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NUMBER 2
MARCH-
APRIL, 2004
VOLUME 76

Easter Joy!
Veselo Velikonoč!



ON THE COVER...

EASTER & HERITAGE

The cover picture shows a specific kind of Slovenian *butarica*, from the city of Ljubljana and surrounding areas, made by twisting and curling wood shavings along the branches of fresh pine boughs. It is different from those made in the Slovenian villages, and in our own country, where families make them of fresh greens that are found growing in the early spring, to be carried in Palm Sunday processions. It is one of the more delightful customs of the season. (Photo: *Ljudska umetnost in obrti v Sloveniji*)

In this issue you can follow a recipe for delicious doughnuts, *Krofi*, which we enjoy eating any time, but especially at holiday time.

Members of Br. 93, New York also have been spending time making the traditional Slovenian style Easter eggs, by coloring hard boiled eggs with onion-skins, and are sharing pictures of their project with us.

Our beautiful 4-color cover picture is printed compliments of our ZARJA printer, Croatian Franciscan Press.

DATES TO REMEMBER

The following special events are being planned by our branches:

March

- 6 Br. 108, Dinner-Meeting, Slovenian Family Polka Night – Blob's Park, Jessup, MD
- 13 Br. 108, Olney, MD, St. Pat's Day Parade, Gaithersburg, MD

April

- 16-17 Br. 20, Joliet, IL Rummage Sale, St. Joe's Hall
- 17 Br. 108, Olney, MD Gaithersburg International Book Fest

May

- 2 Br. 35, Aurora, MN Mother's Day Party
- 4 Br. 14, Euclid, OH Mother's Day party, SSH Rechar Ave., 6:30
- 18 Br. 54, Warren, OH Mother's Luncheon, Café 422, 1 p.m.
- 19 Br. 10, Cleveland, OH Fanny's Rest, 1 p.m.

Internet webpage: www.swua.org

e-mail: swuhome@msn.com

On line newsletter: lzalokar@yahoo.com

Scholarship Fund Website:

<http://members.aol.com/sherryew/SWU/SWUScholarship.html>

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MARCH

Presidents:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN APRIL

Presidents:

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

Secretaries:

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

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

Deadline for Branches to submit Woman or Mother
of the Year articles is March 15th!

In this Issue:

President's Message	1
Secretary's Message	2
Calendar Raffle Winners	3
Genealogy Research	4
Scholarship Director	5-7
Heritage Director	8-10
Book Reviews	11
Member Donations	13
"Tributes"	14
"Recipes from the Farm"	15
"Our Members Write"	16-19
Activities of our Branches	20-32

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN:

“The Future is Now – Part II”

Congratulations to everyone who participated in Part II of the 2003 Membership Campaign. Again it was another success! All together we brought in 321 new members for the year 2003. This is remarkable and our best year ever!

Leading the Branches is

Br. 24, LaSalle, Illinois

This branch will receive a \$100 Value Grab Bag Prize for increasing the number of new members over the previous six months.



The Western States:

**Branch 13, San Francisco
Branch 100, Fontana
Branch 3, Pueblo, and
Branch 79, Enumclaw**

have won the Territory Award for increasing their new member total over the previous 6 months!

Again, thank you to all whom made this dream possible.

“Dreams come true when faith takes flight.”

*Bonnie Pohar Prokup
2003 Membership Chairperson*

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Kathleen Dorchak-Hall**



“Planning for an Active 2004!”

Congratulations to all of the lucky winners of our “January 2004 Magic Month Calendar Raffle” fundraiser. I am sure many of you were very happy to be winners. Thank you to everyone participating. We appreciate your help in the success in this raffle to collect over \$1,700 for the SWUA Heritage Museum. A special thank you is extended to Marge Church for creating the calendar and to Pat Figuirowski who tracked the results of the raffle.

From the calls we are receiving from our members, it seems that some of you were very surprised by the dues increase in your 2004 dues invoice. In previous issues of the ZARJA we explained how important this increase was to our organization. At the National Convention in June our delegates agreed and passed the increase. Since the payment of this increase may be a hardship for some of our elderly members, I ask our branches to consider ways to make payment arrangements to keep these special sisters as our members.

By the time you receive this issue of the ZARJA, your National Board of Directors will have met to discuss our plans for 2004. Some of the items we will discuss are how to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of ZARJA, the possibility of planning a trip somewhere in the United States, consideration of planning a tour to Slovenia in 2005, how we can revitalize branches or assist in creating programs, and much more. The next issue of ZARJA will contain all of the important facts from this meeting.

I wish you a happy and blessed Easter. For this special holiday I challenge many of you to remember and revitalize our beloved Slovenian traditions. It’s what makes our holidays so unique and exceptional.

“I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends.”

—William Shakespeare

Love and Blessings,

Kathleen Dorchak-Hall

3088 Markle Drive
Silver Lake, Ohio 44224
Telephone: (330) 686-1336
FAX: (330) 688-6203
Email: kdorchak@neo.rr.com

National Secretary, Bonnie Prohar Prokup:

Br. 24, LaSalle, Illinois is the winner of the 2003 campaign

Bonnie's Remarks given at the 75th Anniversary of Br. 24:

This is my busiest time of the year as my mailbox is bursting each day with invoice returns; this year is no exception. I am very pleased with the amount that is coming in each day and also the generous donations for our ZARJA magazine. I believe this may be one of our best years for donations so far. For those of you that were able to make a donation – thank you very much (please see your name in this issue). The money is greatly needed as the ZARJA is one of our largest expenses and yet our greatest benefit.



During the past few days I've been receiving phone calls over the raise in dues. Some of you were not aware of the reasoning behind this. We've had it listed in the past ZARJA issues and a survey was sent to each member asking for an opinion and it was up for vote at the National Convention. To help you understand the reasoning better, please be sure to read the explanations in past issues. And, of course, if you have any further questions please let me know.

Already this year we are off to a fantastic start with new members. As of today we have 30 new members. That is more than any other year given the same time period. Congratulations new members!

Thank you,

*Bonnie Pohar Prokup,
National Secretary, SWUA*

And Where Are We Today!

Since our 60th Anniversary our branch has been growing both in size and in enthusiasm. As of this date, October 19, 2003 we have 87 adult members and 13 juvenile members. This year alone we have added 20 new members. Which is more than we have brought in for a five year period. This is quite a statement!

And how is all this happening? It is the renewed interest in our Slovenian heritage, which has been sparked by enthusiasm, excitement and love. We are truly following our SWUA vision/mission/purpose statement. We have incorporated a Slovenian lesson in each of our meetings which has resulted in a growing attendance. Another new feature is the Eureka Bank building where we hold our meetings in lovely conference room complete with a kitchen facility to accommodate the different hostesses who prepare delicious refreshments. We meet on the third Thursday of the month.

Our spring begins with a lovely luncheon honoring all of our members. Followed by the Slovenian Picnic at the Pohar homestead in June. This is an event that will transport you to Slovenia. Complete with atmosphere, food, music and games. In November we have a mass said for all deceased members and in December we enjoy the Christmas season with a lovely dinner.

We are excited and inspired by our growing success and will continue to work diligently to promote our Slovenian heritage and extend a warm welcome to all who wish to partake in this wonderful organization.

Welcome "NEW" Members as of February 12, 2004

Name	Branch				
Glivar, Dolores M	100	Lackey, Marlene	20	Zimmer, Frank Owen	42
Morales, Paula Koestner	100	Lesnik, John	20	Zimmer, Madelle Elizabeth	42
Rebol, Zoe Anya	100	Matile, Richard W	20	Zupancic, Grace Mae	42
Klaus, Francesca	100	McPartlin, Sarah	20	Bartlett, Robert J.	43
Primozič, Edward	103	O'Brien, Courtney Jean	20	Kolesari, Jack T	43
Kosir, Mary Ann	105	Priester, Herb	20	Smith, Jacquelyn	43
Bartol, Dolores A.	108	Rolih, Donna	20	Thomas, Rae	43
Oven, Amalia G.	108	Shebenik, Theresa	20	Sheets, Susan M	5
Pechnik, William C.	108	Dellinger, Willa Jean	24	Stergar, Dorothy	5
Reza, Analhi Rose	108	Dondelinger, Florence	24	Krebs, Janice M	50
Reza, Sarah Simmons	108	Eide, Shirley	24	Srebernak, Nancy C	50
Rivera-Oven, Grace	108	Kotar, Connie	24	Ebner, Courtney Rae	89
Roda, Ayla B	108	Michaels, Frances	24	Kamnikar, Terry L	89
Roda, Brielle M	108	Miller, Deborah	24	Kernz, Alice	89
Roda, Celina A	108	Newcomer, Mary Lynn	24	Landgraf, Natalie Ebner	89
Vardjan, F.M.	108	Coomes, Mary Carol Krall	3	Utz, Kathy	89
Walsh, Patricia	108	Felich, Ann	30	Malensek, Katherine	93
Yauger, Teresa Bencina	108	McKay, Alisa M	30	Wolfe, Jaymie Stuart	93
Gregorich, Nancy	20	Yost, Yul	30	Wolfe, Katerine Marie	93
Kramer, Catherine A	20	Johnson, Marjorie (Grahek)	34	Wolfe, Nadja A	93
		Beton, Caroline A	39	Zegas, Samuel B	93
		Planton, Zoe	39		



**RAFFLE WINNERS
PICKED BY A
DISTINGUISHED
FOURSOME!**

Photos of our raffle winner-picking crew with Pat Figurovski of Br. 20 who was in charge of the JANUARY, 2004 MAGIC MONTH FUNDRAISER were taken at the SWU Home Office: (top left) Fr. Tim Andres, O.Carm.; (right) Fr. James Radek, Pastor of St. Joseph Church, Joliet, IL; (lower left) Fr. Tom Paul, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Downers Grove, IL and (right) Char Kobe, Pres. of Br. 20.

Magic Month Calendar Winners Write

Dear Pat and Ladies,

I'm very happy to have won the the first day's drawing from the Magic Month Calendar. It is my wish that you accept this \$50 donation (enclosed) toward the maintenance of the Museum in memory of my dad, Louis Kovach. My father was very proud of his Slovenian heritage. As a musician he made many people happy playing Slovenian waltzes and polkas. After meeting and knowing my dad, everyone wished they were Slovenian, too! "We are a happy people!"

Sincerely,

Jackie Kovach Smith



**MAGIC MONTH CALENDAR 2004
Congratulations to our Winners!**

January	Prize	Name and City
1	\$500	Jacquelin Smith, New Berlin, WI
2	100	Patricia Priesol, Chicago, IL
3	100	Jean Korsman, Gilbert, MN
4	300	Mary Kociancic, Garfield Hts., OH
5	100	Rudy Perdan, Euclid, OH
6	100	Marilyn Vitali, Chisholm, MN
7	100	Elizabeth Gallun, Milwaukee, WI
8	100	Theresa Berg, Rockford, IL
9	100	Daniel Kolesari, Elm Grove, WI
10	100	Viola Pisoni, St. Louis, MO
11	100	Mary Palcic, Orlando, FL
12	100	Dorothy Koncar, Joliet, IL
13	100	Elaine Kosman, Calumet Park, IL
14	100	Marjorie Church, Macedonia, OH
15	100	Carol Jacobson, Carleton, MN
16	100	Debbie Pohar, LaSalle, IL
17	100	Dorothy Cabot, Bedford, OH
18	300	Jamie Short, Concord, OH
19	100	Elbert Graddieth, Chicago, IL
20	100	Denise Bartlett, Milwaukee, WI
21	100	Helen Mosack, Duluth, MN
22	100	Pam Zanone, Wooster, OH

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for picking my lucky number. I sure was surprised and very happy. I do buy a lot of church raffle tickets (for many years) but do not expect to win and really am just feeling good about the good causes that I'm contributing to anyway. But this was a nice surprise.

I'm 100% member of the Good Slovenian Women's Union, Br. 43 for many years and really enjoy the group. Thanks again and special prayers, always.

Elizabeth Gallun

23	100	George Krals, St. Joseph, MI
24	100	Community Nursing Clinic Staff Pewaukee, WI
25	500	Rita Bottomley, Joliet, IL
26	100	Dolores Plut, Channahon, IL
27	100	Rose Lebar, Toronto, Ont., Canada
28	100	Rosemary Donald, Duluth, MN
29	100	Hayley Rose Singletary, Ankeny, IA
30	100	Bernice Nemanich, Joliet, IL
31	100	Stanley Indihar, Gilbert, MN

Genealogy Search

Family Story Tellers – How Are You Doing?

You are the chosen of your clan! If you have not yet seen the blank family chart printed in the January – February 2004 ZARJA, be sure to do so. Several wonderful family collections have come in but we are looking forward to receiving many more so that a book of SWU Family Charts and Records with a surname index can be compiled.

Vera Muir recently wrote:

Dear Tončka:

In the last ZARJA you wondered if our Slovenian "cousins" are interested in getting genealogical information from those of us in America. The answer is a resounding "yes."

I've been working on my family history, all four branches – Ancel, Erjavec, Govednik, and Setina – for the past two years. Several months ago I remembered a box of old stamps that my grandmother, Josephine Erjavec, gave us when we were interested in stamp collecting...around 20 years ago. She thought we could use the old Yugoslavian stamps. Sure enough the box was still in the attic and when I opened it I was pleasantly surprised to find not only stamps, but many envelopes, some which contained letters written in Slovenian, from my grandmother's cousins and friends.

On a hunch, and having gleaned some of her cousins' names from the backs of photographs, I went on line to the Slovenian phone directory at <http://tis.telekom.si>. I started searching for the last names and the addresses and I was very pleased to find that the grandchildren and sometimes great grandchildren of my grandmother are still living in the same house. I wrote letters to many of them and now have several e-mail addresses and have been corresponding with them. I've received updates on many of my great grandparents' descendants and photos. It has been a very rewarding experience. My Slovenian connections have also put me in touch with other cousins in Australia.

I do not speak or read Slovenian, but everyone has been more than happy to use their knowledge of English. Most young Slovenes learn English in School.

* * * * *

Since that time she has sent us her Erjavec Ancel family chart and also made contact with an email friend via an earlier "Ask Tončka" question. Joanne Hanson did some research on the Ancels for Vera while she was researching at the Archives in Ljubljana and found family records from 1787, of which Vera says "It was a wonderful gift not only to me but especially to my Dad, who is 84 years old and has been very interested in finding out about his ancestors."

COMPUTER NEWS:

Mary Urban moved her enormous website to the yahoo group. This new site is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/genealogy_2002 and holds a great deal of Slovenian data from the Midwest. There is a fee to use this site. Mary is currently updating cemetery databases.

The Later Day Saints website www.familysearch.org holds microfilm of passenger lists. These can be ordered through your local LDS Library. The first three list surnames in soundex. Some reels that may be of interest are:

FILM #0543449 – Index to passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York June 16, 1897 – June 1902; Index to passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York, July 1, 1902 – December 31, 1943, passenger and crew lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1897–1924.

FILM #1379501 – Index to passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York, July 1, 1902 to December 31, 1943.

Film #1403751 – Passenger and crew lists of vessel arriving at New York, 1897–1924.

FILM #0002246 Passenger lists of Vessels arriving at New York 1820–1897.

Archives of the Republic of Slovenia

<http://www.gov.si/ars/la.htm>

Regional Archives of Maribor

<http://www.pokarh-mb.si/pamb.html>

Slovenian Genealogical Society International Headquarters

<http://www.slovenianguenealogy.org>

Federation of Eastern Europe Family History Society

<http://www.feefhs.org>

St. Louis, Missouri Library

<http://www.slcl.lib.mo.us/slcl/sc/sc-genpg.htm>

Ontario cemeteries

<http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa>

Canadian telephone book

<http://www.canada411.com>

Minnesota Death Records

<http://people.mnhs.org/dci/search.cfm>

We would like to hear about your research: successes or problems. Genealogy packets are available for \$6.00. Send your request to Tončka, 52 Oakridge Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855.

Wishing you all good luck in your research!

Tončka

An unforgettable remark I heard in a Ljubljana hotel recently was spoken by a man waiting to take a short trip to a nearby village. He was going to see his relatives, for the first time. He said, "I've been waiting for this day all my life!"

C.L.

SLOVENIAN WOMENS' UNION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Dober dan! The deadline has passed for 2004 SWU Scholarships but you are all invited to visit the SWUA Scholarship's new website at

<http://members.aol.com/sherryew/SWU/SWUScholarship.html>

It features:

- * General information on various scholarships offered.
- * History of the Scholarship Program which is entering its 55th year
- * Listing of 2003-2004 scholarship winners
- * Application forms for both \$1,000 and \$500 awards
- * Information on the SWUA Travel Award
- * Link to the SWUA main webpage
- * Donor information

Letters are coming in from our past winners and will be printed in the coming issues of ZARJA. We are very proud of these young people, their diversified experiences, and the wonderful way in which they have touched the lives of others. As you will see, many hold dearly their Slovene heritage.

