where the words and style are concern, that every Slovenian might understand it easily, be he from Upper or Lower Carniola, Lower Styria, Carinthia, the Karst, Istra, or the lands around Varazdin. Therefore I kept the Slovenian tongue as the peasants at Rasisa speak it, where I was born. I would not mingle it with uncommon or Croatian words, nor invent new ones. And if some places be obscure in their telling and translation, it is not I or other translators who are at fault, but rather the evangelists, apostles and prophets, who often express and write their meaning obscurely, as is the manner and nature of the Hebrew tongue, and have left out some of the words. If I have translated some words inaccurately, it has happened, as I have said above, for the lack of Slovenian words, or it may be that I did not know them, or perchance they did not occur to me at the time -Translated by Nada Groselj*

Note:

**October 31, Reformation Day, is a day set aside as a Slovenian national holiday this holiday is in remembrance of the Protestant movement and priest, Primoz Trubar, the father of the Slovenian nation and the Slovenian language. Reformation Day is not regarded as a church holiday, but a day for all Slovenians.**

**ADAM BOHORIC** (1520-1598)

**A**dam Bohoric was born near Brestanica. A Slovenian pedagogue and grammarian, Bohoric was the first schoolmaster in the town of Krsko. Bohoric left an indelible mark with the writing of the first Slovenian grammar book, *Arcticae Horulae* (1584). Adam Bohoric printed Primoz Trubar's *Catechismus* in 1551.



*Arcticae Horulae*  
(Adam Bohoric, 1584)

**JURIJ DALMATIN** (Circa 1547- 1589)

**J**urij Dalmatin, a Slovenian protestant priest, writer and translator, was born in Krsko. And attended a school run by Adam Bohoric in Krsko. At a young age he was introduced to and inspired by the Protestant movement. Dalmatin wrote religious books, but far more important is his translation of the complete Bible into the Slovenian language. The original title of this magnificent book is, *Biblija, tu je vse svetu pismu stariga inu noviga testamenta, slovenski tolmac ena skuzi Jurija Dalmatina tolmac ena skuzi Jurija Dalmatina*

Dalmatin completed the translation in approximately ten years. This diligent work was completed without any formal Slovenian education or grammar book, and without dictionaries. The translation was printed in 1584 in Wittenberg, Germany, and was spirited back into Slovenia hidden in barrels and boxes. About 80 original copies have been preserved all over the world.



*Dalmatin Bible*

Among them are 7 that are held in the National and University Library, Ljubljana. Dalmatin's *Biblija* is one of largest book ever published in the Slovenian language and was of enormous significance as it furthered the development of written and oral language and served as a model for further translations of original writings in the next two centuries.

**In Conclusion:**

Almost 600 years separates the Freising Manuscript from the first books written and printed in the Slovenian language.

It was the invention of the printing press along with the Protestant Reformation movement that encapsulated the idea that literacy in the everyday life of the masses was possible and indeed necessary.

Although the Reformation was later crushed by the Counter Reformation, the seeds of Slovenian nationalism had put been planted in the minds of men.

Appearing in the March/April 2006 Zarja, will be the biographies of Ivan Cankar and France Preseren, two literary giants from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This issue will conclude the Legacy of the Written Word.

# DISCOVERING YOUR ROOTS

## Beginning Your Genealogy Research

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of books are available today in libraries or bookstores about genealogical research. In fact, genealogy has grown to be one of America's top avocations with millions of people spending countless hours delving into their family heritage.

"We never talked about where they came from . . . oh, how I wish we had!" is an all too common statement made by those who attend their first meeting of the Ohio Chapter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio. Now, after grandparents, parents, aunts, and uncles have passed away, interest peaks among family members wanting to know their Slovenian ancestry, so where and how does one begin?



*Rose Marie Jisa  
President Ohio Chapter  
Slovenian Genealogy  
Society International, Inc.*

**First, record your own knowledge.** Then, begin searching within your own family, especially your own brothers, sisters, and cousins. Take time to visit older-generation relatives with the idea of asking about their lives, they can be a gold mine of information!

Next, there may be many "treasures in the attic." Look through old pictures and vital papers such as birth, baptismal, marriage, and death certificates that were put away for safekeeping. If you find photographs taken in the "old" country, check the back of the photo as it may reveal the name of the photographer and the town in Slovenia where the picture was taken.

Among vital papers, you may find naturalization records which indicate the name of the applicant as well as the names of the wife (if married) and children, village, town or city and country of origin of both the husband and wife; the date of embarkation, the city and country of embarkation, the name of the ship, the port of entry to the United States, and the date of entry. If you find no naturalization papers, you can write to the Prothonotary's Office in the County and State where your ancestors resided, asking for naturalization papers of your ancestors.

Another source of information is Ellis Island in New York City, New York. Although millions of immigrants passed through Ellis Island, keep in mind there were over 150 ports of entry into America. The best approach to Ellis Island Records is through the Internet at [www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org). Remember, if you have difficulty finding an ancestor, use alternate spellings of the surname because very often, ethnic surnames were misspelled. Those beginning with the letter Z and the letter S (with the "sh" sound) were often incorrectly spelled.

Census records of 1890, 1910, 1920, and 1930 can provide a wealth of information. Your local historical society or library will be able to give you the location of these microfilmed records. You need to know where your family lived, i.e., the township/village/town and state. Census records show the name, address, age, occupation, country of origin, and naturalization status as well as other information. For Slovenians, Slovenia was rarely

named as the country of origin; instead, Austria, Austria-Hungary, Carniola, and Carinthia appear. Carniola is the area of Slovenia that surrounds Ljubljana; Carinthia is the northern area of Slovenia and the southern portion of current Austria.

Other sources of information to research in the United States are social security records; military records; land, will, and probate records found in county courts; city directories; school records; churches; local newspapers; local historical societies; local libraries; and Slovenian publications published by fraternal organizations.

Once you determine the village/town/city of origin of an ancestor who emigrated to America from what was known then as Austria-Hungary and the birth, baptism, or marriage date of that ancestor, you are ready to begin your search in Slovenia. (The next article to appear in Zarja will investigate how to conduct research in Slovenia.)

The next step in doing genealogical research is how to organize your findings. Gathering the information and organizing it in a manner that will be useful to you in the future is most important. For example, you find an obituary of an ancestor in the local newspaper. Rather than just noting the information about the individual, identify the name of the newspaper, the date, and the page number where you found the information and record this information on an individual data sheet. Then, gather all individuals of one family and enter their information on a family group sheet. You can browse genealogy books in the library to get an idea of how to format individual and family data sheets.

