

# ZARJA - THE DAWN



URADNO GLASILO  
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKÉ ZVEZE V AMERIKI

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

NUMBER 4

JULY-AUGUST 2003

VOLUME 75



***“WE DID IT”***

**THE FUTURE IS NOW**

**Minnesota Region – 94%**

**Wisconsin Region – 93.75%**

**Above and Beyond!**

**Meeting the Goal!**

Branch 16 – S. CHICAGO

Branch 23 – ELY

Branch 24 – LASALLE

Branch 25 – CLEVELAND

Branch 34 – SOUDAN

Branch 43 – MILWAUKEE

Branch 50 – EUCLID

Branch 89 – OGLESBY

Branch 100 – FONTANA

Branch 103 – D.C.

Branch 14 – EUCLID

Branch 26 – PITTSBURGH

Branch 33 – DULUTH

Branch 47 – GARFIELD HTS.

Branch 79 – ENUMCLAW

Branch 99 – LEMONT

Branch 102 – WILLARD

**Meeting last year's mark  
and close to the goal!**

Branch 13 – SAN FRANCISCO

Branch 20 – JOLIET

Branch 93 – NEW YORK CITY



## ON THE COVER:

ON Bonnie Prokup:  
Bon

# THE FUTURE IS NOW!

This campaign is the most successful in recent history. In less than 6 months we brought in as many members as our most successful membership campaign in 2001! I've either led or been involved with the previous campaigns and what set this one apart was the goals each branch had to reach. I actually based it on what they brought in for new members the previous year and then doubled it. In some cases a branch only needed one new member and then in the case of our largest branch, I asked for 76. I know that sounds a little unfair but one has to realize that for many branches that were asked to bring in one new member it was just as hard as the larger branches bringing in 30. We have many branches out there that have not brought in new members for years. And slowly that is starting to change. Just take a look at the branches featured on the front cover of this issue.



A complete report announcing the branch that increased the most and the individual winner will be featured in the next ZARJA issue as this campaign runs until June 30 and this article is being written prior to that.

The Regional Contest was over at the Convention where Minnesota was awarded the framed lace doilie from Slovenia. This team made 94% of their goal. A second place prize had to be given, as Wisconsin came in with 93.75%. Truly outstanding. Third place was Eastern States with 82%, Fourth place was Ohio/Michigan with 54%, and fifth place was Illinois/Indiana with 51% and the Western States in fifth place with 39%.

**Membership Campaigns are important for our future. Without them we will not grow. Our Slovenian Heritage is a unique product and selling it should be easy. Thank you to all the members who made this such a success! You should all be very proud!**

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## ZARJA - THE DAWN

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JULY & AUGUST

### National Officers:

- July 2 - Betty Ann Kolesari, Nat'l. V.P., New Berlin, WI  
July 16 - Bonnie Prokup, Nat'l. Secretary, Peru, IL  
Aug. 26 - Beverly Jackson, Past Nat'l. Aud., San Fran., CA  
Aug. 26 - Ceta Zagar, State Pres. Western States, San Fran., CA

### Presidents:

- July 5 - Ann Cooke, Br. 32, Euclid, OH  
July 5 - Anne Brdek, Br. 54, Warren, OH  
July 6 - Maria Selak, Br. 55, Girard, OH  
July 30 - Rosemary Toth, Br. 50, Cleveland, OH  
Aug. 4 - Betty Matjasic, Br. 101, Bedford, OH  
Aug. 9 - Catherine Sandrick, Br. 38, Chisholm, MN  
Aug. 22 - Mollie McIntyre, Br. 22, Bradley, IL

### Secretaries:

- July 7 - Mary Maxin, Br. 50, Euclid, OH  
July 10 - Rosemary Donald, Br. 33, Duluth, MN  
July 21 - Rose Marie Stebick, Br. 101, Bedford, OH  
Aug. 7 - Eileen Kaplan, Br. 3, Pueblo, CO  
Aug. 7 - Moreen Spencer, Br. 13, San Fran., CA  
Aug. 10 - Peggyann Moore, Br. 25, Cleveland, OH  
Aug. 16 - Frances Ulle, Br. 68, Fairport Hbr., OH  
Aug. 20 - Charlotte Perdan, Br. 32, Euclid, OH

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

Internet webpage: [www.swua.org](http://www.swua.org)

e-mail: [swuhome@msn.com](mailto:swuhome@msn.com)

On line newsletter: [lzalokar@yahoo.com](mailto:lzalokar@yahoo.com)

# NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Slovenian Women's Union of America

Elected by the 24th National Convention, June 14, 2003, Duluth, Minnesota

- President** ..... Kathleen Dorchak-Hall
- Vice President** ..... Betty Ann Kolesari
- Secretary** ..... Bonnie Pohar Prokup
- Treasurer** ..... Jonita Ruth
- First Auditor** ..... Beverly Menart
- Second Auditor** ..... Denise Bartlett
- Third Auditor** ..... M. Marjorie Church

**CONGRATULATIONS AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR SUCCESS!**



Bonnie, Betty Ann, Kathleen, Jonita, Beverly, Marge and Denise

## Change... It's a New Beginning

At our National Convention held in Duluth in June our delegates did an awesome job. I truly want to thank all of the delegates for not only their diligence to protect their branch members, but also their attention to detail, their support of each speaker, and for being visionaries as we look to the future. They voiced their suggestions and concerns to secure the changes needed to ensure our success. The voting body accepted this challenge and made some tough decisions regarding the bylaws and the selection of the National Board. I believe their historical decisions were made in the best interests of the members of the Slovenska Zenska Zveza.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
Kathleen Dorchak**

Your new Board of Directors is enthusiastic and committed to implement new programs and change existing methods, in the hopes of gaining new members and retain existing members. Your new National Board will be meeting in July to discuss how we can create and implement new programs, activities, and events for all of our members as we continue to strive for our vision, mission and purpose. Each and every one of you must continue to encourage membership of individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds mixed with our Slovenian ancestry. You bring to us your many talents and are important and vital to the future of our organization.



One of the most important jobs for the new National Board is to assign individuals to our appointed positions. Once again, I encourage members to come forward and volunteer. All positions are open, however we do have some of the individuals that have expressed interest in which position they would like. The positions that still need to be filled by qualified candidates are Cultural and Heritage Director, Director of Membership, and ZARJA Editor. Currently, Mary Lou Voelk is acting as Cultural and Heritage Director in her role as Special Projects Director. We would like to see a qualified person in this position working hand and hand with Mary Lou. Our ZARJA Editor, Corinne Leskovar is in no hurry to leave her position, and we are not in any rush to replace her. However, we need to seriously realize that she has been our editor for almost 51 years and it is time that someone else uses their talents and editorial skills for our beloved ZARJA. The Director of Membership is a new position. This person would be responsible for the annual membership campaigns and implement ways to increase our membership.

I encourage anyone interested in any of the appointed positions to send me their names. Holding a board position is both challenging and rewarding as we work together for our beloved association.



I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of the hosts and speakers at our recent National Convention. Convention Coordinator Bev Menart, her daughter and grandson, Lisa and Tony McDonell, and Rosemary Donald along with their Branch 33 members did an awesome job coordinating the convention activities in Duluth. Anita Vovk worked with Lisa to ensure the little campers of Camp Heritage had their crafts and projects. Jean Korsman and members of Branch 39 planned a wonderful and delicious luncheon after the entertaining mass with Father Perkovich. Special thanks to

## Convention Communications

At the convention the delegates requested information on the salaries of the National Officers. The salaries for the officers were established by the 1995-1999 Board consisting of: Jean Korsman, President; Kathleen Dorchak-Hall, Vice President; Evelyn Majercik, Secretary; Beverly Menart, Treasurer, and Auditors Pat Figurowski, Cirila Kermavner and Marge Church.

President	\$120.00/month
Secretary	\$700.00/month (plus expenses)
Office Manager	\$420.00/month
Helper to the Secretary	\$200.00/month
ZARJA Editor	\$700.00/month (plus expenses not to exceed \$122.00/month)

The Vice President, Treasurer and Auditors along with all appointed positions receive \$50.00 annually. However, the position of On-Line Newsletter Editor receives \$49.00/month.

\* \* \*

The new Board of Directors will hold a post-convention meeting July 18-19, 2003 at the Home Office in Joliet, IL. The newly adopted changes in the Bylaws will be printed in the forthcoming issue of ZARJA and printed copies of the official SWUA Bylaws will be sent to all branches by October 1, 2003.

both Father Frank Perkovich for an uplifting Mass and Father John Petrich for a delightful keynote address. Any one that had an opportunity to visit the Julian H. Sleeper House, I am sure will agree that Dr. Seth Hawkins has an extraordinary Slovenian exhibition. All of our convention speakers: Bonnie and Bill Prokup, Corinne Leskovar, Mary Lou Voelk, Mary Turvey, Linda Ford, and Mirjam Hladnik prepared and delivered excellent informative speeches. The Singing Slovenes were extremely entertaining at the banquet. If I overlooked anyone, I am truly sorry. Thank you all for contributing to the success of our 24th National Convention!

*Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever....  
.... you can!*

John Wesley  
Evangelist and Theologian

**Kathleen**

# National Secretary, Bonnie Pohar Prokup:

## “Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll be run over if you stand still”

Dober Dan!

Bev Menart and her team should be very proud of the excellent convention they put on in Duluth. My family had a great time – which includes my two daughters who spent two days at Camp Heritage. In the next few issues you will be able to read more about it and the important decisions that were made. Please be on the look-out for it.

*The Membership Campaign – The Future is Now!* Is coming to a close. Please take a look at the branches that have reached their goals. They are listed on the front cover of this issue.

*Dues – Dues – Dues!* I am still waiting for dues from some people. A second invoice will go out in the near future. If you know that you did not pay – please don’t wait for the second invoice. Please send it in ASAP. This will save money on printing, envelopes, paper, ink and postage. Each mailing costs approx. 50 cents. And keep in mind the ZARJA issue alone costs \$15.50 a year per member. So you can see it increases our expenses further every time we need to print and send a new invoice.

*Membership ...* At the Convention I talked about membership. I would like to share some highlights with each of you. I am proud to announce that the past four years was the first time since 1957 that we did not have a decrease in membership – why? Because it took all of us to keep building on our organization. The endless Membership Campaigns were a success. In the past four years we brought in over **800 new members**. This is more than double what previous

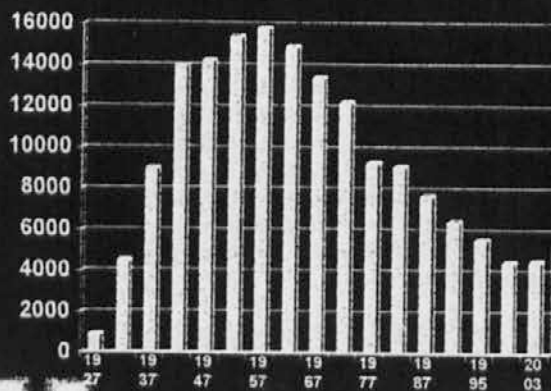
boards brought in. And already in the first 6 months of 2003 – we brought in more members than our most successful membership campaign in 2001! I am thrilled! The membership is increasing because we are succeeding. Our branches are recognizing the need for change. Change is important. Read the heading of this column by Mark Twain; think how true this is. Our membership is made up of our past, present and future. We need to consider all three areas and then go with it. Please don’t be afraid of change. Change has to happen. Those branches that are succeeding are changing, and it’s easy to see who you are. Your membership is increasing because you are capturing the audience, your articles in ZARJA are filled with exciting meeting descriptions and you are following the vision/mission/purpose of our organization. That is all you have to do. That is how you will get the members to come to your meeting. Fill it with heritage.

An example is my Branch #24 of LaSalle, IL. Recently our meetings have taken a new direction. We are providing our members with heritage. At one of the last meetings Loretta Story and I did a talk on traveling to Slovenia. We had a display, pictures and some great stories. The meeting went in overtime. People were interested and did not want to leave. And now tomorrow night we have our annual Slovenian Picnic at my parent’s home. Everyone has to bring a Slovenian covered dish to pass. We will have Slovenian music, Slovenian wine, a Slovenian game and good fun. In the past we were lucky to have 15 attendees. This year it will be over 40! Now that is success! Starting in the fall we have a line up of exciting events for our meetings. One of the highlights will include an apple strudel demonstration by my aunt Helen Swietek. I am sure it will be a full house.

If you are unsure how to start, make it easy. Read the other branch reports and you too will be able to see what is working. If you have any doubts go back to our vision/mission/purpose statement and if it relates to that – go for it!

**Bonnie Pohar Prokup**  
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Peru, IL 61354  
Wprokup@aol.com

## The overall picture today?





# SWUA CAMP HERITAGE

The kids had fun and we were delighted to see them scampering in and out of the hotel rooms and their activity rooms during our just-concluded National Convention.

Participants in the first National Heritage Camp of the SWUA!

They were busy during the three day meeting because Lisa McDonnell, a member of the Duluth Convention Committee, followed a plan to teach them some handicrafts and songs from Slovenia. Anita Vovk of Aurora supplied the material for them to follow.

They were all ready to perform on Saturday night and sang three Slovenian folksongs. Leader of the singing was Anthony McDonnell, Bev Menart's grandson, and the audience was amazed that in the short time they were together, these six children learned to sing in a new language, SLOVENIAN! Well, they proved they could do it! Needless to say, for many of us in the audience, they were the hit of the evening!

All in all, this was our first attempt at a national junior activity and for these juniors it was a real adventure!



On photos taken by the candid camera of Linda Ford (and available to view on our website: [WWW.SWUA.ORG](http://WWW.SWUA.ORG)) we see their darling faces:

*Top left:* Trevor Nord of Br. 43, Cudahy, WI; *top right:* (front), Sky Hall, (president Kathy Dorchak-Hall's granddaughter) of Br. 47, Garfield Hts., OH, Barbie and Bekki Prokup, (Bonnie's daughters) of Br. 24, LaSalle, IL; (*back row*), Andrew and Anthony McDonnell of Br. 33, and Trevor Nord. *Bottom right:* Anthony, Bekki, Sky and Trevor during the performance.

This was the first but certainly not the last! Another Heritage Camp is already being planned for the next National Convention!



Lisa McDonnell with her son, Andrew are seen studying the words to one of the Slovenian folksongs. Everyone of the children really concentrated on doing their program well!

## MEMBER OF THE YEAR

No. 40, Lorain, Ohio

### *Rose Jancar*



Rose Jancar

When Rose married Rudy Jancar in 1977, Rudy's mother, who was then our president, enrolled her in SWU and ever since that time, she has been a good and loyal member. Rose's grandfather was Slovenian and the rest of her ancestry is Croatian. Her mother-in-law was Agnes Jancar, our president. Rose has a son, Michael Mann in Sacramento, Cal., a daughter Carol Nickoloff of Lorain and a stepdaughter, Marie Held of Parkersburg, W.VA. One of her six grandchildren is Tom Nickoloff who with his wife are members of the Peace Corps serving in Zambia, Africa. One of her brothers, Matthew Yuricich won an Academy Award Oscar for his artistry in the movie "Logan's Run."

Rudy died in 1992. Rose likes to travel and keep in touch with her family and her many friends. She enjoyed gardening and baking, but she admits that she has slowed down on those activities. She does enjoy the movies and an occasional one-day trip to the casinos in Michigan.

We congratulate Rose and wish her continued happiness in her busy life. She was one guest of honor at the luncheon at "Alize at Alberta" in Vermillion.