This month we are featuring Monica Selak, Branch 55, daughter of August and Maria Selak of Girard, Ohio. Monica is attending Notre Dame University as a freshman

My Heritage and Culture

I consider myself lucky to have been raised with such a unique background. Since birth, I have been completely immersed in Slovenian culture, learning to appreciate my heritage. Slovenian is my first language, one that I have been speaking in my home for eighteen years. Not many people can say that they truly know another language and culture. Even fewer people can say that their entire family comes from one place, like my family does. Because of my parents' and grandparents' efforts, I am proud to say that I speak, read and write Slovenian. The life lessons I have learned from my grandparents of hard work, helping my neighbors, and keeping faith in God inspire me daily to continue my ministry of community service as well as my academic endeavors.

The story of my past helps me realize each day the kind of strength that runs through my own veins. I am proud to be bilingual, having this rare opportunity to know and love two different ways of life. I will continue in this tradition by passing on the language and culture to my own children one day. Like my parents and grandparents, I want my children to understand and appreciate their roots. Slovenia is and always will be a part of me. It is who I am.

Monica Selak



For additional information and or donations:

Mary Turvey, Director
52 Oakridge Drive
Marquette, MI 49855
mturvey@aol.com

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2003 DONATIONS

\$5.00 donations: SWU Br. 23, Ely, MN (†Jean Polymer), SWU Br. 23 (†Frances Thoren)

\$20.00 donations: Arnold and Jean Koci (Edith Vidergar), Anne Kapel (†Edith Vidergar)

\$35.00 donation: SWU Branch 55, Girard, OH – Scholarship Fund

\$50.00 donation: Rudolph Pucel, SWU Scholarship Winner of 1973

\$200.00 donation: Dr. Donald Carek, SWU Scholarship Winner of 1949

\$250.00 donation: Ann Marie O'Block Birkovich, SWU Scholarship Winner of 1970

Daniel Spinuzzi, Branch 3, Pueblo, Colorado is the son of Bernadette Spinuzzi and as a pre med student at the University of Colorado has been chosen to participate in Timothy Foundation medical work in the Dominican Republic for several weeks this winter

STUDENT COLLECTS MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



As a 2001 SWU \$1,000 Scholarship recipient and a SWU member of Branch #3 in Pueblo, Colorado, I wanted to let you as well as members of the SWU know that I am currently a Junior at the University of Colorado Boulder majoring in Biological Sciences-Molecular, Cellular and Developmental with a minor in Bio-Chemistry. Because I have continued to pursue my studies throughout the summer months, I will graduate in May 2004. Upon graduation, I will begin studying for the Medical College Assessment Test (MCAT). Upon acceptance into a medical college

(within the U.S. or abroad), I plan to study and specialize in Reconstructive Surgery. I am also intrigued by the technological advancements in neuroscience and stem cell research.

Most recently, I had the great honor of being selected by the Timmy Foundation to serve a medical mission in the Dominican Republic from March 20 – March 27, 2004. "The Timmy Foundation is a non-profit organization that serves the needs of children worldwide with compassion and awareness. We change the world one person at a time by encouraging people of all ages, races, creeds, and abilities to experience the joyful work of sharing their gifts to improve the lives of children around the globe. Confident in the fact that every person has a gift to offer, the Foundation fosters life-affirming, life-changing international volunteer experiences while providing healthcare, educational support, medical equipment, and medicines to those in need."

This year 15 students from CU-Boulder will make the trip, along with volunteer medical professionals from throughout the United States and 8 students from Tufts University in Boston. During our stay in the DR, we hope to serve approximately 400 patients a day. The majority of these patients have never seen a doctor before or have ever received medical attention, so it is not uncommon for them to wait in line 5-6 hours to be treated.

The Timmy Foundation cannot provide any direct financial support. Therefore, all medical and hygiene supplies must be obtained prior to our departure. Needless to say, I have been extremely busy soliciting for medical/hygiene supplies and have had an overwhelming response.

This is a very exciting opportunity for me and I am looking forward to joining the thousand of other volunteers around the globe to offer the necessary medical supports and services with which those individuals living in our neighboring Third World countries have a rightful chance to experience.

On Sunday, November 23, 2003 my hometown newspaper, *The Pueblo Chieftain*, published a story about my medical mission; I have attached a copy for you to read. Please feel free to share the article with any other SWU members as well. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at bspinuzzi@hotmail.com.

My Slovenian heritage and culture have been an important part of my life and exemplify the person that I am today. The last 2½ years on the campus at CU-Boulder have been rewarding, and at times very challenging. However, the strong work ethic, dedication, and perseverance of the Slovenian people has been rooted in me since I was a young child and those same attributes will continue to serve as the foundation for my life!

Thank you for letting me share my story with you. Upon my return from the Dominican Republic in March, 2004, I will send you an update of my medical mission.

(My mother, Bernadette Spinuzzi; Sister, Alyssa; Grandmother, Kathleen Starcevic; as well as my aunts, Christine Mascarenas, her daughter, Courtney and Joan Martinelli are all members of Branch #3 in Pueblo, Colorado).

Again, thank you and have a blessed holiday season.
Sincerely,

Daniel J. Spinuzzi

NEWS FROM OUR SWU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS OF THE PAST

Dr. Donald Carek – Our very first winner of a SWUA Scholarship in 1949, is a native of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, now retired and living near Hilton Head, South Carolina. Dr. Don has had an illustrious career beginning with an internship at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, followed by Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. After serving on the faculty at Marquette University School of Medicine in Milwaukee, Don assumed the position of professor and director of Child Adolescent Psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina. Currently he is sharing his wealth of knowledge as a professor emeritus at the University of South Carolina.

Don writes "I feel honored to have you mention me in ZARJA" and "In my reflections on how I have been tremendously blessed, I feel very much indebted to the Slovenian Women's Union for its invaluable scholarship assistance back in 1949 when I was so sorely in need of such help in order to get out of the starting gate."

**Anne Marie O'Block Birskovich, R.N. is a 1970
SWU Scholarship winner and a native of Vienna, Ohio**

Hello! Thank you for your letter of inquiry regarding my educational progress having received a Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship! I want to, again, thank the Slovenian Women's Union for awarding me a scholarship as a high school senior. I appreciated this immensely. It helped me get started in college.

I received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio in 1975. I am a Registered Nurse. Many of my clinical experiences in nursing school were at Cleveland Hospitals. There are many Slovenians in Cleveland, and I got to directly care for Slovenian patients during my clinical experience. I am still caring for Slovenian patients as I moved to Cleveland after I graduated and continue to live and work and care for Slovenian patients in Cleveland to this very day -- 28 years of caring for Slovenian patients!! I have enjoyed caring and working for my Slovenian patients, especially since I have a Slovenian Heritage!

One of my goals after graduation was to travel to Europe and to Slovenia. I was able to accomplish this, in 1981. I traveled with Slovenian friends! We had a wonderful time. I was able to see where my grandparents, Matt and Anna Gladd, lived in Vas, Slovenia. I was able to see the church where my grandparents were married, and the churchyard cemetery where my great grandparents are buried. I met my second cousins, many other relatives, and long-time family friends. Slovenia reminded me a lot of Ohio and Pennsylvania with its hills. I have heard my aunts and uncles comment how my grandfather moved to Pennsylvania when he came to America because these hills reminded him of Slovenia. I saw first hand what they meant! Because I was

able to work and save some money to go on this trip I was grateful. I was able to work because of my education and training, part of which the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship provided. I am very grateful to the fine Slovenian Women of the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Program who were kind and generous in their offering and awarding of this scholarship. My grandmother used to tell stories of how other Slovenian women helped her in America when she arrived here. The Slovenian Women are still helping the Slovenian Women. God Bless Them All.

Soon it will be Christmas and our Slovenian family will gather together to celebrate Christ's Birth and Coming. We will have potica. My mother, Anne Gladd O'Block, and her sister, Mary Gladd Diana, along with my Uncle Ed Gladd and Uncle John Gladd will sing Slovenian songs at our Christmas Get Together while Uncle Ed Gladd, Uncle John Gladd, my dad, Victor J. O'Block, and fourth generation! niece Andrea Armeni (my sister Linda O'Block Armeni - daughter) all provide accompaniment on their accordians. God Bless them All. It will be a fun time! Thanks to the Slovenian Heritage that my grandmother, mother, aunts, father, grandfather, and relatives have continued.

Thank you, again, for your letter of inquiry. Thank you, again, also for awarding me The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship. It has been put to good use! I am enclosing a check for \$250 to return back, firsthand, some of the kindness to The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Program that I have received. God Bless The Slovenian Women's Union! A Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy Healthy New Year to all of the women in the Slovenian Women's Union!!!

Sincerely,

Anne Marie O. Birskovich

Many thanks to all of you who have made this past year and the past 54 years successful. Our goal is to be of even more help to our young people, who are our investment in the future.

Mary Turvey

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY GENEALOGY?

To get a Genealogical Workup sheet that will help you as an easy biographical guideline send your request, with \$6, to:

Mary Turvey, 52 Oakridge Dr., Marquette, MI 49855

Also, you can find it on our website,
WWW.SWUA.ORG

Everyone's doing it! Make your Family Tree!

THINK HERITAGE - THINK GENEALOGY!

The New Neighborhood Online Comments

by Lynn Zalokar



Hello, Lynn! A recent issue of ZARJA had an article about the 75th Anniversary Celebration, mentioning that the Oktet sang "Oj, Triglav, moj dom." My mom's parents came from Tolmin near Triglav, I remember my grandmother telling me about it. If you would be so kind, where may I obtain a copy of the song?

My wife, Maria, is a member of the SWU, so we receive your newsletter which I always read. Thanks to this letter, I found Mary Turvey's site regarding marriages and births in the Waukegan area. What a help! The site had information of my grandparents' marriage soon after they came to the U.S.

I'm looking forward to the next newsletter!

Many regards,

Harry Paulin

Keeps connected via the internet!

Patricia Urick Zegas is a member of Branch 93-NYC and in re: the Branch 93 Yahoo user group says: "We love receiving e-mails... our trips (to NYC) never coincide with the SWUA gatherings. But, we try to go to restaurants that the web group has mentioned and we feel much more connected now."

Branch 93 says that with advance notice they can meet Pat or any SWUA member visiting the Big Apple!

Lynn



Pat with her husband, Jeff and sons, Sam and Gregory

Photo: Sonja Knezevic-Kong

HERITAGE NEWS:

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

I begin with a quote:

"The 2004 theme for Women's History Month is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility." This theme helps us recognize and celebrate the hope and sense of possibility that comes to our lives from the inspirational work of women. Hope comes in many forms from laws challenged and changed, new medical research, stories of compassion and courage, and watching women stand tall against great odds."

As members of the Slovenian Women's Union of America each of us can find an instance of compassion, courage and standing tall in our own immediate families. One only has look back to 1926 and the founding of the SWUA by Marie Prisland.

Then came the heritage stories as documented by Irene Odorizzi. And now, Nancy Henkel is preserving the past with the photo album displays of family history. Mirjam Hladnik is interviewing women of Slovenian heritage throughout the United States. Mary Turvey is focusing on surnames and family genealogy.

There are now 5 museums in the United States devoted to honoring women and their role in history. In the next 10 years it is predicted that 5 more museums honoring women will open. A few years ago my daughter-in-law, Donna Voelk and I visited The Women's Museum in Fair Park in Dallas, Texas. At that time I thought the SWUA has a museum dedicated to the Slovenian woman, and we have not been recognized at this museum?

Every SWUA member must stand tall. Our foundress, Marie Prisland had the vision and the forthright spirit to create an organization for the Slovenian immigrant woman. And now we have a museum in honor of these same Slovenian women.

Our museum is small, with a handful of faithful volunteers. But using the same spirit as Marie Prisland this museum and library can and will become the historic spotlight for the Slovenian women in the United States.

HERITAGE DONATIONS

- \$ 5.00 In memory of May Maxin, Br. 50, gift of Olga Dorchak (47)
\$ 5.00 In memory of Jennie Fitzthum, Br. 14, gift of Olga Dorchak (47)
\$20.00 In memory of Mary Batic, Br. 32 by daughter, Beverly Batic Sciarabba and Josephine Gornik
\$75.00 American Mutual Life Association, Rosemary Pozarelli, Secretary, through the efforts of Dorothy Cabot

* * * * *

Copy of book, "Pepca's Struggle" for our Library from Mary H. Palcic of Orlando, FL

Thank you for the donations! MLV

I urge you to discuss and dialogue at your next Branch meeting the important roles of our foundress and ancestors. Record them into a small historical diary. I know you will leave the Branch meeting standing taller, and with a "sense of possibility that comes from the inspirational work of Slovenian women" who came before us.

And most of all, I do have faith that each Branch will come to recognize the historical importance of what has been created at 431 No. Chicago Street in Joliet, a museum in honor of our lineage and their inspirational work. One only needs to project ahead 50 years, to comprehend what an awesome collection of human endeavor future generations will come to know. Marie Prisland was a visionary, let us continue in her footsteps.

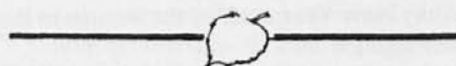
And now:

"Plesat me pelji"...Lead me to the dance floor.

And I ask you:

"Kaj, se bova zavrtela?"...Shall we dance?

Mary Lou (Deyak) Voelk
Interim Heritage Museum Director



The sixth annual Illinois Museum Day will be held in the State Capitol on March 25, 2004. Once again the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM) and Museums in the Park – a consortium of the nine museums on Chicago Park District land – will sponsor the event.

Slovenian Women's Union Heritage Museum

I (we) enclose ! _____

In honor of _____
Name and Occasion

In memory of _____

As a Contribution _____

Donor's Name _____

Donor's Address _____

Remember those you love and hold most dear with a gift to the Heritage Museum. Send it to SWU Heritage Museum, 431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432

MORE ON WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In this auspicious month of history, it only seems right to showcase one of our own great members. She is

PATTI MEGLISH-SESPICO

A member of Br. 25, residing in Chardon, Ohio

On the SWU Survey 2003, Patti volunteered to do data entry work for our collection of 861 library of books. This project was a continuation of the library system set up over 10 years ago by a group of dedicated women in the Joliet area. Lest any names be omitted at this time, these special volunteers and the "history story" of our library will be written. Look for this special story in the near future.

The following is a synopsis of the books entered:

861 books have been catalogued

The oldest volume was printed in 1821; the title is – Spolnuj Zapovedi. (English translation, Obey the Commandments.) The author is Bernik, Reverend Franc and the subject is "Religion."

By subject: 54 biographies; 300 fiction; 70 history; 70 religion; 45 poetry; 60 story collections.

By year of publication: 40 no year listed; 35 published 1900–1919; 217 published 1920–1939; 194 published 1940–1959; 236 published 1960–1979; 40 published 1980–1993.

Thanks, Patti and all the volunteers at the SWU Library.

So that you know more about her, I asked Patti to give us a brief bio which I'm happy to present to you.

MLV

Meet Patti!

Patti is an enthusiastic and proud Slovenian. She lives in Northeast Ohio and enjoys spending time with her (non-Slovenian) husband, Ron, and their yellow lab, Gordon. She graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1979 and received her MBA from Cleveland State University in 1983. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Kent State University and anticipates completing her studies by 2006.

Patti spent 20+ years working as a Human Resources professional in industry. She has also been a part-time teacher at many local colleges and universities in the Cleveland, OH area.

Her hobbies include genealogy research, attending the theater, physical fitness and travel. She would love to learn how to bake traditional Slovenian pastries like potica and krofi. She would also enjoy a trip to Slovenia to visit with relatives still living there.



* * * * *

The SWUA congratulates Patti on the efforts, and the time dedicated to document our special collection of books. Patti certainly exemplifies "love for her Slovenian Heritage."

Did you ever get a little clay birdie, (a horse or other shape) that whistles if you blow into it? In Slovenia they are popular souvenirs.

If you get one made in the Dolenjska region, (Ribnica) it is probably made in the shape of a horse with blowing holes in the body that emit several tones, so it's possible to play a tune. Little bird figures usually have blow holes in the head and tail and are made in Štajerska or other places. They sound only one tone.

The figures that resemble little pitchers (in Slovenian: *majolke*) are called *žvrgolce* (warblers) because you can get them to sound birdlike if you pour some water into the cavity. This is also possible to do, with the same resulting sound, if you put water into the openings of the bird figures.

The potters of Štajerska can also make a whistle that sounds like a cuckoo bird.

Our reference book, *Slovensko ljudsko izročilo*, 1980, indicates that children's toy whistles have no beginning/original date.