Other helpful suggestions for organizing your findings include keeping a log of all letters sent/received and making photocopies of original papers. If you do not have a filing cabinet, you can purchase an inexpensive file crate and hanging folders from an office supply store to file your data in an organized way.

Researching your family roots is time consuming and sometimes quite frustrating! However, it all becomes worthwhile when you identify a name you recognize as being one of your own family. You will smile and say to yourself, "Great job!" - by *Rose Marie Jisa*

**Note:** The Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc., is a non-profit educational organization organized to bring together those interested in researching their Slovenian ancestry. More information about the Society can be found on the web at [www.slovenianguenealogy.org](http://www.slovenianguenealogy.org).



# LIVING YOUR LEGACY

## Through Genealogy

I have been asked to write about genealogy for this publication. Through my experiences working with the Slovenian Genealogy Society and being one of the pioneers of the Clark County Internet Library (Wisconsin) I have been studying my family history and culture for the last twenty years. I have been able to connect with Slovenians tracing their families that helped me in my search. I hope that you are informed by what I write. Most people already know the basics of family history tracing. I will write about my experience so that you will be able to use it to aid you in widening the scope of your genealogy searches.

My father and his 12 siblings, could always pull together a wonderful dinner and create time for socializing at least once a year, but the memories of their grandparents in Slovenia were only the stories of their parents, so no work was undertaken to document the family history or the growth of our family in America. My aunt, Rose Pakiz nee Plautz, was always our family historian and keeper of the archives (pictures, memorabilia and other artifacts of her parents) that she received after the death of her mother, Mary Plautz nee Popovich in 1948, two years before my birth. If there was a question posed about her parents or grandparents that she didn't know the answer to then she would confer with her older sister, Angeline Kugi nee Plautz to establish names, place events and dates or provide additional stories regarding their family's journey from Slovenia to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and then to Willard, Wisconsin. Sometimes a gathering of siblings and cousins would come together and add additional information and contribute to the family story. By the time I was old enough to understand relationships, my father and his siblings had lost touch with their first cousins living in other areas of the United States. These are my first memories of telling the story and attempting to follow the life journey of my grandparents and their children. Some of my family's memories of their lives now live in cyberspace. You can read about the early times of the Plautz Family in Willard, Wisconsin by entering this URL in your computer browser and hitting enter: <http://wvls.lib.wi.us/ClarkCounty/hendren/memories/>. My aunt has advised me that she got the genealogy bug from listening to stories by her oldest brother.

It was 1985 and I was working in the FBI's Fingerprint Services Division. I was home in Greenwood, Wisconsin attending my "first full stops out" family reunion when I went in search of my roots. My mother died when I was four and my father remarried. I didn't really know much about my father's family other than their names and the fact that several first cousins also lived in the area.

My aunt Rose asked if someone could type a list of all her siblings and their families. The extended family had grown and she couldn't remember all the names of her niece's and nephew's children. Since I had a typewriter (Royal Portable Model 242), I offered to type the data and make carbon copies. During the reunion we gathered data about the family and began a family tree. Of course I soon lost interest in this endeavor due to the fact that I hated to type and use carbons. Our history was created in the manner of an outline. Personal computers or Family Tree Maker software were things that didn't exist at that time. It was in the early 90's that my cousin obtained a computer and retyped some documents for my aunt. She wrote me and included the updated family tree.

This led to another version of the family tree, since my cousin could correct the tree easily, I sent her additional information I had obtained after creating the original family tree. Then as time went by, we began receiving more documents from cousins and family living in Slovenia. I recognized a need to uniquely define who were the American, Canadian, and Slovenian members of the family tree. For our family reunion in 1995 I made copies of the information I had obtained. The tree was bound and there was a color picture of the Slovenian Dancers of Willard on the front. It also contained my uncles (Steve Plautz) memories of Willard. So in 1995 I became a family historian and genealogist. I currently maintain over 10,000 individuals on my family tree software. My aunt provided me with all of the background information she possessed and to this day she continues to pass her family memories, photographs and facts to me. People starting their family tree and history search today have much more information and tools to discover, create and store their family tree data. It may be beneficial to also write about your own adventures in obtaining this information for later generations. The search can be a great adventure and mystery hunt and you never know who may turn up in your family tree. What is vitally important is that you are living your legacy by keeping your heritage alive.

Future articles will alert you to unorthodox approaches to discovering information, focus on incorporating your family heritage in your family events, working with photographs and other materials and looking at unusual sources that reveal leads for researching family names and relationships. We will look at the socialist political scene, which affected many of our ancestors and Slovenians before and after the World Wars. In my next article I will write about some sources of information and some craft ideas to keep the heritage alive. Adijo! - *George J. Plautz Jr.*

# FEATURED BRANCHES

## Branch 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

One year ago at the SWUA Christmas party, Branch 1 came seriously close to disbanding their group. It was voted to keep the group going and this was the beginning of a rallying cry to not only keep going but to keep growing and keep our heritage alive. Branch President Aggie Gruenke has been the main person who worked hard to get new members and is continually thinking of ways to build the membership and make the meetings fun and informative.

Starting in February 2005, Branch 1 had a booth at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Men's Club brat fry. (A brat fry is a local fund-raising tradition.) The booth contained photos, maps, books and other items from Slovenia.



Along with this were copies of *Zarja The Dawn*



*Annual Christmas Party*

and membership applications. This created such excitement that many of the parishioners, Slovenian and non-Slovenian, women and men, signed up for membership. The booth was recreated for another fundraiser sponsored by Branch 1 in October and even more new members were reached. Plans are to have a booth at the Men's Club brat fry again in February 2006.



*Ed and Germaine Tesovnik  
and Mary Ann Schellinger*

The meetings were changed to a breakfast meeting after Sunday mass. The number of people attending the meetings went from five or six to over thirty people!

The annual Christmas party was held again this year on December 1, 2005. Thirty-six people attended the event. Germaine and Ed Tesovnik and Mary Ann Schellinger gave presentations on their recent trips to Slovenia. They also brought in photos and other items for the members to see. Mary Ann also was kind enough to bring door prizes from Slovenia which was a wonderful gift to the Branch 1 members.

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### Highlight of Recent Branch 109 Meeting

The meeting was highlighted by guest speakers, Karen and Miro Medved. Miro was born in Trboje in the Kranj area of Yugoslavia in the early 1940's, his talk was titled "Slovenian Migration to Northern Minnesota 1950's".

