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Zarja

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September/October, 2007

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

The Dawn



***E**NVISIONING *the* **F**UTURE*

25th National
Convention and 80th
Anniversary Gala

25th National Convention Delegates



Photographer: Linda Ford



Zarja - The Dawn

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



Camp Heritage, 2007

Front Cover Photo: Girls are left to right: Annie Sabatta, Megan Rehn, Natalie Anagnan, Jordan Duffin and Mary Argubright. All are members of Branch 89 Oglesby, IL

Photographer: Linda Ford
Linda Lenses www.lindalenses.com

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From the Editor

I am still recovering from the National Convention. For those of you who were unable to attend, I hope you can get a feel of the excitement that was present at each and every event by looking at the great pictures taken by Linda Ford and reading about the events in the minutes. There was never a dull moment during the entire weekend of events.

Thanks to Bonnie Prokup, Nancy Henkel and all those behind the scenes support people. This was one of the greatest events in SWUA history. - *Debbie Pohar, Editor*



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

In reading the menu for the 80th Anniversary Gala it brought all kinds of fond memories. It was as if I were looking at my mother's menu when she had company. Congratulations Jenka and Chef Charlie!

Theresa Mikolic Burns Branch 20

SWUA Board of Directors, 2007 - 2011



Newly-elected Board of Directors of Slovenian Women's Union of America, left to right: Vice President of Outreach – Debbie Pohar, Vice President of the Home Office – Carol Ryba, President – Bonnie Prokup, Vice President of Culture and Heritage – George Plautz, Jr., Vice President of Marketing & Fund-Raising – Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons, Corresponding/Recording Secretary – Karen Taylor, Treasurer – Denise Bartlett

Complete biographies of Board Members in November-December Zarja.

National President's Message

Envisioning the Future

What a celebration! It was one of the greatest events in all time history for SWUA. According to one guest, it was the best time she had in her entire life! Wow, what a statement.

I went to the National Convention thinking it would be my last as a national officer and I left as the youngest president in the history of SWUA. What is that telling us? Yes, there is hope for our future. It's time to get your children and grandchildren to become members. Now would be a good time to talk with them about SWUA. When they tell you they are busy, tell them it's ok. The new National President is, too. I am 40 years old, married and have two children ages 15 and 12. Both my girls are very active and involved in the following: cheer squads, competitive cheer squads, choir, plays, tumbling, softball, traveling softball, golf, basketball, student council, yearbook and the list goes on and on. But just like other busy American families we do fine and can still do the things we enjoy.

Not only am I the youngest President but, we have the youngest National Board. With the restructuring that was voted upon I believe we elected some outstanding people to serve until 2011. I encourage you to join in the fun as we work together to make SWUA an organization that many will join. We are looking for volunteers for different positions. Would you like to be a part of it? If so, let me know what your expertise is and let's work together to find the perfect role for you.



Bonnie Pohar Prokup
National President

Envisioning the Future is what this new board will be all about. We also encourage you to **DO IT FOR YOUR GRANDMA!** What a simple slogan! How many of you remember your grandmother? Can you imagine how proud she would be if she knew you were carrying out Slovenian traditions? I joined this organization in 1993 in memory of my grandmother Josephine Brekan Pohar who immigrated from Šmarjeta, Slovenia. She was a long time member as well as her children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren. I remember going to her house when I was little and seeing the *Zarja* magazine sitting on her table. I remember looking through it pretending I could understand Slovenian. Can you imagine what she would be thinking now? One granddaughter the National President and her other is the Editor of *Zarja*? Yes..... **DO IT FOR YOUR GRANDMA!**

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE *"DO IT FOR YOUR GRANDMA!"*

Bonnie Pohar Prokup
National President 2007 – 2011
3119 Carrie Street
Peru, IL 61354
Wprokup@aol.com



Jonita Ruth, left and Corinne Leskovar, right

Special Projects Director Mary Lou Voelk, on behalf of the SWUA, presented corsages and plaques to Corinne Leskovar and Jonita Ruth in recognition for their many years of service to SWUA.

SWUA Lifetime Achievement Awards Presented



Mary Lou Voelk and Jonita Ruth



Mary Lou Voelk and
Corinne Leskovar



Welcome to Our New Members!

Ailstock, Grace E, 1	Hennings, Lois, 20	Russ, Charlotte, 38	Perruso, Roland, 99
Ailstock, Jack V, 1	Horne, Wayne, 20	Ribich, Jack Thomas, 39	Rupert, Anne, 99
Bougher, Angela, 1	Horwath, Elizabeth, 20	Ribich, Kristin, 39	Stockus, Benjamin, 99
DeVoe, Anne, 1	Juricic, Jeanne, 20	Ribich, Kyle Lucas, 39	Tasner, Ana, 99
Schellinger, Robert H, 1	Kasza, Patricia, 20	Siskar, Frances, 39	Vlasic, Nicole, 99
Thoms, Theresa Tevsh, 1	Kovic, Colleen P, 20	Slagle, Elizabeth, 39	Abate, Josephine, 100
Wier, Lynn, 1	Marenche, Lisa R, 20	Stojakovich, Kathleen, 39	Altieri, Shirley, 100
Zietlow, Andrea, 1	Michalesko, Hank, 20	Tuskan, Anne M, 39	Cercek, Nena, 100
Zietlow, Anna, 1	Muller, Martin, 20	Frohna, Mark, 43	Farrage, Joanna, 100
Zietlow, Tesia, 1	Nickel, Larry, 20	Fuchs, Emily, 43	Jantzen, Karen, 100
Zittel, Allison Tevish, 1	Orenic, Kenneth, 20	Fuchs, Teresa, 43	Kapel, Kellie, 100
Zittel, Steven R, 1	Petrella, Mary, 20	Kaye, Kathryn, 43	Kapel, Robert, 100
Augustine, Beverly, 2	Reardon, Michael, 20	Kaye, Rebecca Marie, 43	Knava, Anne M, 100
Cukale, Thomas, 2	Ryan, Jill, 20	Kaye, Katherina M, 43	Koci, Timothy, 100
Lattuca, Madalyne, 2	Vershay, Phyllis, 20	Martinka, Elizabeth, 43	Leathers, Marcia, 100
Litwin, Michelle, 2	Wartenberg, Christina, 20	Reddy, Patricia, 43	Lomsek, Janez, 100
Litwin, Sarah Marie, 2	Wartenberg, David, 20	Janes, Alexis, 47	Lomsek, Ziga, 100
Normandt, Jeanette, 2	Wartenberg, Lynn, 20	Janes, Tom, 47	Mavko, Fran, 100
Scott, Mary Rose, 2	Weinhold, JoAnn, 20	Gobetz, Dr. Giles, 50	Miklich, Jim, 100
Strzelczyk, Jennifer, 2	Akins, Josephine, 23	Tomsick, Joseph, 50	Mlakar, Fredrick, 100
Bregar, Dominick, 3	Ciesielsky, Bill, 23	Tomsick, Richard, 50	Radosaljevic, Zorica, 100
Gacnik, Michael, 3	Dolinar, Charles, 23	Wolowiecki, Dorothy, 50	Tomazin, Mark, 100
Gersick, Maria, 3	Klun, Barbara, 23	Ponikvar, Brent, 54	Trainer, Alice Elizabeth, 100
Hill, Melissa, 3	Klun, Theresa, 23	Ponikvar, Carla, 54	Vidergar, Ivan, 100
Mutz, Marie D, 3	Omerza, Barbara J, 23	Ponikvar, Tyler, 54	Zalokar, Lisa, 100
Perse, Helen, 3	Omerza, Gabriella, 23	Selak, Molly Roberts, 55	Gautlier, Bernadine, 102
Tucker, Jakob T, 3	Omerza, Kathleen M, 23	Carus, Cynthia, 89	Krempasky, Meda, 102
Tucker, Patrick, 3	Ostrander, Gail L, 23	Keith, Mary Ellen, 89	Terselic, Richard, 103
Brodnik, Hank, 5	Perovshek, Jean, 23	Seskar, Sr. Jozefa, 89	Leo, Pat, 105
Canalas, Connie, 5	Petrich, Bernard, 23	Kirk, Annette, 93	Wolfs, Julie Jerneycic, 105
Canalas, Maria, 5	Casstevens, Kathy, 24	Breszach, L. Maria, 99	Cedilnik, Marjeta, 108
Lambert, Martin, 5	Haake, Jane, 24	Burrich, Suzanne, 99	Finch, Barbara, 108
Watson, Jerry, 5	Olson, Marilyn, 24	Burrich, Danielle, 99	Koiner, Charles, 108
Watson, Jozef, 5	Pohar, John IV, 24	Burrich, Lauren, 99	Pfeifer, Alenka J, 108
Mole, Francis, 10	Pohar, Julia, 24	Cihlar, Katherine Valent, 99	Weyker, Zala, 108
Vojtkofsky, Bradley, 10	Roth, Marge, 24	Cihlar, Marc, 99	Bajda, Nadi, 109
Vrh, Firan, 10	Alich, Karen L, 30	Cihlar, Matthew, 99	Barthelemy, Elaine A, 109
Flynn, Dorothy, 13	Ashley, Cheryl E, 30	Filipi, Polona R, 99	Ellenwood, Brittany, 109
Lavrich, Marlana, 13	Greenberg, Lea H, 30	Jalcovik, Mary, 99	Eschiti, Starla Guilianna, 109
Globokar, Sharon, 14	Hartnett, Janet, 30	Kolosov, Helene, 99	Eschititi, Sofia Sue, 109
Bellis, Natalie, 20	Ciesielsky, Bill, 33	Krajnc, Maria, 99	Jorstad, Evan James, 109
Crotty, Dylan, 20	Mattson, Maryen, 33	Luna, Dragica, 99	LaBonte, Rebecca, 109
Halsne, Brian, 20	Edgeton, Mary, 35	Martincic, Christine, 99	Wood, Sydney, 109
Halsne, Judy, 20	Edgeton, Stephanie, 35	Martincic, Sophia, 99	
Halsne, Teresa, 20	Edgeton, Tony, 35	Nyberg, Branka, 99	

Correction:

Advertisement in the July/August issue of *Zarja* should have read - In Memory Of Martin G. Juricic and Anna M. Buchar Juricic, First Generation Slovenians. Parents of Jean Herbst, Joliet Branch 20, Treasurer.

Envisioning Our Future Honoring Our Past

Zarja The Dawn Donations

“Keeping the Spirit Alive”

\$100 Donation

Carus, Fred and Cynthia, 89

\$50 Donation

Bender, Georgene *memory of Emma Guch (Zalar), 68
Olson, Marilyn *memory of mother

Anne Kastigar Dresen, 24

Trebian, Kathleen *honor of Fran Morison, 2

\$32 Donation

Litwin, Rosemary *memory of mother Antonia Densa, 2

\$30 Donation

Gottardi, Paula M *memory of grandmother,

Frances Nemgar, 39

Kozlik, Laura **memory of Ann Bogolin, 2

Kozlik, Marianne *memory of Anna Zorko, 2

Newberry, Margaret *memory of Victoria Zuga, 47

Testen, Mary Ellen *memory of August Testen, 20

Urbancic, Mary *memory of Urbancic Family, 25

Zuga, Karen *memory of Victoria Zuga, 54

\$25 Donation

Erjavec, Olga *memory of Marla Mae Allen, 20

Popich, Katherine *memory of Frank Popich, 30

\$20 Donation

Doran, Jan & Kaplan, Ginny in memory of Jo Poder, 3

Grabowski, Josephine *memory of Josephine Brekan

Pohar & Family, 24

Hanse, Arnold *memory of William & Anna Hansen, 20

Herbst, Jean, 20

Hrovat, Jo Anne, 20

Klun, Madelyn A *memory of William Slogar, 35

McFarland, Margaret M *memory of Simon(cic) & Arch
(Arh) families, 108

Pesec, Julia *honor of Julia Pesec, 12

Rossi, Helen Marie *memory of William “Billy” Slogar,
23

Ryczek, Karen *memory of mother Marie Kovalik, 30

Tomasich, Rose *memory of parents

Matt & Mary Tomasich, 16

Weihman, Mary *memory of Angela Strukel &

Angela Nowik, 24

\$15 Donation

Bratina, Marqaux *memory of Ily Bratina, 93

Scepita, Mary Ellen *memory of Josephine Sever, 7

Scepita, Mary Ellen *memory of Veronica Scepita, 7

Wadycki, Pamela, 2

\$10 Donation

Anonymous, 103

Bajda, Nadi *memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bajda, 109

Branch 43 - Milwaukee in memory of Mary Coffelt, 43

Branch 54 - Warren, OH in memory of Victoria Zuga, 4

Buchanan, Jeanette Sevshek, 109

Buol, Genevieve, 2

Buol, Katherine, 2

Chokel, Mara Kocevar, 103

Fimiano, Mary *memory of John Fimiano, 12

Hiti, Mary Jane, 14

Hrovat, Dolores *memory of Agnes Zagar &
Darlene Zagar, 47

Hurst, Betty, 24

Kaczmarek, Joan D *honor of Ethel Rozman

Latimer, 99

Kinkopf, Frances *memory of Frances Kapel &

Elfie Chesnic, 100

Kokal, E May *memory of Daniel Kokalj, 108

Konar, Frances *memory of Frances Konar, 16

Kriznar, Mary Jean, 23

Lawrence, Eveline Kaluza *memory of

Frances Kaluza, 108

Moore, Margaret, 3

Morison, Frances, 2

Morison, Terrance, 2

Mramor, Stan *honor of my father, 40

Prijic, Helen *memory of mother Helen Riffel, 43

Qualls, Isabel, 43

Shebenik, Theresa *memory of Edith Spokas, 20

Smith, Lucille B *memory of mother

Mary Bostjancic, 71

Spagnolo, Marcia *memory of Jacob Adam, 81

Tarro, Mary Ann M *memory of Mary Babich &

Margaret Skelko, 56

Welsh, Cindy *memory of Anna Kobe, 20

Yemec, Mary Anne *memory of Mary Yemec, 42

Zeleznikar, Jean, 2

\$5 Donation

*memory of Mary Evardjan, 71

Branch 20

Darden, Rosemary *memory of Albina Mrsnik, 50

Donges, Agnes, 40

Hutar, Angela, 50

Koporc, Agnes, 25

Mutz, Patricia, 20

Ribich, Rosemary *memory of Johanna Ribich Sever, 39

Richardson, Alenka, 103

Schlarb, Mary, 25

25th National Convention Minutes & 80th Anniversary Gala Report

June 21 – 24, 2007, Starved Rock Lodge, Utica, IL

Prepared by National President Kathleen Ferrante (1999 -2007)

Approved by the 2007-2011 National Board at the July 13th, 2007 Board Meeting

Thursday - Preliminary Events

The Bylaw Review Session for delegates, alternates and members was held from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM in the LaSalle Room, June 21, 2007, presented by Bylaws Chair Denise Bartlett. This session provided a forum for Convention attendees to discuss issues and have questions answered regarding the proposed bylaw amendments.

Preliminary to the formal opening of the 25th National Convention, a Wine Tasting Extravaganza was held from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, June 21, 2007 in the "Gostilna" in the Lodge's Great Hall. Delegates with Credentials received their Convention material in specially monogrammed SWUA Tote bags which included the delegate's binder with schedules, reports from all elected and appointed National Officers and Regional Presidents, speakers' handouts and various informational handouts. Delegates, alternates and members were greeted with a warm welcome by National President Kathleen Ferrante. Ms. Kathy Casstevens, representing Starved Rock Lodge, and Brane Vidmar of Kompas Travel in Slovenia gave brief talks. Brane informed the crowd of the history of grape growth in regions of Slovenia and production of wine in those areas. Each attendee was provided a sampling of 5 choices from a selection of local wines from the LaSalle County area.

The National Board met in the National President's room at 9:15 PM until 10:00 PM to discuss the Convention business and address any concerns or issues. All registered elected and appointed Officers and Regional Presidents attended.

Children attending Camp Heritage were welcomed by Camp Directors Denise Duffin and Tammy Ebner-Landgraf, and given their schedules for activities to be held on the grounds of Starved Rock Lodge and State Park during the Convention business hours on Friday and Saturday. The children were privileged to have members of the Slovenian World Congress direct from Slovenia also helping to conduct Camp Heritage. They were: Sonia Avguštin, Luka Klopčič, Zdenka Oblak, and Gregor Volarič. Also, in attendance from the Slovenian World Congress, was Mr. Franci Feltrin.

MINUTES of the 25TH NATIONAL CONVENTION of the SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION of AMERICA Friday - Opening of the Convention - First Session

Prior to the business session of the 25th National SWUA Convention, the Credentials Committee Chair, Genevieve Buol, reviewed the credentials of all attending delegates. She reported a full delegation of 15 National Officers and 31 Branch Delegates registered; a total of 46 voting delegates.

The Convention Business Session was called to order at 8:00 AM, on Friday, June 22, 2007 in the Starved Rock Room by National President Kathleen Ferrante, who called for the singing of the American National Anthem and

Slovenian National Anthem. President Ferrante then welcomed all delegates, alternates, members and guests. Convention Coordinators Bonnie Prokup and Nancy Henkel gave their welcomes. President Ferrante gave an inspirational message entitled "The Golden Chain of Friendship" by Helen Steiner Rice. The 2003 - 2007 National Board members were introduced. The children attending Camp Heritage were excused to attend their program for the day.

President Ferrante gave her President's Message, which emphasized the importance of our organization's willingness to accept changes necessary for SWUA to continue to be successful and thrive. She stressed the value of having one Vision, Mission and Purpose for our organization. President Ferrante also expressed her heartfelt thanks to the members for allowing her to serve the organization for the last eight years and the National Board members for their assistance and for their work to insure the success of SWUA.

Bill Prokup, SWUA's financial advisor, gave a comprehensive overview of our financial condition. He outlined our source of funds and expenses and explained the financial structure we must adhere to in abiding by the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department of Insurance. Mr. Prokup explained to the delegates that they must be mindful of these points when voting on future proposals.

Special Projects Director, Mary Lou Voelk, gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on the historical movement of the Slovenian immigrants and its significance to SWUA entitled "Envisioning the Future, Honoring the Past: Slovenian Style." Following her presentation members were symbolically entertained by the singing of the Slovenian Women's Union Song entitled "Naša Zvezina Himna" by the following in Slovenian Costumes: Corinne Leskovar, Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons, Michaela Simrayh, Rosemary Petrich, Rosemary Ribbich and Anita Vovk. The delegates had copies of the song in their binders and many enjoyed singing along.

After a short break, National Secretary Bonnie Prokup gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Membership status of our organization. She outlined and defined our membership by age and region, listed endangered branches, and described our membership today. Secretary Prokup's PowerPoint presentation gave a complete picture of our membership and statistics since SWUA's inception. Our peak year was 1957 with 86 active branches. At one time there was a total of 109 branches and today we have 34 active branches. Secretary Prokup highlighted the 14 branches that were most successful in increasing their membership the past four years. Lynn Zalokar, (Delegate Branch 93, NYC, NY) gave a presentation on how to increase membership. Working in corporate America in the field of marketing, Zalokar gave ideas to the delegates on

the “3 R’s” – recruitment, retention and reinstatement. Members were encouraged to talk to her during scheduled social times to obtain other ideas to help their branches increase membership.

An update of SWUA’s official publication, Zarja - the Dawn was given by Editor Debbie Pohar and Design Editor Bonnie Prokup. With the closing of Croatian Franciscan Press, printing will now be done at LKCS located in Peru, IL. A gift was given to all delegates’ compliments of LKCS. Editor Pohar also stated that the cost of printing Zarja - the Dawn is expected to be under what has been budgeted. She will be working on obtaining more advertisers for future issues. She stated that each issue will feature special themes already planned through 2008.

A forty-five minute lunch break was provided in the Great Hall.

Friday - Convention - Second Session

The afternoon session began at 12:45 PM with the Credentials Report by Chair Genevieve Buol. As of 8:00 AM, Friday, June 22, 2007 there were 15 National Officers and 31 Branch Delegates registered for a total of 46 voting delegates.

Serving as a Timer for the amendment session was Debbie Duris (Delegate Branch 47, Garfield Heights, OH) and Vote Tellers were Vicki Hodgman (Joliet, IL), Jean Korsman (Biwabik, MN) and George Plautz, Jr. (Willard, WI).