Toy Whistles of Clay



Technique for Easter Egg Dyeing

Ingredients:

Brown eggs (preferably)

Parsley or some other herb leaves

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

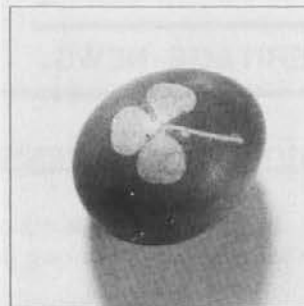
Thread for tying

Red onion skins (only the dry parts)

Vinegar

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

Add two to three tablespoons of vinegar, bring to a boil, and simmer until the eggs are hard boiled – about ten minutes. Remove the eggs from the water and immediately unwrap. The eggs will be a beautiful brick red color with little “flowers” or “trees” etched on them.



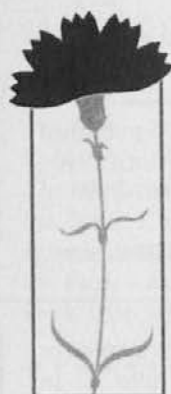
Notes:

The pot should only be big enough to hold all the eggs you plan to decorate. The onion skins take up very little room. About a dozen eggs can be decorated at one time. The color is usually so strong that the same water can be used for the next batch. Any stains on your hands, the countertop, or the pot are easily removed with detergent or soap.

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

Submitted by Mimi Mejac, Secretary of Branch 103, Washington, D.C.

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



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"The Dutch" A Milan Jacovich Mystery

by Les Roberts
Thomas Dunne Books c/r2001

Does it surprise you to learn that there is a mystery series featuring a fictional Slovenian heritage private investigator, from Cleveland no less, named Milan Jacovich? (He pronounces it MY-lan rather than MI-lan.) Well, the author, Les Roberts, has been writing about Milan for several years and there are about a dozen books in the series. I read several of these books a few years ago but decided to stop because I didn't like the use of vulgar language, low level sex situations and the predictable formula plots that I observed. However, when I went to my local library recently, I put "Slovene" and "Slovenian" into a computer catalog search and found that they had three additional titles. I checked out one since I was tempted to see if a more recent installment had improved. The answer is... no.

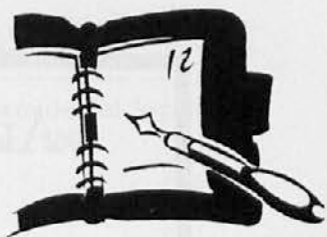
Since I am of Slovenian heritage and was born and raised in Cleveland, I had a natural interest in reading about Jacovich. The books cite local features and places that I recognized, and contain a *smattering* of mentions of things peculiar to Slovenians, as well as the hero's attributing things about himself to his heritage, e.g. receding hairline. While the latter mentions pander to my Slovenian ego, Milan does enough things about which I am not proud to read... that leave me feeling a bit disappointed. The author apparently had a friend after whom he named his book character. I believe that the character could, just as easily, have taken on the identity of a Croatian... or for that matter... any one of the many Cleveland ethnic groups, yet had the same ethnic ambiance.

"The Dutch" is police lingo for suicide, and the story involves Milan's search for the "story behind the story" of the, not pretty, Ellen Carmine's presumed leap from the old Lorain-Carnegie Bridge. His search leads to the uncovering of a porno web site that features the murder of a young woman... the description of which I found very unpleasant. Along the way, the reader follows the private investigator as he searches out the friends and associations of the deceased computer whiz. Familiar characters are woven into the tale, such as Milan's long time Mafioso "friends," Don Giancarlo D'Allesandro and Victor Giamari. Jacovich is a former Cleveland policeman, and along the way has stress-filled run ins with current force members. Numerous characters are developed along the way with whom Jacovich has contact. Probably, like most mystery series heros, Jacovich demonstrates: the capacity for quick thinking, physical prowess and uncanny ability to unravel complicated puzzles. While the book is generally well constructed from the standpoint of accounting for and picking up "pieces" along the way, I observed a few glitches, e.g. Jacovich's failure to recall that he had dropped his gun... but failed to mention retrieving it, after rolling down a hill during a fight with a bad guy. Since I am not normally a reader of novels, understand that I am probably less forgiving about details such as this than folks who consume such books regularly.

As to a recommendation, if you are a mystery fan...and have become tolerant of gratuitous vulgar language, etc. in contemporary writing... you might find reading about a Slovenian sleuth enjoyable. The books aren't too long and I read "The Dutch" in a few hours.

Richard A. Terselic
(Husband of Branch 103 President, Mary Lou Terselic)

BOOK/VIDEO REVIEW



In *Spomini Mladosti* (Memories of Youth) Gizella Hozian presents a collection of Slovenian folksongs from all around USA and Canada. This collection gives honor to her roots, and is a remembrance to our children and grandchildren of their Slovenian heritage.



Spomini Mladosti (Memories of Youth)

by Gizella Hozian
Chicago, Illinois

Many of the poems were written after the first Slovenian immigrants came to the New World.

They were in search of a new and better life while holding onto the memories of their Slovenian roots. Poems like the following are describing their love of Slovenia and pride in their roots.

To You Slovenian Song – Tebi, Slovenska Pesem
Be Well Homeland – Bodi Zdrava Domovina,
Home, Home in a Slovenian Town –
Domov, Domov v Slovenski Kraj

There are poems that describe life in the old days, working in the fields and vineyards, wine making and toasting happy times with friends and family.

Songs from Slovenia are:

Goodbye and Stay Well – Adijo pa zdrava ostani,
White White Wine – Belo, Belo Vino
Where Are Those Roads – Kje so tiste stezice
Will You Love Me – Al' me bos kaj rada mela

The poems are from all parts of Slovenia: Bela Krajina, Prekmurska and Primorska, Kras and Notranjska. Poems are written in the language of their regions of Slovenia.

The last part is a collection of religious poems. Many of the poems are unknown to me. I have found out that many Slovenian-Americans such as Ms. Antonia Densa, Baltezar and Antonia Hozian, Ignac Hozian and Kata Foys wrote their own poems using their Prekmursko Slovenian dialect for the Slovenian newspaper *Amerikanski Slovenec*.

Ask for this book at your Library or on eBay.

M.L.V.

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ZARJA & Heritage Fund Donations From Our Members

This Invoice Donations report is for January-February, 2004. It shows the wonderful loyalty of many members. We thank them for the free-will donations sent with dues for the year, 2004.

Donor	Zarja Fund	Heritage Fund	
Adamic, Frances (105)	10	Hanzlik, Maria (2)	5
Aiuto, Josephine (13)	10	Harley, Carol A (100)	4
Ambrozich, Dolores L (20)	10	Henkel, Nancy (89)	10
Androjna, Francka (14)	5	Hlad, Vera M (25)	5
Anonymous (102)	20	Hladnik, Mirjam (93)	20
Anonymous (103)	20	Hlavaty, Mary Ann (25)	10
Anonymous (40)	5	Hodgman, Vicki (20)	10
Anonymous (13)	5	Hodnik, Anna L (35)	15
Anonymous - Lorain, OH (40)	10	Hofler, Bertha (20)	5
Anzcel, John R & Mary (20)	25	Horvat, Andrea (20)	20
Argubright, Marilyn (89)	5	Hostnik, Patricia (105)	5
Autio, Mary S (28)	5	Hrnoc, Lisa (93)	20
Babic, Frances (50)	5	Hrovat, Mary J (47)	15
Barkovich, Cheryl D (105)	20	Huc, Ruth Ann (12)	10
Barrons, Rose (28)	10	Hurst, Betty (24)	30
Bartol, Sabina (103)	20	Ivanich, Daniel (20)	10
Bell, Daniel C (2)	20	Jarnick, Dorothy M (35)	10
Bernasek, Mary (2)	5	Janchar, Dorothy A (33)	5
Biatnik, Mary C (50)	10	Jalinec, Albert (12)	10
Boitz, Patricia (23)	5	Jelinec, Anna (12)	10
Bolek, Ludmila A (47)	10	Kabara, Dorothy (20)	5
Bowers, Marion (20)	10	Kapel, Anne (100)	20
Br. 24, LaSalle, IL-Anonymous	10	Kellen, Susan O'Block (26)	5
Bratovich, Mary (79)	10	Kimmel, Sylvia (25)	5
Brezene, Mary Jane (95)	10	Klasek, John (108)	5
Bubel, Bernice M (95)	5	Klun, Madelyn A (35)	5
Burjes, Caterina (25)	10	Kodrich, Dolores (12)	20
Burkhardt, Elizabeth (20)	10	Kolesan, Betty Ann (43)	80
Burkland, Miriam (2)	25	Konechnik, Dolores (5)	25
Cabot, Dorothy (47)	5	Kosl, Barbara (2)	5
Chase, Lillian (50)	5	Kolar, Theresa (43)	5
Chepeck, Rose (43)	10	Kotnick, Martha (1)	5
Crotty, Mary Lou (39)	10	Kouchich, Jennie (43)	20
Debevec, Pauline (25)	10	Kovacic, Jennie (2)	10
Demshar, Rosemary (100)	20	Krizman, Jean A (50)	5
*Mem of Rose Baraga		Kugland, Karen (12)	5
Desmond, Frances (105)	10	Kurnick, Agnes (13)	10
DiMatteo, Mary T (63)	10	Lapornik, Justina (103)	30
Dobersek, Stavia (12)	20	Laskowski, P. Uremovic (20)	10
Dorchak, Olga (47)	15	Laurich, Anne L (38)	10
Dorchak-Hall, Kathleen J (47)	21	Lawler, Donna (20)	10
Dovnik, Rosalie (43)	5	Leach, Agnes C (13)	10
Dragan, Angelina (5)	5	Lipic, Hilda (100)	10
Drobnic, Genevieve (25)	10	Livaich, Marie (16)	10
Drobnick, Julie F (32)	10	Lukancic-Valerugo, H. (20)	10
Dybul, Zenobia (43)	5	Lukek, Anna (50)	5
Eckert, Jeanette (100)	5	Madronich, Bernadine (13)	10
Edgington, George L (30)	5	Malloy, Mary (2)	10
Eggen, Lillian (30)	5	Maloney, Mary (85)	20
Ehnat, Mary Therese (16)	5	Marel, Eleanor (91)	10
Emery, John & Catherine (20)	10	Mainio, Barbara (95)	5
Engers, Carolyn M (20)	50	Marn, Helen (23)	10
Farrell, Sandra (13)	10	Marolt, Mary (10)	5
Fedran, Theresa C (12)	10	Marolt, Pauline (23)	20
Fencel, Lorraine (2)	5	Martin, Deanna Carlson (30)	25
Ferkul, Mary (39)	5	Mata, Menky (20)	5
Feric, Mary (40)	10	Mavrich, Helen (71)	5
Flanders, Agnes (50)	5	McFarland, Helen L (66)	10
Fooy, Dori Kregar (55)	5	Mejac, Mary Grill (103)	10
Frad, Elizabeth M (102)	25	Menchak, Milka (43)	10
Freiberg, Mary Cay (43)	25	Mestnik, Molly A (23)	10
*mem of mom Catherine Lesatz		Mihelich, Clare (20)	10
Furlong, Fritzi (56)	10	Mikec, Albina (2)	5
Gasperich, Margaret (20)	5	Mikulich, Arlette (35)	5
Glowienka, Frances (12)	5	Misic, Josephine (50)	10
Gobetz, Milena (1)	25	Mohr, Mary Frances (5)	10
Godec, Angela (23)	25	Morris, Mary Ann (33)	10
*mem of husband Joseph "Phil" Godec		Mueller, Maureen (20)	25
Godfrey, Dorothy (30)	5	*mem of Caroline Culik-McGuckin	
Goebel, Gloria (20)	10	Musi, Angela (30)	5
Gonzalez, Elizabeth (20)	1	Mutz, Patricia (20)	5
Govednik, Jean (20)	5	Nanut, Anna F (13)	15
Gregorash, Lucille (20)	5	Nevelos, Dorothy J (63)	10
Gregorich, Nancy (20)	5	Newbold-Johnston, V.E. (2)	1
Grisham, Linda (20)	5	Novak, Genevieve (97)	10
Gruenke, Agnes (1)	5		
Gudac, Cynthia (20)	20		
		Ogoreuc, Frances Alice (32)	5
		Ogrnc, Josephine (16)	4
		Okicki, Mary (50)	10
		Orazem, Linda (35)	5
		Pahula, Frederick L (34)	20
		Pakiz, Rose (102)	10
		Palcic, Mary H (93)	10
		Pauchick, Pauline (3)	15
		Paulson, Katherine Anne (34)	5
		Paulson, Katherine N. (34)	20
		Pecharich, Martha A (99)	5
		Perkovich, Father Frank (39)	20
		Peterson, Mildred J (20)	15
		Petric, Mary (10)	10
		Petric, Hermina (3)	30
		Phillips, Beverly (20)	10
		Pisoni, Viola (46)	10
		Pivik, Marie (25)	5
		Plautz, George J (102)	10
		Plut, Dolores (20)	10
		Podlesnik, Ann (2)	5
		Polutnik, Stephanie (40)	20
		Ponikvar, Mary H (25)	5
		Prey, Rose Ann (89)	5
		Priester, Herb (20)	5
		Primc, Donna (10)	10
		Purkat, Jane E (39)	20
		Pyszka, Rita Mae (24)	80
		Rasbornik, Mary (12)	25
		Riddlebaugh, Mary J. (32)	5
		Ritz, Frances M (30)	5
		Robinson, Marie (108)	5
		Roland, Virginia (103)	20
		Rozman, Renee (20)	10
		Rupnik, Vida (50)	5
		Ruttenberg, Helen (12)	5
		Rutkowski, Bernadine (20)	10
		Ryan, Mary Pat (28)	30
		*mem of Stephanie Ryan, Br. 28	10
		Rys, Margaret H (47)	10
		Sainato, Frances (54)	10
		Schultz, Shirley (43)	10
		Sedmak, Elsie (14)	10
		Serazin, Agnes (40)	20
		Sertich, Concetta (16)	10
		Shine, Elsie (54)	10
		Shine, Wanda Virginia (54)	10
		Shutbiz, Genevieve M (33)	10
		Shuster, Max L (30)	30
		Sisto, Helen (2)	10
		Skul, Helen L (3)	5
		Smajdek, Josephine (25)	10
		Smith, Angela (39)	10
		Smith, Jacquelyn (43)	5
		Smorkol, Frances (24)	10
		Smuk, Gloria (23)	10
		Soltysinski, Jaqueline (16)	5
		Spelich, Delores (24)	10
		Spendal, Dorothy (10)	5
		Stelow, Marie (20)	10
		Sterle, Mary (32)	10
		Sterle, Rose (38)	10
		Stiglic, Alice (20)	5
		Stuntebeck, Judith (39)	5
		Sukley, Dorothy (20)	5
		Svigel, Josephine (10)	5
		Talaska, Delores A (43)	5
		Telich, Florence (23)	20
		Tesovnik, Germaine A (1)	10
		Tezak, Betty (20)	10
		Thomas, Diane (105)	10
		Thomure, Carol (20)	10
		Tobey, Frances M (56)	10
		Tomasic, Mary (20)	10
		Trautner, Frances (20)	10
		Troha, Helen (50)	5
		Trunkel, Sophie (102)	5
		Veit, Alice L (102)	15
		Voich, Joyce Marie (20)	5
		Vidmar, Michael (20)	5
		Vidmar, Nicholas (20)	5
		Volpe, Marian (105)	5
		Vovk, Anita (35)	5
		Vozel, Rosemarie (2)	5
		Walsh, Heather M (3)	10
		Wanthal, Mary (20)	30
		Wojdula, Elsie (2)	10
		Yapel, Agnes E (34)	10
		Yerman, Mary F (13)	10
		Yovanovich, Frances (5)	10
		Zakosek, Thomas (99)	10
		Zakrajsek, Mary (86)	80
		Zalar, Elsie (10)	10
		Zalari, Julia (50)	20
		Zalokar, Mildred (2)	10
		Zamien, Molly Jane (39)	5
		Zeleznikar, Jean (2)	5
		Zubek, Genevieve (2)	10
		Zuga, Karen (54)	30
		Zupancich, Judith (23)	10
		Zuponic, Helen (35)	5
		Br. 16, So. Chicago	20
		Tercek, Ann (50)	50
		*mem of mom from her daughters	
		Br. 54 - in memory	10
		of Anne Savor	
		Ponikvar, Harry (54)	10
		and Joanne in memory of Anne Savor	
		Wolfe, Jaymie Stuart (93)	10
		Malakar, Rosemary (100)	20
		& Fred in memory of Edith Videgar	
		Oven, Amalia G (108)	5
		*mem of Louis Oven Grandfather	
		Miller, Deborah (24)	10
		Yost, Yul (30)	20
		Lustik, Wally and Jo (20)	40
		Br. 54 in lieu of	58
		Christmas gift exchanges	
		Maynard, Olga (1)	10
		*mem of Mary Germ	
		Fedor, Franell (42)	10
		Zakrasek, Dorothy M (3)	10
		Bizal, Frances (38)	10
		Totals:	\$3,072

		Donors	Heritage
		Primozic, Edward (108)	50
		Bartlett, Robert J (43)	10
		in honor of Josephine Janezic,	
		President Br. 43	
		Hodgman, Vicki (20)	10
		Totals:	\$70

'WE HAVE LOST A FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED MEMBER'

Branch 102 has lost a faithful and dedicated member, Agnes Lesar. She was known throughout the community and beyond for having the most beautiful flower garden. Most of us have perennials growing around our homes given us by Agnes. Each May at our SWU Plant Sale she brought many plants she dug up from her garden for us. She will be dearly missed.