*Submitted by Stephanie Polutnik*

## The New Neighborhood Online Comments

*by Lynn Zalokar*

If you are on the internet and have an e-mail address please sign up for the SWUA online newsletter "The New Neighborhood." The newsletter is our new Slovenian neighborhood and is delivered monthly to your "in box." This is a forum to post information, ask questions or help out with anything related to our Slovenian heritage and culture. It's becoming the way to link up with fellow members (over 500 subscribe). This is the place to announce a meeting, event or that a branch has reorganized!

Is there a restaurant, bakery, event you'd like others to know about? Are you seeking out any of these places? Are you new in town or in the workforce, and interested in meeting a fellow member for coffee or dinner (and know that you already have something in common)? Are you planning a trip to Slovenia and looking for tips? Check out past issues of the newsletter or the [www.swua.org](http://www.swua.org) website. To subscribe, just send an e-mail to [lzalokar@yahoo.com](mailto:lzalokar@yahoo.com) (if you are not on e-mail - ask a child, grandchild or friend to print a copy off the website to see what the newsletter is like!)

Branches - please send messages (brief, space is limited) about your upcoming meeting or event. Please be specific on the who, what, where, date and time. We have many new members since the two back-to-back membership campaigns. The way to retain new and old members is to let them know that you meet regularly and to get them involved! Many of our members travel for business and leisure, they may choose to attend your meeting or event too!

### SWUA Members say:

A branch reports "...and your latest newsletter. It made quite a stir as none of them had seen it before. I will continue to print out the letter and as they read it at our meetings we can pick out items for comment and discussion."

"Issues are great! I've been meaning to tell you that for a long time. I have no contact with other members (no chapter in my area) except via e-mail."

"I really enjoy the on-line newsletter and look forward to receiving it. It makes the world seem small and brings all of us Slovenians and those of Slovenian descent closer together."

"I enjoy the newsletter very much. It helps me connect to my past and to my grandma. Keep up the wonderful work."

"Boy, I learned a lot reading this issue. Great web addresses, too. Thanks, Great job."

"The Slovenian Newsletter is great - we look forward to your monthly publications. Keep up the good work, we read it all!!"

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## *Slovenian Women's Union Scholarships Awarded to 2003's Finest Students!*

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**ALLISON GRUDEN** – Branch 42, daughter of John and Katherine Gruden, Chesterland, Ohio is the recipient of the SWU Heritage Award.

Allison finds instrument and choral music a great method of expression and has done so in the marching and concert band at her school, along with membership in her school's chorale. She will be traveling to Europe this summer as a member of the CVC Honors Choir of West Geauga. She visits the elderly, moves boxes at United Way and collects food for the needy. Allison has given much time to religious education, prayer groups and retreats. She states "I have a deep devotion to my faith and wish to share this with others through teaching." Allison will be attending Ursuline College majoring in Religious Studies.

**NICHOLAS KUJAR** – Branch 25, son of Stane and Marge Kujar, Wickliffe, Ohio has been awarded the Josef Princ Scholarship.

Nicholas has received First Honors for seven consecutive semesters and has been a member of the National Honor Society for the past two years at St. Ignatius High School. His love of music resulted in first and second chair positions in the Percussion Jazz Big Band and Beaumont Pit Orchestra. Also, he has participated in the school's marching band and the Youth for Christ Band. Nicholas has attended several Kairos religious retreats as one of it's leaders, volunteered in the Positive Education Program during his Sophomore Year and volunteered at a Baraga Days Festival, along with being an altar server. His employment has consisted of doing landscaping and maintenance at St. Vitus Parish during the past three years. Nicholas will be attending John Carroll University, where he will major in Religion and Economics.

**JENNY LOCKARD** – Branch 42, daughter of Fred and Karen Lockard, Hudson, Ohio has received the Frances Barman Scholarship.

Jenny has participated in a variety of activities, including her present work as an employee of the Hudson Library and Historical Society where she assists patrons, shelves books, and in addition is a gardening assistant at the historic home of John Brown. She has been a secretarial assistant at the Hudson City School's Administrative Office. Jenny has been a volunteer counselor at St. Mary's Church Camp, the Appalachia Service Project, part of a work group of 5 teens and 2 adults leaders who went into Buchanan County to tear down crumbling porches, and built an addition onto a trailer home. She organized a summer day camp and planned activities for neighborhood kids aged 2-8, played freshmen soccer, and currently plays the clarinet and guitar. Jenny plans to attend Kent State College and will major in English.

**KRISTA LUNDGREN** – Branch 100, daughter of John and Janet Lundren, Laguna Hills, California.

Krista has participated in the Honors Program in both junior high and high school and currently holds a grade point of 4.40. She has been involved in Slovenian activities including youth folk singing, and helping with various ethnic celebrations. Krista's community services include work in the church, Slovene National Benefit Society and the Irvine Animal Care Center. She has been a group helper and leader of the Vacation Bible School in Laguna Hills and has worked three years on the Hands Day Community Service Project which includes preschool volunteer work, park and beach cleanups. She has volunteered for the past two years with adoptable rabbits and put in over 120 hours at the animal care center. Krista states "I am considering becoming a high school English teacher or a speech therapist of children. I enjoy being around children and I would love to be of help to them." Krista will be studying English in the fall at a University of California.



Allison



Nicholas



Jenny



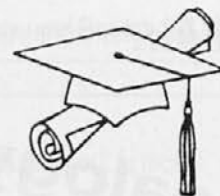
**MONICA SELAK** – Branch 55, daughter of August and Maria Selak, Girard, Ohio was the recipient of the Rose Marie Princ Scholarship.

Monica has been immersed in Slovene culture, due to the encouragement of her parents and grandparents. She speaks, reads, and writes in the Slovenian language. She has served on the Executive Board of the Student Council at Ursuline High School, been President of the French Club, and has been an Eucharistic minister, editor of the school paper, a peer mentor, a peer tutor, president of the science club, a hospital volunteer, varsity cheerleader, the Branch 55 ZARJA reporter, captain of the Model UN team, and dances ballet. Monica also works with disadvantaged children, volunteers at a retirement home, and a facility for the learning disabled population of Mahoning County. She was inducted into the National Honor Society and earned an Excellence in Government Award. Monica will pursue Biology as a freshmen at Georgetown University in September.

Honorable Merit Awards were given to **ASHLEY COLLINS**, Branch 24, daughter of Glen and Susan Collins, Manassas, Virginia and **KRYSTAL MLADIC**, Branch 2, daughter of William and Janet Mladic, Plainfield, Illinois.



**ATTENTION GRADUATE and UNDER-GRADUATE STUDENTS!** The Society of Slovene Studies is announcing two essay awards. Deadline is September 15, 2003. Three copies of the paper, no longer than thirty-five double spaced pages in length should be sent to: Professor Timothy Pogacar, Editor, Slovene Studies, Department of GREAL, Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio 44303. For further information consult the Society for Slovene Studies <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/Ijubljana/sss.html> or contact Professor Pogacar.



## Help Keep the Dream Alive

### SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS April and May 2003

**\$10.00 donations:** Anna L. Hodnik (†Mary Micheletti), Victoria Bobence (†Ann Tushar), William Slogar (†Martin Bizal), William Slogar (†Ruth Erzar), William Slogar (†Matthew Stukel), William Slogar (†Joseph J. Grahek), William Slogar (Angela Musich), William Slogar (†Louis Brgant), Mary A. Gradisek, Scholarship Fund gift, Agnes Zabak (†Mary Zabak), Agnes Zabak (†Rose Lausche)

**\$25.00 donation:** Branch 55 (†Mary Kristin)

**\$35.00 donation:** Lisa V. Lucas (former scholarship recipient) – Scholarship Fund gift

**50.00 gifts:** Sophie Zagorc family (†Sophie Zagorc), Benjamin Kadis (†Olga Samsa), Victoria Bobenc (†Martina Bizal)

All donations appreciated!

*Mary H. Turvey,  
52 Oakridge Drive,  
Marquette, MI 49855  
MTurvey@aol.com*



Krista



Monica

---

#### THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE 1999–2003

Margaret Francel  
Terese Koci  
Lisa Lucas  
Gail Milton  
Mary Prislant  
Mildred Pucel

Special acknowledgement to Marge Church and Rose Marie Princ.

These members are to be commended for many hours of work these past four years.

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## Genealogy Search

When trying to find information on your family or native town in Slovenia you may want to try some of the following suggestions:

On the computer go to the *google.com* search engine and type in the name of your ancestor's town. A website of that location may give names of businesses, city offices, etc. where you can write for further information and perhaps ask about your family.

Slovenian Genealogy <http://www.w.arnes.si/rzj.topl/rod-an.htm> offers a large number of resources, cemetery records, guides to parish archives, old families and family trees along with surname research listings. Some of these resources are in Slovenian but there are email addresses of people who are able to help in a specific region or with a specific surname. Most Slovenians are bilingual so an email in English may work.

Heraldry in Slovenia – <http://genealogy.jip.si> also offers names of persons and their email addresses doing research of specific names and locations. There is a question and answer service on this site.

*For those of you with old postcards* – you may have valuable information in your possession. In the late 1800's and early 1900's they were used as email is used today, to keep in contact with brief messages. The dates and locations will tell you much about your loved one. Some may feature pictures of your home in Slovenia, helping to identify the terrain in earlier times, and where your family was located.

To date your old postcards:

1. Pioneer Era 1893–1898.

The first postcards were introduced at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The back was undivided, and a Grant or Jefferson head stamp was attached, along with the title of "Souvenir Card" or "Mail Card." Most had multiple views.

2. Private Mailing Card Era, 1898–1901

Private printers were given permission to print and sell postcards. "Private Mailing Card" was written on the back.

3. Undivided Back Era. 1901–1907

Postcards of this era still had undivided backs and only the back had the address. The front of the card was used for messages. "Post Card" appeared on these.

4. Divided back era 1907–1915

A sender could now write both the message and address on the back side of the card.

5. White border Era 1915–1930

These cards were of poorer quality and were often reprints of the divided back cards.

6. Linen Era 1930–1945

Cheap paper, usually American roadside pictures were used.

7. Photocolor Era, 1939–present

### Dear Tončka:

My ancestors immigrated to the United States in the late 1800's. Is there any way I can find their birth, marriage and death records, and those of possible family members? Thank you,

Jera

Dear Jera:

All old records are held in three regionally located archives throughout Slovenia. More recent records (since the later 1800's) are still held at the City Hall within a community or at its church. As in the United States, churches are understaffed so requests may take some time, but if you write to the City Hall of the community in which your ancestor lived you may have good results. It's best to write the letter in Slovenian and do not include money. A bill will be sent to you if the record or records are found. Here is one format that has been used in the past:

#### (To a Civil Registrar)

Dear Sir:

To complete my family history, I need official data on the family of \_\_\_\_\_,

born \_\_\_\_\_ (date) in \_\_\_\_\_ (town)

I am requesting that you send me birth, marriage, and death extracts from your registers for my relatives.

I would be grateful if you could also send me copies of his/her parents' records, who lived in the same district.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

*Translation in Slovenian:*

Državni matični urad

(city name)

Slovenija

Spoštovani:

Za izpolnitev svoje rodovinske zgodovine, potrebujem uradne družinske podatke o \_\_\_\_\_,

rojena(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (day, month, year of birth)

v \_\_\_\_\_ (town)

Obračam se na Vas s prošnjo, da mi pošljete rojstne, poročne, smrtne izpiske iz matične knjige za tega sorodnika.

Zelo bom hvaležen, če bi bilo mogoče poslati tudi izpiski o njegovih starših živečih v istem okraju.

Za vso pomoč se vam že naprej iskreno zahvaljujem. Vaš vdani,

Good luck with your research!

Tončka

For questions and surname listings please write to:  
Tončka, 904 Margaret Street, Iron Mountain, Michigan  
49801.

Bernadette Kovačič Fitzsimmons:

## SLOVENIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL



### The Inspiration to Act

One of my favorite Bible verses is, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." (Matthew vii 7.) By putting our faith into action, with persistence, a positive attitude, goal setting and hard work much can be accomplished which was previously thought to be impossible.

### How it began

The idea for a Slovenian Heritage Festival in the Washington, D.C. area was developed from an accumulation of personal observations and conversations with friends and members of the Slovenian community who expressed the need for a Slovenian cultural event. As a charter member of Branch 103, and one who grew up being involved in Slovenian activities. I strongly believed our Branch was capable of producing an event where our members and friends could be invited to share their knowledge, talents and interests to produce an informative, educational function with an emphasis on learning about Slovenia, its culture, music, poetry, and its people. Support from individuals and organizations willing to help make the event a reality went far above and beyond my initial expectations. Many dedicated individuals committed to their Slovenian heritage joined together in brainstorming and planning this first Slovenian Heritage Festival in the Washington, D.C. area, held on April 26, 2003. Many thanks to our members Jill Augustine, Sabina Bartol, and Tončka Cigale who although unable to attend generously contributed to the event.

### 20 Exhibits

After much planning, nearly 20 Slovenian information exhibits were finally presented at the Festival, including Slovenian Folk Masterpieces and Handicrafts, information about Travel to Slovenia, Bobbin Lace-Making of Idrija, Genealogy, Leading Slovenian Magazines and Newspapers, the Slovenian Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje, the SWUA Heritage Museum and Library, and Children's Crafts and Slovenian Cartoons/Movies. In addition, the Society for Slovene Studies, Studia Slovenica and Kollander World Travel were invited to provide information to be exhibited.

### Honored Guests

The Embassy of Slovenia played an integral part in providing tourist information and contributions of Slovenian heritage materials. We were honored to welcome His Excellency, Ambassador Dr. Davorin Kračun, and representatives, Mr. Miklavž Borštnik, Mr. Mirko Ciglar and their families. In his welcoming words Dr. Kračun expressed how pleased he was to see so much interest. He proudly stood before us all and emphasized the importance of having a Slovenian event such as our Festival that created an opportunity for sharing the splendor and beauty of Slovenia, its culture, poetry and music with our many guests and friends.

### Many Thanks

I would especially like to thank my Branch for partially sponsoring this first such event, and the members of the National Board who supported and approved that it be sponsored in conjunction with the SWU Heritage Museum and Library. Thanks to the members of Branch 103 with a strong sense of Slovenian heritage, particularly to Vice President, Ana Sonc Jevtič who shared my vision and assisted in initially discussing this event in a positive light with all our members Ana gladly accepted a request to do an exhibit on "Resources for Learning the Slovenian Language." Ivanka Velikonja Antolin graciously accepted the responsibility of coordinating the poetry part of the program and suggested it be dedicated to France Prešeren, the greatest Slovenian poet. Treasurer, Molly Thomas kindly shared some memorabilia from her home for the handicrafts exhibit, including a doll dressed in Slovenian costume. Thanks to May Kokal for making all the carnation designs.



Bernadette at entrance of "Slovenian Folklore and Handicrafts" exhibit. Photo. Stane Sustersic



Slovenian Musical Entertainment. Photo, Bernadette Fitzsimmons

Erika and sister, Lisa Kokal, and daughter, Ayla, proudly wore their Slovenian national costumes!

Poetry Program led by Ivanka Antolin. Photo, Nika Kovacic

Thank you to talented Branch 103 artists Marie Chachich Robinson and Estelle Zorman for attractively displaying their lovely artwork. In her remarks, Estelle gave a brief memoir as a contest winner of the Arts Colony at Most na Soči in Slovenia, which our guests found quite interesting. We missed artist, Mary Planton Bodling who was unable to attend due to illness.

