



# ZARJA - THE DAWN

URADNO GLASILO  
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKÉ ZVEZE V AMERIKI

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

NUMBER 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2000

VOLUME 72

## WELCOME TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM!



### Join at any age!

All adult members, at any age, admitted after January 1, 2000 will be accepted as active members with no burial stipend and will be assessed \$15.00 per year.

### Mission Statement

We, the National Officers of the Slovenian Women's Union of America, will be guided by our Constitution, Bylaws, and Regulations, and with God's help, pledge to:

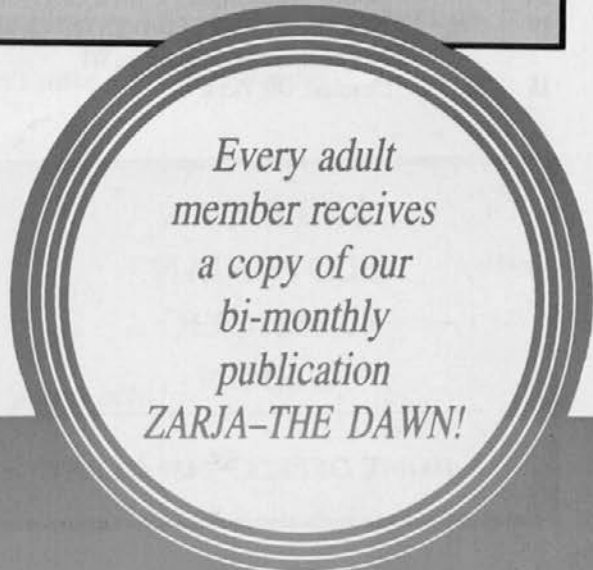
- \* Unite American-Slovenian women and their families
- \* Enhance the presence of the Slovenian community in America
- \* Inspire our youth in spiritual and moral values
- \* Promote the legacy of our heritage

We ask the members to join us in the success of our mission.

### Social Members are Active Members!

Members in the Social Class, enrolled before January, 2000, shall be entitled to vote in any election or general referendum of this organization and its branches. Such members shall also be eligible for any association or branch office.

(SWU Bylaw 3.09)



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# ZARJA - THE DAWN

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## SPECIAL EVENTS IN Y 2000

### FEBRUARY

13 Br. 38 Chisholm, MN, Valentine Card Party

### MARCH

17-20 Br. 100 Fontana, CA, Cruise to Ensenada, Mexico. Call Mary Lou: Height, 760-245-6666

### APRIL

30 Br. 73 Warrensville Hts., OH, Anniversary Mass, St. Jude's Church, 10:30; breakfast follows

### MAY

11 Br. 5 Indianapolis, IN, Spring Luncheon  
17 Br. 54 Warren, OH, Mother-Daughter Luncheon

### SEPTEMBER

2-3 BISHOP BARAGA DAYS, MARQUETTE, MI  
10 WISCONSIN STATE CONVENTION & Br. 43,  
70th Anniversary, Milwaukee, WI  
15 Br. 50 Cleveland, OH, Picnic

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

### National Officers:

Jan. 5 - Evelyn Majercik, Past Nat'l Secy., Bedford, OH  
Jan. 6 - Irene Odorizzi, Past Cultural Heritage Officer,  
Reston, VA  
Jan. 10 - Mary Turvey, Dir. Sch. Fund, Marquette, MI  
Feb. 17 - Agnes Dobczyk, Women's Activities Dir.,  
Joliet, IL

### Presidents:

Jan. 2 - Kay Yuratovac, Br. 73, Warrensville, OH  
Jan. 11 - Frances Correll, Br. 93, Brooklyn, NY

Feb. 4 - Ruth Sheck, Br. 1, Sheboygan, WI  
Feb. 16 - Mary Zales, Br. 8, Steelton, PA  
Feb. 22 - Anne Marie Wangler, Br. 24, LaSalle, IL

### Secretaries:

Jan. 5 - Mary Jackovich, Br. 28, Calumet, MI  
Feb. 1 - Agatha Donges, Br. 40, Lorain, OH  
Feb. 18 - Theresa Dagg, Br. 10, Cleveland, OH  
Feb. 15 - Anna Kerkovich, Br. 93, Brooklyn, NY  
Feb. 27 - Diane Varney, Br. 14, Euclid, OH

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

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## NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Kathleen Dorchak

3099 Markle Drive

Silver Lake, Ohio 44224

Tel. (330) 686-1336 - Fax (330) 688-6203

E-mail KDORCHAK@NEO.RR.COM

### *A New Year - Time for New Plans*

*A*s we enter into a new year, we are entering into a new year for the Slovenian Women's Union of America. This is a great opportunity for our members to unite and become strong in our commitment to our heritage and culture. Remember, alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much.

During my trip to Slovenia last September, Corinne, my mother and I had the privilege and honor to meet with Nancy Ely-Raphel, Ambassador from the United States to Slovenia. While she is not Slovenian, she said she loves the country, the food and the people. Ambassador Ely-Raphel wants the Slovenes to be proud of all their accomplishments. Slovenia has been the leading role model for other countries since its independence in 1991.

With his recent visit to Slovenia, President Clinton put Slovenia in the world news. We now need to keep everyone aware of its existence. Getting Slovenia into NATO would be a good beginning. Ambassador Ely-Raphel indicated she felt it is very important for Slovenia to be in NATO. As American-Slovenes, we can help this effort by writing to our Senators and Congressmen to encourage their support of Slovenia into NATO at the next selection time. Again, we must remember that alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much.

Members are the most important assets to any organization and ours is no exception. As active members it is our responsibility to encourage members that we

have not seen in awhile to attend meetings and join our activities. This is not always an easy task, but sometimes all it takes is an invitation phone call or a short note. Offer to drive them to the meeting. Welcome these members with open arms and make them feel truly missed. It doesn't take much, but it can bring your branch members closer together. Your branch may even get more active members in the process.

What can the National Board do for you? What would you like to see for our organization in the future? Your opinion is very important to us. The National Board will be meeting in Joliet at the end of March. We would like to discuss issues and concerns you may have at that time. We are working for you and want to hear from you. I encourage you to write to me by March 1, 2000 so I can plan for these items to be on our agenda. My address is: 3088 Markle Drive, Silver Lake, Ohio 44224.

It's a New Year and time for new plans! Let's make a difference together!

*May you always love and be loved,  
May you have peace in your days,  
May there be laughter in your heart*

**Kathleen**

***Srečno novo leto!***

Tel. (330) 686-1336

Fax (330) 688-6203

E-mail KDORCHAK@NEO.RR.COM

# Happy 2000 to all from our National Secretary!

Hello everyone! Did you survive the holidays and the new millennium? At the time I am writing this I am anxiously looking forward to it. I have five Christmas trees, three mangers including the one outside; two Dickens Villages and various other decorations. I love to decorate early so I can spend my week prior to Christmas entertaining my family and friends.

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. Every year all of my Pohar relatives meet at my parent's house on Christmas Eve. We cram over 70 people in their house. We serve homemade sausage, potica, flancati and various other dishes all prepared by our family. The food is always delicious but the entertainment is just as special. All of the children dressed in their holiday finest entertain the adults with poems, plays or Christmas songs, including my two daughters! We have many actors/actresses in our family that love to perform for an audience! This will go on until that jolly old man, Santa Clause arrives. Santa has a special present for each child. This night has been a tradition for over 40 years. I can't imagine what it would be like if I missed a year.

New Year's Eve should be a special one for all since there will never be another year like this new millennium. My husband and I will be attending a party at the Carus Mansion in LaSalle, Illinois. It is a beautiful old mansion that is on the list of historical homes for Illinois and is presently being refurbished back to its original decor. We are looking forward to it.

Along with New Year's activities are everyone's resolutions. Mine for the Slovenian Women's Union is to work on a more timely process of issuing death benefits. Currently it is an over a one-month wait in most cases. I would like to cut this down to 3 weeks processing time.

As I wrote in the last issue of ZARJA, we are in the process of creating one list for memberships. The ladies in Joliet finished up the last book before Thanksgiving. All three books are now in my hands waiting to be entered into the computer; this is step two of the process. As soon as the names have been entered I will be sending a copy to each branch secretary for confirmation. Because of the holidays we don't want to rush anyone and have decided to make this come true for the March issue of ZARJA. This will give everyone a little more time, including Corinne and the press folks who need to change their equipment. This is a big step for us and we need to make sure it is done properly. I want this to be complete and done right.

Please take note of the new application for all members joining in the year 2000 in this issue of ZARJA. Also notice a copy of the billing statement so you will recognize it when this arrives. Just like in the past I will send out the bills to each member. As soon as you receive it, please send in your payment. If for some reason you do not receive a bill by April 1, 2000 please advise your branch secretary or call me.

Here's to a successful 2000!!!

**Bonnie Prokup**  
3119 Carrie Street  
Peru, Illinois 61354  
WPROKUP@aol.com  
(815) 223-9596

SAMPLE  
BILLING  
STATEMENT

## INVOICE MEMBERSHIP DUES FISCAL YEAR 2000

Jane Doe  
123 First Street  
Anywhere, USA 12345

Certificate Number: P10006

Membership Type:                      Adult                      \$15.00

Total \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*To assure receiving the next issue of ZARJA, please remit within 30 days\*\*\*\*\*

**Return this form with your remittance.  
Make checks or money order payable to:  
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%Bonnie Prokup  
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Peru, IL 61354**

Total amount of check: \_\_\_\_\_

# APPLICATION



SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA  
SLOVENSKA ŽENSKA ZVEZA V AMERIKI

\_\_\_\_ New Adult Member      Annual Dues: \$15.00      \_\_\_\_ Junior Member (Birth to 18)      Annual Dues \$5.00

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\_\_\_\_ Address      City      State      Zip Code

\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth      Age      Place of Birth

\_\_\_\_ Descendant of which nationality      Marital Status

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch affiliation No. \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch No.: \_\_\_\_\_

To expedite your application for membership please remit annual dues and mail with this application form to:

**SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION**  
431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432  
Tel. (815) 727-1926

*Please make checks payable to Slovenian Women's Union*

## FOR OFFICE USE:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION CHANGES FOR THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

Above is a copy of our new SWU Membership Application for anyone joining now, after January 1, 2000. The application was updated by eliminating any information that applied to insurance benefits. You will notice that it is very simple to read and fill out.

Anyone joining SWU after the New Year will be known as either an Adult Member or Junior Member. No longer will we enroll Class A, B or Social members. Those terms were used when insurance benefits were issued.

**PLEASE NOTE!** All adult memberships prior to January 1, 2000 will still be classified as a Class A, B, Social member, only in regards to their insurance benefits which still apply to them.

All new members will be given a number, and of course, the first new member of the New Millennium will be issued the number 2000!

You can obtain a copy of the application from one of the following: Your Branch President, National Secretary, Home Office, or make a copy of the application form above.

**REGIONAL CONVENTION**

On Sunday, September 12th, our 42nd annual Minnesota SWU convention was hosted by Branch 34 Tower-Soudan. It was a special occasion because Branch 34 was also celebrating their 70th anniversary.

We started gathering at the Tower Civic Center at 8:30 a.m. for registration, coffee and doughnuts. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., and we were all welcomed by Adeline Mustonen, President of branch 34. We were led in prayer by Catherine Sandvick, President of branch 38, Chisholm. Without accompaniment Ann Hodnick, Anita Vovk and Jennie Briski did a great job leading us in singing "Our Common Bond." A roll call of branches showed there were 111 members present. The minutes of last year's meeting and the treasurer's report were read and approved.

Past National President, Jean Korsman, was traveling in Slovenia, so she sent her greetings to the convention members. Thank you notes were also read from Irene Odorizzi and Corinne Leskovar.

All of the changes made at the national convention were reviewed and explained to the members. We were encouraged to read our ZARJAs, because all of the pertinent information that can be found in there.

The Slovenian Women's Union of America will be approaching its 75th Anniversary in the year 2001. At the national convention, Corinne Leskovar suggested that we publish an historical review of the organization to commemorate that important occasion and begin an authoritative archive of S.W.U. All members were asked to start gathering memories of experiences of their older branch members and also recording the progress of their branches for that publication and the archives.

There are still a lot of unsold Cook Books and we were all urged to go out and sell as many as possible.

Irene Odorizzi has resigned her Heritage Director position, and Father Stalzer of Joliet, Illinois will be taking over as Director of the Heritage Museum. Letters of recognition will be sent to Irene, Jean Korsman and Evelyn Majerick for their SWU service.

I was again elected Minnesota Regional President. Jean Korsman was elected to replace Vice President Ann Orazem, who did not choose to accept an office this year. Dorothy Jamnick has done a great job as Secretary-Treasurer, so I again appointed her to serve in that position.

As is the custom at every convention, a special collection was taken, and the proceeds from that collection this year (\$105.00) was sent to the ZARJA Fund.

The next convention will be held in Ely in the year 2000.

The meeting adjourned and we then went to St. Martin's church to attend a special Polka Mass with music provided by Tom and Tony Poderzay and Dennis Erchal. Father Rudolph Pakiz was the celebrant.

The banquet was served in St. Martin's Social Hall. The tables were beautiful with a little jar of homemade jelly in a burlap bag tied with rafia and a beautifully decorated

**STATE CONVENTION, CLEVELAND, OHIO**

On a beautiful, warm, sunny morning members gathered at St. Vitus Church for mass. Fr. Victor Cimperman was the celebrant. Then we met at Sterle's Slovenian Country House for meeting and lunch. Everyone in attendance received a beautiful figurine donated by National President Kathleen Dorchak. Grace was led by National Vice President, Marjorie Church followed by the serving of a delicious family style dinner.

Guests were welcomed and the meeting was opened with prayers. Minutes of the last State Convention, held on Sept. 20, 1998, were read by Recording Secretary Elsie Spellacy of Br. 47. Attendance at the dinner and convention was 58 members and 5 guests. Ten branches were represented.

Marge Church explained the bylaw changes that occurred at the National Convention in May. Having just returned from her first trip to Slovenia, Kathleen Dorchak spoke on some of the highlights of the "Many Splendors of Slovenia" tour. She said it was an experience she will always treasure.

Business included the election of officers for the States of Ohio and Michigan. They are, President, Fran Gazvoda of Br. 25 and Vice President, Peg Moore of Br. 25, also. Congratulations!

Dorothy Lamm offered Br. 32's invitation to host the next state convention in the year 2000. Meeting adjourned with prayers and raffle followed with many gifts and door prizes.

Love to all.

*Olga Dorchak*  
Regional President

bottle of herb vinegar at each place setting. A delicious baked chicken dinner was served.

The guest speaker was Fred Pahule, a retired school teacher who received a \$100.00 scholarship from Branch 34 many years ago. He told us how grateful he was to receive it and related many interesting experiences he had in his long teaching career. The Poderzay Brothers provided ethnic Slovenian music for our entertainment.

Before the members left for home, many names were drawn and prizes awarded. The winners of the money raffle, which helps defray convention expenses, were: Faye Smuk, Ely - \$100.00; Dorothy Jamnick, Aurora - \$50.00 and Mary Ann Quillio of New Jersey - \$25.00.

It was a wonderful day of experiencing our heritage and renewing old friendships, and I think each member left with a resolve to return to their respective branches and work for the continued success of the Slovenian Women's Union.

*Charlotte Laurich*  
Minnesota Regional President

# HERITAGE MUSEUM DIRECTOR:

## A VISION, A DREAM AND REALITY

Since accepting the position of S.W.U. Heritage Museum Director, I would like to share with you some thoughts.

We had a vision and a dream and to some extent that became a reality. We now have a facility that houses a number of books and artifacts in addition to our Home Office here in Joliet, IL.

Now we still continue with a vision, a dream, and we must face reality. Our building is over 90 years old and as with any structure we must face repairs and updating, some minor and others major. Today we face local codes and government regulations. We face some big challenges as we strive to move forward.

Our building has a basement, 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor. Remember it was built over 90 years ago and is in need of repairs if expansion is to take place. At the present time we occupy the 1st floor for office space and the heritage room. The basement is used for storage. The second and third floors are vacant.

For a number of years, we talked about expansion. At the present time we are consulting with the city of Joliet and contractors and determining what is financially feasible for any expansion. Hopefully, some decision will be made with the Spring S.W.U. Board Meeting. No circles, but straight ahead.

In the meantime, we are still accepting monetary donations and any artifacts or books that pertain to Slovenian heritage (we could use a button box and also national dress from the various regions of Slovenia).

Most of all we need unity, support and an interest and pride in our Slovenian culture and heritage.

Do you have any thoughts or ideas? I would deeply appreciate hearing from you. Remember, "V slogi je moč" – In Unity is Strength.