Some of the pressed flowers from her garden were used to decorate the pages of the following poem that we wish to share with you. It was presented by her nephew, Dean Lesar, the editor of our weekly newspaper TRG.

*Rose Pakiz, President
Willard, Wisconsin*



Agnes Lesar
Jan. 21, 1917 – Jan. 8, 2004

The Garden Lesson

We made a garden, God and I,
Beneath a lovely summer sky,
With strength He gave, I tilled the soil,
And cleared the weeds in weary toil.

Could there be life, I thought, within
Those seeds so brown, so small and thin?
I placed them gently 'neath the sod,
Then waited patiently for God.

He sent warm sunshine, gentle rain,
And made those dry seeds live again,
Up through the earth came peeking through,
Peas, carrots, beets, and flowers, too.

Then from our garden plot I prayed,
Lord, may my trust on Thee be stayed,
That when I'm placed beneath the sod,
My faith and hope will be in God.

That in the resurrection fair,
In a brand new body I'll be there,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
Forever with Christ to reign on high!

† May F. Maxin

*July 7, 1924 – January 14, 2004
SWU Branch 50*

Many people are feeling the great loss of my grandma, May Maxin. An involved member of SWU Branch 50, May served as secretary and attended all SWU events. She will be remembered as a wonderful friend, mother and grandmother to many.

There are so many things I have to say about my grandma. She was truly a role model and an inspiration to all who had the great fortune to know her. She was a loving and dedicated mother to her 5 children, as well as a "mother" to many of their friends. As a grandmother she spoiled every one of her grandkids rotten. She never had many rules for us and was always a part of our fun – be it riding through the car wash with the windows down, or sitting patiently as we painted each of her toenails a different color. Sleepovers at Grandma Maxin's always meant mornings filled with delicious homemade pancakes – Grandma Pancakes – as only she could make them. Family holidays always ended with competitive card games, and Grandma usually found a way to beat us all...though we always suspected she had a trick (or an extra card!) up her sleeve.

On a more serious side, my grandma lived a life that was often filled with pain. She lost her husband and two of her children well before their times had come. In the face of tragedy and loss, somehow Grandma always remained strong and always managed to have a smile on her face. Her smile is one thing I will never forget – it lit up her whole face and made me know that somehow things would be alright.

There are a million memories connected to my grandma, and I wish I could write them all so that the whole world could know what a wonderful woman she was. Our family will always miss her smile, her laugh, her spunk for life, her strength and, above all, her love. She has taught us much and from her lessons we will all continue to achieve our dreams in the ways she would have wanted. I feel so lucky to have known her and truly blessed to be related to such an incredible woman.

Allison Hrovat, SWU Branch 50

In Loving Memory



Ann DeBord
*mourned by family and members
of Branch 85, DePue, IL*

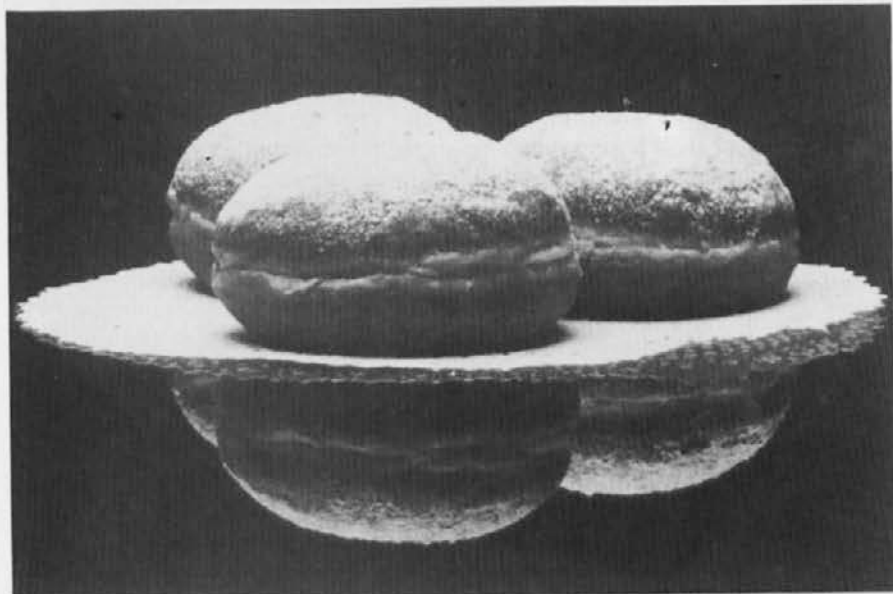
Ann was a true Slovenian, loved to cook and bake and enjoyed listening to and singing Slovenian songs. She also enjoyed reading ZARJA. She was a registered nurse and worked for several doctors besides working for her late husband in his accounting and tax consulting business. She will be truly missed by her family and friends.

(See Br. 89 article.)

RECIPES FROM THE FARM

Food Columnist, Jean Korsman

4222 McKinley Rd., Gilbert, MN 55741



KROFI

(Doughnuts) for Easter

- 2 Package dry yeast
- $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup warm water
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 12 ounce can evaporated milk plus 4 ounces reg. milk to makes 2 Cups

Heat milk to warm and add yeast mixture that has bubbled. Put into a large bowl and add 5 beaten egg yolks, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted butter and 1 tsp. vanilla. Stir in 5 C. flour, mix well, adding about 1 C. of flour. Beat until smooth and easy to handle. Dump out on floured board and knead just until dough doesn't stick; (will be soft). Place in greased bowl, turn over to grease the top, cover with plastic wrap and let rise until dou-

bled, about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Dump out on lightly floured cloth, pat and stretch to $\frac{1}{2}$ in (or carefully roll out). Cut krofi circles with a glass or doughnut cutter (no holes). Put circles on floured cloth. Use cut off dough to make more circles. Cover with cloth and let rest and raise for 35 to 45 min. Fry in 3 inches Crisco until golden brown, turning once; (will have a lighter line around each doughnut and puff up.) Place on brown paper bag or paper towel to absorb grease. Roll in sugar when ready to serve. These freeze well.

(I make a slit and add raspberry jelly then roll in sugar. My father preferred eating them plain, with ham.)

MY MOM'S HEARTY BARLEY HOT DISH

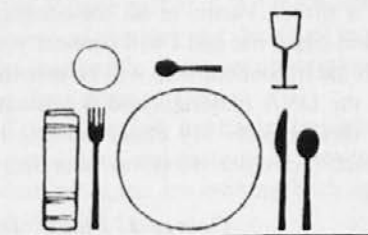
- $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup barley, I use the "Quick Cooking" version
- 1 Teaspoon salt in 3 Cups boiling water
- Cook about 12 minutes, drain

Brown 1 lb. lean hamburger in 1 tablespoon shortening, keeping meat chunky. Add 1 tsp. salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. pepper, 1 small onion, chopped, 1 cup diced green pepper, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup diced celery and 1 cup sliced mushrooms. Cook one minute and add 1 can tomato soup. Stir and add drained barley. Mix and bake 45 min. to 1 hr. at 350°. (Mom added a can of green beans, drained, reserving juice to add the last 15 minutes if casserole appears too thick. Serve with French bread and vinegar/oil cole slaw.)

CREAMY OVEN ŠNITE (French Toast)

- About $\frac{3}{4}$ loaf French Bread, cut in cubes
- 8 Eggs
- 8 Ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup milk (I use 1 Cup skim with $\frac{1}{2}$ evaporated)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup maple syrup
- 6 Tablespoons melted butter
- 1 Teaspoon almond flavoring

The night before, grease a 9x3 glass baking pan. Put in bread cubes. Blend eggs, milk, cream cheese, syrup and melted butter. Pour over bread, cover and place in refrigerator overnight. Bake in morning in pre-heated oven (350°) for about 40-45 minutes or until golden brown. Cut in blocks or strips. Serve with favorite flavored syrups or toppings. Have sausages or bacon ready, and a fruit platter and juices. Makes a great breakfast or brunch.



SLOVENIA NEWS on NYC Metro Area TV

I was very pleasantly surprised to find out that a NY Metro Area TV station, WNYE (we get it on Channel 25, but check www.wnye.com to find out where you can get them) airs the English version of Slovenia Magazine every first and third Sunday of the month at 3:30 p.m. In case you might not know, this is a newsmagazine produced by RTVSLO highlighting different features of contemporary Slovenian society, including culture, customs and traditions, the arts, tourist attractions, etc. I have had a chance to see a few episodes through the RTVSLO website (where they alternate broadcasting in English and German) and they are fun. I am looking forward to seeing it on TV here as well. Enjoy!

Sonja Knezevic-Kong

Vertin, Wertin and Vrtin Families Originating From Slovenia

The Vertin, Wertin and Vrtin families all come from the same region in Slovenia, namely the Bela Krajina region. Most of the families originate in Dobljce, however, we have some families which originated in Dragatuš and Semič. I have been tracking and compiling information on all of the families as I believe they originate from a common ancestor, at least some time between 1600 and 1750. An organization, located currently in Slovenia, is trying to obtain DNA of living Slovenian descendants to create a DNA tree and to help future genealogists determine if they are related to other branches of similar or other Slovenian families. If you are interested in participating in this DNA Project and you are a direct Vertin et al. descendant please email me and I will connect you with the individual who will be providing the DNA materials and coordinating this project. My email address is gplautz@cox.net. Hope to hear from you.

George J. Plautz, Jr.

AROUND THE WORLD A Memorable Trip by our Br. 2 Member

Marie Ovník

The 40th Anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination this past November brought to mind one of my more memorable trips around the world.

I started out from the U.S.A. on Oct. 3, 1963 for Japan visiting, amongst other cities, Hiroshima where the Enola Gay's crew dropped the atom bomb ending World War II. We were shown where the bomb fell. There are still parts of structures standing. The Japanese built a memorial park in memory of the victims.



Peace Park Memorial dedicated to the victims of the atomic bomb, Hiroshima, Japan. We see Marie Ovník at the entrance, 1963

On Oct. 10, I flew to Taipei, capital city of Taiwan and stayed at the beautiful Madam Chiang Kai Shek's Grand Hotel where they were celebrating their important Tet holiday. Our U.S. Air Force did some precision flying in an air show on this holiday.

My next stop via Pan Am was beautiful Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City. The flight attendant told me that our Secretary of State, John MacNamara was on this same flight a couple of days before and that the Viet Cong shot at the plane. Gratefully, we landed safely.

Before I made this trip I wrote to our State Dept. in D.C. to see if it would be safe to travel to Vietnam and they advised against it, however, U.S. Passports had no restrictions. So I traveled to Saigon. As a matter of fact I got my Vietnam visa in Tokyo.

Friends here in Chicago had relatives living in Saigon. The man in the family was a police officer who was commissioned by the U.S. Government to train their police forces, the military, the civil and the local city police. They



Favorite mode of travel in Saigon, Vietnam, 1963

took me on a number of drives thru the city and countryside and we saw troop movements. The Viet Cong were just across the river from us. One week to the day after I left Saigon, the Viet Cong stormed the Palace and killed President Diem, which began the hostilities leading to the Vietnam War.

From Saigon I flew to Tehran, Iran. The Shah of Iran was still on the Peacock Throne. Iran was the country where our Americans were held hostage for over a year during President Carter's administration. In addition to Tehran, I flew to Isfahan, a city of many beautiful mosques. The pistachios were delicious.

Next on my itinerary was Baghdad, Iraq. I stayed at the Baghdad Hotel along the famous Tigris River (this hotel was bombed just 2 months ago during the present conflict) In a conversation with the hotel manager he told me they had three changes of government that year. On a local sight-seeing tour of Baghdad I was taking pictures and suddenly the police came and walked me to the Police Station. They confiscated my film and let me go. I was taking pictures of places they did not want people to see.

I did see one of the 7 wonders of the world, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, outside of Baghdad.

My last stop was Berlin. President Kennedy visited Berlin in August 1963 and made the famous statement. "Ich bin ein Berliner." I visited Berlin in October, 1963 and the next month, in November, our President Kennedy was assassinated.

This was one of my favorite trips as there was so much history connected with it. Some of the countries are still figuring in history during these times.

"Palm Sunday and Easter at Home"

by Mirjam Yartz Gremes, Br. 38, Chisholm, MN

In Slovenia we do not have very many palm trees so a palm branch is substituted with olive branches and "butara", all carried in Palm Sunday processions. Olive branches come from the coastal part of Slovenia and are sold at the churches a week or two before Palm Sunday and all proceeds usually go to some kind of good cause. The other very typical Slovenian thing, the "butara" is a bunch of branches and evergreen ivy leaves that are tied together on a special way and decorated with painted wood shavings, oranges, apples, paper bows or anything else that could look good on it. The top often includes a juniper branch which is, with its sharp needles, sometimes used as a weapon by the younger boys with too much energy. Villages also have competitions to see who is going to make the biggest and the nicest one.

In the week before Easter we start with cleaning: first one is in the confession room and the other one at home. Everything has to be scrubbed, organized and polished. In the evenings we join the celebration of Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and Saturday. On Saturday morning we visit beautifully decorated "Božji Grob" (God's Grave) and pray and meditate about the huge sacrifice that Jesus did for us. Early Saturday morning we also start to prepare the Easter meal. At our house we usually start with the making of the potica, which is made in a tube pan because of its round shape and therefore potica represents the crown of the Christ. Then we cook a ham, which represents Christ's body. Dad usually goes out and digs out two or three roots of horseradish from the garden which represent the nails that pierced our Savior's hands and legs. We also paint Easter eggs which represent Christ's drops of blood. Sometimes we buy the dyes and sometimes we just use dry outside leaves of the red onion. If we would have enough time we would go out and find interesting leaves and grasses (parsley works very well too), cut up an old nylon stocking and wrap the eggs with the greenery inside (see Easter Egg Dyeing in this issue). We put the prepared food into a special basket, cover with the special cloth and one of the young ladies in the house would have the honor to take it to Easter food blessing, "Žegen". We were not allowed to touch blessed food till Sunday morning when the whole family would come back from church. Everybody goes to church on Easter (you have to be there quite early if you want to sit.) The biggest part of the Easter mass is the procession. All the people in the church line up and leave the church. With singing, bells ringing and praying we would walk across the fields and let everybody know that the Christ has risen (we did that in the times of Communism, too, even if the priest had to ask for a special permission for it.)

Well, there is also the outside part of it. All the women have to have something new on that day and their hair must be perfect so it is almost impossible to get an appointment at the hair dresser in the days prior to Easter.

When all is set and done it's time for Easter breakfast and rest. There are many traditions and customs in Slovenia that got lost and forgotten but some are coming back and making history alive again. I love it!

SLAVLJENKI TONČKI CIGALETOVI OB 90. ROJSTNEM DNEVU

Štirinajstega januarja je poteklo devetdeset let odkar je ena od devetih otrok, po številu šesta, prijokala na svet naša vsem priljubljena in velikim poznana Tončka Cigaletova. Luč sveta je zagledala v Novem Svetu na Notranjskem. Sem se je njena mama primožila iz sosednje vasi Ravnik, iz podružnice Hotedršica.

Tončka je odrasčala v verni družini s skrbnimi starši. Spominja se, da so bili vedno naročeni na Mohorjeve knjige. Kmalu po I. Svetovni vojni so bile te vasi zasedene od Italijanov. Nek kmet iz vasi je odstopil v svoji hiši eno veliko sobo, kjer je otroke, tudi Tončko med njimi, učil en zaveden Slovenec iz Idrije. Po parih letih Italijani tudi niso več pustili slovenskega duhovnika za verouk. Otroci so morali potem vsako nedeljo hoditi eno uro daleč v vas Godovič. Tudi slovenščina je bila s časom odpravljena in spremenjena v italijanski šolski pouk.

V Št. Joštu ne daleč stran, toda na slovenski strani je imela Tončka strica duhovnika, gospođa Jože-ta Nagode-ta. Imel je velik vpliv na celo družino. Mladoletna deklica je prvič odšla od doma prav k temu stricu in to za pomoč pri hišnih opravilih. V vseh tistih štirih letih, ki jih je preživela pri stricu, je vsak prosti čas porabila za branje poučnega čtiva. Prav v Št. Joštu pa se tudi pričinja njena barvita bodočnost. Spoznala se je z dvema Judinjama, ki sta bili tam na počitnicah. Prepričali sta jo, da je odšla z njima v Rim in njima v pomoč.

