

\$ 3.99 U.S./\$ 8.99 International

Zarja

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

Volume 86 Issue 1
January/February 2014

The Dawn

The
Binding
Force of
Heritage
and Culture
in SUA for
Decades



Irene Odorizzi and Mary Lou Deyak Voelk

Zarja - The Dawn

EDITOR: **Debbie Pohar**
DIRECTOR OF DESIGN: **Bonnie Pohar Prokup**

EDITORIAL OFFICE: **1696 Illinois St.
LaSalle, IL 61301-1359**
TELEPHONE: **815.223.9596**
FAX: **815.224.1074**

WEB SITE: **slovenianunion.org**

PUBLISHER: **Slovenian Union of America**
(Formerly Slovenian Women's Union of America)
TELEPHONE: **815.727.1926**

Vol. 86, No. 1, January/February 2014
Published bimonthly
Periodicals Postage paid at Joliet, IL
and additional mailing offices.

(ISSN 0044-1848)

Postmaster: Send all changes of address to:
SLOVENIAN UNION OF AMERICA
(Formerly Slovenian Women's Union of America)
431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432-1703

Communications for the next issue of publication

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

Submission Guidelines

Tell us how to reach you: Include your name, daytime phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address with each submission, including e-mailed submissions.

Go Digital: We regret that we can no longer return submitted materials. It is best to e-mail your photos. Use a 3.2-megapixel (or better) camera set for the highest picture quality, and attach your photos as jpeg files. If you have an old photo that is irreplaceable, please make a good-quality copy to share with us. (Scanned copies must be a resolution of 300 or higher.)

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

SUA Donations

Thank You!

Donation \$25

Bokar, Catherine, 20, +Anna Kozan
Boles, Helen, 71
Jammick, Dorothy, 35
Klobucher, Ray, 20, +Rose Ann Klobucher
Vett, Louise, 54
Wulf, Mary Kay, 100

Donation \$20

Dupont, Margaret, 30, +Margaret Kochevar
Vett, Louise, 54, +Frances Sainato

Donation \$10

Hurst, Betty, 24
Janezic, Karen, 43
Leskovar, Christy, 30
Mancuso, Lauren

Burial Insurance Claim Donors

Addicott, Margaret
Blatnik, Anita
Gornick, Rosemary
Jerry, Jillian
Jerry, William
Jerry, Deborah Zefran
Mejac, Mary Grill
Starich, Rita
Thomas, Maria

**The Slovenian Union
of America
has been approved
to operate as a
501(c)(3) non-profit tax
exempt organization!**

**All donations given to SUA
are tax deductible.**

President's Message

Happy New Year to all our members and their families throughout the world! I hope your holidays were filled with family, friends, laughter, potica, klobasa, and so much more!

Congratulations to all the Branches who hosted Anniversary Celebrations - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL, Branch 24 - LaSalle, IL, and Branch 33 - Duluth, MN - on 85 years and to one of our newest Branches - Branch 108 - Olney, MD on 10 years. Congratulations also to all those hosting Regional Conventions and to Branch 93 - NYC, NY, for putting on a spectacular St. Martin's Day event that included the Republic of Slovenia's Ambassador to the U.S. - Dr. Božo Cerar.

On November 16th we reached a historical moment in the 87½ years of SUA/SWUA – our first telephone conference with Member Representatives from coast to coast. Thank you to all who participated and made it so successful. This will be an easy way to communicate in the future. The minutes can be read on our website at www.slovenianunion.org.

WHO WANTS TO GO TO SLOVENIA?

The dates are set – September 18 – 28, 2014.

Mojca Sosteric is coming out of retirement to help create a spectacular tour for this special occasion of *Zarja - The Dawn's* 85th Anniversary. More details will be in the March/April issue of *Zarja - The Dawn*. Space will be limited, so act fast if interested.

Contact wprokup@aol.com or 815.223.9596 for more information and to get your name on this list. I can promise you one thing – this tour is going to be OUTSTANDING!

Enjoy this issue of *Zarja*!

Bonnie Pohar Prokup

National President, Slovenian Union of America

wprokup@aol.com

SUA Branches Welcome Their New Members

1, Schramm, Sharon	20, Crook, Judy	35, Bajda, Tina	35, Snidarich, John
1, Watts, Sue	20, Kehoe, Jonathan	35, Bajda, Tom	43, Menchak, Lucija
3, Tate, Lillian	20, Lukancic, John	35, Chad, Daniel	50, Speck, Josephine
13, Trauner, Ann	20, Sweeney, Mary Jean	35, Finc, Robert	93, Price, Camille
20, Bottino, Margie	20, Yuvan, Jan	35, Sadar, Donna	99, Harazin, Genevieve
			109, Nisporic, Jacqueline

SWU Scholarship Foundation

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF FINANCIALLY ASSISTING STUDENTS

Mission: To generate funding to financially assist students with hope that they will promote and preserve Slovenian culture.

During the 1946 SWUA National Convention held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with the introduction of a scholarship program suggested by Marie Priland, the delegates voted to begin a scholarship program for college student members of the organization. After extensive fund-raising for the project, spring 1949 brought SWU Scholarships to the following college bound students: Dr. Donald Carey, Branch 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Marie Bombach Dye, Branch 105 - Detroit, Michigan, and Frederick Pahula, Branch 34 - Soudan, Minnesota.

Dr. Donald Carey was a pioneer in the field of child psychiatry, has written a number of books on the subject, and in more recent years has served as Professor and Director of Child Psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina. Marie Bombach Dye received her doctorate in the field of Educational Psychology at Indiana State University. She spent her life working with the deaf,

learning-disabled, and in later years lived in the inner city of Detroit working with its needy residents. Frederick Pahula was an elementary teacher, with special emphasis on art. He taught in several schools in Minnesota.

These, the very first, of over 200 SWU Scholarship winners have made their contributions to society. Of those who followed our first three, many were in the medical, financial, military, government, and educational fields and we are also proud to have provided assistance for one priest. Of course, all of our scholarship recipients have served society well, especially those who chose to be parents, preparing their young to be leaders of the future. What a wonderful array of professions! At this time we are extending our sincere, warm thanks to all contributors of the past and present, hoping that their interest in our scholarship program will continue in the future.

THANK YOU MAJOR DONORS OF SWU SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014!



Frances Barman

Frances Barman Memorial Scholarship

Frances Barman will this year, as in many past years, have a scholarship awarded in her name, due to the generosity of her son, Anthony Colnar. Frances, born in Slovenia, lost her first husband due to military injuries while a young man. She immigrated to the United States where she met and married Joseph Barman, who loved and treated Anthony Jr. as his own. In later years, Frances not only did intricate handiwork, but with her son's help created a huge botanical garden of over 100 varieties of fruit trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers. Frances received a number of gardening awards for her roses and dahlias.

Rose Marie Princ Scholarship

For a Graduate Student majoring in Education

A native of Chicago, Rose Marie is a life-long member of St. Stephen's Church and Branch 2 - Chicago. She

graduated from St. Mary's High School and Rosary College, continued her studies at Loyola, De Paul, and Northwestern Universities and earned advanced degrees at the University of Chicago and Northern Illinois University. She taught at Nazareth Academy and J. Sterling Morton High School for 27 years and was also its administrator for 14 years. Rose Marie has been an interested and generous supporter of the SWU Scholarship Foundation for many years.



Rose Marie Princ

Jean Kurilich Memorial Scholarships

Mrs. Jean Kurilich's daughter, Frances Kurilich Reichelderfer, will provide several awards this spring in memory and honor of her mother, Jean Kurilich. Jean, a Slovenian immigrant, was a very active member of Fontana, California's Branch 100, KSKJ, and other Slovenian groups. She worked hard within these organizations,

whether cooking for dinners, planning events, or holding a variety of offices. She was very proud of her Slovenian heritage. Jean Kurilich was a firm believer in the value of an education.



Jean Kurilich

Branch 2 - Chicago, Illinois Scholarships

Stephen's Church Hall was the setting on December 19, 1926, when Branch 2's Slovenian ladies formally organized. Dues were 25 cents each month and in 1927 the Branch held an election of officers. Membership was comprised mostly of young, immigrant, married women with families. Since that time hundreds of devoted Branch 2 men and women have worked tirelessly on fund-raisers, held special Masses and celebrations, preserved and updated St. Stephen's Church, the well-known Slovenian church of Chicago. The Branch 2 members of today represent several generations of people who preserved and treasured their rich Slovene ancestry.



Branch 2 Members: (left to right) Mary Podder, Gen Buol, Dolores Puhek, Meta Hanzlik, and Gisela Lak.

Raymond J. Delopst Memorial Scholarship

A tribute to Raymond J. Delopst by his daughter Judith Delopst Rechlitz: "Although he was a more recent member of SUA's Branch 43 - Milwaukee, Ray had a long and committed relationship with the organization. His mother, Gertrude Delopst, was the first President of Branch 43, almost 90 years ago. Ray was a man who was beloved by so many and also a man of many talents. There was not one in his family, who faced a problem, who didn't go to him for help. He was a promo potica maker and gave baking lessons to carry on the culinary tradition of our heritage. Ray was a firm believer in education and never



Raymond Delopst

missed a chance to further his knowledge. He never stopped learning and thus, we, his children, felt it was appropriate to have monetary memorials given at his funeral by family, friends, and Branch 43 members forwarded to the SWU Scholarship Foundation. It is wonderful to know that his legacy lives on in two of his most important passions: his Slovenian heritage and furthering education. We, his children, would like to thank the SWU Scholarship Foundation for naming a scholarship in memory of this most remarkable man."

High School Seniors and College Students: please check the SUA website, <http://www.slovenianunion.org>. Click on "scholarships" for more information on awards and to download application forms. Deadline for application is March 1, 2014.

May 2014 be a bright, shining year for you! For those with chronic diseases, may these disorders not keep you from exploring new avenues of fun and adventure. May God's love glow brightly on all of our faces and in our hearts! HAPPY 2014!

- Mary Turvey, Marge Church, and Pat Figurowski

Correspondence can be mailed to:

Mary Turvey mturvey@aol.com
4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, MI 49855

Marge Church yemec1@windstream.net
1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056

Scholarship Donations

Donation \$5,000

Branch 2 - Chicago, Illinois, "*Branch 2 Members of the Slovenian Union of America are happy to present this donation to the SWU Scholarship Foundation.*"

Donation \$50

Branch 47 - Garfield Heights, OH, +Kay Yuratovec

Donation \$20

Branch 42 - Maple Heights, OH, +Dolores Lipnos

Donation \$10

Viola Strupeck
Branch 50 - Euclid, OH, +Frances Pikatic

Hvala! Hvala! Thank you kind donors for your support of our scholarship program.

Death of a Surname

By George Plautz, Zarja Staff Writer
A Record of Immigration

Slovenian Pioneers to America 1840-1879

In the middle 1900s, there were Slovenian immigrants who settled in Colorado. I am looking for descendants of Joseph Plut, Peter Grabian, Martin Klemenc, Matt Grahek, Jerry Plut, or Jacob Jerman who settled in Colorado from 1866 to 1878. I would like to include these individuals in my column and there were no censuses prior to 1876, when Colorado became the 38th state.

1875-During this year, John Zeiser arrived in Iowa, emigrating from Slovenia. He married Mary Stalzer in Sugar Creek, Clinton County, Iowa, on January 27, 1876. John was born January 12, 1852, in Sadetz, Slovenia, and died on September 12, 1931, in Preston, Jackson County, Iowa. Mary Stalzer was born February 19, 1850, in Bresowitz, Slovenia, the daughter of Joseph Stalzer and Maria Osterman, she died August 25, 1928, in Sugar Creek. John and Mary had the following children: Mary, born January 12, 1878, in Clinton County, Iowa, died May 29, 1947, in Sugar Creek, married Louis Franzen, in 1896, the son of William Franzen and Christina Boehmer, he was born November 3, 1851, in Sugar Creek, died December 7, 1948, in Sugar Creek, they had seven children; Anna, born August 1879, in Iowa City, Wright County, Iowa, died in 1937 in Sugar Creek, married Joseph William Franzen, born May 11, 1868, in Jackson County, Iowa, died January 1, 1942, in Iowa, they had eight children; Frank, born January 26, 1885, in Iowa, died January 1970, in Clinton County, Iowa, married Loretta Fier, the daughter of Anton Fier and Mary Perion, they had four children; Kate, born April 1887, died before 1930 in South Dakota, married William Boehmer, they had four children; Magdalena, born January 13, 1892, died February 12, 1967, in Jackson County, Iowa, married William Banowitz, listed previously; Elizabeth, born January 15, 1889, died June 24, 1962, in Dubuque, Iowa, married Adolph Mesch, born April 9, 1890, in Zwingle, Iowa, died July 25, 1967, in Dubuque, they had five children; Joseph Peter, born July 10, 1897, in Waterford, Clinton County, Iowa, died February 1977, in Maquoketa, Jackson County, Iowa; and Theresa, married Bill Becker from Graettinger, Iowa. I could not find Theresa or Bill Becker in any records, but she is listed in family history.

1876-Gold is discovered in Leadville, Colorado.

