

ZARJA - THE DAWN



URADNA GLASILO
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKE ZVEZE V AMERIKI

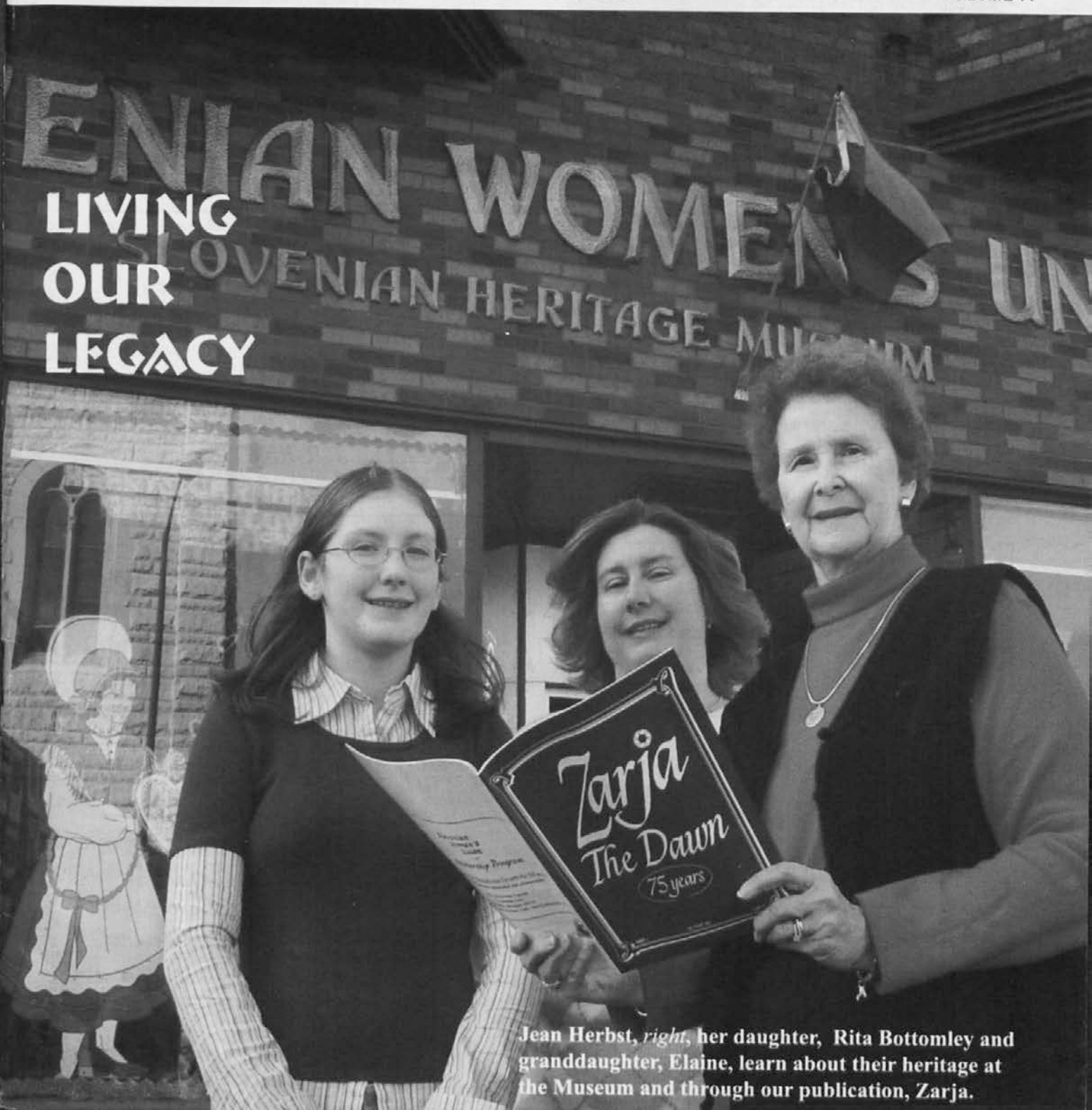
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

NUMBER 2

MARCH-APRIL, 2005

VOLUME 77

LIVING
OUR
LEGACY



Jean Herbst, *right*, her daughter, Rita Bottomley and granddaughter, Elaine, learn about their heritage at the Museum and through our publication, Zarja.

SWUA. Your Choice for Today. Your Legacy for Tomorrow. **SPREAD THE NEWS!**

For some, it begins with the **PERSONAL**.

I joined to learn about my heritage. I stayed because I was learning.

For others it's **SOCIAL**.

Some joined for an evening out. Many stayed for friendships.

For some it starts with the **PAST**.

I joined for my grandmother. I stayed for my children.

For others, it's always about **TOMORROW**.

I joined, when I was young, I am staying to see it grow older.

No matter what drives each individual member of the Slovenian Women's Union great family of women and men. We all seem to share certain important values in common. Values that may shift as we grow, but which stay close to our collective heart and soul. So individually and together, we help. We care. We learn and we teach. And each time we exercise our right and responsibilities as women of values, we earn our place in the book of life as women of valor.

SLOVENIA SLOVENIA TO AMERICA

"LIVING OUR LEGACY"

2005 Membership Campaign

500 New Members our goal!

*Every family has a JOURNEY.....Every heritage has a JOURNEY.....
Every country has a JOURNEY*

QUILT WINNER



Comfy and cozy is our Ann Gerzina of Biwabik, Minnesota nestled under the soft, hand-made quilt lovingly made by Bev Menart, National Auditor of Duluth for the anniversaries of SWU and ZARJA. Congratulations to Mrs. Gerzina and all our gratitude to Bev Menart.

ZARJA - THE DAWN

(ISSN 0044-1848)

Postmaster: Send all changes of address to:
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION,
431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432

No. 2 MARCH-APRIL, 2005 VOL. 77

Official Publication of the Slovenian Women's Union of America
- Uradno glasilo Slovenske ženske Zveze.

Published Bi-monthly - šestkrat na leto.

Annual Subscription for non-members, \$20.00 - naročnina
\$20.00 letno za ne-članice.

Publisher: SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA
431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432
Telephone: (815) 727-1926

Periodicals Postage Paid at Joliet, IL and
at additional mailing offices

All communications for the next issue of publication must be in the
hands of the Editor by the first week of the month - vsi dopisi za
naslednjo izdajo mesečnika morajo biti v rokah urednice
do 1. v mesecu.

Editor: CORINNE LESKOVAR

Editorial Office: 4851 S. Drexel Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615-1703
Email: CORLESKOVAR@AOL.COM

Telephone: (773) 548-8878 - Fascimile: (773) 268-4899

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING

APRIL

- 15-16 Br. 20, Joliet, IL Rummage Sale
St. Joe's Hall, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

MAY

- 1 Br. 35, Aurora, MN, Mother of the Year party,
noon
3 Br. 14, Cleveland, OH, Mother of the Year
Dinner, Rechar Hall, 6:30 p.m.
12 Br. 5, Indpls, IN
Meeting, Elections, Raffle, Party
18 Br. 54, Warren, OH, Mother of the Year
Luncheon, Caf'e 422, 1p.m.
25 Br. 20, Cleveland, OH, Mother of the Year
Party, SNH Holmes Ave.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MARCH

Presidents:

- Mar. 12 - Josephine Janezic, Br. 43, Milwaukee, WI
Mar. 16 - Fran Morison, Br. 2, Chicago, IL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN APRIL

Presidents:

- Apr. 15 - Phyllis Fon, Br. 5, Indianapolis, IN
Apr. 25 - Kathleen Emerson, Br. 105, Detroit, MI

Secretaries:

- Apr. 24 - Delores Puhek, Br. 2, Chicago, IL

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

In this Issue:

President's Message	1
Secretary's Message	2
Calendar Raffle Winners	2
Heritage News	3
Book Review	6
Genealogy Research	7
Scholarship Director	9
Member Donations	11
Kuhar's Carousel	13
Activities of our Branches	17
"Tributes"	18
"Our Members Write"	29

This issue of ZARJA is the first utilizing a new process of electronic pagemaking and photo scanning. Hope you like it. We hope to continue using this method, with the cooperation of all reporters and contributors. *Editor*

NATIONAL PRESIDENT Kathleen Dorchak-Hall



*"Living Our Legacy -
One Day at a Time!"*

I extend a special thank you to all members that participated in our "2005 Museum Magic Month" calendar fundraiser. I am sure many of you were very happy to be winners. We appreciate your help in the success in this moneymaker to raise funds for our Heritage Museum.

We have a wonderful trip planned to Slovenia, Austria, and Italy this June and July. I hope you will consider joining me, my Mother, Olga and my two cousins on this fantastic opportunity to continue to live our legacy by retracing the steps of our grandmothers. The trip was purposely changed to the summer months to allow students and teachers to participate. The cost is a bit higher since we will be traveling during the summer season. This gives us a chance to see Slovenia with even more beautiful with colorful budding and blooming flowers.

Your National Board met at the end of February to make plans for 2005. As always I encourage you to talk to any of the board members and share your ideas and suggestions. Minutes from the meeting will be in a future issue of the Zarja.

I wish you all a blessed and holy Easter season.

Take a Mini-Vacation

Take a mini-vacation in the hurried world today, To smell the flowers in the garden, to see a child at play. For often we look to the future and all the joy it brings, Missing today for tomorrow, in the search of eternal spring. Today is a moment of splendor, a time that is here and now. Be careful do not waste a second, we can't repeat it somehow. Take your mini-vacation aware of what you now know. It's the mini-vacations we have in life that allow our souls to grow. *Edna Louise Gilbert*

Living Our Legacy - Creating a future from our Past

Kathleen Dorchak-Hall

93 Wilbur Drive
Munroe Falls OH 44262
Telephone 330.686.1336
Fax 330.688.6203
Email kdorchak@neo.rr.com

Dearest Members:

I want to thank the members of Slovenian Women's Union of America on behalf of the entire Robert Hall Family for your Donations to the SWUA, attending the Memorial Service, Mass cards, sympathy cards, flowers, gifts, thoughts and prayers. We are truly blessed to have so many caring and thoughtful friends

*Love and Blessings,
Kathy Dorchak-Hall*

National Secretary

Bonnie Prohar Prokup:

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

This year a new process was tried for billing. Instead of printing over 4,000 invoices on a personal computer, we tried to do it professionally. For one, the price came out cheaper; let alone the long hours in printing on a simple printer not really made for that capacity.

In the past I printed each invoice on my home printer. For just Branch 20 of Joliet alone it took more than one day to print. Not only was the time a factor but also the paper, many ink cartridges and the wear and tear on the printer. We found out that the printer would be a little cheaper than doing it by

“hand”. They printed the material, machine folded it and machine stuffed it in the envelope. The postage was even cheaper by this method.

What went wrong was the formatting of this invoice. In error the printer left off the dollar sign which seemed to confuse a few people. The invoice

read: Member Dues: 20. It should have had the \$ sign right in front of the 20.

Even so, with this minor error, I believe the right decision was made to take it to a printer. We gained both financially and timewise. I can assure you that next year this error will not happen. Thank you for understanding,

Sincerely,



Bonnie Pohar Prokup

National Secretary, Slovenian Women's Union of America

“MAGIC MONTH” Winners

A very big thank you goes to Marjorie Church, Branch 42, whose hard work and dedication got this fund raiser started 5 years ago. She spent many hours on this project to get it going and make it workable and profitable for the Heritage Museum. Thank You Marjorie, for making my part so easy. Thank you also to the many other workers and supporters who contributed to its success. I personally enjoyed making the phone calls to the winners and talking to them. I heard many interesting stories.

The winners for the 2005 Museum Magic Month are:

Jan	1	\$500	Genevieve Buol	Cicero, IL
	2		John Pohar	LaSalle, IL
	3	100	Jerry Zakosek	Maple Park, IL
	4	100	Joseph Babich	Joliet, IL
	5	100	Cindy Welsh	Lockport, IL
	6	100	Leonard Link	Joliet, IL
	7	100	Minnie Carter D	LaSalle, IL
	8	100	D & J Rossi	Griffith, IN
	9	200	Germaine Tesovnik	Sheboygan, WI
	10	100	Veronica Allen	Great Bend, PA
	11	100	Matt Kochevar	Joliet, IL
	12	100	Jeanne Warsaw	Plainfield, IL
	13	100	Deborah Wiseman	Cary, EL
	14	100	Florence Mirtel	Garfield Heights, OH
	15	100	Josie Aievoli	Chicago, IL
	16	200	Adrienne Micklich	Tower, MN
	17	100	Krista Zobel	Joliet, IL
	18	100	Frances Novak	Chicago, IL
	19	100	Mary Palcic	Orlando, FL
	20	100	Stavia Dobersek	Milwaukee, WI
	21	100	Elsie Spellacy	Bedford Heights, OH
	22	100	Charles Anzels, Sr.	Plainfield, IL
	23	200	Dorothy Koncar	Joliet, IL

24	100	Frank Natarelli	Chicago, IL
25	100	Richard Churnovic	Crest Hill, IL
26	100	Paul Grill	Maple Heights, OH
27	100	Cheri Gottke	Concord, OH
28	100	Joan Egly	Joliet, IL
29	100	Lois M. Pelander	Duluth, MN
30	200	Jo J. Lea	Garfield Heights, OH
31	500	DA. Jerneycic	Sierra Madre, CA

Pat Figuirowski
Fund Raising Committee



Heritage News:

“Keeping our Legacy Alive” Easter Traditions

Easter season is upon us, a wonderful time to celebrate the traditions of our Slovenian heritage. And such wonderful traditions we have, baking potica, egg dyeing, packing the •egen Basket and then the gathering of family around the table.

If you don't have a family potica recipe, try one of many from our “More Pots and Pans” Cook Book. There is even a recipe using the bread maker!

No matter what our talents are in “Potica making” you will find a method that makes for success. Don't let this wonderful season pass without making the famous potica. BTW: The Smart Balance ad is being shown on national TV again, and I am 100 % POSITIVE that a slice of potica is on that plate being covered with this spread. Potica is potica, how can one not recognize it?

Decorated Easter Eggs

And now for Egg Dyeing. Make this a Slovenian ritual in your home. The instructions are also on the SWUA website:

<http://www.swua.org/Recipes/decoratedEasterEggs.htm>

When children are exposed to these activities they carry it with them for a lifetime. It is called Living the Legacy!

Ingredients

Brown eggs (Preferably)

Parsley stems or some other herb

Piece of gauze or women's nylon stockings cut in to small sections

Thread

Red onion skins (only the dry parts)

Vinegar

All of the ingredients should be assembled beforehand. Place a piece of parsley or other herb on the egg, wrap it neatly and very tightly in gauze or stocking, and fasten tightly with thread. After all the eggs are wrapped, put the onion skins in a pot so that the pot is at least half to two-thirds full, place the eggs on top of the onion skins, and add water so that the eggs are covered.

Add two to three tablespoons of vinegar, bring to a boil, and simmer until the eggs are hard boiled - about ten minutes. Remove the eggs from the water and immediately unwrap. The eggs will be beautiful brick red color with little flowers or trees etched on them. The pot should only be big enough to hold all the eggs you plan to decorate. The onion skins take up very little room. About a dozen eggs can be decorated at one time. The color is usually so strong that the same water can be used for the next batch. Any stains on your hands, the



Helen Sweiger and Lynn Koiner (Br. 108) bring Slovenian Butarice on Palm Sunday to the Slovenian Chapel in Washington

countertop, or the pot are easily removed with detergent or soap.

I hope you will enjoy using this method. The eggs are very pretty and unique. Happy coloring and Happy Easter!

Submitted by Mimi Mejac, Secretary of Branch 103 in Washington, DC

(The recipe is from Andreja Purkart, former Second Secretary at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, DC, who now lives in Slovenia. She learned the technique from her mother.)

• egen:

I remember those days preceding Easter at my Grandfather Perovskek's house, our own home and the entire town! When I think of bleakness I remember the town with not a soul walking the streets as every thing was closed from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday. At home curtains were washed and stretched on the curtain stretchers and the house was scrubbed. The •egen Basket was taken out. And then I got to lick the pan from the honey and nuts, no sweeter taste could one ever find!! The smell of that ham roasting in the wood stove and Grandpa getting the horseradish cleaned!

At our own home, Mother also fixed up the basket with potica, ham, boiled eggs, horseradish, salt, a piece of fruit. My friend Dolly and I each got to carry the family •egen basket to church for the blessing. But I got to carry two baskets, grandpa's and our family's. This food became the first food we ate on Easter Sunday morning.

Today I live in a “new neighborhood, there are no Slovenians that I know of. I must make up my basket and simply say grace over this food. •egen a beautiful custom, one that we cannot allow to be swallowed up in history.

Where ever you are, make up your gasket, give it a place of honor on Easter morning. And then give this Zegen basket a special place until the next year.

to je to

Mary Lou





This is the day the Lord
has made; let us REJOICE and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Easter cards with Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons' original photo-design (seen above) are available for sale at the SWU Heritage Museum for \$2.50 each.

Velika noè 2005

Kristus je vstal!

Veselimo se!!

Velikonoèni

pozdrav!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH A CHALLENGE TO ALL BRANCHES!

"Women Change America" is the 2005 theme for National Women's History Month. It also celebrates the 85th anniversary of Women in the United States winning the right to vote.

This theme recognizes the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and informed citizens. As members of the Slovenian Women's Union of America each of us can find an instance of compassion, courage and standing tall in our own immediate families. But now I challenge each Branch to dig deeper and wider into past history and the "now present" of the SWUA, listing at least 3 Slovenian American women who have shown such immense qualities of leadership.

And then I ask that those names be listed by your Branch in the ZARJA Branch News. These Slovenian American women need to be recognized for their spirit in keeping the Slovenian Legacy Alive, it falls upon us, the members of the SWUA, to name these women.

In celebration of National Women's History month we have pictured on our cover is the family of Jean Herbst, Secretary of Br. 20, Joliet, Illinois. This three generations picture represents so many of our SWUA families where membership is passed from grandmothers on down. Their legacy is so evident in our present membership.

MLV

On the Cover...

The SWUA theme for 2005: Living Our Legacy

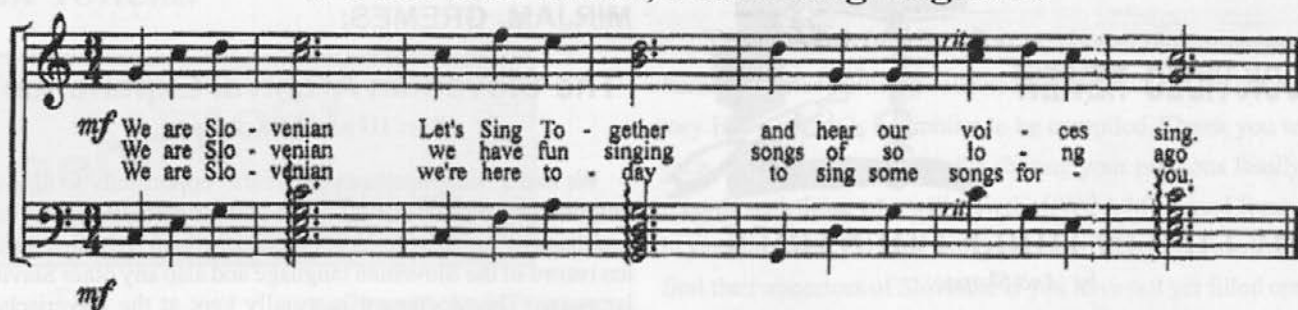
For 27 years, the Slovenian Heritage Museum in Joliet has been the central component of the organization's mission to preserve Slovenian heritage. The life stories of Slovenian immigrant women can be learned by means of many exhibits and displays of photographs, art, clothing, books, and their personal mementoes. And for 76 years of SWUA publication ZARJA has diligently spread knowledge of Slovenian culture to members across the land. These are two powerful tools by which the Slovenian Women's Union steps forward into its 79th year of service to Slovenian women living in America.