V Rimu je kar hitro navezala stike z drugimi Slovenci. Z delom je tudi pomagala na Via Dei Colli, to je predel v predmestju Rima, kjer so imele Slovenske Frančiškanske sestre svoje hišo. Vsako nedeljo je tam daroval slovensko sveto mašo gospod Pavle Robič, popoldne pa so imeli še pete litanije. Tončka ima najlepše spomine na tega gospoda. Bil je zelo priljubljen med Slovenci in vsakemu je pomagal kar je bilo v njegovi moči. V tistem času se je Tončki tudi posrečilo dobiti redno zaposlitev pri eni Avstralski diplomatski družini. Po parih letih je bila družina odpoklicana v Washington. S to spremembo se tudi odpre nova življenska zavesa za našo Tončko. Leta 1955 pride z diplomatskim potnim listom v Ameriko.

Ta avstralska družina pa ni ostala dolgo v Washingtonu, morali so se vrniti v svojo domovino in kljub velikemu prigovarjanju, naj gre Tončka z njimi, se je odločila, da ostane v Ameriki. Zopet se ji je posrečilo dobiti službo, to pot na rezidenci ambasade Lima-Peru. Tu je ostala celih enajst let, dokler se ji ni posrečilo dobiti dovoljenje za stalno naselitev v Združenih državah. V tistem času je bila naseljavana kvota za Jugoslavijo zelo nizka. Z veliko hvaležnostjo se še danes spominja dr. Kreka, ki ji je pomagal, da je dobila dovoljenje za stalno naselitev 1966. leta.

Takoj si je poiskala stanovanje, čez cesto svetovno znanega Sheraton Hotela, kjer je bila zaposlena celih 25 let, vse do svoje upokojitve.

Tončko sem prvič srečala v 60. letih, ko smo na različne načine iskali Slovence v Washingtonu in okolici, da smo se lahko združili v eno domačo skupnost. S svojim imenom je izstopila, ker je imela naročenega toliko slovenskega tiska: Ameriško domovino, Ave Marijo, Božjo besedo, Mohorjeve knjige, Misijone itd. Takoj je bila pripravljena postati članica

Slovenske Ženske Zveze. Ne samo na papirju, tudi z večno navzočnostjo na mesečnih sestankih. Na naštetih slovenskih prireditvah ni nikoli manjkalo njenega izvrstnega jabolčnega štrudelnja. Enkrat nam je na veliko željo članic SZZ tudi pokazala, kako se dela ta tradicionalna slovenska slaščica. Od blagoslovitve slovenske kapele v Washingtonu leta 1971 pa do odhoda v Cleveland je malokrat, ali pa skoro nikoli zamudila slovensko mašo prvo nedeljo v mesecu. Pripeljala se je s podzemsko železnico, ali pa kako drugače.

Tudi v naši družini je ena od najbližjih prijateljcev. Bernardki je bilo komaj dobrih pet let, ko ji je rekla: "Jaz bom pa tvoja birmanska botrica". Čas je tekel, vse mogoče nam je življenje prinašalo. Tončka pa je bila naša prijateljica, ki je "hodila" ob strani naše družine, se veselila in pela z nami, ko smo bili na "vrhu gora", tiho pa je tudi hodila z nami, kadar smo imeli skrbi in žalost v "dolinah življenja". Zato ne morem preko, da se je ne bi spomnila ob tem častitlivem življenskem jubileju. Tončka je osebno skromna, toda krenega značaja v poštenosti in slovenski zavednosti.

Že nekaj let sedaj živi v Clevelandu, v Ameriški Slovenski prestolnici. Tu živi v glavnem med Slovenci, rada gre na slovenske prireditve, k slovenski maši in vsakoletno romanje v Lemont. Rada se tudi vrača v ljubljeno rodno domovino. Od številne družine so ostale še tri sestre. Štefka in Tončka v Clevelandu in sestra Ivanka v Domu onemoglih v Logatcu. Ima pa veliko nečakinj in nečakov v Sloveniji. Pred tremi leti, ko je bila na obisku v Sloveniji je hodila po stopnicah v Logatcu, 15 jih je bilo. Po vseh je zgrmela in padla. Nič se ji ni zgodilo, samo z levega prsta na nogi se je pokazalo malo krvi. Veliko zaupanje ima v blaženega Slomška in "Mat Božjo", kot sama pravi, tisti padeč je čudežno prestala. Kadar gre v Slovenijo se gre Slovenski Kraljici na Brezje vedno pokloniti.

Bog dal še veliko zdravih let predraga Tončka!

Nika B. Kovačič



Tončka Cigale Celebrates 90th Birthday

Tončka Cigale was born on January 14, 1914 in the Notranjska region of Slovenia, the sixth child of nine children.

After WWI, the part of Yugoslavia she lived in with her parents and siblings was taken over by Italian occupation. She remembers her elementary school years spent being taught reading, writing and math by a faithful Slovenian teacher from Idrija who taught her siblings and other children in a one room farm house. This type of arrangement was typical in areas of Italian and later, German occupation in parts of Slovenian towns that forced the entire school curriculum to no longer be taught in the Slovenian language.

Every Sunday, Tončka and her siblings walked an hour each way to go to Sunday school at the parish church in the neighboring town of Godovic.

It was at the home of her uncle, Jože Nagode, a well-known priest, where she met two women from Rome spending their summer vacation. They convinced Tončka to join them on the trip back to Rome and to become their household assistant. It was this decision that opened up new horizons and contacts for her which eventually led her across the ocean to America.

During Tončka's time in Rome, she worked as a governess for an Australian diplomat's family. In 1955 she agreed to join this family in their move to America, destination Washington, D.C. She arrived in New York by passenger ship with a diplomatic passport, and along with the Australian family, took a train to Union Station in Washington, D.C. After several years, the family was requested to return to Australia and pleaded with her to join them in their homeland; but she decided to stay in Washington, D.C. where she had found employment at the residence of the Ambassador of Peru. She worked there for eleven years, until she was able to gain permission for residency in the United States. She gratefully remembers Dr. Krek who assisted her with all the requirements for permanent U.S. residency in 1966. Tončka then moved to her own apartment near the Sheraton Park Hotel in N.W. Washington where she soon became employed and worked for the next 25 years until her retirement.

Tončka was an avid reader. My father, Erik Kovačič, also an avid reader spotted her as a supporter of Slovenian publications and successfully made contact with her, introducing her to my mother Nika, who soon invited her to become a member of the SWUA Branch 103 in Washington, and to be involved in the Slovenian community. Tončka was one of the charter members of Br. 103 along with my mother and me as a little girl. We all were professionally photographed together with the group of charter members in a memorable photograph taken in front of the Capitol of the United States in Washington, D.C. In all the years that Tončka lived in her apartment in the city, I remember that framed photo remained on her wall.

Tončka never married, but she gradually became a close friend of our family and became known to me as teta Tončka. Years before my Confirmation she expressed her desire to be my Confirmation sponsor; and she indeed faithfully stood by me when I received that sacrament. As time marched on, Teta Tončka visited our home on casual visits and also attended meaningful family celebrations and milestones throughout our lives. Unfortunately, she couldn't attend my wedding since she was in Slovenia for the summer, but I still remember her watching the entire video of the wedding mass at our house shortly after the big day, and my husband and I just grinned when she took a picture of the TV screen, as we took our wedding vows. Although she was given photos of our wedding, seeing the video made it so live to her that she chose to take a picture. Tončka prayed with great faith along with me during each of my three pregnancies for a healthy baby, and helped grant our wishes to come true. Tončka was most honored to be chosen by my husband and I to be the Godmother for our son, Tomaž when he was baptized in April, 1997. She calls him "moj fant" (my boy.)



Tončka (right) at the Slovenian Chapel in Washington, D.C. with Nika Kovačič and young Matjaž Fitzsimmons.

While living in Washington, Tončka regularly attended Slovenian mass at Our Lady of Brezje, Slovenian Chapel at the National Shrine. She was honored as Woman of the Year by Br. 103 in Washington, is well-known for making delicious apple strudel for SWUA activities and always lending a hand to help at various events and activities.

In 1998 Tončka made her final decision to move to Cleveland, Ohio so she could be closer to her younger sister, Stefka. She continues to regularly attend Slovenian functions in the Cleveland area and still subscribes to many Slovenian publications. She also enjoys taking the yearly pilgrimage to Lemont, IL. Over the years, despite her age, she has regularly visited her many relatives in Slovenia; another sister, Ivanka, lives in a nursing home in Logatec, Slovenia. On each of her visits, she travels to Brezje and kneels in front of Mary, Help of Christians, in thankfulness for all the goodness in her life.

Tončka was always secretive about her age until just recently. We always guessed approximately how old she was, but never knew how off target we really were. She chose not to reveal her true age until just before her 90th birthday. When my oldest son, Matjaž heard teta Tončka had her 90th birthday, he said "wow, in ten years she will be 100 years old!" May God grant teta Tončka health and happiness for years to come so we can all celebrate her centennial!

Bernadette K. Fitzsimmons

Activities of our Branches



Reports due first of month
preceding publication.

NO. 1, SHEBOYGAN, WI

Founding Date: DECEMBER 1, 1926

**Meetings: 5 times a year, 10 a.m.
Fr. Cherne Hall**

Welcome! Welcome to Sheboygan on September 26, 2004, the day of the State Convention 2004, Branch 1 hostesses. The day will begin with 9 a.m. Mass at SS Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church.

Our Founder's Mass was held November 9, 2003 followed by a lively breakfast meeting.

Our Christmas Dinner meeting was held at a local restaurant with a good attendance. Fr. Glenn Powers, our Spiritual Director, opened with prayer and an encouraging talk re: our continued participation in the tradition and goals of the SWU.

All voted to have the current officers continue: Ruth Sheck, President; Agnes Gruenke, Vice President; Barbara Hengst, Secretary-treasurer; and Angeline Fritz, Recording Secretary. Our home-bound and nursing home residents were remembered with a Christmas visit.

Let us remember all of our sick in our prayers, especially do our prayers and get well wishes go to our President, Ruth Sheck, who is in the hospital at the present time. Her mailing address:

Ruth Sheck
916 Georgia Ave.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Plan now for September 26, 2004 in Sheboygan!

ANGELINE FRITZ

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1926

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

This is the year of the Monkey – Celebrate the Chinese New Year – go and have lunch at your favorite Chinese Restaurant.

Dolores Puhek sent out beautiful "Snowman" invitations to the JR's to attend the Christmas Party (this invita-

tion was originally found by Terry Morison; it went with the theme that had been selected by the officers) The children were very surprised to see how pretty the hall was decorated. Each received crayons and paper to draw and paint. Fran Morison read a beautiful Christmas story, then the children were invited to the Manger to sing songs to Baby Jesus. In the meantime, our kitchen committee, with Marija Rigler in charge, prepared the lunch. Thanks to the mothers for all the homemade cookies. The children lined up with their tickets to receive lunch, Paul Nusko was in charge of their drinks. After lunch there was much excitement as they began to realize Santa Claus would be coming. The bell sounded and joy rang out. Santa was here and everyone was so happy to see him as Santa walked around, talked to the children and gave each a peppermint candy cane. In the front were all the presents and pretty Christmas scene. As each child's name was called, starting with the youngest, they received a gift and a picture was taken with Santa for them to take home as a souvenir. After all the excitement as each child opened their gifts chances were drawn for more beautiful prizes, Jillian Jerry won a boy's Space Comforter Bed Set and Celina Ornelas won the Tea Party comforter, pillow bed set. All the prizes won were a delight to everyone. It really was a fun time for all the children and parents. Fran gave each child a pretty "Snowman" ornament to take home.

Dec. 21, there were 42 members, including our oldest member, Frances Silko – 95 years young, with her son Joe Skala (we are so happy that he brought his mother) to our "Jolly Holly" Christmas Luncheon. Thanks to the members who spent time decorating; we missed Ray Nusko who could not help because he had just returned from the hospital. Our luncheon started with prayers and Fran reading a Christmas poem. Luncheon was catered by the VFW and all the sweets were donated by our members. Pretty Christmas items were drawn, Jean Hrastar wrote a beautiful poem; it was read by

her granddaughter, Melissa Shachter. At 1 p.m. a memorial candle was lit at St. Stephen's Hall and at the same time at St. Peter's Church (downtown Chicago) in memory of all our deceased and Slovenian founders. This candle will glow for one year. If you are downtown, please stop in and say a prayer. We each were given a pine candle and a star candle was lit at each person's place all through lunch. We all sang Silent Night in Slovenian and English. We really missed not having many of our members who were not able to attend.

Congratulations to Genevieve Puhek Buol, State President, she was re-elected for a 2nd time.

Congratulations to Annette Corgiat on the birth of another grandson, and to the parents Jeffrey and Angela Corgiat. Little Dominic Michael was born November 7, 2003.

Jr. member, Anthony Podder won 1st place in a coloring contest at school for 1st and 3rd graders. He also won 1st place in his age group in another coloring contest. You will be an artist!

Condolences to our members who lost loved ones: Rosemary Litwin lost her nephew, Richard Litwin; Alexis and Jamie Bulgajewski lost their uncle Zigmund "Ziggy" Bulgajewski. To the Trinko family on their loss of Rosemary Trinko (Lifka) husband, Louis, son, Tom (Colleen) and children. Please remember them all in your prayers.

Also the following members have been in the hospital or at home ill – please remember them in your prayers and thoughts: Elsa Antonioli, Jean Cerjak, Jean Hrastar, Fran Morison, Jennie Worth, Ray Nusko, Irene Kalina, Bernadine Storcz, Mary Reich, Stella Longoz, Millie Paisoli, Marija Rigler, Daisy (I hope I did not miss anyone). Please get well – we miss you all at the meetings, it's not the same without you.

Members, remember our March meeting, we will again be celebrating our St. Joseph Table and St. Patrick Day. Each member should bring a favorite dish to share with eight people. It should be fun.

April will be a general meeting – we

will go over important issues for the coming months.

Stay warm with a good book or video.

Love,

DAISY

(Right): The Br. 2 gang: At the Junior Christmas party with Santa: Mayme, Helen, Daisy, Ann, Fran, Elsie, Dolores, Louie and Irene



One Little Candle

By Jean Hrastar
Br. 2

Just one little candle
Shines brightly at night
Bringing about warmth
With its flickering light.

The sweet scent of pine
Is everywhere
Bringing Christmastime
Floating on air.

So enjoy the fragrance
And the glow
For as it melts
You'll surely know,

That Peace and Joy
Will walk hand in hand
And brighten our hearts
Throughout the land.

So many God's Love
And the Christmas "Son"
Bring Peace, Love and Joy
For Everyone.

NO. 5, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Founding Date: JANUARY 15, 1927

Meetings: 1st Thurs.

SND, from May to Dec.

Warm winter greetings to all our members! As our first winter storm of the season is in full swing outside, with ice and snow and wind and cold, I hope this finds all of you safe and snug inside. With the day off from school (yeah!) I find myself on the computer

for the first time in a long while. I find myself depending more and more on my family to keep me up to date on things, as I depend on all of you to send messages or call and let our officers know of events in your lives.

I would like to thank all of you who have asked about and prayed for my mom, who also happens to be Dolores Konechnik's sister-in-law, and Anna Lekse and Sylvia Steven's sister. She is doing well after her surgery and is working hard in rehab.

We would like to extend condolences to Sylvia Stevens on the death of her husband, Joseph Stevens, Sr. They owned and operated the main Westside mortuary that serviced many of our Slovenian families, and now their son, Joseph Jr. continues the tradition. Also, prayers go out to the family of Frances Konovosek, aunt of long time Treasurer Mary Frances Mohr. She died at age 95 after a long illness. Please keep these people and others on our sick list in your prayers.

Congratulations go out to Martina Findley on getting the first SWUA Slovenia Travel Award. She will go to Slovenia in July for a two week tour to see the sights and learn a little language. The trip is sponsored by the SWUA for cost of airfare and incidentals, and the University of Ljubljana Student Organization for the tour. I know when Martina returns, she will write an excellent article for the ZARJA and give a wonderful speech with pictures at our next meeting!!! Martina is the daughter of Mary Dragan and granddaughter of Angie Dragan.

WOW!! What a great turnout for our Christmas Party!! The food was excellent and the bingo prizes were a big hit. The location of the party was Mary Carl Hall, and a committee was formed to see the feasibility of continuing our meetings there. It is much easier for our members to enter this building, and we would hate for anyone to miss the meetings because of stairways. Look for info on our May meeting in the mail for date and location!

What a wonderful surprise I got in my Christmas stocking this year. My whole family knows how I love to read, and to receive a book from my husband, who does not read very often, was a big surprise. Better yet, it was the new book "Day is Ending" by Joliet's own Dr. Richard Zalar, M.D. It is a book that captures you by letting you into the private life of Trude and Dick Zalar, from their beautiful letters written almost daily to each other at the beginning of their courtship (sadly, a lost art in this age of e-mail), through their marriage of 50 years and into the sad years of Trude's decline into an Alzheimer's daze of confusion. Anyone who has had any family member or friend go through the sadness of this disease should read this book. I found the love this couple shared to be so strong, and I am sure that it was an even harder struggle for a doctor to feel so totally helpless when faced with the reality that there is nothing you can do for your wife. Take a little time to read this book, it is worth the time. Peace.

