

\$8.99 U.S./\$15.99 International

Zarja

Official Publication Slovenian Union of America
Uradno Glasilo Slovenske Zveze v Ameriki

Volume 90 Issue 2
Summer 2018

The Dawn



Žiče Charterhouse, a 12th century Carthusian Monastery

Slovenian Union of America

431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432-1703

TELEPHONE: 815.727.1926

WEBSITE: slovenianunion.org

2015-2019 National Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: **Mary Lou Deyak Voelk**

(Branch 23) ottolou@gulftel.com

VP OF OUTREACH: **Annette Charron**

(Branch 3) amtcharron@gmail.com

VP OF HOME OFFICE: **Diane Hohenwater**

(Branch 20) dhohenwater@comcast.net

VP OF MARKETING & FUND-RAISING: **Norm Setnick**

(Branch 109) normas188@msn.com

VP OF CULTURE & HERITAGE: **Beverly Kochmann**

(Branch 109) bbkochmann@msn.com

NATIONAL TREASURER: **Robert J. Kuhel**

(Branch 16) rjukuhel@sbcglobal.net

CORRESPONDING/RECORDING SECRETARY:

Denise P. Bartlett (Branch 43)

denisepbartlett@wi.rr.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

RESEARCH & ADVISORY

Chuck Debevec (Branch 109) cfdebevec@live.com

Richard Terselic (Branch 103) rat1@verizon.net

EDUCATION GRANTS

Barbara Bruch (Branch 89) barbarabruch@yahoo.com

Frances Kovatovich (Branch 35) velike2000@yahoo.com

Bill Zerial (Branch 99) billzer@sbcglobal.net

PRESERVATION

Carol Novak (Branch 20) sua@slovenianunion.org

Carole Terlep (Branch 20) sua@slovenianunion.org

Georgene Agnich (Branch 20) sua@slovenianunion.org

WEBMASTER: Vacant

FACEBOOK: Vacant

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS: Alisa Tugberk

(ISSN 0044-1848)

Postmaster: Send all changes of address to this location:

SLOVENIAN UNION OF AMERICA

431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432-1703

© Copyright All Rights Reserved

Front Cover:

The Žiče Charterhouse was built between 1155 and 1165 near the village of Špitalič as a monastery for cloister monks to live according to the strict rule of the Carthusians.



Today the charterhouse is an important cultural monument in Slovenia.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Bonnie,

Again I must write and tell you how much I enjoy the writing of Mr. Sodac. I am a retired teacher, an English major, and really appreciate his work. It is clear, easy to follow, and in my mind the subjects are worthy and pertinent.

So happy you found him, and I hope we keep him as a contributor to the *Zarja*.

Sincerely, Jenny Skul

P.S. I don't know him, so my comments are not political!
Jeannette Skul, Branch 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Zarja - The Dawn

EDITOR: **Bonnie Pohar Prokup**

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN: **Debbie Pohar**

CONSULTING EDITORS: **Annette Charron and**

Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons

EDITORIAL OFFICE: **3119 Carrie St., Peru, IL 61354**

PUBLISHER: **Slovenian Union of America**

Vol. 90, No. 2 Summer 2018 Published quarterly

Periodicals Postage paid at Joliet, IL and additional mailing offices.

Communications for the next issue of publication

Do you have something you would like to share with readers? We would love to hear from you! Please e-mail the editor at wprokup@aol.com. We reserve the right to edit any article submitted. Articles must be related to Slovenia, SUA events, or members. The deadline for articles is the 10th day of the month, two (2) months preceding the issue. For example, articles for the Fall issue must be received by July 10. Thank you.

Submission Guidelines

E-mail your photos attached as jpeg files. If you have an old photo that is irreplaceable, please make a good-quality copy to share with us. (Scanned copies must be a resolution of 300 or higher.)

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



THE STATE OF THE UNION

Annette Charron, Branch 3 - Pueblo, Colorado, has accepted the office of Vice President of Outreach. Alisa Tugberk, Branch 103 - Washington, D.C., has been appointed the Director of Special Projects. She is replacing Denise Bartlett, Branch 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who has accepted the position of Corresponding/Recording Secretary and Parliamentarian.

SUA Literary Award

Stephanie Owens, Branch 93 - New York City, New York, is heading the establishment of a Slovenian Union of America Literary Award. This is a first among all Slovenian organizations in the United States. The award is to promote the talents of our SUA members. The following are confirmed members of the committee: Stephanie Owens, Tanya Vajk, Joe Valencic, Bernadette Fitzsimmons, and Maria Rode.

Stephanie, Tanya, and I recently conversed via teleconference regarding the initial criteria in the establishment of said award: A formal name for the Literary Award, meeting times of the committee members, timelines for the submissions and award announcements, ages of writers, and genre(s) will be established.

The establishment of this award is exciting. In the very near future, the literary creativity of writers from across the SUA will be made known. This award is in keeping with the textual literacy begun by France Prešeren. Until Slovenia gained sovereignty, it was the Slovenian literature and language that united its people.

Archivists

In the Winter Issue 2017, an article appeared in *Zarja - The Dawn* regarding the visiting archivists from Slovenia. Beverly Kochmann, Branch 109 - Twin Cities, Minnesota, and I spent six days with the Slovenian archivists. It was a pleasure to walk into this building again for the National Board meeting and see the results of those long hours of toil. All periodicals not associated with the SUA have been given away to the proper locations/organizations. The scanning of hundreds of pages was completed. The basement has never looked so good!

DNA

In Slovenia, the primary sources of genealogical information can be obtained from the civil and ecclesiastical archives where these are largely still available in original

books or their duplicates created more than 100 years ago. Americans are fortunate for Ellis Island. During the Member Representative teleconference meeting on March 23, the possibility of a Slovenian DNA Pool was introduced. The SUA is working with Slovenia in setting up such a program. The purpose: to find a match, perhaps a match that locates a 2nd or 3rd cousin or a long lost uncle.

Our Home Office

The Heritage Museum/home office building is over 100 years old. It is a beautiful building sitting on a corner across the street from St. Joseph Slovenian Catholic Church. The bathroom prevents us from fully utilizing this building. The museum cannot be open to the public or have events in this condition. Most important, we'd like it to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The size of the original bathroom on the main floor measures 4 ft. x 8 ft. It is estimated, by the vinyl on the floor and the basin sink, the bathroom is of 1940-1950 vintage when last remodeled.

Georgene Agnich, Branch 20 - Joliet, Illinois, is spearheading the effort to assess the needs of the bathroom and the back entrance. The Deputy City Manager of Joliet has been of tremendous help. He has personally visited our facility, measured, conversed with her, and directed her to the Joliet City Center Partnership Grant program that has just recently been approved by the Joliet City Council.

Access into the building has also been of concern. It was found that the rear door meets the minimum width of 32 inches, which is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The back door can be made handicap accessible with the addition of portable ramps. The SUA owes Georgene tremendous gratitude for the time and effort she has put into this study and for a very thorough report. More information will be forthcoming.

WW II Project

About 10 years ago, a WW II survey was placed in *Zarja - The Dawn*. It was a two-part survey: one for service rendered abroad, the other on the home front. Artifacts/archives were collected. I feel it necessary that the SUA put forth one more attempt in attaining information regarding those who served. The survey will be sent out to every Member Representative. Please have copies of this survey at the next several branch meetings. Send completed surveys to the main office in Joliet. If you have questions, contact ottolou@gulftel.com.

Slovenian American Times

Each year the *Slovenian American Times*, a newspaper out of Cleveland, Ohio, prints the roster of all Slovenian lodges, musical groups, and organizations. The SUA has not been able to keep a current roster. In addition, most of our branches have never had the recognition of being published. A sample format with instructions will be sent to each branch in November of each year. SUA will then be responsible for sending in all branch information. The advertisement is free, so let's take advantage of this. By the way, if you receive the paper, did you check out the Slovenian Union of America? I have no idea how they came up with what you see.

Request for Branch Membership Rosters

Terri Rossi, Branch 16 - So. Chicago, Illinois, requested that at least once each year branches receive a current membership listing. This will show any new members; it will allow members to be notified of activities. This is a practice the SUA will adopt.

Language Classes

Congratulations to Branch 93 - New York City. They received word from Slovenia they have won a grant of \$1,200 euros for the continuation of the Slovenian language classes.

Taste of Slovenia, Oglesby, Illinois

On Saturday March 23, following the Member Rep meeting, five of the national board members traveled to Oglesby, Branch 89 to attend their annual Taste of Slovenia. The buffet-style counter was laden with strudel, sausages, and potica. Friendship was abound! Thank you Branch 89!

The Slovenian-American Table:

There are about 50 cookbooks left. They make great gifts!

Educational and Cultural Grants:

Applications are posted on slovenianunion.org.

SUA's Wish List

1. The bathroom in the upstairs apartment has a need. Up to five people can be staying in the apartment and using that bathroom. Presently, a bucket of water from the bathtub stands ready to "help" fill the tank so the next flush can take place; the selected solution: a \$500 water-saving Kohler toilet with powerful jets that perform the action using only 1.2 gallons of water per flush.

2. About four years ago a refurbished laptop and several desktop computers for the main office were purchased. They have served us well, but the office technology now needs an overhaul. One desk computer is still being used in the scanning process of our archives, the other for receiving incoming email. The laptop contains the entire membership roster and is used by our VP of Home Office who deserves responsive equipment for day-to-day business.

We ask that each member take this wish list seriously. Donations are needed to solve the issues that confront

us. Send your donations, indicating "Wish List: Toilet or Technology" to our main office address: Slovenian Union of America, 431 N Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432

3. **URGENT!** A Webmaster and social media person wanted! The SUA is not in the forefront; no one is manning the Internet. We cannot ignore the power of the Internet, and we need to increase our membership and involve members in the SUA. Please step forward if you can offer services. Contact Norm Setnicker at normas188@msn.com.

I leave you with this quote from Marie Priland:
"The Slovenian Union of America is not the success of one person or a group of people. Success in our organization has been reached because every officer and every individual member has contributed."

Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, President
Slovenian Union of America



- 1, Baumann, Helen
- 3, Albertolle, Elise
- 3, Charron, Christine
- 3, Nunez, Molly
- 5, Schuett, Michael
- 10, Collins, Shawn
- 10, Crummie, Sylvan
- 10, Minardo, Michaelle
- 10, Saab, Roberta (Berthie)
- 10, Segulin, Michelina
- 10, Semenchuk, Rosemary
- 16, Frederick, Sharon C.
- 20, McBrayer, Kristine
- 20, Ringo, Phyllis
- 20, Smolich, Brian
- 20, Smolich, Craig
- 20, Zakosek, John
- 20, Zakosek, Joseph
- 20, Zakosek, Michael
- 35, Foster, Makayla
- 35, Foster, Mariska
- 35, Foster, Meredith
- 43, Jaksic, Irene
- 43, Wisconsin Historical Society,
- 89, Anderson, Jean
- 100, Bernhardt, Norbert
- 100, Govednik, Joe
- 109, Ellis, Connor
- 109, Ellis, Dylan
- 109, Ellis, Sydney
- 109, Kochmann, Cordelia
- 109, Ozanich, Carleen
- 110, Stratmoen, Cvetenick Dee

SLOVENIAN UNION OF AMERICA, INC.

Consolidated Financial Condition

Year Ending December 31, 2017

REVENUES:	2017
Contributions to Home Office	\$17,001
Branch Program Revenues, Contributions, Slovenian Grant	68,636
Membership Dues For Support	54,580
Cookbooks, Gift shop Sales (net of cost)	5,753
Investment Income	19,312
Fund Raiser - April Showers Raffle (net of awards & expenses)	4,040
Ad Sales-Zarja & Other Rebates	586
Total Revenue	<u>\$169,908</u>
LESS OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Grants-Educational & Heritage	\$2,150
Building-Utilities, Real Estate Tax, Maintenance, Security	9,501
Office Supplies, Salaries & Taxes	8,887
Zarja-Printing, Proofreading, Salaries & Taxes, Postage	34,822
Branch Program Expenses	67,584
Depreciation-Building, Equipment, Furniture	2,427
Insurance- Property, General Liability, Workers Comp., D & O	4,537
Investment Fees	3,961
Telephone, Internet, Website, Systems Support	3,514
Board Meeting Expenses	537
Membership-Printing Notices, Postage	2,227
Storage Expense	1,080
Audit Fee	480
Other Expenses	1,661
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$143,368</u>
Excess For Year-2017	<u>26,540</u>
Net Assets at Beginning Of Year	415,689
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$442,229</u></u>

**Commentary on Consolidated Financial Condition
for Year ending December 31, 2017**

The Consolidated report has been organized with clearer explanations and includes branch revenues and expenses. A detailed explanation was provided the Member Representatives on March 24, 2018 and is included with the minutes.

Year 2017 was good year because of business decisions made soon after the June 30, 2015 quadrennial in Naperville Illinois.

1. Major challenge was a balance budget considering, declining number of members, freezing membership dues, reduction of *Zarja - The Dawn* from six issues to four issues a year, selling all cookbooks, and reducing as much as possible other operating expenses. As a result, we had excess cash, excess earnings over expenses, therefore being able to move \$57,000 to Legacy investment from April 2016 to February 2018.

2. Budgets have been balanced for 2016, 2017. Budget for 2018 is breakeven; however, always subject to unknown subsequent events, and by having regular monthly financial reports, any action can be quickly taken. Branches don't formally submit a budget; however, overall results are close to a balance.
3. Membership has been declining about 10% a year and stabilized in 2017; however, as of April 2018 there appears to be another decline.
4. Membership dues have been unchanged for some years and best immediate solution is an overall program to add to new members.
5. Preparation of *The Slovenian-American Table* cookbook was a great idea and proved financially successful. From June 2015 through December 2017, there were \$54,545 in revenues, less \$15,888 in expenses of cookbook cost/shipping, producing a net profit of \$38,657.
6. Considering the membership decline and the lack of paid ads, it was necessary to reduce *Zarja - The Dawn* from six issues a year \$47,172 to four issues a year \$30,740 thereby saving \$16,432. Be it known, the quality of the magazine has not changed, and savings have greatly contributed to a balanced budget.
7. Changes were made to expand insurance coverage without increasing total premiums. All branch members now attending branch meetings are covered by General Liability Insurance, and all branch officers are covered by Directors and Officers insurance.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Kuhel, Treasurer

Donations Thank you! - Hvala lepa!