HERITAGE FUND DONATIONS in memory of Robert Hall

\$25: Officers and members of Br. 13, San Francisco, CA

\$10: Tony and Char Laurich (38), Chisholm, MN

"We are Slovenian, Let's Sing Together"



Words and music by Bernardka Kovačič Fitzsimmons - November 2002

The children who belong to Br. 108, Olney, MD, performed this song several times in the past two years at community events near Gaithersburg, Maryland. They know some other Slovenian folksongs, too, which they sang at the annual KSKJ St. Nicholas party in December in Washington, D.C.

Throughout childhood and college, Bernadette studied piano and has been teaching piano lessons to children and adults in her home studio for 23 years. In fall, 2002 she formed a Slovenian children's choir, "We are Slovenian, Let's Sing Together," comprised of eleven children of Slovenian descent who are learning to sing traditional Slovenian folk songs.

For each Slovenian folk song, the children are taught the Slovenian pronunciation and the meaning of the words of the songs. These children of Slovenian descent have been her greatest inspiration in passing on our Slovenian heritage through music and song.



Junior members: (back row) Thomas Fitzsimmons, Marko Oven, Matthew Fitzsimmons, Amalia Oven, Ayla Roda, Brielle Roda; (front), Juliana Fitzsimmons, Helene Leskovsek, Celine Roda and Christian Oven.

Contact Bernadette for more information on the children's musical group: Bertim@earthlink.net



Making Potica with Grandma

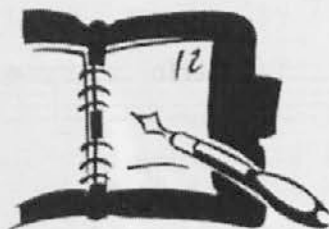
Easter Potica is all the sweeter when made by the sweet hands of our grandchildren! Juliana Fitzsimmons (108) and her grandmother, Nika Kovacic have very sweet smiles, too!
"See, this is how you spread the filling!"



Sky Hall, age 8-1/2 years, granddaughter of Kathleen Dorchak-Hall, and great granddaughter of Olga Dorchak, proudly displays her artwork at the mayor's office in Akron, OH. Sky is a member of Br. 47 and loves to help out at their meetings and socials - they love having her there, too!

Next month we feature pictures of many junior members on the cover

BOOK/VIDEO REVIEW



MY LIFE IN THREE COUNTRIES

by Ana Skopec

Published by PUBLISHAMERICA, Baltimore, MD (c)2004
ISBN: 1-4137-3197-x

In this heart warming book, Ana Skopec, a long-time member of SWU Br. 103, Washington, D.C. describes how she was blessed in surviving: World War II in Slovenia, serious illness in Germany, nearly being killed by a speeding car in California, and being knocked over by a bicyclist while visiting the Czech Republic and lived to tell the story. She also had the misfortune of: witnessing the brutality of war, being mistreated by Communist officials and others for whom she worked, and losing twin sons shortly after their birth. On the positive side, she describes: the joys of family and country life in Slovenia, her remarkable achievements in 2 professional careers, her success in marriage and in raising 2 loving and accomplished children.

In *MY LIFE IN THREE COUNTRIES* the author (who reports her birthday as "thirty-nine years and many, many months ago") takes readers from her birthplace in a small farm village in the Bela Krajina region of Slovenia, to teachers college in Novo Mesto, teaching assignments in Erni Vrh and Ljubljana, a summer stay in Frankfurt (that was extended to 4 years) and finally, her marriage and move to America. Along this journey she provides details of life in a large farming family, and how they survived the horrors of World War II and the post-war period of Communist tyranny. Along the way she provides interesting glimpses into facets of country living, including: courting rituals, holiday celebrations, gypsies and encounters with the homeless.

The 169-page, paperback book is written in a direct, "no frills" style that provides a steady stream of unembellished information, without long introductory narrative and verbiage. It deals with the stark realities of her life, and that of her family, under difficult circumstances. While we Slovenes like to think of "our people" as models of virtue and civility, the book also addresses the reality that some among us can be quite evil, or more kindly described, can exhibit important human faults.

Mothers will enjoy reading of the love and sacrifices that her mother showered on the author and her siblings. Mothers will also enjoy the details the author proudly and lovingly provides regarding the lives of her own 2 surviving children, Marlene and Charlie.

The book is available via 2 online approaches and by mail order. The online locations are www.amazon.com and www.publishamerica.com/books/6835. The mail order address is PublishAmerica, P.O. Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705. The full shipped price from PublishAmerica is \$19.95.

Reviewed by Richard A. Terselic, husband of Br. 103 President, Mary Lou Terselic.

ANITA VOVK/
MIRJAM GREMES:

The Slovenian Archival Experience

Part III and Conclusion

We had a "one in a thousand years" opportunity to visit a unique exhibition at the National and University Library in Ljubljana of the "Brizinjski Spomeniki," which is the first written record of the Slovenian language and also any other Slavic language. This document is usually kept at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, Germany, from which it has left only one other time and that was to be viewed at the Vatican Library.

We spent a day at the Oskar Kovacic High School where we were greeted with fresh carnations, dance and a recital by their students. In their computer classroom we were introduced to a computer system named Cobiss, which is an Online Bibliographic System that connects most of the public and some private libraries in Slovenia. They are working on a new challenge right now which is to include Slovenian Libraries abroad into the system that will enable better access to literature and documents for the people that are interested in these subjects. This project is greatly supported by the Slovenian government.

Our visit at the Ethnographic Museum in Ljubljana was certainly very interesting (they preserve the collection of Bishop Baraga items), but what was most memorable is the following simple but very true story.

Years ago, the workers of the Ethnographic Museum approached a well-known blacksmith's family to get permission to collect some of their photos. The family did not want to give up the originals at that time but allowed workers to make copies of them. A couple of generations went by and someone at the museum was going through the blacksmith's family photo file and found out that one of the photos did not have all of the required information. The Ethnographic Museum approached the family again only to find the present generation did not know of the existence of these or any photos and were very happy to find a piece of their history they did not know existed.

Throughout the seminar we realized the great importance of the archival work and the preservation of documents. We have also realized that theory is one thing and practice quite another but the important thing is that we preserve whatever we can because it will be an important witness about our very own existence one day. And you know even a restaurant bill can be interesting for our descendants after about 200 or 300 years. If you think about how the value of the things and food habits changed over the years, it might be really interesting to learn that once there existed such a thing as "ganci" and the cost was 1,200 tolar per plate.

We met many wonderful, dedicated Slovenian people, who work hard to preserve the heritage of this beautiful country and the people past and present. They are so proud to be SLOVENIAN.

We wish to thank Mirjam Hladnik for recommending us for this unforgettable experience.

Anita Vovk and Mirjam Gremes

Genealogy Search

Tonèka, aka Mary Turvey
52 Oakridge Drive
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Wonderful family charts, photos, obituaries, and family histories are being collected for the SWUA Family History Book which is beginning to be compiled. Thank you to each and every one of you for sharing your precious family records with those who will visit the SWUA Museum Library in years to come. Perhaps with your contribution they can also find their ancestors of Slovenia. If you have not yet filled out your ancestry chart please do so now and mail it to Mary Turvey, 52 Oakridge Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855.

In Search of My Slovenian Roots (Part 3)

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

What happened to my grandmother, Mary (Petek) Sickich? What was the cause of her death just three months after the birth of my father in 1919? And then the placement for adoption in St. Joseph's Catholic Children's Home in Superior, Wisconsin? And where was she buried?

These were questions that haunted me for many years. I checked several of the northern Wisconsin counties for her death certificate, and foot walked many small cemeteries in the area looking for her grave to no avail. I went back to the Bayfield County death records department for about the 3rd or 4th time, and after all this search, finally found there "was" a death record on her, however for some reason it had been filed in some "land" files. And it was my lucky day because I just happened to the turn to the right page with her death certificate, which gave me the cause and place of death.

It turned out that she did not die in the county she had lived in. She passed away in Madison, Wisconsin at: * "The Asylum For The Insane." I immediately called Madison, and they were able to give me more information about her death and burial.

Cause of death was listed as swelling of the brain due to a viral form of meningitis. This illness can alter neurological functions, manifesting itself in the form of delirium and/or hallucinations. Because of her actions and behavior, the court ordered she be sent to a state funded mental asylum. The family did not have much money as their living came from farming, which basically was just enough to feed this family with five children. The court ordered the treatment be in Madison, WI.

I was told she passed away on May 5, 1919 and had been at the asylum for only six days. She passed away alone, with no family by her side. She was buried in the old cemetery located behind the asylum. There was no marker on her grave, but I was given a lot number.

I was told it was common in the late 1800's and early 1900's to bury patients on the grounds if they died in a mental hospital. Most patients were buried without tombstones to protect their privacy or by family request because of fear of the stigma

* In 1974 the name eventually changed to: The Mendota Mental Health Institute.

of having had someone at such a hospital.

It turned out that she had become one of 771 forgotten souls that were buried behind the old asylum building in the shadows of the past, in what was to become one of the city's most anonymous cemeteries. There were no signs or tombstones, except seven scattered blocks that had sunk into the ground. These seven blocks still remain there to this day. (Private records of each person buried at the site are still kept to this day.)

Grandmother was buried at the asylum because of the lack of family funds and the great distance. The family could not afford to have her returned northern Wisconsin, to be buried. However her sister Johanna (Petek) Davich's husband Nick, of Hibbing, MN traveled to Madison for her burial. Johanna did not attend as she was in her ninth month of pregnancy. My grandfather did not attend as he had four young children plus a new baby (my father) to care for.

In 1999 a young 17-year old Boy Scout earning his Eagle Scout Award, took it upon himself to "give respect back to the people buried there" and began the task of cleaning the area of debris, brush etc. He contacted a monument company and was able to get a standing engraved stone donated. He arranged for a rededication ceremony at the cemetery complete with newspaper and television coverage. This endeavor took one year of dedication and hard work.

My husband and I visited the cemetery during the summer of 2000 and I am now planning to purchase a marker for my grandmother Mary (Petek) Sickich and have it placed on her plot. She will no longer be "one" of the 771 forgotten souls that lay at rest. Because of my lengthy search, I not only found my grandmother, but was able to also find my Slovenian heritage as well as living Slovenian family members in the USA and Slovenia.

* * *

In the next issue I tell of my first contact with my newly found "Slovenian Family" from Logatec, Slovenia.

Bev Blaszkowski's full heritage story can be found at our website: www.swua.org.

The Prisland Girls



Johanna Suscha, right, Patrick's grandmother with her dear friend, Marie Prisland - circa 1940.

over 150 infants. She had four children including Mary, Patrick's mother. In the well-groomed Slovenian cemetery at Greendale, Sheboygan, Wisconsin the Suscha and Prisland Cemetery lots adjoin, in company with many other old friends, sheltered by a canopy of deciduous trees.

Patrick Ziegenhorn: I remember the year my grandmother was "Mother of the Year."

Mrs. Prisland asked Gail and David Girdukas, grandchildren of Theresa Zagozen, who I think was also a charter member, and me to sing at the program to honor my grandmother, Johanna Suscha. I remember that we learned to sing "Regiment Po Cesti Gre," as well as Gor Cez Jezero. In addition, Mrs. Prisland wanted us to sing that song "Calcutta." She changed the words somewhat, (I do not know if that was in violation of copyright laws), so that we would sing this instead: "We kissed the girls of Naples, we've kissed them in Paree, but the ladies of Slovenia, do something to me." It is a vivid memory, because I remember how my grandma laughed and the other ladies were just so thrilled, first, that we sang in Slovenian, and also that we sang about the ladies of their beloved homeland.

I remember Mrs. Prisland as a woman who was not shy when she had her mind set on something. My grandmother told me the story of when she, Mrs. Prisland, my aunt Jane and her husband Frank Gorenz went to Chicago to see President Roosevelt. Grandma said they were pretty far back in the line, but Mrs. Prisland grabbed her arm and they worked their way to the rope. Mrs. Prisland kept yelling: "You Hoo! Mr. President!" Eventually, he came over to shake their hands.

I also remember sitting at the kitchen table at my grandmother's home and listening to Mrs. Prisland and grandma tell the story of how they learned to make pies together. They wanted to be truly American women. Our tavern had a huge kitchen in the back room, which later became a kitchen for the meat market. There also were boarders in the tavern. This information is important to this story. Mrs. Prisland said that the first pies they baked (lemon meringue) were like rubber. On their second attempt, they came out like soup. Finally, the third attempt was the charm. They had 2 wonderful lemon meringue pies, which they put on a large board on the sofa to cool. One of the boarders came into the kitchen and tossed his jacket, covering the 2 pies and eventually sat on their masterpieces. They were both laughing so hard when they told this story.

Another wonderful memory for me was the 65th wedding anniversary of John and Marie Prisland. At that time I was the or-

Recently, Patrick Ziegenhorn, grandson of Johanna Fale Suscha sent some of his recollections of his grandmother to Betty Ann Kolesari. Johanna and Marie Prisland had a life long friendship, beginning when Marie visited the Suscha tavern to haul a bucket of beer back to the boarding house in exchange for reading a Slovenian newspaper. Johanna, born 1887, left Slovenia at age 15 and first lived with her aunt in LaSalle, Illinois where she learned English in her aunt's restaurant. She then came to Sheboygan, Wisconsin and married Anton Suscha. They operated a tavern, boarding house, and butcher shop. Johanna was instrumental in helping immigrants find work. Anton died at a young age so her second marriage was to his brother, Frank. Johanna worked at the Suscha meat market, tavern, and restaurant until 1978, she was loved by many in the community through the years, serving as baptismal sponsor for

MT

ganist at SS Cyril and Methodius Church, so I had the privilege of playing at this grand celebration. It was truly a celebration to remember. One of the neat things that occurred that day was the playing of the "Potrkavanje" on the bells of the steeple. Victor Virant and Anthony J. Fortuna remembered the rhythms that were tapped by Valentine Kalan many years ago when he tapped out the rhythms before midnight mass. I felt so proud to be a part of that celebration because Mrs. Prisland was almost like part of our family. She and my grandmother were best friends, so we saw the Prislands all the time.

Another thing that is also so vivid, is how those wonderful women used to share the things that they grew in their gardens. My grandmother would pack up a coaster wagon and we would start the trek to visit the ladies. We always stopped at the Prisland home on 11th and Dillingham. My grandma would bring, let's say: Lettuce and carrots to Mrs. Prisland. In turn, Mrs. Prisland would give her a bottle of home made wine and cucumbers. Or whatever was the vegetable or sweet of the week. This became a weekly ritual after gardens would start producing each summer. From there we would continue on to Mrs. Pozun, Mrs. Brezonik, etc. My sister and I would love to go long on these exchange trips because everyone of those ladies had a special treat for us when we arrived as well. There were poticas, strudels, candy, all those wonderful things that a kid would want. We would also get to go into Mrs. Prisland's home, which was really nice, because it always smelled so good inside.

There are just a few of my memories. I do know that I consider my childhood to be wonderful because we had all those these wonderful folks around us all of the time. Mrs. Prisland was always at my grandmother's home wearing a hat as well as a mink stole. I will never forget her.

SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION SCHOLARSHIP

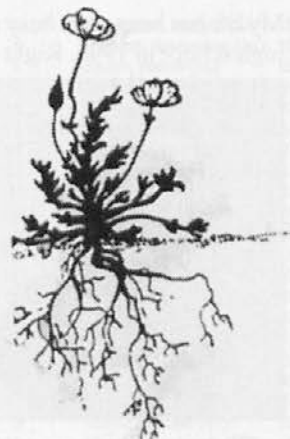
ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS and ADULT STUDENTS!

2005 SWU SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Visit <http://www.swua.org> for admission information - deadline is March 1, 2005

Imagine! - JUST IMAGINE! - Spring 2005, high school graduation day in Willard, Wisconsin or in Pueblo, Colorado - IMAGINE graduating seniors dancing on the streets as they do in towns all over Slovenia. The music is "Dei Fledermaus" and of course the dance is the waltz. Family members in Celje write that the children there are trying to break a world record for the length of time in which they dance to the quadrille "The Bat" and also sing the Slovenian National Anthem, wearing tee shirts emblazoned with "Matura" (school leaving).

Wouldn't that be an event you would like to see in American towns?



DONATIONS FOR DECEMBER 2004 and JANUARY 2005

\$5.00 Donation: Branch 23, Ely, MN (+Delores High)

\$10.00 Donations: Marge Church (+Robert Hall), Branch 42, Maple Hts., OH (+Robert Hall), Branch 47, Bedford Hts., OH (+Robert Hall), Josephine Smith (+Ann Winter), Pat and Bob Figurowski (+Bob Hall).

\$20.00 Donation: Sandra Farrell (+Edward P. Kurnick)

\$25.00 Donations: Branch 47, Bedford Hts., OH (Scholarship Fund), Branch 20, Joliet, IL (+Robert Hall)

\$50.00 Donations: Dorothy Winter and Alyce Germovsek (+Ann Winter), Branch 102, Willard, WI (+Josephine Artac)

\$100.00 Donation: Branch 2, Chicago, IL, Scholarship Fund.

We are justly proud of our SWUA Scholarship Program and with your help will continue to assist our young people in the development of their educational pursuits. We welcome all applicants with financial needs. Sincere thanks to all of you who support us. Donations are always gratefully accepted.

The Stanley M. and Jane A. Prijatelj and Theresa Prijatelj Phipps Scholarship Fund at Case Western Reserve University Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio is offering awards to needy students of Slovenian ancestry. Further information is available at <http://casemed.cwru.edu>.

Special thoughts are with SWUA President Kathleen Dorchak-Hall upon the loss of her dear husband, Bob Hall. May God grant her strength and peace.

For information on scholarships please contact me. I will be "out of the office" during the month of April due to a second knee replacement.

**Mary Turvey, Director, SWU Scholarship Program,
52 Oakridge Dr., Marquette, MI 49855
mturvey@aol.com**

**For more scholarship admission information click on
www.swua.org - or MTURVEY@aol.com.**

BIOGRAPHICAL UPDATES ON OUR PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

LORI A. THOMPSON, DVM 1986

Dear Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Program,

I wanted to drop you a quick note and thank you for your help early in my career. I was a scholarship winner in 1986. Here is a quick update on my life since that time.



Dr. Lori and her patient

I married a wonderful man, Jim, in 1989. I finished my undergraduate degree by working full-time during the day and taking night and weekend classes at a local college. It took a total of six years, but in the Spring of 1992 I received my BS in Industrial Psychology. I worked in Human Resources for a large insurance company for several years, until finally I went back to school full-time in the fall of 1994 to pursue my life long dream of becoming a veterinarian. In the Spring of 2000, I received my Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Purdue University. That was by far one of the happiest days of my life!