PHYLLIS FON,
President



THREE GENERATIONS IN INDIANAPOLIS

Members of Br. 5 are so proud to have their young adult member, Martina Findley as a winner of the SWU Travel Scholarship Award for 2004. Martina, center, and her mother, Mary Dragan and grandmother, Angie Dragan were caught for a picture by camera-lady (and president), Phyllis Fon during a very nice moment at the Christmas party.

NO. 10, CLEVELAND, OH

Founding Date: MARCH 8, 1927

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

Hi Ladies! The weather in Cleveland is very cold and snowy – too much! Most of us stay in our warm houses and watch TV.

We have many sick members. Ann Stefancic is doing much better, Lucy Romick also is doing fine. Joyce LeNassi, Mary Pierce and Justine Girod still reside in the Slovenian Home for the Aged. I take the time to visit with them. It's very sad but I do try to cheer them up.

This year we lost a special member.

Our former Reporter, Theresa Ferracioli went to Europe. I hear she likes it very much. She has one granddaughter and brothers. We all wish her good luck and hope she thinks of us.

Remember ladies, all mothers will be "Mother of the Year" on May 19, 2004. Be at Fanny's Restaurant at E. 156th St., at 1 p.m. (The weather should be nice).

Also we will have a meeting in June to discuss our Christmas dinner next November. (Times goes so fast.)

Wishing all members happy birthday especially my daughter, Ann Dagg on March 26.

A sad note. My son-in-law, Bruce Blything passed away in December. My sympathy to my daughter, Clarice and her family. God bless you.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and wishes of good health.

Thanks to all the ladies who helped make the Branch 10, Ohio-Michigan State Convention, a huge success.

STEPHANIE SEGULIN

NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927

Meetings: 3rd Thursday
St. Peter's Church Hall
except July & August

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to relax and hope the New Year will bring good health and a year of happiness with friends, keeping busy and enjoying the year ahead of us.

We had a wonderful time at our Christmas party held at Kegel's Inn on Dec. 4th. This place has been around for years and is owned by Slovenians.

Nell did a great job taking care of the Christmas party. The food was good, and the members enjoyed every bit of the delicious meal – thanks from all of us.

We missed Rose Maltiss who had bad case of flu and was laid up for a couple of weeks. We also missed Molly Macht. There were many gifts that the members brought for raffle and Fran Remshak and Nell handled their distribution. Virginia Strukel was in the hospital but is out now. We wish her a quick recovery. Tony Starich celebrated his 92nd birthday in December. He is still dancing every Thursday at the Serb Hall. Remarkable, Tony! Keep it up! Tony's brother-in-law, Louis Bashell also enjoys keeping up with his musical buddies who play there.

With such a snowy and cold January I am still keeping busy with my clubs and friends. My granddaughter was 7 years old on Dec. 20th and as is typical for her age, loves her dollies. My son is a captain in the Fire Dept. and a paramedic. He loves his job and is kept busy taking me shopping on his days off. Am I lucky or what?

Happy March and April birthdays to all our members!

STAVIA DOBERSEK

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Founding Date: OCTOBER 30, 1927

Meeting: 1st Thursday
Slovenian Hall on Mariposa St.

We had our lovely Valentine luncheon and I was so happy to see some new smiles. Moreen Spencer, Doreen Sustarich and Barbara Chiodo joined us. Of course, a special thanks to our "every month" attendees.

President Josephine Aiuto brought our meeting to order just after having cataract surgery herself. Takes a lot to slow this lady down!

I heard Betty Doherty is living at Daly City Retirement Inn. I don't have an address for her as yet, but you can call (650) 878-4884. Betty always has smile, lots of news and is generous to the branch. Call and say hi! We miss her! Again if you have any news contact me at (650) 631-1098.

I wish everyone a beautiful spring, Happy St. Paddy's Day and a very Blessed Easter.

An Optimist goes to the window

every morning and says: "Good morning, God!"

The Pessimist goes to the window every morning and says: "Good God! Morning!"

BEVERLY JACKSON

NO. 14, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927

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

Brrrrr... Once again we Clevelanders are waiting for another cold clipper which we're told is aiming for our area. We've had eleven straight days in which we've gotten some snow in January and several days of zero temperatures. But we do have one sure sign that spring will truly arrive... each day the sun sets a minute or so later giving us longer days. Hurry, spring!

Another enjoyable and well-attended evening was our annual Christmas dinner. Sophie Mazi and her exceptional staff prepared another outstanding home-style meal. Thanks especially to Stana Grill who made all the contact phone calls, arranged seating and checked us in at the door along with Pat Habat. Diane and Larry Varney decorated the hall with festive, brilliant scarlet poinsettias on each table which Larry purchased at cost from Petiti's Gardens. Once again, smiling Ed Koren was our reliable bartender.

We thank everyone for bringing in the exciting gift donations for our door prizes; Larry Varney for canvassing the hall selling tickets and Jackie Ulle busily keeping track of them. Acting as Santa Claus and calling numbers was Steve Valencic with young Rachel Formica as runner delivering gifts along with Ruth Korelec, Pat Habat and Diane Varney. A special thank you to Tillie Spehar who prayed grace in Slovenian before our meal.

Once again we found a table filled with Pep Stupica and her family with sister, Vickie Lindic and brother, Paul Yanchar, as well as Fran Prijatelj and her beautiful daughters and children at another table. It was so nice to see Vera Bajec and her niece also enjoying themselves. Vera had been a dedicated officer for many years.

Diane Varney gave a report that since we have so few members attending monthly meetings, we will limit them

to two meetings per year. Perhaps we may have one at Gateway, since many members now reside there and another here at Slovenian Society Home on Rechar.

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

Members send along greetings to Addie Murphy, who had been secretary for many years and is under the weather and get-well wishes to all members who may be ailing.

We're saddened to report that long time Sunshine Lady, Rose Rodgers passed away in December. Rose was a dedicated member who could be seen at almost every meeting. We certainly miss Rose. May she and our dear departed loved ones find eternal peace and joy.

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

Reminder that we have our popular Mothers' Day Dinner for members and friends on Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30, at Slovenian Society Home on Rechar Avenue. Call in your reservations to either Stana Grill at (440) 944-0598 or Diane at (330) 923-4034. Fran Prijatelj and her daughters have promised to decorate the hall for us once again.

Wishing members and friends a sunny bright green St. Patrick's Day. May your Easter basket be filled with potica, pirhe, hren and šunka!

ALICE KUCHAR

Optimism is not a mood; it's a lifestyle. It probably has something to do with the state of having found yourself; with admitting who you are and what you want. It is the state when you finally assume responsibility for yourself, for your own work, achievements, disappointments and happiness.

Benka Pulko

Slovenian Woman of the Year 2004

...when asked how a person achieves optimism and positive energy.

NO. 16, SO. CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 13, 1928

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

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

Before we welcome Spring, March 20, 2004, we had to say Good-bye to 2003. Our Christmas Luncheon was held on Dec. 11, at the Jovial Club. Forty-five members and guests attended. The members were asked to bring cookies for the dessert. The response was phenomenal. Not only did the members out-do themselves, the guests also brought plates full. There were more than enough for dessert, doggie-bags and the rest were part of the 50-50 raffle. Thank you members and guests.

We had our Christmas Carol Sing-along with a surprise ending. Fran Novak, her husband, Rudy and brother, John (Mary Jane) Strus sang "Silent Night" in Slovenian. Beautiful. It wasn't on the song sheet.

Christmas Greetings were signed by all in attendance and sent to the shut-ins and out-of-town members. A candle was lit and prayers for our deceased members were said.

Our sympathies to the following members on the loss of their family members: Clara Saviano - sister, Sylvia Antonello; Mary Ann Sambol - sister, Martina Saindon; and Dolores Franko and Kay Jurincic, brother, Matt Kral. May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to Andrea and Ed Kral on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Jan. 12, 2004. A surprise dinner was hosted on Dec. 20th, at the Jovial Club by their five children, Marla (Rick) Schaufele, (Nevada), Sheri Fagan (California), Beki (Erik) Strauss (Nevada), Mark (Julie) and Michael (Lois) and 10 grandchildren. The best present was having the whole family together for Christmas.

Belated Happy Birthday to Mary Brozovich, Jan. 10th in Springfield, Missouri. Hope you had help blowing out those 88 candles! We miss you. Come visit with us this summer.

Congratulations to all the Calendar Raffle winners, especially Patricia Priesol, Jan. 2, \$100.00.

Hostesses for March meeting – Mary Therese Ehnat and Helen Battista. April – Tina Sertich and Lena Amicarelli.

Please attend our March meeting to plan our May luncheon.

SYLVIA SPRETNJAK

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Founding Date: JUNE 11, 1928

Meetings: 3rd Tuesdays

except June to September

St. Joe's Park Hall

Contact: Sr. Marlene (815) 724-0731

Can you believe it? Here it is March already – we are into Lent, Spring, Easter.

At our Christmas party, Marissa Marquardt's name was picked for the accumulating attendance award. Then, at the January meeting, Cecelia Strle's name was drawn. However, since neither one was present, the award continues to climb. Louie Derlinga won the 50/50 prize. In Grace Doerk's absence, Vicki Hodgman is the acting secretary. Our Spiritual Adviser, Father Tom Paul conducted the installation of officers. The officers are the same except Judy and Louie Derlinga who became our Sargeants at Arms. During the buffet supper, we thoroughly enjoyed young Martin Mavec as he played our favorites on his Button Box.

Many thanks to all who came to the dinner dance on January 11, with music by Bob Doszak Orchestra, and the dance on February 8 – with music by Don Lipovac Band from Kansas.

On Tuesday, March 16, come for the meeting and help us celebrate St. Joseph's Day, (Feast day is March 19.) Bring your favorite dish for us to enjoy. Then, who knows, YOU may be lucky at Bingo following meeting and dinner.

Chairwoman Theresa Burns and some of our women visited our shut-in members on Valentine's Day.

We are still waiting for your choice of the '2004 Woman of the Year.' Mail the name of your choice to Char Kobe.

April 16 and 17, Friday and Saturday, at St. Joseph Park, SWU Br. 20 will have a Rummage sale. Start saving your household items and bring them to the hall – Thurs. Apr. 15, 9 a.m.—?



OFFICERS HEAD UP AN ACTIVE BR. 20 JOLIET

Left to right, front, Fr. Tom Paul, Spiritual Advisor and President, Char Kobe; standing, Sgt. at Arms, Judy Derlinga, Reporter Sr. Marlene Ambrose, Vice President, Agnes Dobczyk, Auditor Jo Lustik, Treasurer, Jean Herbst; (back row) Sgt. at Arms Louis Derlinga and Auditors Mary Kay Demick and Bea Nemnich. Missing from the photo is Secretary Grace Doerk.

Bravo to accordion virtuoso, Martin Mavec, junior member of Br. 20 who played for the enjoyment of members at the January meeting.

We need workers...how about YOU?

Our meeting for Apr. 20, Tues. at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Park should be interesting, educational and fun. Lou Fry, who is an expert in "HANDWRITING ANALYSIS," will analyze YOUR handwriting.

Congratulations ...

- Mary Papesh McGinnis on birth of a baby girl.

- Anna Mae Lukancic, Br. 20, who 'reaches out with song' as John Whiteside said in his article in the Joliet Herald News. "She sings at church services, funerals and weddings. She also sings for her grandchildren, senior citizens, her friends and herself." Yes, and she has sung for functions of Branch 20. We all thank God for your beautiful voice that we enjoy, Anna Mae.



A look back to Feb. 21, 1983 – The Slovenian Heritage Room was dedicated in the SWU's Home Office in Joliet, IL.

We send get well wishes and prayers to – Grace Doerk, Alice Valek, Nancy Mitok, Betty Scholp, Frances Schultz.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of John Anzelc, Lois Fenoglio (death of mother), Bernardine Ukovich (lost her husband, John), and Jodi Wartenberg (brother).

Remember – At the Museum we have heritage items for sale, for many occasions, Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, showers; and how about getting the cookbook, *More Pots and Pans?* Call (815) 727-1926.

"The best preparation for tomorrow is the proper use of today."

*Zveličar naš je vstal iz groba.
(Our Redeemer has risen from the grave.)*

A Happy Easter to all!
SISTER MARLENE AMBROSE, OSF

NO. 23, ELY, MN

Founding Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 1928

**Meetings: 1st Monday of each month, except "J" months
St. Anthony's Church, 6:00 p.m.
Reporter's # (218) 365-5441**

Wow! Imagine fifty members at our Christmas Party on Dec. 7, 2003 at Vertin's dining room. There was a lot of socializing going on; seeing people we haven't seen in a long time. Everyone enjoyed the visiting and you know how we Slovenian women are – (including me) – you'd better get there early so you can say hello to all! We enjoyed a wonderful meal and the dessert was 'awesome' and 'super-delicious'!! The party began at 1:00 p.m., the weather was cooperative, but we still had to be careful of slippery spots on the roads and sidewalks. After dinner, we played card bingo which proved to be 'hilarious' and entertaining. Some of the afternoon's comments were "Where did the year go?", "I can't believe it's the Christmas season already," "Well, we made it thru another year" and of course, "Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!"

Thanks to the committee for all the extra effort in getting all these members to come and enjoy the fun day!!

Our member, Fran Shepel of Ely, Minnesota, became a great grandmother to triplets Will, Alec and Reese of Cloquet, MN on September 15,

Welcoming his three brothers!

Right photo: Bryce, 3½ years old, seems to have things under control with his three brothers, triplets, Alex, Reese and Will Turnbull, born in November.

2003. The triplets were welcomed home by brother, Bryce (3½) and parents, Rachael and Kris Turnbull.

Fran and her late husband, Frank Shepel had four children and now have seven grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren! Yes, their family has really multiplied! Congratulations, Fran!!!

A reminder to members and people in our surrounding area that the SWUA "More Pots and Pans" cookbook is available at the Ely-Winton Historical Museum, located at Vermilion College here in Ely – Call (218) 365-3226 for more info.

JANE YADLOSKY,
Reporter

NO. 25, CLEVELAND, OH

Founding Date: NOVEMBER 22, 1928

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

Now that the holidays are over let's get back to everyday living and working. Everyone, I hope you had a blessed and fun-filled Christmas and will have



a great New Year to come. Keep healthy and smiling.

Our Christmas party was held at Sterle's Country House and everyone was in a jovial mood especially Albina Pozelnik! She is always the one with the jokes. We have a new member, Charlene Sneed, and we need more young material to carry on our good work. You are most welcome, Char. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she had some tough surgery during the holidays. Hope you are on the mend real soon and back in our midst, Charlene!

A big hello to all our shut-ins: Marie Orazem, Josie Ambrosic and Helen Pisek and to all the happy residents of St. Vitus Village. Remember this: our home is just a little house, but God knows where we live!!!

My Christmas wishes and New Year's wishes come a bit late. I was in a cast for nine weeks, broke my wrist Sept. 17th, so my news is very late. Forgive me. I will try to catch up. I came down with the flu for two weeks – oh my, what next? I'm much better now and back to business.

Dates to remember: St. Patty's Day, Mar. 17, Erin go Bragh!! April 4th is Palm Sunday and April 11th is Easter Sunday. Enjoy the springtime... summer is just around the corner!

I will leave you with this thought: A hug is a perfect gift... one size fits all and nobody minds if you exchange it.

Till we meet again, remember to love your neighbor.

Your friend and reporter. Na Svidenje!

EMILEE JENKO

Br. 20, Joliet, Illinois, offers the following scholarships to its members:

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

High School Scholarship to a graduating eighth grader who has been accepted to attend one of the Catholic high schools and is enrolled for the fall 2004 semester.

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

Scholastic ability must be shown as well as an evaluation of the applicant's character and code of behavior. For detailed eligibility information and application forms, contact

Branch 20 Scholarship Program
William L. Burns, Jr.
1109 Plaza Drive
Joliet, IL 60434-3844
Phone: (815) 725-5319

Applications must be received prior to April 15, 2004

NO. 32, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: AUGUST 25, 1929

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

Looks like another year has flown by! Br. 32 will not meet until March, however. Sad news to report in this issue. When we lose members it's very sad for all. Mary Batic has left us for a better place. She held office, was hostess and gave of herself for many years. May she rest in peace.

We have lovely ladies that have helped Br. 32 for years. In fact, two of them are Mary Ster and Ann Rossman, both up in years and doing just fine thus far. Hello to them and to all the shut-ins and ill members we have in our branch. We miss you and send good wishes.

Don't forget to pay your dues - if you haven't already. And, come to a meeting and enjoy the fun-time we have.

March birthday girls, including this writer, donated a big cake. Enjoyable time!

In May, as always, we mothers will go out on the town! I will be in honor of all moms! Hugs to all mothers!

More news in the next ZARJA. Until then, God bless.