March 25, 1876-On this date, Michael Butala arrived in the United States and settled first in Calumet, Michigan, then finally settled in Eveleth, Minnesota. He was born September 29, 1856, in Gric house number 5, Crnomelj Parish, to John Butala and Katharina Turk. His nephews, Peter and John Butala, settled in Calumet, Michigan.

Michael died on June 2, 1969, in St. Louis County, Minnesota. He married Barbara Stefanic, she was born on December 15, 1867, in Dragatus Parish, and she died on November 2, 1944, in Eveleth, St. Louis County, Minnesota. Son, Michael, was born on October 22, 1888, in Calumet, Houghton County, Michigan; son, John, was born on January 18, 1890, in Calumet; daughter, Mary, was born January 12, 1894, in Calumet; daughter, Anne, was born on June 26, 1896, in Eveleth; son, Stephen, was born on December 26, 1898, in Eveleth, he died on July 18, 1983, in Eveleth. Sometime after this, the family went back to Dragatus Parish as the next two children were born there. Son, Joseph, was born March 16, 1900, in Dragatus Parish, he died on August 27, 1970, in Eveleth, married to Angela (last name unknown), she was born about 1910. They had one daughter who married Edward Grierson. Son, Peter, was born July 19, 1902, in Dragatus Parish, he died on August 27, 1970, in Eveleth. Peter married Anna Santa on July 1, 1934, in Eveleth, she was born on February 2, 1906, and died on December 13, 1979, in Eveleth. Peter and Anna had two children: Jack Lee was born in Eveleth, and married Susan Kivela; Barbara Suzanne was born in Eveleth, and married Gerry Shoston; son, Frank, was born about 1902, in St. Louis County, and daughter, Angela, was born about 1910 in St. Louis County, both probably in Eveleth. Very little information was available on this family line, but a relative still lives in Slovenia.

1876-John Molek lists the following Slovenians as having worked for Calumet & Hecla Mining Company for 30 to 40 years in 1916. They are: Jakob Agnich, Jakob Butala, Mihael Butala, Jakob Grahek, Frank Judnich, John Kastner, John Lakner, Matt Likovich, Nik Zajc (Saitz), Joseph Zhalec (Shalc), Matt Spehar, Mihael Sterk John Sterbenz, John Turk, Stephen Verderbar and Joseph Vertachich. Many of these individuals I could not trace in the databases.

1877-During this year, Jacob Butala, arrived in Michigan. Jacob is the son of Katharina Butala and born on May 1, 1857, in Gric house number 11. He married Katherine Bischal on June 23, 1890, at St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Red Jacket, Houghton County, Michigan. At that time, it

was indicated on the marriage record, that a George Rom was possibly his father. His mother later married a Martin Butala from Gric house number 6. Jacob was a copper miner in the Hecla Mine. He died about 1932 in Calumet, Houghton County, Michigan. Katherine Bischal was born in April 1866 in the Republic of Slovenia. She was the daughter of Mark Bischal, and died after 1920 in Calumet.

The children of Jacob and Katherine Butala follow: Jacob Butala, born April 12, 1891, in Calumet, died in February 1965, married Mary Klobuchar on April 6, 1918, in Calumet. Mary Klobuchar was born about 1897 in Calumet, the daughter of John Klobuchar and Maria Lovretic. Jacob and Mary had two children, Jacob and Dorothy, born in Calumet. Mamie Butala, born August 23, 1893, in Calumet, married George Geshel on October 11, 1916. George Geshel was the son of Georg Geshel and Helene Brozich. George was born on July 8, 1892, in Tamarack, Osceola Township, Houghton County, Michigan, and died about 1959 in Laurium, Houghton County. Mamie died on November 27, 1954, in Calumet. The children of George and Mamie are as follows: George Geshel, born April 26, 1917, in Calumet, died on August 15, 1984, in Covington, Baraga County, Michigan; Mamie Geshel was born in 1918, in Calumet; Rudolph John Geshel, born January 2, 1919, in Calumet, died on February 29, 1992, in Laurium, married Rose Mary Roth on May 25, 1946, in Lake Linden, Houghton County, Michigan, the daughter of Joseph Rother and Roseann Gamache. A Geshel child not given a Christian name was born and died the same day on January 3, 1924, in Calumet. Eleanor J. was born in 1925, in Calumet, she married Rudolph Kotila on February 7, 1947, in Hancock, Houghton County, Michigan. Rose was born July 19, 1926, in Michigan. Helen, born in 1928 in Calumet, she married Willis F. Belisle on June 13, 1953, in St. Joseph's R. C. Church, Calumet. Ralph George, born March 27, 1927, in Calumet, married Marie-Jean DuLong on June 17, 1955, in Lake Linden, the daughter of Irving DuLong and Florida Clouthier. Ralph died in June 1968 in Lake Linden. Virgil John, born February 21, 1930, in Calumet, married Carol Ann Ozanich, on July 21, 1973, in St. Paul's R. C. Church in Calumet. Virgil died on April 2, 1990, in Calumet. James was born February 27, 1933, in Calumet. John, born on February 27, 1933, in Calumet, died on March 5, 1934, in Calumet. Margaret was born in 1934. Francis X., born on December 17, 1935, in Calumet, married Patricia Emma Grandchamp on April 30, 1955, in Hancock, the daughter of George Grandchamp and Emma. Emma was born on February 21, 1937, in Michigan, and died on October 11, 1993, in Torch Lake, Houghton County. Daughters, Christina and Evelyn Geshel, were born in Houghton County.

Continuing with the children of Jacob and Katherine Butala: Joseph Butala, born on May 6, 1895, in Calumet, died in

May of 1977 in Ashland, Ashland County, Wisconsin, his previous residence was Tomah, Wisconsin; John Butala, born September 1897 in Calumet, died on January 22, 1900, in Calumet. Ann-Margaretha Butala, born on December 5, 1898, in Calumet, married a Custer in Ohio and died in June of 1979, in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Michael J. Butala, born October 2, 1900, in Calumet, married Rose Eberhard, on August 20, 1929, in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Rose was born in 1908 in Cleveland to John C. Eberhard and Sophia Gremchin. Michael married a second time to Frances Lamovec, daughter of Frank Lamovec and Frances Steblaj. Michael died on May 20, 1976, in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, and is buried in Holy Family Cemetery, in Willard, Wisconsin. Michael and Rose had a child, George, born February 18, 1928, in Cleveland, died January 10, 1992. Frances was born 1910 in St. Louis County, Minnesota, the family then moved to Willard and Frances moved to Detroit from Willard after 1930, she married Michael Butala there and died in 1989. She is buried in Holy Family Cemetery in Willard. Frances had a daughter from a previous marriage. Olga Lamovec was born February 24, 1928, in Wisconsin, and died January 26, 2007, in Lake Mills, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. She married Carl W. Danz and they had five children, subsequently she married Toivo J. Torkko. Cathryn Mayme Butala, born November 23, 1902, in Calumet, married James McKee on July 4, 1931, in Warrensville, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, son of William McKee and Agnes McKelvine. James was born in Scotland in 1905. Cathryn died on April 4, 1988, in Cleveland. Peter Butala, born October 24, 1904, in Calumet, died on October 24, 1904, in Calumet. Rudolph Butala, born in August 1905 in Calumet, died on July 27, 1907, in Calumet.

1877-During this year, Joseph Vertin arrives in America and settles in Dubuque, Iowa, near his brother Peter Vertin, covered previously in this column. Another brother, Mathias Vertin, settled in Calumet. He moved to Manistique, Schoolcraft County, Michigan, about 1882. Joseph Vertin, the son of Michael Vertin and Ana Puhek, was born on February 25, 1847, in Doblische house number 32, Crnomelj Parish. Joseph married Martha Andrine Klagstad on November 3, 1883, in Manistique. Martha was born September 1859 in Bingen, Modum, Norway. She died about 1935 in Manistique. Joseph Vertin died about 1931 in Manistique. Joseph and Martha ran a farm. Their children born in Manistique are: George Peter Vertin, born January 2, 1885, died March 24, 1946, in Ocala, Marion County, Florida, he married Emilie Rhue Erskine on October 29, 1906, in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Emily was born on November 4, 1888, in Binghamton, Broome County, New York, to Elmer L. Erskine and Jennie Augusta Grey. She died on July 26, 1942, in Yankton, Yankton County, South Dakota. George first married Leota Deacon on January 6, 1931, in Chicago. George and Emilie Vertin

had the following family: George Erskine Vertin, born on August 10, 1907, in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota, died January 6, 1941, in Chicago, married Edna in 1926. George and Edna were the parents of George Edward, Bobette, and Phyllis Vertin, all born in Chicago. Louis Gray Vertin, born February 19, 1909, in Rapid City, died as the result of a mining explosion on August 9, 1930, in Rapid City. Edith Jeanette Vertin, born August 28, 1911, in Rapid City, died February 22, 1932, in Sanator, South Dakota. Harold Lee Vertin, born on March 13, 1914, in Rapid City, died on September 17, 1935, in Elgin, Kane County, Illinois. Donald Dawson Vertin, born October 11, 1916, in Rapid City, married Arlene E. Anderson on June 4, 1941, in Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois. Arlene was born on September 25, 1917, in Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. She died March 28, 2000, in Pecatonica, Winnebago County, Illinois. Donald Vertin died on August 30, 1960, in Chicago. Donald and Arlene were the parents of Faith, Darlene, Patience, Charles, Grace, and Daniel Vertin. Augusta Lucia Vertin, born January 7, 1919, in Rapid City, married Elmer Vincent Kowall on August 5, 1944, in Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Oregon, the son of Frank Kowalski and Rose Wroblewski. Elmer was born on March 3, 1921, in Chicago, and died on May 13, 1993, in McHenry, McHenry County, Illinois. Augusta Kowall died on September 29, 2002, in South Elgin, Kane County, Illinois. Augusta and Elmer were the parents of Phillip James Kowall and Kenneth Allan Kowall, both born in Chicago. Joseph Vertin, born on January 18, 1886, in Manistique, died on February 1, 1971, in Manistique; Anna Vertin, born May 15, 1888, in Manistique, married Peter Nelson about 1918, Peter was born on November 4, 1879, in Denmark, Anna died on January 15, 1950, in Fresno, Fresno County, California, Peter and Anna had the following children: Clifford, Elle, Frederick, Rudolph, Dorothy, John Stanley, Robert John, and Franklin Peter Nelson; August Vertin, born January 18, 1891, in Manistique, died October 1966, in Manistique; John Michael Vertin, was born December 20, 1894, in Manistique, he married Mildred Irene Friberg on May 17, 1925, in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. He died November 2, 1977, in Chicago. Mildred Friberg was born June 23, 1907, in Moline, Rock Island County, Illinois to George Friberg and Irene Peters. Mildred died on March 22, 2002, in Chicago Height, Cook County, Illinois. John and Mildred had a son, James Allen Vertin, born March 21, 1926, in Chicago, married Anita Johnson, on September 17, 1954, in Chicago, he died March 16, 1956, in Chicago. Anita Johnson was born December 19, 1926, and died March 7, 2007, in Orland Park, Cook County, Illinois.

To contact me by mail:
 George Plautz
 1307 Dragon Head Drive, Valrico, FL 33594
 or by e-mail at doblice@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014

BRANCH 100 - Southern California to host the *Slowind Wind Quintet* from Ljubljana at St. Timothy's Church in Laguna Niguel. Contact Jean Koci at ajkoci@cox.net for more information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois to host Slovenian Heritage Day at Claudette's from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin to host Butare making starting at 10:00 a.m. at Triglav Park Dom in Wind Lake for use the next day on Palm Sunday. Come and learn this Slovenian tradition.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2014

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin invites everyone to bring their butare and wear their Narodna noša to Palm Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greenfield, followed by brunch (time and place to be determined.)

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin invites everyone to join for the *Navihanke* Concert (a 5-woman singing-musical group from Slovenia) performing at the Polish Center in Milwaukee and hosted by the UWM-Slovenian Arts Council. Ticket information to be forthcoming.