### Music All Around

Guests were welcomed by button box and piano accordion music as they entered the doors to the Festival; it was delightful to have Bronco Toter, a Slovenian gentleman from Johnstown, PA join us in full Slovenian costume as he played traditional Slovenian folk songs on his button box accordion. Chris Bohince, President of Lodge 257, KSKJ also entertained us with his accordion music and enjoyed meeting so many guests and friends from the Eastern region. Representatives from neighboring Steelton KSKJ lodges joined in the festivities and had an informative exhibit, providing literature on a variety of benefits and annuities available. At the end they also raffled off some practical items to the guests who visited their exhibit.

### Featuring Many Talents

It was wonderful to see so many of our new and inactive members who joined us from all over the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and participated in helping make the event a success. I'd especially like to thank our member Maria Pillon Mackay for offering to do a bobbin lace-making exhibit. She displayed an heirloom collection of lace from Idrija and researched the topic so she was able to answer questions at her exhibit. Ann Korosec Couwenhoven and I brainstormed together the Lake Bled display, attended by her daughter, junior member, Annie who demonstrated origami swan making. Ann is a talented baker and volunteered to make her award-winning Potica for the bake sale; we congratulate her, on a recent award, second place, for her potica at the Maryland State Fair.

Margaret McFarland offered to help with the Genealogy exhibit. Joan Stmisa Simmons was truly supportive from the beginning of the planning and assisted

in the logistics of the event, coordinating the raffle with Valerie Bohince. The raffle prizes included heritage items from the Slovenian Heritage Museum and the grand prize was a collection of Slovenian gifts donated by the Embassy of Slovenia. Many thanks to Erika Kokal Roda and her sister Lisa Kokal for their enthusiastic spirit. Erika loves red carnations and supplied an abundance of the pretty national Slovenian flower for our guests which she individually tied with a tag and ribbons proclaiming Slovenia's independence in 1991. Lisa, one of our nine new members this past spring, decorated the hall with red, white and blue balloons to give it a festive look. Thanks to three generations of Kokal ladies who shared their creativity and talent with us the day of the Festival, and to all our members and friends.

Our regular and most dedicated members worked hard to help make the day a success. I'd especially like to thank my mother, Nika Kovačič who helped in every way possible and managed the Heritage Gift Sale. Items for sale included "More Pots & Pans" cookbooks, t-shirts, musical tapes, wooden ornaments, greeting cards and other items from the Slovenian Heritage Museum. Mara Chokel and Angela Daly exemplified a dedicated and hardworking spirit all day long at the Heritage Bake Sale. A big thanks to all the ladies who contributed desserts for the bake sale.

We are grateful to Tereza Bevec and her daughter, Kristina who kept our Junior members entertained throughout the day: Annie Couwenhoven, Christine Echols, Matthew, Thomas and Juliana Fitzsimmons, and Veronika Stare. A big thanks to my hard-working husband, Tim, for table and chair set up, clean-up and technicalities with Damjan and Matija Jevtic and the Couwenhoven family. Thanks to my son, Matthew who happily sold drinks and counted the dollars earned.

It was also really heartwarming to see Irene Odorizzi, founder and charter member of Branch 103 and the Slovenian Heritage Museum in Joliet, and her husband, Ken. Irene wrote just after the Festival, "Along with many others, I encourage you, as an inspiration for the next generation, to keep innovative with new ideas for the Slovenian-American community in this area." We missed charter member, Tillie Ausich who shared her typewritten family history book for display. It was a pleasure to see our other dedicated members, Ana Menapace and Iča Zebot present at the event.

Ana Sonc, Erika Kokal and Bernadette Fitzsimmons. Erika honored and thanked Ana and Bernadette with a bouquet of red carnations. Photo, Tim Fitzsimmons

Maria Mackay at her exhibit "Lace-making in Idrija". Photo, Irene Odorizzi



(More photos on page 31)

## Slovenian Classics Performed

The Festival concluded with a Poetry and Music program. A big thanks goes out to all our members and friends who read poetry in Slovenian and English. One of the poems read was Prešeren's "Zdravljica" (A Toast). The new children's choir, "We are Slovenian, Let's Sing Together" is comprised of Slovenian-American families, including the Fitzsimmons, Roda and Oven families. They performed a selection of well-known Slovenian folk songs, including "Jaz pa ti, pa židana marela (You and I and a Silk Umbrella). Three generations of women from the Bevec/Millonig family sang beautiful pieces in Slovenian. Some were arranged and accompanied on the guitar by Lidija Millonig. Mr. Ciglar's daughter, Pia performed a lovely repertoire of Slovenian folk songs on the flute. Bronco Toter, button box player and his lovely wife, Karen, a bass guitar player, bid us all farewell with a lively repertoire of well-known Slovenian songs.

The spirit of the crowd picked up with the beat of the music, groups of children and adults danced until the music faded; smiling, wishing this day hadn't come to an end. There was much to be happy and enlightened about, as the Slovenian Heritage Festival had surpassed everyone's expectations. This day could not have been done without all our members and friends who volunteered their time, talent and resources. Each and every one of you, thanks for a terrific job!

\* \* \* \* \*

It is my hope for the future that other SWUA Branches use the framework from this Slovenian Heritage Festival to initiate and create one of their own. Each Branch has many members with unique hidden talents and interests that can be shared at a Slovenian cultural event. As Branch 103 experienced, this type of event has potential to boost membership and can serve as a fundraiser for the Slovenian Heritage Museum and Library. Member Tillie Ausich wrote, "We hope other SWUA Branches might consider doing something similar in their area in order to inspire all citizens to be interested in Slovenia, to learn of their culture and language. In addition, we may become aware of the many outstanding individuals of Slovenian heritage who are here among us."

## New Members

Nine new members joined in the months of April-June, all of whom were contacted and invited to the Slovenian Heritage Festival with an invitation to join our Branch 103. A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of Slovenian descent: Florence Povodnik Engelhardt, Wheaton, MD; Candice Kovačič-Fleischer, McLean, VA; Jennie Kaluza Federko, Jamestown, NY; Lisa Kokal, Olney, MD; Eveline Kaluza Lawrence, Clarksburg, MD; Sylvia Oravetz, Vienna, VA; Andrea Plautz, Washington, D.C.; Anne Stratton, Greenbelt, MD and Veronika Tobias, Silver Spring, MD. Bonnie Prokup, National Secretary wrote, "All these new members prove the event was a success."

\* \* \* \* \*

In recent months I've had the opportunity to correspond with Mary Lou Voelk and am convinced that this is the person with drive and potential to help make the Heritage Museum and Library a central area for Slovenian genealogical research in the future. Her personal commitment and vision for expanding and improving it inspired me to propose that a portion of the profit from the Festival be donated for that cause. The proposal was accepted and Washington, D.C. Branch 103 presented a donation at the National Convention enabling Mary Lou, the new Director of the Slovenian Heritage Museum and Library to buy computer library software that will assist in efficiently organizing cataloging the many books and periodicals.



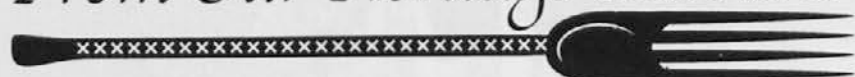
Thanks to Bernadette for her concept for this event, for carrying it out to success, and for using her many talents to achieve a wonderful and uplifting experience for all who participated and attended.

Bernadette hopes that other Branches will undertake similar Slovenian Heritage Festivals in their localities and she has offered to help in any way she can to facilitate this.

We are all very grateful and proud to have members like Bernadette and all the participants of Br. 103, Washington, D.C.

Editor

Veda Ponikvar:  
**From Our Heritage Kitchens**



**TRADITIONAL RECIPE:**

It's a great way to enhance your kitchen! A copy of MORE POTS & PANS from the great cooks and bakers of Slovenian Women's Union is sure to help you serve delicious foods to your families!

A recipe for Spoon Dumplings (Žličniki) caught our eye this month. (Page 111 in the cookbook.) This is a great side dish.

As a gift to someone with whom you want to share good cooking, this super cookbook with designs and information about your Slovenian heritage is sure to please. Send for your copies (\$15 per copy postpaid - special sale price) to Slovenian Women's Union, 431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432. *See p. 28*

**SPOON DUMPLINGS (Žličniki)**

- |   |                             |     |                               |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 3 | quarts boiling salted water | 4   | eggs                          |
| 4 | cups flour                  | 1/2 | stick butter, melted          |
| 1 | cup milk                    | 1   | cup bread crumbs              |
|   | Pinch of salt               | 1/2 | stick Morning Blend or butter |

Mix flour and milk into a smooth batter. Add salt, egg, 1/2 stick melted butter. Beat until smooth. Dip spoon into boiling water then take a tablespoonful of the batter and drop into the water (batter slides easier if spoon is moist). Cook 7 minutes in the boiling water. Brown bread crumbs in the remaining butter. With slotted spoon place ŽLIČNIKI on a plate. Top with buttered crumbs.

*Cirila Kermavner, Cleveland, OH*

**Chive Popovers**  
 (Makes 10 popovers)

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 2 large fresh eggs
- 2 tablespoons fresh chives, minced

Oil 10 muffin cups and place in pre-heated oven while preparing batter. In a small bowl, combine flour and salt. In blender or processor, combine milk, eggs and chives. Blend well. Add dry ingredients and blend for 3 minutes.

Remove muffin tins from oven and immediately pour in batter. Place in oven and bake 15 minutes. Reduce oven heat to 350 degrees and bake an additional 10 minutes. Do not open oven door or popovers may fall. Remove from oven and pierce gently with a small, sharp knife to prevent collapsing. Serve warm with butter.

**Old-fashioned Blue Cheese Dressing**

*A yummy combination of cream, spices and pungent Blue Cheese.*

- 1 package (3 oz.) cream cheese softened
- 1/2 cup half and half cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 4 ounces crumbled Blue Cheese
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- dash of cayenne pepper
- leaf lettuce or mixed salad greens

In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in the cream, mayonnaise, blue cheese, garlic powder, salt pepper and cayenne. Mix well. Refrigerate overnight. Serve over salad greens.

**Hot off the presses!**

**Jean Korsman Wins Potica Contest!**

The Convention "Potica Contest" had 12 entrants who brought their beautiful poticas to Duluth for judging. Jean Korsman, Past Nat'l. President and President of Br. 39, Biwabik, MN was awarded 1st Place and received a beautiful Slovenian Rogaška crystal dish as her prize. Congratulations, Jean!

All the poticas were scrumptious! We do have excellent bakers in the SWUA!

**Oriental Pork Tenderloin**

- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar or cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons red food coloring, optional
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 3 pork tenderloins (about one lb. each)
- Sesame seeds

In a bowl, combine the first eight ingredients; mix well. Remove 1/2 cup for basting; cover and refrigerate. Pour the remaining marinade into a large resealable plastic bag; add tenderloins. Seal bag and turn to coat; refrigerate over night.

Drain and discard marinade. Place pork on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 55-60 minutes or until a meat thermometer reads 160 degrees, brushing with reserved marinade every 15 minutes.

Sprinkle with Sesame seeds. Cool for 30 minutes. Refrigerate for 2 hours or over night. Cut into thin slices. Yield, 8-10 servings.

**Wish to contact our Food Editor with comments or suggestions? Write to:**

**Veda Ponikvar**  
 600 13th St., NW  
 Chisholm, MN 55719

# Activities of our Branches



Reports due first of month  
preceding publication.

## NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: DECEMBER 1, 1926

Meeting: 2nd Thurs.

St. Stephen's lower hall

## AMERICA – The U.S.A.

July 4, 1776 – 2003

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sorry that many of our members were unable to attend the beautiful luncheon honoring 6 men of our Branch as "Members of the Year." The hall was decorated with a masculine touch in black and white – tables had tall black top hat vases filled with red/white/blue mums, also small top hat containers were filled with candy. Crowning of our Blessed Mother was also held in the hall, because of the work being done in the church. The six men were: Ray and Paul Nusko, Joe Worth, Rick Rakovec, Terry Morison and Lou Pasdertz.

Theresa Lopez sent out questionnaires for the men to fill out and we learned many things about them: they are all very patriotic most served in the military, they all have connections to Slovenia and Zveza, each volunteers at his special project and they all help our branch at the meetings, special events and picnics. We could not get along without them.

Fran read a beautiful prayer to our Blessed Mother; Jean Hrastar invited the men to the front by the statue where one of our youngest members crowned Our Lady, (Melissa Shakter); we sang "Bring Flowers of the Rarest"; Lou Pasdertz led us in prayer; Joe Worth lit the candles and a tribute was read for our deceased members. Jean also read a poem she wrote to each honoree. Each received a nice crystal clock. We were very happy to have so many family members attending.

Our kitchen committee served a delicious dinner and the sweet table was filled with many different goodies. Thanks to everyone who helped put this together.

Raffle books were given out for the picnic; those members who were not attendance will receive theirs in the mail. Picnic will be July 20th in Lem-



This poem is mounted on the Pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. *Not like the brazen Greek fame, with conquering limbs astride from land to land; here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand, a Mighty Woman with a torch, whose flame is the imprisoned lightning, and her name, Mother of Exiles. From her beacon hand glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command the air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame. "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she with silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-lost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

ont. We really need your help, please call Fran.

Father Bernard Horzen celebrated his 50th Anniversary as a Benedictine Father on May 4. We thank him for the many times he has served our Slovenian Women's Union. We hope Our Lord will Bless him with many more years of good health.

We are sorry to report that Mayme Fabian's grandson Ken Mallo, who is a 19-yr. old Marine serving in Iraq was shot while on duty. He is now recuperating in the military hospital. Keep him and all our service personnel in your prayers.

Gloria Shiffler ran the marathon race in Chicago for Breast Cancer. Thank you, Gloria.

The Baraga Pilgrimage will be held in Indianapolis on Sept. 13-14. A bus will be leaving from St. Stephen's. Contact Irene Kalina – tel: (715) 339-6393.

Our condolences to the following families on the loss of their loved ones:

To: Casey Kuca family – his wife, Fran (Kozel), children, Kevin (Diane) and Kerrie; To the family of Barbara Rafinski; To the Kroschel family; To Ann and her children, on the loss of husband and father, Johnny Malone; and two days later on the death of Carroll Hardebeck, husband of JoAnne. Their sisters are: Theresa Krochel, Clare (Steve) Gospo and Elsie Wojdula.

To the family of Antonia (Toni) Brant; she was one of our loyal bowlers.

To: Joe Mlakar's family, his sister Anne, nieces and nephews; and to the children in the neighborhood who remembers him as "grandpa".

Please remember them all in your prayers that they will rest in peace.

Remember also our sick and stay-at-home members with cards so that they will know they are not forgotten.

Hope you all have a safe and fun summer.

FLY OLD GLORY!

Love,

DAISY

## NO. 3, PUEBLO, CO

Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1926

Meeting: 1st Tues.

St. Mary's Church Hall

Greetings to all. Our May Party, hosted by Margaret Cullen and Eileen Kaplan was held at the LeRenaissance Restaurant. Sally Glavich, our "Woman of the Year," was honored. She was very worthy of this honor. Also worthy of note was the presence of Ann Prelesnik who had been ill and unable to attend meetings. Everyone was happy to see her.

Congratulations to Ray and Josephine Krasovic who became the proud grandparents of a new grandson, Jacob Thomas Tucker, son of Sean and

# Welcome "NEW" Members

May-June-July, 2003

These new members were signed up by generous and loyal members. Thank you!