DOROTHY LAMM

NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 12, 1929

**Meetings: 3rd Wed., 1 p.m.
St. Martin's Church Hall
Jan. to May; Sept., Oct. & Nov.**

The wind was blowing, the snow was snowing but Branch #34 members braved the storm and met at the upper room of St. Martin's for the January meeting. Love for SWU keeps us warm!

Prayers were read in Slovenian by member, Don Miklich, Sr. The group continued their discussion on the forthcoming State Convention on Sept. 12th.

Fred Pahula, Kay Berglund and Mary Ann Hill are on the mend from past health problems. Happy to see Fred and Mary Ann returning to their homes.

Our hostesses were Adeline Musto-

nen and Betty Dolinar. The gift was brought by Mary Ann Berg and Kay Dean won the door prize. Game winners were Helen Adkinson and yours truly.

We are glad we had our meeting when we did as later there were wind chills up to 45 below zero! I guess our "gatchke" kept us warm! Keep the home fires burning, ladies, and keep love in your hearts.

We were glad to see Margaret Yernatich from Duluth back in town. Member Ag Tekautz, her mother, is doing well.

With peace in your hearts and gratitude that were are the Home of the Free, keep smiling.

ADRIENNE MICKLICH,
President

NO. 35, AURORA, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 15, 1929

**Meetings: 6 times per year
Community Center
Contact: Anita Vovk
E-mail: AMV@cpinternet.com**

President Vovk opened our meeting on Dec. 7th with prayers for our deceased members. May they rest in peace.

We had a short meeting before we enjoyed our Advent dinner.

President Vovk encouraged everyone to bring along ideas for our 75th Anniversary celebration in October.

Thank you to our present officers who agreed to serve another year. They are: Pres. Anita Vovk; Vice Pres. Dorothy M. Jamnick; Secretary Gabriella Goritchan, Sec. Treas. Bernice Ceglar; and Sgt. at Arms, Betty Turk.

Our Mother of the Year for 2004 is Barbara Urick. We will honor her on Sunday, May 2nd. Congratulations, Barbara!

Congratulations to Jean Korsman, our new Food Columnist with "Recipes from the Farm." Looking forward to trying your recipes, Jean.

Phyllis Turk has a new great granddaughter, Maggie, and Francine Stellmach has a new great granddaughter, Aili. Congratulations to both of you and enjoy your precious little ones.

Get well wishes to Pauline Korpela, Julia Pirnot and Joseph Furry who had surgery and to all our members who

are ill. Good to see you doing so well Pauline, and by the time you read this report, Julia and Joseph, we hope you will be all well again.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Betty Carlson, who lost her sister, Carol. May she rest in peace.

Thank you to everyone for your gift of \$52 for the activity department at our local nursing home.

We closed our meeting with prayers for all our members.

Now it was time to enjoy a few refreshments (provided by Dorothy J.) before dinner (catered by Heidi Furry) and dessert (made by Anita and Bernice). Thank you, ladies!

Several members were lucky prize winners. Thanks again Anita for all the prizes. Kathleen Wheeler's door prize was won by Pauline Korpela.

This was a pleasant afternoon spent with all our S.W.U. members.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter.

ANNE M. ORAZEM

NO. 38, CHISHOLM, MN

**Meetings: 1st Wed. except June & July
Slovenian National Home**

Our branch hasn't shared much news with you lately, but we are still active. Our faithful secretary, Gert Zakrajsek had to give up her duties due to many health problems. We miss her very much.

Our two faithful old members are no longer able to join us. Jenny Samsa, who was our head cook, and who always kept our branch active, now resides in a local nursing home. Our Noodle Lady, Fran Zalec, who could be found at every meeting helping and giving her expertise to keep our branch active, is now homebound with many health problems. We miss another one of our valuable members, Ann Polichnik, who served as our Sunshine Lady, and who could always be counted on to help in any way we might need her. She has also been having medical problems and is now a resident of Leisure Hills Home in Hibbing.

Finally, we have a new president, Charlotte Laurich, who was the State President for 8 years. Gail Milton has agreed to stay on as our Treasurer and I, Catherine Sandvick, will take over the duties of Secretary.

Our membership has decreased due to age, death, and some who have not been happy with the increased membership dues. However, we had our first meeting of the year on February 4th and are making some positive plans for future meetings, hoping this will be a good year.

CATHERINE SANDVICK
Reporter

NO. 39, BIWABIK, MN

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 3, 1930

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

Our "Christmas Dinner" was held on Sunday, January 4th, 2004, at St. John's Church and was attended by thirty two members and guests. One new member, Carol Beton, was in attendance. Another new member, Zoe Planton, was unable to attend as she was vacationing in sunny Texas. A beautifully presented and delicious chicken dinner was catered by the Memory Lane staff. What a treat - no cooking or cleaning up for the branch members and even a nice glass of wine before dinner. Our exciting dice game lasted about forty-five minutes. The table was filled to excess with beautiful wrapped gifts that took twelve minutes to disperse. The winning and laughing then began and when the time was up, everyone had more than one gift to take home. It always is the highlight of the day.

Sunday, February 1st was the regular meeting date. Sixteen members were in attendance. Vice President, Eleanor Intihar chaired the meeting in the absence of Jean Korsman. Many members were anxious to return home to watch the Super Bowl and all it's hype. Among a few items of interest discussed was to follow the lead of our Heritage Museum in Joliet and our neighboring SWU branch #35 from Aurora to categorize and list the history of our branch. Anyone interested in helping with this monumental challenge should contact Jean Korsman or Rosemary Ribich. We will set dates as we get response. It could be a fun and interesting task. It was suggested that we take time at the meetings to accomplish this. Personally, I am interested since my husband's grand-

mother, Johanna Ribich Sever was instrumental, along with other Slovenian women in the area, in organizing the Branch #39 in 1930. We have boxes of information to go through. A nice dessert was served by Jane Purkat, Margaret Berg and Fran Rojeski. A new member, Phyllis Lamkin was welcomed to Branch #39.

A plea also goes out to any members that have artifacts from Slovenia. Are you interested in either donating or loaning them to our Heritage Museum in Joliet? At the moment I am working with Nancy Henckel to donate some things that I have been given and plan to pass on to the Museum. She is doing a great job and will give you all the information and help needed to pass these items along. This Museum is our connection and we can share and learn from each other. Please call me by phone or e-mail me at

RRIBICH@LCP2.NET

By the time we receive this issue of ZARJA, we will all be preparing for our beautiful Easter season. Let us not forget to pass on to our families the beautiful Slovenian tradition of "Žegen", which is so well displayed at our Museum. *Happy Easter to all.*

ROSEMARY (SERTICH) RIBICH
Reporter

NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH

Founding Date: MAY 31, 1930

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

I hope all you mid-west and north-east members have survived this brutal winter. Now we are all looking forward to the coming of another Spring. Boy, will it ever be welcome!

Mary Jo O'Neill finally had her baby Dec. 1st - too late for our last edition. Baby Patricia weighed in at 8# 3 oz. Congrats to the proud parents and the Fink and McHenry families on the latest addition to the clan.

Terry Anzo's father, Charles Domiano, celebrated a milestone birthday - 100 years! Talk about longevity. His father lived to 101 and his mother to 98. Terry's daughter, Peggy, is an intergenerational coordinator at Jennings Center for Older Adults. Her daughter, Aria, is a missionary social worker just home from Peru having pre-

viously served in Africa, Haiti and the Amazon. Terry's oldest granddaughter, Tina Anzo, is an RN at University Hospital's R.B. & C and just recently became engaged.

In January I received the following letter from Seminole, Fla.:

Dear Ms. Sadowski:

I am the daughter of Stan Prhne, who passed away last week at home, here in Fla, at the age of 83. My dad was born and raised on the east side of Cleveland and later moved to Parma. He worked in real estate in the Cleveland area for many years. My parents moved to Fla about 12 years ago.

I became a member of SWU several years ago when my dad loaned me his copy of the Pots and Pans cook book. He always loved to cook and continued to do so until just recently. He was a big fan of the Pots and Pans book.

My dad also very much enjoyed reading my copy of ZARJA - The Dawn, in particular your column reporting on Br. 42. He knew many of your members or their families and your column kept him connected to the Slovenian community.

I realized how connected that community is a few years ago when I was visiting Cleveland. I had never been to Azman's Market, but I knew that my dad always loved their Slovenian sausage. At that time, my dad probably had not been to the market himself at least 15 or 20 years. I found the market, walked in, and announced, "I am Stan Prhne's daughter." The elderly gentleman behind the meat counter responded immediately, "How is Stan?"

So, at your next meeting, please mention my dad's death to any of your members who remember him. He is survived by his wife, Millie, myself and my husband and our two children. My dad's older brother, John, also still resides in Euclid.

Thank you. I am also placing a death notice in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Sincerely,

Fran Fedor

Fran was a member of Br. 30 which has no specific geographic location but serves as a generic unit for unconnected members. She has now transferred to Br. 42 where many of us remember her late dad, Stanley Prhne. I especially

recall him as a tall, handsome gentleman with an outstanding singing voice which he put to good use as a member of the Cleveland 500 Club, an organization that reached renown as a musical show group in greater Cleveland. We extend a hearty welcome to Fran and look forward to meeting her in person whenever she visits Cleveland. Isn't it great how the printed word is so far reaching and can have such positive results?

We have also enrolled as a new member, Angie Zupancic, who everyone remembers as "the potica lady" of Maple Hts. Catering. Angie, for many years, made all the poticas the Hocevar family business sold in Maple Hts. She is now retired and resides with husband, Tony, at The Little Sisters independent living facility in Beachwood. Angie has enrolled her 2 grandchildren, Anthony and Grace, as juvenile members of our branch. Welcome to you all.

Happy March birthdays to: Anne Volo, Sr. Joan of Arc, Ann Zupancic, Albina Mroczka, Tina Pomfrey, Kimberly Balach, Evana Stanonik and my granddaughter, Katie Kossakoski.

Happy April birthdays to Helen Husky, Arlene Legan, Eleanor McArdle, Imelda Blazy, Terry Anzo, Dori Zidar, Sienna Haslup, new mom Mary Jo O'Neill and new members, Fran Fedor and Grace Zupancic.

Greetings to our many house-bound members. Happy St. Patrick's Day and to all you Josephines and Joes, happy St. Joseph's feast day on March 19th. With Easter falling on April 11th, may you all enjoy a nice Easter holiday with your families, relatives and friends.

Zbogom,

LIL SADOWSKI

No. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI

Founding Date: JUNE 4, 1930

Meetings: 4th Wed., noon

St. Mary, Help of Christians

**Contact: Yvonne Johnstone Khaldy
YJK@AOL.COM - (414) 744-3837**

We had no meeting in December because we decided to have the Christmas party - meeting on January 17th at Klemmer's Banquet Center, 10401 West Oklahoma Ave. Luncheon was served at noon, which was very good. Three of our 50 Year Members were able to attend, Olga Seehafer, Rose

Zupancic, and Zenobia Dybul. Each were given a 50 Year Pin and a long-stemmed red carnation. The other three 50 Year Members, Jennie Kouchich, Mary Biston and Joan Haug were unable to attend. The 50 Year Pins were sent to them.

We installed seven new members, Bob Bartlett, Jack Kolesari, Helen Otto, Antonette Needham, Rose Chapek, Joan Winkleski, and Jackie Smith. The two new members were asked to sell the raffles to get them into the swing of things. They did a very good job. Thank you. We exchanged gifts, and we had many raffle prizes. One of the prizes was won by Pat Tomaszewski's granddaughter, our youngest member. She gave us a big smile when she received the prize.

We lost another member who was called to her heavenly home, Cecilia Puskarich. Please keep her and all of the deceased and sick members in your prayers.

I am very happy to be back on the job, and I want to thank Yvonne Johnstone Khaldy for taking care of the minutes at the meetings and writing the articles for ZARJA. She did a very good job. Thanks again, Yvonne.

ANNE E. KONCZAL,
Reporter

NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH

Founding Date: JUNE 17, 1931

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the Month

Maple Heights Public Library

Contact: Elsie Spellacy

(440) 232-8733

Winter is here and we are getting ready for Spring to get here. Our next meeting is March 14th at 1:00 p.m. at the Maple Hts. Library. We hope everyone can be there. We will be discussing our preparations for Mother's Day Celebration and the Festival plans. Our Mother's Day Dinner will be at Quinn's Rest in Solon.

Mass for our Living and Deceased Members will be August 8th, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church.

Get well wishes go out to Elsie Kohun and Val Mervar. Hope to see you up and about real soon.

Birthday wishes go out to our March and April Members.

March Members: Mary Kastelic, Olga Sray, Catherine Barta, Barbara Culkar, Joyce Patricia Rozman,

Mildred J. Stautihar, Margaret Rhys and Brandi Hayden Wallace.

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

Best wishes to all.

One more reminder. Please come to our meeting in March. We need everyone there to make preparations for Mother's Day and the Festival.

KATHERINE WALLACE

NO. 50, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: SEPTEMBER 15, 1931

**Meetings: 3rd Wednesday
except Jan.-Feb.-Mar.-July & Aug.**

Euclid Public Library

Contact: Anne Tomsick

Tel. (216) 531-2745

After enjoying years of reading articles appearing in the ZARJA publication, trying my own hand as a novice writer will be an exciting challenge!

Rosemary Toth completes her first year as our new president and is already setting the pace with her fresh ideas, which have been enthusiastically met by the membership. For instance, our Christmas party was well organized and even featured a Chinese auction that sent almost everyone home with valuable prizes including hand made afghans. We thanked auditor Fran Kaifish for her services, also Julie Zalar and her staff for catering a traditional Slovenian dinner, and thanks to Frank Sadar - our "seasoned bartender" on many numerous occasions and his lovely wife Julie's presence.

We were overjoyed that longtime member, Ann Winter was able to join us after an extended illness. She attended with her lovely daughter, Dorothyann. Joe Petric provided button box entertainment accompanied by his wife Flo, who is known for her popular videos of Slovenian cooking and baking. Ernestine Jevic brought photos of her son, the retired Lt. Commander Robert Jevic, who was recently honored at the St. Vitus Alumni Hall of Fame.

By the way, Fr. Vic Cimperman of St. Vitus Parish celebrated his 60th anniversary in the Priesthood, and this June 6th, the "Polka Priest," Fr. Frank Perkovich of Gilbert, Minnesota will mark his 50th anniversary with a banquet and mass. He plans to retire at

Golden Years – Golden Memories

that time. Incidentally, Fr. Perkovich celebrated the Mass and honored our members at the national convention and dinner last year in Minnesota.

Our two golden wedding anniversary couples are Louise and Frank Troglia (November 26, 2003) and Anne and Ken Tomsick (June 6, 2003), both couples reside in Euclid, Ohio. Louise was recently interviewed by Patti Sluga on her radio program, "Women Behind the Scenes" on WELW radio. The interview revealed a remarkable life of activities and volunteerism, and the fact that Louise is a former Miss SNPJ. The couple is planning an anniversary trip to Las Vegas.

The Tomsicks enjoyed a memorable day which began with a Mass concelebrated by Aux. Bishop A. Edward Pevac and several other clergy. Family and friends enjoyed a wonderful evening of food and merriment, including a special memories video, produced by the five Tomsick sons. Making last year extra special for Ken and Anne was the addition of their 6th grandchild, "Faith" born to Lisa and Joey Tomsick in August. Years ago, Joey's band performed for our National Convention in Cleveland, organized by Evelyn Majercik of Br. 73.

Ann Orlikowski visited her former home in Wooster, NY which she had not seen since 1927! Ann was able to spend the night because it is now a Bed and Breakfast! This April she will celebrate her 95th birthday. And yes, Ann still enjoys driving! Our "snow birds" in Florida are Josephine Arko and MaryJo and Peter Rom.

The President of the St. Vitus Altar Society, Ivanka Matic and her hardworking members were the topic of an article entitled "Grand Ladies" in the American Home Newspaper. They were acknowledged for their very generous annual gifts to St. Vitus pastor, Fr. Boznar.

We are heartily saddened by the passing of Ann Svete Parker, our longtime member and friend; and May Maxin – well loved and best known for her phone call service for all occasions as branch secretary. We will miss you.

Next meetings, March 17th "Wearing The Green", and April 21st.

Election of Officers: Pres. Rosemary Toth, Vice Pres. Cookie Maxin, Treasurer, Mary Miller. See you next issue!

ANNE TOMSICK

Ken and Anne Tomsick celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2003 with mass at St. Vitus and a gala party at the St. Clair Slovenian National Home. They are the parents of Ken, Larry, John, Rick and Joey – and have six grandchildren. Anne is a long-standing member of Br. 50 and this year, will be reporting their activities in ZARJA. Congratulations!



Anne and Ken

Last fall, celebrating their 50th Anniversary were Louise and Frank Troglia – observing their actual wedding day of November 26, 1953. It began with a renewal of vows at St. Christine's church. Louise is an active member of two SWU branches – this is amazing! She participates in whatever goes on in Euclid – between branches 32 and 50! How's that for dedication?