The primary thread was that Slovenes have always, at least into 1991, been identified by culture and language not borders. Miro recounted how his family, after losing the family business to the Communists after WW II, fled to Austria with a wagon full of supplies and spent almost five years in a refuge camp located in the British zone. It was during this time that Miro, as a young boy, recalled stories of fun and mischief even though food was rationed and conditions were extremely difficult.

Miro's father believed that America would allow the most opportunity for his family even though Argentine propaganda made that country enticing. Following the guidelines of U.S. Immigration laws, the Medved family arrived in Boston and made their way west to northern Minnesota (Pineville-Biwabik area). It was largely through the efforts of Father Dolshina who found the Glatch family to act as sponsors for the Medveds. Miro's parents were required to attend night school to learn English and the children learned English in day school and on Saturdays at Mrs. Oberstar's house in Pineville. It was a strict rule in the Medved household that the Slovenian language be used and preserved within the home.

Miro and Karen then fielded questions for the next thirty minutes. It was truly an eye-opening experience for our Twin Cities Slovenian group.



## Branch 109 - Twin Cities, Minnesota

Coming up on their first anniversary in January 2006, Branch 109 has been moving right along to increase membership and get the word out about SWUA in the Twin Cities. Earlier this summer, President Mary Vidas welcomed everyone to the first major cultural event sponsored by the Twin Cities SWUA Branch—a Slovenian style picnic. The picnic took place at the home of member Yul Yost's picturesque garden located in Roseville, MN. Yul, a full-blooded Slovenian born in Celje, was a celebrated member of the Slovenian and Yugoslav National volleyball teams. He graduated from the University of Kansas where he was a shot put track star. Yul started gardening in 1985 while still employed as a chemist at the Minneapolis Veterans' Hospital. His passion is collecting rocks, fossils, interesting stones, statues and of course growing beautiful flowers. His garden has been featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the St. Paul Pioneer Press and many regional and national garden magazines.



The Slovenian singing of Miro Medved and the Slovenian accordions played by Shelby Setniker and Karen Medved musically enhanced the picnic gathering. Shelby, Susan (sister), and Ron Setniker are about to release a new CD dedicated to their Slovenian ancestors. Also in attendance was Dr. Seth Hawkins, who is curator of the Slovenian cultural museum, which has become a magnet for Slovenians living in the Twin Cities area.

Of course, a Slovenian picnic would not be a picnic without an ancestral menu. The 45 guests were treated to the likings of: sunka, potica, sarma, kumarcna solata, krofi ..."prevec". One could hear a myriad of conversations touching on Slovenian diatonic accordions, Slovenian family reunions, upcoming tours to Slovenia, making klobase and tying them the "spela", birthplaces in Slovenia, Slovenian genealogy and just simple "veseli spomini" happy memories of our Slovenian ancestry.

The gathering was further highlighted by a visit from Amy Klobucher, the Hennepin County Attorney who is running for the United States Senate. Her father, Jim Klobucher, is a well-known columnist for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and hails from Ely, MN. Sharing with the group, Amy reminisced about her Slovenian roots and the strong values that she grew up with: love of family, hard work, education and "community." Amy has been on the campaign trail for the past months and welcomed the opportunity to talk to our "grass roots" SWUA Branch 109. Special thanks went to Karen Bjorgo and the Picnic Committee, Norm Setnicker, Communications, Webmaster Jerry Sherek, Secretary Benita Bjorgo, Yul Yost and all branch members for the wonderful food, music, sharing and conversation which made this heritage gathering such a great success!



As the branch nears their first anniversary in January, 2006 various committees are taking form with members willing to share their time and talents. To help increase their marketing presence, the branch also decided to launch a website <http://www.twincitiesslovenians.org/> which provides on line meeting information, pictures and branch news. In addition, the branch is conducting a review and evaluation study of their strengths, interests and areas yet to be developed. This information will be useful as they set their strategic goals for the near year. Being a relatively newcomer to the SWUA Slovenian ancestral tree, the branch reports that they look forward to taking their place in enhancing our Slovenian heritage for future generations.

## BRANCH 1 – SHEBOYGAN, WI

Our brat-burger and bake sale held in October was a success. Attendance was good at our display table of Slovenian articles, copies of Zarja, and membership forms, (the latter picked up by several interested people). The amount and variety of baked goods provided by our members was truly wonderful.

We were honored with the presence of Josephine Janezic State President, and Yvonne Khaldy, both officers of Branch 43, Milwaukee. Their table of Slovenian logo items sold well with the profits to benefit the Slovenian Heritage Museum.

By now, we will have enjoyed our Christmas Dinner meeting. Our program should be interesting, with Germaine Tesovnik, Marilyn Suscha and Mary Ann Schellinger speaking about their recent trips to Slovenia. Of special interest is the fact that they do not speak Slovenian. We look forward to their impressions. We also look forward to members input of future trips pertaining to Slovenian culture and other interests.

Blessed New Year to all,

ANGELINE FRITZ

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## BRANCH 2 – CHICAGO, IL

Happy New Year-Veselo novo leto!

2005 has gone by fast and Mother Nature gave us many terrible things to handle all over the world, I hope 2006 will be different. Thanks to all who came to our Penny Social on November 20 for the brown bag surprise; our members work very hard to put this together and the money is used buy gifts for the junior members Christmas party. The juniors always have a good time and over years their parents and grandparents have always come and enjoyed the day. What memories they have had, entertained by clowns, magician (Mark Magajane), dancers and of course, a program to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This year the theme was "Christmas Star".

Adult Christmas was "Heavenly Angels" We were happy again to attend mass at our beautiful St. Stephen's Church with Father Blase as celebrant. Dinner followed with many tasty Slovenian bakery items.

I just heard that when we visit Slovenia we will be able to spend our money at Harrah's Vegas style casino/resort, which will be built in Nova Gorica near the border with Italy. Save your money gals.

Please note, Branch 2 will host the Illinois/Indiana convention 2006. We will have more on this later.

Keep praying for the safety of our soldiers and that they will return home soon.

Our next meeting will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January for a New Year's celebration and February will be Valentines.

Take care of yourself. Love,

DAISY

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## BRANCH 3 – PUEBLO, CO

In November, happy chatter and smiles were in abundance as our members attended wearing aprons for our "Favorite Apron" program. President Margaret Cullen asked each person to tell the history of her apron, which proved to be very interesting. The aprons were as old as 70 years, the cost was as low as \$0.25 for a garage sale item and a vintage apron was \$1.00. All of us remembered the huge



Left to right: Katherine Kochevar, Dorothy Zakrasek, Mildred Stofac, Mary Gersick, Eileen Kaplan, Bernice Krasovec

62 and 57 years ago, standing side by side they modeled the difference in patterns. Many beautiful half aprons were found tucked away in cedar chests, their stories missing. One found was a tartan plaid pinafore which belonged to a mother-in-law and until now still in its original package. Another very old apron belonged to a now deceased Slovenian cook we all knew and who wore it when she served her delicious food. Some aprons were worn for their beauty and show-and-tell quality. A gift apron from a daughter was purchased in Italy and another member received her apron as a gift made by a Serbian friend.