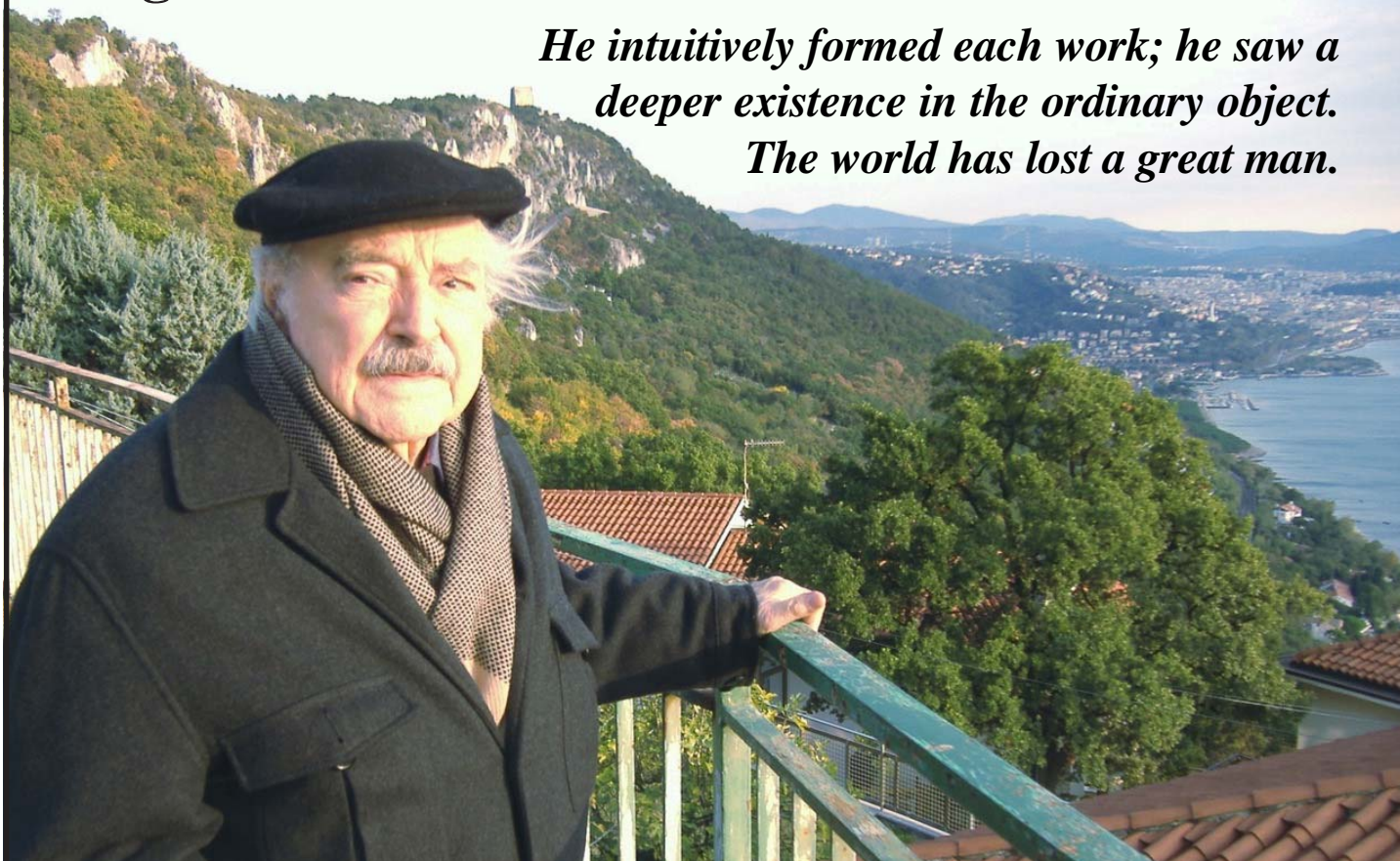
First Midwest Bank

<p>Joliet 50 W. Jefferson St. 1415 W. Jefferson St. 2801 W. Jefferson St. 230 N. Chicago St. 1301 N. Larkin Ave. 2300 Rt. 59</p>	<p>Crest Hill 16051 Weber Rd.</p> <p>Lockport 800 S. State St.</p> <p>New Lenox 1888 E. Lincoln Hwy.</p>
---	--

800.322.3623 • firstmidwest.com Member FDIC

Bogdan Grom 1918 - 2013

*He intuitively formed each work; he saw a deeper existence in the ordinary object.
The world has lost a great man.*



With sadness, the Slovenian Union of America announces the passing of famed artist, Bogdan Grom, on November 18, 2013, at his home in Englewood, NJ. He was 95.

Born in Trieste, Italy, Bogdan graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice, and also studied with famed artists throughout Europe. Bogdan infused these influences with his own unique spirit and with memories

of his homeland. These ideals have been referred to as the KARST ETHOS. Through use of multi-media, he created water colors, oils, sculpture, “woven graphics,” and “layered paper cut outs.”

On July 12, 2013, *Bogdan Grom: Biography of a famous Slovenian*, made its film debut at the special program, “Salute...The Cultural Expressions of Slovenia” in Ely, MN. The documentary was written by Joe Valencic and directed by Slovenian film maker Damjan Kozole.



Left to right: Damjan Kozole, Bogdan Grom, and Joe Valencic

The Slovenian Union of America is a recipient of books from Bogdan’s personal library, donated in memory of his grandmother, Masa Grom. To realize the talent and unique spirit of this man, do stop by the Slovenian Union of America’s Heritage Museum and Library in Joliet, IL. Page through the works of Bogdan. One cannot miss the large book entitled, Grom, with its bright, yellow book jacket.

*- Mary Lou Deyak Voelk
SUA Vice President of Culture & Heritage*

Saving Dolly's Memories

A Small Town, Ely, Minnesota:
A Slovenian Girl Peering Back at her Life



Albert and I being showered with rice as we take our first steps into a 57 1/2 year marriage. It took the help of many to gather every piece of rice in Ely, as the country was still recovering from WWII; rice was scarce.

Josephine Frances Zaverl Grahek

by Mary Lou Deyak Voelk

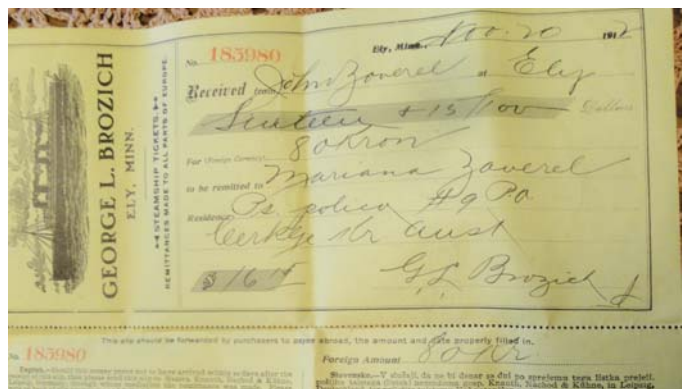
Slovenian Events - A Timeline: 1890 - 1910

The decade of my parents' birth in the area now Slovenia was "railroad building time;" the Ljubljana and Kamnik line was completed, as was the Celje-Velenje line. On Easter Sunday, 1895, the Ljubljana earthquake struck. While it was most destructive, few people died. A severely damaged girls' college and library, housed in an old monastery, needed to be razed. Today, this is the site of the famed Ljubljana Central Market. During those years there were limited opportunities; one in six Slovenes emigrated, mostly to the United States. In 1901, the Dragon Bridge in Ljubljana was built on the site of the former wooden "Butcher's Bridge."

My father, John Zaverl, was born on June 16, 1890, to Anton and Mary Pogacher Zaverl in Cerklje pri Kranju, Slovenia. John arrived in America on February 12, 1910. It had been a well planned and secret trek, an escape over the Alps to Basil, Switzerland, where his ticket to America was waiting. Then off to La Havre, France, to board ship for America. His destination was Ely, Minnesota, to join his brother, Frank, who had arranged his passage. John began work at the Sibley Mine. I was told stories of such escapes to avoid conscription. The military would travel house to house, searching for potential conscripts. They would be shown a sleeping fantasy in bed with his boots on, while the real son, brother, uncle, or husband were traveling over the Alps.



Frank and Mary Pechnik Family, St. Vid, Ljubljana. My mother is in front row, far right. The chain with the small watch she is wearing is now mine. I wear it with pride.



In my keepsakes are several invoices dated from 1910 to 1913, issued from the First State Bank of Ely, Minnesota; George L. Brozich was its president. My father was sending his mother, my grandmother, Marjana Zaverl, \$10 to \$82 for windows and repairs on her home in Slovenia. How could he have saved this amount of money and yet had money to live on, all on a miner's wages at that time? To my father, his family's needs always came first.

My mother, Jozefa Pechnik, was born to Frank and Mary Pechnik on March 19, 1894, in Zapuze St. Vid, Ljubljana. She immigrated to America in 1913 with the help of her oldest brother who had immigrated earlier. He provided the funding for Jozefa, her two sisters, and one brother.

Slovenian Events - A Timeline: 1914 - 1929

Five months after John's and Jozefa's marriage in 1914, Archduke Franc Ferdinand and his wife, Countess Sophie, were assassinated in Sarajevo. It was the beginning of World War I, a war that was to rage over three years. Slovenes were conscripted into the army; thousands of Slovenes were resettled in refugee camps in Italy and Austria; thousands of Slovenes died. It was a time of forced Italianization, the use of Slovene language in education was abolished, Italianization of Slovene surnames was a requirement, and public use of Slovenian language was denied. In 1918, Slovenia became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; later to be called Yugoslavia. In 1929, architect Joze Plecnik added two foot bridges.

John Zaverl and Jozefa were married on January 18, 1914, by the Reverend Father Buh, a well-known and respected priest who had followed Father Pierz to northeastern Minnesota. Their first child died at birth. Twins, John and Anton, were born in 1916; Albin was born in 1920. On September 27, 1923, I entered the John Zaverl family. I was named after my mother Jozefa (Josephine), my middle



John and Jozefa Zaverl - January 16, 1914

name, Frances, after my confirmation sponsor, and “Dolly,” a nickname given to me by my father.

Ely was located in an area of iron ore deposits. Zones became known as Locations: Chandler, Pioneer, Sibley, Zenith, Calumet, 26 Location, and Savoy. There were seven homes and one duplex in Savoy Location, where I grew up. This Location housed four Slovenian, one Finnish, one Swedish, and two English families. I will always remember Mrs. Ahlstrom of Swedish ancestry, who requested one quart of fresh pig blood during kolina, a tradition(al) Slovenian word for pig slaughter. I never knew what she did with it until a few weeks ago, when Mary Lou Deyak Voelk did a google search and found a recipe for Swedish Pig’s Blood Rye Bread. You guessed it, the recipe called for one quart of fresh, pig blood.

My parents rented the property next to our home from Oliver Mining Company. Each year an agent would stop by to collect the yearly rent. It was a miniature farm, consisting of two large gardens, a well-stocked woodshed, a storage shed, a hay barn, a log barn for raising chickens, and a pen for a hog or two. The food on our table came from the abundant lakes and woods in the area, the large

gardens, and the animals we raised. I remember breaded veal or chicken, noodle soup, fresh bread, potica, strudel, flancate, and krofe, all cooked or baked on a wood-burning stove.

My father, skilled in butchering and sausage-making, hired out during kolina. He had his own set of knives, sausage making equipment, even the trough used to “dehair the pig.” Meta, an herb from the mint family used in sausage preparation, came from my mother’s garden. It was hung to dry, pulverized, and stored in jars, per my father’s instructions. Throughout the year he would whittle the spela that were used in tying the sausage in ring form. My mother found ways to add to the coffer. She stretched lace curtains, baked bread for the single miners, and sold vegetables from the garden.

Christmas and Easter were “holy days.” It was a time to be with family and friends. Although decorations were limited, decorating the tree and turning on the lights was always a delight. Gifts were few, but greatly appreciated. During Lent we gave up special pleasures; attended the Stations of the Cross. I remember attending special services given by Slovenian missionaries who told interesting stories. On Holy Saturday we brought our special “zegen” basket of food to be blessed.

The two-room Savoy School, built by the mining company, housed grades one through four. It was next to our home and property. We had our own playground, swings, merry-go-round, trick bars, and teeter totter. We would look for a special, flat, red rock with which we would draw our own “hop-scotch” squares on the cement sidewalks. The two teachers taught us well in academics and behavior. When we entered 5th grade at the Washington School, we became bus kids, sharing the bus with the Winton kids. We carried our “newspaper-wrapped and string-tied lunches” to school. The Savoy School also held citizenship classes three nights a week. On special occasions, my mother would make the special egg coffee and krofe for the party. In 1923, my father left the mine and became a custodian at the Savoy School; in 1938 he moved to a position in the high school industrial arts building from which he retired.

Slovenian Events - A Timeline: 1930 - 1945

The Great Depression caused severe economic problems in every European nation. Germany, the most severely struck, fell into the grasp of Hitler and the Nazi party. In Slovenia, the banking system would suffer. In 1938, the Slovenian Women’s Union of America organized their first tour to Slovenia. In 1941, Slovenia was occupied by Nazi Germany and Italy for the remaining years of World War II. Thousands

of Slovenians were forced to move, thousands killed in battle, and thousands were massacred. At the end of the war, Slovenia became a constituent of a socialist Yugoslavia.

I remember the Great Depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the first President I voted for, brought hope to the nation's people. The name Hitler was heard around the world. Weekly news reels at the local theaters kept us informed of world events.

In 1934, my family attended a cousin's wedding in Berwyn, Illinois. At the same time, the 1934 World's Fair was being held in Chicago. The three days at the fair are happy memories. My mother and I also visited with her cousin, Mrs. Josephine Erjavec, in Joliet, one of the founders of Branch 20.