Louise and Frank

NO. 54, WARREN, OH

Founding Date: AUGUST 22, 1932

**Meetings: 3rd Wednesday
Feb. thru May, Sept., Nov., Dec.
Contact: Joanne Ponikvar
4010 Greenmont Dr., S.E.,
Warren, OH 44484**

Spring can't come soon enough with the wintery weather we have had. Too much snow and terrible ice storms, eh, ladies? Oh well, can't do much about it.

Our members are all doing fine and I want them to know about our May luncheon to be held on Wednesday, May 19th at 1 o'clock at Cafe 422 on Youngstown Rd. The group was all in favor of having it there again and you will all be called for reservations.

By now you all have received your statements with the increase in dues shown. Please pay up as soon as possible. We want to have a 100% return on dues payments. Our branch was generous for Christmas and all donated to the ZARJA, rather than having a gift exchange. (May I say thanks to you all for this thoughtful gift to our ZARJA fund. Editor.) Our praises to the ZARJA. Everyone loves reading it, from cover to cover!

Congratulations to Gina Petrich and

Frank, whose daughter was married recently. We wish them all the best.

Have a good Lent and God's blessings. Easter will be here before we know it.

God bless and keep you all healthy and safe in 2004.

JOANNE PONIKVAR,
Reporter

NO. 55, GIRARD, OH

Founding Date: JUNE 8, 1933

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

Greetings from Girard, Ohio! It has been a busy winter season for the members of Branch 55. On Wednesday, December 3, 2003, we celebrated our annual Christmas party with the members of AMLA Lodge 42 at Little Peppino's Restaurant in Girard. The evening was full of fun holiday festivities and deli-

cious Italian food. A button box performance by Nettie Juvancic, Delores DePietro, and Steve Luzar followed by a sing-a-long with both Slovenian and English Christmas carols was the entertainment for the evening. As always, Anka Krakora arranged for all those present to receive various holiday oriented door prizes. President Maria Selak baked and distributed traditional St. Nicholas Day cookies to all. My grandma, Milka Kregar, prepared a special treat for dessert-Jabolčna Kača. Everyone really enjoyed this delicacy! During the event, a SWU cookbook was raffled off to raise \$35 dollars which was sent to the scholarship fund. Thank you to all who participated. Also available for sale that evening were Milka Kregar's famous slippers. I'm sure they served as great Christmas presents for all those who purchased them. One special part about this year's party involved one of our founding members, Sophie Kren. Sophie invited four generations of her family to the Christmas party including her daughter Patty Harper from Colorado, her granddaughter Katie from North Carolina and her two great grandchildren Ivy and Karston. Her daughter-in-law and branch member Paulette Kren was also present. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season!

After dinner, the official 2004 officer elections were held. Maria Selak was re-elected as President; Joan Twaddle will serve as Vice President; Anka Krakora will serve as Secretary/Treasurer, and Milka Kregar and Paulette Kren will serve as Auditors. Congratulations officers and thank you for taking on this responsibility.

In other branch news, Trisha Kren was involved in the production of the play Scrooge at Girard High School during the Holidays. All in attendance enjoyed the performance as a great way to start off the Christmas Season. Also, Mark Selak, son of President Maria Selak received word that he will be serving as a company officer for the Carnegie Mellon ROTC. Congratulations Mark on this great honor!

As for me, I am just beginning my Spring Semester at the University of Notre Dame. I received word that I made the Dean's Honor List as I am in the top 30% of the class of 2007. I am pleased with this honor and will continue working hard this semester. I will also be working at the South Bend Center for the Homeless throughout the

spring. It is a great way to get in touch with the people of the community in which I live.

(Monica is a 2003 SWU Scholarship recipient. See Scholarship news.)

Thats all for now. Keep warm throughout these winter months and may God bless you always!

MONICA SELAK

NO. 85, DEPUE, IL

Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1937

Meetings: at Members' Homes

Our member, Mary Oberch has been moved to the Spring Valley Nursing Home. We have another member, Mary Kuhar also living there. Mary Suarez is at Heritage Manor in Peru. We miss them all and think of them often.

Am sorry to report the death of my sister, Ann DeBord. She passed away Dec. 13th and was laid to rest at Oakland Cemetery in Princeton. Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Louis Church. Her three grandsons, a nephew and two friends were Pallbearers; daughter-in-law and son-in-law were Readers and another daughter-in-law and two granddaughters were Gift bearers. A beautiful tribute to Ann was given by a close friend of the family. Our heartfelt sympathy and loving prayers to her two sons, Thomas (Connie) DeBord, James (Mary Sue) DeBord and daughter, Cynthia (James) Hultine, 5 grandchildren, sister-in-law Muriel and many friends.

Ann's son, James and his wife, Mary Sue were blessed at Christmastime, Dec. 22, 2003 when their son, John Anthony was adopted. Our congratulations to the happy family.

Have a good year, everyone. God bless!

MARY JERMENC

NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL

Founding Date: MAY 9, 1938

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

We gathered together at "Christo's" for our 2003 Christmas party. Thanks to our chairperson, Rose Ann Prey for helping to make it such an enjoyable evening.

All of our officers for 2003 are re-

newing their offices for 2004.

Since we do not meet in January or February we keep our members in our daily thoughts and prayers and look forward to our meeting on Monday, March 8, 2004.

Reflecting back on 2003 as Branch 89, we are so grateful for the times we have spent together. Our meetings, the Masses we shared, our breakfasts and dinners together, and the road trips we've taken. We are so thankful for our new members of 2003, Jordan and Denise Duffin, Frances Morrison, and Paula Snell. And so we thank God for our faith, our heritage, our health, and each other. We can do nothing but look forward to 2004! Praying for our shut-ins, reaching out to those in need, and enjoying a healthy, busy, brand new year.

Peace to all.

ALICE EBNER

No. 93, NEW YORK, NY

Andrea Selak

(212) 925-6521

andreaselak@hotmail.com

Thanks to Anna Jonke, an original member of Branch 93, for her holiday greeting card to the entire branch. Congratulations to Mary Palcic in Florida, another original member of the branch, who won \$300 in the Museum Magic Month fundraiser. Elizabeth Birk, another original member of the branch who now lives in Florida used the online newsletter to sell an accordion. She received five inquiries and sold it within two days. Thanks to Tea Rozman Clark for letting us know we can take advantage of a free Pilates exercise class at her workplace (Reconciliation and Culture Cooperative Network www.raccoon.balkansnet.org), led by a native Slovenian, Špela Sterle. Thanks also to Sonja Knezevič-Kong, who will be taking over the branch 93 website.

Due to a blizzard on December 6th, our holiday party at Djerdan #3, an Eastern European restaurant in Midtown Manhattan, was rescheduled to the following Saturday. Attendance was light, but those who attended enjoyed the get-together. Next year we plan to hold our holiday party in early November to avoid conflicts with other holiday events. In our effort to communicate with all of our members, we sent holiday cards and membership lists



Easter Egg Dyeing has become an annual event for members of Br. 93, New York City!

to those members not on e-mail, as we encourage members to meet on their own in addition to our branch events.

We celebrated Kulturni Dan with a brunch and a champagne toast in early February. Members met at Ye Waverly Inn, a restaurant located in a brownstone building built in the 1840s in Greenwich Village. Bosnian handmade items were available for anyone interested in purchasing, and several attendees won prizes. Thanks to Elizabeth James (**Home from Slovenia**) for donating one of her Slovenian imported items as a prize.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 3. Tea will lead us again in the art of dyeing eggs with plant leaves and onion skins. We held a similar event last year, and those who attended found it fun and interesting. Branch members should look out for an invite with more details about the event as the date gets closer.

If you find yourself in the New York City area, please feel free to contact us!

A.S.

NO. 100, FONTANA, CA

Original Founding Date:

Ottawa, CA – JUNE 26, 1940

Reorganized in

Fontana, CA – MARCH 7, 1957

Contact: Rosemary Mlakar (949) 654-8229
or Jean Koci (949) 495-0097

It's winter in Southern California, but not like the winter those of you in the East are experiencing. A light jacket seems to suffice most days, and the sun shines a bit every afternoon, if not all day. We sometimes miss the beauty of the snow on the trees in the countryside... but many of us are almost natives here, having lived most of our lives in the mild climate of Southern

California. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and that the New Year will bring you all joy and contentment.

Branch 100 had a lovely holiday luncheon on December 13th. Three new members or prospective applicants attended for the first time, and quite a few of our regulars met at the Napoli Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda. As has been somewhat of a tradition, we were all invited to continue our party at the home of Frank and MaryLou Vidergar. They always are such wonderful hosts. Those who traveled to Slovenia with our Southern California Summer in Slovenia Tour had a lot to talk about...reminiscing about the fun we had. We also enjoyed some of the Honey Brandy that Frank had purchased over there, along with a variety of cookies and hot apple cider.

A short business meeting was held as well since our members don't have the opportunity to get together very often. We live in three or four counties! Officers will remain the same for the coming year with Rosemary Mlakar, Secretary-Treasurer to be the primary contact person for the Branch. Anne Kapel continues as President. Pauline Buzan accepted the honor to be our Member of the Year for 2004. So we will be planning a celebration for her sometime this spring. Pauline is a lady of many talents and a lifetime of exciting experiences. She is currently teaching a small group of us the Slovenian language using the tapes and books by Prof. M. Gobetz. Pauline was born the day after her parents landed at Ellis Island...what an exciting time to be brought into the world as a new American citizen! Congratulations Pauli.

We are saddened to report the death of Edith Vidergar, sister of Frank and Bill Vidergar, Marion Sadar, and Fr-

ances Watson...all regular participants in Branch 100 events.

Branch 100 is happy to have achieved its membership goal for 2003 and hope that 2004 will be as successful a year, both locally and nationally.

Na svidenje!

JEAN KOCI

NO. 102, WILLARD, WI

Founding Date: MAY 11, 1941

Meetings: When convenient
Parish Center – (713) 267-6764

Belated Happy New Year!

Our February 8th was a Valentine Party and pot luck lunch. On December 6th we had 14 members present. After the meeting we had a Christmas party. Our 2004 Mother of the Year is Sue Pakiz.

A Children's Christmas Party was also held on December 14th. A pot luck dinner for every one after mass. A program was put on by the CCD kids 1st through 5th grades. Santa gave bags of goodies sponsored by both KSKJ Lodges and PCCW. The PCCW ladies made cookies to be given to the elderly. Also the PCCW held a baby shower for the Hannah House.

Our CCD grades 8 through 12 made Christmas cards and packed fruit plates for all the elderly and sick of the parish. Bing and Diane Perko delivered them with the help of Bethney Gosar and Jacob Trunkel Jr. as Santa's helpers.

Father Dick Bayuk spent Christmas with his parents Edward and Josephine Bayuk. Father Dick celebrated Christmas Eve Mass with Father Joseph Tollmar.

Troy Pakiz, son of Larry and Sue Pakiz was recently hired by Air Net and is based at St. Louis, MO.

Mindy (Debevec) Bauer was accepted to the Pharmacy School of Madison, WI. She is the granddaughter of Agnes Debevec.

Many of our members announced the arrival of great grandsons: Rose and Frank Pakiz, Dorothy Gregorich, Edward and Josephine Bayuk, and Agnes Debevec.

A long-active member of our branch, Agnes Lesar died January 8th, 2004. She will be greatly missed for her devotion to the SWU and especially to our Plant Sale. Her beautiful flowers and cats were her life.

Ann Bok is our new member.

Prayers and get well wishes to Edith Backus, Helen Krainz, Josie Trunkel and Marie Ammundson.

Our condolences to the families of Ann (Parket) Babish, Clate Susa and Agnes Lesar.

AGNES DEBEVEC

NO. 103, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Founding Date: NOVEMBER 14, 1965

Meetings: 1st Sundays

except Feb., July & Aug.

St. Columba's Ch. Albermarle St.

Contact: Mary Lou Terselic

(301) 874-2446

Branch 103 wishes everyone a Happy New Year 2004!

We have had a great end of the year, with a festive and well-attended Annual Social on Saturday evening, October 25, 2003. Along with the usual Slovenian cuisine of specially-ordered klobase from the butcher, sauerkraut, poticas and flancati we enjoyed a wonderful beef goulash. We were honored by the attendance at our social by His Excellency Dr. Davorin and Mrs. Kracun, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, and members of the embassy.

The Children's musical program was very charming, with costumes and piano accompaniment by Bernadette Fitzsimmons. We honored our Woman of the Year, Ana Menapace, with a traditional bouquet of red carnations. After the program and dinner, we danced to the beautiful buttonbox music of Frank Videgar, Jr. and his partner, Gene Schacher on guitar and horn, playing the traditional polkas and waltzes. Special thanks must be given to those individuals, members or not, who donated time and effort to making the social a lovely and memorable celebration.

Our November meeting was primarily dedicated to the election of officers for 2004. The following members were elected or hold in office by acclaim: Marylou Terselic, President, Angela Stare, Vice President, Mimi Mejac, Secretary/Financial Manager, Molly Thomas, Treasurer, Tilly Ausich, Recording Secretary, Ana Sonc-Jevtic, Program Chair, Ana Scopac, and Cindy Kukenberger White, and Jana Bevec, Auditors, and Valerie Bohinc and Cindy Kukenberger White, ZARJA Recorders.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be Sunday, March 7 with a pro-

gram presented by Ana Sonc-Jevtic. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the meeting. Meeting announcements will be forthcoming.

CYNDI KUKENBERGER

NO. 108, OLNEY, MD

Founding Date: NOVEMBER 16, 2003

Meetings: 1st Sundays

Contact: Bernadette Fitzsimmons

FITZSIMM@NETCONNECT.NET

We invite SWUA members, friends and visitors in the Washington, DC metro area to affiliate with our new Maryland branch. Since our founding meeting on November 16, 2003, our branch membership has grown beyond our initial expectations; we are delighted with the enthusiasm and dedication exhibited by our members to participate in activities in honor of our Slovenian cultural and religious heritage.

Our branch celebrated "Kulturni dan" National Cultural Holiday in honor of France Prešeren on Sunday, February 8. Talented member and guest speaker, Mrs. Stasha Furlan Seaton prepared a commentary on this prominent Slovenian poet, with a sample of Prešeren's poems that were read in both Slovenian and English.

On Saturday evening March 6, we will meet at Blob's Park in Jessup, MD for a "Slovenian Family Dinner & Polka Night." We invite members, friends and guests in welcoming Jerry Intihar, Slovenian accordion player from PA. Jerry promises to take Slovenian musical requests, so get your list ready.

On Saturday, March 13 starting at 10:00 a.m., we will be participating (weather permitting) in a St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held at the Washington Center just off I-270 in Gaithersburg, MD. We will be accompanied by live Slovenian polka music and the young people dressed in Slovenian national costumes.

On Saturday, April 17 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Br. 108 Junior members have been invited to participate in the Gaithersburg International Book Festival for Children. For more information see www.ci.gaithersburg.md.us. The children's choir, "We are Slovenian, Let's Sing Together" will sing a selection of Slovenian folk songs and read Slovenian folk tales. Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons will be one of the guest

MISSING PERSONS

If your name is below or you know this person, kindly ask them to send me their latest address and their dues for 2004. Their invoices were returned because of wrong address:

Adelman, Verdean
Bobence, Kristen K.
Bonser, Adrienne
Cikulin, Ann
Dickinson, Carol Jean
Dickinson, Jennifer
Dovnik, DAnielle E.
Evans, Jamie G.
Fossberg, Theresa
Golobich, Jennifer Lynn
Hoffman, Jessica Lynn
Holmok, Mary Jane
Horne, Wayne A.
Hostnik, Rose
Jacobson, Dorothy Lucille
Jaketic, Mary
Klun, Marie A.
Lavrich, Mary
Llewlynn, Carol A.
Moginnis, Mary Ann
Mismas, Ann Agnes
Mladic, Krystal
Modic, Ann
Opalek, Josephine
Orazem, Joseph P.
Polyner, Pauline
Puskarich, Celia
Romano, Diana
Samsa, Jennie
Schickowski, Marie
Seiner, Elsie
Tella, Mary

readers, presenting her original Slovenian story "Bana je zaspana" (The Sleepy Bathtub) in both Slovenian and English, which was published in the children's Slovenian magazine "CICIDO" in October, 2003.

"A Briefing on Slovenia," an afternoon of Slovenian culture, music, food and information will be held soon. For detailed information, see the on-line newsletter or visit swua.org. For any additional questions, please contact Joan Strnisa Simmons at (410) 751-9331, joany600@yahoo.com or Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons at (301) 391-6873.

BKF



Membership Application

Yes!

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

Please type or print legibly. Choose type of membership:

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

Name and Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry _____

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

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

Please allow four to six weeks for membership processing.

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

In honor of _____ Membership No.: _____

In memory of _____ Branch Affiliate: _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

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

Tell a Friend!

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

My friend's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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