Proposed bylaw amendments, as previously submitted to the members of the organization by publication in Zarja - the Dawn, was the next order of business. President Ferrante stated, that according to SWUA bylaws, all convention delegates must vote on all issues and motions submitted to the convention. All motions and elections were to be decided by a majority vote of the Convention delegates assembled. She further informed the delegates that amendments of the association’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Convention delegates assembled. A quorum was established with 31 delegates in attendance. A majority vote consisted of 24 votes and a two-thirds majority required 31 votes. Serving as Parliamentary Advisor for the Business Session was Denise Bartlett.

Bylaws Chair Denise Bartlett explained that the parliamentary requirement of Scope of Notice directs that proposed Bylaws amendments as previously submitted to the membership cannot be amended. That is, proposed Bylaws amendments must be voted on as they were presented to the entire SWUA membership by official publication in the May - June 2007 issue of Zarja - the Dawn.

For reference to the original Bylaws listed by page number, please refer to the (blue color) 2003 Bylaws booklet. Underlining indicates proposed wording changes. The following transpired with the corrected amendment verbiage:

ARTICLES of INCORPORATION (pages 1-6)

ARTICLE I (page 1) – Ballot Vote - **Failed** (24 For; 22 Against)

The name of this association shall be: Slovenian Society of America. The name translated in the Slovenian language is: Slovenska Zveza v Ameriki.

ARTICLE II (page 3) – Ballot Vote - **Failed** (25 For; 21 Against)

The purposes for which the Slovenian Women’s Union of America is formed are:

a) To unite persons of Slovenian ancestry or other descent and their families who are of good character.

ARTICLE II (page 3) **Passed**

The purposes for which the Slovenian Women’s Union of America is formed are:

d) To establish a Burial Fund, as permitted by the laws of the State of Illinois and the Bylaws of this association, from which a sum not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00) is paid to the beneficiary of members enrolled prior to January 1, 2000.

ARTICLE III (page 3) **Passed**

The management of the association is vested in a Board of Directors who are elected at the National Convention of the association for a four-year term as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV (page 4-5) **both passed**

This body shall be composed of the members of the Board of Directors and delegates elected by the individual branches, as provided in the Bylaws.

In the interval between National Conventions, and when the affairs of the association so demand, the powers of this body may be exercised by the Board of Directors upon the majority consent of the Board or when authorized by a general vote of the membership, called and held in accordance with the Bylaws of this association.

GLAVNI NAMEN (page 9) **Void** – Due to ARTICLES of INCORPORATION, Article I Failed Vote

Slovenke, širom Združenih Držav Amerike, smo se združile v organizacijo z imenom: Slovenska Zveza v Ameriki. Naš osnovni namen je ohranjati in širiti Slovenske kulturne-narodne vrednote in verske vrednote.

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS and REGULATIONS (pages 10-55)

ARTICLE I (page 10) **Void** - Due to ARTICLES of INCORPORATION, ARTICLE I Failed Vote

Name & Location

1.01 The name of this organization is the Slovenian Society of America, or as abbreviated, S.S.A. Translated into the Slovenian language, the name is Slovenska Zveza v Ameriki, or as abbreviated, S.Z.A.

ARTICLE I (con’t) **Passed**

1.02 The principal office of this association will be located in the State of Illinois.

ARTICLE II (page 10-11) **Void** – Due to ARTICLES of INCORPORATION, ARTICLE I Failed Vote

Formation, Purposes and Governing Laws

2.03 a) Same as ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION – ARTICLE II a) – (page 3)

ARTICLE II (con’t) **Passed**

2.04 Mutual ideals and understanding shall govern all practices and procedures.

ARTICLE III (pages 12-16) **Void** – Typographical correction only

Membership

3.02 Any individual, whether of Slovenian or other descent, which subscribes to the purposes and bylaws of the

Slovenian Women's Union of America, may become a member of this association.

All remaining proposed Amendments Passed except for ARTICLE X 10.03

3.03 The Slovenian Women's Union will have five classes of members. The designations of and the qualifications for membership in these classes are as follows:

a) Adult Class A: Valid for members who joined under the age of 66 and before January 1, 1996.

b) Adult Class B: Valid for members between 18 and 65 years of age who joined between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 1999.

c) Junior Class J: Valid for children and young adults up to age 18 years who joined before January 1, 2000.

d) Junior Class X: Valid for children and young adults up to age 18 years who joined since January 1, 2000.

e) Social Class: Valid for members 66 years of age and above who joined on or after January 1, 1988 and also for those members 18 years of age and above who joined since January 1, 2000.

3.09 A member who joined prior to January 01, 2000 with a burial insurance policy benefit who does not pay her/his full assessment in a given year nor is reinstated that same year may join as a new member at a later date without a burial insurance policy benefit.

ARTICLE IV (pages 16-20)

National Convention

4.02 Two-thirds of all eligible convention delegates must be present at the business meeting in order to constitute a quorum.

4.03 The National President and Vice President of Outreach shall preside over the convention.

4.05 Amendments of the association's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the eligible convention delegates.

4.06 Resolutions and motions of branches requesting amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws must be presented to the Board of Directors no later than six (6) months in advance of the National Convention to allow for Board review and distribution to all members through the official publication, Zarja- the Dawn.

4.09 Any adult member is eligible to be a delegate or alternate to the National Convention if she/he is at least 18 years of age and a member in good standing. She/He must also be a member for at least one year and must have attended the majority of meetings of her/his branch during the year prior to the convention as verified by branch records.

4.12 Delegates and alternates to the National Convention will be elected by individual branches at their branch meetings in the year preceding the National Convention. Delegates and alternates' names shall be submitted to the National Convention Credentials Committee at least 60 days prior to the National Convention. In case of unforeseen conflict/emergency, the alternate delegate becomes the primary delegate. If that person cannot serve, the branch shall elect a substitute delegate in a timely manner.

Elections may be by secret ballot if any member so requests.

4.13 Delegate credentials shall be prepared and signed by the President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer presiding at the election of delegates of the branch.

ARTICLE V (pages 20-23)

Board of Directors

5.02 The Board of Directors of the association will consist of seven official members. The official Boards' members shall include the National President, as Chairman; the National Vice President of Outreach; the National Vice President of the Home Office; the National Vice President of Culture and Heritage; the National Vice President of Marketing and Fund Raising; the National Corresponding/Recording Secretary; and the National Treasurer.

5.03 Board members shall be adult members of the association and may serve for a maximum of two (2) terms, a term consisting of four (4) years each.

5.08 When a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, the Board shall have the authority by a two-thirds majority vote to fill the position from among the members of the association.

5.09 If a Board member should neglect her/his official duties, violate the Bylaws or act dishonestly, the Board shall have the right to remove the member from her/his office by a special trial. The National President will preside at such trials, unless she/he is the accused, in which case the following order of responsibility will be followed: National Vice President of Outreach, followed by National Vice President of the Home Office; followed by National Vice President of Culture and Heritage, followed by National Vice President of Marketing and Fund-Raising.

ARTICLE VI (pages 24-25)

Committees

6.01 (Delete current section re Executive Committee.) (Current 6.04 becomes 6.01)

The Scholarship Program Director/Committee Chairperson is appointed by the Board of Directors.

6.02 (Delete current section re Executive Committee.) (Current 6.05 becomes 6.02)

An individual may receive more than one SWUA scholarship.

6.03 (Delete current section re Executive Committee.) Members of the National Convention Credentials Committee are selected each National Convention year by the host branch(es) to serve for the duration of the National Convention. The Convention Credentials Committees' responsibilities to be determined by the National Convention Chairperson(s).

ARTICLE VII (pages 26-35)

National Officers

7.01 The National Officers of the Slovenian Women's Union of America will consist of the following personnel:

The seven members of the Board of Directors of the Slovenian Women's Union of America, namely, the National President, National Vice President of Outreach, National Vice President of the Home Office, National Vice President of Culture and Heritage, National Vice President of Marketing and Fund-Raising, National Corresponding/Recording Secretary and National Treasurer and the Regional Presidents. Members of the Board of Directors will be elected at each National Convention and may serve in their individual positions for a maximum of two (2) terms, a term consisting of four (4) years each.

In addition, National Officers, namely, the Director of Membership, the Director of Special Projects, the

Scholarship Program Director, the Heritage Museum Director and the Editor of *Zarja - the Dawn*, may be appointed by majority decision of the Board of Directors.

7.02 The National President will be the chief executive officer of the association and will, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervise and control the affairs of the association.

By virtue of her/his office, the National Conventions and all meetings of the Board of Directors or directorial committees, she/he shall have the authority to call meetings of the Board of Directors and to sign all official association papers and documents, as may be required.

7.05 The National Vice President of Outreach will perform all duties and exercise all powers when the President is absent or otherwise unable to act. She/He will assist the National President in presiding over National Conventions, attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors and the National President. The Vice-President of Outreach will have the same qualifications as the National President. In the event that the office of National President should become vacant, the Vice-President of Outreach will succeed to the position.

7.06 (Delete current section re National Secretary) The National Vice President of Outreach will oversee and be responsible for the following areas: publication of the *Zarja - the Dawn*, along with the *Zarja* Editor; maintaining and updating of the official website, along with the Webmaster; production of the On-Line Newsletter, along with the On-Line Newsletter Editor; and maintaining the Scholarship Program, working with the Scholarship Program Director.

7.07 (Delete current section re National Secretary) The National Vice President of the Home Office will be the custodian of the official documents and records of the association. She/He will maintain a strict account of the transactions of the association, and, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, will allocate all accumulated interest to the association's funds. In addition, the Vice President of the Home Office will give all notices as are required by law or by these Bylaws and, generally, will perform all duties incident to the office of Vice President of the Home Office and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors and the National President.

7.08 (Delete current section re National Secretary) The National Vice President of the Home Office shall have knowledge of accounting and record keeping. To allow her/him to fulfill her/his association duties the Vice-President of the Home Office shall not hold an executive office in a branch, which would conflict with such duties.

7.09 (Delete current section re National Secretary) The National Vice President of the Home Office on behalf of the Board of Directors, will accept new members and branches into the association; accept petitions for admissions and Bylaws; issue yearly assessment invoices to all members; record all membership transactions and maintain a list of individual branches according to number and date of organization.

7.10 (Move current section re National Treasurer to 7.16) The National Vice President of Culture and Heritage shall have the duty to awaken the consciousness of our members

to their cultural heritage and to promote activities which will relate to or reflect upon the contributions of Slovenians to the American way of life. She/He shall be engaged in on-going interpretive research and development that identifies Slovenian culture and heritage to the membership, the general public and specifically to and for children.

7.11 (Move current section re National Treasurer to 7.17) The National Vice President of Culture and Heritage shall oversee the operation of the Heritage Museum and that museum standards are maintained. She/He shall direct the acquisition and exhibition of collections, promote fundraising, procure grants, and shall communicate with the membership through the official publication, *Zarja - the Dawn*.

7.12 (Move current section re National Treasurer to 7.18) The National Vice President of Marketing and Fund-Raising will direct all aspects pertaining to the creation of marketing techniques to benefit and expand the membership of SWUA. The Vice-President of Marketing and Fundraising will be responsible to develop public relations, media and press opportunities; and develop ongoing communication with the Editors of *Zarja - the Dawn*, the On-Line Newsletter and SWUA's Webmaster.

7.13 (Move current section re National Auditors to 7.19) The National Vice President of Marketing and Fund Raising shall develop and manage fundraising activities; write grant proposals; develop volunteer networks and cultivate strategic planning as directed by the National President and National Board of Directors..

7.14 (Move current section re National Auditors to 7.20) The National Corresponding / Recording Secretary shall work with the National President to prepare and distribute agendas for meetings of the Board of Directors. The Corresponding/Recording Secretary shall handle the general correspondence of the Board of Directors as directed by the National President.

7.15 (Move current section re the Editor to 7.21) The National Corresponding/Recording Secretary shall record, maintain and distribute minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors as directed by the National President.

7.16 (Move current section re Editor to 7.22) The National Treasurer will act as a financial liaison between the National Board of Directors and the branches. She/He will assist the Vice President of the Home Office in matters pertinent to assessments and perform her/his duties as required and assigned by the Board of Directors.

7.17 (Move current section re Regional Presidents to 7.23) She/He will sign all checks presented to her/him by the Vice President of the Home Office, and she/he will deposit all bonds, investment papers and documents pertaining to the funds of the association in a safety deposit box located in a bank approved by the Board of Directors. She/He will have access to the safety deposit box only when accompanied by the National President or the Vice President of the Home Office.

7.18 Becomes Current Section 7.12 re National Treasurer (Move current section re Regional Presidents to 7.24)

7.19 b) (Current section 7.13 b) re National Auditors) To certify to the Board of Directors, the National Conventions and the members, through the official publication, *Zarja - the Dawn*, that they have performed their annual and

periodic examinations of the books, accounts, records and investments maintained on behalf of the association by the National President, National Vice President of the Home Office, National Vice President of Culture and Heritage, National Treasurer, Scholarship Program Director and Heritage Museum Director.

7.20 (Current section 7.14 re National Auditors) They will be appointed by the Board of Directors after the National Convention for a limit of two (2) terms of four (4) years each.

7.21 (Current section 7.15) The Editor shall communicate and distribute a newsworthy publication to promote the Slovenian-American culture and heritage among all association members and seek to aid youthful members in their intellectual and cultural development.

7.22 (Current section 7.16) The Editor of Zarja - the Dawn will be selected by the Board of Directors, shall be an adult member of the association and shall work with the Vice President of Outreach in communicating with SWUA's membership.

7.23 (Current section 7.17) Regional Presidents shall strive to attend one (1) meeting of individual branches within their jurisdiction each year.

7.24 Current Section 7.18 re Regional Presidents

7.25 Current section 7.19 re Regional Presidents

7.26 (Current section 7.20) The Scholarship Program Director is appointed by the Board of Directors and shall chair the Scholarship Program Committee.

7.27 (Current section 7.21 re Director of Membership) The Director of Membership is appointed by the Board of Directors, shall be an adult member, and shall have the duty to promote a building membership campaign on an annual basis as approved and directed by the National President and the National Board of Directors.

7.28 (Current section 7.22 re Director of Special Projects) The Director of Special Projects is appointed by the Board of Directors, shall be an adult member, and shall have the duty to promote and organize special projects and programs as approved and directed by the National President and National Board of Directors.

7.29 (Current section 7.23 re Cultural and Heritage Director) The Heritage Museum Director is appointed by the Board of Directors, shall be an adult member, shall oversee day-to-day operations of the Heritage Museum and ensure that Museum standards are maintained as approved and directed by the Vice President of Culture and Heritage and the National Board of Directors.

7.30 Current section 7.24 re Spiritual Director

7.31 A Webmaster may be appointed by the Board of Directors to be responsible for all technical aspects and general maintenance of the SWUA Web site as approved and directed by the National President and the National Vice President of Outreach.

7.32 An On-Line Newsletter Editor may be appointed by the Board of Directors to be responsible for providing a forum for the membership to communicate via computer items of interest on related Slovenian topics as approved and directed by the National President and the Vice President of Outreach.

7.33 National Officers, whether elected or appointed, may assist each other with their respective position

responsibilities.

ARTICLE VIII (pages 36-38)

Initiative and Referendum

8.04 The Corresponding Secretary shall forward the proposal to every member of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX (pages 38-42)

Assessments, Investments

Income and Disbursements

9.01 a) (Current section 9.01 re yearly assessment)

9.01 b) A lifetime assessment (one time per lifetime) is \$500.00. A lifetime membership is guaranteed for as long as SWUA is in existence. (Subject to approval by the State of Illinois – Department of Insurance)

9.04 The Vice President of the Home Office, subject to the supervision of the Board of Directors, shall invest the funds in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the association.

9.08 Deceased members shall be cared for as follows:

a) The members shall honor and pray at the interment of its deceased members if so requested or permitted by the deceased's family.

9.08 (1) Class A: \$100.00 for a deceased member. Class A membership is valid before January 1, 1996.

9.08 (2) Class B: For deceased members in Class B membership: (current five (5) increments)

9.09 If upon the death of a member in Class A, it is found that such member upon admission to the association was older than the age limit for admission according to the Bylaws, the association shall not pay any amount for the benefit of such member, but shall, however, refund to the beneficiaries of the deceased all monies which she/he may have paid as a member into the mortuary fund.

9.10 The outgoing Board of Directors shall determine the salaries and stipends to be paid to the incoming Board of Directors.

9.11 The bonding of certain National Officers, for faithful performance of their duties shall be as follows:

a) Members of the Board of Directors - \$5000.00 each.

b) Scholarship Program Director - \$1000.00

c) Heritage Museum Director - \$1000.00

ARTICLE X (pages 43-45)

Official Publication

10.01 For the purposes of progress and better understanding of the aims of the SWUA, this association shall issue a publication called Zarja – the Dawn. Copies published shall be sent to each family of the association in the Adult and Social Classes. Family members who hold an adult membership may receive individual copies upon request.

10.03 Void - Resolution documents sent by branches will be published only if first approved by a majority of the members attending a branch meeting at which one-fourth of the branch's membership is present.

10.06 Zarja – the Dawn shall be published in English.

10.07 The publication shall be published in a printing shop. The Editor of the Zarja - the Dawn shall seek estimates for printing of the official publication. The concern sending the most acceptable bid shall be awarded a contract for a specified period as determined by the Board of Directors.

10.08 merged with 10.07

10.09 becomes 10.08

ARTICLE XII (page 47)

Regional Conventions

12.01 To create additional interest, sociability and to foster new ideas benefiting the welfare of the organization, Regional Conventions will be held once a year in each region.

ARTICLE XIII (pages 48-49)

Branch Meetings

13.07 If a member of the Board of Directors attends a branch meeting on official business, the branch shall allow her/him to examine any of its records and hear any matter brought before the members assembled.

ARTICLE XIV (pages 50-53)

Branch Officers

14.01 Each branch shall elect from its Adult members the following officers:

(3) Corresponding Secretary.

Branches may also elect a (7) Sergeant at Arms.

(8) Program Chairman (9) Historian / Heritage Officer and (10) Youth Officer.

14.05 (current Secretaries' duties deleted) The Corresponding Secretary shall work with the branch President to prepare and distribute agendas and notices for branch meetings. She/He shall handle the general correspondence of the branch as directed by the Branch President.

14.06 (current Secretaries' duties deleted) The Corresponding Secretary shall give prompt notice to the home office of the death of a branch member. When a benefit is claimed, she/he shall insure that all documents required by the association, such as Death Certificates, are submitted to the National Vice President of the Home Office or her/his designee.

14.07 The Recording Secretary shall record, maintain and distribute minutes of the branch meetings as directed by the Branch President. She/He shall keep a record of the names and addresses of all branch members.

14.08 The Treasurer shall receive all branch monies collected for all purposes and shall maintain records of branch receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer shall deposit all branch funds in suitable accounts maintained at a bank designated by the Branch Officers. When approved by the President she/he shall also pay all legitimate obligations of the branch. All records and accounts held by the Treasurer shall be submitted to the auditors for audit.

14.09 The Treasurer shall provide to the branch accurate monthly and semiannual reports of its expenditures and receipts. The Treasurer shall be held accountable for the branch financial income and shall perform any other related duties as may be assigned to her/him by the Branch President.

14.12 The Sergeant at Arms shall preserve and maintain order at branch meetings, keep attendance records and welcome new members, as well as assist at branch functions.

14.18 Branches may set term limits for their Officers consistent with the term limits of National Officers.

14.19 Branch Officers may assist each other with their position responsibilities.

ARTICLE XV (page 54)

Heritage Museum

15.02 Overall direction for the Heritage Museum will be

determined by the Vice President of Culture and Heritage and the National Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may appoint a Heritage Museum Director to oversee day to day operations.

15.04 The Vice President of Culture and Heritage will prepare and submit, along with the Heritage Museum Director, a report and an annual operating budget for approval by the National Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVII (page 55)

Parliamentary Authority

17.01 It is recommended that National Board meetings and Branch meetings be conducted according to procedures outlined in the latest edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER. All National Officers and Branch Officers shall familiarize themselves with proper parliamentary procedure.

INDEX (pages 57-60) Corrections to be made as necessary – no Vote required

Theresa Majcher (Delegate Branch 43, Milwaukee, WI) motioned and Catherine Maxin (Delegate Branch 50, Euclid OH) seconded to accept the following: 10.03 Resolution documents sent by branches will be published only if first approved by a three-fourth majority of the members attending a branch meeting. The motion passed. (This change was considered a correction of a typographical error in the previous Bylaws.)