\$125 Donation

Jill Caldwell Augustine, 103,
Educational Grant +Robert
Augustine, my husband

\$100 Donation

Patrick Ziegenhorn, 1,
+Johanna Suscha, charter
member of Branch 1
Raymond H. Oviyach, 20,
+Frank and Frances Oviyach
Anthony Kambich, 20,
Educational Grant +Family of
Anton & Helen Kambich
Charles Dolinar, 23, SUA
Tom Klobucher, 24,
+John & Rose Ann Klobucher
Mary Ann Kosir, 30,
Educational Grant
Janice Gehm, 43,
+mother, Jean Luzar
Bernadette Blatnik, 47, SUA
Germaine (Grdina) Amato, 50,
+Amato & Grdina Families
Barbara Bruch, 89,
+The Terselic Girls of LaSalle
Elizabeth A. Fox, 89,
+Carolyn Widmar & Honor of
The Immacul. Heart of Mary
Michael Ebner, 89,
+Josephine Argubright
Barbara M. Louthan, 93,
+Francine Polainer Mankus
Barbara J. Block, 99, +my dad &
mom, Ray & Fran Schultz
Gary L. Sever, 108, +John John,
Clara, Luke & Mark Sever
Raymond Jaros,
+wife, Barbara Jaros, Branch 54

\$75 Donation

Ruth J. Monaco, 2,
+Frances & Joseph Hren
Mary Rogers, 3,
+Ann Padboy Sullivan
Lynn Kurnick Yager, 13, +Edward
Kurnick & Agnes Kurnick
Rosanne Savol, 20,
+Ann Ramuta Savol &
Josephine Ramuta Sumic

Leona Janezich, 23, Cultural Grant
Mary Lauritzen, 24, SUA
Georgina M. Varani, 30, SUA
Mary Glaize, 30, SUA
Jozica Tompa, 43,
+Ivan & Maltilda Omerzu
Karen Zuga, 54, +Victoria Zuga
Elizabeth Gross, 93,
Honor of Mia Rode, Ria
Whitmire & Joan Walker, our
Slovenian language teachers
Peggy Argubright, 100, SUA
Edward Primozic, 108,
Cultural Grant
John Zakelj, 109,
Honor of Norm Setnicker
David Setnicker, 109, Cultural Grant
+Margaret Setnicker

\$70 Donation

Barbara Friesenhahn, 5, SUA

\$60 Donation

Jean Robertson, 43,
+Louis M. Kovach

\$50 Donation

Elsie Wojdula, 2, +Ted Wojdula
Mary Ann Cullen, 3,
+Catherine Perko
Frances Thurman, 3,
+Ed & Catherine Perko
Sara Fon Cline, 5, +Mary Fon &
Pauline Loviscek
Virginia F. Sustarich, 13,
+Judnich-Sustarich Family
Doreen V. Sustarich, 13,
+mother, Helen Sustarich,
twin sister, Moreen J. Spencer
Richard Smolich, 20,
+Anton & Mary Smolich
Beatrice Holmes, 20,
+Frances & William Papesh
Frances Oldenburg, 20, +Mary Rojic
Maria L. Gulas, 20, +Isabelle Gulas
Susan Dvornik, 20, SUA
Donald Dvornik, 20, SUA
Ronald Erjavec, 20,
+Mary Lou Erjavec

Albina Medved, 23, +Paula Mavec
& +Theresa Vlaisavljevich
Mary Lou Voelk, 23, Educational
Grant & Cultural Grant
Diane Data, 24,
+Rose Kellett, my mother &
+Mary Dusak, my grandmother
Stephanie Helm, 30, +Mollie Masel
Theresa Donahoe, 30,
+Stefana Masel
Joyce M. Ferlic Arredondo, 40,
Honor of Mary & George Ferlic
Mary Ann Teitelbaum, 40,
+May Ferlic
Barbara Sostakowski, 47,
+Lovko Family
Hermine Blatnik Morrow, 50,
+Albin Blatnik
Kirsten Williams, 50, SUA
Patricia VanGunten, 54, Honor of
Rose Racher & Mary Ponikvar
Sonja Mosquin, 93, SUA
Nada Weber, 93, SUA
Mary Ann Partyka, 99,
+Frances Schultz
George J. Plautz, 102, +Ellen Plautz
Jo Ann Dryden, 102,
+Francel & Koschak families-
Willard, WI & Honor of Dolores
"Dolly" Kozar Maki
Mary Jane Vidmar Williamson, 103,
Educational Grant
Anne K. Stratton, 108,
+Louise Tamse Hagan
Deb Baker, Educational Grant
+Stephanie Polutnik

\$45 Donation

Margy Whitmore, 108, Educational
Grant & Cultural Grant

\$40 Donation

Josephine Lustik, 20, +Walter Lustik
Vida Lanari, 35, SUA
Wayne Krempach, 99, +Joan
Kaczmarek & +Ethel Latimer

\$35 Donation

Joyce Marie Vicich, 20, Educational
Grant & Cultural Grant

Maria Whitmire, 93, Educational Grant & Cultural Grant

\$30 Donation

Karen Hribar Spires, 102,
+Pauline Francel-Hribar
Mary Louise Terselic, 103,
Educational Grant

\$25 Donation

Edward A. Tesovnik, 1, +Olfa Saye
Marilyn J. Hendricks, 1,
+Frank & Martha Kotnick
Kathleen Schroeder, 1,
+Dorothy Brezonik
Ralph Dottai, 1,
+Mr. & Mrs. Val Skrube
Daniela Dottai, 1,
+Mr. & Mrs. Val Skrube
Mary Helen Fischer, 1, SUA
Joan Steinman, 2, Educational Grant
Beth Ann Manion, 2,
Educational Grant
Jennie Kovacic, 2,
Educational Grant
John Tegel, 2, SUA
Marion Steffy, 2,
+Anna & Feliz Jackopin
Kathleen DeMuth, 2,
Educational Grant
Michele Kochevar, 2,
+Helen Kochevar
Dolores Lewis, 2, +Ann Kahover
Lorraine Ovnik, 2,
Educational Grant
Agnes Gaber, 2, SUA
Margaret Antoinette Carter, 3,
Educational Grant
Kathleen Marie Starceovich, 3,
+Mrs. Christine Bradish
Nancy Kochevar, 3, SUA
Elizabeth Skul, 3,
+Elizabeth Giarrantano
Mary Barbarich, 5,
Educational Grant
Jerry Watson, 5, +Teta Lavena
Wiegand & Teta Jeanie Miley
Terri Kashman, 5, +Rosie Dugar
Tina Jernigan, 5, Cultural Grant
Sheryl L. Thorpe, 5,
+Branch 5 departed members
Rick Trauner, 5, +Ernestine Trauner
Paul Barbarich, 5,
+Sophie Brodnik Barbarich

Jean Ivons, 10, +Albert Ivons
Peter R. Janes, 10, +Parker Janes
Michele K. Twers, 13,
+Josephine Aiuto, mother
Evelyn Kinnear, 13, SUA
Robert J. Kuhel, 16,
+Mary Skal-Kuhel
Mary Jo Savol, 20,
Educational Grant
Jerry Zakosek, 20, +David Laurich
Janet Steensland, 20, +Margaret
Stalzer & Fr. David Stalzer
Jean A. Herbst, 20, +Joyce Korst
Dorothy Mahan, 20,
+Jean Govednik
Alfreda Marentic, 20,
+Fred Wayne Marentic
Georgene Agnich, 20,
+George Agnich & Anna Sitar
Leslie Ferguson, 20, SUA
Karen DelRaso, 20,
+James & Lois Lausch
James Smolich, 20, Cultural Grant
Marcia Judnick, 20, SUA
Robert Judnick, 20, SUA
Catherine Bokar, 20, +Ana Kozan
& Joanne Oberman
Joan Egly, 20, +Mike & Jen Juricic
Angela M. Zaida, 20,
+The Lukancic Family
Mary Zakrajsek, 20, +Rudolph
Grahek & Frances Duša Grahek
Cindy Welsh, 20, +Anna Kobe
Dorothy Regis, 20,
Educational Grant
Joseph Ancel, 20, +Ed & Olga Ancel
Bernice Montgomery, 20,
+Frank & Frances Oviyach
Menky Mata, 20, Cultural Grant
+Sylvia Troop
Paula Uremovic Laskowski, 20,
+Mary Rose Uremovic
Agnes E. Yapel, 23,
Educational Grant
John Voelk, 23, Educational Grant
Barbara J. Omerza, 23,
+Ronald Omerza
Kathleen M. Recht, 23,
+Grandpa Ron Omerza
Mary M. Ravnika, 23,
Educational Grant
Dolores K. Maki, 23,
+Rose Kozar, mother
Barbara A. Hiltbrunner, 23, SUA

Michelle Carlson, 23,
+Florence V. Markovich
Frank Pohar, 24, SUA
Frances Susa, 26,
+Mary & Judith Susa
Frances Adamic, 30, +Barbara Baish
& Helen Grasser
Cheryl Megahan, 30, +Anna Karun
& Dorothy Bernick
Patti Meglich, 30, Cultural Grant
Mary Ann M. Tarro, 30,
+my brother, Anthony
Carolyn Mallik, 30, SUA
Clarice Pawlicki, 30,
Honor of Clarice Pawlicki
Ludmila Bratina-Burns, 30,
+Ily Bratina
Debra A. Briggs, 30,
+Dorothy Zakrajsek Bechtel
Deanna C. Martin, 30,
+Anne Dickovich
Marcia Jean Smith, 30, +Vern Zadel
Ivan Koralt, 30, SUA
Carol Marie Jacobson, 33,
+Dorothy Jacobson, Mary
Hinnenkamp, Mae DelZotto
Jeanne M. Janchar, 33,
+Mary Shubitz
Deborah Voelk Good, 33,
+William Prokup
Mary Frances Musich, 35, SUA
Arlette Mikulich, 35,
+Ed & Ellen Mikulich
Margaret Laurich, 35,
+mother, Katherine L. Hanka
Brenda J. Anderson, 35,
+Josephine A. Trost
Karen Lockard, 42, +Angela Gruden
Barbara Tercek, 42,
+Clarence & Mary Doles
Aggie Haslup, 42,
+Teresa (Vrcek) Gorup
Edward Vidmar, 43,
Educational Grant
Constance Vidmar, 43,
Educational Grant
Karl Dovnik Jr., 43,
+Rosalie Dovnik
Deborah Brown, 43, +Anton Skul
Dianne Zebrowski, 43, SUA
Judith Price, 43, +Cecelia Verbick
Patricia Reddy, 43,
+Joseph & Amelia Zefran
Frank Markelc, 43, SUA

Mary Ann Greiner, 47, SUA
 Sandra Turner, 47, SUA
 Nancy E. Bartholomew, 50,
 +Ann Potochar
 Josephine Sovich, 50, +Josephine
 Fajdiga & Lillian Goryance
 Nancy Slapnik, 50,
 +Antoinette Gerbec
 Marie Pivik, 50, +Anna Tomsick
 Julie F. Drobnick, 50,
 +Aunt Ceil Znidar
 Michelle Holderbaum MD, 50,
 +Frances Spech
 Jo Ann Reinhardt, 50, SUA
 Roseanne Kirk Potla, 50,
 +Anna Fortuna
 Julia Zalar, 50, SUA
 Sandra Grisez, 50,
 +Josephine Simenc
 Marcelline Mills, 50,
 Educational Grant
 Louise Vett, 54, +Anna Savor
 Charles Strimlan, 71,
 +Ann & Charles Strimlan
 Marian Plovic, 71,
 Educational Grant
 Elizabeth J. Wroblewski, 89,
 +Betty Terselc
 Trudy Link, 93, Educational Grant
 & Cultural Grant
 Vera Mencigar, 93, Cultural Grant
 Renata Weber, 93, +Ivana Slavec
 Maria Skrilec, 93, SUA
 Kathleen Clime, 93, +Kozole Family
 Annamarie Bodisch, 93,
 +Anna Bodisch
 Amalija Novak, 99, SUA
 Miriam Burkland, 99, SUA
 Rose Marie Lawing, 99,
 Educational Grant
 Gloria Ekerman, 99,
 +father, Fred Orehek
 Anne M. Antich, 99, SUA
 Elaine Taylor, 99, SUA
 Stacy Mavec, 99, +Paula Mavec
 Wanda Kocinec, 99,
 +Anton & Dina Skamperle
 Rosemary Mlakar, 100,
 Educational Grant
 Maria Segó, 100, SUA
 Maxine Schmidl, 100,
 +Margaret Schmidl
 Fredrick Mlakar, 100,
 Educational Grant

Anna Lomshek, 100, Cultural Grant
 Jerry Lomshek, 100,
 Educational Grant
 Polly A. Potisk, 100, SUA
 Ana Sonc Jevtic, 103,
 Educational Grant
 Damjan & Candace Novoselnik,
 108, Educational Grant
 Nika B. Kovacic, 108,
 +Eric A. Kovacic
 Valentina Ronning, 109,
 Educational Grant
 Anthony Bombich, 109, +Anthony
 E. & Sophie A. Bombich
 Norman J. Setnicker, 109,
 Educational Grant
 Mary Ann Setnicker, 109,
 Educational Grant
 Janet Marie C. Hagan, 109, SUA
 Marcia Spagnolo, 109, +Jacob Adam
 Siegfried Brewer, 109, SUA
 Jerry Sherek, 109, SUA
 Bernadine Medved, 109, SUA
 Beverly Kochmann, 109, SUA
 Jeanette Sevshek Buchanan, 109,
 Educational Grant
 John Olson, 109, Educational Grant
 Anne Gerzin, 109, Cultural Grant
 Norm & Mary Ann Setnicker, 109,
 Educational Grant +Stephanie
 Polutnik
 Lauren Mancuso, Honor of Mary
 Okleson (Kastelic)

\$20 Donation

Joan K. Daniel, 1,
 +mother, Agnes Gergisch
 (Charter member of Br. 1)
 Margaret A. Fischer, 1,
 +Margaret G. Fischer
 Rosemary Litwin, 2,
 +mother, Antonia Densa
 Kathleen Kopfensteiner, 2, SUA
 Nancy Benedict, 13, +Sophie Troya
 Ashley Benedict, 13,
 +Mary Klepec & Mary Troya
 Family Alkovich, 16, +Mary
 Alkovich & +Emma Yergovich
 Bernadine Gudac, 20, SUA
 Marcia Manning, 20,
 +Ann Verhunce Nelson
 Beverly DeJule, 20, +Ann Pershey
 & Betty DeJule