God Bless in 2000,

*Fr. David J. Stalzer*

*Address: 127 So. Briggs St., Joliet, IL 60433*

*Phone: (815) 722-7653*

*P.S.: Books, artifacts and donations can be sent to: S.W.U., 431 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432.*



*Eno si zapojmo  
bratci dobro vemo  
ja vemo, ja vemo  
da Slovenci smo!*

*Slovenian folksong*

### HERITAGE FUND DONATIONS:

**\$42:** National Board of Slovenian Women's Union, †Michael Majercik

**\$40:** Josephine Lustik, Br. 20, Joliet, IL

\*\*\*\*\*

### PROMOTE OUR SLOVENIAN HERITAGE!

If you live in a town that has some Slovenian business establishments, that has activities involving our Slovenian music, singing, dancing, stores that sell Slovenian food; Slovenian churches ... choirs, other organizations... these are the things, people and places that would welcome your participation!

Why not see what you can do to help promote our Slovenian heritage! A branch activity that comes to mind is talking to them to urge promotional advertising in ZARJA, where our readership is looking for things to buy and things to be involved in. Or, see if your branch can buy some items on consignment, then re-sell them among your members, and/or among other branches. I know that there are many people looking to buy a Slovenian tape or CD, some klobase, poticas, etc. This past Christmas, we were flooded with calls from all over the USA from people asking where they could buy Slovenian food and gifts!

So, if you have some of these goodies in your town, let us know about them, and even try to make some money re-selling on the bigger ZARJA READERSHIP MARKET!

If we are to spread our heritage, it will be a job for everyone and maybe you can find a very unique way of doing it! Look around your own community and try something new in the New Year 2000! *Editor*

A little introductory comment...

*Rich Terselic, husband of Mary Lou Terselic, president of Br. 103 in Washington, D.C. sent the following "History of the Slana Family" to our former Heritage Director, Irene Odorizzi who forwarded it to ZARJA with the request it be published. Its value lies in the fact that so many of us wish to do a similar piece of work, wish for it, and yet do not have a good formula to follow. Perhaps Rich's "History" can be that outline that can be followed by more of us.*

*The ladies of the Terselic family were members of SWU and still are. Matilda Terselic was recently featured in an article (Sept.-Oct., 1999) submitted by her granddaughter, Susan.*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SLANA FAMILY

by Richard A. Terselic

### Introduction

Following my mother's death in December, 1998 I realized that little had been recorded about the history of our family in this country. At this moment in time only two members of the family remain with us who, by birth or marriage, use/used the Slana name, i.e. our two Aunt Marys. It seems to me to be a worthwhile task to now record – for the benefit of both present and future family members – as much as can be reliably recalled of the family history. Knowing at least something about "roots" can be very important to our perception of ourselves as individuals. This brief history reports information collected from my own recollections, members of my immediate and extended family members, and materials collected by my daughter, Susan Terselic Eckert, during her study of family history during the 1980's.

### Slovenia: home of the Slana and Suhadolc Families

Slovenia, formerly a republic within the country of Yugoslavia, is a free and independent democracy. It is a very small country of about 2 million people, located east of Italy, south of Austria, west of Hungary and north of Croatia (Yugoslavia was comprised of several republics that contained several distinct Slavic groups. It was formed after World War I and remained intact until June, 1991 – when Slovenia declared its independence. To win its independence, Slovenia fought a brief, but successful war with the Serbs who essentially controlled Yugoslavia. Croatia followed shortly afterwards in declaring its independence -- and fought a much longer and costlier war against the Serbs.) Being few in numbers and not militarily oriented, Slovenians were always controlled by some larger power, including the French, Austrians, Italians, and Germans. Slovenians have erected statues mostly of writers, poets and musicians, never military figures – except Napoleon Bonaparte. Their economy has been based on agriculture, mining and forestry. Slovenians have been solidly Roman Catholic for a thousand years or more. Communist control in the 45 years following



**Frank and Frances Slana had six children: Angeline (died at age 8), Mary, Matilda, Leo, Frances and Bernice. All the children were born and raised in the Kenosha-Racine area and graduated from high school. On this 1920 photo they are seen with children, Mary, Leo, Frances and Matilda.**

World War II was directed to stamping out all religious beliefs and practices; while this effort was successful to some extent, the majority of the people today remain loyal to their Catholic faith.

Due to both poverty and the prospect of being conscripted to fight in the wars that took place under the reigns of the various kings or emperors who ruled their land, young Slovenian men in great numbers emigrated to America and other places in the world in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Young women also emigrated in search of their fortunes or to be reunited with their loved ones. It is against this background that Frank Slana and Frances Suhadolc traveled to America. While we do not know from which village Frank Slana came, we believe that it was located near the village of Dobrova, the home of Frances Suhadolc. While Dobrova is a small village in an agricultural, mountainous area, it is only three miles west of the highly sophisticated capital city, Ljubljana. Ljubljana dates back to Roman empire times and was named Emona by the Romans. It was located on one of the main roads between Greece and Rome.

Frank Slana preceded Frances to Kenosha, Wisconsin probably just after the turn of the century. Frank was followed later by his brother, Jerry. Nothing more is known of the history of these two Slanas and, to date, I have been unable to establish any family linkages with the numerous other persons in America who share the family name. An Internet inquiry that I made to one phone listing directory identified 53 Slanas. The only other clues that exist as to Frank's home involve: first, a mention in a postcard sent from Alyce Grabner Bourell to her cousin, Lee Slana. Alyce sent the postcard while on a trip to Yugoslavia during the 1970's and mentioned that she and her husband had visited the village where Frank Slana was born. Unfortunately, she did not list its name. The second clue comes from a recollection of Aunt Mary Slana Prendes that her mother (Frances Slana) said that the mothers of Frances and Frank met after their children were married (in the U.S.) and could travel



to one another's homes within a two hour walk. An unrelated Slana in Slovenia noted to me that the name Slana is common in the northeast section of Slovenia in which the city of Sentilj is located. Slana in Slovenian means frost.

Frances (Frančiška) Suhadolc was the oldest of 14 children. Her parents were Frank and Marija Korenin Suhadolc. The Suhadolc family lived in Dobrova since at least 1800 and the family home was occupied by a Suhadolc family member continuously, at least up to Susan Terselic's visit there in 1980. Much of what I first learned about the Suhadolc family history was a result of Susan's work, and to a greater extent, the work of a cousin in Slovenia, Peter Hawlina. Several years ago he developed an extensive, computer-based family genealogy. The family name, (Suhadolc), means "dry valley." The Suhadolc family in Slovenia is very large and today includes several very accomplished professional people, including Peter, who is the president of the Slovenian Genealogical Society and was the mayor of a modest sized city, Škofja Loka. Other Suhadolc family members include: a medical doctor, architects and university professors. One of the architects, Janez, is also a designer/builder of highly artistic furniture. He designed and built the chairs used by Pope John Paul II during his 1996 visit to Slovenia.

As a result of Susan's work we know much more about Frances Suhadolc's immigration to America than that of Frank. The father of my cousin Anton Suhadolc recalled that he had been at the railroad station for the "send off" of Frances, and those whom she accompanied, on the first leg of their trip - to Italy. She was about 14 years old at the time.

Frances sailed from La Havre, France on May 10, 1902 aboard the steamship LaTouraine. Immigration records note that she was single, a laborer, able to read and write and



Matilda and Anthony Terselic's wedding photo from 1932. Mary Slana, her sister, was the bridesmaid.

traveling to her Uncle Franz in Kenosha. Frances accompanied her aunt, Helena Ambrož. Helena's husband Franz had immigrated to America some time earlier and operated the tavern/boarding house in Kenosha where Frances would be employed. Frances met Frank Slana there in Kenosha and they married when she was 22 years old. Frank built their first house in Kenosha, and they subsequently moved back and forth between Kenosha and Racine two or three times. Frank became a skilled tool and die maker and also drove a "jitney" bus for hire. Frances' sister Mary (two years younger) followed her to this country but the date of Mary's arrival is unknown. No other Suhadolc relations are known to have emigrated to the U.S., however, numerous persons sharing the name are now found across America. For example, I found the Suhadolc name 21 times in a recent search of an Internet phone directory. Most of the people listed lived in northern Minnesota and the Joliet, Illinois areas. (The name Slana was found to occur far more frequently - 51 times on the same Internet directory. This is explained in part in that the name is not only found among Slovenians, but rather among Slovaks as well)

Misfortune befell the Ambrož (Americanized to Ambrose) family and both parents died, leaving as orphans their 5 or 6 children, who ranged in age from approximately 16 to 2. Fortunately, a kind friend of the family, Matthew Vidmar, accepted the task of raising the children. Mr. Vidmar had a long association with the family and had accompanied Franz to this country. (My efforts to secure information from the wife of one of the now deceased Ambrož children has not met with success.)

### The Immigrant Experience

While America was a land of opportunity, life was not easy for immigrants such as Frank and Frances. They started with whatever possessions they brought in their travelling bags. Frances did have the benefit of a family support system, that is, the Ambrož family. However, work was hard and wages were low. The language spoken here was new to them. Outside their circle of fellow Slovenians, they faced overt forms of discrimination and ridicule, mainly from other immigrant groups who had arrived earlier and had established themselves in the community. Southern Wisconsin had been settled earlier by immigrants in great numbers from Germany and the Nordic countries, including Denmark. Later arrivals of Poles, Italians and other southern Europeans found themselves on the lowest rung of the social ladder.

### Closing Comments

*This brief narrative suffers from a lack of first hand data from the family members, long deceased, whose stories went untold. Though limited in scope, hopefully this will provide a rudimentary history description for family members who may have never met some of the people discussed. I have avoided including negative information, presentation of which, I believe would serve little benefit. As occurred in the case of my daughter Susan, hopefully, an interest in family "roots" will encourage other family members to continue the study and further extend this history. \**

# SLOVENIA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Gojko Stare

## Introduction

Slovenia is the land of our ancestors; maybe some of you were born there or are married to somebody with Slovenian heritage.

Slovenia is an old land, but it is a new country. It is refreshing to find somebody that has heard of Slovenia, knows what it is and does not confuse it with Slovakia, Sylvania, Transylvania and who knows what else.

This is not surprising: Slovenia as an independent country is only eight years old. Until recently, Slovenians who visited or emigrated to this country did not carry Slovenian passports. The passports were Austrian before WWI, later they were Yugoslav or maybe Italian; possibly Hungarian.

About 15 years ago I met an elderly lady at a Slovenian function. She claimed to be Austrian. She spoke a Slovenian dialect but not a word of German. To us today Austria is a country where people speak German. Clearly she emigrated before WWI when Austria was a multiethnic empire, not the smallish German speaking country it is today.

This situation, awkward as it is, is not unique. There are numerous ethnic groups that have difficulties asserting their identity to the outside world because they lack a state of their own: Kurds, Ruthenians [Chapel next to the Slovenian one at the Basilica in Washington, D.C. is Ruthenian.]

The Slovenian language is a distinct language within the South Slavic group of languages. The others are Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian and Bulgarian. Nowadays, some people will say that Bosnian is a separate language, but it is very close to Croatian. The differences are less than between British and American English.

The state of Slovenia is slightly larger than New Jersey (8000 square miles) and has two million people. Over 90% are ethnic Slovenians, about 1% are Italian and Hungarian minorities and the rest are recent emigrants from other parts of former Yugoslavia or their descendents.

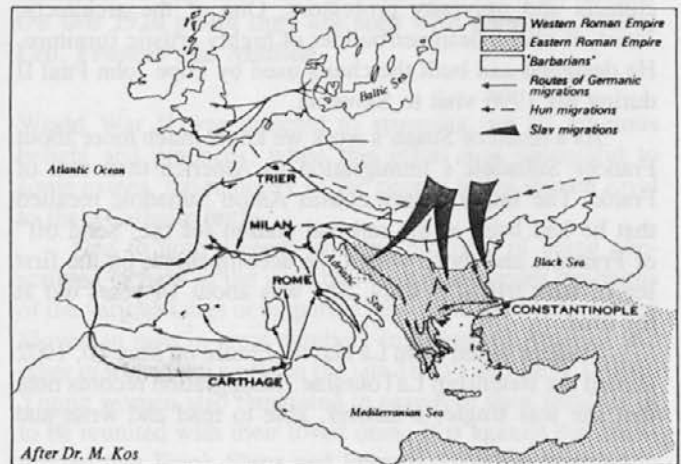
Slovenia lies in southern Central Europe; the northern and western parts of the country are in the Alps; there are plains in the East and hilly areas in central and southern Slovenia. The neighbors are Italy to the West, Austria to the North, Hungary to the East and Croatia to the South East. Slovenia has access to the Adriatic Sea, the coastline is approximately 30 miles long.

Slovenians are very sensitive about being called a Balkan or an Eastern European nation. This association is the legacy of the history after WWI and II. After WWI the Slovenian lands were for the most part incorporated into Yugoslavia, a Balkan country. After WWII Yugoslavia came under the Communist rule like all of Eastern Europe and was consequently labeled an Eastern European country.

For many centuries until WWI the Slovenian lands were politically a part of Central Europe. Historically, culturally, and religiously, Slovenia is a Central European country.

## The Past

There are two theories of the origin of the Slovenian people: The standard theory states that the Slovenian lands were settled by Slavic tribes that had migrated from the areas East of the Carpathian Mountains. Slovenians are not descendents of a single Slavic tribe but are a mixture of Western and Southern Slavic people that moved into the area from the North and the South East respectively. This happened approximately 600 A.D. The name "Slovenci" is a derivative of a generic term for the Slavic people. In their own language Slovaks use the same term for themselves. They also call their country "Slovensko."



*Tribal migration in the 4th and 5th Centuries*

The other theory is more recent and states that Slovenians are descendents of an ancient Slavic people that lived in the area much earlier: Veneti. This theory gained popularity in the eighties. The popularity may have had something to do with the fact that at the time the Belgrade government was increasing pressure to assimilate Slovenians into a more homogeneous Yugoslav nation. This theory supported the Slovenian position that they are different from the rest.

At one time these areas were a part of the Roman empire which had collapsed by the time of the Slav migration. The original inhabitants were Christians, but the Slavic conquest largely wiped out Christianity in the area; Christianity was reintroduced as the state religion about one hundred and fifty years later.

A Slavic state was formed in the first half of the 7th century: Karantanija. It was one of the first if not the first state among the Slavs anywhere. Karantanija was located in what is today southern Austria. The earliest known ruler was a duke by the name Valuk. Karantanija remained an independent state until the middle of the 8th century when it recognized the supremacy of its neighbor, Bavaria about

## About the Author

Gojko Stare is a native of Ljubljana where he studied engineering physics. He came to the U.S. in 1970 to continue studies in physics at Cornell University where he received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. He is also a graduate of The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. He has worked in aerospace and telecommunications industries in New York, California, Arizona, and most recently, in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Stare presented the above at a recent event sponsored by our Br. 103 in Washington. His wife, Angela is our newly elected Youth Activities Director and they have two children.

We are grateful to Nika Kovacic for submitting this important essay to inform our many readers.

The Protestant movement in the 1500's touched the Slovenian lands as well. Protestantism is responsible for the first books printed in the Slovenian language by Primož Trubar in 1550. He was the first to use the term "Slovenci" for the Slovenian people rather than various provincial terms. Prior to Trubar the Slovenian language was used only rarely in medieval manuscripts. He is certainly the "Father of Slovenian Literature" and quite possibly more than that.

The Hapsburgs were staunch Catholics and they expelled Protestants from the Slovenian territory. Protestantism survived only in Prekmurje, the easternmost part of Slovenia, which at the time was under Hungarian rule.



During the Napoleonic wars, the Slovenian territory was for a brief period under French rule. What was significant was that most of the territory was a single administrative unit and the Slovenian language was introduced in schools. This was a precedent for having all Slovenian lands as one entity. Slovenian national awareness grew in the 19th century. In 1848 Slovenians demanded a "United Slovenia" under the Hapsburg crown. This was not achieved and led to increased disillusionment with the Austrian rule.

During the second half of the 19th century and until WWI Slovenians continued pressure for national rights, but to no avail. This finally led to a dissolution of the union with Austria in 1918 and the incorporation into a new country – Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians – Yugoslavia. However, one third of the Slovenian territory ended up in Italy and most of Carinthia was lost to Austria. The new country did not meet their expectations but at least Slovenians got various institutions that had been denied by the Austrian governments: e.g., the University. There was some measure of autonomy.

*To be continued...*

740. These developments are related to the event memorialized in the Slovenian chapel: the baptism of princes Gorazd and Hotimir. They were the son and the nephew of Duke Borut and were sent to the Bavarian court as hostages, raised as Christians and baptized sometime in the years 740-745. They later returned to Karantanija, ruled the country and promoted Christianity.