At the conclusion of voting for the bylaw amendments, President Ferrante asked for a motion from the floor to allow the correction of all areas of the bylaws that have typographical errors and changes to be made to wording to properly reflect the decisions of the delegates. This would in no way change the content or meaning of the bylaw. The motion was made by Grace Doerk (Delegate Branch 20, Joliet, IL) and seconded by Dorothy Lamm (Delegate Branch 32, Euclid, OH). The vote passed.

Time was allowed for Good of the Order to allow any member wanting to speak on any subject to do so. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM. Convention business meeting to reconvene at 8:30 AM, Saturday, June 23rd, 2007.

Friday - Evening Events

On Friday evening, from 5:30 PM until 10:00 PM, attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner in the Great Hall and entertainment on the Veranda by the Singing Slovenes from Duluth, Minnesota. Special Projects Director Mary Lou Voelk, on behalf of the SWUA, presented corsages and plaques to Corinne Leskovar and Jonita Ruth in recognition for their many years of service to SWUA.

Saturday - Convention - Third Session

On Saturday, June 23rd the Business Session reconvened at 8:40 AM. President Ferrante opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Corinne Leskovar gave an opening prayer. Scholarship Director, Mary Turvey, spoke about the Scholarship program and the financial status of both the Scholarship Fund and the Scholarship Foundation. She gave the listing of scholarship judges and those that participate on the Board of the Scholarship Foundation.

Debbie Pohar showed all in attendance the Slovenian Women's Union of America Website and how to locate it

on the internet. Lynn Zalokar gave additional information on how to gain Branch members.

There was a brief break to allow the Nominating Committee time to complete their report.

The Credentials Report by Credentials Committee Chair Genevieve Buol was given as of 8:00 AM, Saturday, June 23, 2007. She reported that there were 15 National Officers and 31 Branch Delegates registered for a total of 46 voting delegates.

Serving as Timer for the election was Debbie Duris (Delegate Branch 47, Garfield Hts, OH) and Vote Tellers were Vicki Hodgman, Jean Korsman, and George Plautz, Jr.

President Ferrante indicated that according to our bylaws, elections would be decided by a majority vote. A quorum was established with 31 members in attendance; a majority vote consisting of 31 votes.

The Nominating Committee Chair BettyAnn Kolesari submitted the following slate of officers:

President – Bonnie Prokup

Vice President of Outreach – Debbie Pohar

Vice President of the Home Office – Carol Ryba

Vice President of Culture and Heritage – George Plautz, Jr.

Vice President of Marketing & Fund-Raising – Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons

Corresponding/Recording Secretary – Karen Taylor

Treasurer – Denise Bartlett

Virginia Strukel (Delegate Branch 12, Milwaukee, WI) nominated Denise Bartlett for President from the floor. Denise Bartlett declined. Jonita Ruth (Nat'l Treasurer, Branch 20, Joliet, IL) nominated Denise Bartlett for Vice President of Outreach from the floor. Denise Bartlett declined. There being no further nominations from the floor for any position the nominations were closed. All candidates were unopposed and the slate was accepted as presented.

The announcement of the 26th National Convention was made by President Ferrante. The next convention will be held in June, 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin which will be a joint venture for the Wisconsin branches. The members from the Wisconsin region came forward and sang "On Wisconsin." The assembly approved unanimously.

President Ferrante closed the meeting with a poem by Helen Steiner Rice entitled "Give Lavishly! Live Abundantly!" The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Saturday - Afternoon and Evening Events

A buffet luncheon and the installation of elected Officers were held immediately following the business session from 12:00 PM until 1:00 PM in the Great Hall. Outgoing President Ferrante conducted the installation ritual for the Officers of the 2007-2011 National Board of Directors. She presented Incoming President Prokup with the official gavel and a gift. Incoming President Prokup and Special Projects Director Voelk presented outgoing President Ferrante with an engraved vase of Rogaska crystal from Slovenia.

Everyone had the afternoon free to attend the Slovenian Expo, which included guest's speakers; Brane Vidmar, Franci Feltrin, Marija Bauer of Slovenia and George Plautz. They also viewed the beautiful wedding dress display, bid on the Silent Auction items, shop for Heritage Gifts and

buy or trade special Convention Pins.

The 80th Anniversary Gala began at 6:10 PM with a traditional Slovenian welcome at the entrance of the Great Hall. Greeters dressed in Slovenian costumes offered the traditional welcoming drink of Slivovitz (Plum Brandy) and bread dipped in salt. At 7:00 PM National Presidents, Kathleen Ferrante (1999 - 2007) and Bonnie Prokup (2007 - 2011), welcomed the guests for the evening. Mark Cepon, a guest from KSKJ Life, sang the Slovenian and American National Anthems. The honored speakers for the evening were Hon. Boris Pleskovic PhD., President of the Slovenian World Congress, Hon. Samuel Žbogar, Ambassador to the United States from Slovenia, and Dr. Zvone Žigon, Consul General of Slovenia, who presented President Ferrante with both a plaque congratulating SWUA on the auspicious 80th Anniversary from the Republic of Slovenia and a lovely gift. President Ferrante offered a toast to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of SWUA as well as toasting the 16th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Slovenia occurring two days later, on June 25th. Before the traditional Slovenian dinner, Grace was given by Father Bernard Horzen, OSB.

Following dinner President Prokup introduced the 2007 - 2011 National Board of Directors which received great applause. Then came the long-awaited announcement of the winner of the Potica Contest. There were 18 entrants and the winner was Mrs. Helen Cukale, a member of Br. 2, Chicago. The first place award was a beautifully designed and inscribed wooden plate from Slovenia. Her daughter, Leonore Urbanski, accepted the award and made the announcement on her cell phone to her excited mother one hundred miles away. Attendees were then entertained by the children of Camp Heritage with the singing of two Slovenian songs. Highest Auction bidders finalized their purchases and Heritage gift sales and Button sales continued throughout the evening. Music and dancing featuring the Singing Slovenes lasted until 11:00 PM.

Sunday - Morning Polka Mass

On Sunday, June 24th, at 10:00 AM, in the Starved Rock Room, The Singing Slovenes provided the music for the Polka Mass celebrated by Father Blase Chemazar O.F.M. and Deacon John Vidmar from the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, IL. There was a capacity crowd of delegates, members, families and friends.

The farewells were emotional and sincere as everyone disbursed for their travel home, having wonderful memories of the historic Convention. This concludes the report of SWUA's 25th National Convention and 80th Anniversary Gala.

To read more about the Golf Outing see page 14 - 15.

For pictures from the Camp Heritage see page 16 - 17.

For pictures from the Wine Tasting see page 39.

For pictures from the Veranda Party see page 39.

For pictures from the EXPO see back cover.

For pictures from the Potica Contest see back inside page.

For pictures from the 80th Anniversary gala see page 40.

SWUA Scholarship Program

Announcing Scholarship Recipients of 2007

AMANDA BLOWERS – Branch 20 daughter of Edmund and Nicola Blowers of Joliet, Illinois has been awarded the \$ 1,000 Frances Barman Award. She recently graduated from Joliet West High School where she was active with a



competitive dance team, a member of the Speech Team, along with holding membership in the math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta. She has also been

actively volunteering at St. Joseph's Church of Joliet. Amanda's math teacher writes "Amanda is a role model amongst her peers and also with the younger generation in which she comes in contact. In all aspects of life, Amanda is committed to helping people." This fall Amanda will enter De Paul University in Chicago, majoring in Criminal Justice.

DANIELLE DOVNIK – Branch 43, daughter of Karl and Diane Poeschel Dvovnik of Waukesha, Wisconsin has received a \$2,000 Slovene Rest Home Association Scholarship. Danielle recently graduated from Waukesha North High School, where she holds membership in the National Honor Society, International Club and is Captain of the Varsity Cheer Leaders Squad. Outside of School she has been a Girl Scout; member of St. Anthony's Church and volunteered to serve on a 10 day mission to New Orleans after hurricane Katrina.



Danielle states that after cleaning homes, feeding, clothing, entertaining and pampering the homeless, she realized how the impact of one person can change someone else's life. She writes "the time I spent helping others has changed my life and helped to shape my feelings about the world." Danielle's science teacher writes "Danielle has a very strong work ethic and drive to excel that few of her peers possess. She is the kind of kid I could talk about at length; I never seem to run out of good things to say." Danielle will enter the University of Wisconsin – Waukesha in September 2007, major undeclared.

FRANCIS (FRANK) KONCAR – Branch 20, son of Raymond and Annette Markun Koncar of Joliet, Illinois has received a \$2,000 Slovene Rest Home Association Scholarship. Frank is currently attending Lewis University,



majoring in History, GPA 3.752. He feels that as a history or math teacher in secondary education he can touch many lives. Frank's history instructor at Lewis University states "Frank Koncar is one of the most outstanding students of my experience. He is always prompt, alert, thoroughly prepared, and can always be counted on for participation in

class" In addition to school, Frank holds a part time job and continues to volunteer as an Eucharistic minister at St. Joseph's Church. He helps Branch 20 with projects when called upon, and is also active with KSKJ functions, sometimes as a musician in his father's polka band.

AMANDA OCHSENDORF – Branch 35, is the daughter of Lisa Ochsendorf of Hugo, Minnesota and was awarded the \$2,000 Rose Marie Princ Scholarship. Amanda recently graduated from White Bear Lake Area High School. Her business education teacher wrote a summation of Amanda's years as a high school student: "Amanda is a permanent fixture on our A-Honor Roll while being involved in school activities such as soccer, homecoming committee, National Honor Society, and



volunteering her time at various nursing homes, food shelves and at the Twin Cities marathon. Amanda is able to accomplish all of this while working a part-time job." Amanda will major in business at Loyola University, Chicago.

SWUA Scholarship Mission

**To generate funding to
Financially assist young students, with
Hope that they will promote and
Preserve Slovenian culture**

MARIA PERKO – Branch 3, daughter of Charles and Ursula Perko of Pueblo, Colorado, received the \$2,000 Josef Princ Scholarship. Maria graduated from Central High School, Pueblo this spring at the top of her class – first of 200 graduates, holding a 4.0 GPA. Maria has



received many honors during high school years including being a Girl's State Candidate, Who's Who Among American High School Students, District Art Guild – First place, most valuable player of girls tennis, a member of Key Club, National Honor Society, Italian Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Varsity Soccer and Swimming.

She has volunteered for Special Olympics, Thanksgiving Food Drives, Elementary school volunteer work, working with children at St. Mary's Help of Christians Church and in her spare time plays the guitar, hikes, camps, paints, reads, and plays tennis. Maria's English instructor writes "A delightful young woman, Maria has endeared herself to her peers as well as faculty. Her cheerful personality and genuine demeanor make Maria a real asset to Central High School. Maria truly is one of the most pleasant, good natured students I have ever taught. Maria exudes the positive, upbeat attitude that helps people around her survive the daily grind. I know I appreciate her, as do her peers who nominated Maria for Homecoming Queen. I firmly believe that among the reasons for Maria's excellent performance in so many areas is her loving and supportive family." September 2007 will find Maria at Colorado State University – Pueblo, majoring in environmental biology. By earning a degree in environmental biology she hopes to address issues regarding energy and fuel resources which could impact the natural environment.

DEBRA BAAS – Branch 30, Cincinnati, Ohio received the \$500.00 SWUA Wisconsin Member's Continuing Education Award. She is the daughter of Raymond and Mary Golobic and is taking classes at Wright State University, majoring in Educational Leadership. Debra is teaching business and computer science classes full time at the high school level. She has two children to raise on her own, both nearing college age. Debra's father's family immigrated to the United States from Slovenia, first living in Cleveland where Debra became accustomed to American Slovenian communities and celebrations. Later the family relocated to Cincinnati and only three years ago Debra discovered and became a member of the Slovenian Woman's Union of America.



To SWUA Scholarship Committee Members:

Milena Gobetz, Lisa McDonell, Janice Singletary, Marge Church, Dorothy Jernycic and Rose Marie Princ

Thank you for the difficult work of evaluating scholarship applications these past four years. Without your careful discernment, the SWUA Scholarship Foundation would not be what it is today.

THANK YOU all who have served the SWUA Scholarship Foundation in any way.

We appreciate you and need your continued support. We are a 501c3 tax exempt entity and ask that those needing tax relief in estate planning or yearly income tax payments consider the Slovenian Women's' Union Scholarship Foundation.

Brochures, application forms, financial statements, information can all be found either by visiting the SWUA website at <http://www.swua.org> "scholarship" by calling the SWUA Home Office at 815.727.1926 or emailing mturvey@aol.com

Contributions are sincerely appreciated and should be mailed to:

Mary Turvey, Director
SWUA Scholarship Foundation
4 Lawrence Drive
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Scholarship Donations

\$100 Donation

Kathleen Ferrante

\$25 Donation

Sandra Farrell (+Edward Kurnick on Father's Day 2007)
Judith Rechlitz

\$20 Donation

Gladys Bartol (+Victoria Zuga – charter member Branch 54)
Agnes Flanders
Rosemary Petrich

\$10 Donation

Rose Pakiz
Caterina Burjes
Dorothy Zakrasek
Virginia Strukel
Mary Turvey
(+Dorothy Brezonik)

\$5 Donation

Char Kobe
Joe Skala

Men in a SWUA World

SWUA Golf Outing

The True Winners Were All of Us Who Got to Enjoy a Perfect Day for Golf and Camaraderie!



South Bluff Golf Course

I would be remised if I did not start my article about the SWUA golf outing without mentioning the outstanding job done by Fred and Cynthia Carus, owners of South Bluff Golf Course.

When the golfers arrived at the course, each one was greeted by a very nice "goody basket" and a very scenic view of the course and a taste of the



"Goody Baskets" and prizes

beautiful Illinois Valley. The only complaint I had was that the "Goody Basket" only had three golf balls, which is not nearly enough for old Don to play nine holes in a best ball format and my swing!

We were very happy to have 23 golfers tee off and even happier to have 23 golfers finish! After we finished our nine hole tour of the course we were treated to music by *The Singing Slovenes* and lovely buffet of sausage, hot dogs, German potato salad, cookies and cold beverages. What really capped off the event was the outdoor dining room that Cynthia constructed near the ninth green which set a perfect setting for lunch and conversation.

Now, I guess we should talk about the actual golfing. Early on I figured I had the team to beat, I felt I had the right people to carry my lack of golf talent. So, as you would figure I was confident, but things didn't work out as planned

and we carded a 43 which placed us dead last and 12 strokes off the lead. But, I think the true winners were all of us who got to enjoy a perfect day for golf and camaraderie! So, keep this in mind and we can make the golf outing in Milwaukee even bigger in four years.

I would like to thank all the people who helped to make this event such a success: Jim Ebener, Bob and Jean Fick, Mary Ann Bruner, Loren Schieffer, Bekki Prokup, Cathy Lenkaitis, Olivia Dean, Bonnie Prokup, Debbie Pohar, John Smovich and of course Fred and Cynthia Carus. Job Well Done!!

I want to send my congratulations to the newly elected President Bonnie Pohar Prokup and her new officers, I look forward to their leadership and the great strides this organization will take in the next four years.

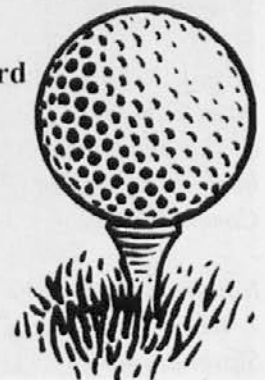
Finally, I would like to commend all involved in this celebration weekend it was the best run conference I've ever attended. I congratulate my Branch 24 and my home town Branch 89 on a job well done! -
Don Baldin



Don's golf team, left to right: Olivia Dean, Cathy Lenkaitis, Bekki Prokup and old Don, all members of Branch 24



Golf Outing Photos by Linda Ford



Kid Talk

Camp Heritage 2007

It Was
a Blast!



Hey Kids! The 2007 National Convention Camp Heritage was a hit! If only I could have attended. Instead I was away at a mandatory yearbook camp as I was just offered the Assitant Editor position.

By the time I arrived at the Gala on Saturday night I knew this was one awesome camp. I could tell when I looked at a group of 11-year-old boys who had their arms around each other while they sang a Slovenian song for over 300 guests. Also, when I saw the little girls in their pretty Slovenian costumes greeting the guests and assisting with mass. Yes, it looks like the camp was a success. A special thanks to the camp leaders from both Slovenia and the United States and to Denise and Bob Bartlett who donated the really neat camp shirts for every kid.

Those cute girls on the front cover are all members of Branch 89 – Oglesby, IL. Their outfits were sewn by Beverly Menart of Duluth, MN. We asked what their favorite memories were. Here they are:

Jordan Duffin age 6 loved making the Kurent Mask (right) and singing a Slovenian song.

Megan Rehn age 10 thought being a part of the mass was the best and of course Camp Heritage.

Natalie Landgraf age 7 liked learning a Slovenian song.

Annie Sabatta age 6 thought wearing the costume was the best along with looking at the Wedding Dress Display.

Mary Argubright age 7 liked playing games at camp.

In addition to Denise, Bob and Beverly a special thanks to other volunteers who made the Camp Heritage special. To Cathy Lenkaitis for embroidering the shirts for the Camp leaders, Mitzie Banich for organizing the lunches and of course the people who made it all happen, the Camp leaders Denise Duffin, Tammy Landgraf, Luka Klopčič, Zdenka Oblak, Sonia Avguštin and Mr. Franci Feltrn, Vice President of World Congress. - Babs





Living Your Legacy

The Genealogical Quest

Dead-Ends and Mysteries

For those of you who missed my presentation at Starved Rock here is a transcript. It was really rewarding to be there and see all of the people who wanted to learn about some aspect of genealogy research. Please email me at doblice@gmail.com to posit your questions and I will see if I can help you further your research. You can also write to me at my address listed at the end of this article. Also in this issue of the *Zarja* is an article by Richard Terselic, recently published in a local newspaper. I hope you enjoy both of these columns.

Over time, we all come up with dead-ends in our research, or like my aunt, who once provided me with a scrap of paper with the notation "we're related to these people somehow, HA! HA!", a new mystery to be solved. A lot of my mysteries and dead-ends are resolved, however I still have two relatives in the U.S. that I cannot locate, and there are always dead-ends.

This presentation covers a short list of things that can be done. These are things I have done and advice I have been given over the years.

1. Get your question across all the message boards that apply, whether they be surname boards, ethnic boards, or specific locations boards. Keep an email address that has constancy so that over the years answers will find you. Sometimes it just as simple as asking for the information. If people send you your family history back to 1750 PLEASE thank them and provide them information they may not possess. It has been too many times that I created a family tree and submit it to the requestor never to hear from them again. Do not assume that the provider knows everything!
2. Go back to your oral sources for more information before they get too old. Oral sources are probably the greatest source of vital statistics and historical background information and misinformation. While oral sources provide a historical background with the information they impart, they are not the most accurate historical record. So verify all the facts and thank your oral sources.
3. Use the services of volunteers who will do lookups for free using books and periodicals they have obtained or through access to county or historical society archives. Many random acts of kindness are performed in genealogical research.
4. Go on to another line that is productive and do as much as you can to expand that research. It is often that

when we turn our eyes to other things that mysteries are solved and old lines are reopened.



George Plautz

5. Hire a professional genealogist to perform research for you. While this costs money, a professional generally knows where to look for information and how to obtain it, often doing the footwork you cannot do.
6. Subscribe to Ancestry.com. A subscription will provide you access to the census data, social security death benefits index, military records, phone, and personal information, some obituary data and other information. It may be enough to determine where your family lived or whether they have descendants living in the same area today. The subscription will also allow you to develop additional information on all of your family lines in the United States.
7. Join the Slovenian Genealogy Society International for access to the indexes they possess in their Members Boardroom and for research assistance by Ronald Pozin, genealogist and coordinator of their Yahoo coffeeshop SIRL.
8. Network with others researching your surname or areas in the US and Slovenia. If you find information that doesn't pertain to you maybe someone else is looking for it! They in turn may keep an eye out for information of interest to you. Develop your leads and work with others!
9. Submit a DNA sample to Sorenson's Molecular Genealogy Foundation or participate in DNAAncestryproject.com. With submission of DNA some day others who have had DNA testing resulting in a profile will be able to determine if they are related to you by haplotype. This is called Genetic Genealogy. Once you have your profile you can then compare with others in these databases. There are several companies that specialize in genealogy DNA profiling. Look for Genetic Testing Laboratories, Inc., and Relative Genetics, DNA Consulting, and DNA Heritage, to mention a few on the Internet. The cost of having your DNA Profile is around \$200.