Name	Branch		
Govek, Frank L	102	Ukovich, Robert	20
Klancher, Lee M	102	Ward, Lolly	20
Engelhardt, Florence H	103	Zaida, Angela M	20
Federko, Jennie Kaluza	103	Voelk, Eugene	23
Kovacic-Fleischer, Candace	103	Voelk, John	23
Lawrence, Eveline Kaluza	103	Voelk, Mike	23
Plautz, Andrea	103	Voelk, Tom	23
Stratton, Anne K	103	Assalley, Jacquelyn	24
Tobias, Veronika Sarec	103	Brunner, Gene W	24
King, Jan	13	Hurst, Betty	24
Sincich, Ann Marie	13	Lashina, Martha	24
Sincich, Rebecca	13	Pangrcic, Christine	24
Ferri, Myra J Summers	2	Pohar, Dawn	24
Ferri, Sarah M	2	Clemence, Lauren Danielle	25
Hozzian, Deborah A Summers	2	Clemence, Leaha Ann	25
Carbone, Angelina Marie	20	Clemence, Lily Marie	25
Carbone, Gianna Kathleen	20	Clemence, Lisa Annette	25
Conway, Sherry	20	Clemence, Lori Louise	25
Domark, Hannah	20	Clemence, Lydia Denise	25
Domark, Hayley	20	Ritzenthaler, Kathy	25
English, Susan	20	Valenta, Agnes L	25
Hansen, Arnold	20	Parish, Anne Marie	33
Martin, John J, Jr	20	Berglund, Kay	34
Martincich, Bernice	20	Dale, Carmen	34
Schatz, Grace	20	Jandrey, Corine	34
Schatz, Harrison	20	May, Mary E	34
Spreitzer, Edna	20	Mitchell, Tom	34
Spreitzer, Joseph F	20	Petroskey, Antoinette	34
		Schmidt, Linda	34
		Stefanich, Rosemary	34
		Zimmerman, Jenna Frances	34
		Zimmerman, Maria	34
		Musich, Kathleen Ann	39
		Musich, Mary Frances	39
		Moyer, Ann	40
		Chepeck, Rose	43
		Gricar, Shirl	43
		Homa, Heidi C	43
		Homa, Holly C	43
		Needham, Antonette	43
		Otto, Helen L	43
		Duris, Deborah C	47
		Haydon-Wallace, Brandi	47
		Rys, Margaret H	47
		Wallace, Rhianon Joy	47
		Gottke, Cheri L	50
		Mansfield, Terri L	50
		Rustemeyer, Edith	79
		Duffin (Henkel), Denise	89
		Duffin, Jordan	89
		Morrison, Frances	89
		Snell, Paula	89
		Cox, Laura	93
		Hrcic, Lisa	93
		Petkovsek, Stephanie	93

Rae Anna Krasovic Tucker. Proud, too, are they of their granddaughter, Amanda Bregar, daughter of Mary Krasovic Bregar and Randall Bregar, who is a freshman at South High School with a 4.0 average and was picked 1st Chair in Flute. Amanda went to the State Tournament for South High School in golf. She placed 5th in golf at South and 21st of 70 golfers in the State Tournament.

Congratulations are also in order for Kimberly Tekavec, daughter of Al and Sharon Tekavec and granddaughter of Mary Tekavec. She was Salutatorian of her class at County High School. Kim plans to attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins to study some type of science.

There were numerous activities in May. Open House was held in the John Gornick Library and the St. Mary's Geneological Center. Shortly after, the facilities were relocated to the school

building. Also, on the Feast of Our Lady of Brezje - Mary Help of Christians - and our Patroness, Richard Eurich and Diane Eickelman led the Preseren Glee Club in Slovenian songs at Mass celebrating the Sunday Liturgy in anticipation. Nick and Dorothy Zak-rasic were the greeters. Following, reception was held in the church hall featuring Slovenian food. On the eve of the above a candlelight service was held in the church followed by a procession to the Prayer Garden for the Rosary. In procession votive candles were lit individually from the Easter candle.

Congratulations to all who graduated from high school and college and may they have successful futures.

Our prayers and sympathy go to all who have lost loved ones and remembered, too, in our prayers are the sick, the homebound, nursing home residents and caretakers.

Have a good summer.

PAULINE PAUCHICK

## NO. 5, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Founding Date: JANUARY 15, 1927

Meeting: 2nd Thurs.

St. Stephen's lower hall

Greetings to all members!

I know we are all ready for some nice days in July for gardening and sunning!

Thanks to everyone who entered our "sometimes annual raffle." We had a great assortment of prizes from Slovenian Wine and Lace to Candles and Gift Certificates. Our winners were: Gloria Leffler, Ludmilla Albin, Dolores Konechnik, Christina Watson, Sylvia Stanfield, Lil Brezigar, Mary Dragan, Nancy Luckett, Fran Yovanovich, Liz Bybee, Angie Dragan, Emma Stevens, Dolores Dunlap, Barbara Friesenhahn, Ernestine Trauner, Kristina Cox, Betty Dragan.

Thanks also go out to all who do-



nated a prize, and a BIG THANKS to all who attended our May meeting for the drawing. We had a great time and a wonderful assortment of food. Thank you, Betty Dragan for remembering my nut allergy! The Lady Baltimore cake was "divine"!!!

Congratulations to our members who had family graduations and weddings this year. Member, Brooke Mohr will find herself moving from home in Texas to the beautiful state of Indiana to attend Notre Dame University this fall. I am sure that she will have plenty of visitors from Indy (especially during football season!). Member, Sarah Williams will work this summer as interim director of Holy Trinity Day Care before starting Graduate School. She is a May Graduate of the University of Indianapolis. Dolores Konechnik is traveling out to Kansas for the wedding of her granddaughter; and the Fon family is enjoying having dad around the house more, since his retirement after 30 years with UPS!

Dr. Sue Ann Yovanovich will be missed as the Director of the Holy Trinity Day Care. She has devoted many years to the Church and school children under her care. She has served on many committees involving not only the church and school, but the surrounding community as well. She has been a positive influence in the Slovenian community, and we wish her well in her future plans.

As always, please remember the sick and homebound among our members. Keep them and their families in your prayers. Pray for our military families and bring them all safely home.

Have a happy and safe summer!

PHYLLIS FON

### NO. 10, CLEVELAND, OH

Founding Date: MARCH 8, 1927

Meeting: 4th Wed. 1 p.m.  
SND Holmes Ave.

Hi, Ladies! I hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day. Hope you also remembered our fallen soldiers on Memorial Day and also, our members who are gone, especially Faye Moro and the president of Br. 14 who recently died, Jennie Fitzthum. Our sympathy to Jennie's daughter, Diane Varney and all the family.

We had a very nice dinner on May

28th at Fanny's Restaurant and honored Theresa Dagg as Woman of the Year 2003. Theresa received flowers and many gifts. She expressed her thanks to all.

We miss all our ailing members and sending you all a bouquet of get-well wishes.

Remember, ladies, our Ohio-Michigan State Convention is on October 12, 2003 at St. Mary Church, 12 o'clock mass, then dinner at 2 p.m. in the school building. Sophie Mazi is the cook. Donation is \$15.00. Please call me at (216) 451-1876.

STEFFIE SEGULIN

### NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927

Meeting: 3rd Thurs.  
St. Peter's Church Hall  
except July & Aug.

At our April meeting we missed a few of our members who are on sick leave. Our best to them. We discussed the coming convention. Virginia Strukel is our delegate. Virginia is a very active member and good worker. She surprised us at our meetings, having our lunches prepared, which the members enjoy very much. She does all the shopping, cooking and everything is done to perfection! She also sings in the USPEH Chorus.

Sunshine member, Molly Macht is home now, recuperating from a light stroke. I phoned her and was glad she planned to come to our June meeting. Molly was our sunshine girl and wrote our cards to all the sick members, but now she is unable to do it anymore. Her daughter, Carol Sibilly spent a week with her recently. Carol lives in the Virgin Islands.

At our May meeting we observed Mother's Day for all the mothers present. We were so glad to have Mary Bukovnik with us. She arrived with her daughter, Marilyn and sister, Ann Paulin. What a wonderful family! They really are close.

We missed seeing Louise Schlicht who helps in the kitchen. She joined her son, Roger who lives in San Diego, California, to see son, John graduate from Purdue University in May. They also spent four days traveling and visiting Louise's sister, Leona in Clinton, IN.

## Thanks for your INVOICE DONATIONS!

These specific donations came with dues payments. We thank the members for their generosity.

Donor	Zarja (\$)	Heritage (\$)	Scholarship (\$)	Gen. Fund
Berg, Samantha (34)				6
Cameron, Mary Ruth (38)				30
Dincau, Dolores (33)				10
Duh, Rosemarie (25)				5
Fitzsimmons, Juliana (103)				3
Fitzsimmons, Matthew (103)				3
Fitzsimmons, Thomas (103)				3
Hoppa, Marie (102)				3
Jonke, Anna (93)				10
Macht, Molly (12)				5
Mata, Menky (20)				10
Morison, Frances (2)				25
Savor, Anne (54)				2
Staut, Becky (102)				15
Vogel, Kathy (79)				10
Zupancic, Leopolda (100)				5
Arko, Josephine "memory of Stella Kostick" (50)	20			
Baraga, Sophie (100)			5	
Branch 100	5			
Branch 102	5			
Branch 103	5			
Branch 20	5			
Branch 23	5			
Branch 3	5			
Branch 34	5			
Branch 35	5			
Branch 39	5			
Branch 40	5			
Branch 43	5			
Branch 47	5			
Branch 5	5			
Collins, Ieene J (14)	25			
Coppersmith, Eleanor M (12)	4			
Donges, Agatha (40)			10	
Hansen, Arnold "honor of Anna Kolenc Hansen" (20)			20	
Hrnac, Lisa (93)			25	
Jagodnik, Irene "mem of Anthony Jagodnik" (50)	50			
Korell, Suzette (20)	5			
Podmore, Joan (50)	50			
Purkat, Jane E (39)	10			
Stratton, Anne K "hon of Ann Tamse - Aunt" (103)			20	
ZARJA Dec. issue				
Br. 25 Zarja donation	20			
Marchioni, Emily (24)	10			
Misc. Josephine A (50)	10			
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>148</b>

We were glad to see Leona Zigman at the meeting - she was ill. Also, Ann Jelinek was absent.

President Josephine from Br. 43 came to our meeting to tell us about a bus trip to "Our Lady of Sorrows" in Illinois. If anyone was interested she had all the information.

Have a wonderful summer.

STAVIA DOBERSEK

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**NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 30, 1927*

**Meeting: 1st Thurs.**

**Slovenian Hall on Mariposa St.**

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Our Woman of the Year Brunch was an exceptionally lovely day and our Honoree, Lois Stanfel Jensen was delighted to have her husband, Robert, daughter, Karen, and son, Peter, along with his wife, Krystyna, and longtime friend, Betty Nyland present to help make the day so special. Lois has been our member for 59 years!

We had 38 adults, 3 children, Jessica, Isabel Lehane, Junior members and a new baby brother, Jerry. The handmade lap quilt made by this reporter was won by Mary Lehane who couldn't have been more excited. Father Vinko picked the winning ticket.

It was great to see Shirley Cooper again and her friend, Dee Raymond. A very happy Agnes Kurnick was there with daughters, Sandra and Lynn and granddaughter, Jenny.

We were pleased to have a special guest, Fr. Vinko Potocnik with us. Many thanks to Jo Aiuto for again organizing the day.

A correction in the address for Ann Fabian and Dorothy Zaharin. They are at 20 Elkwood Dr., South San Francisco, CA 94080. Send them a card and say hello!

We send our sympathy and prayers to Lise Allison and family on the death of her mother, Alice Schmuck.

June meeting is our last until September. It is our annual "Hello to Summer Pot Luck Dinner". Please try to attend. I hope we all have a safe, happy summer.

Birthday wishes for July are to: Barbara Chiodo, Mary Coppinger, Mary Goodman, Lois Jensen, Carol Purtell, Margie Schleiger, Janice Crofut; and best wishes for August to: Betty Doherty (she's 93!), Bev Jackson, Ceta Zagar, Frances Laurich, Mary Lesser (she's 92!), Mary Lehane, Jeanette Lovrin, Shirley Morasco, Katie Pecavar, Stephanie Nagel, Moreen Spencer, Doreen Sustarich. Love one another.... Remember, the love we give away is the only love we keep.

BEVERLY JACKSON

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**NO. 14, EUCLID, OH**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927*

**Meeting: 1st Tues., 6 p.m.**

**Slovenian Society Home**

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We've had such a cold and rainy spring that it truly was a pleasure to attend our Mother's Day dinner on May 6 at which we honored all mothers, grandmothers and ladies. We clearly missed our President, Jennie Fitzthum who was hospitalized after emergency surgery at that time. Her daughter, Diane Varney did a great job filling in her mother's absence. We were all very upbeat about Jennie's illness and expected her back among us in a short time. But, unfortunately, a day after, Jennie took a turn for the worse and was returned to Intensive Care where she passed away.

Jennie Fitzthum will be greatly missed not only by us but also by her many friends from the many, many organizations and lodges in which she participated. Our deepest sympathy to Diane and Larry Varney, her son, James and wife, Marilyn and her granddaughter. May our dearest Lord and His Mother lead her to everlasting peace and joy.

Our members and their guests spent an enjoyable evening at the Mother's Day dinner after being greeted at the door by Stana Grill, and past officer for many years, Vera Bejac who had recovered from hip surgery.

Tables were beautifully decorated with a variety of various colored African Violet planters which were included along with the door prizes brought by members. These plants were arranged to be purchased wholesale from Petitti's Garden by Larry Varney. Thank you, folks, for the many lovely door prizes and to Jimmy Slapnik and wife, June for donating the beautiful hanging flower planter.

Diane Varney presided at a brief meeting at which we had a moment of silence in memory of Frances Erzen who passed away at the age of 92. Condolences to her family in their bereavement. She thanked everyone for attending, especially Vickie Lindic and Pep Stupica and family, and Fran Prijatelj and her family.

Thank you to guest, Jeff Cornelius from St. Mary's Seminary who said

Grace before we started dinner. Jeff was with us at our Christmas celebration and was invited by the Fran Prijatelj family.

We knew that we would enjoy our family-style dinner since it was prepared by Sophie Mazi and her efficient staff. Try as I might, I never can make a lettuce salad as tasty as those at our Slovenian dinners. And, Sophie proved this is true because her salad was spectacular. But, of course, the rest of the meal was super, ending with her amazing apple and cheese strudel.

Thank you, Ed Koren, trusty bartender for our events. Thank you, Larry Varney for making the rounds at the tables selling tickets, also for decorating the hall with his wife, Diane.

A special treat was in store for us as guests, Paul Yanchar accompanied by Steve Valencic on button accordion, serenaded us with several Slovenian tunes dedicated to mothers. Members joined in on the nostalgic tune "Mami, ti naša zlata mami". At the end of the evening, Paul once again sang out a few more tunes, unaccompanied, since Steve's accordion, "doesn't play English tunes," or so he says!

Our busy time was next with door and raffle gifts distributed; number caller was Steve Valencic. We were fortunate to have 6-year old Rachel Formica, Fran Prijatelj's granddaughter, as one of our delivery runners along with several assistants.

Hope we see you all at our December fun dinner! Have a great summer and keep cool!

ALICE KUCHAR

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**NO. 16, SO. CHICAGO, IL**

*Founding Date: FEBRUARY 13, 1928*

**Meeting: 2nd Saturday, 1 p.m.**

**monthly except Jan.-July-Aug.**

**St. George's Hall**

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Greetings to each of you, members and friends!

We had a lovely party arranged by our President, Therese Ehnat to honor Sylvia Spretnjak, our long time member, auditor, and treasurer. Syl gets our coffee and tea ready - sets up table - she is well-deserving of this honor.