Rosemary Parola, 24,
 +Mary Kastigar
 Josephine Grabowski, 24,
 +Josephine Pohar
 Cathy Lenkaitis, 24, +John Pohar
 Louis A. Kastelic, 42,
 +Louis Kastelic, Sr.
 Betty Ann Kastelic, 42,
 +Antonija Kastelic
 Angela Nankin, 43, +Rudy Delopst
 Jacqueline J. Hanks, 50,
 +Jennie Omersa
 Anica Bremec, 50,
 +Bremec & Slak Families
 Margaret Bokar, 50, +Anna Kozan
 & Jo Anne Oberman
 Janice M Krebs, 50, +Jane & Frank
 Berkopec / Mary Hrovat
 Mary Lou Bicknell, 89, +Mary
 (Papish) Tomazin & Theresa
 (Papish) Banich Rhoades
 Julie A. Harback, 89,
 +Steve & Theresa Kamnikar
 Susan Byrne, 93,
 +Anna Birsa-Sicinski &
 Louise Horvat-Nasenbeny
 Michele Quinn, 93, Educational
 Grant +Albina Sloat
 Anna Marie Uher, 99,
 +Terezija & Anton Pristov
 Cynthia Tanita, 100,
 +Frances K. Kinkopf
 Bonnie Lynn Pausic, 108,
 Honor of Ann A. Pausic

\$15 Donation

Milena Stropnik, 1, +Helena Dolenc
 Marjorie Wilhelm, 1, SUA
 Genevieve Buol, 2,
 +my mom, Jennie Puhek
 William Petric, 20, SUA
 Amanda Blowers Zarobsky, 20,
 +Nancy Todorovich Ferencik
 William Rogina, 20, SUA
 Hank Michalesko, 20,
 +Elfrieda Herbst
 Peter Papesch, 20, SUA
 Theresa J. Papesch, 20, SUA
 Dorothy Swintosky, 30, SUA
 Ray Palcher, 35, +Rose Palcher
 Mary Anne Kwiecinski, 35,
 Cultural Grant +Mary Krebs &
 Johanna Belay

Helen E. Frohna, 43,
+Mici Coffelt, mother
Anton Gorenc, 43, SUA
Mary Ann Hozjan, 50,
+Francka Rigler, mother
Mary Mavec, 99, SUA
Anton Skamperle, 99,
+Suzanne Skamperle

\$10 Donation

Melissa Tevsh Lacasse, 1,
+Joshep & Mary Tevsh
John M. Vertacic, 1,
+Mary M. Vertacic
Justin L. Virant, 1,
+Carol Virant Family
Marie Tiedmann, 2, +Mary Koscak
Verdean Adelman, 2,
+Mary Foys Lauretig
Julie Grah, 2, +Julia Petrich, Br. 2
Heather M. Bissell, 3, Educational
Grant +Sally Glavich
Valerie Sorensen, 3,
Educational Grant
Helen M. Baum, 3,
+Cecilia Adamic Kostka
Sue Ann Yovanovich PhD, 5,
+Fran Yovanovich
Frank Urankar, 10,
+Thomas J. Urankar
Florence Urankar, 10, SUA
Haley Benedict, 13, +Ann Nanut
Branch 13, Heritage Museum
+Dorris C. Lovrin
Mary Jane Strus, 16, *Zarja*
Dolores Hennelly, 16, +Millie James
Carole Terlep, 20, +Tom Terlep
Judy M. Hann, 20,
+Mary C. Tomasic
William Kobe, 20,
Educational Grant
Susan Glavan, 20, SUA

Mary C. Lewis, 20, +Anne Kobe
James Lilek, 20, SUA
Olga Feroni, 23, Educational Grant
MaryAnn Brunner, 24,
+Pohar Family
Gene Brunner, 24,
+Karl Brunner Family
Wendy Lauer, 24, +Janice Mueller
Marion Volpe, 30,
+Agnes & John Zornik
Sharon Kay Starkovich, 35,
+Agnes Zaverl
Robert Finc, 35, +Cyril Finc
Charlotte Russ, 35,
+Jennie Taramelli
Bernice Ceglar, 35, +Pauline Plevell
Gabriella Goritchan, 35,
+mother, Mary Peterka
William Grayson, 40, SUA
Rebecca Marie Kaye, 43,
+Mici Coffelt
Krista Grambow, 43,
+Ann Grambow
Katherina M. Kaye, 43,
+Mici Coffelt
Lillian M. Gorenc, 43, SUA
Rose Chepeck, 43, +Gus Ostrowski
Branch 43, +Ray Freiberg
Diane Varney, 50, +Jennie Fitzthum
Vida F. Habjan, 50, SUA
Rosemary Kalfas, 50,
+Christine (Basča) Duche
Mary Jane Hiti, 50,
Educational Grant
Margaret Kuhar, 50, SUA
Sharon Gillen, 50, +Ann Tercek
Judith and Christina Grozdanik, 50,
+William & Eleanore Grozdanik
(Vercek)
Joanne Ponikvar, 54, +Rose Racher
Virginia Bestic, 55,
+Frances Juvancic

Connie Dutkiewicz, 89,
+Ignatius Novak, Jr.
Christopher Banich, 89, SUA
Mary (Mitzi) Irene Banich, 89, SUA
Adam Banich, 89, SUA
Megan Rehn, 89, SUA
Jay Komater, 89, SUA
Lynn M. Zalokar, 93, +Marilyn
(Kovacic) Zalokar & Honor of
William Henry Zalokar
Milena Nemeč, 93, +Mirko Nemeč
Helene Kolosov, 99, +my parents
L. Maria Breszach, 99, SUA
Kristina Steller, 100, +Frank Kapel
Patricia A. Vannucci, 100,
+Barbara Petek Kozan
Mary Lou Vidergar, 100,
+Frank J. Vidergar
Michael Krulc, 108,
Educational Grant
Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons, 108,
+Eric A. Kovacic
Matthew Koncar, 109, SUA
Margaret Pryately, 109,
Honor of Dorothy Andrews

\$5 Donation

JoAnn M. Udovich, 1,
+Joseph & Theresa Udovich
Joann Birska, 3, SUA
Mary Babich, 20, SUA
Joseph Babich, 20, SUA
Michelle Zupan, 30,
Educational Grant
Gwendalynn Pasich, 30, SUA
Beverly Batic-Sciarrabba, 50,
+mother, Mary L. Batic
Nancy Terselic, 103, Cultural Grant
John Klansek, 108, Honor of Mary
Klansek, mother
Lucinda Soltesz, 109, SUA

Thank you for your generosity.

Many donations continue to arrive in the mail and will be listed in the next issue.

Bring in 3 new members and get yours FREE.

Complete the membership form on our website (slovenianunion.org) and submit with a \$75 check or 3 separate \$25 checks and send to 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432-1703.

If you already paid 2018 dues, we will defer for free 2019 membership.

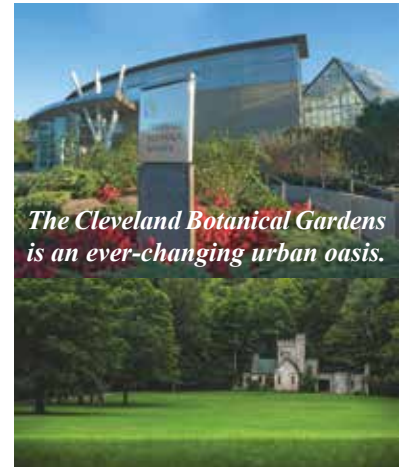
Let's Sing! at the S.U.A. National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio!

Thursday, June 13, 2019 - Sunday, June 16, 2019

Marriott Cleveland East, Warrensville Heights, Ohio



Squire's Castle, an 1890's structure on the grounds of the North Chagrin Reservation in the Cleveland Metroparks.



We hope to see you all just one year from now, celebrating our Slovenian heritage in beautiful Cleveland, Ohio! The SUA National Convention will be held from Thursday, June 13 through Sunday, June 16, 2019 at the Marriott Cleveland East in Warrensville Heights, Ohio. Convention festivities will begin on Thursday evening with a welcome reception, and the four-day event will offer attendees the chance to participate in SUA business meetings, a bus tour of vibrant Cleveland, cultural learning sessions, delicious meals, and plenty of time to dance, enjoy music, and honor the history of SUA and the traditions of our beautiful Slovenian culture.

Our theme of *Let's Sing!* sets the tone (no pun intended!) for this convention, which is to be an exploration of Slovenian music throughout history. On Saturday, June 15, attendees will have the unique opportunity to learn from two experts on this topic - Charles "Chuck" Debevec and Joe Valencic.

Charles F. Debevec - *Slovenian Music History to 1940*

Charles F. Debevec was born of Slovenian parentage and grew up on dairy farms near the Slovenian settlement of Willard, Wisconsin. He moved to Minnesota in 1961 and attended the Brown Institute of Broadcasting and Electronics in Minneapolis. He then began employment at Control Data Corporation where he worked as a failure analysis engineer and supervisor. He also attended the University of Minnesota.



Charles "Chuck" Debevec will speak on the history of Slovenian music until 1940.

He is a member of the Twin Cities Chapter (Branch 109) of the SUA, KSKJ, the Society for Slovene Studies (SSS), and the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame. Charles has been interested in Slovenian polka and folk music all of his adult life and has amassed a large collection of related recordings, sheet music, newspaper clippings, books, and magazines.

In 2003, Chuck began collaborating with Richard Terselic of Frederick, Maryland, a member of SUA Branch 103. Together they began collecting, preserving, digitizing, and documenting 78 RPM recordings of Slovenian music. They authored, co-authored, and contributed to several articles on the subject which were published in *Zarja*, the *Slovenian American Times*, the *Journal of the Society for Slovene Studies*, and a number of books. In 2010, they began collaborating with Dr. Drago Kunej of the Glasbenonarodopisni inštitut (Ethnomusicological Institute) of Ljubljana in a study of pre-World War II recordings made in the U.S. The study culminated in the publication of an issue of *Traditiones*, a journal devoted to the subject of Slovenian recorded music for which Mr. Debevec contributed an article tracing the history of its development in America.

Chuck's other interests include woodworking and growing vegetables on his acreage near Rush City, Minnesota. He is further involved at Sacred Heart Parish in Rush City where he serves as an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister.

Joe Valencic - *Slovenian Music History 1941 to present*



Joe Valencic will speak on the history of Slovenian music from 1941 until the present.

Joe Valencic builds bridges between Slovenia and Slovenian-American communities through his writings, presentations, and film projects. Fluent in Slovenian, Joe is a frequent guest speaker in Slovenia, Italy, Austria, and across the U.S. His themes include Slovenian-American immigration history and popular culture. He is President and a founding trustee of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall and Museum, dedicated to Slovenian music in America. He wrote the first profiles of Slovenian music in America for the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* and a documentary film, *Polka! The Movie*, for TV Slovenia. His other documentaries include *Many Voices, One Heart*, the story of a Slovenian-American parish, and *100% Slovenian: The Stories of Slovenian Women in America*. New York's Lincoln Center Film Society invited Joe to introduce "At the Crossroads," a retrospective of Slovenian cinema.

Joe has been called a cultural archeologist as he uncovers Slovenian history in North America. Among his discoveries are the earliest-known Slovenian radio transcription (1938) and the first talking film in Slovenia (1929). He is a contributing writer to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *Encyclopedia of Slovenia*, and Slovenia's *Adria Airways* magazine, among other publications.

His civic involvement includes many years of service as President of the Cleveland Federation of Lodges of the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ) and a member of the executive committee for the Cleveland Bicentennial Commission and the city's International Services Center. His newest assignment is as a member of the advisory committee to Slovenia's Ministry for Slovenes Abroad for which he represents Slovenians in the United States. Joe is an award-winning advertising and marketing professional who has promoted personalities and institutions as varied as Tiger Woods, Bob Dole, Wimbledon, Stars on Ice, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He has produced nearly one hundred TV and radio spots. He applied those

skills as communications director of United Americans for Slovenia, the nationwide lobbying effort for U.S. recognition of Slovenia's independence. Joe can be heard every Saturday as co-host of the Slovenian radio hour at 1:00 p.m. EST on Cleveland station WINT 101.5 and worldwide on wintradio.org and 247PolkaHeaven.com.

We are so fortunate to have the chance to learn from the research and knowledge of these two experts on Slovenian music. All attendees are invited and encouraged to come to these learning sessions on Saturday, a day that will begin with an SUA business meeting and will end with a social hour, banquet, and dancing. Perhaps we will all be able to hear Slovenian music just a bit differently after learning from Chuck and Joe!

For the ease of our attendees, all of Saturday's events will be held at Marriott Cleveland East, our convention site. Marriott Cleveland East, in Warrensville Heights, is conveniently located right off of the highway with easy access to shopping and restaurants.

Convention attendees will be able to book deluxe standard rooms at the discounted convention rate of \$129.00 + taxes starting July 1, 2018. This is a great rate available to conference attendees only! To make your reservation, call (216) 378-9191 and mention that you are with the "SUA Group." Please make your plans early to ensure that you can take advantage of the convention rate! Also, please note that dates extended beyond the duration of the convention may not be eligible for the convention rate.

The planning committee has worked hard to give all attendees a taste of the fantastic city of Cleveland, but there is so much more to see and do. We encourage especially first-time visitors to Cleveland to extend your stay and take in some other incredible experiences - spend a day exploring the Cleveland museums, including the famed Cleveland Museum of Art (www.clevelandart.org) or the renowned Cleveland Botanical Garden (www.cb garden.org). Enjoy animals from all over the globe at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Rainforest (<https://cleveland-metroparks.com/zoo>), or immerse yourself in the beauty of the outdoors by exploring any of the trails within the extensive Cleveland Metroparks system (<https://cleveland-metroparks.com>). See the majestic scale of Lake Erie on an excursion with the Goodtime III (<https://goodtimeiii.com>), or try your luck at the JACK Cleveland Casino (<https://www.jackentertainment.com/cleveland/>). Cleveland truly has something to offer for every age and interest. Come, explore, and see firsthand why this is a city that so many Slovenians are proud to call home.

Member of the Year

Slovenian Union of America

MARILYN HENDRICKS

BRANCH 1 - SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN



When we think of the phrase “Let Your Slovenian Heritage Shine,” our member Marilyn Hendricks is the name that comes to mind, and she has been chosen by our branch to be honored as Member of the Year. Marilyn has been a member of Branch 1 since September 20, 2005. During that

time, she has held the offices of treasurer and president. She did an amazing job in coordinating the 90th anniversary celebration of Branch 1 in 2016.