I worked in a general practice setting for a little over a year before deciding to pursue a three year residency to specialize in veterinary dermatology. I fell in love with the field of dermatology while working on my own dog, Crystal, who has severe dietary and inhaled allergies. I finished my residency in June, 2004 and planned to sit for my specialty boards in August.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Program for their kind help and support. You helped make my dreams a reality!

I've attached a picture of me in vet school with a very special patient, my dog Bubba Sr.

Thank you again for all your support!

HEATHER M. WALSH 1996

Dear Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Committee,

My life has been quite busy and exciting since graduating from high school in 1996. Right after graduation, I began going at



the University of Southern Colorado in my hometown of Pueblo, Colorado to pursue a degree in Psychology. (My scholarship from the Slovenian Women's Union helped to finance this endeavor!) I was a full-time student, worked at a department store, and taught dance classes at a local dance studio.

During my junior year of college, I had the opportunity to go to Orlando, FL for a semester to experience an internship with the Walt Disney World College Program. From January to May, 1998, I lived, worked, and learned at Disney World in Orlando. The College Program has apartments that house students from all over the world while they attend the Program. This in itself was quite a learning experience for me, as I had never lived away from home before, let alone with five roommates! My job was in retail at the Magic Kingdom in Fantasyland. It was an awesome experience to get up every day and work in "The Happiest Place on Earth." Meeting guests from around the world added even more to my learning experience. Finally, part of the College Program is attending classes in the philosophies, principles, and foundations of the Walt Disney Company. At the end of the semester, I had earned my "Ducktorate Degree" (named after Donald Duck, of course!) When it was time for me to leave Orlando to go back to Pueblo to finish college, one thing was certain in my mind, I would be back.

Although I had many other things going on in, I was able to take full course loads and graduate with my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and minor in Sociology in just three years instead of the standard four. By June, 1999, I had my degree in hand and was ready to begin my career. After thinking about pursuing a career in psychology, something kept telling me that my place was in Orlando. In July of 1999, I packed up my things, said goodbye to family and friends, and left Pueblo once again for Walt Disney World in Orlando. I moved into an apartment right behind the Magic Kingdom (I joke that I'm Cinderella's neighbor because her castle is in the middle of the Magic Kingdom!) My first two weeks in Orlando were spent hauling luggage in Bell Services at the Walt Disney World All-Star Movies Resort. I soon realized that this really wasn't the job I had dreamed of, although the company was. I went back to the Disney Casting Office and found out about another job opportunity as a Resort Representative with Disney Cruise Line. I was called a couple of days later for an interview and was hired on the spot. My role entailed meeting guests as they arrived at the resorts prior to taking their Disney Cruise vacation. I assisted them in getting all of their documents in order and checking in, answering any questions they had. Shortly after I began, Disney Cruise Line came

out with a second cruise ship, the Disney Wonder, so I was fortunate to be a part of her inaugural festivities. To top it all off, as part of the training for Disney Cruise Line, I was able to take a cruise on both of our ships!

After a promotion to full-time Administrative Coordinator for Disney Cruise Line Ground Services, and to Ground Services Base Coordinator, just over a year ago, I was promoted to my current role, Ground Services Base Specialist. I work in the main Disney Cruise Line office in Celebration, Florida and at the core of the Ground Services operation, which takes care of moving our Disney Cruise Line guests to their destinations and basically ensuring that the guests have an overall seamless, magical Disney Cruise Vacation! In the future, I hope to continue my career with Disney Cruise Line and one day get into management.

Because I was given the opportunity to go to college with the help of scholarships like the one I was awarded from the Slovenian Women's Union, many doors have opened for me. Thank you for your continued support.

ERIN HART 2001

Hello Everyone,

Wow! Time flies when you are having fun! It certainly has been a long time since I was a high school senior and received my Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship. I am now a junior at the University of Minnesota Duluth and I am loving every moment of it. I am in my third year in the B.F.A. Theatre program and I am debating on getting a double major in English. I am very active in my school. I am currently serving as the Student Representative for the Theatre Department for the second year in a row; last year I also served on the Technology Fees Committee. This year I am also serving as the Peer Advisor for the School of Fine Arts. And for the past six semesters I have made the Dean's list for academic achievement. Also, along with a few other students, I am starting a student organization called Theatre Elements to give students even more opportunities that they wouldn't usually have to act, direct, and design for the theater.

I am also acting a lot in college. I have become very close with Renegade Comedy Theatre, a local theatre in Duluth, and I have been in a few productions there. Last year I was my first Main Season show, The Philanthropist. This year I was cast in two shows - Five Women Wearing the Same Dress (for which I was chosen to travel to Denver, CO for the ACTF competition in January), and Twelve Angry Men which will be opening in February (I play the lead, juror 8).

I also keep in touch with my former high school. I really enjoy working with the high school students, and I think they enjoy working with me, too. I help out by assistant coaching and judging for the Esko High School Speech Team. And last year, for the first time, I directed their One-Act for the state One-Act Competition which was a huge success, and again I will be directing the Esko High School One-Act this year.

I am very grateful for the financial support that I have received in the past from the Slovenian Women's Union, and I can assure you I continue to put it to good use. Thank you so much for your support; it has meant so much to me.

ZARJA & Heritage Fund Donations From Our Members

This Invoice Donations Report is for January - February, 2005. It shows the wonderful loyalty of many members. We thank them for the free-will donations sent with dues for the year, 2005.

Donor	Zarja	Htge	Fidel, William M (71)	20	Lipic, Hilda (100)	10	Pekol, Justine (10)	10	Stragisher, Mary A (32)	5
Adamic, Frances (105)	10		Figurovski, Patricia (20)	5	Lockard, Jenny (42)	5	Pelcic, Dorothy (25)	5	Stupica, Josephine (14)	10
Adamic, Patricia (105)	10		Figurovski, Robert (20)	5	Lockard, Karen (42)	10	Petric, Geraldine (25)	5	Sturm, Helen (50)	10
Adkisson, Helen (34)	20	20	Flanders, Agnes (50)	10	Lostoski, Marjorie (42)	10	Petrovic, Hermina (3)	10	Tarizzo, Marilyn (20)	5
Aiuto, Josephine (13)	10		Ford, Linda (47)	5	Loughner, Mary A (30)	5	Petrovic, Jos. M (50)	10	Tavcar, Frances M (25)	10
Allen, Veronica (7)	10		Fraid, Elizabeth M (102)	30	Lucas, Mia Y (100)	10	Pierzga, Mary (7)	5	Telich, Florence (23)	20
Angel Olga (20)	1		Frangesch, Mary (12)	5	Lukancic-Valerugo H(20)	30	Pisoni, Viola (46)	10	Terry, Marsha (30)	30
Anonymous (25)	5		Frank, Mary (50)	10	Lunka, Ann (23)	10	Plautz, George J (102)	30	Tesovnik, Germaine A (1)	20
Anonymous (93)	30		Friesenhahn, Barbara (5)	30	Lustik, Josephine (20)	10	Plavan, Julie (25)	20	Tezak, Betty (20)	10
Anzo, Terry M (42)	10		Fritz, Arline M (43)	5	Lustik, Wally and Jo (20)	10	Plecnik, Linda (25)	5	Tiedmann, Marie (2)	10
Askew, Eleanor M (39)	10		Galleberg, Agnes (33)	20	Lustik, Walter (20)	10	Plecnik, Maria (25)	5	Todd-Fellows, Mary (2)	5
Attaway, Margaret (20)	5		Ganster, Diana (20)	20	Madronich, Bern. (13)	20	Plese, Eileen (20)	10	Tomsic, Ann (50)	5
Autio, Mary S (28)	5		Gasperic, Ann L (12)	20	Mahan, Dorothy (20)	5	Plut, Dolores (20)	10	Troha, Helen (50)	5
Azman, Alice (14)	10		Gerrencher, Theresa (20)	5	Majkrzak, S. Joanne (42)	10	Pohar, Jennie (24)	10	Troya, Sophie M (13)	10
Barnett, Stephanie (3)	5		Glowienka, Frances (12)	5	Mallory, Mary (2)	10	Polutnik, Stephanie (40)	5	Unik, Emily (50)	10
Bartlett, Denise & Robert (43)	20		Gospo, Clare (20)	5	Malone, Nancy C. (30)	10	Ponikvar, Joanne (54)	5	Urankar, Dorothy F (32)	10
Mem. of Angeline			Grabowski, Jos. (24)	10	Maloney, Mary (85)	20	Popich, Katherine A (30)	30	Urbanski, Lenore (2)	5
Delopst Johnstone	20		Gravelle, Mayda (5)	10	Marel, Eleanor (91)	5	Potter, Josephine (35)	20	Urbas, Helen (103)	10
Bartlett, Denise P.(43)	20		Greben, Josephine (50)	5	Marin, Patricia (25)		Prijatelj, Evelyn (23)	10	Urbas, Sophie (10)	10
Bartlett, Robert (43)	20		Gric, Genevieve (85)	5	*mem of Ted L. Marin	10	Prijatelj, Frances (14)	5	Vatovec, Rose (47)	10
Bartol, Gladys (1)	20		Gruenke, Agnes (1)	5	Marino, Barbara (95)	5	Prijic, Helen (43)	10	Vecchione, Joann (50)	5
Baskovic, Josephine (25)	10		Hagemeyer, Alyce Pat (30)	5	Marn, Helen (23)	30	Primc, Donna (10)	10	Vett, Louise (54)	5
Baum, Helen, M (30)	10		Hanks, Jacqueline J (32)	10	Marolt, Mary (10)	10	Prokup, Bekki/Barbi(24)	12	Vett, Louise (54)	10
Behrman, Helene (16)	5		Healy, Margaret (105)	10	Marquardt, Darlene (20)	10	Pucel, Mildred A (20)	10	Vidmar, Michael (20)	5
Benac, Helen (20)	5		Herbst, Jean (20)	20	Marquardt, Darrell (20)	10	Pyszka, Rita Mae (24)	10	Vidmar, Nicholas (20)	5
Bergant, Diane (14)	10		Hervol, Helen (71)	10	Marquardt, Lydia (20)	10	Rasbornik, Joy (12)	2	Vinyard, Elizabeth (20)	10
Blatnik, Molly (50)	5		Hlavaty, Mary Ann (25)	10	Martincich, Bernice (20)	20	Rechlitz, Joy (43)	5	Violet, Helen (14)	5
Blatnik, Mary C (50)	10		Hodnik, Anna L (35)	20	Martino, Mary A (43)	10	Reniker, Frances (45)	25	Vogel, Kathy (79)	10
Blatnik, Robert (50)	10		Horvat, Andrea (20)	10	Maslyk, Virginia B. (30)	5	Ritz, Frances M (30)	5	Volpe, Marian (105)	5
Blatnik, Rose Mar. (50)	10		Hrcic, Lisa (93)	10	Mateyko, Louise (57)	5	Rogers, Mary (3)	10	Voros, Mary (*)	10
Bledsoe, Henrietta (100)	5		Hrovat, Mary J (47)	10	Mavrich, Helen (71)	5	Roland, Virginia (103)	10	Voss, Matilda (16)	5
Bodisch, Annamarie (93)	20		Hull, Mara Cerar (30)	10	McFarland, Helen L (66)	10	Rooney, Marcella (34)	5	Voytko, Angeline (40)	10
Bogolin, Sophie (2)	5		Icenhour, Mary Lou (30)	5	Medved, Albina (66)	20	Ruggera, Frances (20)	50	Vranesic, Josephine (20)	20
Bokar, Margaret (50)	10		Illman, Paula (24)	20	Mehosky, Dorothy (42)		Rukavina, Joseph R (39)	10	Vrhovnik, Mary S (2)	5
Bolek, Ludmilla A. (47)	10		Ivancich, Virginia (23)	15	*Mem of Ann Brdek(54)	10	Rupar, Joan (1)	5	Walsh, Marie (20)	10
Bongiorni, Margaret (30)	5		Ivons, Jean (10)	10	* Harry/Jo. Ponikvar	10	Rupnik, Vida (50)	5	Wanthal, Mary (20)	10
Boyчук, Dolores M (2)	20		Jarkovich, Bernice (16)	10	*Mem of Eunice Komater		Rutkowski, B.(20)	5	Webb, Ida Barut (46)	5
Branch 20			Jelinek, Albert J (12)	20	** Barbara Bruch	10	Rys, Margaret H (47)	10	White, Frances (66)	10
*Mem. of Robert Hall	25		Jenkin, Emma (66)	5	** M/M T. Argubright (89)	10	Sadowski, Lillian		Winter, Dorothy Ann (50)	25
Branch 24			Johnson, Virginia (100)	10	Mem of Mary Zuga(54)	10	*mem Antonia Legan/		Wojdula, Elsie (2)	10
Zarja Birthday	100		Jonke, Anna (93)	10	Mem of Robert Hall(54)	10	Frances Tomsic/Julia Lipnos/		Wos, Charlotte (30)	5
Branch 47	25		Judnick, Marcia/Rob (20)	60	Menchak, Milka (43)	5	Jeanne Legar (42)	30	Yadlosky, Jane (23)	10
Branch 95			Judnick, Michele (20)	20	Metesh, Bernice (20)	5	Sainato, Frances (54)	5	Yapel, Agnes E (34)	10
Zarja Birthday	20		Kabara, Dorothy (20)	5	Meyers, Rose (20)	5	Sandvick, Catherine (38)	5	Yerman, Mary F (13)	10
Brann, Marceline (14)	25		Kajfez, Frances (50)	5	Mills, Marceline (25)	10	Satej, Carol (68)	5	Yovanovich, Francis (5)	10
Bratovich, Mary (79)	10		Kambich, Anthony (20)	80	Minello, Josephine (50)	5	Saviano, Connie (16)	5	Zabak, Agnes D (47)	10
Bregant, Mary (43)	5		Kaprelian, Maxine (1)	50	Misic, Josephine (50)	25	Savol, Mary Jo (20)	10	Zagger, Anna (55)	10
Brodnick, Molly (10)	5		Kastelic, Betty Ann (42)	10	Mitchell, Jeanette (79)	10	Scheidt, Marie (20)	10	Zaida, Angela M (20)	10
Brown, Deborah (30)	20		Keca, Mar. Mary(20)	10	Kish, Nancy (42)	20	Schulta, Shirley (43)	5	Zaitc, Ann E (3)	3
Brozina, Dorothy (10)	5		Kelley, Marcia L (26)	5	Kobow, Estelle (12)	3	Sebalj, Olga (20)	5	Zajec, Marilea (20)	5
Brunner, Gene (24)	5		Keltz, Melanie (20)	10	Kochevar, Robert (20)	20	Selak, Maria (55)	5	Zak, Ann Marie (25)	5
Brunner, Maryann (24)	5		Kiehna, Sonya (20)	10	Kociancic, Mary R. (47)	10	Serazin, Agnes (40)	10	Zakrajsek, Mary (86)	30
Bubel, Bernice (95)	5		Kikel, Frances (50)	5	Koncar, Dorothy (20)	10	Sever, Wanda K (47)	10	Zakrasek, Dor. M (3)	SCH 10
Buchanan, Jeanette (30)	10		Kirschner, Mary (50)	5	Konechnik, Dolores (5)	10	Shine, Elsie (54)	20	Zalar, Julia (50)	20
Burjes, Caterina (25)	10		Kish, Nancy (42)	20	Korst, Joyce A (20)	10	Shine, W. Virginia (54)	10	Zalakar, Marilyn (16)	5
Burkhardt, Eliz (20)	10		Kobow, Estelle (12)	3	Koschak, Mary (102)	5	Shubitz, Genevieve (33)	10	Zamlen, Molly Jane (39)	5
Burkland, Miriam (99)	25		Kochevar, Robert (20)	20	Kosi, Barbara (2)	50	Silko, Frances (2)	10	Zebot, Jean (103)	10
Buzan, Pauline (100)	10		Koestel, Michael J (103)	30	Kostello, Michael J (103)	30	Simenc, Dora (13)	5	Zeleznik, Rosalie A (47)	10
Cabot, Dorothy (47)	5		Kotnick, Martha (1)	10	Kotnick, Martha (1)	10	Simenz, Susan Marie (1)	10	Zgonc, Angeline A (40)	10
Cegljar, Bernice (35)	5		Kouchich, Jennie (43)	20	Kouchich, Jennie (43)	20	Sisto, Helen (2)	10	Zoman, Theresa (102)	20
Champa, Helen L (23)	10		Kovacic, Nika B (108)	10	Kovacic, Nika B (108)	10	Skebe, Matilda (100)	10	Zupancic, Ann (42)	10
Coffelt, Mary (43)	10		Kovacic-Bogovich, D.(25)	20	Kovacic-Bogovich, D.(25)	20	Skibbie, Mary Ann (16)	5	Zupancic, Dorothy (20)	5
Collard, Margaret (33)	10		Krall, Frances (10)	5	Krall, Frances (10)	5	Skul, Helen L (3)	20	Zupancic, Margaret (42)	10
Collins, Ilene (14)	30		Kramer, Catherine A (20)	10	Kramer, Catherine A (20)	10	Skul, Mary A (47)	10		
Cook, Agnes (32)	10		Krasovec, Bernice (3)	10	Krasovec, Bernice (3)	10	Slebir, Anne (1)	5		
Cukale, Margaret (20)	10		Krizman, Jean A (50)	5	Krizman, Jean A (50)	5	Smith, Angela (39)	5		
Dandurand, M. A. (18)	20		Kuhar, Alice (14)	10	Kuhar, Alice (14)	10	Smith, Jacquelyn (43)	10		
De Bernardi, Leone (23)	5		Kunst, Ann Agnes (32)	10	Kunst, Ann Agnes (32)	10	Smith, Marcia Jean (30)	20		
Debevc, Frances M (3)	5		Kurnick, Agnes (13)	10	Kurnick, Agnes (13)	10	Smorkol, Florence (24)	5		
Debevc, Pauline (25)	20		Labate, Pauline (38)	10	Labate, Pauline (38)	10	Smuk, Gloria (23)	10		
Demshar, Rosemary (100)			*Mem of Anne Schuster	10	*Mem of Anne Schuster	10	Sobocan, Joan M (99)	10		
*mem of Rose Baraga	20		Lammi, Patricia (23)	15	Lammi, Patricia (23)	15	Sovich, Josephine (50)			
DiBartolomeo, L. (20)	5		Lapornik, Justina (103)	20	Lapornik, Justina (103)	20	*Mem of Jos. Fajdrug			
Dickinson, Carol J. (50)	10		Laskowski, Paula U. (20)	10	Laskowski, Paula U. (20)	10	& Lil Goryance	20		
Dickson, Helen S (30)	80		Laurich, Anne L. (38)	10	Laurich, Anne L. (38)	10	Spelich, Del/Elmer (24)	20		
Dirker, Sophia (20)	10		Lawrence, Elsie (47)	5	Lawrence, Elsie (47)	5	Stelov, Marie (20)	30		
Djubenski, Mary (102)	10		Lea, Jo J (47)	10	Lea, Jo J (47)	10	Sterle, Mary (32)	10		
Doberssek, Stavia (12)	20		Leach, Agnes C (13)	10	Leach, Agnes C (13)	10	Sterle, Rose (38)	5		
Doles, Anne (50)	5		Lesza, Clara (2)	25	Lesza, Clara (2)	25	Stiglic, Alice (20)	10		
Dorchak, Olga A (47)	15		Lilek, James (20)	20	Lilek, James (20)	20	Stoltz, Josephine (42)	25		
Dragan, Frances (12)	5									
Dragavon, Justine (34)	5									
Drobnic, Genevieve (25)	5									
Dvornik, D. and S. (20)	60									
Dybul, Zenobia (43)	5									
Ebner, Alice, Tammy, (89)										
Courtney & Natalie	15									
Eckert, Jeanette (100)	15									
Edgington, George L (30)	5									
Ehnat, Mary Therese (16)	5									
Ellena, Winifred (33)	5									
Emanuel, Arminia (33)	20									
Engelhardt, Flo. (108)	5									
Engers, Carolyn M. (20)	10									
Fedran, Theresa C (12)	10									
Ficek, Jean (24)	20									

CHURCHES IN SLOVENIAN COMMUNITIES

Brief Historic Overview: St. Vitus Parish

St. Vitus Parish was established as the first American Slovenian Roman Catholic parish in 1893 in the state of Ohio and Diocese of Cleveland. The East 55th and St. Clair Avenue area was then considered as the "outskirts" of the city in this near northeast Ohio neighborhood with some streets not yet then paved. Horse drawn street carts were being converted to electric trolley carts. Farm sites were being converted to housing developments. The area eventually became a stopping point for early arriving Slovenian immigrants.