Oh yes, we did settle down to a well organized business meeting and the announcement of the annual Christmas party on December 6<sup>th</sup> at La Renaissance Restaurant. Refreshments were provided by Lillian Galich.

EILEEN KAPLAN



Left to right: Josephine Krasovic, Agnes Glavich, Lillian Galich, Elsie Medonich, Steffie Barnett, Pauline Pauchick, Margaret Cullen

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## BRANCH 5 – INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Happy New Year to all Branch 5 Members!

What a nice Holiday meeting we had! Good food, good friends and good location at Bockhold Hall. During our meeting it was voted in to change our meetings to Saturdays after evening Mass, with a pitch-in dinner. Thank you to everyone who felt that a change was due. Karen, Mary and I really appreciate being able to attend the meetings outside of work time. As our meeting continued, it was with great regret that I had to ask for a nomination for Secretary. Our long time Secretary, Dolores Konechnik is no longer able to make our meetings on a regular basis, so our interim Secretary, Mary Dragan was unanimously elected to take the position. Thank you, Mary. Karen and I will retain our positions, as when we asked for nominations the ladies just laughed and said we had these positions for life! Oh well, at least it is a good meal several times a year! Also, we will have our semi-annual whatever raffle at our May meeting. We already have a wonderful lace donation to start us off, so anyone who wants to donate something, just let us know! Due to the 100th Anniversary Celebration of HolyTrinity, we will get a date for our meeting as soon as possible.

As always, please keep our service men and women in

your prayers. May they all return home safely and quickly. Please remember our deceased members, especially those past officers who worked so hard for the SWUA. In this time of year, because winter is a time for reflection, think of something or someone who would benefit from a few extra prayers on your part. I know I can always use a little extra help. God Bless.

PHYLLIS

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### BRANCH 10 – EUCLID, OH

Hi Ladies, I hope you had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are having our Christmas Party on January 31, 2006 at Recher Hall in Euclid, Ohio. It will begin at 1:00 p.m. and Sophie Mazzie will be our cook. Please call me at 216-451-1876. Also bring presents, this will help the club.

Get well wishes to our ailing members. Happy Birthday wishes to members born in January and February. Hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party.

STEPHANIE SEGULIN

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### BRANCH 12 – MILWAUKEE, WI

My last article was in anticipation of the Christmas Season and here I am hoping that you all had a wonderful Christmas; how it got here so fast is beyond me.

We had our October and November meetings. Each time we meet, we hope that our group will remain the same. But, as stated in my last article I was certain that Ann Grambow was on the road to recovery, since she was in rehab and in excellent spirits; but it was not to be. Ann who was a member since 1953, passed away at the age of 82. Her smiling face will be remembered by all who knew her, especially our branch, which was such an important part of her life. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her children, grandchildren and relatives.

Since our Christmas luncheon replaced our December meeting and because of the snow and usually cold January's we will not meet until February. The Convention Committee which was elected at our September meeting will hold its initial organizational meeting in January.

Our Christmas luncheon was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and was enjoyed by all who attended. We had an opportunity to enjoy the company of our charter member, Mary Bucovnik who attended the luncheon with her daughter, Marilyn Brila. Since Mary turned 93 the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, we helped her with an early birthday celebration.

Our Bakeless Bake Sale is still an ongoing event, please don't forget to send your "cost of making a cake" donation, to our Treasurer Fran Remshak at 2159 South 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, West Allis, WI 53227.

So until next issue, here's hoping that everything is just right in your little corner of the world, and you have a Blessed, Healthy and Happy 2006.

STAVIA DOBERSEK

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### BRANCH 14 – CLEVELAND NOTTINGHAM, OH

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We had 70 plus members and guests at our Christmas dinner. Our thanks to Sophie Mazi and her servers for a delicious dinner.

Our member Ann Kozlevcar is residing at Heartland of Mentor Nursing Home.

Alice Kuhar has informed us that she is stepping down as reporter. For over 30 years, Alice has written wonderful articles, thank you Alice. Pat Habat has agreed to be our reporter. Happy birthday to the members that have birthdays in Jan-Feb. God bless,

DIANE VARNEY

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### BRANCH 16 – S. CHICAGO, IL

Election of officers was held in November, everyone accepted another term. Mary Therese Ehnat, Pres., Mary Jane Strus, V. Pres., Gladys Buck, Secty., Vida Kumse, Recording Secty., Sylvia Spretnjak, Treasurer, and Frances Novak, Auditor, Thank You. Split- the -pot was won by Olga Kowalkowski, Frances Novak and Connie Saviano. Christmas Cards were signed by the members at the Christmas Party and sent to the shut-in members. Get well wishes to Helen Battista who tripped on the sidewalk in front of her house and broke a leg. Happy Birthday wishes to Mary Brozovich on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Her son invited 30 neighbors and friends from her old neighborhood to help her celebrate at the Warsaw Inn. Mary lives in Springfield, Missouri now so we don't see her often.

A Mass and Prayer Service and the Anointing of the Sick was held December 13<sup>th</sup> for Father Kiley who underwent hip surgery on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers were with you. No meeting in January, our next meeting will be on the February 10<sup>th</sup>. Hostesses are Mary Jane Strus, Dotsi Rossi and Marjorie Mitchell. Srečno Novo Leto - 2006

SYLVIA SPRETNJAK

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### BRANCH 20 – JOLIET, IL

At our meeting in November, our guest speaker was Walter Keener, Jr., the Curator for the Joliet Area Historical Museum. He imparted pertinent information about Joliet and our beautiful St. Joseph Church. Election of officers for 2006 was held and the accumulative attendance award was won by Annette Jelenic. Nancy Horwath was the lucky winner of the 50/50 award.

The meeting on January 15, 2006, Sunday, will be at 1:00 p.m. Father Tom Paul, our Spiritual Advisor, will conduct the installation of officers: President-Char Kobe, Vice-President-Agnes Dobczyk, Financial Secretary and Treasurer- Jean Herbst, Recording Secretary-Vicki Hodgman, Zarja Reporter-Sr. Marlene Ambrose, Auditors-Mary Kay Demick, Jo Lustik and Bernice Nemanich, Sgt. at Arms-Nancy Horwath and Thelma Minarich. Judge Penn will entertain us with a "sing-a long" on his digital piano and the Slovenian Doll Raffle will take place at this meeting. A buffet dinner will be served by the officers.