Marilyn and Bryan have been married for 30 years. Their family consists of four children and one grandson. She has been working at Quality State Oil in Sheboygan for 18 years as an HR manager. When she does find some spare time, she enjoys crafts, fishing, travel, membership in the SS Cyril & Methodius choir, and baking LOTS of poticas for various events.

Marilyn’s parents were both members of SUA, and her mother, Martha, was honored as member of the year in 2010. Marilyn’s daughter, Becky, is also a member of our branch. Being proud of her Slovenian roots is very important to Marilyn, and this is apparent in her involvement with the different activities at SS Cyril Methodius church and also in Branch 1.

We would like to say “HVALA” to Marilyn for continuing to be a part of our Slovenian family.

BARBARA GREENWOOD

BRANCH 3 - PUEBLO, COLORADO

Barbara (Gersick) Greenwood, a longtime, active member of Branch 3 and the oldest of four children in the Stanley and Mary (Giarratano) Gersick family, was born in Pueblo, Colorado. Barb’s father, Stanley, worked in the steel mill for 40 years and also owned a bar which catered to the Slovenian steelworkers in Pueblo.

Barb’s Slovenian grandparents were Martin Gersick and Catherine (Stepan) Gersick. Martin came to Pueblo at the age of 20 and met Catherine at a dance at St. Mary’s Church. Martin was from the Upper Carniola district of present day Slovenia. His family had a hunting lodge and restaurant near Lake Bled. Martin’s family was associated with the military, and he immigrated to the United States after serving two years in the Austro-Hungarian army. Catherine was from the settlement of Dolnji Suhor pri Metliki (Ravnace) in Lower Carniola. In her later years, Catherine lived with Barb’s family, and Barb remembers learning to make potica with her. Barb’s maternal grandparents were Italian, and she has enjoyed the richness of the Slovenian and Italian heritages throughout her life. She remembers celebrating Saint Nicholas Day as a child by putting out

her shoes the night before the feast day and waking up to find them filled with candy, nuts, and fruits. Barb also has happy memories of helping her mother make potica and having it blessed on Holy Saturday. Italian heritage memories include making raviolis and Italian cookies.



Barb has two sons, Brad and Michael, and one daughter, Megan. Megan is a member of Branch 3 along with many other relatives including sisters Angela and Patti, cousins Betty Skul, Marge Cullen (current President) and Eileen Kaplan (current Vice President/Treasurer).

Barb is a regular at Branch 3 meetings and activities. She lives in Colorado Springs and serves as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Joseph’s Church.

MAYDA POZEK GRAVELIE

BRANCH 5 - INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Our 2018 Member of the Year is Mayda Pozek Gravelie. Mayda was born and lived in Ljubljana, Austria, now Slovenia. She grew up during the war and then spent her teenage years in a refugee camp. In 1950, Mayda arrived in Indianapolis, Indiana with her parents and two brothers. Sponsored by Holy Trinity Slovenian Catholic Church, they were helped getting housing and jobs so they could have a better life. While taking citizenship classes at night school, Mayda attended a Christmas party and met a Norwegian student, Trygue Gravelie, who was taking English classes. They were wed in 1954, and have three sons and one daughter who gave them seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren! They were married 58 years before Trygue's death. One of Mayda's favorite memories is when Trygue and she bought property on the Southside of Indianapolis, developed the land, named the subdivision "Ljubljana," and lived there on Gravelie Road! Mayda loves to travel, read, and knit, but her favorites are

gardening and cooking. Mayda and her brother, John, cooked a wonderful strukli dinner for the Nash, and most Fridays, you can find the two of them playing cards at the Nash! Mayda always has stories of the many birds and squirrels that frequent her garden and the unusual places that flowers pop up from the squirrels hiding the seeds around her yard. Mayda is a wonderful Member of the Year, and we thank her for her many contributions to the Slovenian Community here in Indianapolis! Congratulations, Mayda!



EILEEN PLESE

BRANCH 20 - JOLIET, ILLINOIS



Eileen joined Branch 20 in 1973 and has been the chairwoman of SUA's "April Showers of Dollars" annual fundraiser since 2017. She has been active in Branch 20's annual bakery sales and the former Grape Harvest Dances over the years. Eileen is the youngest of six children born in Joliet to Slovenian immigrant parents An-

drew and Rose Hrvatin; Rose also was a member of Branch

20. Eileen graduated from St. Joseph Grade School and from St. Francis Academy, both in Joliet. Eileen received her childhood sacraments at St. Joseph Church and married Walter Plese there in 1958. Walter, who passed away in 2007, was the youngest of eight children born to Croatian immigrant parents. The couple had three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Eileen has been a member of Holy Family parish in Shorewood for fifty-three years, but has also been a member of St. Joseph parish the past ten years; she supports both parishes equally.

Eileen's hobbies include gardening; cooking and recipe-collecting; taking bus trips; playing sudoku and solitaire; attending church group luncheons; and visiting with her grade school and high school friends. She has been a waitress at the local VFW's fish fries and has been a past volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital, the Rialto Theater, and the Daybreak Shelter, all in Joliet.

MARLYS RABB

BRANCH 35 - AURORA, MINNESOTA

Marlys was born at home in Trommald, Minnesota into a family of two daughters and three sons. Because of available employment, the family relocated to Aurora, Minnesota in 1955, where Marlys graduated from high school and soon started her first job as secretary and then moved on to the typing pool at Erie Mining Co. In the community, she has volunteered on two federal censuses, has been an election judge until 2017, has been a treasurer for All Slav Association of Minnesota, and is still treasurer of the local All Slav Club. In her parish, she taught catechism, typed and mailed out bulletins, and counted money. That fits well with her hobbies since she likes numbers and chal-

lenges. Marlys likes number and jigsaw puzzles and likes to read, preferring the bestsellers.

Marlys and Steve have four children: Patricia, Steven, Jeff, and Kristine, four grandchildren and one great-grand son. When Steve retired, they planned a month-long trip to Europe to visit their son in The Hague and



Marlys continued... other points of interest. When leaving Budapest, they took a train to Ljubljana and visited with Simonich and Potocnik relatives. It was a once in a lifetime trip full of wonderful memories, but they were happy to be back home. Marlys Rabb acknowledges that she doesn't have a drop of Slovenian blood, but when she met her future husband Steve, she became acquainted with Slovenian food and traditions. Since they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year, she has had many years of Slovenian culture. Marlys joined the SUA in 1991 and has held various office positions and is always a willing participant in all branch endeavors. In the past years, she has also attended two SUA National Conventions. Branch 35 is proud to honor Marlys as our Member of the Year.

LINDA & DAVE ABSETAR

BRANCH 43 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Linda and Dave Absetar, both members of Branch 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, are second generation Slovenian Americans. They have one son, Matthew, and the three are proud 100% Slovenians. Their grandparents all immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Linda is proud to say that her maternal grandmother, Elsie Valencich, was a member of a SWUA Branch in Milwaukee, and her paternal grandmother, Meri (Rozman) Kebl, was a member of Branch 102 in Willard, Wisconsin.

Linda likes to cook Slovenian dishes, and is an accomplished maker of potica with Dave's assistance. They both enjoy spending time making *strudelj* and *struklji*, and Dave especially enjoys making and smoking *Krajske klobase*. They are listed as helpers with the publishing of SUA's *The Slovenian-American Table*.

Linda is Sergeant-at-Arms for Branch 43 and also branch liaison to Milwaukee's United Slovenians to preserve our Ethnic Heritage (U.S.P.E.H.), an umbrella organization for eight Slovenian groups. She enjoys wearing her nardona noša for events such as the International Holiday Folk Fair

and various Slovenian gatherings.

In his profession as a sign maker, Dave has designed and produced banners, buttons, and signage, especially for SUA's 2011 National Convention held in Milwaukee. He has also designed and produced several backdrops and signs for the

Slovenian booth at the many holiday folk fairs. Recently, Dave and Linda assisted member Jackie Smith in creating a Slovenian bingo game to play occasionally at the branch meetings. Dave is past president of the New Berlin Lions Club and has received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for his support of the Lions Club International Foundation. Linda and Dave are busy but are finding time to play in a local balina league this summer. Branch 43 is proud to honor this special couple for their support of so many Slovenian activities.



SUSAN A. TERSELIC

BRANCH 103 - WASHINGTON D.C.



At the March meeting of Branch 103, Susan A. Terselic Eckert was selected as Person of the Year. With the exception of a short break while living in Africa, she is a lifelong SWUA/SUA member.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in the mid-1960s, Susan moved to Maryland with her family.

As a high school senior, she completed a work-study program in Slovenia. She graduated with honors from the Pennsylvania State University. Her degree was in economic geography. She received a SWUSF grant to assist her studies and privately took Slovenian language

lessons from a Penn State faculty member. With a goal of working as an international Christian missionary, she went on to a program at the Columbia Bible College, Columbia, South Carolina. While there she met her future husband, Timothy Eckert.

For about 20 years, Tim and Susan ministered in Niger West Africa to tribes living in rural areas. They achieved their goal of establishing a group of churches whose administration was assumed by the local believers themselves. During that time, they were blessed with seven children. Returning to America, Susan and her family settled in the Hershey, Pennsylvania area. She joined the faculty of the Hershey campus of the Lancaster Mennonite School (LMS). She teaches computer science and music. She completed an on-line master's degree in education since joining LMS with help from an award from SWUSF.

Susan has maintained a lifelong interest in Slovenian culture.

EVA PETRIČ

BRANCH 93 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Artist. Photographer. Performer. Writer. Filmmaker. Composer. Poet. Slovenian. These are just some of the many titles you could give Eva Petrič. To us in Branch 93, she is all of these things, but she is also our Member of the Year.

This extraordinary, inspiring woman is a pivotal member of our Slovenian community in New York and Brooklyn. This year, Eva's work has connected us and brought us together; it has reignited our passion for Slovenian culture and opened our eyes to the success of our people in the often overwhelming melting pot of New York.

Not only do we see her at every event (that is, when she isn't flying between her three homes around the world!), but also she is always willing to lend a hand when asked. Her most recent contribution to our branch has been her invaluable help in organizing our latest endeavor - the "Professionals Happy Hour" - which aims to connect Slovenians working in New York, broaden our networks, and provide an avenue to celebrate our Slovenian heritage. Eva's inspirational and elegant exhibition at the Galerie Mourlot served as the home of our kick-off event, and we left feeling proud,

contemplative, and invigorated.

We want to thank Eva, as well as ALL our incredible members, for their contributions to our event calendar this year. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

More about Eva: Eva lives between New

York (where much of her work is exhibited), Vienna (where she studied) and Ljubljana (where her family and photography lab is located). Her artistic success has been astronomical, with her work being shown in over 40 solo and 60 group exhibitions across the world. She has been selected for the Beijing International Art Biennale (2012, 2015, 2017), nominated for the Venice Art Biennale (2013, 2015), and has won countless awards in France, Austria, and Slovenia. www.evapetric.com



MARY ANN SETNICKER

BRANCH 109 - TWIN CITIES OF MINNESOTA



Mary Ann has been active since our founding in 2005. Serving as treasurer for the TC Slovenians under three presidents, Mary Ann has shown impeccable attention to detail. Current TCS President

Mike Koski calls her a "passionate volunteer who is always ready to help at our monthly meetings and at the Festival of Nations" where she has worked every year since 2007. Mary Ann humbly states that it is just her second nature to help when needed. She has attended the last three national conventions and is now our National Representative to the SUA. Named after her fraternal grandmother, Marija Markoveč Koroseč and her parents, Alvin and Rose Koroshec, both Slovenian as well, Mary Ann is proud to say she is 100% Slovenian. In

fact, she was enrolled in the SWUA one month after her birth and has been a member ever since.

Cheerleader Mary Ann and athlete Norm Setnicker met as high schoolers at the hockey rink across the street from her family home. They wed seven years later and have been married for fifty-four years. Mary Ann loves to spoil their four children and seven grandchildren with her Slovenian cooking, her love of Slovenian music, and her many childhood stories about growing up in Gilbert.

An officer in the White Bear Lake Business and Professional Women's Club in 1978, Mary Ann was proud to be elected the first female president of the WBL Area Chamber of Commerce in 1987. In 1989, US Bank honored her with its Community First Volunteer Award. She is an enthusiastic sports fan of NCAA women's gymnastics, high school hockey, and Minnesota Twins baseball. Mary Ann golfs and bowls in her spare time. Congratulations, Mary Ann, for being such a strong member of Branch 109.

BRANCH 102 - WILLARD, WISCONSIN

Member of the Year is... the entire membership of Branch 102! We feel blessed that our branch from Willard has 36 members and that several are third or fourth generation members. While many members do not live in the Willard area, they continue to show support for the Slovenian Union of America and Branch 102 by paying annual dues

and keeping in touch with each other. There is a core group from the central Wisconsin area who regularly attends meetings and makes decisions for the entire branch. Those members are appreciated for their dedication to Slovenian culture and history. Regardless of where our members live, all are being honored this year for being part of an organization devoted to preserving Slovenian heritage!

The Medved's departing Spittal for America. In front are Frank Jr., John, Bernadine, Kristine, Miro, and Albin. Their parents John and Kristina standing behind them.

Iron Range Medveds

By Staff Writer David Sodac
Branch 89 Oglesby, IL hdsodac@gmail.com

Frank and Miro Medved, former residents of Pineville/Biwabik, Minnesota, have been on the presentation “circuit” sharing a slide presentation and compelling narrative of what it was like in Slovenia at the end of WWII. Frank was nine years old, and Miro was just three years of age when their family of six escaped out of Slovenia. They share glimpses of their five years in a resettlement camp and adjustment to life in America on the Iron Range of northeastern Minnesota.