Josef Turk arrived in Cleveland, Ohio in 1881. Local historians generally consider him as the first permanent Slovenian immigrant in Cleveland. By 1890 the Diocese of Cleveland realized that the Slovenians, like other arriving immigrants from many countries, needed clergy and religious orders to help facilitate the transition from Europe to America.

Father Vitus Hribar was ordained in 1893 and was immediately appointed as the pastor. By 1894 land was purchased on the corner of Norwood Rd. and then Glass Ave. (renamed as Lausche Avenue in 2001); by November 1894 a small wooden church and rectory were constructed.

Fr. Bartholomew Ponikvar was appointed as the second pastor in 1907. Under his leadership a modern three-story brick and steel structure school was built to handle the more than 1,000 then students attending St. Vitus School. He undertook the daunting task to construct a new brick

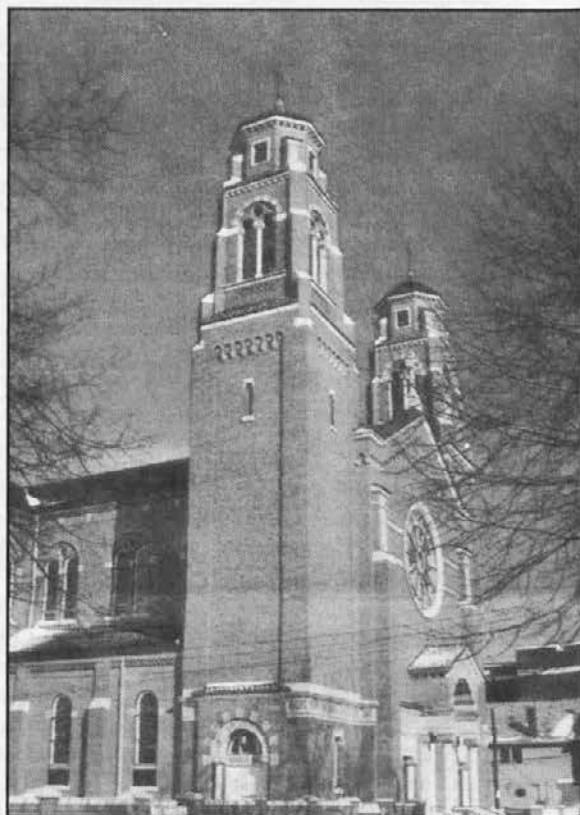
church building in a Byzantine-Lombard style. The church was completed in 1932.

In 1952 Msgr. Louis B. Baznik was appointed as the third pastor. During his tenure a new parish auditorium-gymnasium (1957) and convent (1963) were constructed. Since then three more pastors have served: Father Rudolph Praznik, Father A. Edward Pevec (later installed as auxiliary bishop), and Father Joseph P. Boznar. The interior of St. Vitus Church was remodeled in 1993 in conjunction with its Centennial Year observation. New religious murals were painted on church ceilings, as well as a new St. John The Baptist setting, and in the Lourdes Shrine. Eight portraits on the gallery sides of the church represent the Catholic Church from Slovenia and America, as well as a rendition of the Holy Family and martyrdom of the parish patron, St. Vitus.



Marian Shrine Marija Pomagaj z Brezje

A Marian Shrine is devoted to the patroness of all Slovenian people worldwide and across generational



St. Vitus Slovenian Catholic Church
6019 Lausche Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

lines. That is, Marija Pomagaj (Mary, Help of Christians). The Shrine was officially dedicated on May 24 1994 by Aux. Bishop A. Edward Pevec with Fathers Joze Cvelbar and Joseph Yelenc performing the Slovenian and English homilies. Mike Radenkovic provided the gold frame for the Marija Pomagaj icon.

The parish completed building "St. Vitus Village," an independent living facility for seniors, in 2001. This is a new three-story, 33 suites facility built in a European Renaissance design style.

(Excerpted from the Diamond & Centennial Books, St. Vitus Parish, S. Kuhar)

Click on our website, WWW.SWUA.ORG for more about St. Vitus Church...



Saint Vitus Village, an independent living facility located near the church

Years ago this Ajmoht was actually called Slovenian Wedding Soup because it was always served as the first course at every wedding or banquet. At that time, before frozen foods became popular, drained, canned peas were always added.

AJMOHT (Veal Ragout Soup) (Teleèja ragu juha)

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 lbs. boneless veal cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/2 lb. veal shanks or necks
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 1/2 quarts water
- 1/2 cup diced potatoes
- 1/2 cup diced carrots
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- Few sprigs parsley
- 1/2 cup canned peas, drained
- 1/2 cup small square noodles, optional
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Vinegar to taste

In a deep skillet or soup pot, melt 2 tablespoons butter, add chopped onions and saute till translucent. Add meat and bones, salt and pepper. Brown meat until evenly browned. Add water, all vegetables and parsley. Cover and simmer slowly for 1 1/2 hours.

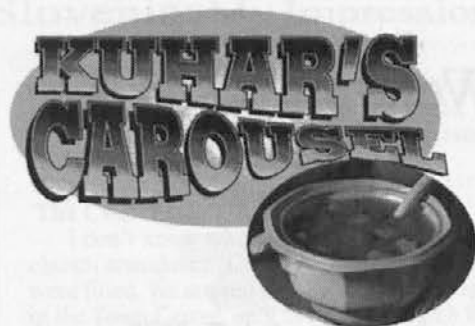
Just before end of cooking time, add drained peas. Now make a brown roux (ajmpren): In a saucepan, melt 2 tablespoons butter, add flour and stir until lightly browned. Mix into soup. Add vinegar to taste and cook another 5 minutes.

***Add noodles ("bleke") during last half hour.

***If you like, you may add dumplings about 20 minutes before soup is done.

Several years ago I went to the Franciscan Sisters' convent in Vodice near Ljubljana where I met the renowned Sister Marija Vendelina, who held cooking classes and who had written several cookbooks. From her book "Kuharica" I translated this classic recipe called, Ljubljanski zrezek.

See the back cover for
our SWU cookbook
MORE POTS & PANS



VEAL CUTLET LJUBLJANA STYLE (Ljubljanski Zrezki)

- 6 veal cutlets
- Salt to taste
- 6 Slices cheese, (Swiss or Mozzarella or your favorite)
- Flour
- Bread crumbs for breading
- Shortening for frying
- 3/4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon minced parsley (garnish)
- Lemon wedges

Salt veal according to taste. Pound

cutlets with a wooden meat mallet or edge of a plate to about 1/8-inch thickness. Place one slice cheese on top of each cutlet to cover half of the cutlet. Fold each cutlet in half to cover the cheese; secure with a toothpick. Roll each cutlet in flour, beaten eggs and then bread crumbs.

Deep fry cutlets in hot shortening. Do not crowd in skillet. Fry a few at a time for about 15 to 20 minutes, turning once and shaking pan occasionally so cutlets don't stick. As cutlets are browned and done, place in a baking dish, drizzle with melted butter, cover and bake in preheated oven for 3 minutes.

Garnish with parsley and serve with lemon wedges.

I received the following recipe from the late Joseph Juhant who was a chef in Ljubljana before coming to America and who worked at several bakeries. He gave this recipe from memory to my mother, and from there we translated as best as we could.

•EMLJE (Slovenian Hard Rolls)

No Continental breakfast in Slovenia is complete without these hard rolls baked fresh daily and eaten with country butter, marmalade or meat spread (pate).

- 1 small cake fresh yeast
- 1/4 cup lukewarm water
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 3/4 cups Sapphire flour
- Oil

Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup lukewarm water; set aside. In another bowl, pour 1 cup boiling water over butter, sugar and salt; stir until dissolved. Cool to lukewarm; then add yeast mixture. Sift flour into a large bowl, then make a well in center of flour. Pour in yeast-butter mixture and stir until it forms a nice soft dough. (If necessary, add a small amount of flour.) On a bread board, knead the

dough until nice, smooth, elastic dough forms so that it doesn't stick to the board, about 10 minutes. Place dough in bowl, cover and let rise in warm place until double in bulk, about 45 minutes.

After rising, place dough onto bread board. Pinch off about 10 to 12 pieces about the size of an egg. Shape so they are smooth and uniform. Leave these right on the bread board. Cover and let rise again in draft-free place for about 30-50 minutes.

Meanwhile, find a clean, thick, round length of wood about the size and shape of a broom handle. It needn't be much larger than 6 inches.

Gently brush the top of the rolls with oil. With the wooden stick, press down lengthwise in center of each roll. Press deep enough so that the dough below the wood will be almost transparent.

Place each roll gently on a baking sheet greased and sprinkled with corn meal. Let the rolls rest on the baking sheet once again, for about 30-45 minutes. Brush tops with mixture of beaten egg white mixed and small amount of water. Bake in 400o oven about 20 minutes until light golden color.



Welcome To Slovenia!

Full 16 Days - June 18 to July 2, 2005

Going to Slovenia for the first time, or after many times, it's a very special place to visit! The scenery is spectacular, the sights are awesome, the people are delightful and the weather will be glorious.

How can we say this? Because that's the way it always is when the Slovenian Women's Union tours Slovenia!

Features include discounted round-trip airfare from all U.S. cities to Ljubljana, land travel on super luxury motorcoaches, four star hotels, at least two meals a day!

A visit to Italy, namely to St. Anthony's Shrine in Padua and a day in Venice are an extra added feature included in this trip!

Prices for double occupancy, per person, \$3,599 USD. Price is based on exchange rate of USD and EURO currency. \$75 single supplement. \$300 deposit required when making your reservation. Remit directly to:

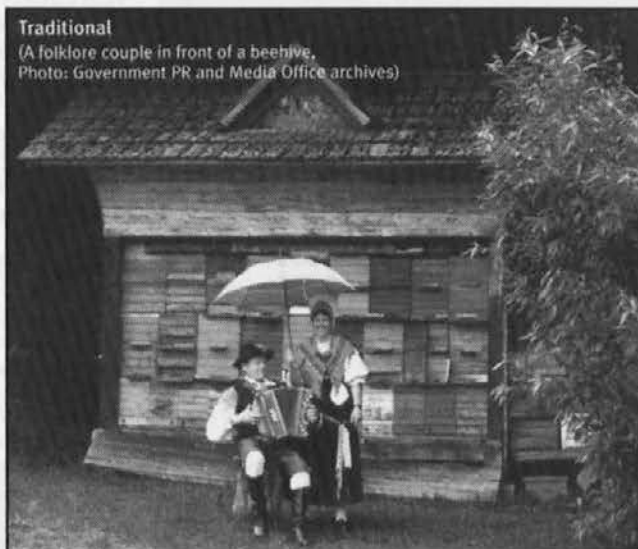
KOLLANDER WORLD TRAVEL
971 East 185th St., Cleveland, OH 44119



Images of Slovenia



Lake Bohinj
(photo: S. Klemenč)



Traditional
(A folklore couple in front of a beehive,
Photo: Government PR and Media Office archives)



Historical
(Ljubljana, Photo: Government PR
and Media Office archives)

Email: KWTRAVEL@KOLLANDER-TRAVEL.COM
Tele.: (800) 800-5981 or (216) 692-1000

For more details on our trip to Slovenia, email them at
KWTRAVEL@KOLLANDER-TRAVEL.COM
or visit their website at www.kollander-travel.com

Bits and Pieces From Slovenia: My Impressions

The People

In the last issue of *Zarja* I wrote of the women's conference in Ljubljana. From November 8-26, 2004 my husband and I lived in an apartment in Ljubljana and used the city bus for transportation. Other than renting a car for 4 days to travel around Slovenia the bus was our only transportation.

Using the city bus service allowed us to live as the locals! We had little difficulty getting information/directions, just ask a school age or young adult. Older adults appeared quiet but always polite. Those who knew English readily engaged in conversation. What did most adults want to know? "Who did you vote for, did you vote for Bush?"

Slovenians love the outdoors. Despite the November weather the outdoor cafes were open! Covered patios and propane heaters made lovely dining areas! They can sit for hours over a cup of coffee, tea or wine.

The Food

Salad Bars: I saw Turnip served at every salad bar or in every dinner salad. Turnips were shredded, and served in a bowl as a condiment. They appeared to have a slight vinegar taste. Included on the salad bar were cauliflower and broccoli that were blanched and served cold. Head cheese, cubed and soured with vinegar and oil, so good. Always on the salad bar and yes, on my plate. A dinner salad had a combination of red cabbage, lettuce, kidney beans, tomato and a dollop of turnips with your choice of dressings. Never saw onions anywhere! Once I got back home I had to try turnips! Using a food processor I shredded the peeled turnip, added a bit of wine vinegar, and salt. I served the turnips as they did in Slovenia, either in a salad, or as a condiment.

And then the bread, crusty, with that yeasty odor. Butter was never served at the table in Slovenia, Czech Republic, or Hungary. Only in one restaurant in Slovakia did we get butter.

I visited a preschool during after-school hours, and found the children sitting at their wee tables eating an after-school snack, apples and a piece of bread! And yes, without butter. Reminds me of my childhood. When children said they were hungry the answer was, "Eat bread".

And coffee is meant to be strong, not hot! Tea drinkers appear to outnumber coffee drinkers.

Our visit coincided with St. Martin's Day, Nov. 11th, when new wine is blessed and the old wine must be "used up" to give room! We were served new wine at Lectar's Gostilna near Lake Bled! A wonderful place to eat. The most popular dish ordered was blood sausage, saurkraut and dumplings with wine. But, Gostilna Sokol in old town Ljubljana was my favorite; the mushroom soup served in a bread bowl was out of this world. I ordered mushroom soup throughout my stay, and nothing compared. Of course it was the first thing I tried when arriving home, and I think I have the recipe down pat! And then there was polenta served on a bread board with mushroom gravy poured over, and a large serving spoon for those who couldn't resist. I haven't had the time to pursue this dish, but it is my New Year's resolution! BTW, you guessed it, my last meal in Slovenia was mushroom soup at Gostilna Sokol.

I have come to the conclusion that Americans eat, Slovenians dine. Wait persons never rush your dining, the tab is not delivered until you beckon for it. Our neighborhood eatery was Kaval's, and when arriving were told the time of the next reservation. In most instances we were allowed 1-1/2 hours for dining. And now on to other things beside food!

The equivalent of our dollar stores are wonderful! I found a wash mitt which appears to be a small towel sewn up into a mitt! I am bringing it to the museum soon for all to see! I had brought 6 washcloths to Europe on the advice of many!

Also found beautiful Christmas cards and many by my favorite, Maksim Gaspari. These will go into an album. St. Nicholas

gift bags were wonderful. They carried a large selection of Slovenian wine, and yes we bought some, and yes, we christened the floor in the next store. You guessed it, the bag broke. Back we went for another bottle.

The Churches:

I don't know where I got the impression/information about church attendance. Contrary to what I had heard, the churches were filled. We arrived for 11 a.m. mass at the Franciscan church in the Town Center, only to find the church filled, people standing around the church like on Easter Sunday, the one day all Catholics seem to go to church. We thought we were late. No, the 10 a.m. mass was still going on. When it ended those in the pews filed out, and those standing around the church filled the pews, all very quietly, no confusion. Adults of all ages, teens, families pushing strollers into the church, parking along side the pews.

People take buses and they walk. Parking is scarce and very expensive in the city. One cannot sit out in the car and wait for someone; one goes in, out of the cold. It works over there!

We visited the local church in Dobropolje with relatives. As in most churches, the cemetery lay outside the church doors! The awesome church was filled with fresh flowers, and the cemetery was a flower garden in spite of the November weather. There were fresh flower arrangements throughout the grounds. Family is truly the legacy Slovenians hold onto. And the names were so familiar to those I grew up with in Ely, Minn.

The Store Fronts:

I came to realize that our American stores have lost the storefront image of long ago. We shop in malls! Walking around the Town Center in Ljubljana, I walked so slowly, admiring the window displays. So creative, color coordinated, with fashions unlike displays I have ever seen. And then the people, young and old, all dressed in classy styles, I would call it "dressed to the nines, stylish, with few fads." And looking up one was almost sure to see the Ljubljana Castle, keeping guard over the city.

The Mercator Stores:

This is the Slovenian owned grocery. We were fortunate to have a store about 1 block from our apartment. All drinks are taxed at 21%, beer, wine, pop etc. Non-food items are taxed at 8+%. The shelf price includes the tax, and the break down of price appears on your sales slip. Such interesting items, such as tomato concentrate in a tube, just like toothpaste. A soup recipe might call for 1 tbsp tomato concentrate. BTW, did you know they still make Lux Soap? It is green and scented, the bathroom takes on the scent. No need for any other odor killer in your bathroom! I could have filled a suitcase full of foods...maybe next time.

Oh, the bakery section was spectacular, with potica and strudel lined at the top of the counter. Freshly baked bread is delivered twice a day. And all clerks in Mercator sit at the cash register!

At the Mall - Maribor:

We visited a kitchen, bath center. How interesting to experience European design and styles. Then into a large hardware store, similar to Lowe's or Home Depot without lumber? Fascinating. Such a wide array of hardware for cabinets, doors. Absolutely beautiful designs. Yes, we brought some home for that Slovenian ambience.

And then a wooden rack with ceramic drawers with flour, sugar, salt, paprika, cumin written in Slovenian. I would call it the equivalent of large canister set. It is now on my kitchen counter with the More Pots and Pans cook book. Imagine the Slovenian ambience in my home?

Was surprised to learn that my relatives at Sveti Gregor, south of Ljubljana, do not make blood sausage at home. BUT, the

smoked sausage was to die for! I was fortunate enough to step onto the ground that was the homestead of the Perovsek family in Sveti Gregor. In a village of 15 houses it didn't take long for everyone to know that relatives from America were visiting. And no one knew we were coming! I found the village, knocked on the door, and said, "I am from America, and the grand daughter of Frank Perovsek."

The cell phones went into action, and soon we had people gathering. Someone recommended calling the local priest, and in a few minutes we were scanning the old church records. Such an emotional time to see my ancestors listed in these large old volumes. The Church of Sv. Gregor was built in 1837. And then my eye spotted the holy water container. My aunt, Julie Zgonc in Ely, Mn had just received a bottle of holy water from her father's church, where he was baptized, and confirmed!