Every object has a story. My story began when I joined the International Friendship League in high school. With the onset of World War II, letters from my Estonian friend, Magda Kass, ceased. Seven years later, in 1946, I received a letter. She had escaped Estonia and made it to Germany, and was living in a displaced person's (DP) camp, a former Nazi submarine school. Magda's father had been killed and her mother taken prisoner and sentenced to Siberia for 25 years. When Germany divided into the British and American zones, she was able to write. She had remembered my address; I was the only one she knew in the free world. During her internment I had sent her items, such as cigarettes, that she could sell. Magda's wedding gift to Albert and I was a wooden plate, hand carved by a Latvian DP. Magda was sent to New Zealand after the war. She and I had a 60 year friendship, until she passed away. The wedding plate hangs on my wall; using the wood of God's creation. When I look upon the plate it reveals to me my treasured friendship with Magda, her moments of fear, of loss, of suffering and anguish, and finally peace.



Ely Memorial High School was built by the mining companies. The school campus included a band and industrial arts building where young men learned woodworking skills. My

three brothers made a desk, a library table, a china cabinet, and several end tables. One brother built a toboggan which we used each winter for years on the hill near our home. I graduated in 1941 and before the end of that year our country was at war. I put aside going on to college. I was an honor student, but scholarships did not exist. Mr. John Zupancich, Sr. hired me as a bookkeeper in his grocery store - Zup Supermarket. My seven and a half years at the store became my supermarket college. When the boss left town in the big truck, for supplies in Duluth, employees took turns opening the store at 6 a.m. There was extra duty, eight hour days were not heard of, especially during the years of ration stamps. There was much record keeping. Home visits by a Zup employee, and subsequent delivery of food orders the following day were the custom. How else does someone get 50 pounds of flour? The customer paid the bill on payday. Today there are six Zup Supermarkets on the Iron Range; credit goes to the hard work of Zup Sr. and his six sons.



At homemade target range - 1943.

Ely was a town of kindness. I lived quite a distance from the store and was grateful for the offers of rides. From her window, a grandmother noticed me walking past her house on the way to and from work. From her I received a pair of double-knit mittens to keep my hands warm. When I became engaged, several older women presented me with gifts. I didn't get the college degree in Home Economics that had been my dream, but I guess it just wasn't meant to be.

It was the day the church bells pealed to inform us the War was over; a day I will never forget. Now we awaited the return of my three brothers. John served in the army and was in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Albin was in the medical corp and served in China and India. Anton was a captain in the US Army Air Corp, and served as a personnel officer.

Slovenian Events - A Timeline: 1945 - 1980

The period after WWII was a time of repression. Thousands were imprisoned, tens of thousands left Slovenia; a time of great emigration for political as well as economic reasons. After the Tito-Stalin split, repression worsened; Catholic clergy suffered. Forced collectivization was tried, but failed. The 1980s was a period of grass-root movements, aimed at independence.

Albert S. Grahek was Ely's first World War II volunteer. He served in the US Army Medical Corp from 1940 until the end of the war in 1945. After D Day in France, his group was sent to Belgium and Germany. He was wounded in the Battle of Cologne. When Albert returned from the war, he returned to his trade as a licensed master barber. Albert and I met at a mutual friend's wedding, a good old-fashion Slovenian wedding. We were married on August 28, 1948, in St. Anthony Catholic Church. He would eventually open his own barber and beauty shop in the new taconite mining town of Babbitt. In retirement he operated a barbershop in our home and also served patients at the local hospital and nursing home.

At the age of 10 I was taught to crochet by my mother. It became a lifelong hobby along with various forms of embroidery. I purchased my first pattern book at Agnew's Variety Store for 10¢. Years later I was intrigued by a bedspread pattern in that book, only to find the last page missing. I wrote to Coats and Clark, giving the book and pattern numbers. After 30 years, that pattern was still available. This was the start of big projects. Crocheting kept my hands busy; my mind concentrating on the task at hand.

My address has changed throughout the years, but I never went far. From Route 1, Box 68, to 312 C. Chapman St. in

1945, when my parents bought a nice home. In 1958, Albert and I built our home in the area of town where he had grown up. We have three daughters - JoAnne Coombe, Executive Director of the St. Louis County Historical Society, Judy Omerza, retired from a banking career, and Rosemary Chickie Harristhal, operator of Canadian Border Outfitters of Ely and a fly-in fishing resort in Shining Falls, Manitoba, Canada, and now retired. We have four grandsons, two great-grand daughters, and two great-step grandsons.

Slovenian Events - A Timeline: 1990 - 2004

The first free multiparty elections were held in 1990.

December 23, 1990, 88% of Slovenian voters voted for independence from Yugoslavia.

June 25, 1991, Slovenia declared independence followed by a Ten-Day War.

December 23, 1991, Slovenia passed a new constitution.

May 22, 1992, Slovenia became a member of the United Nations.

March 29, 2004, Slovenia joined NATO.

May 1, 2004, Slovenia joined the European Union.



I have worn many hats throughout the years: daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, widow, and friend. During my life the Lord has seen me through times when happenings were too much for the moment. Deaths of family members and friends is something we all must face. Losing our daughter, Lucille, at birth was one of the saddest moments of my life. I lost my husband, Albert, on May 11, 2005, after 57½ years of marriage.

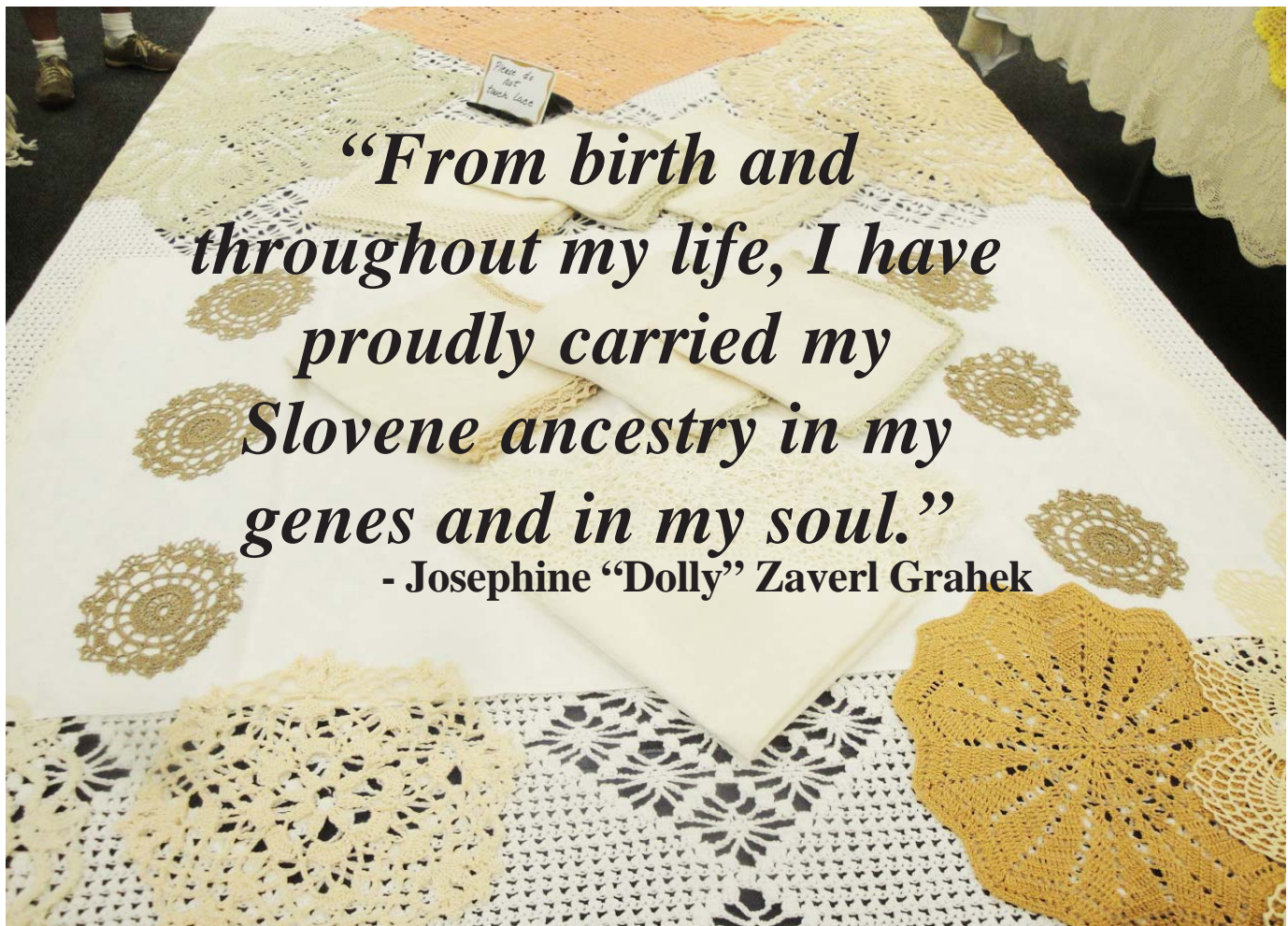
Two most recent memorable times occurred this year. One was this summer - it was July 12 at Salute 2013 held at



Dolly and Joe Valencic dancing with the Barich Brothers - 2013.

Vermilion Community College. BeBe Lobe and Cecilia Rolando presented a room full of my crochet. It was a dazzling display. Each piece came into its own, surrounded by Slovenian artifacts and colored backgrounds. People I had not seen in years were in attendance, as was Mayor Ross Petersen. The day continued with a delicious Slovenska Miza at Creek Ridge Lodge, with music by the Baraga Brothers. I danced with the most handsome man at the party, Joe Valencic of Cleveland and the Polka Hall of Fame. I had the time of my life.

On September 27, 2013, I celebrated my 90th birthday with family, friends, music, dancing, sausage, potica, and strudel, making the day more than a birthday. September 27 was also a celebration of my Slovenian heritage. From birth and throughout my life, I have proudly carried my Slovene ancestry in my genes and in my soul.



“From birth and throughout my life, I have proudly carried my Slovene ancestry in my genes and in my soul.”
- Josephine “Dolly” Zaverl Grahek

Theresa Wargo

Tribute to a Long-Time Member

by Patricia Budzilek

The story of Theresa Wargo, born in Gilbert, Minnesota, cannot be told without telling the story of her family, especially her mother, Frances Perme Marolt, also a SUA member, who bore 16 children, all single, healthy births; 11 boys and 5 girls - Theresa being the 15th child. Often friends did not know the children's names, but referred to them as the 10th child, etc. Both Slovenian and English were spoken in their home, with the older children being fluent in Slovenian and the younger ones understanding Slovenian, but answering in English. Family life revolved around three important principals: their Catholic faith, education, and their work ethics. The family said the rosary together every day after the evening meal, always attended Sunday Mass, and never missed attending every devotion from Forty Hours to feast day celebrations.

Theresa's parents, Matt Marolt from Velike Lasce, Dolensko, who came to America in 1906, and Frances Perme from Brest, who arrived in 1910, went to Eveleth, Minnesota, where they met and married in 1911. One of the children became Sister Mary Ad Nives (Our Lady of the Snows), a Franciscan from Lemont, Illinois, who taught in many places including St. Christine's in Euclid, Ohio.



*Matt Marolt and Frances Perme on their wedding day.
Eveleth, Minnesota, October 10, 1911*

When Sister professed her vows in Lemont, family members attended. Five children became teachers, and eight boys served in World War II, with only one being wounded and later fully recovered. Theresa's mother prayed constantly and it worked! Most of the children remained in the Gilbert area and raised their families there. Three children are still living.

It was not always an easy life for such a large family living in a modest house, but their needs were satisfied. As the children became older they helped with the younger ones, but all 16 children never lived in the house at the same time as the older ones moved on with their lives. Two of the boys helped in a funeral parlor while in high school to earn money for college, and both became licensed funeral directors and one still helps out today. In spite of the short growing season in the Iron Range, their father always had a garden which helped supply fruit and vegetables for the family. Theresa and her siblings often went to the garden



MAROLT FAMILY REUNION - 1955

Front row left to right: Frances, Sr. Mary Ad Nives, Mother, Father, Mary, Edward

Middle Row: Joseph, Angela, Rudy, Theresa, Tony

Back Row: Matt, Frank, Lawrence, Paul, Jack, Louis, John

and picked berries in the morning, cleaned up, and then sold the berries door to door in a neighboring town. In addition, they often went into the woods and picked berries there to sell.

Education was very important in this Slovenian home and Theresa's father even became a member of the Board of Education in Gilbert; quite a feat for an immigrant teenager who arrived in America knowing no English. He also sponsored an immigrant displaced family after WWII. Theresa attended the University of Minnesota in Duluth where she received a degree in elementary education. She taught at first in Minnesota, then in 1954 moved to Cleveland, which was familiar to her because two of her sisters, Angela and Frances, had worked at Weatherhead there during WWII, after which they returned to Gilbert. Theresa moved to the Collinwood area of Cleveland and immediately joined St. Mary's Church and its Slovenian choir. She married at St. Mary's in 1957, and moved a short distance away to Lyndhurst in 1960 where she still resides today with her son. She has two children, Joey and Ann, and two grandchildren, Daniel and Katie, both of whom are college graduates. She left teaching when her children were born, but had to return after nine years of marriage when her children were six and eight because of her husband's poor health. She spent 24 years at St. Paschal Baylon teaching fifth grade, and has been a widow since 2006.