At approximately the same time another Slavic state existed to the South of Karantanija: Carniola, the territory of present day Slovenia. Both states became a part of the Frankish state of Charlemagne (Charles the Great) and the Holy Roman Empire. This resulted in an influx of German speaking settlers into the territory of present day Austria and separated the Slavic people in the South from the Slavs in the Danube area to the North: the ancestors of Slovaks and Czechs.

A very important event was the ascent of the Hapsburg family to throne of the Holy Roman Empire at the end of the 13th century. This also made them the hereditary rulers of eventually all Slovenian lands. They ruled continuously for almost 650 years until the end of WWI.

In the Middle Ages, the Slovenian lands were divided into feudal entities such as Carinthia, Carniola, Styria, Gorizia, Istria. Except for Carniola they all had substantial non-Slovenian populations: German, Italian and Croatian. The people did not think of themselves as Slovenians but as Carniolans, Carinthians, Styrians. As much as they traveled around they must have realized that their neighbors spoke the same language, but ethnic awareness had not been formed. This was true with other European people as well.

Another important event was the Turkish conquest of the Balkans in the 14th and 15th centuries. This subjected the Slovenian land to frequent Turkish raids, approximately 30 in 130 years. These raiders were not ethnic Turks but Bosnian Muslims. They caused tremendous destruction in property, and killed and enslaved large numbers of people. For instance, in one such raid 15,000 people were taken into slavery.



*Great Carantania*

(Maps from **The Slovenians: FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES**, Draga Gelt, Melbourne, Australia, 1985)

## SWU SCHOLARSHIPS BEING OFFERED for year 2000-2001



\* Four \$1,000 awards will be given to high school seniors entering their freshmen year of college in September 2000.

\* Three \$500 awards will be given to those adults who are returning to college for further education

### Criteria used in evaluations:

- \* Applicant must have been a member of the SWU for the past three years.
- \* More than one member of a family can now receive an award.
- \* More than one branch member can now receive an award in a given year.
- \* Participation in branch activities and promotion of Slovene culture are considered.
- \* Religious, civic, and community activities are part of the evaluation.
- \* Financial needs of applicants are considered. Work records advised.
- \* Transcript of grades, scholastic achievements, recommendations from advisors
- \* Brief biography stating goals, future educational pursuits.

For an application form write to: Mary Turvey, 52 Oakridge Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855.  
The deadline for applications for scholarships is March 10, 2000.



### Scholarship Fund Donations for October and November 1999

**\$5.00 donations:** Adeline Mustonen (†Rose Planton), Bill Slogar (†Rose Matschiner), Bill Slogar (†Frank "Musty" Mosnik), Margaret Deyak (†Rose Pucel), SWU Br. 23, Ely, MN (†Rose Pucel), Be Be Lobe (†Rose Pucel)

**\$10.00 donations:** Br. 95 So. Chicago, IL (†deceased members) Agnes D. Zabak (†Rose Lausche), Agnes D. Zabak (†Mary Zabak)

**\$15.00 donation:** Delores Kodrich (†Lydia Jenich)

**\$25.00 donation:** Agnes Kurnick (†husband, Edward Kurnick)

**\$500.00 donation:** SWU Br. 2, Chicago, IL – Scholarship Fund

May this new time, new beginning in our lives, bring each of us peace, love, and joy as we walk in the love of our Lord.

*Mary Turvey*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS! July 15 – Dec. 15, 1999

Br.	Last Name	First Name	Cert #	Br.	Last Name	First Name	Cert #
2	Newbould-Johnston	Victoria Elise	P1010J	30	Bartels	Sandra	P1015B
2	Corgiat	Russell	P1038B	30	Pouchnik	MaryJo	P1023B
2	Russell	Shelsea	P1037J	30	Rousseau	Antoinette	Social
2	Russell	Shenelle	P1038J	30	Swintosky	Beverly	P1031J
2	Stefanski	Dorothy	Social	30	Swintosky	Emily	P1032J
2	Jankowski	Joan	Social	30	Swintosky	Laura	P1033J
3	Rogers	Mary	P1024B	30	Swintosky	Megan	P1034J
3	Mascarenas	Courtney	P1050	30	Swintosky	Joann	P1035J
20	Karner	Mark	P1012B	35	Cina	Margaret	Social
20	Ferencik	Lauren	P1009J	42	Son	Terry	Social
20	Ferencik	Nancy	P1008B	42	Scott	Joyce	P1018B
20	Potochnic	Naomi	P1004B	42	Jaras	Thomas	P1027B
20	Thomas	Georgianne	P1002B	45	Jackson	Maxene	P1013B
20	Kroviak	Janice	P1000B	47	Hall	Robert	P1044B
20	Philbert	Judith	P1001B	47	Hall	Sky	P1046J
20	Russ	Richard Zeke	Social	47	Hall	Jason	P1045B
20	Stelow	Marie	Social	47	Ford	Linda	P1021B
20	Sabadosh	Mary	P1017B	47	Sostakowski	Barbara	P1020B
20	Bengtson	Barbara	Social	47	Barta	Catherine	P1019B
20	Fenoglio	Lois	P1029B	50	Gibbs	Shari	P1025B
20	Knott	Nancy	P1028B	50	Blackford	Rebecca	P1043J
20	Simonich	Louis	P1047B	50	Kocjancic	David	P1003B
20	Markun	Ivanka	P1048B	100	Zupancic	Leopolda	P1014B
20	Lakotich	Sharon	P1049B	101	Corrao	Carole	P1016B
20	Vranesic	Josephine	Social	102	Verschay	Josephine	Social
24	Henkel	Nancy	P1026B	103	Stare	Veronika	P1007J
24	Supan	Eunice	Social	103	Stare	Andrej	P1006J
24	Lauer	Wendy	P1041B	103	MacKay	Pillon	P1005B
24	Pangrcic	Michelle	P1040B	103	Fitzsimmons	Juliana	P1022J
30	Vorisek	Brian	33858B	103	Hezir	Joyce	P1030B
				103	Jevtic	Ana	P1039B

## BIOGRAPHIES OF PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

RICHARD TURK, Branch 35, Aurora, Minnesota, and winner of a 1982 award was kind to send an update on his career since he entered college.

*"Upon completion of my senior year at Aurora-Hoyt Lakes High School, I enrolled at Bemidji State University with ambitions of a degree in Business Administration. Four years of hard work were highlighted with my diploma and being selected as the outstanding senior in Business Administration. I immediately accepted an outside sales position with Midwest Hardwood Corporation, a small distributor of hardwood lumber. The company at that time had under ten employees and today employs well over 400. I currently hold the General Manager position of the distribution division.*

*I currently reside in the small but rapidly growing town of Big Lake, Minnesota with my wife Shari and three year old daughter Morgan. Shari teaches 4th grade in the local elementary school. Together we do our best to keep the Slovenian traditions alive in our home as my parents did with me. I want to thank the Slovenian Women's Union for their 1982 scholarship as it was a great help in starting out my college education."*

MICHELLE KLANDER, another member of Branch 35, Aurora, Minnesota and winner of a 1988 SWU Award shares her experiences since college:

*"After graduating from Aurora-Hoyt Lakes High School in Aurora, Minnesota, I attended the college of St. Catherine in St. Paul. I graduated in December of 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History and a studio arts minor.*

*In the spring and summer of 1994 I had two wonderful opportunities to travel. The first trip I was to the 1994 National Slovenian Women's Convention in San Francisco. I traveled with my Great Aunt Anna Rose Smolich and other members of Branch 35. My aunt and I had a wonderful week together traveling around the Bay area and I made friends with my local church ladies (and gentlemen!) My aunt has since passed away but am I forever grateful for the opportunity to travel with her.*

*My second trip was a five-week tour of Europe with a college friend (and my first chance to use my art education!) Our adventure took us to twelve countries, extending from England to Austria and Rome, Italy to Oslo, Norway. During this time we visited numerous museums and cathedrals, slept on the trains and made wonderful new friends from all over the world! There were only two regrets on the trip for me. The first being unable to visit Slovenia and the second is missing mass with the Pope when we were in Rome.*

*Since then I have held several career changes. Currently I work for SentraNET, Inc., a small computer networking company. I am a web designer for the Internet and provide administrative assistance to the company pres-*

*ident. In my spare time I have volunteered at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Ramsey Humane Society, walking many of the dogs waiting to be adopted.*

*This past winter I became engaged to be married. My fiancé, Kevin Hubbard and I are to be wed next year at Our Lady of Victoria Chapel on the college of St. Catherine Campus in St. Paul, Minnesota.*

*I wish to thank the Slovenian Women's Union again for the wonderful scholarship. It helped a great deal in funding my education. I am also grateful to the women of my local branch who have been an inspiration to continue our Slovenian traditions and to those I had the pleasure of traveling with to San Francisco."*

RUDY PUCEL, a member of Branch 20, Joliet, Illinois who currently lives in Louisville, Colorado received a scholarship in 1973 and since that time has also achieved many of his goals.

*"I would like to congratulate the Slovenian Women's Union on their 73rd anniversary. I also send my gratitude to the Slovenian Women's Union for generously supporting my college education during the 1973-1974 school years and the beginning of a lifelong learning adventure. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Southern Illinois University in 1977 and a Master of Education from Indiana University in 1984.*

*I've had careers as a professional trumpet player, forester, horticulturist, outdoor adventurer leader, adventure therapist, youth program director, institutional designer, teambuilding and leadership development facilitator, trainer, executive coach and organization consultant.*

*In June of 1994, I began my own company called Acorn Learning which focuses on developing the potential of individuals and organizations through organization development, facilitation, team development and team skills training, leadership development and leadership skills training, facilitator training, and training design and development.*

*My work has taken me to North America, Europe and Asia. One of my most memorable experiences was training individuals from Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Poland, and Slovenia on how to facilitate a democratic process following their declarations of independence. On my trips to eastern Europe, I always take the opportunity to visit relatives in Slovenia.*

*Outside of work I'm a health enthusiast on a daily basis enjoying swimming, biking, hiking, weight lifting, humor and good friends.*

*Thank you for keeping the Slovenian cultural heritage alive and I wish the Slovenian Women's Union continued prosperity."*

# From Our Heritage Kitchens

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## Veda Ponikvar:

As we close the chapter on the last Century and bid farewell to 1999, we step with excitement, anticipation and fear toward the next Millennium.

Where, oh, where have Minnesota's enviable Four Seasons vanished? It is the first of December as I rush to meet the deadline for The Dawn, and it is over forty degrees, with a blue, blue sky and glorious sunshine. Minnesotans enjoy winters of skiing, skating, snowboarding, and snowmobiling. On the threshold of the Holiday Season and the apprehension of what the Year 2000 will bring, we are hoping that the belated snowfalls will come our way for the ground, the trees, and the lakes and rivers need the snowy moisture.

And so, as we prepare to share our recipes with you, our wish for all of you special SWU members and officers is this:

IF...

If all lips spoke the truth,  
All pride was cast aside,  
Greed was packed and stored away,  
And jealousy subside.  
If Love could rule the universe,  
Kindness was sown to every race,  
Then one could glance into a mirror,  
And view God in His face.




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## Pat's Pumpkin Pudding

- 2 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 40)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine melted

### Cream Cheese Layer:

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs

### Pumpkin Filling:

- 1 tbs. unflavored gelatin
  - 1/4 cup cold water
  - 6 egg yolks
  - 3 cups cooked or canned pumpkin
  - 1 1/4 cups sugar divided
  - 1 cup milk
  - 1 tbs. ground cinnamon
  - 1 tsp. salt
  - 1 cup whipping cream
  - 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- Additional whipped cream optional

Combine the first three ingredients. Press into a 13 in. x 9 in. x 2 in. pan, and set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar and eggs until blended; pour over crust and bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack for 1 hour.

Soften gelatin in cold water; set aside. In a small mixing bowl, beat egg yolks until thick and lemon-colored; set aside.

In a saucepan, combine pumpkin, 1 cup sugar, milk, cinnamon, and salt and bring to a boil. Boil for 2 minutes. Stir one cup of hot pumpkin mixture into yolks; return all to pan. Bring to a gentle boil; cook and stir for two minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in softened gelatin. Set pan in ice water and stir until mixture reaches room temperature, about 5 minutes.

In another mixing bowl, beat cream until soft peaks form; gradually add vanilla and remaining sugar. Beat until stiff peaks form. Fold into pumpkin mixture. Pour over the cream cheese layer. Refrigerate for two hours. Serve with whipped cream if desired. 12 to 15 servings.

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*To all of you, wherever you are, may the New Millennium Year fill your hearts with Joy, Peace, Contentment, and Hope.*

Veda

## Sweet Potato Layer Cake

A Southern delicacy from Mary Lou Baske's Kitchen

- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs separated
- 1 1/2 cups finely shredded uncooked sweet potato (about one medium potato)
- 1/4 cup hot water
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups cake flour
- 3 tsps. baking powder
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup chopped pecans

### Frosting:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/3 cups sugar
- 2 cans (5 oz. each evaporated milk)
- 4 egg yolks beaten
- 2 2/3 cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

In a mixing bowl, beat oil and sugar, add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add sweet potato, water, and vanilla, and mix well.

In a small mixing bowl, beat egg whites until stiff; fold into the sweet potato mixture. Combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt and add to potato mixture. Stir in pecans. Pour into three greased 9 in. round cake pans, bake at 350 degrees for 22-27 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for ten minutes before removing to wire racks. For frosting, melt the butter in a saucepan; whisk in sugar, milk and egg yolks until smooth. Cook and stir over medium heat for 10-12 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Remove from heat; stir in the coconut, pecans and vanilla. Cool slightly. Place one cake layer on a serving plate. Spread with a third of the frosting. Repeat layers. Yield: 10 to 12 servings.



# OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



**Shorewood Village President Bertha Hofer picks up her gavel on her way to a meeting!**

*Photo: Scott Strazzante/Joliet Herald News*

## *In politics...*

### *it's also a woman's world*

Some say politics is a man's world – it's rough and tumble sometimes, with many various opinions brought into strong arguments. Is it really? Many women excel in the political arena and one of them is Bertha Planinsek Hofer of Shorewood, Illinois, a town near Joliet. In a recent issue of the Shorewood Herald News, Mrs. Hofer was cited as a person who came up to the top in local politics from very humble beginnings, over 45 years ago. She started as clerk, then became the village clerk in 1961. She's been secretary and office manager at the village hall, filled in as village administrator and appointed and elected to the job of trustee. Last elected in 1997 as the president of Shorewood, a town of some 8,000 residents, Mrs. Hofer is the only female mayor in several counties. This being said, one can imagine that at most political sessions, meetings and negotiations, she's the only woman present. Good luck to her, and many more successful years!

Bertha Hofer was the emcee at Br. 20's big celebration of their 70th anniversary in October 1998. The members are indeed proud of her!



**The Lustik Family**

Wally and Jo Lustik of Br. 20, Joliet, IL celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on October 25, 1998. Wally and Jo (Vidmar) were married on October 25, 1958 at St. Joseph Church in Joliet by the Rev. M.J. Butala. They celebrated with a family dinner and a trip to Las Vegas given by their children.

They are the parents of 3 sons and 1 daughter. Pictured above from the left are: Kevin, Wally, Jo, Marla, Jeff and Darren.

Wally is a retired mechinist. Jo has been a member of Br. 20 for over 50 years, and is involved with many of their activities. Served as National Auditor in 1996 and 1999 and is always the first to volunteer at the Home Office. We send them our very best wishes for many more happy and healthy years!



## **BARAGAN OF THE YEAR** **IRENE KALINA**

Recognized for her dedicated work for the Bishop Baraga Association, Irene Kalina, a member of Br. 2, Chicago, IL received the Baragan of the Year Award for 1999 at the Pilgrimage to Escanaba, MI in September. Congratulations, Irene! On the photo we see her with Fr. Alex Sample, Executive Director of the BBA.

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## Sympathy to the Racic Family



†Josephine Racić

*How many of you know the name of Josephine Racic? She was an integral part of the S.W.U. in its formative years. She passed away in the spring of 1999 and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family, daughters, Marge, Eileen and Marilyn. Josephine's beloved Ivan died many years ago.*

*Our history records show that Josephine was the successor of charter officer, Julie Gottlieb, first as Editor of ZARJA from 1930 until 1933, and then as National Secretary from 1933 until 1939. During this time the main office was in Chicago and ZARJA was published at Edinost Publishing Co. During these very early years Josephine was a Chicago resident with her husband, a famous choir master, composer and organist. We estimate she had reached a distinguished old age by 1999.*

*Each time we think of the oldest SWU officers, it is difficult to see a picture of their faces, but Josephine's lovely face was always recognizable and we are proud to re-print it here so that each of us may say a heartfelt "thank you" and Rest in Peace!*

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL  
Meeting: 2nd Thurs.  
St. Stephen's lower hall

January, 2000.