If you know of someone deserving the honor of "Woman of the Year," submit your choice. For further information, see your calendar for Branch 20.

The meeting on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, will be at 7:00 p.m. at St Joseph Park. Following the meeting we will have our guest speaker Courtney Pucel, who is the Client Director of "Home Instead-Senior Care."

Congratulations to Mary Lesnik who volunteers her time for the "Bee Well" program at Provena St. Joseph Medical

Center, we're proud of you! Kelsey Singletary and Chris Nicol who were married on November 12, 2005 in Des Moines, Iowa. Kelsey is the daughter of Janice and George Singletary and grand-daughter of Jonita Ruth.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Barbara Potochnic and family, whose father passed away and to Stephanie Kovacic whose husband passed away.

Vesele Bozicne Praznike in Srečno novo Leto!  
"As the family goes, so does the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."...Pope John Paul II  
SISTER MARLENE AMBROSE

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### BRANCH 24 – LASALLE, IL

Dober Dan! Every year as I replace the old calendar with the new and turn to that very first page of January, a feeling comes over me and I'm filled with the anticipation of the New Year! We don't know what the new year is going to bring and that's probably a good thing. We make our New Year's resolutions hoping to improve and enrich our lives and the lives of others and with God's help let's hope we can do it.

As I write this, we are in the midst of planning our annual Christmas party which will be hosted this year by Rosemary McLaughlin, Missy McLaughlin and Mary Ann Pieczynski and will be held at Mario's Maples on Sunday, December 10. We always enjoy our get-together's with plenty of good food, good company and good conversation. It will be our last gathering until March, when we resume our meetings.

Several of our shut-in members were paid a visit and received a Christmas cactus plant over the holidays.

Three members of our branch attended Branch 99's Bunco Party and had a wonderful time seeing familiar faces and renewing friendships. Also, we all came away with some awesome door prizes. I, myself, won three!

I must mention that we had tremendous success with our bakeless bake sale and our gratitude goes out to all our members!

Our branch is looking forward to the new year and ways in which we can keep our heritage alive! Some new plans are in the works regarding our annual summer picnic. Stay tuned!

May the new year bring you many blessings and until next time may your hearts be filled with peace and love.  
LORETTA STORY

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### BRANCH 25 – CLEVELAND, OH

Hi all! I received my potica pin and I love it. Hopefully everyone had a great Thanksgiving (gobble, gobble), stuffed the turkey and then yourselves and had a blessed Christmas and wishing a prosperous New Year to all. God bless you!

Best wishes arrived to all from Gene Drobnic, who resides in Cape Coral, Florida. Her wishes were slightly damp because all was inundated by the Hurricane Katrina. Please keep all these unfortunate folks in your thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes to all our sick and shut-ins. Sympathy wishes to Danica Chemas in the death of her husband Frank.

I attended the "Man of the Year Award" at St. Vitus (St. Martin de Porras) auditorium this past month. Joe Cimperman, Council Ward #13 in Cleveland and Anthony

Baznik were honored. I bumped into Joe Valencic, and Albina Pozelnik of Branch 25 at the reception for this affair. Bishop A. Edw. Pevec was the main celebrant at the mass held at St. Vitus Church on Lausche Avenue.

My thought for the day: *The LORD will command his ANGELS to guard you in all your ways. Remember Love is made in heaven but maintained on earth.* Na Svidenje - Luv ya,

EMILEE JENKO

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### BRANCH 35 – AURORA, MN

First of all, I want to report that Ann Orazem, our reporter, is recovering from heart surgery, she is doing well and is staying with her sister, Barb Urick. Dorothy Jannick was honored with an 80th birthday party on November 13. The party was attended by 32 friends.

Branch 35 has finished a mini-cookbook fundraiser, we profited \$340. Thank you to all those who sold books, bought them and those who just gave a monetary donation.

Six people met in Chisholm on November 12<sup>th</sup> to make plans for the up-coming Heritage Festival to be held September 17<sup>th</sup> in Chisholm. We'd like to see more representatives from other branches attending these meetings.

On Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>, Branch 35 had a pot luck Advent Party at the Aurora Community Center. A meeting followed the meal and donations were made to the local nursing facility and Bunco was played for gifts brought by the members.

Wishing our sister branches a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and warm!

ANITA VOVK

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### BRANCH 39 – BIWABIK, MN

It was an interesting afternoon of recapping and reminiscing about our 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee that was held on October 9<sup>th</sup>. I hope you all enjoyed reading the article in the Nov/Dec Zarja, remember also to check the website. We had a grand day and wouldn't it be fun to be around to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup>? Our dear charter member, Jennie Ahlin is still with us, so who knows how many years our God will give us? It will give us more time to recruit some new young members to our beloved SWUA and watch them carry on what our sisters started for us so long ago. All the thank you notes went out to the various people who helped make our day a success, and decisions were made regarding the continuation of archiving our history. Our first 75 years of information about the branch was delivered to the home office by Mary Lou Voelk, who was our speaker and we will send a few more items of interest to be included as we close our 75<sup>th</sup> year in December. Thank you, Mary Lou, for taking the acid free boxes of archives with you. We will begin 2006 with a new team and continue the archives.

Some discussion ensued on the Heritage Festival that is pending for September of 2006. A committee meeting was held in Chisholm on November 12<sup>th</sup> to update all the Minnesota Branches on the event. Another meeting will be held in March with time and place pending.

Our next meeting will be on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 with the election of new officers for 2006. Plans are pending for our annual Christmas party to be held on January 8<sup>th</sup>,

2006. There are too many conflicting city and church events to hold the party during the holidays.

We are looking forward to all the new things our Zarja will be bringing us in 2006 and wish all involved as many years of success as their predecessors.

Zelim vam Srečno Novo Leto

ROSEMARY (SERTICH) RIBICH

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#### BRANCH 40 – LORAIN, OH

Looking back at the past year, there was much sadness in our community as we lost so many faithful members who can never be replaced. They will live on in our memory and hearts always.

Another sad time was the closing of the Slovenian National Home in Lorain. It was a strong beautiful building where so many special events took place. There were weddings, concerts, lodge dances, lodge meetings, fish fries and dinners and oh so many other occasions, we will never forget the happy times spent there.