George Plautz
1307 Dragon Head Drive
Valrico, FL 33594

Discovering Your Roots

Family Genealogy by Richard Terselic

Genealogy deals with family heritage: from whom and where we are descended. I have studied my family for several years, trying to document back to my great-grandparents. I am not interested in simply acquiring the type of information found on grave markers, but hope to learn something about them and their lives. With the help of my older daughter, Susan, I have constructed family trees and written family history narratives.

I am in the first generation born in America on my father's side, and in the second on my mother's. Both families came from Slovenia. I remain in contact with family members in Slovenia on two of my four bloodlines, and continue pursuing connection to a third. It amazes me the lengths to which some genealogists pursue their ancestry. Some have documented thousands of relatives in their "trees". For some, tracking down family members is a challenging detective task. The "thrill of the chase" becomes a reward in itself, and may lead to travel opportunities and enjoyable connections with other researchers.

Mormons associate great importance in posthumous baptism, and acquire information throughout the world, to confirm the names of individuals who have lived. Those efforts, aided by a general growth in interest in genealogy, and the advent of computerization of vital statistics and other databases, facilitate genealogical research. The Internet, Email, and the teaching of English around the world, has also aided communications among like-minded researchers.

The genealogists with whom I deal, study European-origin families. In Europe, as in America, recording of personal identity and related information has occurred for centuries. I haven't had contact with any researchers pursuing, for example, Asian and other non-European roots. I do not know to what extent records of births and deaths have been recorded in countries such as Vietnam. Closer to America, I wonder if in the future, recent Mexican and Central American immigrants will seek to develop family histories.

During the 1970's, the "Black Pride" initiative highlighted that there was much to be proud in African-American culture and heritage. At about the same time, decline was observed in urban

areas settled by European ethnics. With a growing recognition of the "melting pot" phenomenon in America, these ethnics were also motivated to research their heritage.

What motivates me and others to pursue family genealogy? While I think of myself as fully American, I am proud of my connection to the land of my immigrant family members, its history and values, and wish to preserve related information for my own descendants. My hope is that they will retain a measure of pride in their heritage. While my greatest interest is the lives of family members I have personally known, it is also interesting to learn things about relatives I haven't met. For example, a Terselic relative is believed to have served with the French Foreign Legion and died fighting the Viet Cong at Dien Bien Phu. A relative of my mother's led the Boeing 747 design team.


For some, like me, interest in family genealogy develops too late, in middle age or later. Unfortunately, the people who could have provided me the best information have died.

Commentators to the on-line edition and readers can rightly ask, what relevance does what I have presented have to readers? Well, I have some advice to offer. I encourage readers who might wish to someday pursue family genealogy to start now, while the information trail may still "hot"; while elderly relatives are still alive, and while historically important records and memorabilia are available. - Reprinted by permission of the author and the Frederick News Post, Frederick, MD

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Family Connected ©

By Betty Kutzler Poferl, Branch 109 with George Plautz

My father, Gustav Kucler was born in Polhov Gradec, Slovenia July 19, 1889, the 4th youngest in his family of 19 children. He arrived on Ellis Island May 1, 1907, and joined his two brothers in Waukegan, IL, later going to the Iron Range and finally settling in the Village of Oliver, WI (between Duluth and Superior via the Oliver bridge). The Kucler name was changed to Kutzler upon my father's arrival in America. He didn't marry till he was near 40 years old and had eight children after that. He corresponded with his sister Angela back in Slovenia. Angela's niece, Marija Turensek, who is my cousin, looked thru the letters of Angela's, which came to her, after Angela's daughter died. My father's address was found on a letter to Angela and Marija and her daughter Darja, sent a Christmas card to the Kutzler family at that address (Dec. '96). My brother and his family were living there. My sister and I wrote letters to Marija

and Darja. I continued the postal correspondence until 1999 when we began E-mailing. We each extended an invitation to the other to visit. I was so happy to get an E-mail with their plans to visit in September 2000. Marija was going to be 70 years old and as a birthday gift to her, Darja and her brother Marko gave her what she wanted, a trip to America. Darja accompanied her mother. We easily recognized each other at the airport.

Marija and Darja presented me with a painting of the village of Polhov Gradec, my father's birthplace, which was also Marija's birthplace. They also gave us potica, slivovitz, chocolates and other gifts. Marija did not speak any English. Darja spoke English, frequently looking in her translation book, which we came to refer to as her *biblija*. Darja translated everything quickly for her mother and taught her several phrases in English such as "Good morning and Good night". One evening, Marija arose from her chair and said "Good morning" which was humorous to all. We shared much laughter over the coming days. They enjoyed our walks and were very attentive when I played the organ for them. We spent a whole day at the Minnesota State Fair and took an afternoon ride on a steamboat on the Mississippi, walked the Sculpture Gardens, toured the Walker Art Center and the Basilica. We visited relatives in Duluth-Superior and took in sights there. Looking back at the hills in Duluth, they said it looked like Slovenia. Could it be that it reminded my Dad of his home-land and why he settled there? We went to see more relatives in Chippewa



Left to right, front: Angela, Ursula, Grandmother (Marjana) Franc
back: Leopold (Marina's Father), Gust (My Father), Grandfather(Johan Kucler), Teresa

Falls, WI. Becky LaBonte invited us to her home and her two sisters joined us there. We all got along very well and there was much exchanging of information on family history and looking at photos.

Our days were full. We went shopping three different times. One full shopping day was at the Mall of America. They were impressed by the amusement park inside this mall. They found gifts to take back with them and I discovered Marija loves angels as I do. Our exchange of angels has come to be our gift to each other.

It was sad on the afternoon when they had to leave. They came as strangers but we quickly developed an attachment to each other. In our final goodbye, I promised that I would visit them in Slovenia the following September. I kept my promise and made the travel arrangements for September 15, 2001 only to have the plans cancelled by the 9-11 tragedy. It was another year before I got to keep my promise.

September 4, 2002, Pat Rolland and her sister Becky LaBonte met me at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport for our flight to Pittsburgh, Paris then Slovenia. (Pat and Becky's grandfather John Kutzler was a brother to my father.) After we arrived at the Brnik Airport, feeling the loss of sleep and having the frustration of lost luggage, we were met by Marija and Darja and rode in a new Toyota van, what Darja called "big car". It was a 20 minute ride through lovely scenery to Marija's.

We befriended Darja's Slovenian Shepherd before going into Marija's house which was built on three levels. Her son Marko lived on the first floor, Marija on the second and the third floor flat with three bedrooms was Darja's, before she moved out. We were given Darja's flat for our entire stay. The kitchen was modern with all the appliances and a fully stocked refrigerator. Our bathroom had a skylight and circular shower with a heated towel rack.

Marko was a very entertaining person. The first night he explained that he didn't know much English but after three beers he knew English. He always referred to us as the "Three Mooseketeers".

Next door to Marija's house was the home of her deceased sister Marjeta. Marjeta's husband still lived there along with his son Specko. Specko had an 11 year-old son, Matevz and a 15 year-old daughter, Jernija. Jernija was very proficient in English and became our translator on our many sightseeing trips, where we did much walking and climbing hills. A shopping center that we walked to many times was only three-four blocks from our flat. One store was like our Wal-Mart that had everything, including alcoholic beverages. It was very smart of the cashiers to sit as they worked.

Marina, another of Marija's sisters lived on the other side of Specko. Their sister Pavla lived in Ljubljana, a short distance away. One evening we all went to Stanka and Viktor Krek's, Pavla's daughter's home. We were met at the door with Viktor playing the accordion (harmonika). On another day we met Alenka, Specko's sister and her beautiful 15 year-old, daughter, who spoke English very well. Alenka took us on a tour of the President's Summer home where Bush and Putin had talks. She was the president's security secretary at this time.

We went to Croatia another day to meet Marija's sister Slavka and her husband who were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. They postponed their celebration until we had come from America.

I kept a journal of each days' events. The highlight of our trip was visiting

Polhov Gradec. The painting over my fireplace which became real in my imagination was now a reality. Marija's brother Polde owned the property, which had been my grandparents' homestead. He built a huge house on this land for his family and made use of all the other buildings. This hilly land was so well kept and so peaceful. Truly it was next to heaven.

In the area of Divaca we went to visit Ada, my cousin and her husband Ivan. Ada, whose father was Franc the youngest brother to my father, set a very welcoming table for us. (All the people we visit are so hospitable, so eager to please.) We toured the nearby cave, the Škocjanske Cave, with Ivan.

In those 15 days we lived as Slovenians and saw much of Ljubljana. We also visited Bohinj and the alpine village, Bled, Otočec castle, Portorož, the Postojna Caves, Slivna, the geographical center, a 1526 church in the process of being restored and several other churches, a thermal springs spa and the Bistra Technical Museum near Vrhnika. We enjoyed the traditional Slovenian cooking of Marija and Darja.

The beauty of this small country is so varied. Its people take great pride in their history and independence. It makes me proud to be Slovenian-American and to honor our rich Slovenian heritage.



Left to right: Jernija Bogovic (Specko's daughter), Specko Bogovic, Becky LaBonte, Pat Rolland, Marija Turesek, Marko (Marija's son) Darja Turesek

The Path Taken...Dopoljena pot by Mary Lou Voelk ©

Mary Zaller was the lone surviving 80-year member of the SWUA

"Every year, for 80 years, Mom paid her dues. SWUA was synonymous with her Slovenian heritage, the legacy bequeathed by her grandparents and parents" - Jim Dobay, Mary's son

Mary Zaller passed away on April 28, 2007 at the age of 97 years. Mary was the lone surviving 80-year member of the SWUA in 2007.

The Pizmoht family story began in a small village near Ljubljana, Slovenia with the marriage of Matthew Pizmoht and Gertrude Prosen. After a few years of working the land, Matthew left for America, leaving Gertrude and their two small sons, Louie (born in 1904, died February 19, 1980) and James (born in 1905, died October 7, 1990) behind.

Four years later, Gertrude and sons traveled to America. Prior to leaving, Gertrude, a landowner, bequeathed the land inherited from her family to the faithful tenants who worked the land during Matthew's absence.

In America, the Pizmoht family took up residence in a rental home in Collinwood, Ohio. In the early 1900's, parts of Collinwood were described as having the look of Appalachia: dirt roads, outdoor toilets, yard pumps, chickens, grape vines, large gardens and picket fences defining lot lines. In America, two more children, were born, Mary (born January 28, 1910, died April 28, 2007) and Tony (born July 8, 1912, died February 8, 1995).

Mathew worked at the local brick yard. Gertrude was the matriarch, the money handler. She governed the home front. Everything was for the family cause. Working odd jobs, the boys pooled their pay into the family coffers and in time had enough funds so the Pizmoht family purchased their own home.

Gertrude was also the chief tender of the house. Mary contributed to the family by helping her mother with household chores, feeding the chickens, gathering eggs from the coop and tending the garden. Every family garden was the pantry; it fed

the family year round. Potatoes were heaped in the basement, carrots were rooted in sand. Basement shelves filled with jars of vegetables and seasonal fruit were the "grocery store". There was not such a thing as wasted food. The Pizmoht children licked their plates clean.

On washday everyone in the Pizmoht household had a job. Water was hauled from the yard pump and heated on the wood stove in copper boilers. Clothes were soaked, boiled and stirred every so often with a long stick. The laundry soaps of the day were homemade lye soap or a commercial brand such as Fels-Naptha. To finish the process, Gertrude used a scrubbing board and good old muscle power. Bluing was the final touch. Added to the rinse water, the "blue water" gave the white clothes a glistening whiteness!

Each washday could be called a lesson in physics. Every woman was aware that rope stretched as weight was added. Thus Gertrude would begin hanging in the middle of the line. As she proceeded hanging, a notched pole was inserted and propped to lift the line, with the pole being adjusted every so often to lift the clothesline higher and higher. The children always enjoyed standing by, awaiting the chance to lift the pole higher and higher!

No household was without a long notched pole or two. Mathew, a skilled carpenter, knew that round or flat poles would snap after so many washdays, and clean clothes could end up dragging on the ground. He fashioned octagon poles and Louie fashioned the metal clip that held the line. It may seem strange that a labor intensive task as washday could bring such pride and satisfaction at the end of the day when all was folded and tucked away and the poles were propped against the shed, awaiting another washday.

During the early years in America, providing for the family was not the only task that weighed heavily on Gertrude. After three years of studying, Gertrude passed the English proficiency test. She was now an American citizen!

Family and social life was centered around St. Mary Church, St. Mary's School and Slovenian lodges and organizations. The Pizmoht children attended and graduated from St. Mary's School. Belonging to a lodge was insisted



Mary Zaller, age 96 years with her great-great granddaughter Gracie



Matthew and Gertrude their brick home in Collinwood, Ohio

upon. There was the SNPJ and its lodge meetings and in 1927 Mary became a proud member of the Slovenian Women's Union.

Mary became Mary Pizmoht Dobay when married at a young age. Two children were born of this union, Mary Alice (Dolly), born January 16, 1929 and Jim, born February 3, 1931.

The Pizmoht family now consisted of Matthew, Gertrude, Louie, Tony and James who lived in the lower level and the Dobay family who lived in the upstairs level of the two-story home. But all too soon, Mary realized the union was not the atmosphere conducive to raising a healthy family. Mary became a single parent in the days when divorce was rare. With the support of her parents and brothers, Mary worked 2 to 3 jobs. Grandma Gertrude kept the home fires aglow. Jim's memory is fresh with the aroma of a tripe dinner, or homemade soup simmering on the stove with thinly sliced noodles awaiting the pot. Coming home from school and smelling the spicy aroma of bologna continues to linger as a fond memory. And then there was the standard fare: Grandma Gertrude's dumplings and polenta.

Mary Alice (Dolly) and Jim were nurtured and raised in this extended family atmosphere. The strength of Grandma Gertrude and his mother Mary was something to be reckoned with, but their gentleness made for a warm and loving home. Grandfather Matthew, along with Louie, James and Tony were the male role models. Missing Mass was a no-no. Jim would rather have suffered a lashing than be inflicted with emotional punishment. A lashing lasted a few seconds, but emotional shame seemed to go on forever. Yes, there were times when he hid in the backyard woodpile in shame! Oh, why could it not have just been a spanking!

Devoted love abounded. When Jim was in the 5th grade he contracted diphtheria and was quarantined at City Hospital across town. Each day after work, Mary would ride the streetcar downtown and then transfer to the Red Trolley. She never missed a day during Jim's entire hospital stay.

An annual affair was wine making. Each fall the wine press was taken out of storage and the grapes were stomped. Walking through the Slovenian neighborhood of Collinwood when the grapes were ripe will always be a fond memory. The entire neighborhood smelled like a vineyard. Later, fermenting grapes filled the house with a potential wine "flower". Not to let anything go to waste, the boxes from the grapes were recycled. Jim remembers fashioning a scooter made from 2 x 4's, the wooden grape crates and old roller skates. However, it was always advisable to first ask for the use of Matthew's tools.

There was homemade root beer, such a treat on a hot summer day. Of course it was always important that the "finished root beer" not be left in the warm temperatures or an explosion was surely eminent. Scrubbing root beer off the ceiling and walls was not fun and that always meant less to drink.

The Pizmoht's were proud people. Their motto: "Tend and care for what you own". The lawn was a manicured green carpet. It was not meant to be trod upon! The living room was in reality, the Sunday room. One didn't step into that room but come Sunday! The Pizmoht's were the last family on the block to get a telephone. Matthew could not phantom a hole drilled into his house! The slate roof on the family home was installed by Matthew, and was maintained in impeccable shape. To reach the roof area Louie fashioned the pieces to a homemade ladder that fit the exact size needed to reach each area of the roof, Matthew put it together. The simple task of having coal delivered via a chute into the basement coal bin became a laborious physical task. Because Matthew did not want his house banged from the coal chute it was up to Jim to push wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of coal over to the chute and unload the coal shovel by shovel! In this atmosphere of extended family involvement, Dolly and Jim grew to adulthood.

Years passed and family roles were reversed. Mary became the family caretaker for Gertrude and Matthew. Gertrude passed away on January 26, 1959. Matthew died on September 15, 1963. It was believed Matthew's grief was so deep after the loss of Gertrude that he gave up his zest for life.

On September 18, 1965, Mary and George "Jim" Zaller were married. They resided in Mentor, Ohio. Family dedication continued. When Mary's brother James became a resident at the Slovenian Home for the Aged, Mary and George became faithful volunteers during the 6 years of James' residence. In later years, Mary tended to George in their home after he suffered a stroke. George passed away on April 3, 1992.

Mary was always a giver of her time and money. When her brother Louie wanted to purchase a home, she came up with the money. When winning a large chunk of money at a church raffle, she gave back to her church and to the person who drew the winning ticket. She tended to her children, to her parents and to her husband. If anyone had a problem, Mary was always there.

Mary never in her life ate meat on Friday. She attended Mass every Saturday, riding the bus to get to and from the church. In later years with her sight failing, Mary read her

three daily prayers from an enlarged typeface in a book made especially for her use.

Mary was a strong, independent person. She never demanded of others. She always insisted on doing for herself. Over and over she was told, "Ma, you don't have to do this!" But in her 70's she was snow blowing her driveway and in her 80's she insisted on shoveling.

With a bit of help from her children Mary Alice (Dolly) and Jim, Mary was able to live independently in her own home for many years, but she resided at the Slovenian Home for the Aged the last 16 months of her life. She died on April 28, 2007. The church was full, even her mailman and her grass cutter were in attendance at the funeral.

DEDICATION:

THE LEGACY OF MARY ZALLER

Mary Pizmoht Dobay Zaller was born and reared in a Slovenian family steeped in tradition; her life was fueled by an endowment of strength that went back generations into time. To each of us, Mary Zaller is an example of what DEDICATION is all about. Let us all take heed of such a life lived. For 80 years her belief in the Slovenian Women's Union of America never faltered. Thank you, Mary Zaller!

Daughter Alice (Dolly) married Robert Seferian. They have four children and currently reside in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Son James and his wife Gertrude reside in Cleveland, Ohio. They have three children, four grandchildren and four great-grand children, number five is due in September.

Collinwood, Ohio

Collinwood, a neighborhood on the east side of Cleveland was annexed by the city of Cleveland in 1910. In days gone by, south Collinwood was known as "Italian Village", central Collinwood was mostly Slovenian, Croatian, German, Polish and some Russians and west Collinwood was mostly Southern Appalachians. North Collinwood was a mixture of all groups including Catholic Irish. Many of the Slovenians in Collinwood trace their roots back to Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Today, the Slovenian Home on 159th St. and Holmes Ave. continues to flourish as a clubhouse and gathering place for social events. St. Mary Church, established in 1906, continues to hold Slovenian services (tel: (216)761.7740) and St. Mary School continues to serve the youth of the area. The Slovenian Home for the Aged located on Neff Road was founded in 1962. The 170 bed unit continues to offer an ethnic living environment along with compassionate care and service. Fr. Kumse of St. Mary Church and Fr. Boznar of St. Vitus Church provide spiritual services at the Home.

Notable Slovenians from Collinwood:

Frank Lausche, deceased: judge, mayor, governor and U.S Senator from Ohio.

Slovenian Polka King Frankie Yankovic, deceased: played live Polka in many of the taverns and dance halls in the area.

George V. Voinovich, mayor and governor: Voinovich currently serves as a U.S. Senator from Ohio.