Theresa remembers as a small child taking her mother's SUA dues to the home of the treasurer, sometimes walking through tunnels of snow! Today Theresa is an active member of Branch 50 in Euclid, Ohio.

These are two special SUA members; Slovenian women, Frances Marolt and Theresa Wargo, who saw to it that their families were raised with the principles of education, Catholicism, and a strong work ethic. Additionally, Frances Marolt deserves our admiration for all her efforts after being blessed with many children, each of whom she treated as a child of God.

Tribute to Long-Time Members

Note: Please notify me if you would like to suggest a SUA/SWUA member to be profiled in this feature. Remember - they must have been active for many years, and are probably in their 80s.

My e-mail is pbudzilek@oh.rr.com.

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

**Looking for volunteers who
love their heritage.**

*We need help
in our Museum
in Joliet, Illinois,
with scanning,
sorting, cleaning,
and creating exhibits.*

WANTED

Heritage Museum Director

Membership Director

Heritage Museum Librarian

Museum Window Dressers

Heritage Museum Cleaners

Zarja - The Dawn Writers



SUA's "Shrine" to Slovenian Heritage

by David Sodac
Branch 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

If you are seeking to get some kicks out on Route 66, the route may lead you to a quaint, pocket-sized Heritage Museum, nestled on the corner of N. Chicago Street and W. Clay Street, in the midst of the old, historic, Slovenian section of Joliet, Illinois. This little, two-story, former Slovenian-operated drug store, was transformed into the SWUA Slovenian Heritage Museum in 1978 through the efforts of Irene M. Planinsek Odorizzi and the ardent energies of many members of the Slovenian Union of America's (SUA/SWUA) Branch 20 - Joliet. This cultural museum is dedicated to preserving the Slovenian heritage and doubles as the home records office for the SUA. The first floor store-front of the museum features displays of traditional Slovenian garb, family memorabilia donated by its members, collections of photographic displays of immigrants to the United States, old Branch membership photos, along with an assortment of books, folk and polka CD's, mementoes, special occasion gift cards, and much more. SUA members from across the United States have donated family items, Slovenian keepsakes, and just financial contributions that are used in maintaining the store operations, and for creating displays of historic artifacts.



The creative mind behind establishing this Heritage Museum, Irene M. Planinsek Odorizzi, attained some notoriety through her writing of the book *"Footsteps Through Time,"* published in 1978. The storyline was a collection of Slovenian immigrants' life stories in America in the early part of the 20th century. Irene was born in Joliet, IL, and became very active in the SWUA, not only in leadership roles, but as an author of a column in the *Zarja - The Dawn* magazine. The column was called *"Immigrants."*

Joliet has long been considered one of the major U.S. centers of Slovenian culture since the first wave of immigrants arrived in 1873 seeking to work the steel mills in far southeast Chicago or the Joliet Iron and Steel Works. As the immigrants began settling into Joliet, the area became known as "Slovenian Row." This ethnic neighborhood of Joliet sprung up around the area bounded on the north by Columbia Street, on the south by Crowley Avenue, on the east by the railroad tracks, and by the Des Plaines River on the west. As more and more families

arrived, housing, stores, and businesses developed to serve their needs and eventually a Slovenian church and school was built in the center of the area. The original cornerstone of St. Joseph's Catholic Church was laid in 1891 to meet the religious needs of its Slovenian immigrant flock.

Today, across the corner from St. Joseph's Church, is SUA's Slovenian Heritage Museum. A life-size, Cor-Ten steel silhouette of a Slovenian, immigrant woman stands out front on the corner. This steel silhouette was one of two dozen life-sized statues of individuals being recognized for their contributions and erected along this Heritage Corridor Project that spanned from Chicago to La Salle. The Corridor is an 862 square mile region encompassing 5 counties and 57 communities. The purpose of this government project... *"Is to retain, enhance, and interpret, for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations, the cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and economic resources of the Corridor."* This silhouette standing stoically on the corner of N.

Chicago and W. Clay was intended as a landmark designating the Slovenian Row in Joliet, as well as identifying the Slovenian Heritage Museum. This metal artwork was modeled after the likeness of Mary *Lehen* Setina, who had operated a candy store on that very same Chicago Street. When the Heritage Corridor Association's metal artist began researching the design for the artwork, they wanted the likeness to be of a Slovenian, woman immigrant, and one who had preferably operated a store on that street. The candy store owner, Mary Setina, fit that ideal. Mary emigrated from Ljubljana, arriving in America during 1903, and resided with her family in that same St. Joseph's neighborhood. Her husband, Simon Setina, a well-respected stone carver, operated a burial monument store next door to his wife's candy store. The family all resided in the upstairs apartment of the building.



Ironically, Simon and Mary Setina are the grandparents of today's manager of the SUA/SWUA records and of the Slovenian Heritage Museum, Jonita *Erjavec* Ruth. Jonita has had an extensive history of active involvement within the Joliet Slovenian community and a life-long dedication to the SUA/SWUA. She shared that, "*Since before she was even born, she was a SWUA member while in her mother's womb.*" Jonita's mother, Josephine *Setina* Erjavic, herself was very active, holding national offices within the SWUA, and the desire to serve the Slovenian community seems to have definitely been inherited by Jonita.

Recently, I had the opportunity of rising to the challenge extended by the new Regional President of Illinois/Indiana, Barbara Bruch, of taking a road trip from Bettendorf, IA, to this Slovenian shrine in Joliet. We arranged to meet in LaSalle, IL, along I-80 and drove non-stop, talking the remaining 50 miles we traveled upstate to Joliet. We let our Garmin GPS direct us to park right across the street from the SUA Heritage Museum. The black, steel silhouette of an immigrant woman seemed to beckon us to enter the corner building. The long-time operations manager, Jonita Ruth, unlocked the door and greeted our arrival. The nostalgia and warmth of Slovenian ancestry immediately fills your senses, as you begin to explore the displays, nooks, and display cases of this one-room museum. Several button-box accordions, now muted from the lively polka sounds, were arranged atop a large case in the corner. A collection of yesteryears wedding dresses adorned mannequins along a wall. A foot-treadle sewing machine that was a staple of every Slovenian home sat silent next to clothing items

representative of a bygone era. There was a large, commercial, floor display fixture with swing panels arranged with old photos of past SWUA Branches and activities through the years. We began to turn the panels and came across a large, fading photo taken in 1929 of a gathering of women at the All Slovenian Catholic Conference that was marked as being held in Lemont, IL, July 7, 1929. The ladies in the front were holding a large banner with the wording "Slovenska Ženska Zveza – Slovenian Ladies Union." Glancing closer at the old photo, we noticed that it was labeled as the combined members of Branch 24 - La Salle, Illinois, and of Branch 12 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Barbara Bruch and I are both members of Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL, which was an offshoot of the original Branch 24 - LaSalle, IL. We were entranced, discovering our old Branch photo and looked closer at each face in the photo. Coming immediately into focus from that photo was the face of Barbara Bruch's grandmother, Teresa *Piltaver* Terselic. She would have been 47 years of age in that photo. Teresa happens to be the younger sister of my paternal grandmother, Mary *Piltaver* Sodac. Mary also was a member of that same SWUA Branch, so fervently I browsed through all the smiling faces of the women holding still for this picture, hoping to locate my grandmother. But, obviously she didn't attend this All Slovenian Catholic Conference with her sister. It was disappointing, but I scanned again looking carefully for a face that I might have difficulty recognizing, given her age at that time. Again, nothing... but then an all-familiar face seemed to rise out of this 1929 gathering. It wasn't of Mary, but of my maternal grandmother, Antonia *Papez* Muhich. Amazing! I would have never guessed that this mother of 10 children, would have had the time to travel to Lemont, IL, and participate in this conference. Antonia would have been 45 years of age. The women were all wearing what appeared to be the same dress outfits that were possibly representative of their Slovenian Heritage. The same village dress that I've



seen before in a photo of me as an eight year old, holding hands with my grandmother at a SWUA festival in Peru, IL. What an unforeseen surprise!

We asked if it was possible to explore the original registration records down in the basement of the building. Jonita was very willing to get us started, so we followed her into the basement “treasure” chamber which housed hundreds of thousands of SWUA documents, jam-packed into file cabinets lining the walls, cardboard boxes and storage cases of contributed artifacts and mementoes, as well as the official storage section for Joliet’s Branch 20 materials and relics in the back half of the basement. Now, both Barbara and I had a purpose in combing through these old SWUA membership files from ages past; we had hopes of possibly finding our grandmothers’ original applications for membership. In no time, Barbara Bruch unearthed her grandmother’s application, stuffed in a dog-eared manila file folder, tightly crammed into an over-used, antiquated, filing cabinet. Amazing! The original form was dated October 17, 1928. Teresa Terselic had been accepted into Branch 24 - LaSalle, and her signature was affixed. This application for membership in the SWUA was completed one year prior to the photo taken at the Lemont Catholic Conference. Teresa had been a charter member!

We spent what seemed at least an hour scrounging through the “M” (Muhich) or “S” (Sodac) folders, in what seemed at times, an unorthodox filing system. Who am I to cast stones about alphabetical order? For all I know, they may have been arranged in the letters of the Slovenian alphabet. Eventually, we were awarded for our perseverance, as I found one of my maternal grandmother’s applications. However, the application wasn’t for the Branch 24 - LaSalle as I expected, but Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL. The Oglesby Branch formed its own group, splitting off from the La Salle Branch. We never could locate her original La Salle membership application. However, the Oglesby Branch happened to be the very same Branch that I was cajoled into joining by my compatriot, Barbara Bruch. She’s the same person who challenged me to take the road trip to the Slovenian Heritage Museum. How ironic to belong to an organization in which our grandmothers were considered as charter members. The date affixed to the application was 5 February 1939. Her file also contained a Medical Certificate of Death; a

death that had been seen by my family as ruining her 100th birthday celebration that was being meticulously planned for five months later. The SWUA was originally designed to be a burial insurance society for women and required a minimum of two years membership to have the family receive a burial payout. Well, both of our grandmas deserved that burial insurance payout, as they lived considerably well beyond that requirement by attaining 99 years of age for Antonia and 100 years for Teresa, and SWUA memberships lasting almost 60 years apiece.

Finally, our visit to the museum needed to end, much to the expressed disgust of the museum director, Jonita Ruth, who would have entertained us late into the evening. We purchased a few items in the gift case, and got back on Highway 66 to I-80 and headed south, pleased with the unexpected discoveries of the day. We both truly believe in the karma of our family ancestors. Those ethereal essences of our grandmothers, somehow shepherded us to travel down that highway and see what the past can provide us here in the present. We truly did get our kicks on Route 66, as it steered us directly to Joliet’s Slovenian “Shrine” and a glimpse into our own SWUA heritage!

General Information on the Heritage Museum

MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Donations (\$100) are accepted for the Memorial Plaque and are displayed in the museum. You may have your name or that of a friend or relative displayed on the walnut plaque. Donations are recognized in *Zarja - The Dawn*.

MEMORIALS: All donations of a lesser amount are also recognized in *Zarja - The Dawn*. A memorial donation in memory of a deceased person is a fine tribute. Acknowledge a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion with this unique remembrance. These donations reflect our Slovenian descent and the existence of our Heritage Museum!

The museum continues to be managed by Jonita Ruth and Carol Novak (volunteer) - both of Branch 20 - Joliet. They try to maintain normal business hours during the week, but since the museum is run by volunteers that may not always be possible. Please call ahead if you really want to visit – 815.727.1926.