A nice group of 40 turned out for the hearty lunch. For their food and service I give the Spelich family 4

yums! John Krcmaric was also there to lead us in a sing-a-long; he entertained us with his keyboard. Great to see you, John!

Connie Saviano created a beautiful crown for Sylvia. Thanks Connie!

Since this is graduation time and we do have a few to celebrate, let us congratulate the following:

Katie McGovern, granddaughter of Gen Marco graduated from Western University; Andrea Marco, granddaughter of Gen Marco graduated from South Suburban College as a Physical Therapist; Christine Monahan, my grandson, Dan's wife received her master's degree in education and will be teaching high school history.

Ann Ksiazek's granddaughter, Julie Ann Michaels graduated from Mother Seton; Kevin Krilich is an 8th grade graduate from St. Catherine of Alexandria; and Caitlynn Novak is another 8th grade grad. Last but by no means least is my granddaughter, Megan Ann Monahan. She graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School and received the prestigious Paul Kays award. We are all so proud of Megan. Two days after her graduation, she flew off to London for a week.

Our congratulations go to Nick Panczuk, grandson of Therese Ehnat, our Pres. Nick was certified in the Franfort, IL fire Dept. as a EMS (Paramedic).

Our best wishes to all First Communicants, Confirmandi, and graduates. Happy birthday to all celebrants and happy 4th of July!

Fran Zupancic is back home in Crown Point, IN after a three month stay in Texas with her son, John. She enjoys her Senior Club at home, too. Miss you, Fran. Olga Kowalkowski thanks everyone for the prayers and cards she received after her rotator cuff surgery. Clara Saviano is recuperating slowly – she appreciates calls and visits. We miss you!

Helen Battista has mastered making strudels, she makes a super cherry strudel and says now she is going to attempt flancate. Go, girls! I will be your "taster" any time.

We sure do miss Lena Amicarelli – our friend has a long time to recuperate having fallen and breaking her hip and elbow. Her granddaughter was married in May; they prettied Lena up and got her to the church on time. We wish

## Member of the Year Sylvia Spretnjak,



pictured at the party held in her honor at Br. 16, Chicago in May. Everyone had a marvelous time. On this photo we see Sylvia wearing her crown of beautiful flowers!

you a good recovery, Lena.

Dolores O'Brien flew out to Carlisle, PA to visit a college friend and while there went to Harrisburg, Gettysburg and other historical areas. We are so happy that she can get around again.

On May 24, the feast day of Marija Pomagaj, five of us were in Lemont to attend the Mass celebrated by Father Blase and Deacon Foys. This was sponsored by KSKJ. We had a light lunch after mass at the Slovenian Cultural Center and visited with Father Blase. He celebrated his 50th anniversary on June 8th. *Ad multos annos.* I am grateful to Dotsi for including me along with Helen Battista, Gladys Buck, and Vida Kumse. It was a memorable day for me. Thanks, Dotsi.

Our condolences go out to Bernice Jarkovich on the loss of her son-in-law, Edward Gildien. May he rest in peace. of the Lord.

God love everyone! Enjoy the summer.

MARGE PREBIL

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Founding Date: JUNE 11, 1928

Meeting: 3rd Tues.  
except June to Sept.  
St. Joe's Park Hall

Summer is here again! We hope you have a relaxing and fulfilled summer! On Tuesday, May 20, 2003, Heidi Domark was honored as our Branch 20 "Woman of the Year" at a banquet held at St. Joseph Park Hall. Heidi introduced her family and friends. It was nice to see the majority of past "Women of the Year" also present. Lillian Cepon won the accumulative attendance award of \$80. Mildred Pucel received the 50/50 prize. Our spiritual advisor, Father Tom Paul, gave a short talk about Our Lady of Brezje whose Feast was May 23. Emily Petronio sang a beautiful solo of "Ave Maria."

The Wolf Pack entertained with Button Box Music before the banquet that was catered by Lillian Cepon. The "Coyote Moon Dancers" presented their Country Western dances following the banquet.

Happy belated birthday wishes to the Wolf brothers, Joe and Tony; and congratulations to Joe and Ceil Wolf who celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 14th.

The National Convention in Duluth, MN was attended by the following delegates: Charlene Kobe, Patricia Figuirowski, and Jean Herbst. Alternate delegates were Judy Deringa, Josephine Lustik, and Bernice Nemanich.

**We are still working on getting more new members for Branch 20. Mark your calendar for the 75th anniversary on October 5th and come celebrate with us. There will be a morning reception from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Ferdinand Hall near St. Joseph's Church. The State Convention meeting will follow at 9:30 a.m. Then, at 11:00 a.m. the Holy Mass will be celebrated in Slovenian. If you need any information or reservations, call Jonita Ruth (815) 726-6800 as soon as possible.**

Zveza Day in Lemont sponsored by Branch 2 of Chicago will be on Sunday, July 20, beginning with the 11:00 a.m.



## Branch 20, Joliet, IL 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Left to right front row: Charlene Kobe, Jonita Ruth, Pat Figurowski, Agnes Dobczyk; Second row: Barbara DeLaney, Sue Bartholme, Sister Marlene Ambrose, Jean Herbst, Heidi Domark; Third row: Bernice Nemanich, Theresa Burns, Mary Kay Demick, Josephine Lustik; not pictured are Father Tom Paul, Grace Doerk, Annette Markun, Ellen Tezak, Marian Schoener, and Kathryn Stonich.

Mass in the Chapel of Marija Pomagaj. The picnic follows. If you need a ride call (815) 727-1926.

Bernice Metesh brought her first cousin, Pavel, and his daughter, Ana Groznik to the Heritage Museum. They are from Visnja Gora, Slovenia.

Congratulations to: Joseph and Anna Jelinek who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 2. To Emily Ukovich who graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the College of Education at the University of St. Francis on May 10, 2003. She is currently an English teacher at Joliet Central High School. Philip Pucel and Christine Olsen will be married Sat. July 5. He is the son of Millie and Rudy Pucel. Anthony and Madeline Golobitsh's son, Anthony was married on June 1. Christopher Cambic and Jesse Cambic have a new daughter-in-law. The wedding was on May 24 in Miami, Florida. Marc Judnick graduated from the University of Arizona. He is the



son of Robert and Marcia Judnick. Marissa Marquardt, was married to Todd Lukas on June 28, the weekend of St. Joseph's Fair.

We send Get Well Wishes to: Donna Parker, Mrs. Margaret Stalzer, Millie Pucel, and Bea Nemanich.

In our name, Jonita Ruth sent a congratulatory 50th anniversary card to Father Bernard Horzen, O.S.B. and to Father Blase of Lemont.

We extend our Sympathy and Prayers to: the Janice Fedo family; the Fedo family on the death of their mother; to Josephine Rositch, and fam-

## BRANCH 20, JOLIET, ILLINOIS 75th ANNIVERSARY October 5, 2003

### Festivities Include:

Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in Ferdinand Hall located (behind St. Joseph Church), followed by a 9:30 a.m. meeting.  
Slovenian Mass at 11:30 a.m.  
St. Joseph Church, 416 No. Chicago Street Joliet, IL. Dinner at 1:00 p.m.  
St. George Serbian Social Hall, 310 Stryker Ave. Joliet, IL.  
There will be a cash bar.

### Slovenian Costumes

Slovenian costumes are so beautiful and we urge anyone who has one to wear it for the 75th Anniversary festivities.  
Men, women and children...  
please come in costume and participate in the Slovenian mass with us!

### Ticket Deadline

Tickets are \$35. Deadline for purchase is Sept. 15th, payable in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Send reservation request and payment to Heidi Domark, 1906 Hampton Court, Plainfield, IL 60544. Phone (815) 436-3180.

### Program Book Ads REMINDER

Please send in your AD or GREETING for the program book by July 15. Thank you.

Make this a mini-weekend getaway.

For a good time, see what Joliet has to offer. For hotel reservations and further information, call Jonita at (815) 726-6990.

For more information call  
Jonita Ruth (815) 726-6990  
or Pat Figurowski (815) 741-1863.

ily on the death of her son; Mrs. Frances Kodrick's family; Theresa Gerencher who lost her husband; and, Alice Ancel family.

Have you remembered to volunteer to help keep the Heritage Museum presentable? We need you!

Let us continue our prayers for our brave women and men in the Armed Forces.

God be with you always, all ways!  
And, God bless America!

Submitted by,  
SR. MARLENE AMBROSE, OSF  
Note: New phone #(815) 724-0731

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**NO. 23, ELY, MN**

*Founding Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 1928*

**Meeting: 1st Monday  
St. Anthony's Church Hall  
Sept. thru May**

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Our Branch had a wonderful celebration honoring Gloria Smuk, our Woman of the Year on May 5th. What a great evening we had! The dinner was held at Veteran's on the Lake in nearby Winton, MN, on beautiful Fall Lake.

We were welcomed by a host and hostess and served a very refreshing fruit and ice cream punch. Everyone enjoyed the social hour as they visited and listened to the live button box accordion music of Adolph Levar. The Slovenian atmosphere was very enjoyable. Our roast pork dinner with all the trimmings was delicious.

Gloria Smuk's family, relatives, and friends were introduced and a letter from her daughter in Texas was read; then her daughter Kris presented a "This is your life" theme. It was a wonderful, creative, humorous, honorable, and memorable work of art. Yes, it was both laughter and tears that all of us experienced with Gloria. Through all of this, Gloria was seated on a throne created by her daughters, made out of purple crepe paper with all the trimmings to match, including a crown of purple beads, which resembled the crown of the statue of liberty. Yes, this was a very memorable evening.

Our May committee did a great job. Thanks to Pat Lammi, Pauline Fenderber, Mary Ann Lekatz, Virgie Ivanich, Chris Cadari, Lillian Hren, Roslyn Perko, Rose Starkovich, Mary DeBeltz, and Mary Ann Starkman.

Congratulations, Gloria, for all the good works you've done for the Slovenian Women's Union, keeping the spirit alive not only for us but the Senior Bingo players, too.

Our evening ended by playing the big "B", and we let Gloria play instead of calling the numbers as she usually does.

Thanks again to all who made this such a fun evening and it was so nice to see so many members, 46 in all.

#### **April Report**

Our guest speaker was Anna Faye Crockett who gave a talk and demonstration of bobbin lace. She explained

the different types and methods. She had some wonderful displays of the lace, which were awesome. One of our members, Pat Koski, brought some pictures of her visit in Slovenia to one of the schools in Idrija that teaches the making of bobbin lace and also some doilies she bought there. What a wonderful art that seems to be making a comeback. Anna Faye gave information on the history of this lace-making and how far back in history it goes. This was so interesting. Much of the information is on the Internet. Look under bobbin lace.

Respectfully,

JANE YADLOSKY, Reporter

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**NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL**

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 17, 1928*

**Meeting: 3rd Thurs.  
Eureka Savings Bank  
Mar.-Apr.-May-June  
Sept.-Oct.-Nov.**

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Twenty-two members and a guest attended the May dinner at Mario's Maples. We were pleased to have four new members present. I hope all of you will attend our meetings in the future. After the dinner Adele Gensler and I visited our Vice President, Minnie Carter, who doesn't get out much anymore, and we had a most enjoyable afternoon.

I mentioned my husband's illness in my last report, he was seriously ill with pneumonia. He passed away on April 9th and his funeral mass was on April 12th with Rev. John Onderko as celebrant. He hadn't been well for the past four years. He was a wonderful husband, supportive of my activities, and my best friend for the last 55 years. I miss him terribly but he told the children to make sure I keep busy with the Slovenian Women's Union and the Church choir. It helps. He was a convert the Catholic faith--while the children were growing up he sat downstairs and kept them in line while I spent my time in the choirloft. I thank all the members of local branches for the support given to our family with food, visits, masses, cards and prayers.

Antonia Hoefflerle and Jane Sherman are now residing in St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Lacon, IL. Josephine Foley hasn't been feeling well for some time so we were all delighted to see her at St. Bede's for her brother, Rev.

Bernard Horzen's 50th Jubilee Mass and dinner. Fr. Bernard is very special to Branch 24 and we pray that God will grant him many healthy years.

There are a lot of Happy Birthday celebrations coming up. July celebrants will be Amy Schweickert, Jr. Barbara Jean Prokup, Mary Mecum, Anne Drensen, Bonnie Prokup, Alvina Ann Strukel, Jr. Melissa McLaughlin, Lori Janko-Wilke, Barb Krogulski, Audrey Prokuski, and Emily Marchiori. August birthday celebrants are Julie Wangler, Jane Sherman, Evelyn Kastigar, Susan Collins, Jr. Emily B. Collins, Dorothy Parola, and Barbara Pohar.

Two Junior members will be honored at our June picnic and given graduation gifts. They are Melissa McLaughlin and Ashley Collins.

We look forward to the National Convention Reports from our delegate, Mary Ann Brunner at the September meeting. At that time we will take reservations for the State Convention to be held in Joliet on October 5th. We hope to have a bus and we will have seats for Oglesby and DePue members. Branch 20 in Joliet will be celebrating their 75th anniversary at this time. We will have our 75th also this year and Bonnie has volunteered to be the chairman of this special celebration.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Eureka Bank meeting rooms. It will be good to be together again. Plan to join us.

ANNE MARIE WANGLER,  
Reporter

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**NO. 32, EUCLID, OH**

*Founding Date: AUGUST 25, 1929*

**Meeting: 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.  
Euclid Public Library, Erie Room**

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April meeting was well-attended and I am proud of our new, young 3rd generation president, Pam Dirk. She did a great job. She has many ideas also -- as does our V.P., Adrienne Jager, also 3rd generation member. They have our branch at heart. What a pleasure to see two young ladies trying their best for us. In fact, we will do our first raffle to be held in September at the meeting. Take note, friends, members, and branches! 200 tickets will be sold at \$2 each. Please support us. Members will

be selling tickets during the summer.

All moms were honored on May 21st at our dinner at the Home Town Buffet. God bless our moms and our deceased members. May they be at peace.

Future meeting dates are: June, September and November all to be held at the Euclid Library, at 6:30 p.m. The dates are the 3rd Tuesday of these months. Dues! Are your paid up? If not, you can contact C. Perdan at (216) 289-6316.

Our delegate to the convention was Jo Gornik. She will serve us well! Good luck to all delegates and prayers for a successful meeting.

Stay strong! Enjoy the summer sunshine and flowers and do get outdoors. Good health to our ill members. We care and send you our love and prayers.

Remember to support our raffle. First prize is \$100; 2nd prize is \$50 and 3rd prize is \$25. Tickets cost \$2 each.

God bless our Troops and our U.S.A. Hopefully, one day we will have peace.

DOROTHY LAMM

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#### NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 12, 1929*

**Meeting: 3rd Wed., 1 p.m.**

**St. Martin's Church Hall**

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

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Our meeting was held in the parish meeting room at St. Martin's. We had a better turn out and this made it a good time for all. Discussed final plans for the Mother of the Year party on May 22 at Fortune Bay Casino. Kay Dean is our Mother of the Year for 2003.

We also discussed the student trip to Slovenia and the Slovenian Heritage Tour on Sept. 13th. No interest was expressed. The Convention in Duluth, however, is an exciting time and many members hoped to attend.

An Eastertime theme highlighted the meeting. A delicious lemon dessert was served with other goodies. Ag Mesojedec was hostess. Margaret Mesojedec brought the door prize. Thanks to them. The winner was Marcy Rooney.