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SWUA Archival Documents Scanned

Caroline Kopusar	Br. 12	DOD: 01/19/1933	Mary Rom	Br. 23	DOD: 06/08/1934
Mary Hroma	Br. 16	DOD: 01/22/1933	Mary Kremesec	Br. 02	DOD: 06/08/1934
Agnes Lunder	Br. 21	DOD: 01/21/1933	Mary Vehar	Br. 21	DOD: 06/15/1934
Anna Zavisik	Br. 25	DOD: 02/15/1933	Mary Evetz	Br. 20	DOD: 07/17/1934
Frances Doles	Br. 41	DOD: 03/01/1933	Mary Pauline	Br. 17	DOD: 07/19/1934
Frances Zupancic	Br. 16	DOD: 03/03/1933	Anna Lence	Br. 10	DOD: 07/21/1934
Julia Lautizar	Br. 36	DOD: 03/10/1933	Mary Sajovic	Br. 14	DOD: 07/26/1934
Mary Schuster	Br. 23	DOD: 04/26/1933	Barbara Hrovat	Br. 24	DOD: 09/07/1934
Katherine Schonta	Br. 02	DOD: 05/09/1933	Mary Miklavz	Br. 25	DOD: 09/19/1934
Fannie Sever	Br. 07	DOD: 05/19/1933	Mary Janezic	Br. 14	DOD: 09/24/1934
Mary Javnikar	Br. 26	DOD: 05/19/1933	Mary Bachay	Br. 17	DOD: 09/28/1934
Mary Glinsek	Br. 25	DOD: 05/22/1933	Katarina Grahek	Br. 23	DOD: 10/28/1934
Mary Lavrich	Br. 25	DOD: 05/29/1933	Mary Pinculic	Br. 25	DOD: 11/04/1934
Jozefa Bucenel	Br. 07	DOD: 06/05/1933	Mary Kausek	Br. 14	DOD: 11/04/1934
Katherine Murn	Br. 17	DOD: 06/11/1933	Frances Zeleznik	Br. 20	DOD: 11/17/1934
Anna Klucher	Br. 16	DOD: 07/06/1933	Theresa Grivitz	Br. 25	DOD: 11/20/1934
Mary Godec	Br. 15	DOD: 07/09/1933	Antonia Svet	Br. 40	DOD: 12/14/1934
Nellie Tratar	Br. 17	DOD: 07/24/1933	Ivana Fatur	Br. 03	DOD: 12/15/1934
Anna Sebanz	Br. 01	DOD: 09/02/1933	Antoinette Skala	Br. 02	DOD: 12/20/1934
Angela Prijatelj	Br. 10	DOD: 09/07/1933	Mary Petek	Br. 32	DOD: 12/22/1934
Mary Hocevar	Br. 21	DOD: 09/14/1933	Rosalia Grascitz	Br. 12	DOD: 12/29/1934
Mary Muren	Br. 20	DOD: 09/25/1933	Katherina Tratnik	Br. 46	DOD: 12/31/1934
Jerica Ulbar	Br. 23	DOD: 10/04/1933	Mary Susel	Br. 25	DOD: 01/23/1935
Frances Bambic	Br. 48	DOD: 10/06/1933	Anna Ogrizek	Br. 21	DOD: 01/23/1935
Mary Pangre	Br. 12	DOD: 10/12/1933	Mary Spehar	Br. 33	DOD: 01/27/1935
Anna Pecjak	Br. 25	DOD: 11/02/1933	Frances Susin	Br. 46	DOD: 02/01/1935
Agnes Valentic	Br. 25	DOD: 11/16/1933	Pauline Gorsich	Br. 03	DOD: 02/09/1935
Johanna Lest	Br. 03	DOD: 11/20/1933	Anna Kolentz	Br. 43	DOD: 02/09/1935
Jennie Florjan	Br. 17	DOD: 12/01/1933	Jennie Zakrajsek	Br. 25	DOD: 02/12/1935
Katherine Firr	Br. 13	DOD: 12/05/1933	Aloizia Sterle	Br. 51	DOD: 02/27/1935
Mary Sumrada	Br. 25	DOD: 12/05/1933	Barbara Kaklevich	Br. 03	DOD: 02/27/1935
Mary Toplak	Br. 10	DOD: 12/16/1933	Anna Drensek	Br. 10	DOD: 03/02/1935
Mary Muhich	Br. 20	DOD: 12/21/1933	Mary Decman	Br. 20	DOD: 03/14/1935
Agnes Kirasich	Br. 15	DOD: 12/23/1933	Helen Cerni	Br. 17	DOD: 04/25/1935
Johanna Pugel	Br. 12	DOD: 12/24/1933	Mary Arko	Br. 15	DOD: 04/14/1935
Mary Intihar	Br. 10	DOD: 01/02/1934	Amalia Vukelic	Br. 17	DOD: 05/07/1935
Mary Drogenik	Br. 12	DOD: 01/04/1934	Dorothy Arko	Br. 25	DOD: 05/09/1935
Johanna Praznik	Br. 47	DOD: 01/06/1934	Angela Zagar	Br. 06	DOD: 05/16/1935
Caroline Gerzin	Br. 38	DOD: 01/13/1934	Matilda Rinani	Br. 05	DOD: 05/26/1935
Margaret Spelko	Br. 41	DOD: 01/19/1934	Anna Matitz	Br. 12	DOD: 06/21/1935
Frances Jevnikar	Br. 10	DOD: 02/15/1934	Helen Polutnik	Br. 40	DOD: 06/29/1935
Mary Ponikvar	Br. 21	DOD: 02/23/1934	Angela Ambrozich	Br. 06	DOD: 07/02/1935
Helena Simoncic	Br. 25	DOD: 03/09/1934	Ivana Skerl	Br. 25	DOD: 07/09/1935
Anna Potocic	Br. 17	DOD: 03/11/1934	Lucy Toole	Br. 52	DOD: 07/09/1935
Mary Kikel	Br. 25	DOD: 03/21/1934	Barbara Lovsin	Br. 19	DOD: 07/12/1935
Antonia Laurich	Br. 38	DOD: 03/24/1934	Cecilia Janezic	Br. 38	DOD: 07/23/1935
Anna Gerbic	Br. 41	DOD: 03/24/1934	Aloizia Mali	Br. 26	DOD: 08/10/1935
Mary Kovacic	Br. 10	DOD: 03/25/1934	Helen Champa	Br. 19	DOD: 08/14/1935
Louise Yapel	Br. 14	DOD: 04/12/1934	Mary Zurga	Br. 10	DOD: 08/27/1935
Mary Arko	Br. 38	DOD: 04/29/1934	Rose Bajer	Br. 43	DOD: 09/23/1935
Anna Jaklic	Br. 20	DOD: 05/09/1934	Anna Srebernak	Br. 09	DOD: 09/27/1935
Cecilia Kostajnssek	Br. 25	DOD: 06/07/1934	Helen Champa	Br. 19	DOD: 08/14/1935

Augusta Perkovich	Br. 05	DOD: 10/11/1935	Anna Kostanjevec	Br. 17	DOD: 10/06/1936
Lucy Yovich	Br. 54	DOD: 10/06/1935	Theresa Klarich	Br. 17	DOD: 10/17/1936
Mary Simonich	Br. 23	DOD: 10/23/1935	Lena Lipovac	Br. 64	DOD: 11/23/1936
Frances Petric	Br. 03	DOD: 10/25/1935	Mary Planton	Br. 04	DOD: 11/24/1936
Fanny Vodnik	Br. 12	DOD: 11/04/1935	Frances Abrams	Br. 77	DOD: 12/02/1936
Frances Komar	Br. 17	DOD: 11/10/1935	Madeline Degman	Br. 16	DOD: 12/02/1936
Mary Gornik	Br. 20	DOD: 11/30/1935	Mary Miklavcic	Br. 15	DOD: 12/03/1936
Mary Beck	Br. 10	DOD: 12/02/1935	Frances Laurin	Br. 14	DOD: 12/13/1936
Mary Rakar	Br. 10	DOD: 12/08/1935	Lucille Ulle	Br. 10	DOD: 12/14/1936
Mary Potocnik	Br. 10	DOD: 12/21/1935	Angela Zupancic	Br. 23	DOD: 12/19/1936
Barbara Planton	Br. 34	DOD: 12/27/1935	Josephine Bolka	Br. 23	DOD: 12/22/1936
Margaret Tanko	Br. 38	DOD: 01/09/1936	Frances Prijatelj	Br. 03	DOD: 01/04/1937
Jennie Hrovatin	Br. 41	DOD: 01/09/1936	Cecilia Kranz	Br. 06	DOD: 01/09/1937
Barbara Blekach	Br. 17	DOD: 01/10/1936	Mary Svigel	Br. 07	DOD: 01/15/1937
Josephine Marcic	Br. 17	DOD: 01/19/1936	Anna Golobich	Br. 23	DOD: 01/22/1937
Frances Novak	Br. 14	DOD: 01/23/1936	Josephine Zgonc	Br. 05	DOD: 01/24/1937
Frances Koski	Br. 34	DOD: 02/16/1936	Marion Zafran	Br. 25	DOD: 01/29/1937
Anna Schiller	Br. 02	DOD: 02/22/1936	Anna Pulis	Br. 61	DOD: 02/02/1937
Jennie Laurich	Br. 32	DOD: 03/10/1936	Margaret Kosele	Br. 74	DOD: 02/03/1937
Pauline Homovec	Br. 32	DOD: 03/18/1936	Mary Bombich	Br. 19	DOD: 02/12/1937
Julia Pavletic	Br. 32	DOD: 03/22/1936	Mary Brgles	Br. 14	DOD: 02/13/1937
Lucille Boldan	Br. 15	DOD: 03/24/1936	Johanna Krall	Br. 37	DOD: 02/15/1937
Helen Mestek	Br. 14	DOD: 03/28/1936	Theresa Kuhar	Br. 25	DOD: 02/16/1937
Michaela Rovere	Br. 10	DOD: 04/03/1936	Helen Skrtich	Br. 20	DOD: 02/21/1937
Rose Jalovec	Br. 25	DOD: 04/11/1936	Mary Novak	Br. 25	DOD: 02/28/1937
Mary Jonke	Br. 13	DOD: 04/14/1936	Josephine Zupancich	Br. 1	DOD: 03/09/1937
Jennie Spenko	Br. 10	DOD: 04/24/1936	Mary Fabian	Br. 25	DOD: 03/13/1937
Josephine Jaklic	Br. 03	DOD: 04/24/1936	Louise Jaksic	Br. 21	DOD: 04/12/1937
Katherine Hize	Br. 03	DOD: 04/30/1936	Frances Levstek	Br. 25	DOD: 04/16/1937
Mary Smolic	Br. 25	DOD: 05/03/1936	Katherine Starich	Br. 43	DOD: 04/22/1937
Anna Gersich	Br. 13	DOD: 05/11/1936	Josephine Delost	Br. 71	DOD: 04/23/1937
Mary Znidarsic	Br. 25	DOD: 05/15/1936	Mary Rasbornik	Br. 01	DOD: 05/13/1937
Helen Gerdin	Br. 07	DOD: 05/19/1936	Louise Urbas	Br. 12	DOD: 05/14/1937
Rose Tercek	Br. 10	DOD: 05/26/1936	Gertrude Jarc	Br. 14	DOD: 05/21/1937
Agnes Milakovich	Br. 26	DOD: 06/04/1936	Anna Brunski	Br. 06	DOD: 05/22/1937
Rose Skerjanc	Br. 40	DOD: 06/13/1936	Anna Merle	Br. 64	DOD: 05/28/1937
Frances Fonda	Br. 10	DOD: 06/22/1936	Marion Strah	Br. 36	DOD: 06/12/1937
Anna Libersher	Br. 20	DOD: 06/24/1936	Rose Oberstar	Br. 25	DOD: 06/12/1937
Mary Zalonis	Br. 04	DOD: 06/28/1936	Antonia Mesnar	Br. 26	DOD: 06/15/1937
Mary Nemanich	Br. 40	DOD: 07/02/1936	Frances Mesec	Br. 18	DOD: 06/18/1937
Mary Zunk	Br. 05	DOD: 07/07/1936	Katherine Vuccevic	Br. 10	DOD: 06/24/1937
Mary Kucar	Br. 25	DOD: 07/09/1936	Julia Gorjup	Br. 10	DOD: 07/07/1937
Mary Habjan	Br. 25	DOD: 07/12/1936	Jennie Kranz	Br. 14	DOD: 07/12/1937
Johanna Perme	Br. 78	DOD: 07/26/1936	Jennie Paulin	Br. 41	DOD: 07/18/1937
Mary Sorcic	Br. 17	DOD: 08/02/1936	Mary Gospodaric	Br. 25	DOD: 07/19/1937
Rose Kump	Br. 28	DOD: 08/14/1936	Caroline Malnar	Br. 65	DOD: 07/20/1937
Ursula Kotze	Br. 19	DOD: 08/25/1936	The Harvatine	Br. 29	DOD: 07/23/1937
Agnes Laurich	Br. 25	DOD: 09/02/1936	Frances Bucar	Br. 24	DOD: 07/31/1937
Anna Radkovich	Br. 20	DOD: 09/14/1936	Theresa Hrovat	Br. 72	DOD: 08/19/1937
Anna Gustincic	Br. 47	DOD: 09/16/1936	Ivana Gacnik	Br. 07	DOD: 08/22/1937
Mary Besal	Br. 26	DOD: 09/20/1936	Theresa Zitnik	Br. 36	DOD: 09/07/1937
Mary Jevc	Br. 06	DOD: 09/23/1936	Mary Sodja	Br. 18	DOD: 10/08/1937

Mary Setina	Br. 20	DOD: 10/26/1937	Mary Lefevre	Br. 14	DOD: 08/10/1938
Mary Kocjan	Br. 28	DOD: 11/03/1937	Mary Sherjak	Br. 35	DOD: 08/11/1938
Katherine Braidich	Br. 10	DOD: 11/03/1937	Mary Miklavcic	Br. 16	DOD: 08/18/1938
Louise Mandel	Br. 10	DOD: 11/05/1937	Rose Mohorcic	Br. 25	DOD: 08/24/1938
Lucy Katalinic	Br. 17	DOD: 11/05/1937	Nettie Kopllan	Br. 14	DOD: 08/27/1938
Ursula Raly	Br. 12	DOD: 11/07/1937	Angela Gorence	Br. 16	DOD: 08/29/1938
Mary Lazar	Br. 15	DOD: 11/11/1937	Pauline Brundic	Br. 14	DOD: 10/12/1938
Mary Kraker	Br. 31	DOD: 11/15/1937	Anna Gorshe	Br. 09	DOD: 09/14/1938
Theresa Hvala	Br. 16	DOD: 12/04/1937	Sophie Volk	Br. 25	DOD: 10/14/1938
Johanna Lusin	Br. 19	DOD: 12/06/1937	Katherine Magina	Br. 56	DOD: 09/14/1938
Antonia Cherweznik	Br. 43	DOD: 12/13/1937	Mary Lampert	Br. 88	DOD: 10/15/1938
Helen Mesojedec	Br. 34	DOD: 12/15/1937	Mary Kobal	Br. 02	DOD: 10/17/1938
Theresa Lestic	Br. 36	DOD: 12/24/1937	Frances Lustig	Br. 22	DOD: 10/29/1938
			Josephine Mayhan	Br. 16	DOD: 10/29/1938
Mary Novak	Br. 15	DOD: 01/11/1938	Margaret Egan	Br. 03	DOD: 10/31/1938
Josephine Lunder	Br. 54	DOD: 01/19/1938	Frances Okorn	Br. 19	DOD: 11/07/1938
Catherine Grahek	Br. 28	DOD: 01/12/1938	Mary Krnc	Br. 25	DOD: 11/16/1938
Mary Fink	Br. 28	DOD: 01/26/1938	Josephine Ferjancic	Br. 10	DOD: 11/22/1938
Mary Klemencic	Br. 41	DOD: 01/29/1938	Louise Yazbec	Br. 89	DOD: 12/06/1938
Mary Brodnik	Br. 08	DOD: 01/29/1938	Frances Besal	Br. 03	DOD: 12/06/1938
Ann Fabian	Br. 78	DOD: 01/30/1938	Frances Tramte	Br. 05	DOD: 12/14/1938
Mary Smolz	Br. 56	DOD: 02/07/1938	Rose Trsar	Br. 72	DOD: 12/14/1938
Ursula Prijatelj	Br. 23	DOD: 02/08/1938	Katherine Nemanic	Br. 27	DOD: 12/27/1938
Johanna Strumbel	Br. 25	DOD: 02/11/1938	Mary Gerl	Br. 12	DOD: 12/08/1938
Amalia Smoley	Br. 19	DOD: 02/20/1938	Anna Zagar	Br. 10	DOD: 12/22/1938
Anna Starich	Br. 31	DOD: 04/03/1938	Jennie Evanich	Br. 12	DOD: 12/26/1938
Ivana Maurich	Br. 79	DOD: 04/11/1938	Mary Panian	Br. 19	DOD: 12/27/1938
Frances Ban	Br. 32	DOD: 04/16/1938	Johanna Ursic	Br. 40	DOD: 12/29/1938
Mary Bosnar	Br. 24	DOD: 04/19/1938	Mary Cerne	Br. 14	DOD: 01/20/1939
Angela Gorsich	Br. 20	DOD: 04/23/1938	Mary Rasbornik	Br. 12	DOD: 01/30/1939
Frances Konty	Br. 66	DOD: 04/25/1938	Anna Grasich	Br. 28	DOD: 01/31/1939
Agnes Zobec	Br. 50	DOD: 05/03/1938	Mary Zupancich	Br. 41	DOD: 01/31/1939
Molly Gasparac	Br. 25	DOD: 05/10/1938	Agnes Kertel	Br. 10	DOD: 02/01/1939
Julia Karacin	Br. 47	DOD: 05/15/1938	Mary Gergovic	Br. 24	DOD: 02/01/1939
Anna Lipusch	Br. 17	DOD: 05/16/1938	Amelia Mistic	Br. 25	DOD: 02/03/1939
Mary Judnich	Br. 13	DOD: 05/19/1938	Mary Russ	Br. 25	DOD: 02/04/1939
Katherine Rejc	Br. 10	DOD: 05/20/1938	Rose Pirc	Br. 25	DOD: 02/07/1939
Mary Perme	Br. 63	DOD: 05.30/1938	Katherine Dobersek	Br. 12	DOD: 02/07/1939
Frances Kromar	Br. 25	DOD: 06/01/1938	Mary Rasbornik	Br. 12	DOD: 02/07/1939
Mary Gruden	Br. 01	DOD: 06/01/1938	Mary Kuznik	Br. 15	DOD: 02/10/1939
Mary Bittenc	Br. 10	DOD: 06/02/1938	Mary Podlogar	Br. 17	DOD: 02/12/1939
Mary Lobe	Br. 23	DOD: 06/03/1938	Mary Perme	Br. 10	DOD: 02/13/1939
Rose Nobles	Br. 13	DOD: 06/12/1938	Mary Gole	Br. 10	DOD: 02/16/1939
Theresa Dolinshek	Br. 20	DOD: 06/14/1938	Frances Dimnik	Br. 25	DOD: 02/19/1939
Mary Bruss	Br. 10	DOD: 06/16/1938	Margaret Sunich	Br. 28	DOD: 02/14/1939
Helen Klisurich	Br. 10	DOD: 06/20/1938	Mildred Yamnick	Br. 78	DOD: 02/22/1939
Catherine Mohar	Br. 03	DOD: 07/03/1938	Helen Markovich	Br. 16	DOD: 02/23/1939
Lucy Kusar	Br. 14	DOD: 07/05/1938	Josephine Find	Br. 15	DOD: 03/01/1939
Josephine Zorko	Br. 14	DOD: 07/07/1938	Frances Cerar	Br. 25	DOD: 03/14/1939
Mary Kuzmic	Br. 25	DOD: 07/14/1938	Ursula Rakar	Br. 25	DOD: 03/25/1939
Louise Champa	Br. 10	DOD: 07/18/1938	Rose Koscak	Br. 25	DOD: 03/29/1939
Helen Mersak	Br. 14	DOD: 07/19/1938	Johanna Adamic	Br. 52	DOD: 04/14/1939
Jennie Kumse	Br. 06	DOD: 07/30/1938	Frances Hvala	Br. 17	DOD: 04/13/1939