They say Slovenians love hiking. Well, I can understand, because walking isn't just a past time, it is a way of life. Husband and wife walking to the local Mercator grocery to purchase their food, bringing their own cloth shopping bags to carry home their goods. Buses filled with people. Our only transportation was the bus, otherwise, we walked everywhere! BTW, I saw VERY FEW using their cell phones in buses. That was a pleasure as I find it rude and obnoxious to be hearing everyone's conversations in public! I call it noise pollution. (I had to add that!) But once out in the street it appears that entire population of Europe owns a cell phone. Ouch!

The Market:

Old town Ljubljana is unbelievable. Wares of every sort and open markets are open every day despite the chilly weather. Fresh fruits and vegetables and clerks weighing out baggies of

sauerkraut. Seeing your kids walking down the street with a baggie of sauerkraut, eating out of the bag. Little kids in strollers being fed sauerkraut by their parents! BTW, it appears grandparents have a big input in the lives of their grandchildren, one sees many pushing the little ones in prams and strollers. Did you know that the birth rate in Slovenia is 8.9 births/1,000 population growth and a death rate of 10.16 deaths/1,000 population. Thus, a population growth rate for Slovenia of -0.01%. with only a population of about 2,000,000 it looks like Slovenia is a victim of change.

And then, the hair styles!

Mahogany is in, that red mahogany finish one remembers on old furniture? The most popular style is coloring the top layer of hair a red mahogany color, so as one moves it mingles with the natural hair color. Very lovely, and a color for all age levels but it doesn't go well with blonds.

Via train, I found the scenic beauty from Ljubljana to Vienna via Maribor to be the most beautiful in Europe. As one moved through the mountain passes and gazed up into the foothills with farmhouses dotting the landscape, one wondered how these homes were even accessed. The vineyards, the hayracks, and the ever visible steeples of area churches were about 1-2 miles apart.

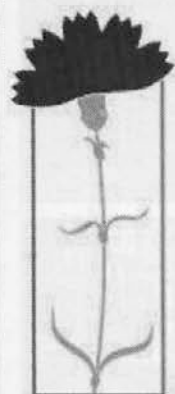
The sylvan green of the pastureland, smoke curling from the chimneys, and then the ever-present churchyards, with funeral processions.

And then, the snow capped mountains and jagged peaks as the train zigzagged through the mountains.

If you are ever in Slovenia, do not pass up this wonderful journey.

And so, to je to! (This is it!)

Mary Lou



Home From Sloveniasm

HANDCRAFTS, GIFTS, AND HERITAGE

Spring's holidays will soon be here! Remember those you love with a unique gift from Home From Slovenia—your source for handcrafted gifts and home accessories imported from Slovenia. Choose our handmade, hand painted salt and pepper birds, a lovely bobbin-lace heart, a hand-blown bud vase for spring's first flowers, or a hand shaped potica pan for that special Easter dessert or Mother's Day gift.

Save \$5.00 on your next order when you provide the special Zarja Contact Code Number 401.

Shop www.HomeFromSlovenia.com
or write Home From Slovenia, P.O. Box 193,
Hawleyville, CT 06440-0193. Phone orders to:
203-775-0853 • Fax: 203-775-6413 Catalog available.

Activities of our Branches



Reports due first of month
preceding publication

Members, Attention!

Annual Dues Statements were sent out to all members in January. If you have not received the notice for payment of your Annual Dues, please notify the National Secretary at once:

Bonnie Prokup
3119 Carrie St.,
Peru, IL 61348
E-mail: WPROKUP@AOL.COM

Welcome New Members

1 Hess, Dolores
100 Ambrozich, Frances
100 Black, Rosemarie A
100 Lucas, Mia Y
100 Nagy, Martha M
103 Kukenberger, Cynthia White
14 Kosem, Mira
2 Vokurka, Mary Ann
20 Churnovic, Sylvia
20 Gende, M
20 Masters, Sandra
20 Radek, Margaret Mary
23 Labernik, Joseph E
26 Gardill, Mary Jo
26 Pierzga, Mary C
3 Gatti, Cheryl G
30 Terry, Marsha
33 Hudson, Hannah M
33 Hudson, Nathan D
39 Sherek, Diane
43 Lekas, Sarah A
5 Jones, Connie
5 Trauner, Ernestine
50 Hrvatin, Philip J
6 Winland, Dylan Gage
89 Ambrose, Doris
89 Walter, Marjorie
93 Andrejasic, Tanja
Burns, Frances
93 Cashman, Julie
99 Block, Barbara J
99 Bogolin, Frances
99 Bulaga, Mildred M
99 Germaine, Anne
99 Maxwell, Frances Ann
Kuznik, Joseph J

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1926

Meetings: 3rd Sunday, 1 p.m.
St. Stephen lower hall

We are sorry to hear of the auto-accident that took the life of Bob Hall, husband of our Nat'l President Kathleen Dorchak-Hall. Our condolences to Kathy and the Hall family. Remember him in your prayers. Because of the cold weather, snow and so many of our members sick, we had to cancel our January meeting. We had a Valentine get together and at our March meeting, again we will celebrate St. Joseph and St. Patrick Days with a lunch and a few surprises.

Wasn't that fun to see the Donald Trump and his lovely Slovenian model Melania Knauss tie the knot. Maybe we can get her to be a member of S.W.U.....

Congratulations to Junior Member, Anthony Podder, who took 1st place in the Thanksgiving Hockey Tournament and also at the Christmas Hockey Tournament he received a medal and a trophy. He scored a hat trick with 3 goals in one game. Anthony also received a patch for his jersey.

To all our members who had to fight the flu virus this winter, hope you all are well and will be able to be at our next meeting.. Bernadine Storcz, we miss you. Just do what your doctor says keep smiling. Marie Bunetta broke her foot playing basketball. Stella Longosz, Sadie Defalco, Jennie Worth and Julane Svoboda were in the hospital. Please remember them in your prayers.

For everyone who know Marie Rom, she is residing at an assisted living facility. Please try to send her a card: Marie Rom - Brighton Gardens - 600 Dunham Road #150- St. Charles, IL 60174(630/513-9857).

Barbara Latranica's son, Glenn is now training at Fort Benning, Ga. To

be a Paratrooper-Army Ranger- He is the nephew of Elsie, Mary and Chris Reich. Will keep you updated. Good Luck to Glenn.

Our friend, Fifi Fayfar of Cerwood Inn who passed away in February, was one of our great supporters

We lost the following members and friends: Dolores Fialkowski (11/29/04) Condolences to her husband John, daughter and grandchildren.

Joyce Bronder lost her husband Joseph (1/8/05), Condolences to Joyce, his daughter and grandson

Sympathy to the Simec family on the death of George Simec, to his aunt Mary Maloy and cousin Mary Ann Oblak. Our condolences to the family of Frances Jasbec (12/26/04) she was 99 years old and a member for 63 yrs. We had planned to have a 100 year celebration for her but the Lord had other plans, She was a very talented lady, she loved being Slovenian and liked everything Slovenian. At all our doings you could always find an afghan or something she had knitted, or bakeries and potica. Condolences to her daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her grandson Jerry Marmozewicz spoke of his grandmother at the wake.

Jennie Kovacic had a birthday she will never forget. Her daughter, Beth invited her for lunch, but Jennie did not know others were also invited: cousins, niece, friends and from Calif. her sister, Joanie, husband Jerry and nephew Steven and his wife Dorothy. When Jennie arrived at the Flame and saw everyone sitting there, it was a big surprise. "Happy Birthday Jennie"

Please remember -in your prayers, for the safety of our Troops, and that they will come home soon.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Marcel Proust

Love, DAISY

THINK HERITAGE!

TRIBUTES

In memory of my mother



Helen Pizar

June 11, 1912 - November 1, 2004

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you of the passing of my dear, sweet mother, Helen Pizar. She died in her sleep on the morning of November 1, All Saints Day.

She was a long time member of the Slovenian Women's Union Branch No. 12 and greatly enjoyed the friendship of the members.

My mother was born in Milwaukee, the eldest of four children, of Ellis Island immigrant parents. As a young girl she worked hard in her father's tavern in Milwaukee, The Horeshoe Bar. In 1933 she married my dad, Joseph Pizar, superintendent of Medusa Cement Plant. In order to help out financially she went to work as a clerk in the fabrics department at Schuster's Department Store, where she worked for over 20 years. My sister, Joellen was born in 1935, and mother was involved with raising her, active in Girl Scouts, and sewing beautiful clothes. Joellen is married to Joseph Mikuliza, and lives in Clearwater, Florida. They were the first to bless mother and dad with grandchildren, Mary Smith, and Ann and Michael Mikuliza. Mary and her husband, Grant have given mother two beautiful great granddaughters, Marilyn and Melissa.

Over the years mother held many different offices in the lodges. She was secretary/treasurer for Sloga for over 25 years. She was very instrumental in organizing annual picnics, children's Christmas parties, and many other functions. If they needed something done they knew to ask mother.

I came along 12 years after my sister. I live in Pearl River, Louisiana with my husband, Mike and our son, Michael, mother's last grandchild.

After 38 happy years of marriage, my father passed away in 1971. Mother resumed working full-time. This time as a clerk at the Boston Store at Brookfield Square, where she worked until she retired in 1991. She couldn't be idle too long though; she quickly became bored with staying at home,

and decided to volunteer her time and talents in the Gift Gallery at West Allis Memorial Hospital, working there until 2001. She really enjoyed this job, especially visiting with so many people. Mother was so talented in so many ways. She was skilled in knitting and crocheting beautiful doilies, and afghans.

Mother was the precinct chairman in West Allis for over 50 years. She enjoyed this responsibility and never missed an election.

Even though she was so active, she managed to keep her home spotless, and her garden weeded with beautiful lilies and dahlias growing each year. My mother was a strong woman. She was a proud Slovenian woman, passing down her heritage to her children. Both my sister and I can make a delicious potica.

Mother was an active independent woman until the day she fell in her kitchen last May only 2 weeks before her 92nd birthday. She endured partial hip replacement surgery, but never really recovered the way she wanted to. So, true to her spirit and Slovenian constitution she chose her own day to be with Daddy and the Lord, November 1, 2004. We love and miss her, and always will.

*The love of a wonderful mother
is something that always lives on.
Filling the days with sweet memories
long after her presence is gone.
You still feel the warmth of her caring....
her wisdom will never depart,
for the love of a wonderful mother
forever lives on... in your heart.*

Respectfully submitted by her daughter,
Elizabeth Pizar Arthur

AZMAN & SONS MARKET

6501 ST. CLAIR AVE. - CLEVELAND, OH 44103
216-361-0347 EMAIL: frankazman@msn.com
WE SHIP ANYWHERE
SMOKE SAUSAGE, •ELODEC, POTICA

TEZAK FUNERAL HOME

"First in Service Since 1908"
Licenced Producer: Richard K. Tezak (815) 722 0524
American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ)
1211 Plainfield Road
Joliet, IL 60435



NO. 5, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Founding Date: JANUARY 15, 1927

Meetings: 1st Thurs.

SND, from May to Dec.

Greetings to Branch 5 members! When is winter going to go away? No wonder so many animals hibernate, sleeping through the cold sounds good to me! I enjoy my drive to my night job, though, because it takes me around Eagle Creek Park and I always see deer and small animals out for their nightly dinner. After working all day at a school with 450 students and teachers, this is a very nice down-time for me. It is amazing how 20 minutes alone in a car can be the most peaceful part of my day. It also seems to be the time when I say a few prayers for all of you. With the season of Lent upon us, let's all try to do something for our members, especially someone who perhaps we don't know very well, or can no longer attend our meetings or church. Pick out someone to be a prayer partner. Send them a little note, or prayer card, or just do something for them they may enjoy. Instead of "giving up" something for Lent, give the gift of yourself to someone.

At our May meeting, we will hold our "postponed" elections, in the hope that our long-time recording secretary, Dolores Konechnik will be able to attend and be re-elected again! We will also have a special "President's Mystery Raffle" to benefit the Holy Trinity Centennial celebration. All monies donated for the raffle tix will go to Holy Trinity, and as usual, the prizes are a mystery (because the President hasn't thought of any yet!) So look for those raffle tix in the mail, and any prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Thursday May 12 is the date of our meeting. Watch for complete time and place info in your mail.

Please keep all our members in your prayers. It seems like we have had a number of you in and out of the hospital this past year. Hopefully 2005 will be good to all of us. It will be a busy one for our family, with Stephen making his First Communion on April 17th, and Betsy's wedding in September. We hope to have family from Slovenia visit us again this summer. I am sure this year will fly by quickly.

Thinking of all of you,

PREZ, PHYLLIS

NO. 10, CLEVELAND, OH

Founding Date: MARCH 8, 1927

Meetings: 4th Wed. 1 p.m.

SND Holmes Avenue

We hope members will find it easier to attend meetings when the weather changes and it's spring!

The same officers are doing a great job, as follows: Steffie Segulin, pres., Theresa Dagg, Secretary, (belated birthday wishes to her), Mary Podlogar, vice pres., Helen Shuy, auditor, Lucy Romick, Sgt. at arms. Ann Stefanic will report the news as soon as she gets to feeling better. Get well, Ann.

We extend deepest sympathy to the Collins family on the sudden death of Jon Collins, Tina's husband. It was awful news for all of us. The very next day, Stefanie Dagg's husband, William passed away. To the Dagg family, our deepest sympathy.

We extend condolences also to Kathy Dorchak-Hall and family on the loss of her husband. I guess we all know how she feels.

We had a short meeting and members decided to honor all members in May. So, Mother of the Year party will be May 25th at the Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15801 Holmes Ave., Cleveland. Please call S. Segulin at (216) 451-1876. Call me also if you have a question on your dues payments.

In closing, prayers are extended for all ailing members and a Happy and Blessed Easter.

STEPHANIE SEGULIN, Pres.

NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927

Meetings: 3rd Thursday

St. Peter's Church Hall

except July & August

Our Christmas party was Dec. 8th and thanks to Connie Lewandowski for making the arrangements. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal with all the trimmings and the beautiful prizes. I was lucky to receive one. Al Jelinek had his mother at the party and we were happy to see our long-time member, Mary Bucovnik who is 91 years young! Her daughter brought her. Thanks also to Fran Remshak for her help.

We had no meeting in January but we did meet in February. We send wishes to Ann Jelinek who lives at The Village at Manor Park, 8615 W. Beloit Rd., Mil-

waukee, WI 53227. She used to drive me to the meetings or shopping and was a sharp dresser - I thought she never wore the same outfit twice! But now, Christine needs good thoughts that she will feel better soon. And, for Ann, a member we can't forget, our prayers and best wishes.

STAVIA DOBERSEK

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Founding Date: OCTOBER 30, 1927

Meetings: 1st Thursdays

Slovenian Hall

Contact Person:

Beverly Jackson - (650) 631-1098

My apologies for not writing last month, the holidays seem to come so fast I just could not get my act together! Sorry.

Amazingly, we are now in 2005 and it seems we were all waiting for the new millennium just a short time ago. I received so many beautiful cards and notes from many of you wonderful ladies across the country that I have been privileged to know from attending our national conventions. Each time I met new friends and hugged old friends. This is truly what SWU is all about!

Birthday wishes in March to Eleanor Hnilo, Dora Simec, Josie Plut, Gail Hilton, Sandra Farrell, Dorothy Flynn, and in April, wishes to Kathleen Trombetta and Ina Henderson.

A big thank you to Sandra Farrell who brought the best zucchini casserole to our December meeting. Everyone raved and she recently sent me copies of the recipe for everyone. All the ladies thank you, Sandra.

I am very saddened to report the passing of William Kinnear whose wife of 62 years is our member. They have two sons, Raymond and Bill, Jr. I remember this family very well as they lived a few doors away from my dad's grocery store when I was growing up. He leaves some wonderful memories, Evelyn, our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Our dear president, Josephine Aiuto recently had heart surgery. We are sorry to report that Jo passed away suddenly as this Zarja went to press. Our sympathy.

On a happy note, congratulations on the December marriage of Kevin and Alina Spencer. Kevin found his love in the country of Moldava and it was truly



On this photo sent in February President of Br. 13, Josephine Aiuto, right, celebrated her 85th birthday and Treasurer Michele Twers and husband, Denny, celebrated their 25th anniversary. The members mourn Jo's passing.

a long distance romance. The whole Spencer family, (mother-in-law is our secretary, Moreen) loves Alina and are delighted to welcome her. Aunty Doreen Sustarich shares in the good wishes.

We voted at the December meeting to retain all our present officers. Thank you again, ladies: Pres. Josephine Aiuto, V. Pres. Louise Petrusich, Sec'y. Moreen Spencer, Treas. Michele Twers, Rec. Sec. Beverly Jackson and Auditors, Virginia Sustarich, Ann Sustarich and Doreen Sustarich.

Wishing everyone a blessed Easter.

A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future and accepts you today just the way you are. Friends are God's life-preservers.

BEVERLY JACKSON

NO. 14, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927

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

Is it truly 2005? I still can't get over the fact that we passed into a new era once we reached the "scary" year 2000. Well, not much has changed from the norm and we're still going along day by day. The weather forecaster has announced that we've already gained over an hour of daylight, a sure sign that spring will indeed peek around the corner soon!

We had a full house at our annual Christmas party. Vice Pres. Pat Habat and Stana Grill greeted and checked in all guests upon arrival. Thanks to you, Stana for taking all those phone calls for reservations. As we entered the hall we could see before us the brilliant red poin-

settias which decorated each of the tables. At each place setting we had either candy canes, silver canes or golden bells. Thanks to Pres. Diane Varney and husband, Larry for decorating. Ed Koren once again was our faithful bartender who was given a hand by new guest, musician, Kathy Hlad.

Sophie Mazi and her very capable staff served us another outstanding home-style dinner, a meal fit for a king or queen!

Thanks to everyone who brought colorful gift-wrapped packages for door prizes, and thanks to Larry Varney who along with 4 year old granddaughter, Aljendra Trevisano made the rounds of the hall selling tickets for the gifts. By the way, speedy recovery wishes to Aljendra's mom, Lori, who had carpal tunnel surgery recently. Don Mausser did a great job as number caller, while Rachel Formica, Aljendra and grandmom, Diane Varney acted as busy elves delivering gifts to lucky winners. Can't miss thanking Jimmy Slapnik for the outstanding large poinsettia planter donated as a prize.

We had a table for a family of sisters, Josephine "Pep" Stupica and Vickie Lindic along with their families and brother Paul Yanchar, as well as a table with Fran Prijatelj and her lovely daughters and children and friends. We were pleased also to welcome musician, Ken Zalar from Captain's Crew as a guest.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Justine Prhne who passed away following a stroke. Justine was cousin of Vera Bajec. May our dear departed find peace and comfort among the Holy Family.

Glad to see Jo Emser who attended our party and who had knee surgery recently. Also joining us was Eddie Habat doing better after a slight set-back. Missing was Steve Valencic who has been ill. We send along get well wishes to all of our ailing members and their families.

Yearly mass for living and deceased members was held on February 9 at St. Christine's Church.

For elections, we have Diane Varney acting as President and Secretary/Treasurer; Patricia Habat, Vice President/Recording Secretary; Auditors: Antoinette Zabukovec and Stana Grill; Reporter: Alice Kuhar; Sunshine Person: Diane Varney; Banner Lady: Josephine Kastigar.