"Veselo novo leto na zdravje!! in srečno!"

A Happy New Year to everyone. Hopeful that we have heard the last of that horrible "Y2K" scare and hoping that the genius in the computer world have fixed everything.

The year 1999 went by so swiftly, Br. 2 was busy at each of our meetings. All our projects were completed with one exception: planting a tree at St. Mary's Lemont in memory of Percy Morison. This should be done in the spring.

Hope everyone has enjoyed Father Dominic's bread baking program on PBS/TV Wednesday - 2:00 o'clock (Chicago time). It is very interesting and he teaches the finer points of how to knead your bread. It's great watching.

Congratulations to our member, Marie Ovník, who has been very active working in the travel industry for over 50 years and she is still going strong, helping people getting to places they dream of seeing. Besides her job, she is a volunteer at the LaGrange Hospital. If you need any travel info. give her a call.

Please pray for all our members who are on our sick list, those in the hospital, those who are ill, and those who are house-bound: Joyce Bronder, Angie Blatnik, Jean Hraster. Chris Pirman, Irene Kalina, Lou Pesdertz, Tony Trinko, Elsie Melissa (had her 96th birthday Oct. 19), Charles Melissa, also for Bob Melissa who will be moved to the Military Nursing Home and Sophie Srabarnek. Rosary will be said for them to get well soon.

Our condolences to the following families: Jean and Mike Scianna on the loss of Mike's mother; to Mae, Millie and Joe Persa on the loss of their sister Anne; our sympathy also to Gloria Schiffler/Gradishar's family on the loss of her husband/father William Schiffler. He will be missed by the whole

neighborhood because he was very active in the area; to Tina and Glen Schwerin and Grayce O'Regan on the loss of their brother Frank (Pubbie) Puklavetz, who was buried in California.

Connie Cerjak Taylor lost her husband, Terry suddenly. To Connie, her mother, Jean Cerjak, our Recording Sec'y. and sister Karen Blue, our sympathy. As I concluded this writing, am sorry to report the death of 56 year member, Wilma Toplak Sinkovec. Our sympathy to her family sisters and brothers, Mary, Tina, Frannie, John and Frankie. Wilma died on Nov. 30th, the same day her husband, Joseph "Sinks" died several years ago. Se was a good supporter of our Branch and our organization.

May God grant eternal peace and rest to our dear departed.

We are happy we have several new members; all new members for the year 1999 will be listed later. Congratulations for new babies: Anne Bunnetta's great granddaughter, Amy Lapkus, born 11/3/99 and Elsie Ciszek's great grandson, Jacob Daniel Ciszek, 11/12/99.

Corinne Leskovar spoke to us at the IL/IN Convention on a project she is undertaking regarding the history of the Slovenian Women's Union, especially early branches from the early years. Our Founders (ladies) of the S.W.U. were way ahead of the times. In 1926 when this dream began they found a place to meet for the Slovene speaking women. The country and most of the world was a man's world. Men in general did not believe at that time that women should be involved in clubs and our young women had to stand up to tough opposition from neighborhoods, churches and particularly at home by their own husbands. But in 1926, I'm sure with a struggle, a group of young women met in St. Stephen's, and at homes in other cities, and planned and succeeded to organize and have printed a magazine for women in their language. They named the magazine ZARJA - The Dawn. I think they may have thought, maybe, at night you cannot see that well but in the dawn everything comes out right! The first print



was 1928. Corinne said she needs help to get the archive set up at the Home Office. She needs to get any pieces of printed paper of the accomplishments, things that happened, what these people did, who they were, where they came from, any old pictures you may find of old times. If you have pictures of your grandparents, old newspapers about what happened in this organization, and any other showing our members at work or in activities in early times, please send a copy to Corinne. If you would like to help with this project, please contact the Home Office.

"If I knew then what I know now, about what I've always known, I'd say the things I've said before - but in a different tone."

Stay warm and safe during the cold months.

Love,

DAISY

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**NO. 3, PUEBLO, CO**  
**Meeting: 1st Tues.**  
**St. Mary's Church Hall**

---

Greetings! Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas, and we wish you a Happy New Year. It's such a privilege to have lived to see the new Millennium.

The Christmas parties, Soup Festival, St. Nicholas party and Pie Social are all in the past. It was so rewarding to have such a successful event as our Soup Festival, thanks to all the workers and the ladies in our parish, some of whom are members of SWU. They worked so hard during that time. Also, it couldn't have been the success it was if it weren't for the beautiful baked goods that the ladies of our parish and the cluster brought. Then came the Mexican Dinner when the ladies came through so generously with baked goods. As a result, the cluster and the Slovenian library will benefit greatly with the matching funds from St.

Joseph's Lodge 7 and Immaculate Conception Lodge No. 104.

We had our Christmas Party at the Rendezvous Restaurant, December 7. The attendance was good and everyone enjoyed it.

On a happy note, it is so wonderful when couples celebrate 50th wedding anniversaries, but how great it is when three sisters celebrated theirs. Josephine and Charles Perko celebrated theirs in October, 1999, Emma and Ed Novak in August, 1994 and Elsie and Fred Masser in January, 1995.



†Frances Simonich

It is with heavy hearts that we extend our condolences to the family of Frances Simonich. Her loss will be felt by not only her family but many who had the privilege of knowing her. Frances was so devoted to St. Mary's Church and her volunteerism was endless - always willing to help. She joined the Slovenian Women's Union in 1943 and was Branch 3 Secretary and State President for Colorado for many years. May she rest in peace.

Get well wishes are extended to all who are ill, sympathy to those who have lost loved ones and remembered in our prayers are the homebound and their caregivers and those in nursing homes.

Our next meeting will be January 4, 2000. Please try to attend if at all possible.

Happy New Year to all.

PAULINE PAUCHICK

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**NO. 5, INDIANAPOLIS, IN**  
**Meeting: 1st Thurs.**  
**SND, from May to Dec.**

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Our annual holiday meeting and luncheon was held on December 2nd, 1999. We had a very nice turn out. About 20 members attended our event. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the food. Election of officers was held at the meeting. Once again **Phyllis Fon, Dolores Konechnik, and Mary Frances Mohr** were drafted into service.

A mini raffle was held for the benefit of Cardinal Ritter High School. And the winner was **Phyllis Fon**. Phyllis took home a miniature nativity set. Also, **Mary Frances Mohr** had purchased an apron in Slovenia this summer that we used for a door prize. The winner was **Jeanne Miley**, who was very pleased with her prize.

Our annual spring meeting and luncheon date was also set. It will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2000. That gives you plenty of time to plan to attend.

**Member News: Congratulations to me, Barbara Mohr Friesenhahn!!** Yes, that sounds vain, but... I wanted to let you all know that my marriage went off without a problem. Leonard and I were married in Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Indianapolis on October 23, 1999. It was a wonderful day. I am the fourth generation on my mother's side and the third generation on my father's side to be married in Holy Trinity. I am still residing in Texas, but have moved to Austin.

Let me know if you have any member news. You can now reach me at 1109 Red Cliff Dr., Austin, TX 78758 or (512) 821-3178.

Love from Texas,  
**BARBARA MOHR FRIESENHAHN**

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**NO. 10, CLEVELAND, OH**  
**Meeting: 4th Wed. 1 p.m.**  
**SND Holmes Ave.**

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A meeting was held on Sept. 22nd at the Collinwood Slov. Home on Holmes Ave. Plans were made for our annual Christmas party on Nov. 17th.

Our Sunshine Chairman Fay Moro has been on the job for 20 years. We honored her for a job well done. Our get well wishes to Sylvia Jansa, Theresa Ferraccioli, Josephine Sustar-

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sic and Lucy Romik who had hip surgery and is in a nursing home for therapy – and the same to all our ailing members. You are all in our prayers.

The new cookbook, MORE POTS AND PANS is available.

Please notify our secretary-treasurer, Theresa Dagg at 451-1876 if a member has passed away so that we can pay our respects. Also, check your policies for the beneficiary you have chosen – make it up-to-date.

The Christmas party was held at Alexander's Restaurant with 20 members and guests. After our meal the raffle took place and a beautiful afghan, the annual donation of our twins, Joyce LeNassi and Fay Moro was won by our secretary-treasurer, Theresa Dagg. Congratulations. Also, we thank all the ladies who brought gifts which were raffled.

Lucy Kolodosky had a birthday in December. Many more, Lucy! Get well to all our members.

A very happy New Year to all members from Br. 10!

ANN STEFANCIC

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**NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI**  
**Meeting: 3rd Thurs.**  
**St. Peter's Church Hall**  
**except July & Aug.**

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After all the phone calls, I'm convinced that I am doing something right! No article in the last issue. I did write one, but it must be lost somewhere. My first call was to ask me, "did you break your arm?" I couldn't imagine what she meant as I had not yet received my ZARJA. Sorry, folks! I hope it never happens again!

Our Sept. meeting was well-attended and two of our officers had a birthday – a few other members did, too. So, they dug deep into their pockets and paid for sub sandwiches for all. What a treat! I won't mention names here as I may miss someone. But, thank you to all from the bottom of our hearts!

In Oct. we lost two members, very good ones, indeed. Mary Pontar passed away; she had been living near Walders, near her daughter. Sympathy to the family. On the day of Mary's funeral, Lydia Jenich suddenly passed away on her way home from Branson. Lydia was in charge of our lunch at the meetings and she did a terrific job al-

ways, getting bargains to keep the costs down. I'm sure she is running around up in heaven to see that all the angels get fed and along the way she'll dry pieces of cheese for the cats who run on roller skates! At the funeral mass the priest mentioned something that I wish I had heard before as it would have made a good story. Lydia and George were generous to Habitat, buying nails and supplies. Christmas Eve was for family, but on Christmas Day Lydia was out at the kitchens helping to feed the poor and old. Such generosity – to give herself and her time to someone else when she could have been celebrating with family and friends. She will be missed. To her family and sister, Sylvia Kotze, our member, deepest sympathy. May Mary and Lydia rest in peace.

We had a visitor at our meeting from the Virgin Islands! Molly Macht's daughter, Carol Sibilby really enjoyed herself.

Our Nov. meeting brought out 40 members. Election of officers. Same people accepted. Thank you, Tony Starich for your wine in memory of Mary. He is generous to us every month. Virginia Strukel will take over the kitchen with some help from our generous ladies. Rose Lorek missed the meeting due to back problems. Join the crowd, Rose, and thanks for the donations I stopped by to pick up.

A very happy New Year to all!

MARY KIEL

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**NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
**Meeting: 1st Thurs.**  
**Slovenian Hall on Mariposa St.**

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Have just returned from our December meeting and Christmas party. It was a lovely day and so good to see members whom we haven't seen for awhile.

At the meeting, Evelyn Brandi moved to retain our same slate of officers and it was passed – the officers again graciously accepting. Thank you for holding us together, ladies, all these past years!

On our Calendar for 2000 we will meet the first Thursday of each month. Bring a bag lunch and dessert is provided. In February we will have a Valentine Party; in May, our Mother's Day Brunch; June our "Hello to Summer

Luncheon". We have no meetings in July and August and get back together in September.

Betty Doherty's grandson, Paul Warren is getting married in 2000. They recently celebrated an Engagement party.

We are saddened to hear of Sophie Ostrasko passing away. Another long time member gone.

Secretary Moreen Spencer's husband Don is doing better but has a difficult road ahead. We all miss you, Moreen and our thoughts and prayers are with both of you.

Same good wishes to all our members on the sick list.

I will remain Reporter for ZARJA but I can't write an article without news from YOU – so please let me know what's happening – call (650) 631-1098.

Please try to come to our meetings this year. I promise you will enjoy the afternoon and leave feeling much better.

*One does not go out into the world in search of friendship...*

*Friendship is something that happens naturally, when the time is right, like a rainbow in the sky.*

BEVERLY JACKSON

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**NO. 14, EUCLID, OH**  
**Meeting: 1st Tues., 6 p.m.**  
**Slov. Society Home**

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It's with a heavy heart that we write this column. Martha 'Marty' Koren, our hard working President of No. 14 for the past 11 years, passed away on Saturday, November 13th at Euclid Hospital. Marty had had successful surgery on both knees at the hospital but suffered a fatal stroke within a few days.

She was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Euclid Vets. Marty was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Slovenian Home in Euclid and could be seen working in the kitchen helping prepare meals in the Recher Hall Club Room. Marty was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the SNPJ Farm Board, member of SNPJ No. 604 Utopians, and Progressive Slovene Women of America #1.

Martha is survived by her husband, Edward; son Henry "Bud" Purcell, sis-

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***Congratulations!***  
***These branches are***  
***celebrating the***  
***70th Anniversary***  
***in this year, 2000!***

**Br. 38, Chisholm, MN**  
**Br. 39, Biwabik, MN**  
**Br. 40, Lorain, OH**  
**Br. 42, Maple Hts., OH**

---

ter, Sarah Gentile; brother Lloyd Pifer (AL); step children Linda Tarasco, Kellie Koren, Jeffrey Koren, Kenneth Koren, grandchildren Justine, Brandon, and Jason. She was the stepsister of David Pifer, Barbara and Judy.

Martha was preceded in death by husbands Henry J. Purcell and Henry Hunter, and brothers Alfred, Jr., Charles, Earl, Donald and Virgil.

Services for Martha Koren were held on November 17 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and burial at All Souls Cemetery.

Our deepest sympathy to Ed Koren and family. We pray that our merciful Lord and His Mother Mary keep Marty in Their comforting arms.

We did not hold elections in November as planned, and since we don't hold meetings in January and February, Jennie Fitzthum, who was Vice Pres., will preside as our interim President until our next election.

Congratulations also to Jennie Fitzthum on the arrival of a great grandson Nathan, who was named after Jennie's late husband. Baby Nathan is the son of member Peggy and Matthew, and grandson of member Marilyn and Jim. Best wishes to all!

Condolences to the families of Ann Pozar and of Frances Ferfilla, a member of 40 years. God grant eternal rest to our faithful departed.

Get well wishes to Mary Gerl who had a fall and broke her foot. Speedy recovery wishes to Mary and all of our ill members.

Heartfelt wishes to all for Valentine's Day!

Alice Kuhar

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**NO. 16, SO. CHICAGO, IL**  
**Meeting: 2nd Saturday, 1 p.m.**  
**monthly except Jan.-July-Aug.**  
**St. George's Hall**

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Greetings dear members – we made it to the new Millennium!

Our holidays are over and hopefully we will have a successful fraternal year. Father David installed our officers at the Nov. meeting and gave them the reins to lead us forward. We also welcomed two guests at that meeting, our State President, Genevieve Buol and her sister, Dolores Puhek. They are from Br. 2. Gen is a good speaker and hopefully some of her ideas will come to fruition. Thanks for your visit, ladies!

We had a lovely Christmas party at Gladdini's on Dec. 8th. A total of forty-three members were in attendance – 28 members and 15 friends. Our entertainers were Fr. David on accordion and John Kremerich on his keyboard. What a sing-a-long we had! We also had a grab-bag, and one of the "hot" prizes was a loaf of raisin bread baked by Fr. David himself! He actually brought it there – fresh from the oven! Mary Therese "gloomed" it, but would not share! A good time was had by all, but we did miss so many of our dear members who no longer can come to meeting or our parties. God love you.

How is this for love? "Buns" Strubel's daughter-in-law drove to Chicago from Rochester, MN alone with three little children to visit grandma and grandpa. The youngsters are Samantha, 5, Suzanne, 3 and Stephen, 17 months. God bless you, Susan!

Mary Jane and John Strus became grandparents to No. 7, Sarah Michelle. Her brother, Joey, welcomed her at home. She was christened by her cousin, Fr. Paul Novak, the son of our member, Fran, who is the great-aunt to baby Sarah.

Congratulations and best wishes to newly-weds (Dec. 4th) Mr. & Mrs. John Franko. John is the son of our Dolores Franko.

Gladys, Dotsi and Jim took a tour bus to Branson, MO where they enjoyed shows and the Christmas lights. A bonus of the trip was a stop in Springfield, MO to have lunch with

our Mary Brozovich, who moved there recently. We miss you, Mary.

Our Vida is recovering from sinus surgery. Dotsi Rossi's knee surgery is over and hopefully they are fully recovering.

Marie Vidovich and Jo Hester are both at Holland Home, 16300 Louis Ave. in So. Holland, 60473. I am sure they would appreciate a card, visit or a call, and please say a prayer for them. Dale Schwer, husband of Pat, and Ann Lustig's son-in-law was in a very bad auto accident. He will be in rehab for a long time. Remember him in your prayers.