Mary Martincic	Br. 88	DOD: 04/14/1939	Rose Zupancich	Br. 25	DOD: 02/12/1940
Mary Brinovec	Br. 24	DOD: 04/18/1939	Theresa Sterbenk	Br. 13	DOD: 02/19/1940
Margaret Wintar	Br. 25	DOD: 04/28/1939	Mary Sustersich	Br. 15	DOD: 02/29/1940
Margaret Sustarich	Br. 23	DOD: 04/30/1939	Caroline Malnar	Br. 10	DOD: 03/01/1940
Lou Griesbacher	Br. 12	DOD: 05/03/1939	Rose Tekavec	Br. 25	DOD: 03/03/1940
Anna Raspergar	Br. 14	DOD: 05/13/1939	Josephine Rosenberger	Br. 74	DOD: 03/03/1940
Ivanka Hude	Br. 84	DOD: 05/21/1939	Louise Mlakar	Br. 20	DOD: 03/14/1940
Frances Arko	Br. 38	DOD: 05/23/1939	Agnes Kupsek	Br. 24	DOD: 03/17/1940
Anna Spende	Br. 12	DOD: 05/24/1939	Fanny Mikush	Br. 02	DOD: 03/18/1940
Anna Knezovich	Br. 38	DOD: 06/05/1939	Agnes Lucas	Br. 15	DOD: 03/27/1940
Ivana Matjasich	Br. 13	DOD: 06/08/1939	Jennie Hitti	Br. 88	DOD: 03/28/1940
Christina Kren	Br. 10	DOD: 06/10/1939	Mary Cevka	Br. 18	DOD: 04.03/1940
Caroline Usay	Br. 14	DOD: 06/22/1939	Anna Koncilija	Br. 41	DOD: 04/16/1940
Rose Klesnik	Br. 14	DOD: 06/24/1939	Catherine Misic	Br. 54	DOD: 04/22/1940
Mary Oblak	Br. 47	DOD: 07/05/1939	Margaret Seme	Br. 40	DOD: 04/23/1940
Kate Ojurovich	Br. 65	DOD: 07/09/1939	Mary Colman	Br. 32	DOD: 04/23/1940
Mary Peritz	Br. 19	DOD: 07/26/1939	Mary Erman	Br. 17	DOD: 04/13/1940
Rose Jeraj	Br. 25	DOD: 07/26/1939	Mary Cerar	Br. 17	DOD: 04/04/1940
Mary Milatovich	Br. 41	DOD: 07/26/1939	Frances Fink	Br. 23	DOD: 04/20/1940
Mary Romih	Br. 41	DOD: 08/02/1939	Magdaline Bogovich	Br. 55	DOD: 04/29/1940
Vera Jesih	Br. 03	DOD: 09/18/1939	Mary Zeleznik	Br. 20	DOD: 05/07/1940
Mary Strubelj	Br. 16	DOD: 09/09/1939	Sylvia Jelercic	Br. 14	DOD: 05/09/1940
Catherine Turk	Br. 28	DOD: 09/21/1939	Theresa Loncarich	Br. 12	DOD: 05/05/1940
Rose Stech	Br. 12	DOD: 09/25/1939	Rose Fon	Br. 12	DOD: 05/08/1940
Ann Perslin	Br. 65	DOD: 10/01/1939	Mary Zaletal	Br. 03	DOD: 05/25/1940
Angela Prijatelj	Br. 06	DOD: 10/01/1939	Agnes Natlacen	Br. 47	DOD: 05/26/1940
Antonia Svigel	Br. 10	DOD: 10/05/1939	Anna Bozicevich	Br. 20	DOD: 05/29/1940
Mary Setina	Br. 24	DOD: 10/18/1939	Helen Clark	Br. 03	DOD: 06/01/1940
Jennie Recilj	Br. 17	DOD: 10/21/1939	Helen Vlah	Br. 67	DOD: 06/06/1940
Anna Pristavec	Br. 25	DOD: 10/21/1939	Frances Boitz	Br. 03	DOD: 05/15/1940
Vera Zajec	Br. 18	DOD: 10/23/1939	Johanna Kostelec	Br. 19	DOD: 06/21/1940
Dorothy Jovanovic	Br. 17	DOD: 11/03/1939	Theresa Kowatch	Br. 84	DOD: 07/04/1940
Anna Anich	Br. 33	DOD: 11/12/1939	Bernice Huth	Br. 15	DOD: 07/07/1940
Anna Barbic	Br. 89	DOD: 12/02/1939	Anna Butala	Br. 25	DOD: 07/07/1940
Anna Sicich	Br. 95	DOD: 12/09/1939	Caroline Bobek	Br. 03	DOD: 07/09/1940
Theresa Gillach	Br. 39	DOD: 12/16/1939	Rose Mirtel	Br. 15	DOD: 07/29/1940
Julia Mausee	Be. 14	DOD: 12/31/1939	Jennie Vidigar	Br. 25	DOD: 08/10/1940
			Katherine Judnich	Br. 20	DOD: 08/17/1940
Elizabeth Kordesh	Br. 02	DOD: 01/01/1940	Mary Cimperman	Br. 21	DOD: 08/18/1940
Anna Blatnik	Br. 49	DOD: 01/02/1940	Frances Koschak	Br. 23	DOD: 08/13/1940
Mary Frangesh	Br. 12	DOD: 01/05/1940	Theresa Mramor	Br. 41	DOD: 08/25/2940
Frances Kobe	Br. 25	DOD: 01/08/1940	Mary Bradac	Br. 15	DOD: 09/12/1940
Theresa Zakrajsek	Br. 21	DOD: 01/14/1940	Mary Grebenc	Br. 23	DOD: 09/12/1940
Mary Mlac	Br. 10	DOD: 01/17/1940	Margaret Svete	Br. 10	DOD: 09/12/1940
Mary Remitz	Br. 12	DOD: 01/18/1940	Gertrude Dolinar	Br. 14	DOD: 09/17/1940
Helen Bezek	Br. 10	DOD: 01/22/1940	Louise Senica	Br. 12	DOD: 09/19/1940
Mary Mihevc	Br. 29	DOD: 01/28/1940	Agnes Urbas	Br. 88	DOD: 09/20/1940
Mary Indihar	Br. 31	DOD: 01/21/1940	Mary Koschak	Br. 38	DOD: 10/09/1940
Jennie Komadina	Br. 27	DOD: 01/21/1940	Agnes Urbas	Br. 88	DOD: 09/20/1940
Mary Vargo	Br. 16	DOD: 02/02/1940	Margaret Hoffner	Br. 31	DOD: 09/29/1940
Ann Pozun	Br. 10	DOD: 02/05/1940	Jennie Prudich	Br. 07	DOD: 10/04/1940
Caroline Jeraj	Br. 30	DOD: 02/08/1940	Johanna Markun	Br. 38	DOD: 10/18/1940
Frances Matitz	Br. 12	DOD: 02/10/1940	Agnes Kusljan	Br. 12	DOD: 10/29/1940

Mary Maierle	Br. 09	DOD: 11/03/1940	Anna Kostelic	Br. 24	DOD: 05/02/1941
Anna Satkovich	Br. 83	DOD: 11/11/1940	Mary Vidmar	Br. 10	DOD: 05/05/1941
Mary Augustine	Br. 21	DOD: 11/19/1940	Anna Koren	Br. 05	DOD: 05/06/1941
Julia Adamic	Br. 20	DOD: 11/29/1940	Catherine Sraj	Br. 20	DOD: 05/07/1941
Mary Muhoberac	Br. 13	DOD: 12/06/1940	Josephine Udovich	Br. 67	DOD: 05/11/1941
Johanna Stih	Br. 10	DOD: 12/10/1940	Margaret Marolt	Br. 10	DOD: 05/26/1941
Frances Smole	Br. 25	DOD: 12/12/1940	Theresa Spehek	Br. 25	DOD: 06/03/1941
Ursula Kalac	Br. 14	DOD: 12/20/1940	Mary Prijatel	Br. 25	DOD: 06/03/1941
Mary Macarol	Br. 25	DOD: 12/25/1940	Cecilia Setinz	Br. 24	DOD: 06/08/1941
Christina Podrzaj	Br. 07	DOD: 12/31/1940	Frances Svetanovich	Br. 49	DOD: 06/25/1941
			Louise Wilder	Br. 49	DOD: 06/26/1941
Katherine Franic	Br. 20	DOD: 01/04/1941	Josephine Mustar	Br. 10	DOD: 06/27/1941
Louise Pezdir	Br. 55	DOD: 01/04/1941	Frances Tillis	Br. 50	DOD: 06/30/1941
Mary Godec	Br. 15	DOD: 01/07/1941	Katherine Kotze	Br. 09	DOD: 07/07/1941
Mary Merhar	Br. 25	DOD: 01/10/1941	Matilda Jalovec	Br. 25	DOD: 07/11/1941
Angela Vidmar	Br. 23	DOD: 02/12/1941	Mary Sintic	Br. 32	DOD: 07/18/1941
Mary Michelic	Br. 93	DOD: 01/13/1941	Antonia Somrak	Br. 49	DOD: 07/19/1941
Mary Repar	Br. 25	DOD: 01/17/1941	Mary Turk	Br. 05	DOD: 07/25/1941
Louise Maras	Br. 56	DOD: 01/19/1941	Rose Speh	Br. 10	DOD: 07/27/1941
Frances Skebe	Br. 14	DOD: 01/19/1941	Mary Pajk	Br. 14	DOD: 07/29/1941
Mary Butschar	Br. 300	DOD: 02/19/1941	Jennie Nahtigal	Br. 25	DOD: 08/04/1941
Mary Mervich	Br. 28	DOD: 01/21/1941	Margaret Mehle	Br. 03	DOD: 08/09/1941
Fanny Remsko	Br. 12	DOD: 01/26/1941	Frances Debelak	Br. 25	DOD: 08/10/1941
Clara Borkovich	Br. 16	DOD: 01/22/1941	Jennie Sodja	Br. 18	DOD: 08/18/1941
Mary Sedmak	Br. 93	DOD: 01/23/1941	Mary Spetich	Br. 06	DOD: 08/20/1941
Helen Lukanc	Br. 10	DOD: 01/23/1941	Frances Gledich	Br. 61	DOD: 08/23/1941
Margaret Erzen	Br. 01	DOD: 02/02/1941	Margaret Tratar	Br. 56	DOD: 09/02/1941
Josephine Samotorchen	Br. 16	DOD: 02/03/1941	Mary F. Konte	Br. 66	DOD: 09/03/1941
Helen Rahne	Br. 19	DOD: 02/05/1941	Mary Horvath	Br.62	DOD: 09/09/1941
Louise Lokar	Br.	DOD: 02/12/1941	Anna Sulen	Be 47	DOD: 09/26/1941
Theresa Mehelich	Br. 35	DOD: 02/23/1941	Angela Skull	Br. 33	DOD: 09/27/1941
Katherine Stonich	Br. 05	DOD: 03/09/1941	Mary Stukel	Br. 62	DOD: 01/09/1941
Anna Kocyan	Br. 30	DOD: 03/30/1941	Margaret Vivic	Br. 47	DOD: 10/10/1941
Ann Tereck	Br. 04	DOD: 02/11/1941	Rose Stanich	Br. 38	DOD: 10/13/1941
Anna Krasoc	Br. 10	DOD: 03/17/1941	Anna Kirin	Br. 20	DOD: 10/14/1941
Rose Laush	Br. 20	DOD: 03/23/1941	Anna Solce	Br. 09	DOD: 10/16/1941
Pauline Lekse	Br. 25	DOD: 03/16/1941	Apolonia Lach	Br. 21	DOD: 10/17/1941
Mary Rosenberger	Br. 74	DOD: 03/19/1941	Frances Vrecher	Br. 74	DOD: 10/20/1941
Dora Brozenic	Br. 26	DOD: 04/01/1941	Theresa Prijatel	Br. 25	DOD: 10/22/1941
Mary Cimperman	Br. 32	DOD: 04/02/1941	Josephine Kumprej	Br. 12	DOD: 10/28/1941
Rose Evanich	Br. 43	DOD: 04/02/1941	Mary Cubrich	Br. 08	DOD: 11/06/1941
Alesa Bonazzo	Br. 49	DOD: 04/06/1941	Jennie Brayan	Br. 38	DOD: 11/09/1941
Johanna Nahtigal	Br. 02	DOD: 04/08/1941	Barbara Tomc	Br. 25	DOD: 11/10/1941
Rose Zalokar	Br. 25	DOD: 04/15/1941	Josephine Ferl	Br. 62	DOD: 11/11/1941
Rita Kambic	Br. 77	DOD: 04/20/1941	Margaret Krnjeu	Br. 25	DOD: 11/13/1941
Anna Kranc	Br. 79	DOD: 04/20/1941	Katherine Hrebec	Br. 28	DOD: 11/13/1941
Frances Strainer	Br. 66	DOD: 04/21/1941	Katherine Planinac	Br. 27	DOD: 11/20/1941
Mary Lesjak	Br. 12	DOD: 04/22/1941	Katherine Vidosh	Br. 28	DOD: 11/26/1941
Jennie Novak	Br. 41	DOD: 04/25/1941	Mary Benko	Br. 37	DOD: 12/05/1941
Josephine Slogar	Br. 25	DOD: 04/27/1941	Elizabeth Bugos	Br. 16	DOD: 12/22/1941
Mary Hren	Br. 23	DOD: 04/29/1941	Anna Karlinger	Br. 41	DOD: 12/22/1941
Johanna Herbst	Br. 04	DOD: 04/30/1941	Anna Korelc	Br. 20	DOD: 12/26/1941
Jennie Pizmoht	Br. 25	DOD: 05/01/1941			

Branch Reports

Poročila Podružnic

BRANCH 1 – Sheboygan, Wisconsin

As we carry on our daily lives, memories of the 2007 Convention still linger with the meeting of old friends and acquaintances. But, foremost in our minds is the purpose of the convention. This was my first convention. I could not help but be caught up in the passion and fervor of the delegates as important issues were discussed. In the end, these opinions and notes prevailed. We remain: Slovenian Women's Union of America. We will proudly carry on the purpose and visions of the past and the future. For complete coverage, carefully read this convention issue of Zarja.

We were privileged to have the Slovenian authors of children's books spend two days in Sheboygan. Our branch President Aggie Gruenke and husband Tom graciously opened their home to the authors. They were warmly greeted at Mead Public Library where each presented excerpts from his/her book and the "Gingerbread Lady" demonstrated her artistry. The main social event was a brat fry hosted at the Gruenke home. Also present were local branch members.

Our guests, who were especially impressed with our Lake Michigan coastline and our charming Riverfront area, enjoyed a sightseeing tour. Thanks to Bob Schellinger for housing Andrej Rozman-Rosa in his home (while his wife Mary Ann was still on her visit to Slovenia!) Special thanks to Aggie and Julie Gruenke, Germaine and Ed Tesovnik and Mary Jo and Rogene Grabner who drove the guests from the convention area in Illinois to Sheboygan. Two days later Germaine and Ed drove them to their next destination in Milwaukee. We hope our Slovenian guests took home pleasant memories of their time spent in Sheboygan. Thanks to everyone for all the extra help!

Angie Fritz

BRANCH 2 – Chicago, Illinois

The National Convention/Starved Rock, IL was well attended. There were 30 members attending from Branch 2. Many changes to our bylaws. The name Slovenian Women's Union of America will remain, also, you must be a Christian to join. Please read the reports in Zarja for all the changes. We will report in detail at our September meeting. Congratulations to our Helen Cukale, she won the best potica contest. Recipe will be printed, lets all try to bake her specialty.

Zveza Day - Lemont was a success: weather beautiful, Slovene Accordion Music, lots of fun, nice crowd, great prizes. We were pleased to have in attendance (3) National Officers: Bonnie Prokup, George Plautz, Carole Ryba and their "chauffeur" Nancy Henkel. Thanks to all who helped in anyway. Joe Skala made and donated a Baggo Set. Mrs. Fran Fritz's chicken and Slovenian Potato salad "delicious". New items on our menu this year: "Čevapčići and corn on

the cob" by the brother sister team of Tom and Lenore. Hope to see you all next year!

Our condolences to the families of Mary Muller, past President of Branch 2 and past National President, Helen Kocevar; Mary Piscitiello and Josephine Intihar. Please remember them in your prayers that they will rest in peace.

We had (2) members in the hospital Geneva Cerjak and Millie Paisoli. Get well ladies, we miss you at the meetings.

DATES TO REMEMBER: Sept. 16- St. Stephens 1:00 PM, October 13- Saturday- IL/IN Convention at Indianapolis. 18- Penny Social- 12 Noon - St. Stephen. Circle the dates on your calendar- hope to see you. Take care everyone, have a wonderful Colorful Fall.

Love, Daisy

BRANCH 5 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Greetings Branch 5 Members! Where did the summer go? The summer season was packed with many enjoyable events, family get togethers, dinners with friends and just sitting and enjoying the fine weather we had. But most of all I really had fun at our SWUA pitch-in luncheon. I want to especially thank Gloria Leffler and Anna Fon for all the help they gave me in setting up the luncheon, and thanks to all of you who attended and brought such great food!

Member Sara Fon Cline and her husband Scott celebrated his graduation from Indiana University School of Medicine. Scott now starts his internship at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. Member Mary Frances Mohr and her family celebrated the graduations of her granddaughters Brooke Mohr a member who graduated from Notre Dame University and Molly Mohr a member who graduated from the 8th Grade. Jonathan Cox, grandson of member Mary Ann Cox, graduated from Ball State University. Last but not least Carl Friesenhahn, grandson of member Barbara Friesenhahn, graduated from Pre-school.

Summer time means it is time for the County Fairs. Member Erika Pell, daughter of Rosemarie Pell and granddaughter of Mary Frances Mohr, has participated in many projects at the Hancock County Fair. Erika has done quite well in earning many Blue Ribbons. She was awarded Reserve Grand Champion in the Demonstration Contest, demonstrating how to make Fruit Pizza. In the Public Speaking Contest, she was awarded the Grand Champion Ribbon. Erika showed her sheep and won Champion Showman in the Junior Division She will be taking these projects to the Indiana State Fair

Mark your calendars for Saturday October 13, 2007! Branch 5 is hosting the Illinois/Indiana SWUA Regional Convention. Watch your mail for in depth details on this convention to be held at Holy Trinity's Bockhold Hall and ending with our SWUA Memorial Mass at 4:30. Exact times are still being worked out and will be mailed with other info to each member. Let's have a good turnout for this event! As always, please keep our men and women in the Armed Forces in your prayers, along with all of our SWUA members and their families.

President, Phyllis

BRANCH 12 – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Branch 12 had a delightful turn out in commemoration of the annual Member of the Year awards recipient, Virginia Strukel. Her son Frank, daughter Mary Dana and grandchildren Stefanie and Anastasia (Stacy) accompanied her. This catered event took place on May 17 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. It was wonderful to see so many faces in attendance, many of which came from Branch 43. Our State President Josephine Janezic, the Member of the Year for Branch 43 and Sophie Bevsek, were also present.

After the picnic lunch was cooked, served and the kitchen cleaned, our meeting was held. Virginia and Lillian Hartmann then left for the National Convention at Starved Rock, IL. The efforts of all the branches in that area under the direction of Nancy and Bonnie produced an outstanding convention. Congratulations to each and everyone of you. All members in attendance had traveled some distance to be there, and though many were strangers they worked and conversed as friends. One topic of note was the general consensus of our members expressing feelings of disappointment that the title of Slovenian Women's Union was not amended to credit the male union members. It seems contradictory to solicit men to join but not credit their standing in our union. Our name should reflect their level of importance.

It is amazing to see how far we have come over the past 80 years. When the organization started, elected officials were homemakers with little opportunity to become more. The group is proud that the recently elected officers include PhD, MA and BA/S holders. These distinguished officers will add credibility and prove to be a valuable asset to our union. Najlepša hvala za vse.

Branch 12

BRANCH 13 – San Francisco, California

Our annual Mother's Day luncheon was a huge success. We had more people attend than we have had in the last ten years. It was a beautiful day in San Francisco and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. We saw people we have not seen for a long time. Our annual raffle, which is our only fundraiser, was also a great success. We made more money than we have ever made. Tickets were selling like "Hot Cakes" as soon as it was announced that two of the prizes were four box seats and preferred parking for a San Francisco Giants and Oakland A's baseball game. Thank you Shirley Cooper for your generous donation! Congratulations Acting President Doreen Sustarich, Financial Secretary Moreen Spencer and Auditor Virginia Sustarich for all your phone calling and ticket sales. Thank you for a job well done!

It is with a heavy heart that a report the passing of one of our most loved members, Stanka Pecavar. Stanka was an active member of several of our lodges and clubs. She was a most active member of the Church of the Nativity and sang in the choir for many years. It is hard to think about going to the Slovenian Hall and not seeing Stanka cooking

up a storm in the kitchen. My sons still talk about "Stanka's Famous Potatoes" which she made for many, many dinners at the Hall. Our love and prayers to Stanka's sons, Peter and his wife Kelly and John and his wife Nada. Also Stanka's sisters Katica Pecavar and Ivanka Lukezic and the entire Pecavar Family. Stanka, may you sing with the angels.