In their narrative, Frank and Miro recalled that in the early days of May 1945, two of their uncles, Engelbert and Ivo Medved, came to their town of Trboje, Slovenia with the news that Russian armies were invading from the South. It was a critical time for families to make life or death decisions. Their family had already suffered greatly since the onset of the war. Frank and Miro's grandparents were expelled from their homestead but escaped to Čatež pod Zaplazom with their three daughters and youngest son. A Nazi German was appointed mayor, and his family moved into their beloved home. Uncle Slavko and his wife Monika were deported to Germany. Uncle Mirko was killed as a hostage by the Germans on October 28, 1942. Uncle Boris was killed on May 12, 1945 in a firefight with the Germans. There was no question that it was time to leave. Their father borrowed two horses and a wagon from a farmer, loaded it with supplies, and trekked north with the family toward Ljubelj Pass on May 5, 1945. It took four grueling days for them to cross the pass and reach Vetrinje, Austria to the safety of a British occupation zone. Most of the arriving escapees, as well as the Medved family, figured it would be only for a few weeks and then they could get back home. The stay there wouldn't be for just a short time as hoped; it would be stretched almost to five years.

The refugees were eventually resettled into a displaced person (DP) camp in Spittal, Austria. Spittal had been a

former Nazi German prisoner-of-war camp that had been bombed and liberated by the Allied Forces at the end of the war. The Medved family settled into the camp and made the most of their refugee experience. They were assigned a cramped 10 ft. x 15 ft. former horse quarters inside barracks No. 18. A survival instinct prevailed throughout the Spittal camp, and the displaced families endured until the day they could be permitted their freedom. A meager life was carved out of the former POW camp. Gardens were planted, barracks were "remodeled" to become family homes, a chapel was crafted out of an evacuated truck garage, school classrooms were established, and additional children would be born. Kristina and then John were born to the Medveds while in camp. In 1948, the camp refugees finally began to be issued visas to resettle in South America. It wasn't until November of 1949 that the Medved family received word that they had been sponsored by sisters, Theresa, Mary, and Anne Gillach, of Pineville, Minnesota USA. They were approved to leave and receive visas for travel. Handcrafted wooden trunks were jammed with what little belongings the family had remaining, and the trunks were stenciled with the USA destination. The Medveds were finally going to America and freedom.

David Setniker wrote, "Leaving the camps for asylum to these unknown foreign lands provided heartbreaking personal vignettes. The camps had become places of so-



DP Barracks #18, Medveds shared home for 5 years.

lace, friendship and a place of birth... the camps began to empty, and lorries (trucks) would take them to the train station for the trip to Bremerhaven, Germany where they would board ships for America. Leaving the camps was bittersweet. They had left behind four years of anxiety, bitter disappointments, and good and sad memories. They knew the transition from refugee to free person would not be easy. Their abiding belief in their Catholic faith provided support.”



Medved's homemade wooden shipping trunk.

At the time most of the Minnesota Iron Range DPs were arriving, Congress had already enacted Public Law 774, the Displaced Persons Act. To emigrate to the U.S., a Displaced Person needed a sponsor who would arrange for housing and employment which could not supplant an American worker. That's quite the commitment from any individual! Among the numerous restrictions imposed by this law, the act stipulated that only applicants who had been in resettlement camps by the end of 1945 would be eligible for American visas. Refugees were aided by a variety of religious and ethnic social service agencies, who would ensure that the admitted refugees would not become "public charges" and that they, the agencies, would help oversee the resettlement of the refugees. Among these relief organizations were the National Catholic Welfare Council, the National Lutheran Council, the Church World Service, and the United Service for New Americans.

David Setniker wrote, "Most of the displaced persons (DPs) knew no one... but they didn't need to. The Slovenes of the first migration to the Range in the early 1900s and the next generation opened their hearts and their wallets to sponsor freedom for their Slovene sisters and brothers. They, along with the Catholic Church, provided the strong ethnic and cultural bedrock for these newcomers of this final Slovenian resettlement. They knew what it was like. Now it was time to give back. Here are some of the local sponsors and the Slovene families they sponsored in some of the small, neighboring mining towns in St. Louis County, Minnesota:

The Gillach sisters Mary, Theresa, and Anne (Pineville) sponsored the Medved, Krulc, and Vidmar families; Fr. John Dolšina (Gilbert) sponsored the Gruden and Skrbec families; Martin Stepan (Gilbert) sponsored the Bajda family (Elcor/Gilbert). The Perčič family had originally been sponsored by a farmer in Arkansas, but when it didn't work out, the family requested a transfer to Pineville, Minnesota. They were housed in the building co-owned in Biwabik by brother and sister, Martin Sever and Louise Nisen. Fr. John Dolšina's younger brother, Fr. Stanley Dolšina, later came to the Duluth Diocese.

The migration was much bigger than the five or six Slovenian families that had settled in Biwabik, Elcor, Belgrade, and Pineville. Slovenian families also arrived in the neighboring cities of Gilbert, Eveleth, Aurora, and other cities on the Iron Range. These towns already had earlier settlements of Slovenian immigrants who had willingly opened their pocketbooks and dipped into their savings to become sponsors of these displaced persons. The local mining industry offered plenty of employment opportunities, so jobs could be promised. Existing Slovene families also were quite adept at stretching living spaces to accommodate housing of the families.



Therese and Mary with Vidmar, Krulc, Perčič, and Medved families they sponsored.

On November 19, 1949, the Medved family was ushered from Spittal onto a train headed for the Port of Bremerhaven, Germany where they then boarded the USAT General Sturgis, a US Army troop transport ship. A stormy November blew across the North Atlantic, stretching the normal six-day trip into a ten-day crossing. The ship would finally dock in Boston Harbor at 6:00 am, November 29, 1949. By mid-afternoon the family had cleared Immigration and Customs and was transported to the railroad station by bus. They were met by a representative of the LCSA (League of Catholic Slovenian Americans), a branch of the NCWC (National Catholic Welfare Council). The representative loaned their family \$50 for the journey. They departed from Boston for Chicago around 8:00 pm that same day.

By the time the train chugged its way into Chicago, it was already late into the evening of the following day. They spent the night sleeping on the hard wooden train station benches. Departure was early the next morning. The Medved family members were the only DPs aboard this train. The train weaved its way through the Midwest dairy lands of Wisconsin, stopping frequently at every small, rural town along the way to pick up the 40 quart cans of milk from local dairies. It was referred to as the “milk train.” Frank recalled that it took an eternity to reach Minnesota. Along the way, the family was provided sandwiches to eat. He remembered almost throwing up while eating the sandwiches as he wasn’t used to all the rich condiments like mayonnaise and mustard. When the train finally approached Duluth, Minnesota it passed by a billboard featuring a loaf of Master Bread, just what Frank was desiring! Plain, basic bread with no condiments!

From Duluth, the family was picked up by limousines that were provided by the local funeral homes and from there were driven the sixty remaining miles to a small settlement area called Pineville. They finally arrived and were warmly greeted by their American sponsors, Theresa and Mary Gillach. The two unmarried sisters owned the building that once was a tavern, a store, and a post office. The sisters lived upstairs, while the Medved family of eight would inhabit what must have seemed like a very spacious downstairs after five years in the barracks of Spittal. Frank remembers the apartment had a big open space with embossed metal ceilings and walls and a large “round oak” wood stove in the center.

The Krulc and Vidmar families were also sponsored by the generous Gillach sisters and arrived a little later. They lived in a nearby vacant store building about twice the size of the Gillach house. It had multiple apartments in the upstairs and the lower (store) level was divided into two apartments. Frank Medved Sr. was given a position as the groundskeeper at the home of the mining superintendent, a far cry from being a proud storeowner in Slovenia.

Since it was early December, Frank, Albin, Bernarda, Miro, and other newly arrived Slovene students would be prepped in English during the weeks leading up to the start of the second semester of school in nearby Biwabik. There was no such thing as ESL (English as a Second Language) offered back in those days, so a few of the teachers volunteered to work with the new students after regular school hours. Frank recalls that Mrs. Oberstar worked with them on a whirlwind mini course on the English language, consisting of oral reading practice using the Dick and Jane primer books. Frank was eventually placed in the eighth grade at Horace Mann High School to start the beginning of second semester. He laughed that his first English assignment was to read Dickens’ *David Copperfield*. That’s quite the jump from “Look Dick, look... see Jane?”

When the spring of 1950 arrived, the Medveds added onto the Gillach building, with a two-story addition with bathrooms. Later came the chicken coop and barn for the Medved cows, Dimka and Liska.

Adjusting and acceptance on the Iron Range had its occasional hiccups. Setniker addressed some of those issues in his article on the Iron Range Slovenes: “Despite the apparent comfort of an existing Iron Range Slovenian community, the refugees did encounter adjustment difficul-



New home after arriving in Pineville, Minnesota.

ties, particularly in the schools. The term label “DP” was defined politically through U.S. legislation entitled “Displaced Persons Act of 1948.” While it was an accurate definition, it became a pejorative with negative connotations to many in the Slovenian refugee community. It was, and still is, a very sensitive subject to the current Slovene community. Instances of labeling and ignorance reared their ugly heads in the schools as “Commie,” “dirty pig,” “Go back where you came from,” and other bullying epithets echoing throughout the halls of learning and the red ore streets of the Range. Political correctness and sensitivity had not yet reached the Range.” Miro Medved was quoted, “Yes, there were pranks and taunts. Some of us took them better than others, but we kept our heads down and didn’t take the bait. We just wanted to fit in... just like everyone else.” Frank shared that overall he felt accepted, but there was some friendly razing about



Albin and Frank mimeographing newsletter.

his spoken English, which somehow took on a Dickens quality, probably influenced by his first required novel that happened to be *David Copperfield*.

Having lived under the restrictive and meager war conditions in the refugee camps for almost five years, people become close to those with whom they shared that experience. Now in America, at first the Medved children were initially preoccupied with becoming assimilated into their school and community. They didn’t have time to be lonely. Then the reality of their former life and kindled friendships eventually made them a little homesick. Frank and his family had developed many close friends during those years and would occasionally hear from them through letters. It was comforting to know they were safe and adjusting to their new lives in America and Canada, but they still missed them. He and Albin decided to take on the task of organizing a newsletter, *Minnesotski Zvon*, to keep everybody connected. They obtained lists of potential subscribers from friends of parents and relatives that had settled in different parts of US and Canada. Then the word spread, and they heard from other DP families in Europe and Australia. They typed stencils and printed off mimeograph copies using the school’s machine. Eventually the boys received a simple mimeograph machine to use from a donor. The membership grew to over 400 people. Finally, the boys were joined by friends on Saturdays to

organize, produce, assemble and mail out the newsletters. The recipients paid 15c per copy, which barely covered the cost of mimeographing the copies.

Each of the Frank Sr. and Kristina Medved’s six children were successful and became contributing American citizens. Frank (wife Mary Catherine) was an engineer, Albin (wife Albina) a lawyer, Bernadine an educator, Miro (wife Karen) a business entrepreneur, Kristina a consumer research executive, and John worked in construction and restoration. They have given back their gratitude to the people of the Iron Range region and to all of Minnesota in so many positive ways. Frank, Albin, Bernarda, Miro, John, and Kristina (deceased) have all been members of SUA Branch 109 in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. Frank, Albin, Miro, and John continue

to find ways of actively staying connected to their Slovenian roots through their dedicated involvement in their very active SUA Branch. Miro and his wife Karen have hosted over 50 Branch members at their home for joyous Martinovanje celebrations in November along with summer picnics. They even have a balina court in their backyard, handy for branch tournaments. Frank elaborately and authentically dresses up as St. Nicholas and pays a visit to the children. He has also co-taught year-long Slovenian language classes for several years now. Frank and Miro have both been on the board of the lodge. Frank, Miro, Karen, and John are all members of a Twin Cities Slovenian singing group, The BriNotes. Miro has been awarded the title of Honorary Slovenian Consul for Minnesota. Miro and Frank share their family’s story with the traveling exhibition of pull-up banners, *Farmers, Miners, and Refugees: Slovenian Migration to Minnesota from 1855*.





Albin and Bina (Bajda) Medved in costume for the Traveling Exhibition.

The Medved's desire to continue past connections carries over to their own family as well. Family reunions are scheduled every Olympic

year, alternating between Canada and the United States. Then in 2004, the reunion was held at the family homestead in Podkum, Slovenia with 150 relatives joining in. Platform floors were erected with canopied awnings in order to accommodate the large numbers of family on the acreage of the original Medved homestead. The Lojze Slak Orchestra provided the dancing music, and all of the Medveds danced energetically, talked endlessly, and sang Slovenian folk songs until early in the morning. The next reunion in 2008 was again held in Slovenia.

David Setnicker grew up attending school with Kristina and John Medved as well as several other Slovenian children who, along with their parents and families, immigrated as Displaced Persons during and following WWII to the Iron Range area. They attended school in the same little mining community of Biwabik in northeast Minnesota. He wrote an enlightening and well-appreciated article in 2016

entitled "Climb Every Mountain – Iron Range Slovenes: Stories of Escape and Resettlement" for the *Hometown Focus* newspaper published in Virginia, Minnesota. With the permission of the newspaper and of David Setniker, we have incorporated some excerpts for this story.



Frank and wife, Mary Catherine, dancing in Slovenia.



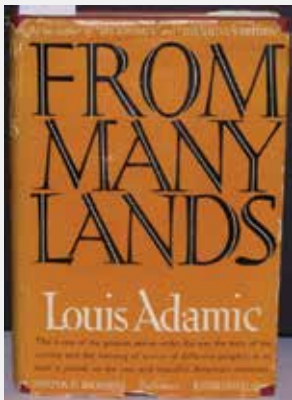
From left to right: Bernadine, Miro, Frank, John, Kristina, and Albin.

Postscripts on Louis Adamic

By Carole Rogel (Poiree) PhD , Branch 50 Euclid, OH

Carole Rogel (Poiree) PhD shared some wonderful, personal postscripts on the recent Adamic article that appeared in the 2018 Spring Edition of *Zarja*. Dr. Rogel is Professor Emeritus of History at Ohio State University. She shared her family's personal connection with the Louis Adamic family. Louis Adamic was characterized as an explorer of the ethnic diversity of the American society. He turned into an avid collector of immigrants' personal reminiscences, regardless of their nationality. In 1940, he featured these memoirs in his book titled **From Many Lands**. The book won Adamic the John Anisfield Award as "the most significant book of 1940 on race relations in the contemporary world." The only Slovenian gentleman featured in his book happened to be the grandfather of Carole Rogel, Anton Kmet. Anton's memoirs were entitled "The Old Alien by the Kitchen Window." Dr. Rogel has also authored numerous publications; her most recent publication is entitled **Historical Dictionary of Slovenia** (3rd edition) 2018. Her family's experiences with Louis Adamic are printed here with her permission.

~ David Sodac, *Zarja* Staff writer.