A happy time was in July when Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovenian Catholic Church celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. There was a nice feature story in the November 18<sup>th</sup> issue of the Universe Bulletin, our diocesan paper, telling of the dedication of the pastor, Father Paul Krajnik, who at 83 years of age is so active and committed to his people. The article entitled "Accentuating the Positive" also spoke of the faithfulness of his parishioners to their church. Congratulations!

We have 2 members residing in nursing homes. Angie Zgonc is in Kingston of Vermilion, in Vermilion and my sister Mary Bradish is in the Inn at St. Christine's in Youngstown in assisted living. Remember them with a card or a visit. Joe Serazin underwent open heart surgery and is now recuperating at home under Aggie's loving care. Stay well, Joe.

Sue Tomazic's grand-daughter, Jessica Tomazic, has graduated from West Point and is now pursuing medical studies and serving in the army in Germany, congratulations and best wishes to Jessica.

In closing it is safe to say that our members and friends enjoyed our Christmas luncheon on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget our next meeting is at the usual time and place on January 11<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

I wish you the Blessings of a Happy and a Healthy New Year.

STEPHANIE POLUTNIK

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#### BRANCH 42 – MAPLE HEIGHTS, OH

Happy New Year everyone! Hopefully you have all had a joyous holiday with your families and friends.

Congratulations to our member, Mary Lou McHenry, a 32 year resident of University Heights and a realtor with Howard Hanna Smythe Cramer, on being named "Citizen of the Year". She was recognized for her commitment to the city as an unofficial ambassador. Mary Lou has enrolled her grandson, Patrick Ruppe, in our branch and her daughter, Mary Jo O'Neill, has enrolled her 3 children: Josephine, Patricia and Matthew. Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of the Fink family.

Another new junior member is Elizabeth R. Carroll, daughter of Beth Agnes Carroll, grand-daughter of Betty Ann Harr and great grand-daughter of Betty Kosak Gawor. This now includes them in Branch 42's elite 4<sup>th</sup>

generation of family members. Special thanks again to Betty Ann Harr who so generously donated prizes for our recent Ohio-Michigan Convention, she does this in spite of living on the east coast and manages to find a way to stay connected.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Rose Meljac and her family on the loss of her husband, Tony, in November. May he rest in peace. We send get-well wishes to Bob Mehosky, son of our loyal member, Dorothy. Bob, a kidney transplant recipient, has been going through a critical illness and needs all our prayers.

We are proud to announce that our recent president, Jackie Albers, has successfully been elected president of the Maple Heights City Council. This was an outstanding victory. For those of you many out-of-towners who may not know Jackie personally, she is the daughter of Louis Fink's sister, Tillie Cook.

In closing, Happy Birthday wishes to our January and February celebrants. Don't forget our meeting on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Maple Heights Library at 11:00 a.m. Adijo

LIL SADOWSKI

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#### BRANCH 43 – MILWAUKEE, WI

I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a very Happy New Year are extended to all. May 2006 bring good health, happiness and God's Blessing.

As in the past and due to the many commitments of our members, our branch holiday party will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2006, at noon, at Klemmers Restaurant. This is a great time to meet your fellow Zveza members and enjoy some holiday cheer. Reservations are a must and if you have not made them, call Josephine Janezic (414-545-0691), the cost is \$15.00.

Members attending our November meeting were treated to a delicious lunch served and prepared by ladies who were celebrating their birthdays. Thank you and Happy Birthday to Denise Bartlett, Barbara Martinka, Jan Gehm and Mary Pucel. A special treat of apple strudel was made by Mici Coffelt. Thank You.

The main issue at this meeting was election of officers elected for 2006, were President, Josephine Janezic, Vice President, Yvonne Khaldy, Recording Secretary, Mary Bregant, Corresponding Secretary, Jacquelyn Smith, and Treasurer, Denise Bartlett. Our auditors are Jan Gehm and Theresa Mejcher. Thank you to Ann Konczal and Elsie Gallun, the auditors for 2005. Karen Goodman remains our Sgt. of Arms and a Program Director will be determined at a later date.

Our branch has much to be grateful for: being together for 75 years, all of the past officers who are to be commended for all their hard work, the present officers for carrying on their work and for all of you who regularly attend our meetings and are always willing to lend a hand.

New members are always welcome. Approach your family members and invite them to join us. Applications are available from our president or you can find them in the Zarja.

Greetings to all of our sick and shut ins.

MARY BREGANT

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## BRANCH 47 - GARFIELD HTS., OH

November we had Election of Officers. President-Olga Dorchak, Vice President-Ann Harsh, Recording Secretary-Treasurer Elsie Spellacy, Auditors are Kathleen Ferrante and Elsie Lawrencic. We discussed the Christmas Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Birthday wishes go out to all our January and February Members. January members are Antonia Davies, Josephine Lea, Kay Yuratovac, Laura Bossard, Diane Fornaro, Helen Yerman, Agnes Mundson, Betty Zahler, Julianne Davian and Mary Jo McGowan. February members are Margarita Franchini, Ludmilla Bolek, Anne Kemmerling, Jessie Pigat and Dorothy Squire.

Best wishes to all, and have a safe and Happy Holiday.  
KATHERINE WALLACE

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## BRANCH 50 - CLEVELAND & EUCLID, OH

October's meeting was called to order by vice-president, Cookie Maxin (our president Rose Mary Toth was away visiting relatives in Slovenia). Our guest speakers from Harbor Light Hospice in Highland Heights, Ohio spoke on comfort and care given to residents, Medicare, and the myths and facts about hospice care, and invited our group to an open house of their facility. Ivanka Matic spoke about her recent pilgrimage to Medjugorje with her daughter, Vesna. Ivanka was enthusiastic as she described the excitement of her experience.

Josephine Smith was called by our Lord, her daughter recalled how happy Josephine was with her volunteer activities. Our Branch 50 banner was displayed to acknowledge her pride as a member. Joan Fellenstein has had hip replacement surgery, Wanda Golobic is now residing at Gateway in Euclid, Ohio, and Dorothy Ann Winters is still recuperating.

Our November meeting was our Christmas party at the Dubrovnik Party Center in Eastlake, Ohio, with fifty-three members in attendance. Cookie Maxin planned the event, filled baskets for the Chinese raffle, and had table favors for everyone. Of course, Santa Claus made his annual appearance!

Cookies and crafts by Barbara Zgonc, Allison Hrovat and Cookie Maxin were on sale to benefit Zarja. Election of officers took place, and they remain: Rose Mary Toth, president; Cookie Maxin, vice-president; Evelyn Pipoly, recording secretary; treasurer, Fran Kajfez; auditors, Lillian Homar and Louise Troglio; and Anne Tomsick, Zarja reporter.