Our prayers and sympathy to member Frances Yenko Chilcoat on the recent passing of her husband Aaron.

Barbara Chiodo, Reporter

Beverly Jackson, our past recording Secretary and Reporter of Branch 13 has stepped down from her position after 23 years for personal reasons. Beverly, a dedicated officer and member of SWUA, kept members well informed of everything that was happening in our membership, such as births, deaths, illness, weddings, etc., as well as informing us what was happening on the national level. Through all these years, Beverly has spent countless hours, love and dedication to our branch. She made many beautiful afghans and quilts for various fund raising activities, not to mention her delicious homemade deserts. She always had a joke or two to share with us and we would all laugh. Beverly, a kind and loving person always recognized the importance of the individuals in our branch. We thank you Beverly for the tireless love and support you gave to members of Branch 13 and so many other SWUA members.

BRANCH 14 – Euclid, Ohio

By the time you read this article summer is over and the kids have returned to school. I hope the summer was an enjoyable one for all. I want to say a belated happy birthday to Josephine Stupica who turned 93 years young on August 7! Hello to our members who reside in nursing homes, thinking of you all!

Branch 14 Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 4 at Recher Hall. Call Stana Grill at 440-944-0598 to RSVP. Hope to see you at the dinner!

Diane Varney

BRANCH 16 – South Chicago, Illinois

Congratulations to Therese Ehnat, our President of Branch 16 on the birth of her great-grandchild Tyler Bergthold.

We celebrated the Member of the Year by honoring all of our members at a luncheon at Jovial Club on May 10th. The attendance was great and the food delicious as usual. Gen Marco, who was Chairman of the luncheon, did a fabulous job again.

A longtime member of ours, Fran Konar passed away this month. She lived in Florida for quite some years and just moved back to this area. "Fannie" was a hard worker for the SWUA, KSKJ and St. George Church. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family. May her soul rest in peace.

The SWUA and The KSKJ St. Florian Lodge 44 sponsored A Devotion to Our Lady of Brezje on May 20.

We began the Devotion by reciting the Rosary, then Fr. Paul Ashiegbu, CSS celebrated the Holy Mass, we said the Litany of Our Lady and Benediction. Thank you Fr. Paul; it was a beautiful devotion to Our Lady of Brezje. After Mass everyone came down to the Church Hall and were served coffee and rolls. My sincere thanks to Veda Kumse, Gladys Buck, Rose Tomasich, Ralph Caruso, Marjorie Mitchell, Helen Battista, our Choir Director Tom Marks, John Krcmaric, Bob Oberman, Connie Saviano, Betty Krcmaric, Julia Pastor, Jim Rossi, Lenny Marino and everyone else that took part to help put the Devotion and refreshments together. Thank you to all.

On June 24th we all met at Pucci's Restaurant for a dinner for Veda Kumse who left for Slovenia on July 6th. It was a very nice gathering although it was sad too. We presented her with a beautiful necklace with a Cross - as a remembrance of our Lodge. Veda came to America in the '50's and was a very loyal member of St. George Church and the SWUA. She was our Recording Secretary of the Lodge for many years and did an excellent job. She brought knowledge of Slovenia to all our meetings. Her decorations on the Altar for Our Lady of Brezje were just beautiful. I'm sure the Altar will never be the same. Everyone will remember her at the different affairs wearing her Narodna Noša. Her heart and Love for Slovenia called her back and she will be living with her sister. Everyone will miss her; good luck to Veda.

Dorothy A. Rossi

BRANCH 20 – Joliet, Illinois

Hello to All!! I hope you all had a Healthy and Enjoyable Summer. Our National Convention that was held at the Starved Rock Convention Center was a great weekend of socializing and meeting with old friends and making new ones. Read Zarja for the revised bylaws and your new "Leaders" names.

Just an early reminder for the Grape Festival Dance to be held on Sunday September 23rd. We will be in need of workers to help out on Saturday the 22nd the day before the dance. Bob Dozak Band will entertain us at the event, and as always food and drink will be served.

Congratulations to the following couples for their Anniversary celebrations: Don and Fran Trautner 60 years, John and Marie Gulas 60 years, Joseph and Dolores Ambrozich 60 years, and Benny and Theresa Papesh 55 years. May God Bless you all with more years. Also congratulations to the following scholarship winners: Margaret Koncar, Ann Primiani, Nicholas Vidmar, Maxwell Welsh and Jennifer Whitgrove.

Our sympathies to the following families for their losses. Deceased member: William Govednik (survived by wife Diane) member. Deceased member Betty Klepec (survived by sisters Sister Elizabeth Marie and Dolores Klepec) members. Deceased member Mary Barbic (survived by daughter Carol Barbic) members Frances J. Smrekar, Margaret Briese and Josephine Postick. Also our sympathies to Judy Derlinga (member) on the loss of her

brother, Josephine Krohn (member) on the loss of her brother. Hope you all have a wonderful Autumn Season.

Barbara J. DeLaney

BRANCH 23 – Ely, Minnesota

This year our "Member of the Year" was Fran Shepel. To celebrate this occasion we had an excellent lunch at Vertin's Café on May 6th with over thirty members present. A little presentation was given and it went as follows: Fran was born here in Ely to Frank and Mary Prosen. She had one brother Frank "Sinky" Prosen and a sister, Mary Sustersich.

In 1941 she became the bride of Frank Shepel. Except for a short period of time, when they lived in Cleveland they lived in her parent's home on Sheridan Street and Fran still lives there. They had four children, Barb Omreza, who lives here in Ely, Janice Skala, who lives in Iron, MN, Larry who lives in Canada and Franklin who lives in Arizona. She is a proud grandmother of seven and a great grand mother of fifteen and soon to be sixteen. How wonderful to have such a lovely family!

Her husband Frank was the director of the Slovenian Choir for many years and Fran worked closely with him during that time. Being out at the cabin on Eagles Nest is one of Fran's most favorite things to do. She enjoys it so much; it is her little piece of heaven. I also understand she loves to travel. Just mention going on a trip and she is packed and ready to go! There were also a number of letters read by Fran's daughter, Barb Omerza from family members who were not able to attend. They brought tears to Fran's eyes.

Justine Carlson and Bonnie Starkman entertained the group. Bonnie played the keyboard while Justine sang some beautiful Slovenian songs and also led the group in a sing-a-long. Everyone enjoyed singing some of the old songs we loved.

It was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all. They traveled to Europe three times and one of those was with the Slovenian Choir. Fran and Frank were so fortunate to be together for over 60 years until Frank's death in 2002.

Fran in her younger years loved to sew but now the hands don't work like they used to. Fran worked at James Drug for many years and retired from there. She is an avid reader and enjoys going out for coffee with her friends. Fran is also a sports fan, she enjoys watching her great-granddaughter, Kathleen Omerza play sports right here in Ely. She goes to Mass every morning and how wonderful.

Branch 23

BRANCH 24 – LaSalle, Illinois

DOBER DAN! Everyone here in the Illinois Valley is still enjoying the "afterglow" of the SWUA's 80th Anniversary/National Convention that was held at Starved Rock Lodge. Words cannot express what a tremendous success it was and what a fantastic job Bonnie Prokup and Nancy Henkel did as co-chairpersons, along with their team of dedicated, hard working helpers - names too numerous to mention and other Illinois branches. HVALA LEPA!

I was proud to be a delegate and honored to have been



Some members of Branch 24 at the Veranda Party

among so many knowledgeable and dedicated constituents, among them the first male delegate, Norman Setniker from Twin Cities, MN.

The meetings

were extremely informative and conducted in a very businesslike manner. There was much to be discussed, decided and then voted upon. A new slate of officers were sworn in at the Saturday luncheon followed by a very moving farewell speech by our outgoing President Kathy Ferrante.

Every event was well attended and was special in itself - the wine and cheese tasting party on Thursday evening, the Veranda party on Friday evening, the Gala on Saturday evening and finally the Polka Mass on Sunday morning. Throughout all events the Singing Slovenes did a magnificent job of entertaining us with their beautiful Slovenian songs and hymns.

Beside the events listed above there were numerous other activities and EXPOS; the wedding dress display, Potica contest, Camp Heritage, pin trading, silent auction, heritage gift shop, golf outing, just to name a few. And, what made it so unique was the fact that it was all held at Starved Rock - a most beautiful setting, and the weather was perfect.

It was wonderful seeing old friends and making so many new ones. It was sad to see the week-end come to a close however, God willing, we will celebrate in Milwaukee in four years. We extend our congratulations and pledge our support to the new officers.

Regarding old news - our May luncheon, held at Mario's Maples was attended and enjoyed by 31 members. The Mass for all deceased members was held at St. Thomas More Church on Sunday, May 27, and said by Fr. Bernard Horzen, O.S.B. It was nice to see so many of our members attend that, also.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13. This meeting will be held one week earlier than usual due to the fact that so many of us will be enjoying the Highlights of Slovenia tour from September 17 through 28.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer and until next time, may your hearts be filled with peace and love.

Loretta Story

BRANCH 35, Aurora, Minnesota

Greetings! Hope you all are rested after the Gala Event. I will have a brief report covering April, May, June, July. April 15th meeting was cancelled so that members could attend the Novena of the Divine Mercy, a first for our parish

and we hope more will attend next year. May 13th was to be our Member of the Year Party but had to be cancelled until further notice because our honored member had knee surgery and we know how long that healing takes. Ann should be returning home soon.

May 23rd, the Feast Day of Marija Pomagaj, our branch had a celebration and a dedication of Marija Pomagaj, a Mass, all Slovenian Hymns, followed by coffee with our favorite Slovenian pastries and also Slovenski čaj (Slovenian tea). We are so grateful to Helen Lukancic-Valerugo, for donating this beautiful painting to our parish. Our branch picked out a lovely frame, it was blessed with special incense from Slovenia, sent to me by my dear friend Simona Strnad along with beautiful candles and Holy Cards from Brezje. Since we could not find the proper holders for the candles, they were given as gifts to those who helped with the celebration. The happiest moment was when Father David Forsman said that the painting could be placed in the church proper. Again, I thank all those who helped in anyway, especially those who took the time to attend.

On June 20, 2007 six delegates and members left the Iron Range to join The Singing Slovenes on the trip to Starved Rock Lodge to attend the 25th National Convention and 80th Anniversary of the SWUA as an organization. It was hard work, not without a lot of fun, but returned home totally exhausted. It was great to meet our old friends and make new ones as well. Ann Orazem's daughter Suzanne Williams, a member of Branch 35, drove in from Michigan to join us. She really got to take in most of the activities since she was not a delegate and enjoyed all of it. We thank Suzanne and also Norman Setnikar and wife Mary Ann, for carting us back and forth to our hotel and back again for meetings and activities. A big thank you to Rosemary Ribich for driving us to and from Duluth. Be sure to read all about the Convention in the Zarja.

July 6th, the Northern Lights Concert Group, was again performing their musical talents in Aurora. We saw that there were some musicians from Slovenia on the schedule. Anita Vovk and Ann Orazem presented a bouquet of red carnations to Professor Marina Horak, from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, on behalf of Branches 35 of Aurora and 39 of Biwabik. There were several other students from Slovenia also traveling with the group. We thank Veda Zuponic, daughter of our member, Helen Zuponic, for bringing this awesome talent to our cities to enjoy. We wait for their return in 2008.

After reading this, I truly thank everyone for a delightfully packed summer. We now look forward to our SWUA Minnesota Convention in Biwabik.

Na svidenje in Bog z vami! Anita Vovk

BRANCH 39 - Biwabik, Minnesota

Greetings members! Branch 35 in Aurora invited our Branch 39 members to attend their dedication of a picture of MARIJA POMAGAJ, painted and donated by Helen Lukancic Valerugo, to be presented to the Holy Rosary Church in Aurora. The event began with a Mass on

Wednesday, May 23rd, the feast of the Patroness of Slovenia. Anne Orazem presented a bouquet of carnations at the side altar of Our Blessed Mother in honor of the deceased members and Fr. Forsman blessed the picture before it was hung in the church proper. Our members joined in singing several of the Slovenian hymns. Coffee was served after the presentation and all the Slovenian delicacies were made by Anita Vovk, President of Branch 35. What a beautiful way to celebrate this feast day. Thanks for inviting us, Anita.

A June meeting was held to start plans for our Minnesota Regional Convention to be held on September 9th in Biwabik. We also accumulated various donated Minnesota made gifts for a basket for the Silent Auction at the Gala in Utica.

What a celebration the Gala was! The delegation from the Iron Range of Minnesota traveled with the Singing Slovenes from Duluth to the convention at Starved Rock. The celebration began as we boarded the bus at the home of Frank and Sharon Bucar at 5:30 AM. It was a delightful trip to the LaQuinta in Peru and cars and drivers were waiting as we arrived, to shuttle the delegates to the By-laws review meeting at convention central.

From the Wine Tasting on Thursday evening to the Polka Mass on Sunday, the social events were well attended and of course, the Singing Slovenes kept us entertained. As a rookie delegate, I was thankful to have an alternate, Jeanne Korsman attending with me. Jeanne, former National President of SWUA, kept me informed on procedures of the convention, which helped me make decisions for the good of SWUA. So much fun to connect with old friends and meeting new ones. Hopefully we will see everyone in Milwaukee in 2011.

On July 6th, Marina Horak, professor of the SLOVENIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, presented a piano concert of chamber works by Mozart and Wienawski. This concert series was part of the Northern Lights Music Festival sponsored by various foundations and corporations. The festival is held annually in Aurora, MN in July and features musical students and faculty from around the world. Special thanks go to Veda Zuponic, professor of piano at Rowan University and Aurora HS graduate, for bringing their talents to us. Veda is the daughter of long-time SWUA member, Helen Zuponic of Aurora's Branch. Anita Vovk presented a bouquet of carnations to Marina, from the Aurora and Biwabik Branch of SWUA, and Anne Orazem dressed in Narodna Noša. A capacity audience enjoyed the concert.

Back to you later with more information on the pending MN Zveza Day.

Rosemary (Sertich) Ribich rribich@Lcp2.net

BRANCH 40 - Lorain, Ohio

We held our May meeting at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. We had not had a meeting in several months so it was good to see everyone. Agatha Donges treated us to chocolate cake. Thank you, Agatha. In order to have a

better attendance we decided to have luncheon meetings at area eateries. The time will be our regular meeting date, which is the second Wednesday of the month. You will be called as to the place. Please make an effort to come.

The past months have held special dates for some of our members, which we should commemorate. Our Angie Zgonc celebrated her 95th birthday. She is a resident of Kingston of Vermilion. We hope you had a happy birthday with your loving family at your side, Angie. Many happy returns!

Also, earlier this year, Fritz and Francine Pavlovic celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a family dinner hosted by their children. Congratulations to both of you and our wishes that you share many more happy and healthy years together. A true milestone. Again, congratulations!

Our Aggie Serazin's grand-daughter Elizabeth Andrea Smith graduated from Firelands High School and is planning to pursue a career as a hair stylist. Good luck and our congratulations and best wishes to Elizabeth and to all of our graduates.

On a happy note in my own life, on June 5th was the 79th anniversary of the day on which my mother, my sister and I came to America from Slovenia to join our dad who had come earlier. I was 8 at the time but I remember it well. Sweet memories!

On another personal note, my daughter Elaine [Barthelemy] has recently joined Branch 109 in Minneapolis/ St. Paul, and is looking forward to meeting their members and participating in some of their many activities. Elaine has just completed her first year teaching back in Minnesota following a five-year stint at an International School in Hong Kong.

By the time we read this, the SWUA convention will be history. Many important issues were to be decided upon by the delegates. What will the future hold for us? Only time will tell. The new officers headed by President Bonnie Prokup and her newly elected board will face a huge challenge. We congratulate them and wish them success as we all look forward to progress in the years ahead. At the same time we offer a sincere thank you to our departing officers for the years of hard work and dedication you have shown. Thank you for a job well done.

Stephanie Polutnik

BRANCH 42- Maple Heights, Ohio

By the time you read this we will be in the waning days of summer and ushering in another glorious NE Ohio autumn. Our annual May mass for living and deceased members was fairly well attended. We welcomed the Kastelic's, Bob, Dr. Joe, Kathy, Lou and Betty Ann from Maryland and dined at Sterle's Country House. Our regular Zarja reporting these past months was limited because of the National Convention and the considerable amount of information going out to members.

Jackie Albers, our delegate, myself as alternate, our president, Marge Church and Dorothy Mehosky spent 3 ½

eventful days at the convention site of Starved Rock Lodge in Utica, Illinois. I was finally able to put a face to the many names I've read about in *Zarja*. The schedule of events and meetings were well planned and covered a wealth of material. The amendments to the bylaws took up the most time which you will read about elsewhere in this issue, but of prime importance to our many members was the proposal to (1) change the name of SWUA and (2) remove the word Christian from an existing bylaw. Both proposals were defeated.

From the beginning of our registration on the first day to the Polka Mass finale Sunday we took in the many scheduled events, the displays and exhibits and enjoyed the exceptional meals and musical entertainment. The Friday night outdoor Veranda Party featured The Singing Slovenes from Duluth, Minn. I would be remiss if I did not mention the 3 lovely ladies we became acquainted with from Branch 89 of Ogelsby: Paula Snell, Margie Walter and Flossie Argubright. Their sociability and great sense of humor did much to cement Ohio/Illinois SWUA fraternalism. Thank you, ladies, for your genuine hospitality. We enjoyed your company and look forward to seeing you again.

The Saturday night gala was outstanding and the highlight of the convention. The recipes of the menu served appeared in the last issue of *Zarja*. As a SWUA participant I salute the committee and congratulate you all on a job well done. It doesn't get much better than that.

I brought back with me from this experience a sense of pride in belonging to an organization that reaches out over the entire country to nurture the goals of the founding pioneers in love of God, country and family. Živijo SZZ!

The trip by chartered bus was a pleasant one shared with the local Ohio branches. The Euclid bunch led by Rosemary Toth were good company. Joanne Ponikvar and Louise Vett, two lovely ladies from Warren, Ohio's Br 54 drove up to Cleveland to join the charter. Hopefully, we shall meet again at the Regional Convention in the fall.

Believe it or not, it is not too early to think about our annual Christmas dinner, the details of which will be in our next issue. Till then, greetings to our many out of towners and get well wishes to any ailing members. Adijo!

Lil Sadowski 216-398-4367 LRSadow@aol.com

BRANCH 47 – Garfield Heights, Ohio

Hi everyone. I would like to say thank you to everyone for letting me be the alternate to the 25th National Convention. It was a special time for everyone. Maybe next convention more of you will come to experience new friendships. For example, meeting the new National Board and the other members. My daughter and granddaughter were there also and had a good time. Again, thank you for that honor.

Our next meeting will be September 16th at Olga

Dorchak's house at 1:00 PM. Also the upcoming Ohio-Michigan Convention on October 14th at St. Mary's at 12:00pm (mass with meeting and luncheon to follow).

Birthday wishes go out to all in July, August, September and October members. Best of wishes to all. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Katherine Wallace webblekatt@hotmail.com

BRANCH 50 – Euclid, Ohio

Having just returned from our 25th National Convention and 80th Anniversary Gala at the Starved Rock Lodge in Utica, Illinois, I am very excited about sharing this report to our members on the successful resolutions of the officers and delegates attending. Branch 50's group, with our president Rose Mary Toth, attended all sessions and was there to hear the results of the by-law amendments. We cheerfully applauded the new President, Bonnie Prokup, and the newly elected board of the SWUA. The new board will be very computer-connected for vital communications over the next four years. Exciting changes are already taking place, including a new look for *Zarja*. It was agreed there would be no name change of our organization. All motions and the elections were decided by a 2/3 majority vote. Bonnie and Bill Prokup presented a very detailed financial overview report. The scheduled entertainment after each session was exceptional, including the "The Singing Slovenes" from Minnesota. Special guests included the Slovenian Consul, Dr. Zvone Žigon and his wife Irena. The wine tasting event included surprise guest Brane Vidmar, the congenial tour guide from Slovenia so familiar to many of us who have traveled to Europe. At the gala banquet, outgoing National President Kathy Ferrante introduced the new national board.

Our March meeting had a report from treasurer Fran Kajfez. Branch members announced the two delegates to the Convention, Anne Tomsick and Cookie Maxin. Our April meeting included discussions to finalize plans for our Member of the Year celebration for Ivanka Matic. Our May meeting was held in conjunction with this occasion. Fifty-two members and guests attended, including Ivanka's daughter, Vesna, of Kansas, grandson Mark, and honored guests Rev Joseph Boznar, Dr Edward Gobetz, SWUA president Kathleen Ferrante, and polka ambassador Tony Petkovsek.