My father, Janko Rogelj, and Louis Adamic were good friends. I am not sure when their friendship began, but I know it was before 1940, the year Adamic's book, *From Many Lands* was published. The book that profiled immigrants from various countries included the piece "Old Alien by the Kitchen Window." That "alien" was the only Slovene featured in the book; he was Anton Kmet, my

maternal grandfather. I am even mentioned in the piece (I was one year old at the time). That same story was published with grandpa's photo in the *Saturday Evening Post*.

During the early 1940s Adamic, my father, and many Slovenes living in the States were deeply engaged in trying to understand what was happening to Yugoslavia and, of course, the Slovenes in particular. I don't remember ever meeting Adamic; perhaps he came to dinner when he was at a gathering in Cleveland. But I cannot be sure.

After the world war ended, my father and Adamic were among the first Slovenes to visit Yugoslavia (1949). I remember as a 10-year-old with my mother seeing my father board a train in Cleveland bound for New York City where he would get his trans-Atlantic flight. My mother and I were both crying; we thought we would never see him again. My father made a second trip in 1951, loaded down with gifts, mostly money, that Clevelanders asked him to pass on to relatives in the old country.

In 1951, Adamic died, very likely murdered by Communist thugs. My father and John Blatnik, a Minnesota Slovene who served in the U.S. Congress from his state, hurried to Milford, New Jersey where Adamic had been found dead and his property set afire. (In 1990 I attended an event in Washington, DC when Slovenia was moving toward independence. There I met John Blatnik, by then retired, and he sat me down and related this story. When he and my father arrived in Milford, the fire was still smoldering, Adamic was lying in a bed with a rifle across his body. Both Blatnik and my father concluded that from the way the rifle was positioned, the death could not have been a suicide).



Anton Kmet

In the early 1960s I was attending Graduate School at Columbia University, focusing on Eastern European History. I lived in a women's graduate student dormitory. Just before going to Cleveland for Christmas and anxious to pick up my mail, I volunteered to help stuff mail boxes. To my shock, I saw a number of letters addressed to Stella Adamic. Could it be? Of course, how many Stella Adamics could there be? So I rushed to her room. Sure enough, it was Louis' widow. She was getting a library degree so that she could get a job in Connecticut. After the holidays, we had dinner together several times. She wrote my father and sent him a reissue of Louis' book *Dynamite*. Only a few months after she left for Connecticut, the *New York Times* carried her obituary. She had died of peritonitis, probably related to the leg injury that had required she use crutches already when she lived in our dormitory.

After Louis' death, various Slovene groups established a Memorial Fund so that Princeton University could purchase and archive Louis' papers. I remember that the collecting of funds (\$5,000) took some time, but eventually Princeton got the papers. Meanwhile Louis had been buried in New Jersey, his grave marked only by the US Army marker that war veterans are entitled to. The memorial fund mentioned above had some extra money. It was decided to provide an appropriate gravestone. At the time, since I was still in New York, my father asked if I could go to Milford. A friend from eastern Pennsylvania drove me to the cemetery, where we met with a funeral director. We arranged for the current marker, identifying him as an "**American Author and Journalist of Slovenian Ancestry.**"

Windish Slovenes in Bethlehem Pennsylvania

By Rich Terselic

A friend recently shared a link to a video entitled *Slovenes in Bethlehem* filmed in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and produced by Slovenia-based MPN Studio from Murska Sobota. In addition to documenting the early 1900s Slovene immigration to Bethlehem, the video describes how the ethnic identities of Slovenes were taken from them. I'll describe how this happened later in the article.

I was born and grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. If I met someone with a European-sounding name and asked him "What are you?," I wouldn't have expected him to provide me a technical answer like "a creation of God," "a homo sapien," "a male or female," "an American citizen," or "a resident of Cleveland." The answer I expected was of what ethnic heritage he considered himself to be.

Many of the people with whom I came in contact in the 1940s-50s were immigrants who had left Europe before the world wars when areas that are now independent countries were parts of the Hapsburg/Austro-Hungarian Empire. My grandfather, Franc Terselic, immigrated in the early 1900s and identified himself at Ellis Island as Austrian. This answer was prompted since his village outside Brezice was under Austrian control when he left. However, he was of 100% Slovenian heritage. Franc wasn't unusual in identifying himself as Austrian, and many other Slovenian immigrants listed themselves as Italian or Hungarian, depending on the place they had lived. As a result, US censuses undercounted numbers of people of Slovenian heritage.

Now back to the situation in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. In the early 1900s, the city was bustling with industrial activity centered on steelmaking and metalworking. Jobs aplenty were available. Word traveled back to Europe, and immigrants were attracted. For unclear reasons, the Bethlehem area became attractive to people living in the eastern part of what is now the Prekmurje region of Slovenia, as well as the adjoining areas in current Hungary and Croatia. The area had been under the control of the Kingdom of Hungary. The Roman Catholic and Lutheran faiths were practiced there.

For reasons only explained in the 1990s, the Slovenian immigrants to the Bethlehem area were referred to as *Windish*. The word had German roots - in the German word *Wendisch*. Interestingly, the word has a pejorative meaning in Slovenia. Slovene Lutherans in Bethlehem initially attended a German Lutheran parish. Later, St. John's Windish Evangelical Lutheran Church was established. Shortly after construction began at St. John's, construction of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church began.

Prompted by his inability to answer his son's question, "Why are we Windish?," Slovenian heritage Bethlehem resident Stephen Antalics undertook a nine-year study. While traveling on numerous trips across Europe, he accumulated documents, conducted interviews, and engaged in study seeking to explain the origin of the Windish naming. By the mid-1990s, he had enough information to offer an explanation. He concluded that since the early 1900s Hungarian government officials, wishing to retain the loyalty and identification of Slovenes in Bethlehem to their Hungarian Empire heritage, intentionally and successfully created and promoted the Windish identity. In successfully doing so, they denied the Slovenian residents of Bethlehem an awareness of their correct cultural identity.

Antalics brought his findings to the attention of government officials in Prekmurje, and an agreement was reached on establishing a sister city relationship between the largest city there, Murska Sobota, and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Annual celebrations are held and funds raised to pay the costs of bringing students from Prekmurje to Bethlehem for educational/cultural exchange visits. A more important impact of the efforts of Antalics was a freeing of the original Slovene immigrants and subsequent generations from their identification as Windish. While Antalics had well-meaning intentions in disclosing the deception prompted by the Hungarian officials, some Slovenians in the Bethlehem community who grew to value their Windish identities were offended and communicated that to him.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, where large numbers of Slovenians worshipped, has been closed at the order of the local bishop. As a product of an appeal to the Vatican, it is allowed to open on special occasions. The closing was a consequence of greatly decreased parish membership as well as the shortage of priests. Numerous other European ethnic parishes across America have also closed for similar reasons.





Slovenian Union of America

Across America - Branch Reports

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Established 1926

Contact information: Mary Ann Schellinger
920.457.7946/rhmas@yahoo.com

SS. Cyril & Methodius (SSCM) is the Slovenian parish in Sheboygan. On Palm Sunday, the SSCM Fellowship Group hosted a luncheon and bake sale with the proceeds going to the SSCM Scholarship Fund. Most of the members of Branch 1 are members of the parish and were very busy baking poticas and other baked goods and also helping at the luncheon. Over 90 poticas and 28 bags of flancati were sold. A variety of food was available for purchase: ham sandwiches, Kranjske klobase, potato salad, beans, and the famous "Pink Tea."

On Holy Saturday, a traditional blessing of food took place at SSCM. The Vertacic and Grabner families were among the participants who brought in their "basket of goodies" for the blessing and noted that the whole church was filled with the smells of sweets and Kranjske klobase. It was nice to hear that the amount of people attending (over 70) has been increasing each year.

In getting ready for our Easter dinner with family, I dyed our eggs according to the instructions in the Spring 2018 issue of *Zarja*. I used a shiraz red wine and the purple color of the eggs was a beautiful contrast to the white uncolored eggs that were on our table. These were displayed with the butare that I purchased from Big Bouquet Florist in Ohio.

Reflecting on our past, I think our grandparents and parents would be quite proud of the present generation as we are trying to keep their traditions alive and striving to "Let our Slovenian Heritage Shine."

MARY ANN SCHELLINGER

BRANCH 2 - Chicago, Illinois

Established 1926

Contact Information: Judy Stoll 708.479.2864

I had thought that when it was time to write this *Zarja* report that my winter clothes would be put away! This has really been a difficult spring, hasn't it? But on one of the few nice days, we had our spring meeting at Portillos'. Ten members enjoyed the lively conversation, good food, and some tasty homemade potica.

The big topic, of course, was our annual Zveza Day picnic on July 15. The food is awesome, the prizes are amazing, and the music makes you want to dance! So bring your family and friends to "the Hill" in Lemont and partake in our only fundraiser. By the way, raffle tickets and an information flyer will be sent to you in June, and remember that our profit is donated to various charities.

Meta Hanzlik and Gen Buol will be joining the SUA group hosted by Bonnie Prokup and Debbie Pohar that will be touring Slovenia in June. I'm sure they'll come home with many exciting memories to share with us.

The membership report for Branch 2 shows that we have 112 members. (The 2017 count was 121.) A summary shows that 11 members are 90 years or older, 23 are 80+, 15 are 70+, 12 are 60+, 11 are 50+, 6 are 20+, and 14 are juniors. Let's keep all of our members, first responders, and those in the military in our prayers.

JUDY STOLL

BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Established 1926

Contact Information: Annette Charron
719.569.7125/amtcharron@gmail.com

Branch 3's February meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm, but the weather has been unseasonably warm since then. The March meeting featured a pizza party for members. A new member, Linda Justice, was introduced to the group. Betty Skul brought the mystery gift. Chaplain Marie Mutz led a memorial for Frances Ondovcich, a longtime branch member who recently passed away.

The April meeting's hostess was Robin Secora who served delicious cupcakes. Branch 3 member Annette Charron was recently named Vice President of Outreach for SUA's National Board of Directors. She attended the annual board meeting in Joliet in late March and gave a report on the member representative meeting that was held on March 24. Annette encouraged members to consider attending SUA's national convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio in June 2019.

The annual Member of the Year luncheon was held on Tuesday, May 1, at Park East restaurant, and Barbara Gersick Greenwood was honored. Branch 3 does not hold

Zarja - The Dawn

meetings during the summer months, so our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2 at 12:30 p.m. in St. Mary's church hall. All are welcome to attend!

ANNETTE SABO CHARRON
& BARBARA KARLINGER

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Established 1927

A new home for the Holy Trinity Bells: On March 14, 2018, the bells from the steeple at the former parish of Holy Trinity were removed. Prior to and since the closing of Holy Trinity here in Indianapolis in November 2014, the local KSKJ Lodge of St. Al's has been working to secure items from the parish that held historical and emotional value for the Slovenian community. Among these items were the set of three bronze bells that were housed in the steeple for 111 years. Reluctantly, and nearly a year after the initial petition was received by the former pastor, the ownership of the bells was finally granted to St. Al's. Since that time, efforts have been underway to find a new home for the bells where they would be used and appreciated.

St. Malachy parish in Brownsburg, Indiana has many families with ties to the Slovenian community and to Holy Trinity. Our pastor, Father Vince Lampert, is a son of Holy Trinity and attended grade school there, so obviously, Father Vince knows quite well the circumstances of his childhood parish and faith community. St. Malachy is a very old parish dating back to 1869 and is now in its third church building. With its Holy Trinity connections and lack of parish bells, St. Malachy parish seemed extraordinarily positioned to become the new home for Holy Trinity's



bells. Father Vince agreed, and efforts were underway to complete the first step in their relocation.

The process was long and thorough, but eventually the bells were removed from Holy Trinity. The costs associated with the design engineering, masonry repairs, gantry system, scaffolding, crane, and trucking expenses would need to be funded. With the help of one benefactor family from St. Malachy parish and St. Al's #52 KSKJ Lodge, the

Summer 2018

costs for the initial step for the bell relocation were handled. On March 14, 2018 the bells were removed, secured on a flat-bed truck, and on their way to the Verdin Bell Company in Cincinnati for restoration.

The bells of Holy Trinity rang proudly in the steeple for more than a century. Cast in Cincinnati in 1907, the bells were named for local lodges at the time and the new parish of Holy Trinity. The smallest bell is named for St. Joseph. It is 32" high and weighs 600 lbs. The St. Aloysius bell is the medium-sized bell and is 37" high, weighing approximately 900 lbs. The largest bell of the three – the Holy



Trinity bell – is 46" high and is estimated to weigh about 2500 lbs. The bells cost \$1,189 back in 1907 and today would cost about \$60,000 if newly cast. All three bells have their names inscribed on them in Slovenian.

With fundraising and parish support at St. Malachy, it is hopeful the bells will be ringing one day soon in Hendricks County. Discussion about plans for the relocated bells from Holy Trinity is just beginning. Anyone wishing to make a donation to support this effort is encouraged to send their donations here: Bell Relocation Fund, St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Road 750 North, Brownsburg, IN 46112.

Please consider making a donation for the bell tower, perhaps in honor of your Slovenian family name. Help keep the Slovenian spirit ringing as the Holy Trinity bells find a new home!

MARY, KAREN & PHYLLIS

BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

Established 1927

Contact Information: Michele Twers
michele.twers@comcast.net

Hello to all from San Francisco. Spring has sprung in Northern California, everything is lush green, and blooms are popping up all over. The fire-ravaged areas in Northern California are in full recovery mode from the devastating wild fires that hit Northern California last October 2017, but there is still much work to be done. We will be forever grateful to the first responders who saved lives and property.

Our monthly meetings are still continuing with only the officers present. Many of the members live out of the San Francisco area, and also due to age and health reasons they cannot attend. I would like to mention that our longtime member and auditor Virginia Sustarich has been unable to attend due to health reasons, but Virginia continues to do her job and check our records. We truly miss her presence, and our thoughts are always with her.

I would like to mention the passing of Donald P. Kambic on December 30, 2017. For those who remember Don, he was born and raised on Potrero Hill in San Francisco. He was very active in the Slovenian community. Don was on the board of directors of the Slovenian Progressive Home and also a very active member in the E&D Club Slovenia before moving to San Diego. Don's love for the Slovenian history and his heritage took him on the path to write the book, *The Slovenes of Northern California 1860-2001*, which was published in 2001. Don's book was a huge success with the Slovenians who lived in the San Francisco Bay area. In the book so many names were mentioned, and there were photos of people that many of us recognized and/or are related to. As I sit here writing about Don, I must mention that his mother was Tillie Kambic and he was a nephew of Mary Ansel; he was Betty Doherty's brother, and he was also cousin to Agnes Kurnick and Edyth Ansel. These women were very active and strong supporters of Branch 13 for many years. Don is survived by his adopted son John Sucre, his sister Marie McHenry, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

I would like to send birthday wishes to all members who are celebrating in April, May, and June. Also, get well wishes to anyone who is under the weather and not doing well.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day, and now we send Happy Father's Day wishes to all.