Fr. Raphael Sesek went to his eternal rest on Nov. 21st. He was pastor at St. George Church for many years. A mass for him was concelebrated by Bishop Berry and Franciscan Fathers, Athanasius, Vendelin, David and Fr. Keating. He was laid to rest in Lemont on Nov. 27th. Many St. George parishioners went to Lemont for the burial. May he rest in peace.

Our dear friend, Mary "Martz" Bublich passed away on Oct. 26th. She was a member for 57 years! Martz was a really kind person, a fun loving lady, very creative, a good bowler, and attended every meeting until she became ill. She didn't have any children but her pallbearers were nieces and nephews and great nephews. Valerie Koleno and Denise Maggio, her nieces, were the readers. A eulogy was given by another niece, Lenette Bublich. Rest in peace, dear friend and member.

Our dear friend, John Blazovich passed away on Nov. 22nd. He was a very staunch supporter of our branch. As long as his Josephine lived, he attended many of our parties where there would be men present. After she passed away, John came to our May and Christmas parties. John was conversant on any subject and especially enjoyed it when Josie and I did the famous "Half-in-pol" skits. A memorial mass for John was on Dec. 11th at St. George's. Our condolences to daughter, Joyce, his grandchildren and great grandchildren, also to his sisters and brother. May he rest in peace.

Next meeting is Feb. 12 at St. George Hall – please come! Love,

MARGE PREBIL

# REMEMBRANCES OF MEDJUGORJE...

*Dear Friends,*

We wanted to write and tell you of our experience in Medjugorje, a village near Čitluk in western Hercegovina. We visited there on our tour this fall, with twenty-six people, mostly Slovenian and from the Joliet - Chicago - Washington area. I am sorry to admit that I knew very little about the story of Medjugorje, except that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to six young children there beginning in 1981. (Since then I have been reading a book that explains in detail much, much more.) The Blessed Mother asked these children to tell the people of the world to pray for peace and to amend their ways. This was 10 years before the awful wars in that area.

Leaving Dubrovnik, on the Dalmatian coast, on the morning of Sept. 9th, we motored towards Čitluk, approaching the area where the war for independence in 1991-92 was fought. Whole towns of 60-70 homes destroyed by fire had only the outside walls left standing. In the larger towns, the cement buildings were bullet-ridden with hundreds and hundreds of holes. Apparently, they didn't listen to our Blessed Mother. Her message was somewhat in vain, as far as the war was concerned. Two million people or more have come to Medjugorje over the years. (I get very emotional telling this story.) I decided to write it to try to bring you the picture of what Art and I experienced, and so that I will not forget anything.

We arrived at Medjugorje later that morning and we were all rather solemn on the bus, due to what we were viewing, and I spent most of it praying my rosary. We disbursed, Art and I had some lunch, and then went to buy a few religious items. Some people were disillusioned by the large number of "pensions" or rooming houses and hotels, and the many shops. They are all very generic by our standards of motels and shopping malls. The shops containing religious items had nothing frivolous to sell. I felt that these shops cater to many people who look for souvenirs as a necessity to their travels.

Art and I stopped at St. Jacob the Apostle church and prayed our rosaries. We then went to our pension to check in with the group and at 4 o'clock met our tour guide, a lovely young woman who spoke to us in English and answered all our questions as she accompanied us up to Apparition Hill where the Blessed Mother first appeared to the children. She was wearing a cap, had a backpack and wore heavy shoes, whereas we were dressed casually, and I had a moment of worry about where she was taking us and how we would handle any hard climbing. We found the path going up approximately half a mile long and six feet across to be very rocky and it seemed there were no footholds. On both sides were thorny bushes. We started up and only stopped to pray each decade of the rosary where we saw a monument-type stone depicting one of the mysteries. At the last decade we also sang in Slovenian, "Lepa si, lepa si, roža Marija" and prayed the Hail Mary in Slovenian. We were very emotional. Some in our group said that this was the most beautiful moment for them. Most of us

were crying during this last portion of the climb. I offered up my pilgrimage for those close to my heart and in need. I've never asked our Lord or Mary for anything for myself, only forgiveness of my sins and to thank them for every blessing we have.

It took approximately 45 minutes to arrive on top. There were many other people besides our group congested around the large simple cross. Ahead was a hill of stones where the Blessed Mother first appeared. This cross is the original one placed there after the first apparition and it will be replaced permanently when and where the Blessed Mother tells us.

People were all taking photos and Art and I were still a distance away. After a few minutes of trying to steady ourselves as we stood on the sharp rocks, we heard the cries



**Apparition Hill**

and shouts of a group of Italian pilgrims ahead of us. They were ecstatic with joy, extending their arms toward the sun. There were no clouds near the sun, it was bright and the sky was clear blue, like our son Tom's eyes. Later on, our Chicago tour leader told us these people said they saw a cross in the sky. I was somewhat disappointed because I saw nothing, altho I was looking for Her figure or appearance. Then I spotted a darkening in the center of the sun, but it was not distinguishable to me. The sun began to take on a silvery cast, making it possible to stare at it, even without blinking. Usually, it's impossible to look directly at the sun for any length of time. There was a bright halo around the sun, vividly dancing in points, very fast, giving the illusion that the sun was rotating. At the same time it began to pulsate, very sharply, very rapidly, deep into the center where the darkened area was. It looked similar to pictures we've seen of a pulsating human heart and was in perfect rhythm. Very excited and choked up, I shouted to Art who was about four feet ahead of me. "Look at the sun, Art, look at the sun!" He said, "I see it, I see it!" So did about ten others around us from our group, (our tour guides, a couple touring with us who were from the D.C. area,

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## A GLIMPSE OF SLOVENIA IN '99

*Alice Kuhar*

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several officers of the Slovenian Women's Union and a couple of friends from our Joliet area) and those excited, emotional Italians who apparently looked up in the sky and saw it, too. The sun would have been the last place we would have looked. We stood almost transfixed on our spots, not moving, discussing aloud what we were witnessing and it was the same for all of us. I had asked the Blessed Mother earlier for some kind of sign to help me understand a difficult period in my life. However, had I been the only person to see it, I would have questioned my imagination! I didn't ask anyone else their intentions or what they prayed for, but I am sure everyone prayed for some special needs. We were all overjoyed with excitement.

Eventually, maybe after seven or eight minutes (some thought a little longer), a small cloud drifted over the sun momentarily, but again, the sun got bright, too bright to look at. We can't explain it, we can only be happy about our wonderful experience. This group of almost all Catholics didn't need any assurances from the Blessed Mother, we are all believers. But, it certainly deepens and strengthens us and encourages us to tell people to pray, even more than you already do, for world peace and harmony.

On the way down the hill we passed many people who were walking up barefoot; we don't know how they did it. We returned to the church for rosary and mass that evening. The church was solidly packed with people and hundreds, including us, were standing outside. In that church where the Blessed Mother also appeared to the children, in one of the rooms, people flock every day.

The following morning our Medjugorje guide took us to see one of the visionaries, a young man who spoke for about 20 minutes with the interpreter. He was feeling ill and looked it, too. I think that after almost 20 years of these questions and answers and being picked apart, the visionaries have probably had it. Some people mentioned that they saw he had a nice home and car.

As I stated before, I read a book upon my return home and I know a little more about Medjugorje and the appearance of Our Lady. I had no idea that She had appeared to the visionaries hundreds of times, had conversations with them, and that others had experiences. The Blessed Mother revealed many mysteries to them as well as world happenings for the future. They have not all been told as yet, and she still appears to some of them. Two pages in the book referred to events of the sun "dancing" on Apparition Hill, similar, but not that same as our experience.

We also had a memorable day at Maribor in Slovenia for the Beatification of Slovenia's first saint, Bishop Anton Martin Slomšek. We had near-front tickets, thanks to our dear friend, Father David Shrumph, formerly of Maribor and now the Director of the Slovenian Catholic Mission in Lemont. (He is also a former assistant at St. Joseph's Church here in Joliet.) We were amazed at the number of people and the devotion of the large crowd on hand to greet the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. And, we felt blessed.

*Nikki and Art Hrvatin, Joliet, IL*



Just returned from a few weeks in Slovenia and found that it has blossomed under its independence. If it has been a few years since you visited Ljubljana and stayed at either the Union or Lev Hotels, you would be greatly surprised at their newly remodeled and brand new appearance. Union Hotel is now a four-star and Lev Hotel a five-star Intercontinental Hotel. Both very plush and elegant. Lev Hotel bellboys were attired in snappy blue and gold uniforms. (Finally, washcloths are now available in most hotels!)

Exchange rate for the tolar was about 170 tolar to one U.S. dollar. Prices in stores and restaurants are comparable in prices here in Cleveland. Stopped in Zlatarog Hotel in Bohinj for steaming hot goulash with ajdove žganci (buckwheat crumbles) and a glass of apricot juice for about \$2.50. A cup of Espresso in the hotel was \$1 and Cappuccino \$1.10.

Stopped at Avsenik's Gostilna in Begunje to hear the "Hišni Ansambel" (house band) where we were delighted to see good friend Niko Zlobko playing bass with the group. Niko previously played with the Lojze Slak Ansemlje. What a special treat to see and hear Slavko Avsenik join the ensemble for a few tunes!

Dined at the gostilna on meat-stuffed žlinkrofe bathed in a mushroom sauce as an appetizer. Then it was succulent pork roast, breaded turkey cutlet, home fries, and a mixed vegetable salad, ending up with warm apple strudel for dessert. All this delicious food washed down with Rose wine. Rose and Zinfandel wines are now becoming quite available in cafes and restaurants.

Stopped in at the Zupan accordion factory in Mengeš where we received a tour of the museum by Denis Novato, World Champion Button accordionist. Denis, whose parents are Slovenian, lives in Trieste. He showed us a Year 2000 model button accordion built by Zupan. This magnificent accordion had pearl gold buttons instead of the usual ivory buttons. When the accordion was extended, the picture of a peacock could be seen on the bellows. The cost of this top-of-the-line accordion when it goes on sale will be approximately \$6,000 with a less elaborate one at \$3,000.

Denis Novato, who teaches button accordion at Zupan's, also showed us a set of accordion straps which he designed especially for the comfort of these musicians. These straps aren't sold separately, but are attached directly onto the musician's accordion.

The word 'okay' seems to have been adopted by most Slovenians and 'wow' is also quite common especially by the young folks.

Old names from years ago are now being given by young couples when naming their new babies. The names I came across were Lovro (Lawrence) also Urh and Anše (Janez).

*(To be continued)*

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**NO. 20, JOLIET, IL**  
**Meeting: 3rd Tues.**  
**except June to Sept.**  
**St. Joe's Park Hall**

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Dear members,

The church of Joliet celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its establishment and the 25th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of the Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, D.D. Bishop of Joliet in Illinois, Oct. 13, 1999. General intercessions were given in several different languages and our member, Lillian Cepon, dressed in her Slovenian garb, gave one of the general intercessions in Slovenian. All the Bishops of the Diocese of Joliet were in attendance and the Director was Fr. Tom Paul. It was at the Cathedral of St. Raymond and was very impressive and wonderful to behold.

Our branch 20 members that attended the State Convention in LaSalle said what a good time we all had! Thanks to all the committee members who worked so hard to make it a great success.

The JCA extended its congratulations to 1999 Service Award recipient, Dorothy (Juricic) Brown. It was at this year's style show, "Runway '99", at the Empress Grand Ballroom in Joliet and was a huge success.

The Elks Club recently had a benefit to renovate the pool and it was supported by many of our SWU members and Chuck and Margie Franz were in charge. It was a huge success and the spaghetti was so good, they ran short of food. Chuck and Margie had to eat at McDonald's on the way home (just kidding)!

Congrats to Chet and Bernadine Rutkowski on the birth of their new granddaughter and to Marge Grayhack, the great aunt. Also, congrats to Marge Lauch, grandmother of a new grandson.

Congratulations on the weddings of Deborah Lynn Vicich and Robert J. Zelinski, Oct. 9th; also Mary Ann Papesh to Patrick McGinnis, Nov. 6th; both weddings were at St. Joseph's, a beautiful church. (It's a wonderful church to be married in. I know 'cause most of us SWU's were married there!)

40th Anniversary congratulations to Anthony and Julie Kaluza and to Anthony and Mary Mihelich. 45th An-

niversary for Louis and Carol Clavenna, and last but not least, 50th Anniversary for William and Theresa Gerencher. A get well wish to Jim Metesh. Hope he is in good shape when he gets this wish!

We offer our sympathies to the family of Justine Gregorich who passed away Sept. 27 and the family of Sadie M. Kathen on Oct. 16.

Our attendance drawing was won by Rhonda Policandriotes, however, she was not there, so \$40.00 will be our next drawing.

Hope you all had nice holidays. I will be thinking of all of you from beautiful Arizona visiting with daughter and son and their families.

As usual, I ask you to keep me informed of all of your happenings. Just call or write to me - call 727-3177 or write to 1120 Ingalls Ave., #1, Joliet, IL 60435.

KATHY STONICH

---

**NO. 24, ELY, MN**  
**Meeting: 1st Monday**  
**St. Anthony's Church Hall**  
**Sept. thru May**

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There were only 12 members in attendance at our November meeting but much business was accomplished and we enjoyed the visiting and refreshments after the meeting. Correspondence was read from our new State President, Genevieve Buol, Mary Senica for her 50 year pin and a nice note from the members of Branch 89, Oglesby.

Betty Stack reported that she has a name of a child and will purchase a Christmas gift and deliver it to Catholic Social Service. Betty, Adele Gensler, and Minnie Carter will prepare fruit baskets and deliver them to the local shut-ins. Christmas Mass and Novena cards will be sent to out of the area members who are shut-ins. Loretta Story and her sister, Frances Kasik told of their plans for the Christmas party. The members who attended enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Paramount Club, had a gift exchange, and a very good time was had by all. We thank Loretta and Frances for taking on the responsibility of our Christmas party and doing an excellent job.

It was sure good to see Theresa Wellner back in church and looking so

well after her surgery. She has been playing the organ and it sounds good.

Janice Mueller's daughter Michelle was married to Michael Pangrcic on October 30th in Resurrection Church. We congratulate the newlyweds and wish them much happiness. It was a very lovely wedding and Janice and Jerry now have all three of their daughters married. Janice has enrolled both of the twins, Michelle and Wendy Lauer into membership in our Branch. We welcome them and hope to see them at some of our meetings and activities.

Loretta and Joe Story are the proud grandparents of Sarah Catherine who was born on October 26th in Springfield. Congratulations to the happy parents, Patty and David Hughes.

Rev. Bernard Horzen had another honor given to him in October when he attended the La Salle City Council meeting and Mayor Art Washkowiak presented him with the Studs Terkel Humanities Award. Sponsored by the Illinois Humanities Council, this award recognizes outstanding efforts on behalf of the humanities in local communities. Mayor Washkowiak nominated Father Bernard for serving the Illinois Valley area for over 50 years of innumerable services to our area. Father received an engraved medal of recognition.

We sadly report the death of Mildred Welch, who died following a three month illness in her home on November 15th. Her funeral Mass was held in St. Joseph's Church in Peru with burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery. May God grant her Heavenly Peace. Thank you to the ladies who said the Funeral Ritual at the funeral home. Our sympathy to her husband, Gerald, children Bonnie Morris and Gary (Bonnie) Welch. Four grandchildren also survive her. Matthew Onderko of Galesburg, father of our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. John Onderko, passed away on November 26th in his home. We offer our sympathy to Father John and pray for God's peace for his father.

We want to remember our January birthday celebrants: Claire Wangler, Janice Mueller, Cathy Jo Lenkitis, State Vice President, and Linda Struna. In February, Irene Mauser, Sharon Brady, Theresa Savnik, and Anne Wangler will add another year. Happy birthday to all in the new century--the new Millennium.

We won't meet in January or February in anticipation of bad weather but look forward to seeing you on March 16th as we resume our regular meetings.

ANNE MARIE WANGLER  
Reporter

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**NO. 25, CLEVELAND, OH**  
**2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.**  
**St. Vitus Social Room**

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Dobro Jutro and Dober Dan! Hope your holidays were enjoyable. Now back to the business at hand. Our November 14, 1999 meeting opened with prayer and I did the recitation. Our Audit Committee did the audit and all was in good condition. Thanks to Ann Clemence and Peggy Moore who kept such great books. At the last convention, Peggy Moore took the notes... Thank you.

Our election took place. A motion was on the floor by Fran Piletic that the same people, with their consent, continue with the same board. It was passed and all the present officers kept their offices. How wonderful to have such a wonderful group heading our Union: President Fran Gazvoda; V.P. and Historian Jo Perpar; Secretary, Peggy Moore, Sunshine Ann Clemence; Treasurer, Jan Krivacic; Recording Secy. and Publicity in the ZARJA Magazine Emilee Jenko; Auditors: Gene Drobnic and Emilee Jenko.