Reminder that we have our popular Mothers' Day Dinner for members and

friends on Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30, at Slovenian Society Home on Rechar Ave. Call in your reservations to either Stana Grill at (440) 944-0598 or Diane at (330) 923-4034.

May your Easter season find you with joyous festivities among family and friends.

ALICE KUCHAR

NO. 16, SO. CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 13, 1928

Meetings: 2nd Saturday, 1 p.m.
monthly except Jan.-July-Aug.
St. George's Hall

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

Congratulations to our winners of the January 2005 Magic Calendar Contest, D and J Rossi, Frances Novak and Frank Ntarelli. And to Carolyn Zuzich for selling 23 tickets!

Lena Amicarelli has passed another milestone in her life by joining the ranks of the Octogenarians. Fifty family members and friends joined Lena at the Carmelite Monastery for lunch to wish her a "Happy 80th Birthday" and help her blow out the candles.

On Oct. 30, 2004, Diane Orgince and Tom Frazee were joined in Holy Matrimony. Diane is the granddaughter of Josephine Orgince.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family of Manda Maggio, husband, Orlando, daughters, Kathy and Denise, sister, Ana Lustig and brother, Frank Bublich. Manda was a very active member of our Branch, faithfully attending meetings. She was also in charge of our Bunco sessions after our meetings. Members of Br. 16, St. George Christian Mothers and four other senior groups assembled at the Wake to pray the Rosary.

Also to the family of Robert Hall, husband of our SWUA National President, Kathy Dorchak Hall. May they rest in peace.

Hostesses for March - Helen Battista, Mary Therese Ehnat and Gladys Buck. April - Tina Sertich, Lena Amicarelli and Vida Kumse.

Please attend our March meeting 3/12/05 to discuss plans for our May "Woman of the Year" luncheon. Happy Easter to all.

SYLVIA SPRETNJAK

Living Our Legacy - Subscribe to the SWUA online newsletter

Fellow members,

You are invited to subscribe to the SWUA online newsletter "The Neighborhood." It is delivered the beginning of each month to your e-mail in box. Please send me an e-mail if you'd like to subscribe.

The newsletter allows you to keep in touch with the SWUA and fellow members on a monthly basis. Please feel free to post a message if you are seeking help with anything related to Slovenia or Slovenian-American heritage. Please respond if you are able to help someone with a question. The newsletter allows our members to connect from coast to coast.

Please check the www.swua.org website to review past issues. The newsletter will celebrate five years this September!

Sincerely,

Lynn Zalokar
Online Newsletter Editor
lzalokar@yahoo.com

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Founding Date: JUNE 11, 1928

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Park Hall
Sister Marlene Ambrose
(815) 723-1499

On Sun. Jan. 16 the installation of officers for Br. 20 was conducted by Fr. Tom Paul, our spiritual advisor, who gave them his blessing and encouragement for the coming year.

The 50/50 prize was won by Sister Marlene. The accumulating attendance award was won by Harrison Schatz who was not present.

Saturday, Mar. 19, 40 hours devotion closes with the 4 p.m. Mass. Following, you are invited to St. Joseph Park for the celebration of St. Joseph, sponsored by the St. Joseph Centennial Committee.

Sunday, Mar. 20 - On Palm Sunday at the 8:30 a.m. Slovenian Mass you are invited to carry a 'butarica'. Watch for this in the Bulletin. In the afternoon the Centennial Committee is sponsoring two floats in the 'Wash Upon a Star' Easter parade.

Sunday, April 3 is the Centennial breakfast at St. Joseph Park Hall.

Friday & Saturday, April 15 and 16, SWU Branch 20 is having a Rummage Sale. Bring your articles of clothing and small household items on one day only - April 14 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19. After the regular meeting we will have fun at the Silent 'White Elephant Auction.' You are requested to bring a new gift or gifts unwrapped. Also, you will view part one video of our Branch 20, 75th Anniversary.

Congratulations to Frank Bucar who was the 'Polka Hall of Fame' winner at Ironworld in Chisholm, MN. He is currently the director of the 'Singing Slovenes.'

-- to Ronald and Dorothy Smith on their 50th Anniversary.

We send get well wishes to-- Marge Gasperich, Bea Nemanich, Lorraine Lange.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the families of -- Wally Lustick on the death of his sister; Bob Figuroski whose brother died; Johanna Gorc, deceased; Mary Ann Strukel, deceased.

In memory of the deceased members of Br. 20 in 2004 a donation will be sent to the SWU Scholarship Fund: Johanna Rogel, Helen Horwath, Lorraine Wedic, Edith Rosenquist, and Susan Kowalski.

There are Slovenian articles, gifts, cookbooks, available at Our Heritage Museum. The latest articles are CD's by the 'Singing Slovenes.' Call (815) 727-1926.

Membership Drive. SWUA has a membership drive for new members. Branch 20 only is offering \$2 for every new member you recruit. This includes family members, men, children from birth to 17 years, friends and neighbors. This could be a great gift for birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions. Dues, adults \$20 per year, children to the ages of 17 - \$5.

Attention! Junior members in 8th grade intending to attend a Catholic High School are eligible to apply for the scholarship from Branch 20.

Adult Continuing Education Scholarship is available to a member 21 years of age or over who is pursuing advance or continuing education.

High School Scholarship to a current

high school student who wishes to continue in a Catholic high school or is planning to transfer from a public high school to a Catholic high school.

Branch 20 Scholarship Program

William L. Burns, Jr.

1109 Plaza Drive

Joliet, IL 60435-3844

Phone: (815) 725-5319

Applications must be received prior to April 15, 2005.

From a while back...

A bronze relief sculpture of the Miner was dedicated on May 22, 1913 in Chisholm, Minnesota. It was sculpted by our very talented artist, Lillian Brulc, member of Branch 20.

On Aug. 1, 1986 a monument to the Slovenian Miners and Laborer was dedicated in Ironworld, USA in Chisholm, Minnesota. The monument was the work of our artistic and dedicated Lillian Brulc.

"Tell me, I forget, Show me, I remember.

Involve me, I understand."

Ancient Chinese Proverb

SISTER MARLENE

NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL

Founding Date: OCTOBER 17, 1928

Meetings: 3rd Thursdays
Eureka Savings Building
monthly except July and August

Dober Dan!

This morning I opened the door to a chilly but sunny day and I heard a cardinal singing his heart out. That is a sure sign that spring is on its way. Speaking of birds, one day when our children were little, there was a huge cluster of sparrows in the bushes next to our house and they were making the biggest racket you ever heard. The children asked why the birds were making such a fuss and I told them, "They're having election of officers."

We held a lovely ceremony at our January meeting installing the officers for the coming year. They are, Loretta Story, President; Linda Struna, Vice President; Mary Ann Pieczynski, Recording Secretary; and Debbie Pohar, Financial Secretary. Sincere thanks and gratitude were extended to Adele Gensler for her many years of devoted service as our Recording Secretary.

We were very saddened to learn of the tragic death of Robert Hall, beloved

husband of our dear President Kathleen Dorchak-Hall. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her and her family.

Prayers and sympathy go out, too, to Paula Illman upon the death of her husband, Stanley. Paula has been a faithful and loyal member for many years. They are members of Resurrection Church where Stan was a dedicated parishioner. Our condolences to Paula and their sons, Chris and Matt and families.

Father Bernard Horzen, O S B, our "unofficial chaplain," fell in December and broke his wrist. He still fulfills his duties as Pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Dalzell while recuperating. We all wish him a speedy recovery and remember him in our prayers. Whenever called upon, Father is always willing to help in spiritual matters.

Theresa Wellner has been under the weather and recently came home from Mayo Clinic. She is recuperating at home and we all hope she recovers soon.

Start saving your onion skins, ladies, for the Easter egg coloring. Last year a good number of us met in Betty Hurst's kitchen where we colored dozens and dozens and dozens of eggs. They turned out so beautiful! Everyone was so "eggcited" - they were amazed at how beautiful the eggs turned out. We will do it again this year.

Until next time, keep warm and cozy and may your hearts be filled with peace and love.

LORETTA STORY

NO. 25, CLEVELAND, OH

Founding Date: NOVEMBER 22, 1928

**Meetings: 2nd Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
St. Vitus Social Room**

The SWU cultural affair, Ohio Heritage Festival, at SNPJ farm was a tremendous success. The hall was wall to wall people... looking at all the displays. My congratulations to the board and especially Rosemary Toth (50) who arranged everything. It was a big undertaking. YOU DID GOOD!!

The food was all very Slovenian... klobase, strudel, potica, and the krofi were out of this world made by the talented hands of Vida Zak and sister, Sophie Maturch...mmm good. It was a very congenial crowd and a very appre-

ciative one because the food went like hot cakes.

Fr. Pizmoht was the celebrant at the mass with Joe Tomsick (JTO) doing the background music.

Fran Gazvoda Pres. of Br. 25, Jo Perpar, Albina Pozelnik, Jo Valencic Sheliga Drug, SWU #25, American Home Publish and Don and Nancy Slapnik donated the food for the baskets that we filled for the affair.

Our Christmas party was held on Dec. 5 at Sterle's. We had a small crowd in attendance but a very happy happy one. The group decided that we will get together 5 times a year.

Get well wishes to Helen Pisek who is now a resident at the Hospice of the Western Reserve and to Albina Pozelnik who was in the hospital but is now resting at home. Mary Urbancic is a resident of St. Jos. of St. Mark. Gene Drobnic who lives in Florida had surgery for a pacemaker and defibrillator...at this writing she is doing well. I had cataract surgery and will have another surgery next month for the other eye. I am doing okay.

We had our election on Sept. 25th. Pres. Fran Gazvoda, VP, Jo Perpar, Treas. Ann Clemence, ZARJA reporter and Rec. Sec., Emilee Jenko. Thank you all for accepting these positions.

The St. Clair Slovenian Home and Eddie Kenik celebrated their 80th birthday together with quite a bash. Many in attendance! We heard Fantje Na Vasi, the Mihelich family, Glasbena Matica, Eddie Kenik and Paul Yanchar who will celebrate his 80th birthday next month. Congratulations to all!

On a personal note: A big thank you to all my faithful clients. I have given up the beauty shop, but I will still be working, part time. I will be semi-retired. I will miss all my friends that I saw daily walking on St. Clair Ave. Again, thank you all and bless you all.

My article for the previous edition was too late but it is in this issue, thanks to the publisher.

Mar. 12 we celebrated the Woman and Man of the Year at the Slovenian National Home. One of our members, and a very loyal one was selected by the Federation of Slovenian Homes to represent them. Gene Drobnic is the hon-

oree. Congratulations to Gene from all the members of #25. Congratulations to all the honorees. More later after the affair. It will be quite a bash... Seeing old friends and just having a good old time.

To all our shut-ins we send our best and hope they are happy and well. Albina Pozelnik has been on the get well list quite a bit and in and out of the hospital... hoping when the sun shines brightly she will feel much better. We miss you at all the affairs.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, an Irish blessing for all: "May your troubles be less and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door."

A Happy and Blessed Easter to all.
EMILEE, Reporter

NO. 32, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: AUGUST 25, 1929

**Meetings: 3rd Wed., 6:30 p.m.
Euclid Public Library, Erie Room**

We had our Christmas meeting and what a lovely party it was. Wishing everyone a wonderful year ahead.

Officers for 2005 are: Pres. Pam Dirk, V-P Rudy Perdan. He will be in office just for this year as our VP Adrianna will have her first born in Feb. and will be back after a year. We wish her much luck and great enjoyment of her little one - she has done a great job for us!

Continuing with the officers, Secy.-Treas. Charlotte Perdan is doing both jobs for us and is such an asset. Charlotte does so much altho she says so little. Sunshine lady is Fran Ogoreuc and Hostess is our youngest members, daughter of Pam, our Alex. You see, this branch is run by the 4th generation in one family. Thanks to Fran Ogoreuc - her family does things together and isn't that a blessing?

To Helen Kavasovich we wish a speedy recovery. She is our raffle lady with yours truly, Dorothy Lamm. I will try to continue reporting in ZARJA for our branch.

So far we had had a snowy winter but are hoping to have our dreams of spring come true soon. Please remember to send in your dues payments. For questions, contact Charlotte Perdan.

We passed lovers' day in February, and now are looking forward to a blessed Easter. Fond wishes to all.

DOROTHY LAMM

NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 12, 1929

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

St. Martin's Church Hall

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

Greetings from northern Minnesota! Our January meeting was in the Upper Room at St. Martin's and discussion was to elect officers. But, due to members being ill and other problems it was cancelled. We also wanted to chose the Mother of the Year and fill out the heritage forms. Kay Dean was hostess and Adrienne brought the door prize - Adeline Mustonen was the winner.

Mrs. Frances Tanko is in the Ely Nursing Home and I visited with her - glad to report she is doing fine. It was nice to visit with other members there and also shut-ins, and to be updated on the health of our members.

February meeting was done in a Valentine's motif. This date is always special to me as it was my mamica's birthday. She would be 100 years old this year. Appreciate your mamicas, they are here for only so long. I can say that my mom was someone I could look up to - she was there for us all.

Hostess was Adeline Mustonen and door prize was from Lucille Savatoes, won by Adeline. The room was beautifully decorated with bus vases of red carnations and white ribbons.

Keep the faith and be kind.

Say prayers for all our troops and their families, especially Joe Zavodnik and Chris Jacobson.

ADRIENNE MIKLICH

NO. 35, AURORA, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 15, 1929

Meetings: 6 times per year

Community Center

Contact: Anita Vovk

E-mail: AMV@cpinternet.com

At our Dec. meeting our present officers agreed to serve another year. Thank you, ladies for doing such an excellent job.

Our 2005 Mother of the Year will be Josephine Trost and we will honor her on Sunday, May 1st. Congratulations, Jo!

The meetings will take place at the Community Center on the following dates: Sunday, April 3, 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 1, noon, Mother of the Year party; Wednesday, August 17, noon;

Sunday, September 11, SWU State Convention in Ely, MN; Sunday, October 9, 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 4, 3 p.m. Advent Dinner.

Thank you, Anita for the interesting Christmas letter you sent to all our shut-in members to bring them up to date on all the branch activities.

Congratulations to Robert and Katherine Wheeler who became first time grandparents to Annette Rose (Annie), born on Dec. 15th to Brian and Cheri Stiener. I'm her great grandmother! Annie made Christmas very special this year for all the family.

Prayers and get well wishes are with Julie Pirnot and any of our members who may be ill.

Iron Rangers in the Movies

NO. 38, CHISHOLM, MN

Founding Date: JANUARY 12, 1930

Meetings: 1st Wed. except

June & July

Slovenian National Home

There is a lot of excitement in Chisholm, and on the Iron Range these days. A movie company filming a movie loosely based on the book "Class Action" is here filming many of the scenes of the movie. The book tells of the sexual harassment experienced by the women working at Eveleth Taconite Co.

In order to get a feel of the area and the people living here, the stars and directors have been visiting many of the places and activities taking place. Recently, Sissie Spacek and Niki Caro, the director, were at the Slovenian Home where the Slovenian Ladies Auxiliary were making strudels for their semi-annual sales. Sissie Spacek was fascinated by the strudel making and even helped, first, by spreading the apples on the dough, and finally by helping to stretch the dough. She was so fascinated with the process that she was provided with her own "More Pots and Pans" SWU cookbook so that she can try her hand at it when she gets back to Hollywood.

This last Saturday, they were filming a bar scene at the Slovenian Home. After scouting the area, they felt our Slovenian Home was the most ideal

place for their needs. The casting called for many extras for scenes of a church communion, a hockey game, and of course, the bar scene. Thousands of Rangers have gotten their opportunity to be a movie actor for a day!

Prayers and sympathy to our Nat'l. President, Kathleen Dorchak Hall and her family on the loss of her dear husband in December.

This year we decided to do something new - A Pot Luck Advent Dinner and it was a success with all the variety of delicious food. We played a game of bunco with many interesting prizes. Thanks to all ladies for the food, prizes and your generous monetary donations for the charity our branch supports, the local nursing home activities department.

Being in the Minnesota deep freeze we noted that Embarrass had 54 below zero and the entire Iron Range went as far down as 40 below! On Jan. 18th it warmed up a little and brought snow.

Wishing you all a Blessed Easter!

ANNE M. ORAZEM

* * *

At our branch meeting last night, further plans were made for the celebration of our 75th anniversary. Father Frank Perkovich will preside at a polka mass with Joe Cvek and the Polka Masters at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 1st. That will be followed by a Slovenian fried chicken dinner in the church social hall. At that time we will honor all past and present members of our branch.

It is with much sadness that I report the death of Rose Niemi. Rosie was a valued member of our branch for as long as I can remember. She baked many of her delicious Potica cakes for our raffle and bake sales. She was our ZARJA reporter for many years, and her great sense of humor always made her reports interesting and fun to read. She also was very active in the Slovenian Home, and was president of All-Slav Club #9 for many years. She loved her home town of Chisholm, and her Slovenian heritage. We pray for the repose of her soul.

This seems to have been a long winter, and we are looking forward to a nice warm spring and summer.

CHARLOTTE LAURICH

NO. 39, BIWABIK, MN

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 3, 1930

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

"Kulturni dan"

Today, February 8th is Kulturni Dan, our National Slovenian Culture Holiday. I hope we all had something special to do today to instill some of our legacy in our next generation. I planned to do something with my local grandchildren. If it works, I will share it with you in the next issue.

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday and we begin our "pust". I guess we call today "Fat Tuesday." We just returned from celebrating a "Pustovanje" (Slovene Mardi Gras) in Oakbrook, IL. Two buses filled with polka lovers from the Iron Range in Minnesota arrived on at the Hyatt Regency on Friday, Feb. 4th for three (3) days of dancing and singing complete with a Polka Mass on Saturday evening. If you enjoy our ethnic music, you must attend one of these Polka Fests. One could say it's 24/7 jammin' music coming from the ballrooms, corridors, lobby, tundra or private room. It was great fun to renew friendships with members from sister branches and make new friends with those who share our heritage and love of music. It will take me a few days to come down from my "high." Thank you, Bob Doszak, of Joliet, for organizing this annual event.

Our branch had a meeting in my absence and the secretary of our branch, Vida Lanari, sent the minutes via e-mail so that I could send in a progress report from Branch #39. This age of technology is wonderful. The officers and seven (7) members were in attendance and a revised calling list was given out to those responsible for calling our members with meeting dates, etc. We received a thank you note from the Merritt House for the donation sent them from our Branch #39.

We hope to have the Aurora branch join us in March or April with ideas on how to have a successful 75th celebration since theirs was done beautifully. Our President Jean Korsman and Rosemary Ribich met on February 10 to begin sorting and compiling items of

memorabilia for the event. A date will be determined during one of the upcoming meetings.

We received word from our sister Branch #38 in Chisholm about the establishment of a Slovenian Cultural and Information Center to be located at the Slovenski Dom. It will be a wonderful opportunity to access information and preserve documents relating to our culture. We look forward to getting updates as this progresses. Thank you, Mirjam Gremes, for the information.

There also has been much excitement over a movie being filmed on the Iron Range. The producers of "Class Action" will be filming some scenes at the Slovenian Home in Chisholm and you can be sure that there will be scenes of a Polka Mass. The story is based on a sexual harassment class action law suit that originated at a local mining company. The actors and film crew were expected to be on location through February. Remember, however, the word is "based" and if you want to read more of the documentary, the book is available in most book stores or through Amazon. Wishing you all a spiritual and holy Lenten season and a Happy Easter.