Street Address:
431 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432-1703

Zarja The Dawn

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 13056 A Slovenian Women's Union of America A burial insurance society INCORPORATED UNDER THE ILLINOIS INSURANCE CODE SLOVENSKA ŽENSKA ZVEZA	
1. Applicant's Name in full? (Čelo ime prosilke?) <i>Antonia Muhich</i>	8. Beneficiary's Name? (Ime osebe, ki naj prejme pokojnino?) <i>Helena Muhich</i>
2. Street Address or P. O. Box Number? (Ulica, št. št.) <i>742 Columbia Ave</i>	9. Relationship? (V kakšnem sorodstvu s prosilko?) <i>Daughter</i>
3. City? (Mesto) State? (Država) <i>Oglesby Ill</i>	10. Beneficiary's Address? (Kje stanuje?) <i>Same as above</i>
4. Date of Birth? (Kdaj, dan in leto rojstva?) Age? (Starost?) <i>June 27 1894</i>	11. Are you a Catholic? (Ste katoličanka?) <i>No</i>
5. Place of Birth? (Kraj rojstva) <i>Hungary</i>	12. If married, were you married by a Catholic priest? (Če ste poročeni, ali Vas je poročil kat. duhovnik?) <i>No</i>
6. Descendant of what Nationality? (Narodnost) <i>Slovenian</i>	13. Have you any chronic ailments? (Imate kakšne stalne bolezni?) <i>No</i>
7. Single or Married? (Samka ali poročena?) <i>Married</i>	14. Are you now in good health? (Ste zdaj popolnoma zdravi?) <i>Yes</i>
<p>I understand and agree that the Slovenian Women's Union of America assumes no liability whatsoever until this application is received and accepted by the local branch and the home office of the Union (2024 W. Coulter Street, Chicago, Ill.) together with the initiation fee and the payment of the first assessment.</p> <p>I affirm that I have read the foregoing questions, and state that the answers thereto are full, complete and true.</p> <p><i>Mary Dujatel</i> Applicant recommended by (Sprejemnik priporoka)</p> <p><i>Antonia Muhich</i> Signature of the Applicant (Poljubi prosilke)</p> <p>Accepted by Branch No. <i>89</i> S. W. U. in <i>Oglesby Ill</i> at the meeting, Sprejeta v podružnico št. <i>89</i> S. Z. Z. v <i>Oglesby Ill</i> na srečanju, this <i>5</i> day of <i>February</i> 19<i>39</i> by <i>Mary Meglick</i> Secretary (Sekretarica) and <i>Frances Nemick</i> President (Predsednica)</p>	
<p>This application must be executed in duplicate. The local secretary is to forward both copies to the headquarters. Be sure to answer every question. Do it distinctly and completely, and write with ink. Illegibly or partially filled out blanks will be returned. The applicant must sign both copies by her own hand.</p> <p>Za vsako novo članico lapilite dve saki predaji, in vsakico naj pošlje obe na glavni sedež. Odgovorite na vsa vprašanja. Pišite razločno, s črno, ne s svinčnikom. Predajte, ki jih ne bo močode leati ali kjer bo del manjši. Vrnj bodo poslani nazaj. Prosilka naj potpiše obe predaji s lastno roko.</p>	



Slovenian Union of America
 27th National Convention
 2015 in Lemont, Illinois
“April’s Showers of Dollars” DRAWING
April 2014 Fund-Raiser

Top Seller Prizes:
 1st Place - \$130
 2nd Place - \$90
 3rd Place - \$50

CASH PRIZES TOTALING \$2,790
 26 Daily Drawings at \$60
 April 1st and 20th at \$200
 April 13th and 30th at \$130
 30 Daily Seller Prizes at \$10

You are eligible for all daily drawings in the month of April, 2014. Sellers of the winning entries will receive \$10 as an award for their selling efforts. The daily drawing amount and the seller’s \$10 prize will be mailed to the winners of record the next business day. Winners will be sent an e-mail and names posted on the SUA website.

For information on how the Fund-Raiser works - see page 20.

The following entry form should be printed clearly and accompany your \$10 entry fee.

Detach at perforation

“April’s Showers of Dollars” Entry Form (Copies Accepted)

Entrant’s Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZipCode: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Seller’s Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Branch Number and Location: _____

Please send completed form (Print) and \$10 check payable to SUA to:

Denise P. Bartlett
 SUA Director of Special Projects
 7902 West Howard Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53220-1612
 Phone: 414.327.4990 or denisebartlett@wi.rr.com

Slovenian Union of America

Need additional entries?

Copies accepted or contact Denise P. Bartlett at:

Phone: 414.327.4990 or denisebartlett@wi.rr.com

27th National Convention - 2015 - Lemont, Illinois

“April’s Showers of Dollars” DRAWING

April 2014 Fund-Raiser

www.slovenianunion.org

2015 SUA/SWUA National Convention. SUA/SWUA holds its National Convention every four years in host cities around the country. These gatherings are important not only to conduct SUA/SWUA business but to have a forum for Branch Member Representatives to come together to give their reports, share their ideas, discuss concerns, and further cement their mutual love and respect for all things related to their Slovenian heritage. Our next SUA/SWUA National Convention will be held in Lemont, Illinois, in 2015.

Plans are underway to make this another memorable event. The successful completion of this “April’s Showers of Dollars” Fund-Raiser will provide monies to help defray the costs of conducting SUA/SWUA’s National Convention. The Convention Committee strives to offer an affordable convention package to enable Member Representatives and members from every SUA/SWUA Branch to attend. The entries make excellent gifts for the holiday season, birthdays, and to say “Thank You.”

How Does the Fund-Raiser Work? Everyone participating in the SUA/SWUA “April’s Showers of Dollars” Fund-Raiser has the chance to win cash prizes. Each day in the month of April, 2014, one winner will be chosen to win the listed cash prize for that day - \$60, \$130, or \$200. In addition, each day the person who sold that day’s winning ticket will win \$10. The daily winner and seller can be one and the same and win both prizes.

The month of April 2014 has much to celebrate - including April No Fool’s Day, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and the last day before May’s flowers. The winners chosen on April 1st - April No Fool’s Day - and April 20th - Easter Sunday - will win \$200 each. The winners chosen on April 13th - Palm Sunday - and April 30th - “Here Come May Flowers” - will win \$130 each. In addition, the top sellers (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place) will win \$130 and \$90 and \$50 respectively. It’s a WIN opportunity for everyone.

**“Larger Prize
Amounts This Year!”**

Your Participation is Appreciated!

Good Luck!



Slovenian

Union of America

Branch Reports

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

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

October was a busy month for Branch 1. On the 13th we held elections. New officers for the next term are as follows: President – Mary Ann Schellinger, Vice President – Denise Schueffner, Secretary – Betty Repenshek, and Treasurer – Marilyn Hendricks. The members were treated to delicious treats baked by the board. All enjoyed fruit and nut breads, apple cake, and coffee. Not many crumbs were left.

On October 27th Branch 1 hosted the Wisconsin Regional Convention. It was held at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Fr. Cherne Hall. The day started with a Mass concelebrated with Fr. Paul Fliss and Fr. Richard Cerpich. The church choir honored the day with many Slovenian hymns. Mary Ann Schellinger, President of Branch 1 and also our Wisconsin Regional President, welcomed the guests. We paused for a moment of silence for all SUA members who passed away. Czech Please catered the buffet luncheon and, of course, pink tea and potica were served.

A business meeting was conducted at which time an election was held for a new Wisconsin Regional President. Jackie Smith of Branch 43 graciously accepted. A short program was given regarding the importance of family in our lives. The Nightingals provided entertainment, followed by raffles

(30 donated baskets), door prizes comprised of items donated from nine Sheboygan area businesses, and presentation of a Slovenian doll that was donated for the event by Ceil and John Smolic. It was a day of fellowship, food, fun, and frolic.

BETTY REPENSHEK

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Contact Information: Phyllis phyllisswu5@aol.com

New Year's greetings to all Branch members! Many thanks to all who attended our "KOFFEE-n-KROFE," and our holiday dinner at the Iron Skillet! These meetings are



very popular with our members. Is it the good food or the great company? Either way, all had a good time!

Our sympathy goes out to several members who lost loved ones during the past year. Please keep the Smith, Zupancic, Dalton, Konechnik, Powell, Loviscek, and Fon families in your thoughts and prayers.

Got any suggestions for a fun, new event that we can do for our meetings? Contact any officer with your idea! May your winter be safe and warm... bring on the snow!!

KAREN, MARY & PHYLLIS

BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

We want to send our deepest sympathy to Dora Simenc and family on the loss of her husband, Alex Simenc. He was the father of five children, grandfather of seventeen, and great-grandfather of one great-grandson. Alex Simenc was the accomplished composer, organist, and choir director at the Church of the Nativity for over 60 years.

The holiday season is over. Hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas spending time with family and friends. Can you believe how quickly the years are flying by? Happy New Year 2014!

A belated happy birthday to Virginia Sustarich and Agnes Leach. These two great ladies never miss our monthly meetings. February is almost here and as our Auntie Gini Sustarich said to us last year, "Love is in the air, Happy Valentine's Day!" With that note we want to wish our treasurer and her husband, Michele and Denny Twers, a very loving and happy birthday.

MOREEN SPENCER



Junior Member Stephen Fon Jr., (in black) just completed his Varsity Soccer season with his team winning the 2013 Sectional title! Stephen was named to the Indianapolis All-City Soccer Team, and also played in the Indy Elite North-South Soccer competition with players from all over Indiana. Stephen is a junior at Cardinal Ritter High School, member of Campus Ministry, Student Ambassadors, and National Honor Society. Congratulations, Stephen!

BRANCH 16 - South Chicago, Illinois

Contact Information: Marjorie Mitchell
773.646.4392/Dolores60617@yahoo.com

At our October meeting we had the election of officers: President & Secretary – Terri Rossi, Vice President & Auditor – Alberta Corey, Treasurer – Mary Jane Struss, Zarja Reporter – Dolores Franko.

At our November meeting Terri Rossi gave a brief talk on the "road to sainthood" for Bishops Anton Slomsek and Frederic Baraga. It is truly a long road to becoming a saint!

Still making progress in the health department is Helen Nowicki. Our dessert table was brimming with potica (Victor Sebehar), apple strudel (Alberta Corey) and cheese strudel (Dolores Franko). With ethnic cookies and candy, we had a delicious "Slovenianfest." Our Christmas lunch was held on December 14 at Cavalier Inn in Hammond, IN. All members attending had a portion of their lunch covered by Branch 16. That was a nice Christmas gift!

DOLORES KRAL FRANKO

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Contact Information: Patricia Schager
815.439.0062/patricia.schager@att.net

Our two most important events in September and October continue to remind us of more news. The raffle money winners from our Grape Harvest Festival Dance in September were: member Catherine Emery - \$300; Judy Hann - \$200; Colleen Kovic - \$100; and Friends of Pat McGuire - 50/50 jackpot.

During the 85th Branch Anniversary Celebration we honored Jenny Kochevar, our Branch's oldest member at 98 years, and Millie Pucel, 90, a 79-year member of the Branch who still actively attends our events.

Zarja - *The Dawn* editor, Debbie Pohar, was the lucky winner of the handmade Slovenian doll and a centerpiece. Meta Hanzlik of Branch 2 also won a centerpiece. Gene Novak won a beautifully arranged and very large wine basket.

We welcomed the support of the many members from other Branches who helped us celebrate 85 years.

Announcing officers for 2014: Char Kobe, President; Jeanne Warsaw, Vice President; Barbara DeLaney, Treasurer; Robyn Coyne, Correspondence Secretary; and Diane Hohenwater, Recording Secretary. Continuing on as Auditors are Jo Lustik, Bernice Nemanich, and Pat



Branch 20 President Char Kobe and Millie Pucel.

Butterbach and Sgts. At Arms, Nancy Horwath and Sandra Kehring. Our Spiritual Director, the Rev. Tom Paul, will conduct the installation during our meeting on Sunday, January 19.

A very large thank you to Diane Hohenwater for her additional notes on the Anniversary Celebration, and to Barb DeLaney for her picture taking expertise of the accompanying picture of Char Kobe and Millie Pucel at the Celebration dinner.

This will be my last *Zarja* report. It has been an honor to serve, and many good wishes to all who continue the work of SUA. I had a wonderful time meeting and making new friends while being “volunteered” by some of my fellow Swooses. And you know who you are. It’s been fun.

PATRICIA SCHAGER

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Contact Information: Bonnie Prokup wprokup@aol.com

Branch 24 celebrated 85 years with a beautiful party held at Starved Rock Family Fun. Looking out those huge windows with the pretty trees and the leaves - just perfect for Fall. One would guess if you were in LaSalle, IL, or in a little gostilna in a tiny village in Dolenska. The meal was catered by Paramount Club and paid for by Branch 24. We had 34 members, Brother Luke McLachlan of St. Bede Academy, and two babies in attendance. We listened to an assortment of Slovenian music chosen by Jonita Ruth of the Home Office and enjoyed the special Pink Tea recipe that Branch 1 of Sheboygan, WI, writes about.

On November 2nd our members met in the St. Vincent’s Cemetery for our 2nd Annual All Soul’s Day event. Led by Brother Luke it was another moving experience. Later, those in attendance went to Four Star Restaurant for dinner. The Christmas Party held at Senica’s Banquet Center was enjoyed by all.

We hope to see everyone in the year 2014!



Branch 24 members: Mary Ann Pieczynski with Madison, Karson, and Melissa Actis.

BRANCH 33 - Duluth, Minnesota

On Sunday, October 20, our branch met to celebrate our 85th birthday! We met at Borders Restaurant and had a wonderful time reminiscing about the “heyday years” and how many changes have taken place over time with SUA. Many stories were shared about past conventions and activities that we had; it gave us time to share with each other what was happening in our own lives. We had a



delicious birthday cake for dessert, but we learned one thing and that is to make sure you have “a real photographer that knows how to operate the camera” amongst the group! There wasn’t a group shot with the cake, but it was lovely, wasn’t it?

ANN MENART

BRANCH 35 - Aurora, Minnesota

Contact Information: John Star

johnks6@yahoo.com

Our Regional Convention in September went very well. In the order of business, we filled the Regional Secretary and Regional Treasurer positions: our new Regional Secretary is Marianne Nanti and the new Regional Treasurer is Frances Kovatovich. Both are members of Branch 35. Thank you ladies!

Miro Medved, newly appointed Honorary Consul to Slovenia, was our speaker. His slide show/commentary was very interesting and well presented. He showed us what a beautiful country Slovenia is!

Our sympathy to Mae Klun’s family. Mae passed away recently. Anne Orazem is at home after a recent stay in the hospital. We wish her good health and many blessings.

At our November meeting the members voted to cancel 2014 meetings in February, June, July, and August.