At the Ohio-Michigan convention held Sept. 1999, Fran Gazvoda was President and Peggy Moore, V.P.

Get well wishes to Frances Hocevar and Danica Chemas. Both these wonderful ladies had surgery. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers... also just heard that Vera Hlad has had some tests taken and probably by this writing will also have surgery. God bless all. Glad to see Albina Pozelnik up and about. Stay that way. We always enjoy having you attend our meetings.

We purchased tickets for the geneology project from the Slovenian American National Art Guild. All proceeds benefit the National Archives in Slovenia.

Our Christmas party was held Dec. 10, 1999 at Sterless Country House and was well-attended.

Happy birthday to all in December,

January and February... myself included. Many happy returns... and God be with you!

Hope Gene Drobnic is enjoying her stay in Florida with her children and grand kids. We miss you. You celebrated your birthday on November 30th with your family. That was nice.

I received a call from Frances Cimperman who resides on the west side. She and I had a very nice chat and she was interested in purchasing a cook book. She will call President Fran Gazvoda for the details. She wished all Happy holidays.

Dates to remember - Feb. 12: Lincoln's birthday. Feb. 14: Valentine's

Day. Buy your sweetie something sweet. Feb. 21: President's Day... the official birthdays for all on Feb. 22nd. March 8 is Ash Wednesday.

To all who are on the sick list, bedridden, housebound and in the hospitals and in nursing facilities, our thoughts and prayers are with you always!

To all who were laid to rest this past year... rest in peace and may their memory be eternal.

We adjourned with prayer and commenced to play Bingo.

Thought for the day... *Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.*

Love you all. Till we meet again.

EMILEE JENKO



The above photo was sent to me by Reverend Father Joseph Boznar, pastor of St. Vitus Church on Glass Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. While on sabbatical in Rome he met with our Beloved Holy Father Pope John Paul II. Father Boznar returned home in December.

*Submitted by Emilee Jenko*  
SWU #25, Cleveland, Ohio

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**NO. 32, EUCLID, OH**  
**Meetings: Every 3rd Wed.**  
**March to June;**  
**September to December**  
**Euclid Public Library 6:30 p.m.**

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Good day ladies. On November 17th, 1999 we had our annual election of officers. Two positions are available and they are Vice President and Recording Secretary and Reporter. If anyone is interested in any of these positions please contact one of our members. Thank you. Congratulations to all officers who were voted in.

Happy New Year to all. Please keep in mind we do not meet January or February. The next scheduled meeting will be held on March 15, 2000. The meeting is still at the Euclid Public Library, however, we will be meeting in a larger room called the Shore Room. The time is 6:30 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month for the following months: March, April, May, June, September, October, November, and December. Please try to come we need your support. After every meeting we have coffee, tea, pastry and fellowship. We even play games and have prizes. So come and join in the fun. Hope to see everyone there.

Please keep in mind the following  
**JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2000 /21**

members and their families. Lavonia Avitt is recuperating slowly from a fall. Anna Tekavec passed away recently. May she rest in peace and the angels guide her on her journey.

Josephine Gornik visited India on a trip for fifteen days. Wow! Good for you, Josephine! It's an adventure that you will never forget.

Happy birthday to all of our members who have or are going to celebrate a birthday in January or February. Many blessings are being sent your way.

Ladies, it has been a pleasure serving you this past year. I enjoyed my position and giving you the details of the upcoming events. It is time for me to say goodbye. I hope you all have a wonderful new year. It shall bring us new beginnings. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts as well as news with you. Take care of each other and yourselves. God Bless.

Love,

ADRIENNE JAGER

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**NO. 33, DULUTH, MN**  
**Meeting: 1st Wed.**  
**St. Elizabeth's Church**

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Our 70th anniversary was celebrated with a Polka Mass followed by dinner. Any one who did not attend really missed on a very memorable time.

The Frankie Bucar Band and Singers not only did a superb job at mass but also entertained during the whole delicious dinner, ending with "requests" for many favorites of the group.

At the Nov. 3 meeting all officers were returned to office. Peggy Collard was chosen as Mother of the Year.

Prayers are sent to all sick members which includes our "Sunshine Lady" Virginia Mikrut.

Our Christmas Party Potluck Dinner and Dime Social will be reported on in the next issue.

Have a very good New Year!

LOIS PELANDER, Reporter

**Discover something  
about your heritage!**

**Get the new**

**MORE POTS AND PANS!**

It's more than a cookbook! It's a glimpse into your Slovenian folk culture!

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**NO. 35, AURORA, MN**  
**Meeting: 6 per year**  
**Community Sr. Center**

---

We did not have a meeting in October but we did celebrate our S.W.U. 70th Anniversary on Oct. 10th. It was held at Holy Rosary Parish Hall. Before we started the festivities prayers were said for our deceased members and those who are ill and in nursing homes.

Marlys Rabb carried out the fall theme in decorations including the centerpiece for the head table. Favors were: crosses laced with ribbon by Dorothy and Dottie Jamnick, prayer cards by Kathleen Wheeler, wrapped surprise packages by Anita Vovk and notes pads and pens by Connie Menart. Each place setting had a plate of walnut potica and apple and cheese strudel. Steve Perpich and his concertina entertained us during the social hour and dinner.

Fr. Joseph Sirba led us in saying Grace and it was then time to enjoy the ethnic buffet prepared by our ladies.

Mayor Vincent Lacer welcomed everyone to Aurora and said that even tho he was part Finnish he was familiar with all the ethnic Slovenian foods which his mother always prepared. He also plays the button box!

Our guest speaker, Jean Korsman, who just returned from her first trip to Slovenia, told us about meeting her relatives there for the first time, being present for the Beatification of the first Slovenian saint, Anton Martin Slomšek, and seeing our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. And, so much more! Thanks, Jean, for sharing all these experiences with us! Wish we could have been there, too!

Br. 35's history was related by Dorothy Jamnick and Anna Hodnik and a display of our scrapbooks and albums brought back many memories.

To bring our celebration to a close, Anita Vovk and Anna Hodnik led us in a Slovenian sing-a-long, and then it was time for the prize drawings: Charlotte Laurich, State President won the new SWU cook, MORE POTS AND PANS, Janice Grebence took home a SWU Tote Bag and Jennie Klune was happy with her SWU Apron! All wonderful prizes! Enjoy them, ladies!

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way and made this a day to re-

member. Special thanks to chairman, Anita Vovk, co-chairman, Dorothy Jamnick, to Marlys Rabb for decorations, Kathleen Wheeler for the beautiful centerpiece which was presented to Jean Korsman and to Historian, Janice Grebence who brought all the scrapbooks and albums up to date for this display. Thanks to everyone who came to celebrate with us, including our newest member, Margaret Cina.

Closing prayers were led in Slovenian by Anita Vovk.

An enjoyable day was spent with Br. 33 in Duluth as they celebrated their 70th Anniversary on Oct. 16th. Minn. State President, Charlotte Laurich, State Sec'y.-Treas. Dorothy Jamnick and yours truly had a marvelous day with our sister members there. Thank you!

Congratulations to Junior member Janelle Antilla who was Mesabi East High School's Homecoming Queen.

Congratulations to our Mesabi East Girl's Volleyball team. They won 3rd place, AA State Championship and the Sportsman Award. You have had a wonderful year and we are so proud of you!

Assistant Coach Rose Antilla and junior members, Janelle Antilla and Katie Martinetto are a part of this winning team.

Congratulations to our junior member, Caroline Hodnik, who is an altar server and doing a fine job.

Happy wishes for the new year, 2000!

ANNE M. ORAZEM

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**NO. 38, CHISHOLM, MN**  
**Meeting: 1st Wed.**  
**except June & July**  
**Slovenian National Home**

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Welcome to the new Millennium!!!  
What an exciting time to be alive!

Our branch closed the 1999 year with a most successful fund raiser. It was our 5th annual Election Day Soup Luncheon and Noodle Sale. With each passing year our reputation for delicious chicken soup and homemade noodles grows to a larger crowd of happy people in attendance. Also, we workers are happy too -- because the profits are worth the effort. We are planning for an even bigger crowd next Nov.--being this will be a Presidential election year.



At our Nov. 3rd meeting plans were set for our Christmas party which was held at Valentini's Supper Club. It was a most enjoyable evening of camaraderie. Gifts were exchanged and Christmas carols sung putting everyone in the holiday spirit early on.

During a previous meeting we reinstated the same officers for the year 2000--and thankfully they accepted.

Yours truly underwent a totally unexpected major surgery in early Sept. Equally unexpected was my period of recuperation. The time was short and I healed quickly. PRAISE THE LORD!

Our next project will be a Valentine card party set for Sunday--Feb. 13th. This event is not necessarily a fund raiser tho we do make some profit. It serves more as a friendly social event which our many friends enjoy.

This coming May our Branch will be celebrating our 70th jubilee. We are planning a banquet and inviting the public. Chisholm is home to many Slovenes and many will come to celebrate with us. We welcome members from other branches also.

We sincerely trust that in the closing of the past century--your Christmas home was filled with LOVE, PEACE and JOY... the JOY that comes only from Christ Jesus!

May the year 2000 fulfill the hopes you harbor in your hearts.

GERT ZAKRAJSEK

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**NO. 39, BIWABIK, MN**  
**1st Sunday monthly**  
**St. John's Church**

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The last regular meeting of the year was held on Dec. 5th with seventeen members present. Six cookbooks were distributed to members who had prospects of selling them and reimbursing the treasury. Secretary Vida Lanari had sent a letter to each member asking for a \$10 donation in lieu of our usual fundraiser. In the past the Branch had a booth at the Weinachtfest (Festival of Light) where poticas and strudels were sold. Members voted to discontinue the practise and contribute to a "Bakeless Sale." Since this is our only fundraiser, it is hoped that this effort will be 100% effective.

A thank you was received from Leah Suhadolc for the \$200 grant from Br. 39. Leah had been an active Jr. member before graduating and continuing her

education at the local Community College. The members wish her well in her future studies.

Angie Hietala accepted the office of President at the election. Eleanor Indihar will be our Vice President and Vida Lanari will act as our Secretary-Treasurer. Jean Korsman offered to be the Reporter.

The annual Christmas party is scheduled for January 9th. The caterer is prepared to serve a swiss steak dinner. She has set a minimum of 35 people so members are encouraged to bring a guest or two. Mary Berknes, our 89 years old member of 41 years will entertain on her button box... Bingo will be played and each member is asked to bring three wrapped prizes.

Jean Korsman brought a photo album of her trip to Slovenia last September, and told the group about the "Splendors of Slovenia" Tour and the unforgettable experience of meeting her mother's cousins, and her dad's two living sisters, where she was welcomed into her dad's original home.

Two new members have been accepted into SWU Br. 39, Judy Stuntebeck and Joyce Debevec. They will be enrolled after January 1st, so as to be free of the Insurance obligation, as required by the bylaws change of the May Convention.

Our trio of sisters, Maria, Vida and Martina were the hostesses for the meeting. The tables were decorated with festive live greenery and candles. Helen Zallar and Marge Dewhurst won the attendance prizes.

We hope all enjoyed the Christmas Holidays with family and friends. Health and Happiness is wished for all of our Slovenian Women's Union sisters for the New Year 2000.

JEAN KORSMAN

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**NO. 40, LORAIN, OH**  
**Meeting 2nd Wed.,**  
**SS Cyril & Method Hall**

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Fifteen came to our Oct. 13th meeting. Our Pres. and I served a delicious dessert after which the meeting was opened with prayer. We sent a birthday card to Rose Knezetic who celebrated her 93rd birthday on Sept. 30th. She is in the Anchor Lodge rest home. We wish her many more years of good health.

The rest of the time was spent discussing the Ohio-Michigan convention which was held in September at St. Vitus Church in Cleveland. Our Lodge was well represented at the Convention, thanks to Joseph Serazin and Stephanie Polutnik who transported them to the Convention.

Our meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At our Nov. 10th meeting Francine Povlovcic, Molly Glavan and Martina Woelf were the hostesses and fifteen members were present; they enjoyed a delicious lunch. Angie Grayson won the door prize.

I'm sad to report that a good number of our faithful members were not expected at our holiday celebration this year due to illness including yours truly; Angie Zgonc, who never misses a meeting, was too ill to come and Alice Rutar is very ill too. The following are in Rest Homes: Irene Kokinda, Genevieve Wenzel, Angie Tomazine, Rose Knezetic and Annette Septaric. Let's all pray for them.

I'm sorry to report that I will not be Recording Secretary and Reporter to the ZARJA for our Branch 40 any more due to my illness. Hope that with the New Year someone more capable will take over.

Hope you all enjoyed the holidays and wish you good health in the new year.

With love,

MARY MATOS

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**NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH**  
**Meetings: Quarterly, 2nd month**  
**Phoenicia Restaurant**  
**Mapletown Shopping Center**

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As I write this column I am preparing for the holidays and contemplating Christmases past. Our tree was always a live tree that eventually became a part of the Legan landscape. The accessory decorations were a large star that illuminated our living room window. All remaining windows facing the street were adorned with the old-time wreaths containing a center candle. Ma went all out baking the traditional "šarkelj" (a cake-like sweet bread) and "Poticas". As children, we put bowls under the Christmas tree for goodies from "Miklavž" (Santa Claus). The goodies were Christmas hard candy,

nuts and fruits. During Christmas week Mr. Lipnos made his annual rounds to a number of families. When his knock on the door was answered, he would fling a bag of nuts over the kitchen floor spreading the contents in all directions for the kids to gather up. I don't remember the exact date. But I do know that our dad was the first in the neighborhood to light an outside tree in our yard. He was soon joined by Mr. Stavec and then Mr. Zakrajšek. Today, outside decorations are everywhere, but way back then those few lighted trees stood out like beacons on Stanley Ave. How sweet it was!

At the Nov. meeting the following were elected as officers: Pres. Jeanne Offutt; V. Pres. - Clara Hrovat; Treas. - Marge Church; Rec. Sec. - Jo Stoltz; Sgt. at Arms - Kimberly Balach; Auditors: Dorothy Mehosky, Clara Hrovat and Joyce Scott. Our new Spiritual Advisor is Sister Joan of Arc, SSJ, TOSF. Sister is a former classmate of Marge Church.

Our meetings in the year 2000 will be held at the Phoenicia Restaurant in Mapletown Shopping Center beginning Sat. Feb. 12th at 11:00 a.m. which, incidentally, is a birthdate I have the honor of sharing with Abraham Lincoln. I was always told my name was the closest my sisters could come to Lincoln, and had I been born a boy, my name would have been Abraham.

During the Thanksgiving Holiday Allison Gruden traveled to Orlando with the school Marching Band.

Susie and Bruce Harris moved into a new home in Doylestown, Ohio.

Happy Jan. Birthdays to: Kelly Ann Gaines, Mary Perko, Kelly Lipnos, David Lipnos, Karen Lockard, Camille Lao and Nancy Kish.

Happy Feb. birthdays to: Michael Balach, Diane Balach, Nicky Lerchbacher, Edna Scotton, Allison Gruden and Theresa Ferfolia.

John Gruden, Mary Catherine's husband, had knee surgery in Nov. and Fred Lockard, Karen's husband, suffered a mild stroke, but is on the mend. Get well wishes to them both and to any other ailing members.

As we begin a new century, let us all make a concerted effort to attend the meetings and keep our branch vital.  
Zbogom.

LIL SADOWSKI

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**New Release:**  
**"In Concert"**  
**by Slovenian Chorus**

\$8 plus postage and handling  
**Frank Shepel**  
832 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731

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**NO. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI**  
**Meeting: 4th Wed.**  
**St. John Evangelist Rectory**

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I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with family and friends. The weather was beautiful, it almost felt as if it were a Spring Day.

Our meeting was well-attended. We were treated by our Birthday girls, Michelle and Patricia Goldmann and Theresa Kotar to a wonderful lunch which was enjoyed by all.

At the request of the members, our officers agreed to stay in office for the year 2000. They thanked the members for having faith in them in their leadership, but they hope that new officers will be available for the year 2001!

Mary Nusich now has a heart pacer, which is helping her in her breathing. She, also, was happy to inform us that she is now a great, great, grand grandma to a little boy named Hyan Robert. Congratulations, Mary, to you and your family.

Tillie Wiech decided to sell her home and now lives in an apartment. We wish you joy in your new home, Tillie.

Lorraine Johnson wasn't able to be with us at our November meeting. She is still having a hard time walking and is now in therapy. We will keep you in our prayers for a speedy recovery.

At our November meeting Lorraine was unanimously selected to be our Woman of the Year for the year 2000.