Summer is directly ahead of us. Enjoy your summer barbeques and outside activities in the sun.

MICHELE TWERS

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Established 1928

Contact Information: Georgene Agnich
773.205.1326/jamesschaible1469@att.net

We offer our condolences to the family of member Diane



Officers: January 21 installation of officers (left to right): Jean Herbst, Auditor; Sandra Kehring, Sergeant-At-Arms; Mary Kay Demick, Auditor; Jeanne Warsaw, Vice President; Charlene Kobe, President; Diane Hohenwater, Secretary; Josephine Lustik, Auditor; Nancy Horwath, Sergeant-At-Arms. Fr. Tom Paul, Spiritual Advisor (seated) (Not pictured: Robyn Coyne, Treasurer).

Kalcic, who passed away on March 15; to member Diane Hohenwater in the loss of her mother-in-law, Mary Ann Hohenwater, on March 11; to member Louie Derlinga in the loss of his brother, David Derlinga, on February 19; and to member Sharon Hicks in the loss of her mother, Janice Cemen, on March 24.

Branch 20 honored Eileen Plese as its 2018 Member of the Year on May 15 with a banquet at St. Joseph Church parish hall.

Our March 24-25 fundraiser bake sale and raffle were very successful. Thanks to the many members who brought bakery to St. Joseph Church for sale before and after all the Masses both days, to those who bought bakery and raffle tickets, to those who gave cash donations, and to those who worked each day. Raffle winners were Mary Fran Smaron (first prize: potica); Rick Sarcletti (second prize:

apple strudel); John Churnovic (third prize: Easter wreath); and Jeff Frieders (fourth prize: bottle of Slovenian wine). A big "thank-you" to Josephine Lustik and Marla Lustik for co-chairing this popular event.

Plans are underway for Branch 20's 90th anniversary banquet to be held at St. Joseph Church parish hall on Sunday, October 21.

GEORGENE AGNICH



Bake Sale co-chairs Josephine Lustik and Marla Lustik are ready for customers on March 24.

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Established 1928

Contact Information: Diane Data
diane3121@comcast.net

Zivijo! This has been a long winter! As I am typing this report in early April (the week after Easter) when I should be thinking about spring clothes, spring cleaning and the Cubs opening day. I'm watching the weatherman reporting about snow tonight into tomorrow. This is not what I want to hear as I am leaving on a pilgrimage trip to Italy in the morning and do not want any airline delays.

Our branch has not met since December, so I have no news of what we have been doing. Our first 2018 meeting is April 19 when we will be discussing the need for new officers. Our new president, Shirley Eide, will be offering her suggestions for upcoming meetings, but officers will be one of our main topics on the agenda. In reading other branch reports, I see this same theme: low attendance at meetings and requests for volunteers to help with branch activities. As with so many other clubs/organizations, we need younger active members to fill that gap from members that have passed or are no longer active.

Another topic at our April meeting will be an update on the construction of our Roadside Chapel. The fundraising for the chapel was an outstanding success. Our membership is anxious to see the completed chapel. It will truly be a place to come and pray for our Slovenian souls.

I am the Member Representative for Branch 24; therefore, I called in to the March National Board meeting. It was a very exciting and enjoyable meeting. Our National Officers have been busy. The board announced that some of them would be travelling from Joliet, Illinois to Oglesby, Illinois (some 70 miles) to attend the Branch 89 Slovene fest later that day. I was so happy to see my friends Mary Lou and Diane, as well as Norm, Annette, and Beverly. I enjoyed listening to Norm and our member, Delores Spelich, talking about Slovenians they both knew. I think I overheard that they both may have been at the same dance in Minnesota many years ago. Small world, indeed. Dober Dan!

DIANE DATA

BRANCH 35 - Aurora, Minnesota

Established 1929

John Robert Snidarich, Branch 35, Aurora, Minnesota, was honored at a reception at the home of the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, Miro Medved, on the occasion of Mr. Snidarich's obtaining his dual Slovenian citizenship. A delegation from Slovenia's Chamber of Commerce attended the administration of the oath at the private dinner party. Branch 109's Mary Ann and Norman Setniker, whose cousin Marjan is a visiting member of the Slovenian delegation, were also in attendance.

The Slovenian delegation was interested in wanting to know why Slovenia is so important to Johnny; he got to tell his story. They sang the Slovenian national anthem,

Summer 2018

toasted and "Zivijoooooed" many verses with wine glasses clanking and "na zdravje" echoing throughout the Medved home. Although John hurt his back moving a piano, with the aid of some wine and anti-inflammatory meds,



he and Karen Medved played three Slovenian button box pieces. John's playing convinced the delegation of his Slovene worthiness. John raved about his love of the good Slovenian food and concluded his testimony by telling about the house in Slovenia that he plans to remodel in his retirement. John's wife videoed the ceremony with pride.

It is his hope that by acquiring dual citizenship, Mr. Snidarich can build a mutually beneficial relationship with the country of his ancestors' birth and give something of a lasting value back to the villages from whence his forefathers came. As you can see from the pictures, Johnny not only promotes his heritage in a grand way but also in a "baby" grand way. Johnny gave John Luka Heinan (named after his maternal great- and great-great grandfathers), age five months, his first accordion lesson on April 5, 2018, at the sixty-eighth birthday party of the "little" John's grandfather, Joseph Gudel of San Jose, California. With Johnny Snidarich, it's all about living the legacy. Bravo!

(See John's biography on page 32 of this issue.)



BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Established 1930

Contact Information: Jan Gehm
414.321.1413/twogames@wi.rr.com

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. Some of our members met at Triglav Park on the day before Palm Sunday to make butare and on Palm Sunday brought them to church to be blessed. Many Slovenes gathered at St John's for Mass wearing Narodna noša, some wearing red carnations and carrying butare as the Slovenian Choir sang the beautiful hymns of that day. Many thanks to Helen Frohna for making all the arrangements at the park and making sure the necessary materials were available.

It is on a sad note that Palm Sunday was the last time the Slovenian Choir would sing at Mass. I would like to personally thank all the current members and the other singers who wanted to participate for this final time. Thank you to all the choir members past and present for your support, dedication, and attendance at rehearsals and Mass. We will miss the beautiful and beloved hymns.

At our last two meetings we played Slovenian Bingo. Jackie Smith, Regional President, got the idea from Branch 1 of Sheboygan. Jackie, and Linda and Dave Absteter jointly made up the bingo cards and calling cards which have Slovenian words, places and sayings, and had them laminated. Many thanks for all the tedious and hard work they did so that our branch could have a nice social time after the meeting.

Mark your calendars for our picnic at Triglav Park on August 5, 2018. Mass will be said at 11 a.m. with a delicious dinner available immediately following the Mass.

Watch the *Zarja* for more news about Martinovanje, which will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at the Root River Center on So. Rawson Ave. just east of South 76 St. Plans are in the making now for an enjoyable evening. Slovenian wine will be available.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the Freiberg Family in the loss of beloved husband, father, and brother. Ray passed away on February 22, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Mary Cay, daughter Therese, and brother, Richard and his wife Carrie. Ray and Mary Cay were both active members of the branch. May he rest in peace.

Please consult the calendars mailed to you earlier about dates of our future meetings and plan on attending. Enjoy the carefree days of summer.

MARY "MICI" BREGANT

BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Established 1931

Contact Information: Debbie Duris
330.467.2281/dcduris@gmail.com

Our branch members and those of other Cleveland branches are busy planning and working on the next National Convention in June of 2019. It will be an event to remember. We hope everyone is planning to attend.

Our Saturday, September 15 luncheon will be at Glenwillow Grill at 29765 Pettibone Road in Solon. The Christmas luncheon will be held at Lockkeepers at 8001 Rockside Road in Valley View on Saturday, December 1. All meeting times are at 1:00 p.m.

Members are encouraged to call Debbie at her home at 330.467.2281, or email her at dcduris@gmail.com to indicate you plan to attend. Contact me on my cell 330.730.8951, or email me at kjferrante@gmail.com to share any branch information.

KATHLEEN FERRANTE

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Established 1938

Contact Information: Barbara Bruch
815.339.2714/barbarabruch@yahoo.com

At our March meeting we had a real treat. Delores Spelich, from across the river and Branch 24, came and brought the bobbin lace that was made by her grandparents to share with us. Delores is a wonderful storyteller, and we went back through the years to see her grandparents making the beautiful lace. Our member David Sodac wrote a great article about her family a few months ago. She also brought a bottle of delicious sweet wine from Slovenia to share with us. Thank you, Delores. We had a very good time.

We held our Slovenian Heritage Day the same day as a big blizzard. At the last minute the snow stopped, and we had a great time. By coincidence the SUA National Board was meeting in Joliet at the same time, and five board members were able to come. Mary Lou Volk won the door prize, a bouquet of red carnations. We had new people come for the



Zarja - The Dawn



first time. Our branch has a Facebook page, and it is amazing the responses we get from it. Look for us on Facebook! It's Slovenian Union of America Branch 89. Our members have a good time putting on this event and hope more people can come next year. It is always held the Saturday before Palm Sunday. That way if you win the sausage or potica, you can keep it for Easter. A new addition this year was fresh sausage made by Jay Komater, Mitzi Banich's

brother. It was delicious, just like the smoked sausage.

A traditional Žegen meal was served at our April meeting. Thank you, Alice and Jim Ebner for bringing all the food and Jim's homemade wine. We talked about what we can do to improve attendance at meetings. Please pass along any suggestions you have. We know how busy or far away everyone is, but let us know what you think.

BARBARA BRUCH

BRANCH 93 - New York, New York

Established 1938; Reactivated February 14, 2004

Contact Information: Kathleen Simmonds

917.780.9412/kathleensimmo@gmail.com

After a very special Easter Mass at St. Cyril's church in NYC, Slovenian community members continued the festivities in our church hall with music, laughter and, of course, delicious traditional goodies - including ham and potica. We even had the thrill of trying a COCONUT potica (absolutely delicious!) and receiving home-decorated wooden Easter eggs from one of our beloved parishioners. Thank you to Father Krizolog and all of the parishioners that helped to organize such beautiful Cvetna nedelja and Easter celebrations.

Summer 2018

Congratulations to member Gaia Visnar who starred in the world premiere of a new original play! "The Doorman" opened at HB Playwrights Theatre in Chelsea on April 10. Alongside Gaia, the international creative team included writer and actor Zala



Djuric, director Oskar Kvaternik, and actors Grant Schumacher and Delil Baran. The event was highly supported by our Slovenian community in New York who filled the audience with their wonderful energy.

Our new Monthly Professionals Social Series has kicked off with a bang! In fact, by the time this issue of *Zarja* is released, we will have had three events! As well as providing us with a way to connect to other Slovenians living and working in New York, these gatherings broaden our networks and allow us to celebrate our Slovenian heritage. For our inaugural event, over 35 guests of SUA and Drustvo v tujini izobrazenih Slovencev - VTIS (Association of Slovenians Educated Abroad) celebrated Slovenian National Cultural Day at Galerie Moulot. Here we were treated to a beautiful and inspirational exhibition of our Branch 93 Member of the Year, Eva Petric's, latest work. We are so excited for this continuing endeavor and look forward to seeing more and more Slovenian community members at our Happy Hours. Remember, if you are a member of another branch, please make sure you let us know if you are passing through New York so we can invite you along!

KATHLEEN SIMMONDS



BRANCH 99 - Lemont, Illinois

Established 1940

Contact Information: Jana Hlade jmhlade@hotmail.com

Hello fellow branch members and hello summer! I am taking a little survey. Anyone interested in attending a culinary class at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont? If yes, contact Bill Zerial or me, and let us know what kind of class interests you. You can be specific (apple strudel) or general (a main dish). Please let us know by July 1 so we can plan a class. Bill: billzer@sbcglobal.net or 312.208.5683; Jana: jmhlade@hotmail.com or 815.439.1905.

In April, the Slovenian Catholic Center hosted the Folklorna Skupina Kres dancers from Cleveland, Ohio. Branch 99 member Gloria Ekerman has a relative, Nathan Dreyer, who is part of the group. Nathan has been dancing with the group for four years. He began after his sister, Carolyn, insisted that the group needed more boys, and he has been hooked ever since. He has made many good friends and has become a part of the Slovenian community. This



summer, he has plans to travel to Slovenia with other members who are graduating from high school this year. Good luck Nathan!

A big congratulation to all members who are graduating this year. Whether you are graduating from middle school, high school, or college, we wish you the best of luck in your future plans.

Watch your e-mail for any announcements, and have a fun and safe Fourth of July! Enjoy your summer!

JANA HLADE

BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Established 1940

Contact Information: Jean Koci

949.495.0097/ajkoci@cox.net

Almost 20 members attended the bread baking class at the home of Teresa Koci on Saturday, March 10. Lina Kerwick shared her special recipe that we have all enjoyed whenever she has brought it to a potluck or meeting. Not shown in the photo were four male members who mostly came for the food and camaraderie. I do have to say that our son, Tim, in Reno received the recipe when Teresa sent it to him via e-mail the next day and decided that he would give it a try. He already makes a very good potica, so I think he is serious. We all had a good time and enjoyed the soup that Teresa had made for lunch along with other dishes that we all brought to share. As usual, we all have a good time getting together, and we thank Lina for demonstrating the method and writing up the recipe and Teresa for hosting this event. We also had time for a meeting.



It was decided that our Spring/Summer gathering would be on June 9th at 11:30 at Centro Bosco Restaurant 13432 Central Ave, Chino. It is a Basque restaurant that serves family style lunches at a reasonable price, \$19.00. The lunch includes soup, salad, bread, Basque omelets, bleu cheese, pork chops, fried potatoes, and wine. This will also be a community project time, and we will fill Ziploc bags for the homeless. Members are asked to bring items to fill the bags such as protein bars, snack packages, toothpaste, toothbrushes, travel size items, water bottles, and socks. RSVP to Teresa 949.363.1513 or cell: 949.246.1983 or e-mail tkoci@cox.net. We hope to have a nice turnout for this meeting, lunch and workshop. Hope to see many of you there!