January will be our Christmas Party-Dinner, traveling Bunco, and possibly a Christmas Trivia game. The date has to be finalized and members will be contacted. Because our February meeting is canceled, the Dime Auction for

the Northern Pines Rest Home Activities Department will be held at our March meeting.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to Everyone!
MARLYS RABB

BRANCH 40 - Lorain Ohio

We are continuing our luncheon meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. We are few in number, but it is something we look forward to each month. We would love to see some new faces - please call me if you need a ride.

I am sorry to report our Aggie Serazin is still in Amherst Manor. Please know you are in our prayers, Aggie. Our Francine Pavlovic's husband, Fritz, is in Vermilion's Kingston for therapy. Hope you can bring him home soon, Francine!

There are many things people do in volunteering. I sing with the Singing Seniors - something I truly enjoy. We visit area nursing homes twice each week, where we sing songs of the season - mostly old songs that the residents enjoy, and they often join in singing with us. Several times, my son Michael has come with his button box accordion, and has lifted up everyone's spirits with a lively Slovenian Polka, or two!

By the time we read this, the holidays will be behind us and we will be settling in for a few cold months - and after that - can Spring be far behind? Enjoy each season! Stay warm!

STEPHANIE POLUTNIK

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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

The Holidays are over and I hope that all had a great one. Since this article was due before our first attempt at a Slovenian News Year's Eve Celebration, you will have to wait until my next writing to hear about it. With the New Year here, I'm sure all are planning for an activity-filled 2014. I hope that all of our members, after receiving our Branch event calendar, will refer to it throughout the year.

At our October meeting all of our 2013 Branch Officers, Sgt-At-Arms, and Auditors graciously accepted and were unanimously elected to serve again in 2014, led by President Jan Gehm. Denise Bartlett was elected to represent our Branch for 2014 with U.S.P.E.H. - representatives of eight local Slovenian organizations.

Several of our Branch members attended the Wisconsin Regional Convention in Sheboygan on October 27. They all reported that once again it was a great day. The Mass, meal, program, entertainment, raffle baskets, and door prizes were top notch. There was much Slovenian Spirit throughout the Convention! The office of Regional President had to be filled, because of the resignation of

President, Rita Majerle Klug (Branch 43) and Vice President, Mary Ann Schellinger (Branch 1), both due to their family's needs. We thank them for their service and are pleased to announce that our Branch 43 member, Jackie Smith, was unanimously elected to fill the term of Regional President. We are confident that she will do a great job. Congratulations, Jackie!

We are also proud of Branch member, Rose Chepeck, who recently received another Volunteer Award from the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center for her 16 plus years of volunteerism through the Red Cross at the Center's nursing home. Her eyes sparkle when she talks of her special Veterans and how much they appreciate her time and attention.

Once again we will be making butare on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the Triglav Park Dom in Wind Lake. Come and learn this Slovenian tradition! Please join us the next day, April 13, for the Palm Sunday Mass at 11:00 am at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greenfield, where we will proudly proceed into church carrying our butare and wearing Narodna noša. After Mass we will gather together for brunch at a local restaurant. The time and place to be determined.

Another date to look forward to is April 27, 2014, when *Navihanke* (a 5-woman singing-musical group from Slovenia) will perform for us at the Polish Center in Milwaukee. Tickets will be available soon from the UWM - Slovenian Arts Council.

MICI BREGANT

BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Contact Information: Debbie Duris 330.467.2281

Happy New Year! Our Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 7th at the Valley View Community Center was a good time for all that attended. The food was delicious and desserts were incredible. A big thank you to all those members who came and shared in our fellowship and the spirit of the season.

The members that attended the Ohio Regional Convention had a wonderful time. The Slovenian Mass at St. Vitus was so very meaningful. The catered brunch was delicious and our speaker, Rose Marie Jisa, was very informative about all of the activities of the Slovenian Genealogy Society. A special thank you to Rosemary Toth, Cookie Maxin, and the members of Branch 50 for a well-planned event.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone in attendance for participating in celebrating my mom's, Olga Dorchak, 85th Birthday. I will gladly share any of our members' activities. Just call me on my cell 330.730.8951 or e-mail me at kjferrante@gmail.com and I will include it in the next Branch report. Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2014!

KATHLEEN FERRANTE

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Contact Information: Jim Ebner

815.883.3268/deadendbluff@yahoo.com

In October, our Branch gathered for our regular meeting, followed by dimming of the lights, lighting of candles, reading the names of all deceased members of Branch 89, and saying the Rosary. On a windy, blustery Saturday afternoon/evening of November 2, several members of our Branch joined members of Branch 24 of LaSalle at St. Vincent's Cemetery in LaSalle to remember deceased family and SUA members in prayer and by lighting candles at their gravesites. Those who were able to attend describe this as a "very fulfilling and moving experience."



David Sodac and his cousin, Linda Sodac-Wallock.

The candles left glowing in the darkness of the cemetery provided a very impressive sight. If the dead could speak, I can only imagine they would say, "Thank you for remembering us." An evening meal was later enjoyed at Four Star Restaurant.

Great anticipation filled the air as we gathered Monday evening, November 11th, for our regular meeting. Celebrating Martinovanje, St.

Martin's Day, the day the grape juice in the barrels traditionally turns to wine, we looked forward to not only our meeting, but especially to a wine-tasting, including wines of Slovenia. Wines were presented from Primorska, Slovenia, Germany, a private winery in Missouri, as well



Barbara Bruch at wine tasting.

January/February 2014



as an American favorite. Cheese, crackers, and smoked sausage complimented the wine table. In unique fashion, the tasting began before our meeting, continuing throughout, allowing for a casual, relaxed atmosphere with time to enjoy each selection. It was definitely a very enjoyable social evening! We look forward to hosting our 3rd annual Branch



Branch 89 members enjoying the day.

89 Slovenian Heritage Day again this year at Claudette's on Saturday, March 29, from 4 to 7 p.m.

By the time you read this, we will have had our Christmas party. This is always a great time before the holidays to share a delicious meal and of course, there are always plenty of light-hearted moments within our "White Elephant" gift exchange. There is a wide variety of gifts, from the nice, decorative, hand-me-downs to the outrageously funny items, which leave people wondering, "What in the world is this?" and "What am I going to do with that?" Memorable items from recent years include a can of "evaporated water" and a stringer of crudely carved, wooden fish! We have learned from experience that it is sometimes the most beautifully wrapped gifts that contain the real "zingers!" On that note, we wish everyone near and far good health and Happy New Year!

JIM EBNER

BRANCH 93 - New York, New York

Contact Information: Elizabeth Gross 718.335.8459

Our branch had a stirring *Martinovanje* feast at St. Cyril's Church - complete with roast goose, mlinci, both red and green cabbage dishes, kale with garbanzo beans, green salad, home baked bread, and of course, poticas! And since St. Martin is (amongst other important callings) the patron saint of wine growers, a fantastic selection of diverse Slovenian wines provided by Emil Gaspari enlivened all as everyone lifted glasses and joined in singing "Kol'kor kapljic, tol'ko let" with gusto. Honored guests were Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar and UN Ambassador Andrej Logar with their wives (Cvetka Logar makes a tasty red cabbage!), and Valentin Inzko, UN high representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. We were also happy that Kamnik artist, Andrej Schlegel, was there to speak about his miniature paintings of New York that were on exhibit, and everyone enjoyed Kenneth Price playing his violin as we relaxed over our second glass of wine! After giving a rousing cheer to Ria Whitmire for planning, procuring, and cooking most of the food, and organizing the dinner, members went to welcome Minister Roman Jakič who was arriving in New York City that afternoon.



Igor Cesarec, Ph.D. candidate in Economics at New York University with Ambassador Dr. Cerar, and Dr. Carole Ryavec, Documentary Director.

for the 100th Anniversary Mass at St. Joseph's, another butarice workshop, and Bernarda Fink's concert. If you're in New York City, be sure to include coming to church at St. Cyril's at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays - chance to meet some of our members and hear the Mass in Slovenian.

ELIZABETH GROSS



NYU Medical student Kenneth Price practicing for Martinovanje.

feel a bit Oliver Twist-ish, asking for "More Slovenian, please?" We're still hoping we can work something out so we can continue on our quest to master this language. Well - probably not master - but make someone able to comprehend what we're trying to say!

On the horizon for the new year - a trip to Bethlehem, PA,



Ambassador Dr. Cerar with Father Krizolog, Church of Saint Cyril, New York, NY.



Martinovanje at Church of Saint Cyril, New York, NY.

BRANCH 99 - Lemont, Illinois

Contact Information: Jana Hlade jmhlade@hotmail.com



Happy New Year! We hope you had a very blessed Christmas season. In

October, several members of our Branch attended the Illinois/Indiana Regional Convention and 85th Anniversary of Branch 20 in Joliet. Also in October, we held our 10th



Annual Bunco event. Congratulations to raffle winners: Burkland family - \$100, Gen Buol - spa basket, Vidmar family - beer basket, Germaine family - \$100, and Julie Kaluza - liquor basket. Also congrats to Barbara Ann Pendergas for winning the special anniversary raffle of \$100. And many heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers who helped with Bunco, donated raffle prizes, and brought bakery. You truly make this event successful!

Another thank you to all bakers who donated cookies for our annual Cookie sale in December. And thank you to Mary Mavec and Paula Mavec for organizing the event.

Many thanks to Linda Schultz, our secretary, for being the Member Representative (delegate) of our Branch for the SUA annual meeting held in November via conference call. Per our new 501(c)(3) status, our organization must hold annual meetings with all Branches represented.

We would like to send our sympathy to the family of Anne Rupert who passed away in August. In her earlier days, she enjoyed playing the accordion with her brother, Joe Kovich.



Recently, our branch donated \$100 to the Bishop Baraga Association which supports the sainthood of Slovenian Bishop Frederic Baraga, who was the first Bishop in Marquette, Michigan, in the 1800s.

The new 2014 calendar is on its way, so watch your mailboxes for fun activities of our Branch.

Wishing you all a very prosperous New Year!

JANA HLADE

BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Contact Information: Jean Koci ajkoci@cox.net

Many of our members attended and helped at the Vinska Trgatev celebration in Fontana. The host organization was the California SNPJ Federation, but almost every one of our active members belong to both associations and enjoy the activities together. Slovenians are few and far between on the West Coast, although we run into them here and there, and it is always a joy to find someone who hasn't "connected" since they left their grandparents in Ohio or Wisconsin or Minnesota.

By the time you read this, most of the Christmas parties will be over, but we will still be enjoying New Year celebrations and gatherings. It will be good to have some family get-togethers and dinners. It is always fun to have the kids home from school for a while, so that cousins and siblings can catch up on what they have been doing.

If all goes well, we might have Fr. Peter Rožič, s.j. with us over New Years. That would be a true blessing for our friends and family. We had a wonderful time with him when he was here in April. I understand that he will be hosting the Slowind Wind Quintet from Ljubljana at Santa Clara University on February 26th. Slowind will also be here in Laguna Niguel at St. Timothy's Church on Saturday, February 22nd for their fourth concert here in the past 13 years or so. It has always been a highlight for our Slovenian community as well as the parish, the music lovers in our area, and students from the local high schools.

The church staff and guests who come from all over Southern California to hear them welcome the talented and charming musicians warmly. Of course, the home-baked traditional Slovenian pastries are welcomed also! If you are in the area, please check with me for more information!



Photo: Slowind Wind Quintet from Ljubljana. In February, on the West Coast, the Slowind Wind Quintet will play classical music including some pieces by Slovenian composers.

We send our best wishes to all for a Happy New Year 2014. Srecno Novo Leto!

JEAN KOČI

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

Contact Information: Bernadette Fitzsimmons
bettekfitz@verizon.net

On October 5, 2013, Branch 108 celebrated its 10-year Anniversary with a festive celebration filled with Slovenian songs, dancing, slide show presentations of potica making, and slides depicting the history of 108's Branch events. The traditional Slovenian fare from main dishes, to sides, desserts, and Slovenian wine was a delight to savor. Branch 108 members/friends and guests will long remember this wonderful day of celebration, including a congratulatory, poignant address by the Ambassador of Slovenia, Dr. Božo Cerar to commemorate its 10 year milestone. Branch 108 President, Bernadette Fitzsimmons, provided her speech centered around envisioning goals and fulfilling them to achieve success; she also presented an original watercolor painting to the Ambassador, "Most na Soci" created by member artist Estelle Zorman.



It was truly an honor to have Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, National SUA Vice-President of Culture and Heritage, present as guest speaker to emphasize the importance of music, food, and dancing at



Slovenian gatherings. It was also very kind of Ana Sonc Jevtič to graciously accept a request to offer a congratulatory statement on behalf of Branch 103, Washington, D.C. Participants were treated to a beautiful music program by "Megaron," an award-winning choral group from Slovenia, comprised of 40 members who were on tour in Canada and the U.S. for their 10th anniversary.