ROSEMARY (SERTICH) RIBICH

NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH

Founding Date: MAY 31, 1930

Meetings: Feb., May, Aug. & Nov.**2nd Saturday - 11:00 a.m.****Contact Person: Lil Sadowski****(216) 398-4367**

As we go to press I am preparing for a trip to Fla to visit my cousin, Florence Boh Grahm. Since I will be back when you read this issue I will tell you more about the trip in the following edition.

Our Christmas brunch at Hudson Holiday Inn was enjoyed by all who attended and included our new member, Fran Prhne Fedor, who was visiting from Fla. Also present was our Nat'l. Pres., Kathy Dorchak Hall and her mother, Olga Dorchak. Little did anyone know that within 24 hours Kathy's husband, Bob, would be the victim of a fatal auto accident. We extend our very deepest sympathy to Kathy and Olga and their families. May he rest in peace.

Our March birthday celebrants are: Sr. John of Arc, Ann Zupancic, Anne Volo, Tina Pomfrey, Kimberly Balach,

Evana Stanonik and my granddaughter, Katie Kossakoski. The April honorees are: Fran Fedor, Grace Zupancic, Sienna Haslup, Frankie Zimmer, Helen Husky, Arlene Legan, Eleanor McArdle, Imelda Blazy, Terry Anzo, Dorti Zidar and Mary Jo O'Neill. Speaking of Mary Jo, congratulations are in order on the birth of her first son, Matthew McHenry O'Neill, born Jan. 23, 2005 and weighing in at 9# 9 oz. Matthew joins siblings, Josephine, age 2 and Patricia, age 1. So, to grandma, Mary Lou McHenry and mama, Mary Jo we extend our very heartiest congrats.

In March we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the feast of St. Joseph. St. Pat's is largely an Irish holiday but St. Joe's was celebrated by the Slovenians, as were many Saints' namedays. In my youth I remember Louis Kastelic at the button box accompanied by many neighborhood regulars serenading the person whose nameday it was. What a nice tradition - one that has now faded into the fabric of the past.

Won't you be glad to see this horrendous winter come to a screeching halt? Thank goodness, Easter is just around the corner. As a child it was always my favorite holiday because it meant the end of winter's cold and the return of another glorious midwestern spring. With the migration of so many Slav nationalities, many churches offer blessing of Easter baskets to accommodate their parishioners. I could not imagine on Easter without our beloved "egnanje." Many years ago a priest from Easter Saturday to bless all the baskets of Easter food. In Maple Hts., this was done at Grega and Pavla Hribar's home until the Slov. Nat. Home was built in 1937 where it continued until the home was sold. To those of you too young to have been a part of these traditions you don't know what you missed. It was a far more tranquil and respectful society. For those of you who lived it we will always look back with pleasant memories of a time in our youth when the old neighborhood was vital and strong. As has happened in so many ethnic enclaves this, too, has come to pass. We must never forget these pioneers, what they stood for and what they passed on.

So, members, have a beautiful and blessed Easter. God bless you all. Till next time,

Zbogom,

LIL SADOWSKI

NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH

Founding Date: JUNE 17, 1931

**Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month
Maple Heights Library, 1 p.m.
Contact: Elsie Spellacy
(440) 232-8733**

Get well wishes go out Olga Dorchak. She is recovering from back surgery. She and her sister Elsie Spellacy are both doing very well.

Birthdays wishes go out to all our March and April members.

March members: Barbara Culkar, Joyce Rozman, Millie Stautihar, Brandi Wallace, Mae Kastelic, Olga Sray, Marge Rys and Catherine Barta.

April members: Dolores Hrovat, Mary Gorisek, Samantha Spellacy and Rose Vatovec.

KATHERINE WALLACE

NO. 50, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: SEPTEMBER 15, 1931

**Meetings: 3rd Wed., 1 p.m.
except Jan., Feb., July & Aug.
Euclid Public Library
Contact: Anne Tomsick
Tel. (216) 531-2745**

Roses are red, violets are blue, and once more we bring Branch news to you!

Happy belated Valentine's Day! In my house, a red velvet heart pillow adorns our family room and is a reminder of dear friends, living and deceased, and especially our late friend and former long serving president of this branch, Ann Tercek, of fond memory.

First, a word about our Christmas Party at Kristy's Party Center on Dec. 5th, a rare sunny winter day in Cleveland - 50 degree afternoon with 30 of our members, and many bringing their hobbies. The food, the candy favors designed by Vice President, Cookie Maxin, and the gifts were plentiful. The annual meeting was called to order by President, Rose Mary Toth for the election of officers. The election results were as follows:

President, Rose Mary Toth; Vice President, Cookie Maxin; Treasurer, Fran Kajfez; Secretary, Evelyn Pipoly; Auditors: Louise Troglia and Lillian Homar; and Reporter, Anne Tomsick. The oath of office was administered by Angie Shine. The Mother of the Year will be named on March 16.

On March 19, we send feast day greetings to all of our "Josephines." And,

just a week later, on March 27th we will celebrate the holy feast of Easter!

We are still receiving praises regarding our Ohio Slovenian Heritage Days held last October. Among the many in attendance that day were two distinguished gentlemen, who sadly have since passed away. We extend our most sincere sympathies to National President, Kathy Dorchak-Hall, who lost her husband, Robert, on December 11, 2004, following a tragic automobile accident, and to Bea Pestotnik, whose husband, John, died in January.

Bob Hall was a member of Branch 47, and a great supporter of SWUA. John Pestotnik belonged to and was active in innumerable Slovenian organizations. Bea Pestotnik is of course known for her artistic endeavors.

On the day after Christmas, we attended a splendid Christmas concert of Sacred music at Saint Vitus Church conducted by John Srsen and performed by the Saint Vitus Choir. Following the concert, everyone in attendance was invited to an extravagant meal at the Saint Vitus auditorium, and yours truly was delighted to meet Corinne Leskovar, our national editor of the SWUA, who was in Cleveland visiting with her aunt, Jean Krizman.

Congratulations are also in order to Alice Kuhar, member of Branch 14, and newly selected cooking columnist for ZARJA. She is well known locally, and now internationally because of the Internet, for her radio broadcasts of "Kuhar's Carousel" and "Slovenian Customs and Traditions," on Tony Petkovsek's radio programs, carried on WELW and I highly recommend her recipe for Cottage Cheese Dumplings in the premier article in the January-February issue of the ZARJA.

Get well wishes are extended to Kathy Dorchak-Hall's mother, Olga who is recuperating from back surgery. I had a lengthy talk with Dorothy Ann Winter, who is cheerful as usual, despite her recent foot surgery. The good news is that she expects to return to her long-time job in March. She celebrated her birthday, February 4. Dorothy asked me to say that she misses all of you very much.

Also celebrating a February birthday (on the 28th) was our Vice President Cookie Maxin, who spent the day with a friend in Dallas, TX. This month, Cookie is planning a trip to Disney World.

Jo Arko and her daughter took flight

in early February to visit family in Las Vegas, Nevada. Further travel plans included a trip to Mobile, Alabama to visit Jo's son, Frankie. Speaking of the Arko family, Jo's sister Jennie, who is recuperating at home sends word that her daughter Joannie was recently honored for her outstanding recruiting efforts on behalf of the SWU. Rose Mary Toth wants to remind everyone of the importance of recruiting new members to our organization, and each branch has set a goal of recruiting ten (10) new members. Please spread the word and encourage your friends, neighbors and members of your family to enjoy what SWUA has to offer. Rose Mary and her husband, John recently returned from a Mexican resort vacation in sunny Puerto Vallarta.

Congratulations to Laurie and Frank Zevnik on the wonderful news of their twenty-fifth (25th) wedding anniversary which was celebrated at Mass at Saint Vitus Church and at an elegant reception at the Radisson Hotel in Eastlake, Ohio. Laurie is the daughter of Alice Aignorelli, our friend and long-time lodge member.

From the courtroom news department: We recently learned that our own Anne Orlikowski who will turn 96 this April (28th), was summoned to serve on jury duty. Anne is a very perky nonagenarian, and would serve well considering the great wisdom she would be able to offer the judge!

Best wishes to Aggie Flanders, now living with her brother in Pennsylvania, who reports that she would love to hear from her many friends in the Cleveland area and around the country.

Louise Troglia, our Branch 50 auditor (and a former "Miss SNPJ"), is teaching dance classes at Willoughby Hills, Ohio City Hall (her classes began in February). If you are interested in attending, feel free to give Louise a call at (216) 732-8123.

It's not too early to begin thinking about SWUA's "Deluxe Wonders of Slovenia Tour," which is scheduled for June 18 through July 3, 2006. If you have never been to Slovenia (or Italy), this guided tour would be a fine opportunity to visit. The tour is being arranged by Kollander World Travel.

Congratulations to Gene Drobic, member of Branch 25 (Saint Vitus) who was named Slovene Woman of the Year (along with Ken Zalar as Man of the Year) by the Federation of Slovenian Homes.

Many Branch 50 members attended Tony Petkovsek's big Thanksgiving Day polka festivities at Cleveland's Marriott Hotel and were entertained by more than twenty different bands and performers, including Denis Novato, famed accordianist from Trieste.

Don't forget to pay your dues and attend meetings regularly.

Respectfully,

ANNE TOMSICK

NO. 54, WARREN, OH

Founding Date: AUGUST 22, 1932

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

Our branch will hold the annual Mother's Day luncheon on Wed., May 18th at Cafe 422, 1 o'clock. Hostesses are Mary Diana and Anne O'Block. I will be calling you for reservations.

All is quiet around here except for the usual winter weather - this morning it was 9 degrees below zero! Can't wait for spring as I'm sure all of you are!

Prayers and sympathy to our Nat'l. Pres., Kathy Dorchak Hall on the death of her husband.

Vacationing in Las Vegas with friends is our new president, Louise Vett - hope she is lucky!

With Christmas still in memory, it's hard to think of Easter - but we are sending best wishes for a Blessed Easter to all and keep praying for world peace.

JOANNE PONIKVAR

NO. 55, GIRARD, OH

Founding Date: JUNE 8, 1933

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

Greetings from Girard, Ohio! I hope this finds everyone in good health with the arrival of 2005. It has been a snowy and cold winter here in Girard, with the temperature dropping below zero on several occasions. Those who enjoy winter activities have had plenty of great opportunities for sledding, skiing, and snowboarding. Thanks to all members who attended the annual Christmas party in December. It was an enjoyable evening for all those present with good Italian food, carol singing, and time to catch up with fellow Branch 55 members.

There are a few updates on some SWU members since the last publication of ZARJA. Long-time SWU member and my Stara Mama, Milka Kregar, suf-

fered a serious heart attack on November 2, 2004. She underwent bypass surgery in the days following and remained in the hospital for five weeks. Fortunately, Mrs. Kregar is at home now and is recovering very well from her surgery. It won't be long before Stara Mama starts baking her famous bread and Slovenian horseshoe cookies which many of us are looking forward to. May God continue to watch over you, Stara Mama.

In other news, Branch 55 lost a member, Virginia Rostan, who passed away on January 14, 2005. She had been an employee at Rostan's Grocery Store in Girard from 1945-1973 and a librarian in the Girard City School System from 1973-1986. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Branch 55 meetings will recommence in March as we await the arrival of Velika Noè on March 27. This is always such a special time of year with the traditional creation of butarice, which my mother, Maria Selak, always enjoys making. It is a true art form, and it is fascinating to watch her create these colorful baskets. Also, many Slovenians will be busy preparing the traditional *•egen* which are always so delicious. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the Lenten season and the Resurrection of Christ.

With the arrival of the spring semester, I'm sure many students are already busy with various projects, assignments and tests. I know that the springtime is always a busy school period for the students at Notre Dame, but I am enjoying every minute of it. My term as Hall President is quickly approaching its end, but it has been a great learning and leadership experience. I have also just begun volunteering in the NICU at Memorial Hospital in South Bend as well as in the rehab unit at St. Joe's Hospital, both of which are incredible life experiences. Good luck to all fellow students during this semester!

A reminder to any members eligible for SWU scholarships, the deadline for application submission in March 1, 2005. More information is available at www.swua.org.

That's all for now. May God continue to bless the members of the Slovenian Women's Union and their families.

MONICA SELAK, Reporter

Looking For You!

Have you moved? Your invoice was returned to us for wrong address. Please let us know what your new address is.

Branch Name

1	Golob, Joan K
2	Corgiat, Anthony
2	Ceferin, Rose
2	Novak, Judith
14	Globokar, Mary Louise
16	Behrman, Alexis Anne
20	Cahill, Kinsey A
20	Shetina, Joseph
25	Scharsu, Eileen
30	Repasky, Rose
42	Trattar, Anna
43	Hoffman, Jessica Lynn
43	Dewitt, Christine
47	Huffman, Sarah J
50	Kovelan, Mary
50	Kozar, Betty
89	Cassery, Emma

NO. 99, LEMONT, IL

Original Founding Date: JUNE 13, 1940

**Meetings: Fifth Sundays of the year
Slovenian Cultural Center**

Contact: C. Leskovar (773) 275-1115

The biggest event of our recent past is the Open House we hosted at the SWUA Slovenian Heritage Museum in Joliet, IL on Feb. 5th. We were pleased that so many people came from our neighboring branches and localities.

Fresh krofi and strudel baked by Mary Mavec of Br. 20, Slovenian Wine, a lovely setting in the museum arranged by Museum Director, Jan Wilt and her husband, Phil, gave the right atmosphere. Musicians Marty Mavec, age 12 and Harry Simrayh on their button boxes enlivened the atmosphere a lot.

During a brief afternoon interlude, the guests enjoyed listening to the recordings of France Preseren's poems in the English language by British actress Vanessa Redgrave; otherwise, they spent time watching the two ladies from the Lacemakers and Collectors Exchange of Northern Illinois working away at their bobbin-lace, another unusual experience. Many ladies have pieces of Slovenian bobbin lace and now they know how it is made - Very intricately! There was a small display of laces brought by some of our members. Thank you to them.

Meeting Notes: Our Officers for 2005

Living Our Legacy in Action!

Open House at the Museum!

In honor of Prešeren Day, also called Cultural Day in Slovenian communities around the world, the Slovenian Women's Union sponsored an open house at the Slovenian Heritage Museum on February 5, 2005. Hostesses were members of Br. 99, Lemont. One of the highlights of the afternoon was listening to Prešeren's famed poems spoken in English. Another part of the program featured two expert lacemakers of the Lacemakers and Collectors Exchange of Northern Illinois, Kathleen Cantwell, (*lower right*) and Jane O'Conner (*lower center with Theresa Burns*) demonstrating bobbin-lace making. Smiling members at the Heritage Museum, Ella Mae Kovacic, Lucille Goste, Jean Gale (all of Br.

99) and Jean Zeleznikar (2), (*lower left*). Refreshments included home baked krofi, strudel and Slovenian wine.

(*Top right photo*) Spectacular polka music by Harry Simrayh (*right*) with his mom, Mihaela, (99) and Marty Mavec (*left*) with his mom, Marylynn (20). (Marty's great aunt, Mitzi Mavec (20) made all the baked goodies) brought a lot of enjoyment to the crowd who loved singing along. This was a real example of families passing along the legacy!

Photos: Phil Wilt



were elected at the January 30th meeting as follows: President, Corinne Leskovar, Secretary, Joan Sobocan, Treasurer, Mihaela Simrayh, Auditors, Frances Schultz and Tom Zakosek, Sunshine Lady, Lucille Goste, Historian, Suzy Rus and Calling Committee chairman, Jean Gale. Our Spiritual Advisor is John P. Vidmar, the Deacon of the Slovenian Catholic Mission in Lemont. We are very happy with this slate of officers.

On the program was Tom Zakosek who has researched his own Family Tree and gave us lots of hints about how to go about this for your own family. The first thing to do, he said, is talk to all your elderly relatives - get them to tell you things about your family of origin and write it all down. This will help you put the names and places in the right order when you do ancestor charting.

We also enjoyed Preseren's poetry, spoken in English, appropriate since this was just a week before Preseren Day, an annual celebration of our Slovenian culture.

Thanks to Joan Sobocan, our won-

derful secretary for having such good ideas and being so supportive in this, our first year of activity. She is available at (630) 969-4944 if you have a question about new members or any of our future plans.

We already have about 60 members and now, during the present campaign, would like to increase our number. Can each of you sign up one new member? We have so many wonderful members already because the word is out that we have the right attitude about enjoying friendship! In January, Gen Buol, IL-IN State President visited us and installed the officers - plus giving us a lot of her own kind of sunshine. We had prizes and sweets that everyone enjoyed.

Cookbooks to Libraries!

A recent suggestion in ZARJA by Lynn Zalokar has piqued the interest of several branches to follow it by donating our beautiful SWU cookbook, "More Pots and Pans" to their local libraries.

Our member, Lucille Goste has just purchased and donated a book for the Indian Prairie Library in Willowbrook, Illinois. Thanks, Lucille.

Note: Next meeting is May 22nd, changed from the 29th; we will have a happy time celebrating Mother's Day.

CORINNE LESKOVAR

NO. 100, FONTANA, CA

Founding Date: MARCH 7, 1957

Ottawa, CA - June 26, 1940

Happy New Year to all! The sun smiled upon our group on December 11th. Almost 30 members, family and friends gathered for our Christmas luncheon at Napoli's Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda. This has been our favorite meeting place for quite a number of years now, because of the beautiful atmosphere, good service and fine food. There is something to satisfy everyone.

After our enjoyable meal, most of us continued our party at the home of Frank and MaryLou Vidergar in Colton. It's another town, but not far from the restaurant. The Vidergars are wonderful hosts and are very gracious with their invitation to all of us to enjoy desserts and beverages at their beautiful hillside home.

It was there that we held our annual

meeting, as well. Officers of the branch were reinstated for another year. Our 'Member of the Year' was chosen and Teresa Koci accepted the honor for 2005. Teresa has grown up in the SWU with her mother, Rosemary Mlakar, being very active and holding various offices. Teresa was a scholarship recipient and later served on the Scholarship Committee for several years. Her many other attributes will be covered as the year progresses.

Another item that was brought up during our meeting and concerning the Scholarship Program, was whether the Fund has been generous enough with the qualified students who have applied. Since the large donation from the Slovene Rest Home in Fontana was added to the fund, some members felt that, perhaps, larger scholarships could be awarded. This is probably something that needs to be discussed at a convention, but it is food for thought.

In the 75th Commemorative issue of ZARJA (September-October) it was nice to see the photo of Josephine Racic, the second editor of ZARJA and second National Secretary. It was in the 1920's through the 1940's that my mother and Josephine were good friends in Chicago. I remember visiting the Racic family with my parents when I was a little girl. Later they moved to Cleveland, but the families continued corresponding through the years.

We are happy to have Mary Lou Jensen back in California. She and her husband spent a couple of years in Hawaii and then decided that California is the place for them. Welcome home!

Na svidenje!

JEAN KOCI

NO. 102, WILLARD, WI

Founding Date: MAY 11, 1941

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

Weather is the big thing in Wisconsin, a lot of ice, cold and snow. The snowmobilers are enjoying it.

Our meeting was on December 5th with 13 members present and 3 guests; we had a short meeting and pot luck lunch. Frank Pakiz played the accordion and all of us sang along. The meeting on February 6th was our Valentine party with pot luck lunch.