At the State Convention on September 10th, 2000 we will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary. The entire Convention, Morning Greeting, Mass, Meeting and Dinner will be at Klemmer's! Further details will be listed in the next issue of ZARJA.

I wish all of you a very healthy happy and prosperous Year 2000.

ANNE E. KONCZAL,  
Reporter

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**NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH**  
**Meeting: 2nd Sunday, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Maple Hts., Library**

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Our November meeting proved to be very emotional. With heavy hearts we accepted the resignation of Mary Taucher as our Secretary-Treasurer and Reporter for ZARJA.

Our deepest sympathy to Mary and her family on the passing of her beloved husband, John. We will all miss him. He and Mary have contributed so much to the Slovenian community.

Main business was the election of officers. Re-elected were: President, Olga Dorchak, Vice-President, Ann Harsh, Secretary-Treasurer, Elsie Spellacy, Auditors, Kathleen Dorchak and Ginger Kemmerling. Dorothy Squire volunteered to be our ZARJA reporter. If you know Murphy's Law, (if something can go wrong - it will!), you might like to know that Dorothy fell and fractured her right arm, so there will be a delay in Dorothy's reports! Wishing her all the best for a quick recovery!

December meeting and party included a visit from members of Br. 73, so we could celebrate together. As anticipated this was an absolutely happy and joyous way to celebrate the Christmas season.

My heartfelt wishes for a Happy New Year in the new millennium!

Love,

OLGA DORCHAK

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**NO. 50, EUCLID, OH**  
**Meeting: 3rd Wed.**  
**Euclid Public Library**  
**except July & Aug.**

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Today we had our first amountable snow for this season. We have been lucky and hope to continue that way. With the threat of everything else, the least we can hope for is a mild winter.

We held the elections on November 17th and everyone in office held same for the following year. Although the officers are superb at their respective place, we do need some new blood. But since all the blood is old, that is something to give more thought to.

(Please turn to page 26.)

# BR. 43, MILWAUKEE BEGAN AS A "LADIES SEWING CLUB"!

Seventy years ago, there already was interest in Milwaukee for the Slovenian ladies to get together and they did! They formed a sewing circle – later this became the nucleus for Slovenian Women's Union, Br. 43.

From our ZARJA archive we share this old photo with you, taken way back then. Our Br. 43 President, Josephine Janezic submitted the names of the ladies, and all members are happy to note its historical significance!

Anna Kollentz, Mary Bentz, Julia Tercek, Gertrude Delopst, Theresa Verbick, Mary Bruno; seated: Cecelia Marolt, Rose Cherweznik and Mrs. Gnader; in front is Antonia Velkovrh.

Br. 43 celebrates its 70th Anniversary in the coming fall.



A picture from the "old days" of Branch 43

## Historic recollections of the formation of Branch 43 S.W.U.

In conjunction with the State Convention on September 10, 2000, the Slovenian Women's Union Branch 43 will be celebrating 70 years since its founding.

It all began in Bay View, a suburb of Milwaukee by a group of Slovenian ladies in need of a conversational gathering every so often in each others' homes where they would also knit, crochet and embroider. The gathering became so popular they soon established a neighborhood social sewing club and met monthly at Mrs. Mary Bentz's home.

In 1930 a very enthusiastic lady, Mrs. Barbara Kramer from San Francisco, was attending a Slovenian Women's Union National Convention in Milwaukee. After the Convention, she stayed in Milwaukee for few days. When she visited Mrs. Mary Bentz, to her surprise, she found a group of very ambitious ladies, enjoying their club-day. She, being impressed with their enthusiasm, suggested that they organize a Branch of the S.W.U. The ladies were all in favor and were delighted to join with pride and dignity such a prestigious organization.



Barbara Kramer

Immediately, officers were elected and Mrs. Kramer had established S.W.U. Branch 43 with 13 members. Mrs. Gertrude Delopst was the first elected

President of the new branch. I was told that Mrs. Delopst had been the epitome of love and action. She measured her words and always was keenly respectful of everyone's wishes.

The new Branch prospered well. In a short time, almost every Slovenian and Croatian lady from Bay View area became a member.

The group needed larger meeting quarters and had to move from Mrs. Bentz's home to the back room of Tominsek's Tavern, and then on to Frangesh's Tavern. As time went on, new members were added and there was need for a still larger space. The move was to the old Slovenian St. John's Hall on So. 9th Street and later to Lily Hall on National Ave. and on to Rebernisek's Hall. As the buildings were getting sold, the group had to keep moving. Once again they changed their monthly gatherings to John's Hall at 35th Street and Lincoln Ave. Presently the Branch 43 monthly meetings are held at St. John the Evangelist meeting room.

The group is now getting smaller as so many long-time members have been called to Eternity, while the younger ladies, being employed, could not attend the meetings which are held during the day.

We are still a gracious group of ladies, enjoying our monthly get togethers. We all share the same goals for our S.W.U. as our Founder Marie Prisland did when she started this Union in 1926. Her goal was "To encourage the growth of all non-members and members to the preservation of our Slovenian culture."

Note: Branch 43 will not be meeting in January!  
Sincerely,

Josephine Janezic, President

Our meeting was scheduled for December; it was also a Christmas Party on December 5th where we celebrated together in the usual lady-like manner to enjoy the delicious pigs in the blanket and other delicacies and Slovenian specialties made by Julie Zaller and her helpers. Afterward, those who like to trip the light fantastic were encouraged by Al Streckle's Band.

There will not be a meeting in January. We will convene again in February on the 16th

Guess what? Little Katie arrived November 7, 1999, weighing in at 7 lbs., 7 oz. (That's a lot of sevens.) Her proud and happy great grandma is no other than our very own Ann Cern. Welcome to our world, Katie, and make it better!

November came and went but not before Lou and Ann Winters celebrated their 54th. Keep adding to the score Lou and Ann, and we hope that daughter Dorothy Ann is feeling better.

Caroline Lokar is now at Heartland in Mentor along with Ann Hocevar. We hope those in charge are making life easier for our gals.

Angie Shine is taking good care of her cousin Betsy who fell unexpectedly. We should all try to be more careful because our balance is not what it used to be.

We hope that our Auditor Fran Kajfez is holding hands with her husband who had a carotid artery operation recently.

The big shock came when Anna Kosten died on November 7th. I always looked forward to our short little visits at Browning of Willoughby. Antoinette Jerson also made her exit about the same time. Our sympathies go to the respective families. Their loss was our loss too. It is difficult to believe but I think we have lost nine members in the past year.

Now that a new year is here, let's hope the over 100 billion dollars spent to get the Y2K problem in shape will be a good investment, and as far as the "Millennium" is concerned, I still count from 1 to 10, not 0 to nine. How about you?

Na svidenje!

VI MORAVČEK

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**NO. 54, WARREN, OH**  
**Meeting: 3rd Wed. Feb. thru May,**  
**Sep., Nov., Dec.**

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Our meetings will resume on Wednesday, February 16th at noon at my home. Bring a bag lunch, please, and we'll have a business meeting following.

By now you all have recuperated from the Christmas Holidays and hopefully, we reached the new millennium without any major problems (since I'm writing this in late November, it's only a little worry, now).

Our officers, naturally, are all the same for the year 2000. We are a small group but keep our heritage alive!

Isabelle Rek left for an extended stay with her daughter in St. Petersburg, Florida and Vic Zuga will be in Columbus with her family for the holidays. We wish her a very happy 85th birthday! She's one feisty lady - swims at least three times a week, comes to our meetings and recently taught me how to make apple strudel - a real challenge! We are planning our luncheon as I write, and it will be a festive and happy group, I know!

Our Mother of the Year will be in honor of all mothers and will have our annual luncheon for this occasion. Place to be announced, but the date is already set for May 17th, 2000. You will be called about it.

We are uncertain as to a meeting in March or April. I will call you and confirm the date.

Here's hoping that 2000 will be a good year for all. God's blessings and good health, too!

JOANNE PONIKVAR,  
Secretary

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**NO. 55, GIRARD, OH**  
**Meeting: 3rd Wed., 7-8 p.m.**

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*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

Corinthians 5:17

**Happy New Millennium!**

The Lord has graciously permitted us to experience the beginning of a new thousand years. We all have a chance to really begin new and fresh. Can't help but wonder what the next thousand

years holds for us as a people. Perhaps Christ shall return in that time as he promised.

Our Christmas party was lovely. We all received many prizes and just enjoyed the fellowship of our members. We sang in Slovenian and had the joy of Dolores DePietro and her button box accompany us. Steve Luzar from AMLA also played for us on Dolores' button box. I remember when Steve's dad and my dad would gather with others and sing in Slovenian at picnics and in the bar room.

Our congratulations to Katherine Sefcik and her husband on their 48th anniversary. Our best wishes for many more.

Helen Zupon spent Christmas and New Year's with her daughter and family in Buffalo.

Tillie Cigolli went to New York for the Thanksgiving week-end. She enjoyed the bus trip, "Christmas Spectacular" at Radio City, "Annie Get Your Gun," and some history: the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

My son and his family from Idaho spent Thanksgiving with us.

On a very sad note, we extend our condolences to Nettie Juvancic and her family on the loss of her husband John Juvancic. This is the second brother to pass away this year. Rose Juvancic's husband passed away earlier this year. We also extend our condolences to Virginia Bestic and her family on the loss of both of her brothers. The Juvancic family and our family go back many years so we also feel these losses deeply.

Our next meeting is March 15, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. 1058 Susan Lane, Girard. Hope to see you there.

January Birthdays: Mary Kristin, Anna Catone, Dolores De Pietro, Daniel Gordon and Jessica Gordon.

February Birthdays: Josephine Kren and Matilda Cigolle.

JOAN KRISTIN TWADDLE

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**NO. 73, WARRENSVILLE, OH**  
**Meeting: Mar.-Apr.-May-June**  
**Aug.-Oct.-Nov.-Dec.**  
**Sec'y. Epley's Home**  
**20294 Emery Rd., No Randall**

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It has arrived, it is here, has it made any difference to you? Probably your biggest problem with the New Millennium will be remembering to put the

correct date on your correspondence. For me, I was glad to see it arrive. Maybe some of the unpleasant happenings in the past month or so will all go away, and we will have a fresh, happier, healthier start.

Ann Yoger traveled to Cortemadera, California for a reunion. Unfortunately, she had to tolerate some of our cold Cleveland weather before she left. We will be waiting to hear all the details of the reunion, Ann.

Annette Yuratovac arrived home on Dec. 21st to spend the holidays with Mom (Kay). Annette finishes her studies in 2000 and will graduate in May. Another college student, Leslie Dusek, will receive her Masters Degree from Case Western Reserve University in December. We wish both of these young ladies the best in future endeavors.

Branch 73 extends their deepest sympathy to Mary Taucher and her family on the demise of her husband, John. The Tauchers were very active in Slovene circles and John's presence will be sorely missed by many. Mary has been secretary for Branch No. 47 many, many years. We likewise send our sympathy to Branch 14 on the loss of their president, Marty Koren. Another active person, her involvement will create a void in many activities. Our prayers and sympathy to everyone.

Our own branch lost a member, Mary (Skr1) Chesnik who had been a member since 1952. Mary kept in touch with us throughout the several years she resided with her daughter (Leona) in Conyers, GA. On December 5th, members attended a mass in Mary's memory (given by our branch) at St. Jude's Church.

Recently I wrote about Jean Novotny sharing her concern for her daughter-in-law who was experiencing complications of diabetes. Maria Novotny died shortly thereafter at the age of 47. A very active Catholic, she was involved in many church activities. She had traveled repeatedly to Europe, having been born in Austria. Our prayers go out to her husband, Robert (Jean's son), to "Ted" her son, and to Jean.

It was nice to spend time with Cirila Kermavner (Br. 25) while she was in the Bedford area. We shared many things and although the visit was short, it was great. We hope that Danica Chemas (also Br. 25) is recovering from her surgery--the reason that

brought Cirila to my doorstep.

Speedy recovery is wished to Joan French and Louise ("Babe") Brindza, both of whom will spend the holiday season recovering from serious surgeries. We await only good news of your recoveries. Prayers remain with you.

On October 12th my first GREAT grandchild entered the world. She is beautiful and she behaved like an angel at her Baptism on November 28th. God does give, just as He takes.

Angie Musil and I will enjoy some Florida sunshine for two weeks in March as we travel with a group of Slovenes to Clearwater. No, you can't come along -- the bus is full!!

There were 8 members present at our November meeting. A few decided to attend the December 4th Christmas Party held by Branch 47. We trust all had a good time.

Stay warm and healthy until the next report. I am sure you will agree that this report carried enough sad news to hold us for a while. The date for our March meeting is not set as yet. Our anniversary Mass will be on Sunday, April 30th, 10:30 a.m. at St. Jude's Church, with the usual pancake and sausage breakfast to follow.

EVELYN A. MAJERCIK

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**NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL**  
**Meetings: 2nd Mon.**  
**except Jan., July and August**  
**Dickinson House**

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Where are all the beautiful flowers of June and July? It's such a contrast from the golden and orange leaves circling around the walks to the bleakness of winter! But, nothing lasts long! Old man winter has already made his appearance with that white stuff!

Our congratulations to Genevieve Buol who stepped up from Vice President of IL-IN States to becoming State President and to Cathy Lenkaitis who assumes the Vice President's role. What a treat for us "older" folks to see our young members in action!

Bonnie Prokup really was in good form, as usual, at the State Convention in LaSalle. She had everything organized for a short business meeting. Now, she has quite a task before her in getting everything in order since undertaking the job as National Secretary. Lots of luck, Bonnie!

Corinne Leskovar gave her inspiring talk which should go very far in getting us ready to put our collected memorabilia into the Slovenian Women's Union Archives. This will always be available to us and useful for public display and research for the future. It will be a challenge for all branches to get into the work of preserving all their old records. At this writing I will be getting a package ready to send up to the Heritage Museum.

Br. 24 really did a super job for the Convention Oct. 3rd. The weather was a little gloomy but the event passed with flying colors. Anne Wangler and her committee did a super job.

Angie Nico, our Br. 89 liaison officer wrote a lovely poem that was recited at the conclusion of the convention. We are proud of Angie's endeavors and long-time dedication to the SWU.

Here is her poem:

**"Teach Me"**

*Oh, Jesus,  
The Father, The Son, and the  
Holy Spirit!*

*Bless me for the good I have  
done. Praise me for the effort  
in times of failure. Comfort me  
when I am disheartened.  
Heal my broken heart and keep  
me in good health. Guide me  
through the turmoil of daily  
life. Protect me from adver-  
sities and teach me to love you  
with all my heart.*

*Amen*

May your new year be one of good health, happiness and satisfaction in all you do! Let us all work for peace in the year 2000!

Leaving you with one reminder, one word: ARCHIVES!

EUNICE KOMATER

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**NO. 100, FONTANA, CA**

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In my last article I promised more information on a California Coastal Cruise to Ensenada, Mexico. Because of the timing, the trip was postponed to March 2000 which gives us all a little more time to get organized.

The ship leaves from Long Beach on Friday, March 17th and returns on Monday, March 20th. This should be

a very nice time to travel. it will be a good time for rejuvenation and a kickoff for Spring. We invite anyone from our Fontana Branch as well as those of you who may want to spend a weekend with us from other parts. I know many of you travel in California in the Winter and Spring. I can't give you a definite price, but it will be between \$300 and \$400 depending on how many reservations we have. We will cruise on the Norwegian line that has a wonderful reputation for service. Family members and friends are welcome.

All arrangements will be made through our member, Mary Lou Height, with the AAA Travel Agency in Victorville, CA. Please contact her at 760-245-6666 for reservations and details. The address is 12490 Amargosa Rd., Victorville, CA 92392.

By the time you read this, our Christmas Party will be over, but we hope you had a Blessed Christmas with dear friends and family.

In the most recent issue of Slovenija Magazine look for an article about our member, Pauline Buzan who is serving in Jamaica with the Peace Corps.

Until next time...

JEAN KOCI

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**NO. 102, WILLARD, WI**  
**Meeting: When convenient**  
**Parish Center**

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The months of October and November brought us mild, warm weather. It was very dry. So far there has been no snow.

Blaž Stiplovšek from Domažala, Slovenia spent some time in Willard visiting Judy Di Pasquale and Donnie Wolf. He is Judy's distant cousin. Blaž is second vice president of a Slovenian bank in Frankfurt, Germany.

Frank Pakiz and Amy Morgal both had carpal tunnel surgery in October. They are both doing fine at the Marshfield Hospital. Mike Krultz had surgery in the Neillsville Hospital for an obstruction in his small intestine. We wish them both a complete recovery.