The Branch 108 anniversary event was made possible by numerous contributions, combined of time, talent, and dedication to our Slovenian heritage. The possibility of celebrating at the Embassy of Slovenia was first discussed and envisioned between Nuška Zakrajšek and President Fitzsimmons in October, 2012, and subsequently presented to members last fall; with enthusiasm members followed through to make it happen in collaboration with the Embassy staff and dignitaries. Branch 108 is forever grateful to Nuška Zakrajšek, Cultural and Diplomacy Officer, for her cooperation and persistence to fulfill the wish of a weekend event. This occasion became a reality; fulfilled through intensive planning and meeting goals along the way that led to the unfolding of a triumphant, successful anniversary celebration.



Thanks to members/friends of Branch 108 - 10th Anniversary Celebration participants and donators. MANY THANKS (Lepa hvala) to the dedicated individuals listed below who helped make the anniversary event complete: Anne Stratton, Margie Whitmore, Lynn Koiner, Lea Plut-Pregelj, Erika, Ayla, and Brielle Roda,



Tereza Bevec, Nika Kovacic, Helen Sisto, Fran Hrastar, John and Judy Klansek, Bernadette, Juliana, Thomas, and Tim Fitzsimmons, Aleš Psaker, Frank Vidergar, May, Lisa, and Erika Kokal, Marie Robinson, and the Embassy staff.

Thanks to the Embassy of Slovenia for donating the wine to compliment the meal, the concert by "Megaron", and thanks to Nuška for arranging the details for the choral group tour to be in D.C. during the weekend to complement the Anniversary Celebration, collaborating on many of the food details, and assisting Branch 108 in its celebration of this occasion at the Embassy of Slovenia.

BERNADETTE K. FITZSIMMONS

Everything was in place on Saturday, October 5, 2013, for the 10th Anniversary of Branch 108 - Olney, MD. What an absolute perfect setting for this anniversary event. Carnations in crystal vases stood tall at the Slovenian Embassy.

Voices of Chamber Choir “Megaron,” the sounds of Frank Vidergar’s button box, the splendid display of traditional Slovenian foods; one could sense the elation throughout the afternoon hours. The scene brought to mind our ancestors, long buried in Slovenian soil, who never experienced life in an independent, democratic Slovenia. Could they have ever imagined a Slovenian Embassy in the United States of America or a Slovenian Union of America celebrating an anniversary in the Embassy? I believe they were rejoicing..... “up there.”

The elation continued into Sunday. There was not a dry eye in Our Lady of Brezje Slovenian Chapel at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The sounds of choir members from Megaron reached the heavens; crowds gathered outside the chapel.

How to explain this elation? It could not be touched, seen; it had no physical substance. I have never been so moved, so proud, to call myself a Slovenian American.

Congratulations to Branch President Bernadette Fitzsimmons and the members of Branch 108 for this gala event, held in this notable building. This day is now etched in the history of Branch 108. It was an honor for me to represent the Slovenian Union of America.

- Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, Vice-President of Culture and Heritage

Thank you for sending the Embassy newsletter. I found it very interesting and having pictures of Branch 108 included was special, as it will be noticed and enjoyed by many! I hope you’re still enjoying memories of the success of this unique event. You planned and worked so hard, the dear Lord blessed your efforts and made it a very special celebration. - Irene Odorizzi



Just want to tell you that the Anniversary event at the Embassy for 108 was a fabulous success... I think it turned out better than we could have hoped.

- May Kokal



SUA Branch 108 10th Anniversary Address

Dragi prijatelji!

Dear Friends,

Deeply honored and humbled by Mrs. Bernardka Fitzsimmons' invitation to say a few words at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the SUA's Branch 108, I would like to express my great joy and profound gratitude for the countless graces given to so many of us through the work and life of the *Slovenian Union of America* and its jubilee-celebrating branch.

Shortly after my arrival to Washington, D.C., and shortly before the 5th anniversary of Branch 108, Mrs. Nika Kovačič invited me on the behalf of the (then-called) *Slovenian Women's Union of America* to join them in a meeting. As I was eager to learn about what they do, as I was curious about how they live and as I wondered about what these Slovenians and their friends cherish, I accepted her invitation. While I intended to participate in one meeting only – as I thought these are women-only gatherings after all – I soon found myself going to their meetings on a regular basis. Their attitude towards the Slovenian heritage, their dedication to it, and their enthusiasm about it won me over and enchanted me. What is more, encircled with these pleasant, energetic and committed women – and some men also – I not only enjoyed their company but I also started promoting their cause.

I was honored to become the spiritual advisor to this fine group of women and men. Ever since, I have prayed for the group, your work and your families. I count as a gift from above the five memorable years I was blessed with to spend as a member of your Branch 108. You helped me learn how dedicated Slovenes can be in serving one another and how exemplary you are in cultivating your American and Slovenian identity. Moreover, as members of the SUA, you taught me that your dedication to the Slovenian-American cause does not take place in Olney, MD only, but also across the United States and beyond. I have met remarkable SUA's women and men in Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland, California and elsewhere – thanks to being a part of your community. Finally, it was during these meetings where I witnessed that reconciliation and mutual understanding among a diverse and colorful group of persons is not only possible but also represents a pledge of a bright and hopeful future.

It is my deep desire that the fruits of the noble legacies promoted by the women and men of the Slovenian Union of America be faithfully handed on to your children and your children's children. *Še več, članicam in članom Branch 108, kakor tudi vsej Slovenski (Ženski) Zvezi želim, da bi vaše plemenito delo obrodilo sadove pravičnosti, miru in ljubezni. Naj Gospod podpira delo vaših rok, blagoslovi vaše družine in vse ljudi, s katerimi se tako radovoljno družite. Ob deseti obletnici vam želim obilo blagoslova.*

Zato vam pravim, Bog vas živi!

May God Bless the Slovenian Union of America, its Branch 108, and all Slovenes and Americans of good and happy will.

Fr. Peter Rožič SJ

October 2013



Slovenian Union of America (SUA)

BRANCH 108 - OLNEY, MARYLAND

Slovenska zenska zveza v Ameriki

www.slovenianunion.org



BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota

Contact Information: Norm Setnicker
651.777.6106/normas188@msn.com

With the harvest “zetev” season, as well as the holiday season “prazniki letni cas” behind us, Branch 109 collected its own Slovenian harvest with many member contributions that enriched our Slovenian heritage.

** Norm Setnicker and Fran Strukel made 57 rings of “Krvavica” (blood sausage) for the 8th time - using a time-tested Slovenian recipe from Ed Bernik.

** Norm and Mary Ann Setnicker made 30#’s of “South American Specials,” which were treats for us in the 1950s. When the Italians and Slovenians cleaned up their gardens, they took the red and green peppers, pepperoni, hamburger, endive, tomatoes, some jalapeños, and onion and ground them up and made a sandwich spread on a dense piece of bread.

** John Skubitz hosted a Martinovanje celebration at his home with about 40 members in attendance. Mary Medved gave a brief history of this Slovenian tradition. Hvala lepa, Janez and Katica.

** Rick Pisa gave the results of the Slovenian calendar photo contest. Pictures taken by members who visited Slovenia were included in a calendar, which went on sale in October.

** Katica (Kathy) Muhvic Wilson headed up our first ever “Family History Day,” which was sponsored by the Hennepin County Library in Minneapolis. Kathy provided the tools for Slovenian genealogy searches.

** Tea Rozman, our newest Slovenian native, made a multimedia presentation of Narodne noša (Slovenian national costumes) at our November meeting. Tea and Norm will be working on recording oral histories of our immigrant members in January.

** Janez Skubitz orchestrated the design and sales of Slovenian place mats. Funds from the calendar and place mat sales help in financing the Festival of Nations display in May.

** Mary Ann Palmer and Norm Setnicker are in the



process of collecting resources to write a 10-year history of Branch 109 - Twin Cities Slovenians.

** Janez Zakelj represented the TC Slovenians at the annual Immigration History Research Center dinner held in November.

** Yul Yost and Jean Smith attended a play entitled “Steerage Song,” which focused on the period of greatest migration in the history of civilization, roughly 1845-1924. What made this play special was the Slovenian song, “Danici,” - an original Slovenian song from Matija Valjavec. Ksenija Rener Sitar, a native Slovenian who was a member of the TC Slovenians, helped with this theater production.

** Chuck/Jean Podominick had a chance encounter with David Setnicker while visiting in Ptuj at the Gostilna Ribic. They were doing genealogy research.

** Pat Dahl made her first trip to Slovenia and in the process talked to the Slovenian musical group, *Navihanke*, about their upcoming tour of the U.S. in April - May.

Election for officers of Branch 109 - TC Slovenians was held and all incumbent officers, led by President John Zakelj, will continue into 2014.

SRECNO NOVO LETO! “Drzi smehljaj” Keep smiling!

NORM SETNICKER

“Born in USA with Slovenian Parts”

A Visit To Willard!



Left to right: Corinne Leskovar with Branch 102 members - Joanne Trunkel, Rose Pakiz, and Frank Pakiz. Rose served as a past president of Branch 102 for 11 years.

(Photo by Nace Rebrica, of Lemont.)

Branch 102 in Willard, Wisconsin, is a part of a very small community of Slovenians who were pioneers in the past agricultural life of the Midwest, and remain active in their Branch and the activities of Holy Family Church. Willard was a stop on the Bishop Baraga Pilgrimage trip to Duluth, Minnesota, in October, by a group of Chicago, Lemont, Joliet, Waukegan, and Milwaukee Slovenians. It was an interesting visit to northern Wisconsin thanks to our tour leader, John Vidmar, who is a historian of the life of Bishop Frederic Baraga when he was a missionary in the 19th century among the American Indians in the Great Lakes area. Last year Bishop Baraga was named Venerable by the Catholic Church.

- Corinne Leskovar, Branch 99 - Lemont, IL

Membership Application and Renewal

Slovenian Union of America

(Formerly known as Slovenian Women's Union of America)

slovenianunion.org sua@slovenianunion.org 815.727.1926

For RENEWALS use form at BOTTOM of this page

Adult Dues \$25.00 Adult Dues (International Address) \$35.00 Junior Dues (Birth to 18) \$5.00

If this is a gift and you agree to continue paying for this membership next year, please advise us of billing address:

Dues are for January through December

If you join after August 31 you will not be billed in January of the next calendar year

Membership Renewal Notifications are sent annually in January

Please print the requested information below and send this application form with a check payable to:

Slovenian Union of America, 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432-1703

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M ___ F ___

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Branch Affiliation Number (if known)/Location _____ / _____

Maiden Name _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry and provide SLOVENIAN SURNAMENES

How did you hear about us? SUA Member ___ Newspaper ___ Website ___ Other _____

I would like to volunteer for the SUA. My area of interest or expertise is _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Tell a Friend! If you wish SUA to send information to a friend or relative, please provide us with their name and address:

Name _____

Address _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name _____ Member ID No. _____ (located on back cover)

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Dues Amount _____ Donation _____

Mail to: SUA/SWUA, 431 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432-1703

At the Illinois/Indiana Regional Convention and Branch 20 - Joliet's 85th Anniversary Celebration, Corinne Leskovar, Past Editor of *Zarja - The Dawn*, and Mary Turvey, Director of the SWU Scholarship Foundation, were happy to share their thoughts.

NON-PROFIT
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
LASALLE, IL

October 20, 2013, was a very enjoyable day for all of those who attended these two special functions. The weather was a perfect 70 degrees, with blue skies, and golden-colored, leafy trees welcomed us to St. Joseph's Church in Joliet. The Regional Meeting, Polka Mass, and Anniversary Dinner were all arranged and organized to perfection. Jonita Ruth, Diane Hohenwater, and Barbara Delaney did a magnificent job of hosting all three events.

Corrine was literally born into *Zarja* work; her Mother, Albina Novak, was the editor of *Zarja* when Corinne was a toddler. As a young woman Corinne took over the helm and spent at least 50 years of her professional life as the *Zarja* editor. Corinne stated that she is elated to discover how many young, enthusiastic women are involved with the Slovenian Union at this time. She also is very pleased with the work current editor, Debbie Pohar, and director of design, Bonnie Prokup, have done to make the *Zarja* such a lovely, attractive, contemporary magazine.

Mary Turvey had two messages for the members. First, she thanked all for their kind support of the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation these past 64 years. 2014 marks 65 years of awarding scholarships to Slovenian students – more than any other Slovene organization in the United States has provided. This would not be possible without the verbal and financial support of our membership.



Corinne Leskovar and Mary Turvey

The second message presented was to ask those present to think of their great-great-grandchildren, and great-great-grand nieces and nephews, 40 years in the future. The year will be 2053. Those of West European heritage will be a very small minority in the United States. Will your descendents know that they belong to a noble class of highly literate, peaceful, artistic people who live in a beautiful country south of the Alps? Will they have ever heard polka music and the old songs we have heard since we were children? Will they eat potica on Christmas? The need to belong and identify is a strong human need for people of all ages and eras. Will your descendents know to whom they belong? My message to you today is to keep talking, TALKING, and talking, about your immigrant ancestors, the old country, and life in Slovene communities. Sing those old, tender, comforting songs over and over, play the beautiful music, and bake and cook those old traditional recipes whenever you can. YOU can gift your descendents by insuring that our precious culture remains alive and preserved for generations to come.

- by Mary Turvey, Scholarship Director