Memories of Easter flooded my mind. How it was at home... I was also the one who took the "žegen" basket to church. It was the biggest, and lined

with a white cloth. It was filled with colored hardboiled eggs, horseradish root, "potica", ham, green onions, clover leaf rolls, radishes, "krofe", sausage, everything but the kitchen sink! The food was eaten first after Easter mass. We never went hungry, tho!

God bless our troops, their families, friends, relatives and let's keep our Slovenian heritage going strong!

\* \* \* \* \*

Vesel Mamin Dan! Our branch #34 of Soudan held the annual Mother of the Year award ceremony on May 22, 2003 at the beautiful Fortune Bay Casino. Honored guest of the reception was Kay Dean and her family were all there in attendance. After many wishes of "dober tek," the group gathered around the tables to enjoy a sumptuous feast! Following the men the group adjourned to the executive suite for coffee and a beautifully decorated lemon cake decorated in Slovenian colors. A Mother's Day corsage and floral centerpiece were presented by yours truly to Kay, who was a happy lady that day! Father Pakiz led the Slovenian opening prayer at the meeting which followed dinner and we all joined in singing Happy Birthday to Lucille Savatoes and Theresa Berg. Many were in attendance and we welcomed new members, Fred Pahula, Betty Dolinar, Mary Ann and Kay Berglund.

Condolences to new member, Mary Jean Kriznar, who lost her sister-in-law, Angie Musich of Ely; Marie Zavadnik lost her father, Tony Zavadnik of Soudan.

In closing this event we honored not only Kay, but all mamicas, living and dead. I thank all members for their help and keeping our heritage alive and making my first years as president memorable! God bless you all and keep the faith!

ADRIENNE MICKLICH

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#### NO. 35, AURORA, MN

*Founding Date: OCTOBER 15, 1929*

**Meeting: 6 per year**

**Community Sr. Center**

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#### April Report

Early "snowshowers" kept us busy shoveling sidewalks and driveways; we would have preferred "rainshowers."

At our April meeting Pres. Vovk had

an interesting display of Slovenian colored and decorated Easter eggs - a but-ara she had made and articles used at Slovenian Easter celebrations.

We took care of our business and were anxious to hear about the "Hodnik girls" travel to Ireland. Last Fall, Anna Hodnik took her two daughters, Carol and Marge, and daughter-in-law, Erika to Ireland. Carol and Erika shared their interesting experiences and pictures with us. By the time they finished we all were ready to visit the beautiful country and people ourselves. Thank you, Carol and Erika.

#### May Report

On May 4th friends and family gathered to honor our Mother of the Year, Anna Hodnik, Anna's granddaughters, Carolyn entertained us with two of her grandmother's favorite selections on the piano. Our Branch presented Anna with a lovely centerpiece of flowers and Marie Prislant's book "From Slovenia to America." Refreshments were served before dinner prepared by the American Legion Auxiliary with cake and ice cream for dessert. After dinner, interesting memories and comments were shared by family and friends. The following tribute was given by Carol to her mom.

*Our mom is a dedicated, active member of this Branch for over 50 years. As national youth director she was creative in trying to sustain the Slovenian language, music, food and other traditions. She was a choir director for many years and participated with them at our local Grape Festival every fall. For years she took care of her home and family. She also took care of her mother and three brothers and their home. She is truly someone who lives her heritage and religion honorably. Congratulations, mom, you deserve this honor.*

This was a special day for Anna and everyone.

After Anna's party we had a short meeting to finalize plans to attend the national convention.

Congratulations to Joseph Furry who made his First Holy Communion on Mother's Day, and to Lindsey Antilla, Kate Furry, Alysia Hodnik, Nick Martinetto and Jennifer Menart who made their confirmation in May. God bless you all.

Congratulations to Mary Noson's granddaughter, Adrienne Lee, who

graduated from Hibbing High School and will pursue a career in the medical field.

Best wishes: My grandson, James Wheeler, graduated from the U of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in architecture which he completed in 2 years.

Adrienne and James are members of Branch 35.

Get well wishes to our members who are ill and recovering, especially to Pauline Korpela who had surgery.

Sympathy and prayers to those who have lost loved ones; may they rest in peace.

Our next meeting will be at noon on Wed., August 13th at the Com. Center.

Happy summer, everyone.

ANNE M. ORAZEM

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#### NO. 40, LORAIN, OH

Founding Date: APRIL 21, 1930

Meetings: 2nd Wed. 1 p.m.  
SS Cyril & Methodius Hall

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Because of a conflict of dates with SS. Cyril and Methodius Guild, our luncheon honoring our Mother of the Year, Rose Jancar was on May 7th. Over 20 members attended this wonderful affair.

Briefly backtracking somewhat, we had a lively and informative meeting in March with a good attendance. Election of officers resulted in Agatha Donges being re-elected Pres./Sec'y. and Stephanie Polutnik elected rec. sec'y. Please, we will need the cooperation of all of our membership to make this work!!!

In April, we had a guest – my daughter who came home from Hong Kong where she teaches at the International School of Hong Kong. All the schools there were closed on account of SARS. While here, she kept in touch with her students via the internet in what they called "virtual school." The children were given assignments to do at home and turned in their completed work – all on the internet. In this way their hope is that school will not be extended into the summer months. Very interesting. The ladies present asked her a lot of questions about her life in China.

We have lost several members this year. It grieves me to report the death of my sister, Josephine Vancil, who died in Jan. after a long bout with

cancer. A very warm, caring nurse – she went out of her way to help others. She leaves a void in the hearts of her children and her loving sisters. Rest in peace, my darling Jo.

I am saddened to report the death of a dear friend, Rose Knezetic who died at age 95. Rose was an energetic, active lady, much loved and respected. She was an avid card player – especially bridge – and enjoyed golf and crafts of all kinds. She is survived by a son, Paul Wencko, a daughter, Susan Rumppler, a brother, Joseph Udovich and sister, Anne Bobrowski. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Albert Wencko in 1951, her second husband, Robert Knezetic in 1992, six brothers and one sister. We extend our deep sympathy to her loving family.

Now a reminder, our regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Wed. of the month at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall, 1 p.m. If you are in need of a ride let Agatha or me know.

Now something to think about: *How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?*

Love,

STEPHANIE POLUTNIK

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#### NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH

Founding Date: MAY 31, 1930

Meeting: Quarterly, 2nd month  
of the quarter, 2nd Saturday  
Maple Hts., Library

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Hope this finds all of you having a nice summer. I am writing this while visiting my daughter, Lynn, in Calif. having arrived to attend the First Holy Communion of my Juvenile member grandson, 7 year old, Alex. In observing the ceremony and all the trappings, I found myself thinking back to my own 1st communion at St. Lawrence Church with Father Oman. Although we wore white dresses of our choice our head-pieces were identical: a white satin elasticised head band with blue and white flowered bows on each side – very simple and very practical. We would have been no match for the elegant finery I observed here – beautiful pearl and rhinestone tiaras with fingertip veils, long gowns, etc. One thing that hasn't changed was the spontaneity of the boys who in spite of probably many rehearsals still demonstrated they

can be expected to do the unexpected, such as genuflecting facing the congregation or leaving a female partner in the dust during the recessional, or walking with a smile on his face and his short-tail hanging out. God bless them and love them.

I also had an opportunity to attend some of Alex's Pony League baseball games of which I am truly impressed. At age 7 he is in the 2nd tier (Pinto) of a 6 tier league. These kids are phenomenal. The sports program is so professional I was soon absorbed in the entire process. They wear attractive uniforms with their names on the back and use all the standard baseball gear. They get to play all positions and are coached by a great group of dedicated volunteers. If they display any unsportsmanlike behavior they are made to run laps around the entire field. (Photos page 30)

These programs are a definite improvement of years past when Bob Kastelic, Herb Legan, the Hocevar brothers, the Stavec brothers and countless others made their own ball diamond laboring all summer and I think they even made the ball out of tightly wound string and tape. Talk about being born 30 years too soon!

I hear that Teresa Gorup enjoyed a mini-family reunion in Calif. this past March while visiting daughter, Kathy. They were joined by grand-daughter, Teresa from Pahoia, Hawaii and daughter, Agnes from Columbus, Ohio.

Our member, Sally Prhne, sends greetings and informs us that she is working for St. Monica's Credit Union and daughter, Melinda, is a Police Dispatcher in Walton Hills. For the benefit of you out-of-towners, Sally in the wife of Rudy Prhne, Jr.

Happy July birthdays to Josie Gruden, Rose Meljac, Ellen Bodziony, Mary Catherine Gruden, Mae Danicic, Ludmilla Tacsar and my grandson, Alex Kossakoski.

Happy August birthdays to Betty Ann Harr, Emily Gruden, Suzanne Harris, Frances Hocevar, Jane Szymkowski, Eleanor Charvat, Gabrielle Gruden and Marge Zupancic.

I want to make mention of the passing this April of Don Stueve, a Slovenian by association. Don and his brother, Jim were the sons of Carl and Clara Stueve. In my youth, Clara was

(Cont'd on page 24.)



## “The Žabja Vas Travelers”

Our gathering at the birthday party for aunt Julia, left to right: Gloria (Klemencic) Barello, Rotka Robaus, Loretta (Ahcin) Story, Anne Krpan, Marinka Prebil, Ladica Planstojner, Vanda Stojan, Marjan Fabjan and Stan Jakopin. Front, aunt Julia and Millie Sanders.

**“We are still basking in the glow of  
our wonderful trip to Slovenia!**

**I don't think we will ever be the same.**

**It was a wonderful experience, full of surprises,  
beauty and love. We will return, I know.”**

It was always my dream to visit Slovenia, my father's birthplace, but I never thought that it would actually happen and the way that it would happen. This story is my “dream come true.”

My father, Louis Ahcin, was one of ten children born in Novo Mesto, to Ivana (Kolenc) and Joseph Ahcin. There were nine girls and one boy! Of those ten children, five came to the United States and five remained in Slovenia. There is only one remaining, my aunt Julia, and she lives in Ljubljana. She has a daughter, Vanda, who also lives in Ljubljana and a son, Stan, who lives in Barrington, Illinois.

In mid-January we received a call from Stan telling us about his mother's 90th birthday and of the party they were going to have – in Ljubljana! Would we consider making the trip? Well, it took us all of five minutes to think about it and we decided to go. Within two weeks, ten cousins from the States had their tickets and seven of them were on the same flight! We came from Washington, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana, Arizona and Florida. This was the beginning of a trip of a lifetime!

Our hearts were pounding and our eyes were wide as we flew over the Alps, arriving in Ljubljana on the morning of March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, and were met at the airport by our Slovene cousins bearing fresh bouquets of flowers that were picked that morning in the forest. We immediately bonded with our lifelong cousins whom we had just met for the first time.

Our first stop was to visit aunt Julia, who was absolutely thrilled to see us. We shared our first delicious, home-cooked Slovenian meal complete with strudel for dessert. Of course, there was the wine! This was the beginning of the most wine I've consumed in one week. We also developed quite a taste for the Radenska (sparkling mineral) water.

We had accommodations at the Grand Hotel Union, which is located in the heart of Ljubljana. It is a beautiful hotel with spacious rooms, excellent service and delicious food. Being in the center of town enabled us easy access to all major points of interest. Most everything is within walking distance.

Upon our arrival, we took a short rest and then a walking tour of Ljubljana, which we all found to be very informative. We immediately noticed that most people walk to their destinations and enjoy each other's company in the town square where there is a huge statue of the Slovenian poet, Prešeren. We also noticed young students going into the church for Mass or simply for a visit. During our stay we came to realize that no matter how small the village, there was always a church in the center.

The following day we traveled to Novo Mesto and first visited the family grave. The cemeteries are absolutely gorgeous! It is like walking into a botanical garden. The graves are very well-cared for with flowers in abundance and also decorated with candles.

Next we went to the Church of St. Michael (Šmihel), established in 1296, and where the Ahcin children were baptized and received First Holy Communion. The church, and every one we visited during our stay, was beautiful beyond words. It was a little chilly inside and I noticed the kneelers were wooden. It made me realize how “spoiled” we are. These conditions are no detriment to worshippers; however, as the assistant pastor told us that on weekends they have approximately 1,000 people attend Mass.

The friendly, young priest invited us into the rectory for some “refreshments,” which we all enjoyed along with the heavenly aroma coming from the kitchen. The housekeeper, apparently the person responsible for the aroma, joined us for a glass of wine.

We then stopped at the farm home of a wonderful couple, Lojze and Ani Zupavec. Lojze's brother, Joseph, came to the States with my father. Ani had prepared a “feast” for us on her wood-burning cook stove. We were joined by her daughter and great grandson, Tomaž, who delighted us with his knowledge of the English language.

The highlight of the day and of the whole trip was visiting my father's home – the Ahcin homestead, which is in the Žabja Vas (in English, Frog's village) neighborhood



At the cemetery: Mimi Lauritzen, Anne Krpan, Steve Sanders, Millie Sanders, Joe Story, Loretta Story, Stan Jakopin and Gloria Barello.



of Novo Mesto. Hence, the name we gave ourselves – The Žabja Vas Travelers.

The home is in very good condition and is occupied by a granddaughter of one of my aunts. Of course, it has been remodeled and additions have been made, but the original structure is still there along with an old tree in front of the house that is seen on a picture taken when my dad was a boy. It was a very emotional and proud moment for us all to be there.

We were able to climb up the hill behind the house, which enabled us to view the village around and below. The home and gardens were very neat and well tended with spring flowers already in bloom – daffodils, pansies and “snowbells”, little white flowers that grow wild and in abundance. Almost every home, no matter how modest, has white lace curtains on the windows, which give such a charming effect.

With happy hearts we traveled back to Ljubljana along the river route, which enabled us to view the grape arbors on the hillsides, villagers working in the fields, the “kozolec” (used for drying hay and corn), wayside shrines with flowers and, of course, the smoke billowing up from the cook stoves, which says, “It’s suppertime.”

Stan’s wife, Jerica and her two sisters prepared a wonderful dinner for us that evening – one can’t buy a meal like that in a restaurant! We had a lovely visit with Jerica, her mother, sisters and brothers-in-law.

Friday we traveled to the Shrine of Our Lady of Brezje and were fortunate to attend Mass there. It was a heartwarming experience just to be there and to witness the devotion of the people. We saw numerous petitions and tokens of appreciation for prayers answered. Many of us added our own.

We stopped for lunch at Gostilna Lectar in the town of Radovljica and felt we were transported back into time. The brochure says, “The country inn where you are served with love” and it is so true. The meal was delicious, the company most enjoyable, the entertainment was delightful and the atmosphere was warm and truly old-world.

Following this meal, we all needed to walk up to the castle in Bled. The view from the top was breathtaking. Lake Bled is Slovenia’s most popular resort and we could certainly see why. The weather was so mild and pleasant for that time of year. In fact, in all the time we were in Slovenia, it did not rain once! No wonder they call it the Sunny Side of the Alps. Had time allowed we would have taken the little boat out to the church on the island. We did make time, though, to visit the Grand Hotel Toplice and enjoyed the famous “Krème Šnite”, a dessert that is as scrumptious as it looks.

Our last stop of the day was to an Alpine Dairy Museum at Stara Fuzina. There we were given the history of alpine

dairy farming and how they produced their dairy products. Cheese making, in this fashion, has declined with the coming of modern dairies, however, a few dairymen still continue the tradition and we were fortunate to taste the fruits of their labors.