Those of you who will be traveling on the Slovenia Tour, I hope you have a marvelous time and safe travels. Srečno pot!

JEAN KOCI

BRANCH 102 - Willard, Wisconsin

Established 1941

Contact Information: Candy Johnson
candyjohnson1718@gmail.com

Branch 102's spring meeting was held on a lovely Saturday in March. It wasn't too warm, and it wasn't too cold. It was just right. I wish I could say the same about the weather today as I'm writing this report. It is April 3, and it has been snowing ALL DAY!



Vice President Theresa Zorman ready to sell baked goods at the Palm Sunday bake sale.

A regular part of our spring meeting is a bake sale in the evening before and after church. It amazes me that eight members can fill an eight-foot table with baked goods. We have talented, generous bakers in our group! A big



Junior member, Sandy Brierton, in traditional Slovenian costume with the Slovenian flag.

Summer 2018

THANK YOU goes to vice president Theresa Zorman for working the bake sale. She does this every year, and it is appreciated very much!

One of the recent traditions for our meetings is to have wine. Ruth Zwieg is very good at remembering to bring the wine. She thoughtfully brings both dry wine and sweet wine, so our members can enjoy the type they prefer. This time Ruth forgot a very important item - the corkscrew! Ruth and Sue Pakiz googled "how to open a wine bottle without a corkscrew" and tried several different methods to no avail. Needless to say, we didn't get to drink any of the wine... this time. I'm betting this won't happen again!

The best part of the meeting was junior member, Sandy Brierton, dressed in the traditional Slovenian costume. She wore it for the entire meeting. She looked ADORABLE!

Willard has a pretty robust activity calendar for a small town. Here's the calendar of events for 2018:

Polka Fest, June 15-17, Rummage Sale, June 15-16, Dairy Breakfast hosted at the Yurkovich Farm, June 24, Druzba Potluck, July 29, Holy Family Parish Bazaar and Chicken Dinner, August 29, Settler's Park Picnic, September 8, and Branch 102 Fall Meeting, September 8. Join us for some Slovenian hospitality!

CANDY JOHNSON

BRANCH 103 - Washington, DC

Established 1941

Other SUA branches probably share the Branch 103 problem of having aging members who live at considerable distances from a central meeting location and don't attend branch events. Fortunately, the first Sunday Slovenian language Mass, held at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, provides an opportunity for branch members who do travel to meet and share news.

One branch member no longer able to attend events is Angela Daly, who celebrated her 100th birthday on November 3, 2017. (see photo) With the help of her daughter, Kathy Ireland, she previously was a regular attendee at Masses and branch events.

Angela was born and raised in Ely, Minnesota. She met fellow Minnesotan, Paul Daly, at a dance in Ely while he was working with the Civil Conservation Corps. They



married in 1938 and moved to the Washington, DC area. Paul was drafted into the US Army in 1944 and was in Hawaii awaiting deployment at the time atomic bombs were dropped on Japan. When the war ended, he served in the occupation of Japan.

Angela began employment with the US Census Bureau in 1942 and worked there until retiring in 1973, completing 31 years. Angela was a founding member of the SWUA Branch 103, under the leadership of Irene Odorizzi. Over the years, Angela and family members were active participants in Slovenian activities in the Washington area. She also remained in contact with her Minnesota heritage, making periodic trips to her Ely home.

Angela has two children Kathy and Terry, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

At the March 4 branch meeting, the previous slate of officers was reelected: Mary Lou Terselic, president, Ana Sonc Jevtic, vice-president; Richard Terselic, secretary-treasurer. Ana continues her Slovenian language teaching work, training members of the US diplomatic corps slated for duty tours in Slovenia.

RICHARD TERSELIC

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

Established 2003

Contact Information: Bernadette Fitzsimmons

bettekfitz@verizon.net

Branch 108 members met at the Hunan in Olney, Maryland in February to install new officers, to honor Slovenian Cultural Day, and to discuss traditions of Pust. In honor of the occasion, Bernadette Fitzsimmons shared her homemade krofi, which were enjoyed while discussing the meaning of the traditional Kurent mask, and scaring winter away to soon welcome spring. Tanja emphasized that preparations for Pust carnivals start months ahead, when people in smaller villages start making traditional masks at home. We honored Cultural Day by reading the poem "Zdravljica" by France Prešeren in English and then together sang the Slovenian anthem in Slovenian. It was nice to meet young Mila who attended the meeting with her mom, Angela Krulc. Mila is practicing to become our official branch event photographer in the future.

Branch 108 members are busily preparing for their booth at The Embassy of Slovenia Open House to take place on May 12. It is wonderful for us to live close enough to Washington, DC to be able to participate in this big annual DC event.

Our new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jack Siberski will celebrate Slovenian Mass on Sunday, June 3 at 11:00 a.m. at the Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje, located in the crypt level of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Branch108 members and guests are all invited to come and welcome Fr. Jack to his first Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje and to join the Slovenian community for lunch afterwards. Fr. Jack is currently a pro-

fessor at Boston University and was highly recommended as a successor by Fr. Peter Rozic following his appointment as a Jesuit priest in Ljubljana for approximately 18 months.



Easter blessing of food in the Slovenian Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje in Washington, DC: Thomas, Bernadette, Juliana and Tim Fitzsimmons, and Nika Kovacic.

Understanding Slovenian Sayings by Bernadette:

*Bog nas obvaruj prevelikega bogastva,
prevelike brhkote in revščine.*

May God protect us from excess wealth,
attractiveness and poverty.

Kdor vztraja, uspeh osvaja.

Those who persevere, conquer success.

BERNADETTE FITZSIMMONS



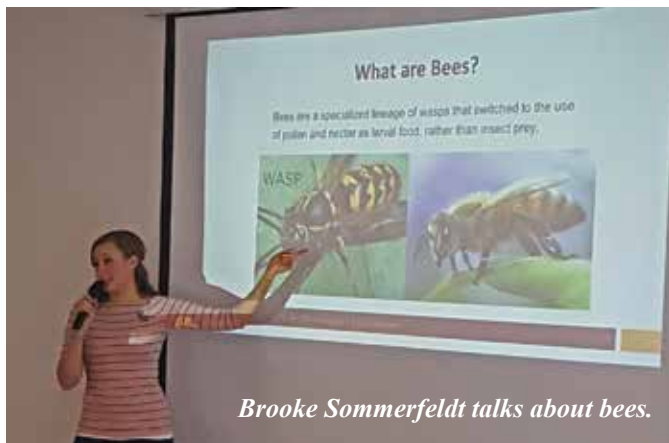
Branch 108 members, Nika Kovacic, auditor; Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons, president; Angela Krulc, treasurer; Tanja Nelson, secretary and Mila.

BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota

Established 2005

Contact Information: Elaine Barthelemy
elaineab@yahoo.com

Our March membership meeting had us all buzzing when Brooke Sommerfeldt of the University of Minnesota Bee Squad presented *Helping People Help Bees*. Brooke discovered her interest in bees while doing research at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and joined the Bee Squad in 2016, at present assisting with research as well as beekeeping.



Brooke Sommerfeldt talks about bees.

Brooke told us that beekeeping was depicted in cave paintings, and honey was found in the pyramids. When Father Francis Jager came to Minnesota from Slovenia in 1888 for a seminary program, he brought forty hives onto Harriett Island and sold honey to build a church. Dejan Židan, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, was instrumental in the United Nation's declaration last December that World Bee Day would be held annually on May 20 to draw the attention of the global public to the importance of preserving bees and other pollinators. Slovenia is the only European Union Member State to have protected its native bee, the Carniolan bee, famed for its docility, hard work, humility, and excellent sense of orientation (qualities found in many Slovenian people as well).

One such hard worker is Josh Cardinal, son of TCS members Mary Jo Verschay and Mike Cardinal. With the goal of working in international development, Josh was excited to have been accepted into a six-week summer business internship in Slovenia. Previously, Josh had a teaching internship in Taipei and has taught at an English Academy in Moscow.

Our May membership meeting featured Bailey Peternell who shared resources to help in planning a trip to Slovenia. I was especially interested, as my sons and I are going there in September with a special visit to Vrhnika where my mother, Stephanie (nee Turk) Polutnik (Branch 40, Lorain, Ohio), was born in 1918.

With a heavy heart, I share the sad news that my sweet mother passed away on January 26 at 98 years of age, three weeks after learning she had cancer. If you attended the SUA Convention in Naperville in 2015 you might re-

Summer 2018



Mary Jo Verschay, Josh Cardinal and Mike Cardinal celebrate Josh's internship.

member her singing "God Bless America" at the opening meeting and singing with button box player Vince Rigler on that Saturday night. She was thrilled and humbled when a photo of the two of them graced the cover of the August/September 2015 *Zarja* and when staff writer David Sodac's beautiful article about her appeared in the November/December 2015 issue.

Always happy and upbeat, Mom was a lifelong member of the SUA, KSKJ, and AMLA. As a proud Slovenian, she would have loved the send-off her family and friends gave her. Ohio button box player Wayne Golob played "Češčena si Marija" at the cemetery chapel as we all sang in English and Slovenian. When Wayne played "Zaplula," one of Mom's favorites to perform, the chapel rang with singing, dancing and a big woohoo at the end. I know Mom was smiling with that twinkle in her eyes.

ELAINE BARTHELEMY



Stephanie Polutnik and Elaine Barthelemy at the 2015 SUA Convention.

John Robert Snidarich - Branch 35, Aurora, Minnesota

As John's mother, Helen, simply states, "Johnny put a lot of living into his fifty-four years." Or, one might say, John "squeezeboxed" a lot in his lifetime. John was born on June 13, 1963 in Eveleth, Minnesota, where he still resides on the family homestead. His grandparents came to Eveleth in 1909-1910, the grandmother arriving a year after his grandfather. The family came from the Bloke Plateau and Cerknica, where his cousins, second and third removed, bearing surnames Intihar, Znidersic, Zupancic, Zakrajsek, Zimperman, Erjavec, and Rot still reside in Storovo, Morovno, and Ulaka.

At an early age, John was fascinated with past generations, who undertook epic journeys to travel to the United States from his grandparent's homeland, displaying resilience despite great physical, emotional, and social barriers. John's hobbies surround his penchant for perpetuating this heritage. He fulfilled his need for human roots by keeping his Slovenian legacy alive in numerous ways. John has made two trips to Slovenia to visit family and was pleased to learn that the two-hundred-year old home of his grandmother was still inhabited by a relative. John's thirty years of genealogy research resulted in his having documented extensive family history on both of his parent's branches going back to the 1600s.

John followed Slovenian customs when he married the daughter of a Slovenian refugee in Holy Family Catholic Church, a Slovenian Catholic Church, in Eveleth, Minnesota. The unveiling and greeting ceremonies as well as the Slovenian reception feast featuring Slovenian "spirits" were all in keeping with true Slovenian tradition.

The Snidarichs hosted an old fashioned picnic, started by John's father, at their family farm for twenty-one years, in an effort to keep traditions alive. Guests dined on homemade ethnic delicacies such as roast pig, lamb on the spit, booyah, Krajnska klobasa, zelje with every variety of potica and Slovenian sweets gracing the tables. Internationally known musicians from all over the country attended and entertained at this annual event held the third Saturday of August.

John's presence in the community is evident in his work in addition to his leisure activities. Mr. Snidarich has, for the past twenty-nine years, been owner and manager of two family type restaurants, one in Virginia, Minnesota and the other in Wyoming, Minnesota.

Music and entertaining are John's passions. He has been a musician and band leader for forty years playing ethnic Slovenian music on the button box accordion. As a member of Resurrection Catholic Church in Eveleth, Minnesota, he is sought out by area churches to accompany the liturgy with the polka Mass as well as his most requested gesture of playing and singing the traditional "Češčena si Marija" at a final farewell. John is active in many organizations which promote preserving the Slovenian heritage. He was a member of the



John Snidarich with Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, Miro Medved.

Range Polka Club from 1980 until the late 1990s, in addition to the American Yugoslav Club #3 in Aurora, Minnesota.

As a member of the Slovenian Union of America, John and his gracious wife opened their home to host the SUA's Advent party as well as its Christmas party. In 2015, he also chaired and emceed a highly successful St. Nicholas Day Honor Event at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert, Minnesota, followed by a reception at his farm, which is still talked about to this day.

From his youth, John assisted at All Slav picnics and performed ethnic Slovene-style music at Hill Annex Days in Calumet, Minnesota. As a member of the Musician's Local for twelve years, John had an opportunity to meet other talents who shared and grew his interest in the music brought to this country from the old. Being a radio announcer for twenty-five years, John hosted popular shows that featured all nationalities of music, thus sustaining this genre and introducing it to the younger generation. John's ethnic music programs were aired six days a week on WHLB in Virginia, Minnesota, WEVE, KRBT in Eveleth, Minnesota, and WNMT in Hibbing, Minnesota.

Producing his own CD, *Johnny Snidarich and the Bohunks*, is just one of John's accomplishments as a recording artist. He has assisted three other groups in recording Slovenian American button accordion music; John Snidarich is a local icon. His face and voice are familiar to almost everyone, and wherever John goes, he carries the "-ich" on his last name with great pride. His personalized license plates, "Kranjec," proclaim to world who he is.



WANT MORE OUT OF LIFE?

At KSKJ Life we've put members and communities first since 1894. We offer quality, reliable life insurance and annuity solutions. And, because we are a not-for-profit organization, we're able to focus our profits on giving back to members and their communities. Take advantage of the great financial and member benefits that KSKJ Life has to offer.



> FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- **LIFE INSURANCE PRODUCTS**

Whole, Term and Final Expense policies available

- **ANNUITIES**

Reliable products with great rates and withdrawal features

> MEMBER BENEFITS

- **PERKSPOT DISCOUNT PROGRAM**

Online discounts on travel, retail, entertainment and more

- **EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM**

One-time \$1,000 educational grant for all members who meet the requirements

- **AMERICAN HEARING BENEFITS**

Discounts on hearing aids plus access to free hearing consultations

- **VOLUNTEER & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

- **SCRIPTSAVE**

Prescription Savings Program

- **SOCIAL AND ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS**

KSKJLIFE.COM | 800.THE.KSKJ

KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. 2018-01-Z

Slovenia

NON-PROFIT
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
LASALLE, IL



Created by Megan Johnson
Branch 102 - Willard, Wisconsin