Circle the Date! The Ohio/Michigan Regional Convention will take place at Saint Mary's Collinwood (Cleveland) on October 14, 2007, beginning with a 12:00 Noon Mass. All the Branches are welcome and we urge you to attend this memorable event.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 19, 2007. Please attend for a chance to hear first-hand about the very successful 25th National Convention. A final note about Convention: How can we ever thank you, Branch 50 for delegating Cookie Maxin and myself to experience the fruits of all the hard labor put into this wonderful event, the camaraderie of our "Group of 8," and the joy of friendships both new and from years past? Thank you to

Rose Mary Toth, Cookie Maxin, Ivanka Matic, Jo Arko, Mary Lunder, Dorothy Lamm (*where's the bear??*) and Helen Holovach (Corky's a real corker!).

Anne L. Tomsick 216.531.2745 cjaynow@yahoo.com

BRANCH 54 - Warren, Ohio

Greetings from a National Convention Delegate! Words cannot express what an informative, stimulating, good time, Louise Vett and yours truly had! From our bus trip from Cleveland, to Starved Rock Lodge, it was a wonderful long weekend. We were treated so graciously by all and our thanks to Bonnie Pohar Prokup, Nancy Henkel and committee, who planned everything for all of us. The meetings were stimulating, rewarding, and the National Board was beyond great! The new officers will have a tough act to follow – but hearing them speak and their credentials, it will not be a problem.

It was so good to see members I hadn't seen since the early 90's and to meet so many new ones. The entertainment each evening was so great and couldn't have been better – including the food, the wine and the good fellowship. The Singing Slovenes kept us happy and singing with them. It was ironic to see Brane Vidmar of Slovenia do the wine tasting party. He was our tour guide from our trip to Slovenia.

The Saturday night gala was superb, everyone dressed in their best, the food, potica and more wine made for many happy memories. The Polka Mass on Sunday was a beautiful closing for the convention. After tears and hugs, we were on our way back to Ohio. We congratulate all the new officers, especially our new president, Bonnie Pohar Prokup – she is a super dynamo woman! And again thanks to her committee, who planned such an informative and entertaining weekend. Farewell to Kathy Ferrante who did such a good job as past president – she gave her all to the SWUA. Our branch will meet in September.

I'll call you about the time and place. Have a safe rest of the summer and keep up your Slovenian Heritage. There was not a time at the convention, where you would forget, how proud you are to be a Slovenian!

Joanne Ponikvar

BRANCH 89 – Oglesby, Illinois

Greetings from Oglesby. We were justifiably proud to help host the 25th National Convention. Our member Nancy Henkel was co-chair of the entire event and the 18 months of hard work that she and Bonnie Prokup put into it paid off. Our president Alice Ebner and Treasurer Mitzi Banich were busy doing something every time I saw them. Our members contributed to the wedding gown display and were on duty several times to show it to everyone else. Thank you to everyone who made potica or strudel; every piece I ate was delicious.

The Business Sessions of the convention, the main reason we gather together, were serious and thought provoking. The decisions we made will govern the next four years and beyond. The Bylaw Review Session on Thursday gave us

all a chance to informally discuss the issues we were facing. Thank you to Denise Bartlett for moderating that so well.

The Singing Slovenes were wonderful every time they appeared, most of all at the Polka Mass. I had just got done drying my eyes after Češčena Si Marija when their tribute to our service members and veterans with God Bless America brought even more tears. It is an amazing feeling to be in solidarity with such a fine group of people as our members and friends are.

Congratulations to Branch 89 member Karen Taylor; she will be our new National Corresponding/Recording Secretary. Karen, we are proud of you and are ready to assist you any way we can. Congratulations also to the new slate of officers.

It was an honor and privilege to be Branch 89's delegate to the convention and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve. Meeting so many members from all over the country was inspiring; it made me realize what a convention is. It means meeting with.

Our next meeting will be September 10 for our annual potluck. I hope everyone can be there and please bring a guest. Any questions about Branch 89 contact me at 815/339-2714 or barbarabruch@yahoo.com. Adijo,

Barbara Bruch

BRANCH 100 – Fontana, California

Since I was not able to report on our Member of the Year Luncheon earlier, I would like to say that about 30 members and their families and friends attended and enjoyed a delicious luncheon on April 28. We honored Marge Ostrowski, one of the friendliest and most charming ladies that I know. She was thrilled with the honor and richly deserved it. Several new members were in our midst that day and it was the kicking off point for a real membership campaign for our branch. Thanks to Mary Lou Jensen and a couple of others, we were able to increase our membership by over 20 members during this promotion. Thanks to all for helping in this special effort. The SWUA will grow!!

Six members of Branch 100 were happy to attend the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the SWUA at Starved Rock State Park in June. I can't tell you how much it meant to all of us to be able to be there and be part of this wonderful party and for Mary Lou Jensen to represent our branch at the convention proceedings. We enjoyed the entertainment immensely and the dinners...especially the Gala were very special. Meeting the people that we had only read about or communicated with was such a nice experience. Everyone was so welcoming that it really made us feel special. It was fun sitting with Rosemary and George Petrich at the Gala Banquet, and then when we found out that Rosemary was the one who bid on, and won, the silent auction item that our branch had provided, it was even more exciting! Rosemary loved the framed Gaspari print of the "Slovenska Madona". Then later in the evening, it was announced that my cousin, Helen Cukale, won the potica baking contest. Another special event! Having the chance to meet her daughter, Lenore, after more than 30 years was indeed a



Branch 100 members at the Veranda Party-
Frances Ambrozich, Rosemary Mlakar,
Jean Koci, Mary Lou Jensen, Elvie Blasick
and Anne Kapel

the sights and filling us in on much of the history of the area and of the society. This trip also gave us the opportunity to visit nearby Lemont and the Slovenian Cultural Center, and the wonderful grotto, lake, and statuary there. Such a beautiful place! I remember the picnic grounds from my childhood years when I attended SWUA picnics with my parents, Math and Mici Cukale. And so, from all of us California "girls", Rosemary Mlakar, Frances Ambrozich, Elvie Blasick, Anne Kapel, Mary Lou Jensen and myself, .NA SVIDENJE!

Jean Koci

BRANCH 102 - Willard, Wisconsin

Our last meeting was held April 28, 16 members and 2 guests present. Our next meeting will be August 4 to prepare for the Regional Convention which will be September 9. Karen Spires was our delegate for the National Convention. Sandy Herrick was honored as Member-of-the-Year. She was presented with a beautiful plate and plate holder.

Our plant sale was held May 12 and 13. Many different plants were sold.

We are going to have a table of Slovenian artifacts at the Willard Centennial Celebration which will be held July 27, 28 and 29.

We have 4 new members, we welcome Megan Johnson (daughter of Candy); Meda Kremasky-whose mother, father, sisters and brother are members; Andrea Plautz Folland and Bernadine Gauthier. Andrea transferred from the Washington D.C. branch since her Grandmother, Mary Djubenski is a member. Bernie lives in Florida and was enrolled by her cousin George Plautz.

Keep in our prayers for Frank Pakiz who had hip surgery and also for his wife Rose who is taking care of him. Also for Mary Djubenski and Mary Koschak.

Condolences to the families of Josephine Bayuk, Edith Backus, Anton Hribar, Katie Plautz, Rudy and Darwin Kokaly and Stanley Volovsek.

A Legacy stone to honor Msgr. Mathew Malnar for his years of service as Chaplain in the Air Force was placed at the "High Ground" near Neillsville. Relatives and friends attended the ceremony.

reunion to be remembered. A special thank you to Jonita Ruth and Jean Herbst of the home office for the "grand tour" of Joliet on Monday. They were so kind to spend many hours with us showing us

We welcome back members Judy DiPasquale and Dottie Podboy who are spending the summer at their cottages at Rock Dam.

Hope to see you at the Convention in Willard September 9th!

Agnes Debevec

BRANCH 103 - Washington D.C.

Branch 103 held its meeting on Sunday, July 1st, after the Slovenian Mass celebrated at the Slovenian Chapel in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC.

Angela Stare, branch delegate, reported to the members about the SWUA Convention. Beyond the business of the convention, her attendance provided an opportunity to meet with friends, other delegates and honored guests. She particularly enjoyed visiting with members of the Slovenski Svetovni Kongress (Slovenian World Congress), whom she knew from her annual visits to Slovenia, Ambassador Samuel Zbogar, Dr. Boris Pleskovic and Dr. Zvon Zigon and his wife. She also enjoyed the opportunity to converse in Slovenian and renew acquaintances with old friends from Minnesota, including Rosemary Ribich, a former neighbor in Biwabik, as well as Norm Setnikar. She was also pleased to visit with Susan Terselic Eckert and two-year old Sarah (both members of Branch 103) who spent a day at the convention. It was a special treat for her husband, Dr. Gojko Stare, to visit with his friends from the Slovenski Svetovni Kongress as well as the other Slovenian dignitaries. He was pleased to accept the invitation to do the reading in Slovenian at the closing Slovenian Mass. Angela reported that The Singing Slovenes from Minnesota were a wonderful addition to the convention. Junior member Veronika Stare, who also accompanied her mother, did not attend the convention but made college visits including the University of Chicago, where her Dad went to graduate school. Angela stated that she looks forward to the next convention in Milwaukee.

Cindy Kukenberger, a member who now resides in New York State, sent a chatty email describing her work activities and her volunteer position as a cantor at the Catholic Church in Cooperstown, NY, which she thoroughly enjoys.

Our secretary, Mary Mejac, has moved into an apartment in the home of her daughter, Maria Thomas, which is close to the nursing home where her husband Conrad Mejac now resides.

Ica Zebot celebrated her 85th birthday with many relatives who visited from as far away as Canada.

We are very pleased to welcome Marilou Shotwell, her daughter Molly, and Richard Terselic as new members of Branch 103.

Mary Lou Terselic & Mary Mejac

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

All are invited to the branch luncheon meeting 1:00 PM Sunday, September 9 at the Hunan Restaurant in Olney, MD. Member and tentative guest speaker, Mr. Albert

Tramposch will lecture on the topic of Slovenian membership in the European Union, including adoption of the Euro and Slovenian Presidency of the EU in 2008.

On June 9 we held a business meeting, followed by a membership appreciation potluck dinner with a wonderful selection of Slovenian dishes, including golaz, klobase in zelje (sausages and sauerkraut), rizota and sirov strudel (cheese strudel) served with Slovenian wine. Several members expressed interest to participate in the Montgomery County Fair this summer and baking Slovenian desserts for the "Ethnic Desserts" category. This is just another way we continue to make the Slovenian culture known in Maryland.

On June 28, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted Slovenian writers of the Forget-Me-Nots series of English/Slovenian bilingual books for children. Some of our members had the pleasure of attending an elegant reception, including a unique edible cake in the shape of a book depicting the main themes of each storybook currently available in the Forget-Me-Nots series. On June 29 the writers toured Washington, DC and had a private tour of the Library of Congress Jefferson Building. On June 30 our branch hosted a "Slovenian Children's Books Family Program" at the Rockville Library. We had a great turnout of families, members and guests who were treated to live storytelling, gingerbread cookie decorating and tasting. Many autographed books were sold, social connections were made, and all those who came expressed their appreciation for our efforts. Special thanks to Lynn Koiner, Fran Hrastar, Marjeta Cedilnik, Erika K. Roda and Nika Kovacic for bringing refreshments for this event and to Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons for organizing the details for the Slovenian writers venues on their Washington, DC tour.

BRANCH 109 – Twin Cities, Minnesota

Branch 109: Twin Cities Slovenians would like to thank the officers and the 25th Convention planning committee for a great convention. As the "token" male delegate, "Born

in USA with Slovenian Parts" I was a bit overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and passion of the other delegates as they dealt with the proposed bylaw changes. Granted that the two most controversial changes failed to get the necessary 2/3 vote (31 votes), but they received majority votes-six votes short of the 2/3. That was most encouraging.

Aside from the "business" of the convention, the meetings and the dinners offered our Twin Cities delegation: Karen and Benita Bjorgo, Norm and Mary Ann Setnicker a chance to: network, share, visit, sing, renew; we were Living the Legacy. Thank you SWUA for the opportunity. We look forward to Milwaukee in 2011.

With a new sense of enthusiasm, our Board went about planning for our traditional Baraga picnic. Again, it was hosted by Yul Yost in the gardenlike setting of his home in Roseville. In addition to the traditional klobase, krompir salata and potica, we sampled Rizot and Kislo Meso (sour meat). Miro Medved led the group in Slovenian song with Karen Medved and Betty Pofperl playing the accordions. The picnic also offered a forum on picking a design for a banner, which would be displayed at our meetings and other public events.

In August our Board met at Andy Percic's Nectary restaurant to set down our goals and objectives for our regular meetings starting in Sept. 2007-2008. High on the agenda will be a discussion of our participation in the Festival of Nations in May 2008. This event, which is held at the Excel Center in St. Paul, draws thousands of people sampling food and cultures from different countries around the world. It is fitting for this event being that Slovenia will be assuming the presidency of the EU for 2008.

Here are the officers for Branch 109: Norm Setnicker, President; Jim Smrekar, VP, Mary Ann Palmer, Recording Secretary; Yvonne McComber, Treasurer. Our planning board consists of our officers plus Joe Kuznik, Al Siftar, Jerry Sherek, Betty Pofperl and Don Palkovich.

Norm Setnicker



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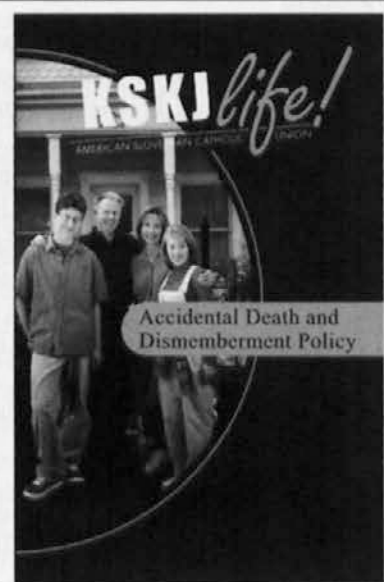
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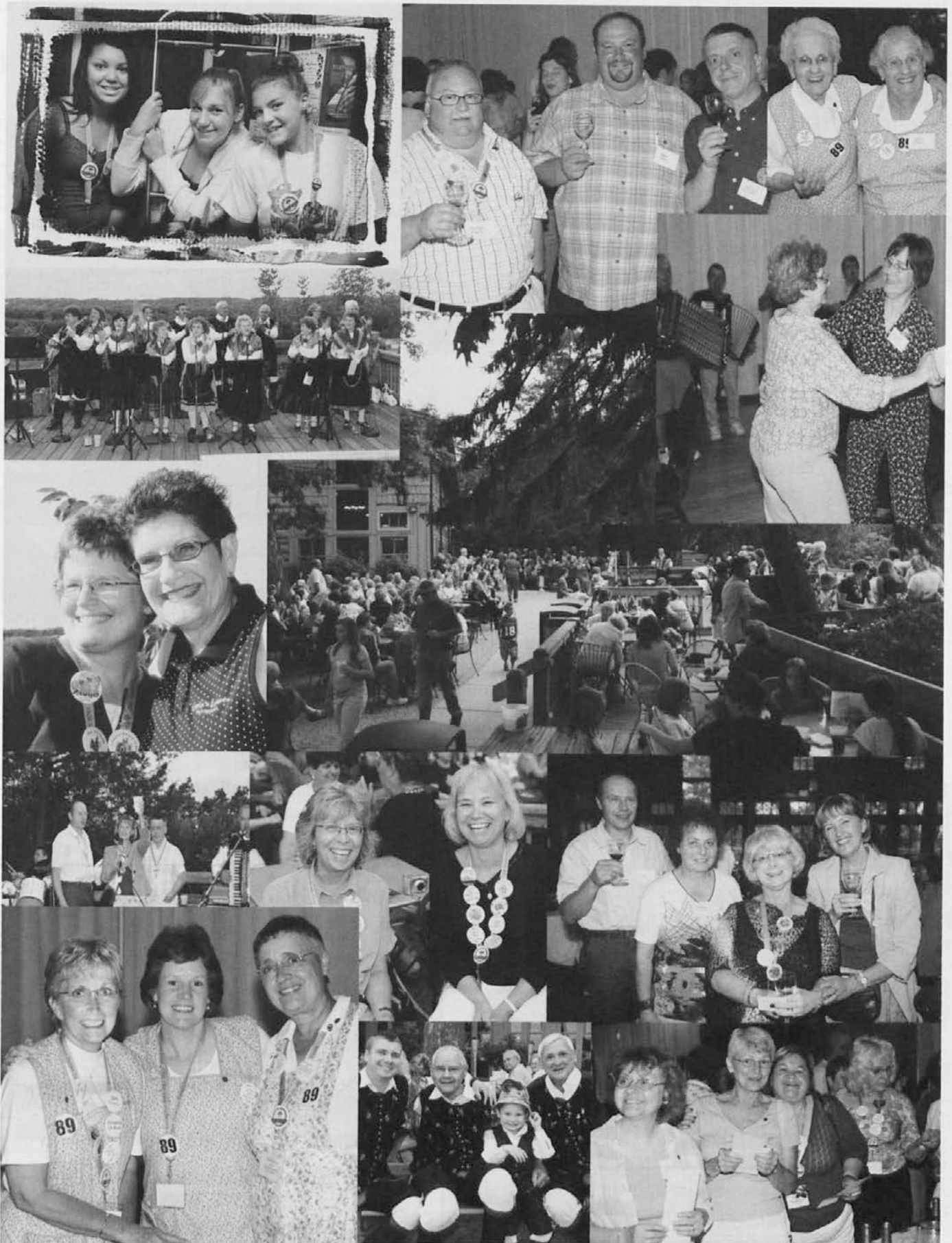
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Wine Tasting and the Veranda Party



80th Anniversary Gala



The 80th Anniversary Gala began with a traditional Slovenian welcome at the entrance of the Great Hall. Greeters dressed in Slovenian costumes offered the traditional welcoming drink of Slivovitz (Plum Brandy) and bread dipped in salt.



The honored speakers for the evening were Hon. Boris Pleskovic PhD., President of the Slovenian World Congress (left), Hon. Samuel Žbogar, Ambassador to the United States from Slovenia (top), and Dr. Zvone Žigon, Consul General of Slovenia (bottom).

Grace was given by Father Bernard Horzen, OSB.

Heavenly Father, we are more than dust. We are not just a haphazard mixture of chemical substances. We do not live by bread alone. We are spirit as well as flesh. Our spirit is your noblest creation. With this spirit, we can think deep thoughts of the philosopher, compose ethereal music, soar to sublime heights of poetry, raise majestic cathedrals, and fashion masterpieces of art, sculpture and knowledge. Namely, Plato, Priland, Prešeren, Michelangelo, Cankar, Shakespeare, Editor Leskovar, President Ferrante and to those who supported the Slovenian Women's Union of America through these past 80 years. The Slovenian tradition has always been to share what we have.

Giver of all good gifts, bless each of us and this food and all who helped bring it to our tables for refreshment of body and soul, as we share food, friendship and hospitality. Amen. - Father Bernard Horzen, OSB



Linda's Lenses Photography

Pictures at the 2007 SWUA National Convention!

The last drop in the Gostilna has been drunk –
Camp Heritage has closed –
the last "FORE" has been shouted –
the Singing Slovenes have sung their last note –
the 2007 National Convention/SWUA 80th Gala has come to a close –
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SWUA Convention Potica Contest Results!



Helen's daughter phoning her of the announcement

First Prize Helen Cukale Branch 2, Chicago 12 points

Judges:

Danielle Mackovich,

Home Economics Teacher, Naperville, IL

Desa Muck,

Native of Slovenia, Writer and Guest to Convention

Jennifer Swenson,

*2nd Generation Slovenian, Homemaker/Mother,
Chicago, IL*

Three Honorable Mentions:

Emily Kosem, (Br. 24, LaSalle), 11 points

Christine Martincic, (Br. 99, Lemont), 10 points

Sharon Washkowiak, (Br. 24), 9 points



Contest was held at the
SWUA 80th Anniversary Convention at Utica, IL.
on Saturday, June 23, 2007



SWUA EXPO 2007



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