Saturday was the birthday party for aunt Julia and it lasted 8 hours! We finally met with all of our cousins who had come from near and far to celebrate and meet us. It was a grand party complete with musicians in traditional Slovenian costumes, and even one homemade bass fiddle. The food was plentiful and delicious and there did not seem to be an end to it. The music had our feet tapping and soon there was dancing and singing. Some of the songs I recognized as ones my father sang. Our little group proudly made an attempt to sing Happy Birthday in Slovenian and soon was joined by the whole crowd – which covered up our mistakes, I’m sure. As a surprise, it was arranged for the famous Slovenski Oktet to entertain aunt Julia and her guests. Their singing was superb and most enjoyable. Finally the cake arrived – a delicious fruit torte! It was a very happy day for all and surprisingly, language was no barrier to the feelings we all shared for one another.

Sunday morning following Mass in the Franciscan Church by our hotel, we were on a bus headed for the Postojna Caves. When we arrived we boarded a mini train and toured these mysteriously beautiful caves, which were formed over millions of years and discovered 180 years ago. It was quite an experience to view this beauty and wonder of nature.

We enjoyed yet another fabulous meal at the farmstand Pri Dolencevi where we stayed, spending several hours with our cousins, talking, eating and enjoying the wine. Following the meal we toured a WWI museum, which educated us in the hardship, heartache and sacrifice the people endured. It made us all realize how blessed we are by the legacy of these strong people.

Our next day, Monday, was spent just enjoying Ljubljana. We went to the market, which is an experience in itself, picking up a few souvenirs and then enjoying a final visit with aunt Julia. We were sad to leave her, but promised to return for her 95th birthday, if not before.

Our little band of travelers shared our final meal together and talked of the preceding days and what it meant to all of us. It is hard to put into words what we felt. The fact that we were there, all together, was amazing. All that we saw and were able to enjoy was amazing. Amazing

though it was, it would not have happened had it not been for that first phone call and for the kindness and generosity of our cousin, Stan and his lovely wife, Jerica. They simply took us under their wings and treated us to beautiful Slovenia!

The heart of Slovenia is its people. They are generous, friendly, cheerful and hard working. They opened their hearts and homes to us. Never once did I feel homesick. I know it was because I had my husband, Joe with me – the only non-Slovenian (he's Irish) in the group, and what a good sport he was! He had no problems fitting in. Also, I recall what my cousin, Millie said while we were there, "I feel like I'm home."

I am proud to be Slovenian and of the opportunity I've had to explore my "roots." So much of what I saw and felt explains why and who I am today. Writing this article was a labor of love – for Millie, Annie, Gloria, Steve, Mimi, Joanne, David, and Tommy and especially for Stan and Jeri! God bless you all!

*Loretta Story,  
Br. 24, La Salle, IL*

## Last Call, Travelers!

Many inquires, but not many decisions by our members on our fall trip to Slovenia plans. We have asked Kollander World Travel to share their complete tour schedule with us if you wish to make another date selection.

There are a few of us going in September and if you are still interested, please call Kathy Dorchak-Hall for details so we can travel together.



KOLLANDER ADV. IS ON PAGE 29.

the respected best cake-baker in the neighborhood. I shall never forget the beautiful 3 tiered cake she produced for my parents' 25th wedding anniversary celebration held in Kastelic's basement, 3 years before the SNH was built. There were Hershey's chocolate silver wrapped kisses along the border of each tier. Don's untimely demise was due to a 2-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. His wake and funeral was well-attended by the neighborhood faithfuls and took place in the Lutheran Church across the Dunham Road bridge which the brothers attended regularly as children. My father was so impressed by this when every Sunday morning, regardless the weather, Don and Jim, on foot, made the long trek. The sole survivor of their family, Jim, or Leland as he was also known, resides in Highland, Calif.

We extend our deepest sympathy to member, Amy Thompson on the loss of husband, Stuart. He succumbed to a heart attack on Mother's Day. Her children, twins, Shawn and Samantha, are junior members of our branch. Amy is the daughter of Mary Ann Yemec and niece of Marge Church. Condolences to the entire family – May he rest in peace.

On a brighter note, Jenny Lockard and Allison Gruden were awarded SWU scholarships. Jenny is the daughter of Karen Lockard and both girls are granddaughters of Josie Perko Gruden. Congratulations to all!

Our next meeting is Sat., Aug. 9th at 11:00 a.m. at the Maple Hts. Library. Expected guest speaker is Bob Dober.

Get well wishes to any ailing members and greetings to our shut-ins and assisted-living and nursing home residents.

Enjoy the summer – it's later than you think.

Z bogom!

LIL SADOWSKI

### NO. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI

*Founding Date: JUNE 4, 1930*

**Meeting: 4th Wed.**

**St. John Evangelist Rectory**

Our April meeting was well-attended. We were treated to a very good luncheon by our birthday members. The speaker at this meeting was Frank Bevsek, affiliated with Robert W. Baird & Co. He spoke about different types of investments, and answered the questions asked by our members. We each received a portfolio of information on Fixed Income, Municipal Bonds, and Stretch Your IRA, which could be helpful to us in the future.

Our Member of the Year luncheon was on May 10th at Carl's Catering and Banquet at 51st and Loomis Rd., but at this meeting no one knew who we had chosen because we wanted it to be a surprise! And, it certainly was a surprise to Raymond Delopst. We had a special crown for him and we pre-

sented him with a plaque, thanking him for his dedication. Judy Delopst Rechlitz spoke on some of the memorable happenings in her father's life. Ray then spoke about his Mother, Gertrude Delopst, who was our first President. He said that he attended our meetings when he was just a little boy because his Mother always took him with her. What a wonderful history for our Branch.

On June 18th we planned a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Sorrows in Chicago. A bus was chartered for this trip.

After a long illness, Sophie Rifelj was called to her heavenly home. Please keep her in your prayers.

No meetings in July and August.

ANNE E. KONCZAL,  
Reporter

## HERITAGE DONATIONS

**\$25.00 donations:** in memory of Freda Michelitch from Mary A. Petrick, Baltimore, MD; Eizabeth Brook;  
**\$20.00 donation:** Bernadette Fitzsimmons

**\$20.00 donation** in memory of Stella Kostich from Josephine Arko, Br. 50

**\$20.00 donation** in memory of Anthony Jagodnik, husband of Irene Jagodnik, Br. 50

**\$100.00 donation** for memorial plaque in memory of †Ann J. Tercek from Br. 50, Cleveland, OH

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**NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH**

*Founding Date: JUNE 17, 1931*

**Maple Hts. Public Library  
March, May, Sep. and Dec.**

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Our Mother's Day Celebration was a very well-attended affair. The Mother of the Year, Dorothy Cabot had her family in attendance along with members and guests of our branch. Everyone enjoyed the dinner at Quinn's.

Our next meeting will be in September, further details will follow.

We would like to welcome new members, Brandi Wallace and her daughter, Rhiannon Joy Wallace. Birthday wishes go out to our July and August members: July members are Mary Kociancic, Mary Kuzel, Anthony Mezgec, Julie Mezgec, Courtney Mundson, Katelyn Mundson and Rhiannon Joy Wallace; August members are Judy Freeman, Jason Hall, Elsie Kohun, Ginger Kemmerling, Hermine Mezgec, Rosalie Zeleznik and Emma Zupon. Best wishes to all.

Rhiannon will be celebrating her first birthday in July.

KATHERINE WALLACE

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**NO. 54, WARREN, OH**

*Founding Date: AUGUST 22, 1932*

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

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We enjoyed a very nice Mother-Daughter Luncheon in May and we honored all mothers. Fran Sainata and Louise Vett were in charge of the table decorations and they did a wonderful job. Louise and I made a cake for dessert – which we really didn't need after such a good lunch at Café 422.

Fran has two granddaughters graduating from high school, Allysa and Kristen who will be valedictorian. Congratulations. We know that Fran is very proud of them.

Congratulations on 50 years of marriage to our member, Mary Diana and her husband, Cappy! Mary always comes to our luncheons and is very special!

We lost a very good member, Angela Petrich Kaferle. She had been in a nursing home for a few years, and was a member of our branch for many years. When she was well she couldn't do

enough for us – a very generous and loving person. She leaves two sons, Paul and Frank who with his wife, Gina gave beautiful eulogies at her funeral at which our group was well-represented. Our sympathy and prayers to the family.

We missed Vic Zuga, our charter member who was at the beach with daughter, Karen, also our member. Vic is so faithful, coming to all our meetings. Happy birthday to Anne Savor – she'll be 97 years young. We're sorry she hasn't been able to attend our gatherings in recent years.

We hope and pray that our National Convention went well and all the endeavors will be realized. We enjoyed a trip out west and to So. Carolina to see our daughter, Pat. Now I have to get busy doing some housework and flower planting. By now (July), it should be all done and I'll be basking in the beauty of summer. Happy sunshine to all.

JOANNE PONIKVAR

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**NO. 85, DEPUE, IL**

*Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1937*

**Meetings: at Members' Homes**

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The 2003 National Convention of the SWU is over. I am sure the ladies from Minnesota made it a good and successful convention. Our congratulations to all the officers and delegates.

Our President, Gen Grile spent a few days in Tupelo, Miss. in March. On March 15 she attended the wedding of her grandson, Joshua John Kimble to Katherine Carol Kennedy. We congratulate this young couple and wish them many years of happiness.

Our member, Jackie Barto was recently hospitalized with pneumonia and we are happy to report she is now at home. Jackie was blessed with a new granddaughter when her daughter had a little girl. Our congratulations to all of you.

Jonathon Hultine, grandson of Ann DeBord was picked as the outstanding boy in the eighth grade. We are very proud of you, Jonathon. Keep up the good work.

So much for now. Have a great summer everyone, and stay away from the mosquitoes. God bless!

MARY JERMENC

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**Fr. Bernard Horzen,  
50 Years a Priest!**

On May 4th Father Bernard Hozen celebrated the Golden Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving in the Abbey Church at St. Bedes, followed by a dinner. Father Bernard has been on the faculty at St. Bedes for 51 years. Father Bernard has been the recipient of many, many awards. It must be very rewarding to Father to know how he has influenced so many, many people and students. So many of his students have been very successful. Father Horzen is now the pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Dalzell but he still teaches a class in advanced placement chemistry. On May 10th Father Bernard celebrated with a polka mass in his church. His nephew, Jimmy Horzen was the musician. It was followed by a dinner in the church hall with dancing afterward. It was very nice.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Father Bernard, a wonderful and outstanding priest and wishes for many more good years in the priesthood.

Mary Jermenc

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**NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL**

*Founding Date: MAY 9, 1938*

**Meeting: 2nd Mondays  
except Jan., Feb., May, June,  
July and August  
Dickinson House**

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Hello to all from Oglesby!

Since our Slovenian heritage is so rich with tradition, we celebrated our April meeting with authentic Easter breakfast food. The hard boiled eggs, shaved horse radish, homemade sausage, and potica, was enjoyed by everyone. As we ended our evening, our president, Nancy Henkel, presented each one with a "butara". (A bundle of fresh spring greenery to be blessed and kept in our homes one year for good health and good fortune.)

On Holy Saturday, upholding our Slovenian Easter custom "Žegen", Father Greg Josifiak, at our Holy Family parish, blessed our Easter baskets filled with sausage, eggs, potica, bread and horse radish. This blessed food was to be the first food eaten breaking our lenten fast on Holy Saturday.

At our May gathering, in celebration of our 65 years as Branch 89 of Oglesby, we met at our local family restaurant, "Christo's". With the thoughtfulness of our chairperson, Barbara Bruch, each member received a spring flower to plant in our flower beds as a remembrance of this special evening. Our members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and a welcomed surprise – the chef baked apple strudel for our dessert! As we parted, we were each presented with a balloon and an American flag, concluding our special celebration together. What a beautiful end to a beautiful evening!

We were all looking forward to our June 8th gathering, at Holy Family Church for our 10:30 Mass for the deceased members of branch 89. After Mass, God willing, we shared a breakfast together at our local restaurant, Delaney's.

Let me share with you some "news" I received from some of our members. Fran Morrison of Oglesby, a 3rd grade teacher at Lincoln School in Oglesby, was presented an Educator's Award for outstanding contribution and dedication to the schools of LaSalle County by William Novotny, Regional Superintendent of Schools for LaSalle County. Congratulations! Fran is the daughter of Rose Ann Prey, retiring president of Branch 89. Rose Ann also enjoyed a visit from her son, William Prey Jr. from California, who was home for Easter.

Mackenzie Borio received her First Communion on May 4, her father's birthday. Mackenzie is the granddaughter of Darlene Wasielewski, our vice president of Branch 89.

Adam Banich graduated LaSalle-Peru High School on May 22. In high school Adam was an Illinois State Scholar, received the President's Education Award, represented L.P. as a student Rotary member, was on high scholarship for 7 semesters, inducted into L.P.'s High Honor Society, was on the All Conference Academic Basketball Team 2 years in a row, and competed in the World Youth Science and Engineering Competition. Adam's testing in Engineering Graphics was 3rd at the Regional level, 2nd at Sectional level, and 4th at State level. Adam's future plans are to attend the University of Illinois at Champaign majoring in Civil Engineering. Con-

gratulations and best wishes!

Adam is the son of Mitzi Banich, treasurer for Branch 89.

In closing, my wish to all for a peace-filled relaxing summer.

ALICE EBNER,  
Recording Secretary

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### NO. 93, NEW YORK, NY

*Original Founding Date:*

NOVEMBER 26, 1938

*Reorganized: FEBRUARY, 2002*

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Dobrodošli from Branch 93! We have some interesting developments in the realm of Slovenian culture in NYC to report in this issue of ZARJA. In early May, the Brooklyn Academy of Music showcased "New Films from Slovenia," and some of our members were able to attend. The films were sponsored by BAMcinémathèque and the Slovenian Film Fund, with support from the Slovenian Consul General of New York. We are in the process of finding out how we can purchase these movies and other Slovenian films on video, and we hope to be able to promote more Slovenian cultural events in the city in the future.

Our events for the remainder of the year include five primary meetings, supplemented with events the Slovenian Consulate in NYC sponsors (such as films, lectures and receptions.) We are planning a wine tasting and harvest festival discussion in September, a cooking/baking demonstration in October and the November meeting will be a holiday party and presentation on Slovenian holiday traditions.

A number of Branch 93 members have been to Slovenia or are planning to go in the near term. Mirjam Hladnik, Marjana Lavrencic, Janja Lupše, Manca Klanjšček, Tea Rožman Clark, Vesna Straser and Suzi Zupančič Brathwaite have gone or are going. Patricia Shusterich and her husband Ed have been to Slovenia five times and are looking forward to their next trip there.

We have found that the Yahoo user group is a fantastic way to keep in touch with each other. In addition to the yahoo user group, we have distributed a membership contact list so that members can stay in touch and meet each other on their own, since not everyone can make our meetings regularly. If you

do not use e-mail, please contact me for our upcoming meetings.

Please feel free to let us know if you plan to be in the New York area during the summer, and we can update you on any events that we may have planned during your time in the area.

ANDREA SELAK  
ANDREASELAK@HOTMAIL.COM

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### NO. 100, FONTANA, CA

*Founding Date:*

Ottawa, CA – JUNE 26, 1940

Fontana, CA – MARCH 7, 1957

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About 35 members, family and friends joined to honor Elvie Blasick as the Branch 100 Member of the Year on May 10th. After a lovely Birthday Brunch for our honoree, we proceeded to the Napoli Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda for an early dinner. It was, indeed, a very special day for Elvie as all three of her children took part in planning and serving the brunch and then came to take part in the S.W.U. tribute to her, as well. Rosemary Mlakar and Jean Koci told a little about Elvie's life and had stories to share about their friendships. Sons, Rob and Don pulled out their accordions and played music for the guests and especially for their mother. It was truly a lovely afternoon.