Happy birthday wishes to Jo Arko and Audrey Miller, and 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary to Justine Picman and husband, and 50<sup>th</sup> to Alice Signorelli and husband.

REMEMBER to send your news items and photos (by email preferably) to Anne Tomsick at [cjaynow@yahoo.com](mailto:cjaynow@yahoo.com) (phone 216-531-2745).

FALL FEST! Planning for the second annual Slovene Fall Festival next October is underway. The event will again be at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. Respectfully submitted,

ANNE TOMSICK

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## BRANCH 54 - WARREN, OH

Our group had our annual Christmas luncheon and the hostesses were Louise Vett, Fran Santo and Joanne

Ponikvar. It was a wonderful afternoon. We gave a donation for the Zarja in place of a gift exchange. We had the election of officers and our slate remains the same. We hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15th at 12 noon at my home. Bring a Valentine. We are not an active group, but we enjoy being together several times a year. Hopefully, we can plan some activities for the 2006 year.

This will be an exciting year for me. I'll be celebrating my 50th class reunion from Nursing School and Harry and I will be having our 50th Wedding Anniversary, the good Lord willing! I have so much to be thankful for.

Good health and God's blessings to all and pray for a peaceful world and an end to the war in Iraq. 2005 has been a year filled with natural disasters and terrorists attacks, may this all cease.

JOANNE PONIKVAR

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## BRANCH 55 - GIRARD, OH

As we celebrate the birth of Our Lord the members of our branch wish all a very blessed and happy Christmas season. May the New Year 2006 bring health and a spirit of unity within our families, our cities, our nation and the world. Blagoslovljene Bozicne praznike ter sreco in zdravja polno Novo Leto vam iz srca zelimo! Remember your heritage... keep up the Christmas traditions! More news in the next issue as our reporter, Monica Selak, returns from a semester in London. What an experience! Lepe pozdrave. Love,

MARIA SELAK (SUBSTITUTE REPORTER)

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## BRANCH 89 - OGLESBY, IL

Greetings to all from Branch 89, since the month of October is devoted to our Blessed Mother's rosary, it is in this month we prayed our rosary together for our deceased members of our branch. Since 1938 we have said "goodbye" to 73 members. As each name is called a tea light is lit in their memory. Together we pray our rosary with the thoughts of these strong, devoted, hard-working, loving members who have gone before us. May their heritage live forever!

Thank you so very much to our members far and near for your generosity to our bakeless bake sale. Because this is our only fundraiser for the year, your donation is needed and very much appreciated.

Our President, Nancy Henkel shared a Slovenian tidbit with us at this October meeting. Did you know the hayrack is a National Icon of Slovenia? The hayrack was made of hardwood and was a tool to make a farmer's work easier and the land more productive. The hay, wheat, and corn were hung from racks allowing the wind to do the job of drying faster and more thoroughly. The "toplarji" (double hayrack) decorated or plain, are unique to Slovenia. It is so nice to learn about our heritage and the land our ancestors came from. Thank you, Nancy.

As we look forward to starting a brand new year, let us REMEMBER our past with love, LIVE our present with enthusiasm, and PRAY for our future. Until we meet again, Peace to all!

ALICE EBNER



## BRANCH 93 – BROOKLYN & NYC, NY

In the first week of November, Branch 93 members and guests had an incredible opportunity to hear two lectures by Dr. Mirjam Milharèiè Hladnik preceding the screening of *100% Slovenian* (English translation for the original title *Americanke*). She gave a wonderful presentation outlining various common themes in her extensive body of research precipitating from the study of numerous personal and moving stories of Slovenian women who immigrated to the United States, while also offering



insightful analysis and humorous anecdotes on filming of this documentary. The documentary was very well received, and it was a privilege to have Mirjam's perspective before the screening.

This event was not only successful but also made us all reflect on our own perceptions of what it means to be Slovenian or of Slovenian descent abroad.

Each lecture was attended by approximately 30 people. Guests ranged from Branch 93 members who were featured in the study and/or documentary, their friends and family members (some from out of town), to those who might have decided to attend out of curiosity. There were many instances of two and in one case even three generations of Slovenian women (or those of Slovenian descent) in attendance. We were very happy that Bonnie Pohar Prokup, SWUA National Secretary (visiting from Peru, IL), and Joe Valencic, who is very active in studying and preserving Slovenian history and cultural heritage (visiting from Cleveland, OH), attended and spoke during the introductory remarks along with Vesna, Branch 93 President.

Branch 93 would like to thank everyone who attended the lectures, most of all those who provided considerable help in planning, organizing and making it happen and of course Mirjam for traveling to New York and delivering two very interesting and inspiring lectures.

VESNA STRASER and SONJA KNEZEVIC

## BRANCH 99– LEMONT, IL

We're having **monthly** meetings in 2006 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month at 3 p.m after the monthly "cultural hour" that is directed by our member, Nandi Puc at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont! This new schedule will accommodate many more members who want meetings on a monthly basis.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our first meeting of this new year and it will be our "annual meeting" with reports from the officers and elections for 2006. There are already many ideas floating around for activities in 2006, among them, another baking school for apple strudel and other goodies such as Mrs. Rus' "krofki"; an interesting lecture or two, and some parties celebrating the various Slovenian traditional holidays. After the January meeting we will show an interesting video called "Slovenian Magazine" that you may have read about in Zarja.

Congratulations to the hard working committee at our Bunco Party October 30<sup>th</sup>. We can't thank you enough, Chairman, Fran Schultz and family. Thanks to our

fabulous donors, Smart Staffing Solutions, Inc., Zefran Funeral Home, Ltd., Laurie Stanczak/Coldwell Banker, Art-Ful Gallery, Brandt's Wine Cellar, En-Chro Plating, Ltd., and Milan's Machining & Mfgr. Inc. Everyone had fun and went home with lots of prizes and our treasury got a big boost!

Fran Schultz, coordinator of the Bunco sent us the following personal thank-you message: To Michaela Simrayh & Jean Cherway at the door, Jean Gale, Mary Mavec, Joan Kasmarek, and "our Larry" (son in law) in the kitchen, daughters Laurie Stanczak, Barb Block and MaryAnn Partyka, daughter in law Therese Schultz, granddaughters Julie Partyka, Olivia and Mary Schultz and Emily and Kimberly Stanczak. Also a big thank you to our secretary Joan Sobocan who did a lot of behind the scene work and helping to set up, and her husband Joe Sobocan for his generous cash donation and all other businesses who donated prizes for the Grand Raffle.