Election of officers resulted in all the same: Rose Pakiz, President, Sue Pakiz, Secretary and Treasurer, Agnes

Debevec, Vice President and Reporter. You don't lose the job once you are elected.

We sent \$50 to the scholarship fund in memory of Jo Artac who was president of Branch 102 for 34 years. Mother of the year was discussed.

Lee Klancer, grandson of Frieda, showed his calendar and book of pictures of scenery taken of local sites and around the world. I gave a calendar to my daugh-

ter for Christmas; she thought it was a great gift.

Mary Stout, a very active member is now in a nursing home. She was also active in church and sang in the church choir. She will be missed.

Our condolences to Rose Pakiz and family, the death of her sister, Angeline Levesque.

Prayers and get well wishes to Mary Staut and Sophie Trunkel.

AGNES DEBEVEC

Happy Easter in Washington



Palm Sunday services in Slovenian churches throughout the world feature processions of children and adults carrying homemade Butarice, the symbolic bouquet of palms, and fresh greens, tied with ribbons. Here is a group from Br. 108, on Palm Sunday last year, at the Slovenian Chapel in Washington, D.C., from left, Helen Schweiger, Lynn Koiner, Bernadette Fitzsimmons and Nika Kovacic with children in front, Thomas, Juliana and Matthew Fitzsimmons.

NO. 108, OLNEY, MD

Founding Date: NOVEMBER 16, 2003

At our October meeting members enjoyed hearing a summary of recent major elections in Slovenia by John Klansek. The following is a summary of facts John presented: Elections were held recently in Slovenia for National Assembly Deputies. Over 60% to 70% of registered voters cast ballots. However, this was a much larger than normal turnout for a U.S. election. In Slovenia the center right coalition won a narrow upset victory, ending twelve years of nearly continuous control by the liberals. The Slovenian Democratic Party and ally conservative new Slovenian party took 38% of the

vote compared to the outgoing center-left coalition's 37%. The SDS led group took 38 seats of the 90-member parliament. PM Anton Rop admitted defeat. SDS leader, Janez Jansa, said if called upon to form a new government, he would pursue a "new policy" domestically but keep foreign policy in the European Union and NATO on course. It appears the government will remain pro-West. During the election there were 24 parties compared to 2 major parties in the U.S. Almost 25% of the candidates were women.

Again, thanks, John, for enlightening us on this subject.

BERNADETTE FITZSIMMONS

Our Members Write...

CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL IN SLOVENIA

My family and I have been visiting Slovenia annually for a good number of years. During our latest trip last summer, we visited our friend, a high school classmate of my husband's, Dr. Alojz Snoj. He has been the parish priest at Škofja Loka for several years now. Dr. Snoj is the nephew of Fr. Joe Snoj, whom we met when he was a priest in Fontana, CA. Fr. Joe Snoj founded a Catholic elementary school in Fontana and named it after Bishop Slomšek. What a small world!

This time Fr. Alojz Snoj had something special to show us in his rectory. The previous summer he had managed to establish a Catholic preschool in his parish. We were surprised that during our prior visits he had never mentioned this project. It took us a few minutes to understand what a Catholic preschool is and to grasp the importance of what Fr. Snoj had accomplished.

Under the communist regime in Slovenia all education was an exclusive domain of the government. The Catholic Church was not allowed to operate any schools except seminaries. The educational system was a tool of the government, used to mold the Slovenian people, to indoctrinate them in the communist ideology and atheism. After the independence of Slovenia in 1991, a few Catholic high schools were established. Later, the government allowed individual parishes to set up preschools. In order to get substantial government funding, preschools have to follow a secular, non-Catholic curriculum. If a parish wants to have a truly Catholic preschool, it forgoes a major portion of the government subsidy. And that is what Fr. Snoj did: He established one of the first independent, Catholic preschools in Slovenia.

Fr. Snoj explained his thinking to us: The educational system in Slovenia is secular, atheistic and essentially still anti-Catholic. Slovenia may be the only European country where Catholic religious education is not allowed in public schools, not even as an elective subject. Catholic high schools are fine, but by the time children get there, they have been exposed to public schools and the official atheism. That is why it is so important to have Catholic preschools.

Fr. Snoj told us about the worries, hard work, red tape and obstacles thrown in his way by an unsympathetic bureaucracy. There was no space for the preschool, so they had to excavate the basement of the modest single family house serving as the rectory. Fr. Snoj had to borrow more than \$ 11,000 to complete the project. He had no idea how

he would repay the debt, but his prayers were answered when he received a gift from an anonymous benefactor. Fr. Snoj showed us around, and everywhere one could feel order, care, love and just plain goodness. It brought tears to our eyes.

The preschool is a resounding success. There are many more applicants than they can accept. Fr. Snoj hopes to add more space to increase the number of children. However, the tuition does not cover all the expenses for the preschool, and he has to rely on donations.

The preschool is one the very few in Slovenia, a model, and Fr. Snoj often gets visitors from other parishes. He told us that the preschool should be only the beginning. There is a void in the Catholic education in Slovenia, since there are no Catholic elementary schools. His next great hope is a Catholic elementary school.

When we were leaving Fr. Snoj, I mentioned that the American Slovenian community might be interested in his project. I convinced him to write a letter to American Slovenians and appeal for donations. Here is his letter in part:

"There is a great need for Catholic preschools and elementary schools in Slovenia. Public schools give children a lot of information, but do not truly educate. The goal of our program is to form a 'complete person'. We teach the children in our preschool human and social values, solidarity, understanding, sincerity, respect for nature. We encourage the culture of giving and forgiving, and accepting others. In our institution, children breathe Christian atmosphere; they pray daily and attend Holy Mass.

"Our preschool is one of the few in Slovenia with a completely Catholic program. We decided to forgo substantial government subsidies in order to have the freedom of teaching children Catholic values. We struggle every day, but it is for the Church, for our faith and our country. I hope that the Slovenian community in the United States will recognize the importance of such institutions for the Slovenian people and offer its help."

This is a worthy cause, and the readers may ask themselves how to make a contribution. It is inefficient to send individual checks to Fr. Snoj since banks in Slovenia charge a fairly hefty fee to cash foreign checks. It is beneficial to pool the funds before they are sent to Fr. Snoj, and I would be happy to do that. You may write checks to Angela P. Stare, mark them "For Fr. Snoj" and send them to Angela P. Stare, 5 Cherboung Ct, Potomac, MD 20854. I will make sure that your contribution is properly acknowledged and will ask Fr. Snoj to celebrate Holy Mass for all who will help.

Thank you,

Angela Percic-Stare (103)

REMEMBERING BARBARA ROSANDICH

A few months ago a neighbor and friend, Yvonne McComber showed me a copy of the 75th anniversary issue of Zarja. She and her sister had gone to Slovenia earlier and were telling me about her trip. I happened to tell her that my mother was very involved in the Slovenian Women's Union years back while I was growing up and she brought me this copy of the Zarja, thinking I might be interested in some of the articles. I was! My mother was a member of Branch 23 in Ely, Minnesota and at one time she was a State President and National Auditor. I remember her going to conventions in Cleveland, Indianapolis, etc, I also remember many of the people that were mentioned coming to our house when something was being held in Ely. I knew your mother, Albina Novak was there and maybe you, too! (Yes, I was! C.)

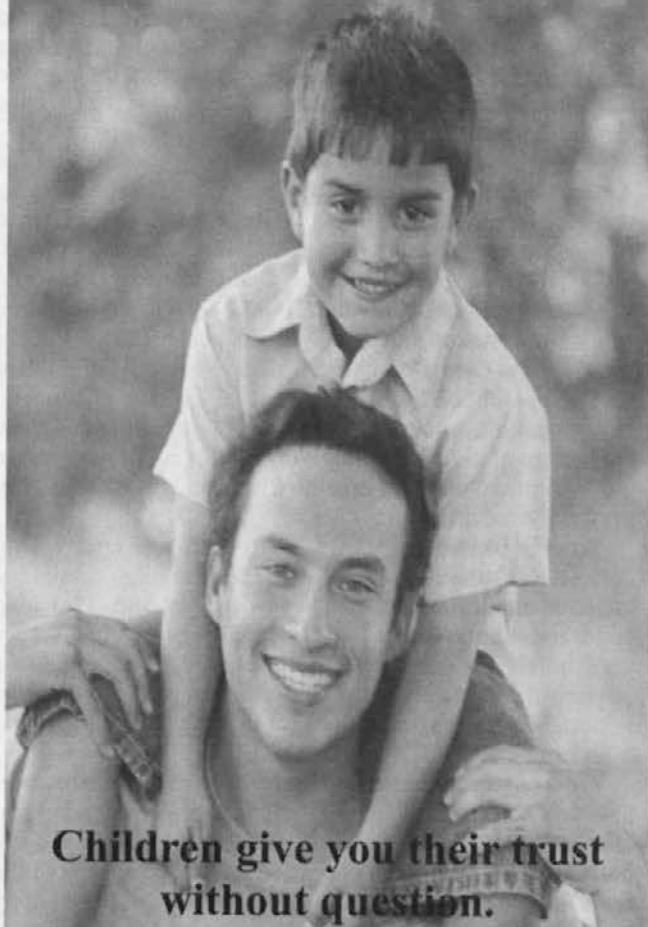
My mother's name was Barbara (Shikonya) Rosandich. My aunt, Mary Shikonya was also very involved in this group of Slovenian women. I hadn't seen a copy of the Zarja since I left home almost 50 years ago and it brought back many memories. I remember my mother collecting "dues" at our home or going to members' homes to collect the money. Only in Ely. Maybe other towns did it this way also.

Sincerely,

Delores Rosandich Pelto

KSKJ *life!*
AMERICAN SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC UNION

Student Term



**Children give you their trust
without question.**

Give them a future without doubt.

Secure the future of a child you love!

For only \$35 a year, children up to age 19 and in good health can obtain \$10,000 of life insurance coverage with KSKJ Student Term Life Insurance Policy! The policy then converts to a guaranteed, \$50,000 Whole Life policy at age 25, regardless of their health or occupation.

\$10,000 Student Term Life Insurance

For only \$35.00 a year

You don't know what the future holds!

As a child, Tom wanted a bicycle for his birthday. Instead, he was given a KSKJ Term Life Insurance policy. Little did anyone realize that, years later, the policy would become a priceless gift.

During his first year of college, Tom suffered a severe case of the flu. He couldn't seem to regain his strength, and would often feel dizzy and weak. After a complete physical, he was diagnosed with a heart condition that was a result of his bout with the flu. Tom recuperated quickly with proper medical treatment, but was told that the heart condition would impact his health and wellness for the rest of his life.

Tom's parent's had many fears for him, not the least of which was planning his future financial security. Normal parental concerns were magnified as the consequences of his illness complicated their attempt to obtain more life insurance coverage for him at an affordable rate. Then they remembered the \$10,000 KSKJ Student Term Policy they had given him as a birthday gift converted into a \$50,000 whole life policy at age 25, regardless of his health.*

**Thanks to KSKJ,
part of Tom's future was secure.**



**TRUST OUR STRENGTH
CATCH OUR SPIRIT
BUILD YOUR FUTURE**

American Slovenian Catholic Union, KSKJ

2439 Glenwood Ave. | Joliet, IL 60435

Toll Free: 800-843-5755 | Web: www.kskjlife.com

*Application and payment of the appropriate premium is required.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

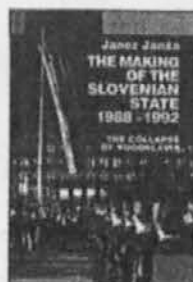
mail to: KSKJ • 2439 Glenwood Avenue • Joliet, IL 60435-5478

1-800-THE-KSKJ • www.kskjlife.com
SWU 3/2005

Home Office use only



GIVE THE GIFT OF YOUR SLOVENIAN HERITAGE



The Making of the Slovenian State/1988-1992; and the Collapse of Yugoslavia
 Authored by dissident, parliamentarian and former Defense Minister Janez Janša, this book gives an insider's view of the period leading to Slovenia's independence and a portrait of the people who emerged along with it. Hardback English edition has 52 photos in 256 pages. Price - \$45.



National Atlas of Slovenia
 "It is indeed impressive when a country that is smaller than Lake Ontario and has about two million people - fewer than many U.S. cities - can put out a national atlas as well presented as this one." - *The Library Journal*, 2002

Hardback - \$75. (Also available in Slovenian - ~~\$90~~ now \$45.)



The Tourist Guide to Slovenia
 This is the best tourist guide available. It contains hundreds of photographs, maps, and town plans in its 720 pages. It's a handy companion for touring around Slovenia. Price - \$75.



Slovenija from the Air
 There is no better way to appreciate the natural beauty of Slovenia than from the air. Over 200 stunning aerial photos in its 242 pages. Price - ~~\$90~~ now \$72.



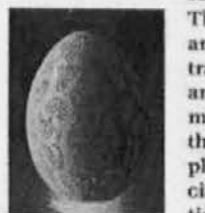
Slovenian Folk Tales
 An English version of one of the best-selling Slovenian children's books, with six Slovenian folk tales and 52 great full-color illustrations in 82 pages. Price - \$29.00.



Slovenia: The First Ten Years
 A photo history of the events leading to Slovenia's break with Yugoslavia and a chronicle of the first ten years of independence. 690 photographs from the archives of DELO, the major daily newspaper in Slovenia, with an English narration. Price - \$80.



Slovenia: My Country
 This is one of the best photographic portraits of Slovenia ever published. It was produced by Joco Znidaršič, the long-serving photo editor of DELO, the major daily newspaper in Slovenia. "My Country" captures the stunning beauty of Slovenia in 277 photographs over its 200 pages. English narration. Price - \$90.



Handicrafts of Slovenia
 This gorgeous book presents the craft art of over 200 craftsmen working in traditional forms. Includes a guide to artisans by region with contact information for those who wish to visit these artists. 315 pages with 532 color photos. Standard edition - \$100, special collector's edition - \$125, exhibition edition with 143 color photographs in 172 pages - ~~\$95~~ now \$33.



Come My Gentle Ariel
 This is the best known of renowned Slovenian author Mira Mihelic's many stories for young people. It is based on the author's up-bringing in her grandmother's home in the mining town of Trbovlje. 129 pages with 18 illustrations. Price - \$29.



Slovenian Cookery
 Over 100 classic Slovenian dishes are provided in this recent publication. Recipes selected by Slavko Adamje, one of Slovenia's foremost chefs. 83 color photographs over its 144 pages. Attention is also given to the wines of each region. Price - \$45.00.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Guide to Slovenian Museums - \$58 / *The Atlas of Slovenia (240 maps at 1:50,000 scale)* - \$120
Plecnik's Market in Ljubljana - \$80 / *Plecnik's Treasures* - \$80 / *Triglav National Park Guide and Map* - \$26
Architectural Guide to Ljubljana - Paperback - \$56; collector's hardcover edition - \$85 / *Slovenia Pocket Guide* - \$14
Slovenian Cooking - \$14 / *Slovenia Roadmap* - \$12

Orders can be placed by credit card on-line at: www.BooksofSlovenia.com
 or by sending a check (or purchase order) payable to
Books of Slovenia to 453 Rialto Avenue, Venice, CA 90291.
 For information call (310) 392-4843 or email BooksofSlovenia@comcast.net

Please Patronize Our Advertisers

Zimmer FUNERAL HOMES

Mark Zimmer, *Funeral Director*
mark@zimmerfuneralhome.com
805 North 6th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081
(920) 457-7012 - Fax: (920) 457-7013
117 North Wisconsin Drive, Howards Grove, WI 53083
(920) 565-2331
www.zimmerfuneralhome.com



First Midwest Bank

Joliet • (815) 727-5222



SHELIGA DRUG INC.

True Value.

6025 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103

(216) 431-1035

Serving our neighborhoods' daily needs

ZELE FUNERAL HOME, INC.

452 East 152nd St., Cleveland, Ohio

(216) 481-3118

Marie T. Stelow, MS, LCPC

Individual, Couple, Family Therapy

1000 Essington Road

Phone: (815) 773-2303

Joliet, IL 60431

Fax: (815) 744-1623

At Your Service During Life's Most Difficult Moments

Louis "Ron" Zefran
Frank J. Zefran

Lois M. Zefran

Connie Rodriguez
Debbie Zefran Jerry

1-800-249-9150

(773) 847-6688

Zefran Funeral Home, Ltd.

1941 West Cermak Road, Chicago, IL 60608

Custom Designed & Personally Escorted Specialty Tours and Cruises for 2005

Tulips and Polkas in Bloom in

Amsterdam, Holland - Netherlands
April 19-26, 2005

Travel with Polka Radio Ambassador, Tony
Petkovsek and an All-Star lineup of polka musicians

Experience the Wonders of Slovenia with Slovenian Women's Union of America

June 18 - July 3, 2005

Novo Mesto, Maribor, Ljubljana, Portoroz, Bled

Return to Slovenia June 27-July 7, 2005

with Joe and Nancy Novak

Congenial hosts make for party time along the way

American Slovenian Catholic Union

K.S.K.J Slovenia 2005

September 8-21, 2005

Explore various regions for 2 weeks

* Slovenia in a Week *

* Highlights of Slovenia *

Guarant'd Departures: (6 nites) May thru Sept. 2005

Cruising with Slovenian Style Music

Polka Party at Sea March 13-20, 2005

aboard the "Norwegian Dream"

Gary Seibert, California Polka Power (Band)
Cleveland's - the Captain's Crew (Button Box)
Minnesota's Hank Thunander

Cozumel-Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras-Belize City-Cancun

Rockin' Polkas at Sea April 10-17, 2005

aboard the "Star Princess"

LynnMarie & The Boxhounds
Princess Cays-Cozumel-Grand Cayman-Ocho Rios

Polkas in Paradise April 30-May 11, 2005

with Al Battistelli on NCL's "Wind" Hawaii cruise

For the best Airfares to Slovenia call:

Sample Airfares: Cleveland/Ljubljana

Fall: from \$675 / Winter: from \$595



"Celebrating 81 Years in Travel, since 1923"



Kollander World Travel

971 E 185 St • Cleveland OH 44119

(800) 800-5981 • (216) 692-1000

www.kollander-travel.com



Membership Application

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

Please type or print legibly. Choose type of membership:

- Junior (Birth to 18), Annual Dues \$5.00 Adult, Annual Dues \$20.00

Name and Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry _____

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

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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

SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA, 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432 – (815) 727-1926
e-mail: swuhome@msn.com — Internet webpage: www.swua.org

Please allow four to six weeks for membership processing.

In addition to my dues, I wish to contribute to the General Fund: For Office Use:
\$ _____ Date Received: _____

In honor of _____ Membership No.: _____

In memory of _____ Branch Affiliate: _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

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

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

My friend's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DS

II 54 788 2005



920052386,2

COBISS

PAID
JOLIET
ILLINOIS

SLOVENIAN HERITAGE RECIPES

The PERFECT gift
for all occasions

Features Include:

*600 Great Recipes
with easy formats
171 NEW recipes
from our members*

Favorites of
three generations
Detailed Instructions
Origins of regional recipes
Historical Information
Maps and notes of interest!

Heritage illustrations
by renowned artist,
Nancy Bukovnik

"MORE POTS & PANS"

Please send me _____ copies at special price of
\$12.00 per copy or 2 for \$ 10 each for cash & carry.
If mailed from the Home Office, cost is \$15 or 2 for
\$25.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Make check payable to and send order to:
Slovenian Women's Union
431 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