**Elvie sends a heartfelt "Thank You" to all the members for the lovely luncheon in her honor as Member of the Year for 2003. She is grateful to all those who were able to attend and for this special recognition.**

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Many Branch 100 members attended the special cultural event in Orange County on April 27th. "Springtime in the Alps." The *Trio Moj dom* from Slovenia entertained with the zither music of Marjan Marinsek and the vocals of Kristina Sustar and Tanja Meza.



The guests also enjoyed the Maksim Gaspari Postcard Art Exhibition which was brought by the group for this event. We are sorry that National Secretary Bonnie Prokup could not stay in California long enough to spend this special day with us. It would have been wonderful to meet her and her children. Perhaps another time!

We congratulate our SWU Scholarship recipient, Krista Lundgren. Krista will attend the University of California at San Diego in the fall.

Best wishes to all... nasvidenje!

JEAN KOCI

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### **NO. 102, WILLARD, WI**

*Founding Date: May 11, 1941*

**Meeting: When convenient  
Parish Center**

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Our May 4th meeting had 14 members and 2 guests attending. Mother of the Year, Frieda Klancher was honored. Present were her daughter and husband, Pat Plautz, and sons, Josh and Jesse; son, Paul and wife, Barb; Paul's daughter, Wendy Klancher of Washington, D.C. (she's a member of Br. 103), Paul's son, Lee Klancher and great granddaughter, Hannah Furley. Other special guests were Christine Fortuna, Joan Imre and Virginia Tire.

Frieda was presented a picture of an old time schoolroom since she was a teacher 31 years! A Sing-a-long with Frank Pakiz playing his accordion was enjoyed by all.

Rose Pakiz was delegate and Vickie Krultz, alternate for the National Convention in Duluth. Joanne Trunkel donated a baby quilt for the handwork sale and raffle. Mary Staut reminisces that she had attended many Nat'l. Conventions in the past. Our donations: \$200 to the Willard Historical Society; and \$50 to Karon and Joe Tolany after their house was destroyed by fire.

Three new members have joined Br. 102, namely, Frank Govek, Frieda's grandson, Lee Klancher and Vickie Bauer.

Our prayers go out for Father Joe Follmer and Stanley Suda.

Condolences to the families of Mayme Kezele, Mary Kokaly, Michael Perushek, Leo Gregorich and Ludwig Hribar.

REPORTER

## SWU TRIVIA

We have always have been proud of our reporters and we should all take note of what they say because they are the voice of the people! A nice big THANK YOU to them.

Let me tell you about the comment of a priest who edited a Bohemian newspaper – many years ago. He asked me "how is it that you have so many reporters every month? This is not the case in most newspapers. People like to read but not to write." Well, after I counted them and saw that we did have (and still do have) about 30 regular reporters, I answered him saying that we were indeed special people! But I also always thought that this is the nicest compliment I could ever receive as editor and the nicest anyone could say about SWU. I reflect on this every time I have to make a correction, delete some words or follow thru on a missing article, etc. I think of it also when I read other papers and magazines from other lodges and count how many (or few) reporters they have.

We have to remember that our reporters are not only our voice but they pulse the vitality among us and carry the spirit from place to place. In the old days, this was done with letters and correspondence between Marie Priland and ladies living in various places in the USA. So, I guess you could say that she started the idea of keeping in touch with the written word – from the first ZARJA until now.

Editor



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### **NO. 103, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Founding Date: NOVEMBER 14, 1965*

**Meeting: 1st Sun. except July & Aug.  
St. Columba's Ch. Albermarle St.**

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#### **Heritage Festival**

The first ever Washington, D.C. area Slovenian Heritage Festival took place on April 26, 2003 at the Hall of North Chevy Chase Christian Church in Chevy Chase, MD. SWU Branch 103 and the SWUA Heritage Museum and Library hosted the festival. The lively sound of Slovenian folk music from the button box and piano accordions filled the hall and greeted each guest. One's eye was carried across the room by the bright decorations of helium balloons in the Slovenian tri-colors (white, blue and red) suspended by ribbons above the display and exhibit tables. The exhibit signs with printed lettering and carnation motifs created a theme and elegantly enhanced the exhibits. Fresh red carnation flowers added tradition. The button box player dressed in traditional Slovenian costume along with women and children wearing Slovenian kerchiefs created the ethnic atmosphere.

Bernardka (Bernadette) Kovacic Fitzsimmons initiated and chaired the Festival Committee. Many members, their families, and non-members prepared material material for and worked at the festival. (See separate ZARJA feature article by Bernadette.) Seed funding, to get the festival off the ground and frankly to make it possible, was generously donated by Mr. Ed Primožic (non-member) and by Branch 103. There were several donated raffle prizes, including gifts donated by the Embassy of Slovenia.

Indeed, the number and quality of exhibits was truly impressive. There were many Slovenian books, in English and Slovenian, including poetry, language instruction, and other subjects, as well as leading Slovenian magazines and newspapers. Exhibits of the Society of Slovene Studies and Studia Slovenica demonstrated the depth of our Slovene history in humanities and social studies. Travel brochures (in English) for the varied geographic areas and vacation activities (skiing, hiking, spas, history) in Slovenia as well as maps (provided by Kollander World Travel, the Embassy of Slovenia and the Slovenian Tourist Board) were

abundantly free for the taking. No one left empty handed. Also available was information on several upcoming tours to Slovenia .. On display were Slovenian folk art and handicrafts, an exhibit of the Slovenian Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., information from the KSKJ and SNPJ, and heritage information. Idrijian bobbin lace making was demonstrated by Maria Pillon Mackay, who also exhibited her lace collection. Contemporary artwork by local artists Estelle Zorman and Marie Chachich Robinson was on display and for sale. Potica, American cookies and brownies were for sale. Also for sale were several items from the SWUA Heritage Museum. Activities especially designed for children guaranteed a fun afternoon: arts'n'crafts, singing, and Slovenian cartoon movies on video. Other videos were also played, including SWUA's "Come Look Through My Eyes," and "Ljubljana, Capitol city of Slovenia."

Distinguished guests from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. attended; H.E. Dr. Davorin Kračun, Ambassador gave a warm and charming welcome speech.

The entertainment featured Slovenian poetry readings, in Slovenian with English translations, and traditional Slovenian music and folk songs. The poetry program was organized by Ivanka Velikonja Antolin, who presented an introduction on Slovene poet and national hero, Francé Prešeren. Mark Oven acted as master of ceremonies. Recitations were given by Ivanka Antolin, her daughter Kati Antolin Bakeev, Uroš Potocnik, Mary Anne Orazem Martins. Jana Bevec, and Vladimir Pregelj. A delightful children's chorus sang Slovenian folksongs. Pia Ciglar played a selection of Slovenian folksongs on her flute. Bronco Toter, dressed in a very beautiful and complete traditional costume, on the button-box, along with Karen Toter on bass guitar, also played Slovenian folk songs.

The heritage festival drew over 100 visitors of Slovene and non-Slovene descent, SWU members and non-members. Our pride in our Slovenian heritage has been reinforced, which we are proud to share with the public. Because of the festival, a couple of new members have joined the SWU. With the

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proceeds from the festival, Branch 103 was very pleased and proud to donate to the SWUA Heritage Museum and Library the funds to purchase the Marc Magician Software for library indexing and cross referencing.

### Recent Branch Meetings and Future Events

At the Branch 103 meeting held on April 6, 2003, guest speaker (and now new member) Lynn Koiner talked about her many travels and experiences in Slovenia. Lynn, who is not of Slovenian decent, found the Slovenian mass and heritage during one of her many other trips to Europe. She says that Slovenia is the traveler's best kept secret. Lynn loves to go to Slovenia in the autumn, to stay in out of the way places such as an old Gothic hotel, explore old archeological sites, visit old war museum and sites, hike in the mountains, walk through rustling leaves and spy the salamanders in the woods, and experience local life and its cafes. What a travel poster!

At the Branch 103 meeting on May 4, 2003, we discussed and made the plans for the Fall dinner/dance social; mark your calendars and save the date, Saturday, October 11, 2003. We also reviewed the heritage festival held on April 26. It was also decided that I would represent the Branch as Delegate to the SWUA National Convention.

Welcome to new Branch 103 members: Andrea Plautz, Candace Kovacic-Fleischer, Lisa Kokal, Veronika Tobias and Florence Povodnik Engelhart.

I hope that everyone will have pleasant summer and some sun! I write this upon my return from the National Convention and am exhilarated with our sisterhood and for the future of the organization. The convention was fabulous; Duluth is beautiful. I made new friends and am inspired by the dynamic, energetic and forward-thinking women in our Slovenian Women's Union! Hope to see you at our Branch 103 meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2003.

VALERIE BOHINCE

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## From the Youth Director Angela Stare:

Warmest greetings to all of our juniors!

I hope that this past year has been one that you will look back on with pride and hope and thank God for all of the blessings that you received throughout the year, especially in school.

Summer is time for family, reflection, adventure, prayer and preparation for the new school year ahead. I pray that you will have a productive, fun-filled, relaxing summer packed with a lot of special memories.

Let us hear from you... as you prepare for your summer vacation plans, school, travel, etc., I'd like to encourage you to write to us and share your summer, family experiences with our readers. Maybe your family does something special, traditional or maybe you plan a trip to Slovenia ... share your stories with us. We hope that many of you were able to take the opportunity to attend our convention in Duluth, MN this past June; a great way to learn, observe, enjoy and participate in events that were specifically planned for you - for the first time - and hopefully will be a tradition at future conventions. Take time, to explore, laugh, have some quiet time, pray, do fun things, visit friends, or someone whom you can befriend. Some of us may be led to do a little extra and do some charity work, visit the sick, elderly and make a difference in someone else's life. Many of our parishes offer great programs to do just that - corporal works of mercy. We may not always seek nor see our rewards in this life, but in eternity. Have a great summer! God bless you all!

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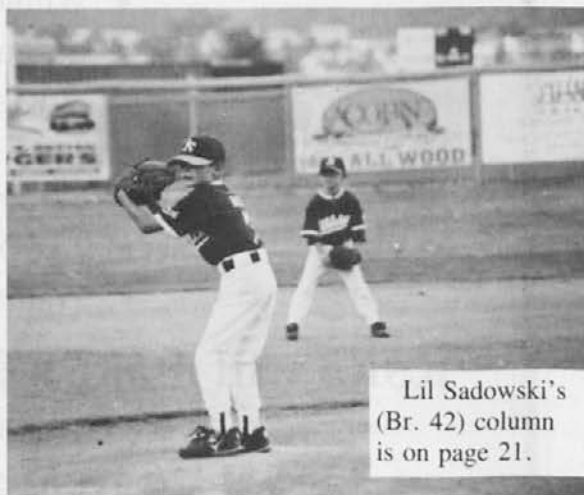


Boy Scout, Matthew Fitzsimmons, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  years old and a member of our Branch No. 103, was awarded the Light of Christ Medal from the Archdiocese of Washington, and presented to him by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. They are seen here on the above photos. The ceremony took place in Laurel, MD.

## READY SET GO!

### It's a Home Run!

Young baseball star, Alex Kosakoski, is making everyone proud with his prowess on the baseball field.



Lil Sadowski's  
(Br. 42) column  
is on page 21.



Ann Couwenhoven with daughter, Annie, son Mark, Jr. Veronika Stare, and Erika Kokal's daughter, Ayla, at the Slovenian Festival celebration in Washington. Story on pages 9-11.



Lake Bled (Slovenia) origami swan-making led by Annie Couwenhoven. Both photos by Stane Sustersic



## A PRIZE-WINNING STORY BY A 6TH GRADER:

*Veronika Stare, a junior member of Branch 103, Washington, D.C., entered an all-school writing contest and submitted a non-fiction short story (under 1,000 words) and was awarded first prize.*

### My Family...

#### Slovenia to America

Freedom, whether religious or political is a natural human desire. What would it be like to live under communism, oppression, and religious persecution? My mother, an immigrant had many stories to share about how her parents fled a former communist country in Europe, to settle in Austria.

The journey began one cold fall evening, as the sun faded away, and night was setting in. My grandfather and grandmother made a poignant visit to their sisters and brothers to wish them well and pray that they will see them again. They packed their few belongings, with their young son, and headed out to start their journey by foot, across the border into Austria.

Unsure of their future, frightened, cold and hungry, they finally found the refugee center in Carinthia where they checked in. Being fluent in German, my grandfather did not hesitate to inquire about employment opportunities. Fortunately, he was able to find work. They settled in and adjusted to life in the refugee camp.

My grandparents' daughter, also known as my mother, who was born in Austria, often tells me stories of what life was like in the refugee camp. One story that I particularly liked was about a Christmas celebration. It was a tradition in Austria and in that refugee camp that the refugee families would decorate the camp for the Christmas season. Many refugees would make their own handmade exquisite ornaments for their trees. Often the children would join in and create their own special artwork to be placed on the center's walls or even the Christmas tree. There were numerous Nativity scenes throughout the camp. Most of these beautiful mangers were also hand-made by the residents. One Christmas Eve, as they were planning a lighting celebration



candles were used for decorations, they were placed on the trees as one would place lights to be lit every evening. One evening at a celebration for the children, the candles on the tree were lit and then everybody continued on with their Christmas play and singing carols in German and Slovenian. Sometimes later the candles on the trees began to fall and the trees caught on fire. In horror the refugees fled the center and went outside to brave the freezing cold as they watched and waited, hoping to go back in and put the fires. The fire was soon extinguished and the residents of the refugee camp were eventually allowed to go back in. It was a horrifying experience and one that many of the people will not forget.



and waited, hoping to go back in and put the fires. The fire was soon extinguished and the residents of the refugee camp were eventually allowed to go back in. It was a horrifying experience and one that many of the people will not forget.

After six years in the refugee camp, my grandparents and their five children were told that they would be going to America. They crossed the ocean on a U.S. army boat, the trip lasted several weeks. The boat was filled with many eager and tired refugees. To prevent sea sickness and other illnesses they were given cod liver oil to drink.

Finally they reached the shores of Boston. Once they got off the boat, puzzled they looked around, not knowing the language, they did not know where to turn. After walking around the city, they found a train station. They boarded the train, not knowing where the trip would take them. While riding on the train, painful thoughts raced through their minds of the family they had left behind. After being on the train for quite some time my grandfather noticed farmland and decided that this was where he would like to get off. It was Little Rock, Arkansas, and my grandmother and grandfather got off with their five kids, and walked for hours, until finally they found a farmer. After a lengthy and friendly conversation, each in their own language that neither understood, the farmer showed them where they would stay, which turned out to be a dilapidated, old, beat-up shack. My grandfather worked tirelessly and at the end of each week the farmer rewarded him with one dollar. Every day the farmer's wife would visit them in their ramshackled home to give them leftovers for food. The first Sunday that the family was there my grandfather went to the farmer's farm to talk to him about taking his family to church. He knew that the farmer did not understand him, yet he wanted to make sure that he would take the family to the right church. To get the message across he made the sign of the cross, folded his hands prayerfully, and took out his rosary. The farmer complied and took the family to a Catholic church. The father put weekly wage of one dollar from the farmer in the collection basket. After mass he told the family that he gave his entire wages of one dollar to the church because we must put God first as He will provide for us.

The following week after putting in long hours taking care of the pigs he noticed that there was something wrong. He wanted to alert the farmer that the pigs need to be treated before he would lose them. Unfortunately, the pigs did die.

Several months later the family was on their way to Minnesota, their next stop on their journey from Slovenia to America.

*Veronika P. Stare  
Grade 6 - Age: 11*

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- October 12 Ohio-Michigan, State Convention  
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