Last but not least, to all the people who attended our second annual Bunco, we hope that you had a good time!!

We feel so proud to have enrolled many new members in the "SWUA 500 Membership Campaign". We are always happy to welcome more.

Since among all our members there are many great bakers, we are asking: can you bring some sweets to the meeting? Happy New Year!

CORINNE LESKOVAR

## BRANCH 100 - FONTANA AND ALL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

At this writing, the members of Branch 100 are looking forward to our Christmas celebration. Rosemary Mlakar was instrumental in planning a different kind of party this year, and everyone is excited about it. About 30 members and their families are expected to have dinner and a meeting together at the Mimi's Restaurant in Cerritos, California on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, after that we will proceed to the Cerritos Performing Arts Center to enjoy "Riders in the Sky Christmas the Cowboy Way". This should prove to be an enjoyable evening with great entertainment and also a time to visit and have a meal together with friends. We thank Rosemary for getting this together for a very special holiday gathering.

Our Branch has grown by quite a few members this year. I don't have the exact figures, but several were announced at our dinner in April and then at least six juniors joined in September/October. Although I don't have all the names, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of them. I hope you will take the time to join us when we have a get-together and enjoy the benefits of the SWU.

I would also like to commend the forward looking staff of the SWU for all of their hard work in making us aware of "things Slovenian" that are available to us. The Zarja and the New Neighborhood are marvelous tools in learning more about our heritage. For those who are not Slovenian, it is an interesting lesson in culture that could be relevant for almost any ethnicity. Thank you for all you do!

The New Year will be upon us by the time you read this and so we wish all a Healthy and Blessed 2006.

JEAN KOCI

## BRANCH 102 – WILLARD, WI

Our last meeting was held September 11<sup>th</sup> with 14 members and 4 guests present. Our Christmas party and pot luck lunch was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

One of our devoted members Mary Staut passed away. Mary was a long and faithful member of our branch. She did so much to keep the Slovenian traditions alive. She will be missed by all. She is survived by her husband Vitko, one daughter, two sons, a brother, Stanley and a sister, Betty Fraid who is a member of our branch.

We had our annual Hunting Bake Sale November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

We have a new member-Rose Lemerande-Daughter of Christine (Trunkle) Lemerande. We congratulate Chris for enrolling Rose in Branch 102.

George Plautz Jr. of Fairfax, Virginia, a member of Br.102, visited his parents George and Ellen Plautz and other relatives over the Thanksgiving Holidays. George is well known for his work in Slovenian Genealogy.

AGNES DEBEVEC

## BRANCH 103 – WASHINGTON, DC

Greetings from Branch 103, we are changing our place of meeting as of March, 2006. We shall be meeting regularly at St. Ann's Church, 4001 Yuma St. NW, Washington, DC 20016 (meeting room in the basement of the church). Our meetings will be in March, April, May, September, October and December. In January we meet at the National Shrine where we have installation of officers after the Slovenian Mass.

At our December meeting we discussed our annual social to be held in October, 2006. Election of officers also occurred: President: Mary Lou Terselic; Vice-president: Angela Stare; Recording Secretary/Zarja Reporter: Valerie Bohince; Treasurer: Molly Thomas; Secretary: Mimi Mejac; Program Chairman: Ana Sonc-Jevtic; Sunshine: Angela Daly; Auditors: Ana Menapace and Ana Skopec. The meeting concluded with a Christmas party, the making of a Christmas craft and a simple Christmas gift exchange plus wonderful conversation. Thanks to Ica Zebot, Angela Stare and Valerie Bohince for the lovely luncheon of a party veggie platter and Slovenian potato salad followed by Chocolate Peanut Butter Cake and "Miske", this was accompanied by wine and coffee.

The day after the meeting Ana Skopec informed us that her husband, Frank, had died during the night. We sent her our condolences and prayer.

MARY LOU TERSELIC

## BRANCH 108 – OLNEY, MD

Srecno novo leto to all! Our second anniversary celebration took place on November 20 with a wonderful spread of refreshments. Thanks to all who contributed and helped set up and organize the details. It was a treat for members, families and guests to sample homemade sausages brought by Eveline Lawrence, potica made by both John Klansek and Marge McFarland, and pohane miske (yeast bread dough hush puppies) made by Nika Kovacic.

Our guest speaker, Estelle Dawn Zorman presented personal impressions of her childhood in Slovenia during

WWII, living in a displaced persons camp in Austria with her family and immigrating to America as a young girl. She shared framed photos of family members, and fondly remembered the special aunt who introduced her to art in early childhood. Estelle told us her intriguing personal story and life long passion for expression in painting. Her art brings peace and solace not only to her, but also to those who are blessed to have an original painting by Estelle in their homes. Estelle proudly introduced her daughter Laurie, and was delighted to have her present at the meeting. Her mother's Slovenian heritage compelled Laurie to join Branch 108 this year.

Congratulations to all our members who won raffle prizes and gift certificates donated by local merchants. Eveline Lawrence was the grand prizewinner of a gorgeous original painting donated by Estelle Dawn Zorman for this anniversary celebration.

John Klansek has started preparing the Branch 108 cookbook, which will be professionally bound by an outside company. Please send Slovenian and other recipes, which have evolved in your family to John at [jk8024@aol.com](mailto:jk8024@aol.com).

On January 22, there will be an installation of new officers and details will be finalized for the Slovenian Pust Festival on Saturday, February 25. For more details, see the on-line newsletter, or e-mail [bertim@earthlink.net](mailto:bertim@earthlink.net).

BKF

## BRANCH 109 – TWIN CITIES, MN

Our November meeting was held at the Nectary restaurant in Minneapolis. The meeting was highlighted by our guest speakers, Karen and Miro Medved. See details on page 24.

The remaining part of the meeting was devoted to strategic planning for 2006. Our Branch 109 is planning to host a Slovenian booth which will expose the Slovenian culture to the greater Twin Cities area during the annual "Festival of Nations" celebration in May.

The closing activity was devoted to a Slovenian language lesson. Joe Kuznik, Yul Yost and Benita Bjorgo created an introductory language lesson which will be used over the next few meetings. Preservation of the Slovenian language is one of our goals.

Each of our members reads the Zarja closely to find ideas which may help in our growing Branch 109 membership and hope that we can contribute to preserving our Slovenian heritage within the metropolitan community of Minneapolis and St. Paul. "Srecno novo leto"!

NORM SETNICKER

**Watch for details of  
"The Garden" contest  
in the next Zarja  
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