Albert Volk, formerly of Willard, recently moved from Madison, WI to Neillsville to be near his relatives. He will be living with his sister, Frances Matousek.

Josephine Verschay is now in the Neillsville Nursing Home. She spent several weeks in the Marshfield hospital where she received therapy. While there, she suffered a mild stroke. We hope she will soon regain her health.

Adele Herkut, 94, of Marshfield, WI died on Oct. 14. She is survived by 9 children, 45 grandchildren, 110 great grandchildren, and 12 great great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband in 1978 and by a daughter, Lorraine Rakovec in 1986.

Anton Klanchar, formerly of Willard, died at home in New Berlin, WI on Nov. 19 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, Frances and by 3 children, as well as grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Ann Snedic celebrated her 91st birthday on Nov. 18. Our congratulations to her.

Our thoughts and prayers go to those who are in the hospital, nursing homes or ill at home. May they enjoy continued good health.

FRIEDA KLANCHER

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**NO. 103, WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**Meeting: 1st Sun. except July & Aug.**  
**St. Columba's Ch. Albermarle St.**

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Our regular working meeting was not held in November because of the planned cultural event. It was a bit overwhelming to greet such a large group from our Slovenian community for this event. Dr. Gojko Stare (Angela Stare's husband) presented a most interesting discourse entitled "Slovenia--Past, Present and Future." Dr. Stare was born and educated in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He studied engineering physics at the University there and came to the United States in 1970 to continue his studies of physics at Cornell University where he received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. He also studied business administration at the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business. He has worked in the aerospace and telecommunications industries at several locations in this country.

Dr. Stare has remained in close contact with the government, business, and religious communities in Slovenia through frequent visits there, as well as reading and continuing association

with personal and business colleagues. He has developed a keen perception of how Slovenian history and events have shaped and continue to shape the Slovenia of today. (See article in this issue.)

Following the presentation, Dr. Stare was asked questions for clarification, along with several comments relating to the personal experiences during World War II of Slovenes living there at that time when Slovenia was a part of communist Yugoslavia, and how some were able to come to America. Coffee and goodies were served while we enjoyed the social visit. This event was a tremendous success enjoyed by all.

It's always a pleasure to report on new members; however, at times we are sorry to report the loss of a member for various reasons. Our long standing member, Dorothea (Dora) Vetrh Voyatzis, is moving back to Slovenia this month. Her house in Bethesda, Maryland has been sold, and many details had to be completed before leaving. Dora has had a very interesting life in that her work as a "Nanny" for children of families associated with Embassies has given her the opportunity to travel to many countries of the world.

Dora was born in Batuje p. Crnice in Austria near Italy, and eventually became an Italian citizen, and still is a citizen of that country. She first worked for a family in Egypt for eleven years, 1939-1946; then returned to Batuje where she stayed for a year before being employed by a British family in Trieste working there for eight years, and spending one year in England. Her next assignment was with an American family in Trieste. In 1958 she came to America, and in 1966 was married to Steve Voyatzis. In 1966 she also became a member of SWU Branch 103 and enjoyed the programs and celebrations that were reminiscent of her homeland. Dora is a talented person in various works of art, refinishing furniture, knitting, making clothes, etc.

Upon returning to Slovenia, Dora will be able to visit her many nieces and nephews. At present, we do not know where she will live but, hopefully, we will hear from her after she gets settled. Members of Branch 103 will miss Dora, yet we wish her much happiness and good luck in her new adventure.

MATILDA AUSICH

Z jasnim vpogledom na slovensko zgodovino in na odločitvene dogodke zadnjih let v Sloveniji nam je na prvo nedeljo v novembru, 1999 dr. Gojko Stare podal zanimivo predavanje z naslovom: SLOVENIJA V PRETEKLOSTI, SEDANJOSTI IN BODOČNOSTI. To predavanje je bilo tako zanimivo in poučno, da se čutim dolžna podati nekaj vrstic tudi članicam, ki morda niste čisto na jasnem kako je prišlo do slovenske samostojne države prvič v zgodovini. (Hvala Nika za poslano predavanje, ki je objavljen v angleškem delu.)

Slovenija je svobodna in neodvisna država samo osem let. Po vihnem začetku in negotovih prvih stopinjah ta mlada država počasi stopa v krog evropskih držav. Upanje je, da bo sprejeta kot enakopravna članica v Evropsko zvezo (European Union) in v NATO.

Govornik, gospod Stare, je v nekaj hitrih orisih podal zgodovino slovenskega naroda. Krščanstvo je v našo sedanjo Slovenijo prišlo preko bavarskih misijonarjev v osmem stoletju, ker je bila Slovenija del Vzhodne Marke v cesarstvu Karla Velikega. S tem je Slovenija prišla pod stalen nemški vpliv, kjer so bili kasneje glavni gospodarji Habzburžani in ostali tam vse do I. svetovne vojne.

Takrat se je Slovenija pridružila skupaj s Hrvati Srbiji in je postala del kraljevine Srbov, Hrvatov in Slovencev. Kralj Aleksander Karadžoržević pa je to novo zvezo preimenoval v Jugoslavijo.

Med II. svetovno vojno je bila Jugoslavija razbita. Slovenijo so zasedli Nemci in Italijani. Komunistična partija pa je izrabila to priliko in organizirala Osobodilno Fronto in si istočasno prilastila pravico kot edina legalna sila proti okupatorju. Na tej podlagi se je začel oborožen boj med komunističnimi in krščanskimi silami.

Mednarodni položaj je ob koncu II. svetovne vojne uvrstil komunistično partijo na stran zmagojučih zavezniških sil. Domobranci in nešteti drugi Slovenci so bili prisiljeni se umakniti na Koroško. Od tu so bili Domobranci prisiljeni vrnjeni Titu, kjer so bili doma pomorjeni. Komunistična stranka je tako prišla na oblast in vladala v Sloveniji s terorjem petdeset let.

V letu 1990 so bile v Sloveniji prvič volitve na katerih je združena organizacija DEMOS (združenje vseh opozicijskih strank) dobila večino. V decembru istega leta je bil v Sloveniji razglašen plebiscit, ali naj postane Slovenija popolnoma neodvisna država, ali pa naj še naprej ostane v Jugoslaviji. Ljudstvo je bilo skoro 100% za neodvisnost in ločitev od Jugoslavije. Dan ločitve je bil 26. januarja, 1991 šest mesecev po volitvah. Ločitev so ta dan hotele preprečiti sile jugoslovanske vojske. Sledil je deset dnevni boj. Le pod mednarodnim pritiskom se je jugoslovanska armada umaknila. Tako je postala Slovenija prvič v zgodovini neodvisna država.

Slovenska samostojnost je zahtevala politično, gospodarsko in kulturno preorjenciacijo v slovenskem življenju. Slovenci nismo bili edini, ki smo morali iti

skozi te spremembe. V vsej vzhodni Evropi so se države otresale komunističnega jarma, ki ga je temu delu sveta nalagala Moskva.

Pot ni lahka, toda upamo, da bo Slovenija kmalu postala polnovredna članica evropske skupnosti.

Po tem predavanju se je razvil živahen razgovor. Članice SZZ in gostje so osvetlili še nekatere točke s svojimi izkušnjami v medvojnem in povojnem času.

NIKA B. KOVAČIČ



**Ko je med svojim obiskom Papež Janez Pavel II 19. Septembra v Mariboru proglasil za blaženega Škofa Antona Martina Slomška (1800–1862) smo imeli na isti dan tudi vzdradoščeni Slovenci v Washingtonu slovesno spominsko sv. Mašo v Kapeli Brezjanske Marije, Zavetnice Slovencev. Sv. Mašo je daroval gospod John Vidmar, ki je v Benediktinskem redu, drugače pa je profesor Teologije na znani The Catholic University of America.**

Pa še kratek poučni sestavek A.M. Slomška:

## ČEBELA IN OVCA

*"Imaš li, človek, večjo dobrotnico med živalmi nego nas čebele?" vpraša čebelica.*

*"O da!" odgovori človek.*

*"Koga pa?" pobara zopet čebela.*

*Ovca mi je še večja dobrotnica. Njena volna mi je potrebna, tvoja strd le sladka. Kar je potrebno, pa več velja nego gola sladkoba. Še eno ti povem, zakaj bolj cenim ovce nego čebelico: ovčica mi daje volno radevoljno, a čebelica pika, kdor pa rad da, dvakrat da."*

*Kar roka daje, naj jezik ne jemlje!*

*Priredila in zbrala –nikova–*



VERA BODI VAM LUČ

# KNJIGA O SLOMŠKU

ZBORNİK OB STOLETNICI SMRTI

*Sestavila: Janez Poljanec in Franc Hrastelj*

Celje, 1962

—nadaljevanje—

## SPIRITUAL V CELOVCU

Leta 1829 ga je škof imenoval za duhovnega vodjo v celovski bogoslovnici. Postal je vzgojitelj mladim duhovnikom, ki so se pripravljali za božjo službo med narodom. Tudi slovenski jezikovni pouk je znova vodil in bogoslovce pripravljajal za duhovniško službo med Slovenci. Z njimi je skupno prevajal in jih vadij v lepi slovenščini celo pesnikovati. Ohranjena je pesmarica v rokopisu z njegovimi popravki na robovih. Tako je Slomšek vzgajal in vzgojil nekatere pesnike, ki so se oglašali v poznejših slovenskih listih na Štajerskem: n. pr. Hašnik, Orožen, Drobnič. Ob koncu leta pa je prirejaj javno skušnjo, na katero je povabil nekatere odlične Slovence, med njimi Čopa, Ahaclja, Jarnika in Majarja. Tako je bil Slomšek tedaj duša slovstvenemu Bralnemu društvu v Celovcu. Učil pa je na prošnjo slovenščino razne uradnike, ki jim je izdajal tudi zadevna spričevala. Iz njegovih predavanj je nastala kar zajetna praktična slovnica. Ni torej čuda, da so se številni mladi pesniki in pisci obračali nanj tudi za nasvete.

Ko je leta 1832 Prešeren opravljaj v Celovcu odvetniški izpit, je Slomška takoj obiskal in pri njem našel tedaj ravno dotiskano Murkovo slovnico s Prešernovimi pesnitvami, o čemer piše Prešeren Čopu v Ljubljano v znamenitem slovstvenem pismu. Skupno sta potem obiskala tudi tedaj znanega slovarnika in slavista župnika Jarnika v Blatogradu. Pozneje sta se s Prešernom srečala vsaj še, ko je Slomšek kot celovski spiritual potoval po naši zemlji in se ustajil tudi v Ljubljani, ker ga je Prešeren zagledal v gledališču, nakar ga je še spremil v gostilnico in mu tam hitro napisal znano svojo zabavljico na prav tedaj izdano »Devištvo«: »Ker stara para zlomek devištva preveč vzaj, je njega mlajši Zlomšek prodajati začel«, ki mu je Slomšek ni zameril. V času Kranjske čbelice pa piše Slomšek v Ljubljano prijazno: »Želim kmalu spet slišati kako pesem našega genialnega pesnika Prešerna! Prosim ga lepo pozdraviti, pa tudi druge blage Slovence. Kaj počenja naš nadarjeni pesnik dr. Prešeren? Ali Čbelica ne bo več izšla?«

O počitnicah pa je Slomšek rad potoval, navadno kar peš. Tako se je že leta 1833 napotil iz Celovca v Salzburg, Linz in na Dunaj, potem pa čez Maribor nazaj. Naslednje leto je prepotoval vso lavantinsko

škofijo, leta 1837 pa Koroško, Kranjsko, od koder se je čez Zagreb vrnil na Štajersko. Vsa ta potovanja je tudi živahno opisaj in so večinoma ohranjena v rokopisu. Najraje pa je hodil v svoj rodni kraj na Slomk prijazni cerkvi Sv. Ožbolta. Seveda se je Slomšek na vseh teh potovanjih srečaval tako s preprostim ljudstvom kakor tudi z vodilnimi osebnostmi tistega časa in seveda občudoval krajevne lepote in znamenitosti. Ugajala mu je romarska pot v Marijinem Celju, v Gradcu pa je obiskaj škofa, ki mu je rekel, da je za službo spirituala premlad: »Je pač prav sodil...« je zapisaj. V Št. Petru pri Mariboru se je srečaj z Murkom. Tako se je v Ljubljani srečaj s Prešernom, v Zagrebu pa s tamkajšnjimi Ilirci, ki so ga gostil kot »Ilirca iz Koroške«...

## ŽUPNIK IN DEKAN

Ko je bil Slomšek leta 1838 na lastno prošnjo imenovan za nadžupnika v Vuzenici, je postal tudi dekanijski šolski nadzornik. Zdaj je spoznaj, v kako slabem stanju so bile šole; oprjel se je posebno nedeljskih šol in je v ta namen leta 1842 spisaj znameniti prvi slovenski učbenik — »Blaže in Nežica v nedeljski šoli«, ki je bil kmalu preveden tudi v češčino in ruščino. Tudi pri nas je doživel tri zaporedne izdaje. V tej knjigi Slomšek prijeto pripoveduje, kako sta se pridno učila Blaže in Nežica ter tako mnogokaj pridobila za svoje bodoče srečno življenje; v 523 poglavjih — kolikor je tednov v letu! — podajaj osnovne nauke o predmetih, ki so jih tedaj poučevali in ki so bili pomembni za življenje. Kot vuzeniški župnik in dekan je Slomšek napisaj še več knjig nabožne vsebine. V šolskih in službenih opravkih se je večkrat napotil v oddaljeni Št. Andraž, posebno potem, ko je postal kanonik in višji škofijski šolski nadzornik.

Ker je bila leta 1842 razpisana služba profesorja verouka na celjski gimnaziji, je Slomšek vložil prošnjo za to mesto, a ni uspel, ker je bil ponovno imenovan prejšnji veroučitelj. Tako je ostaj v Vuzenici in se je oklenil z vsem srcem.

nadaljevanje



# DOLŽNOST SVOJ JEZIK SPOŠTOVATI.

(Odlomki iz pridige. – »Drobtinice« 1. 1849.)

V začetku je bil samo en jezik kakor en Bog in Oče vseh; kadar pa so se ljudje pomnožili, se razširili po svetu pa tudi pohujšali, jim je Bog pri zidanju babilonskega stolpa jezik zmešal in jim dal govoriti več jezikov. In sv. Duh je vse te jezike posvetil, da bi se v njih oznanjeval božji nauk in se Bogu pela spodobna hvala, da bi vsi jeziki spoznali, da je Kristus velečeščen sin svojega Očeta.

Kaj se vam zdi, ali bi bilo boljše, da bi vsi ljudje govorili samo v enem jeziku?

Kratko, nikar! Žalostno bi bilo pretje orgel, ako bi vse piščali pele enako; dolgočasna bi bila muzika, ako bi ne bilo več muzikalnih orodij. Žalosten in dolgočasen bi bil tudi svet, ako bi vsi ljudje le v enem jeziku marnjali. Ravno tako lahko bi bilo Bogu dati vsem ljudem en jezik v govorjenju kakor dati apostolom govoriti v vseh jezikih; ali božja previdnost in modrost tega ni storila; zato je sv. Duh na binkoštno nedeljo posvetil vse jezike, da vsak svoj jezik, v katerem govori, po vrednosti zravnava s svojim srcem in zanj Bogu spodobno daje čast in hvalo. To smo dolžni tudi mi storiti.

V Evropi, v največjem delu sveta, v katerem mi živimo, so najimenitnejši trije jeziki: latinski, nemški in slovenski. Kako jih moremo prav spoznati, vam bom pokazal v prvem delu svojega govora.

Med vsemi jeziki mora biti Slovencem najljubši naš materinski jezik. Kako ga moramo k božji časti in svojemu zveličanju prav spoštovati, vam bom drugič povedal.

Bratje in sestre moje! Slovenec bom Slovencem iz ljubezni materinske govoril nove besede v slovenskem jeziku, katerega je tudi sv. Duh dal govoriti apostolom. Vselej so Slovenci besedo božjo radi zvesto poslušali; upam, da tudi vi!

Naš slovenski jezik je brat tistega grškega jezika, v katerem so apostoli in evangelisti spisali Sveto pismo; že več tisoč let poštene ljudje marnjajo slovensko. Slovenski jezik je brat latinskega jezika, v katerem se še sploh služi sveta maša; in že pred tisoč leti so naši stari očetje brali Sveto pismo v slovenskem jeziku, so po slovensko v hiši božji prepevali Bogu hvalo. Zato se še zdaj pri vas v cerkvi bere Sveto pismo v treh jezikih, po latinsko, nemško in slovensko. Kdor se tedaj tako starega jezika sramuje, je podoben trapu, ki s sebe strga lepo, pošteno, oblačilo, ki mu ga je dal dober oče, se obleče po tuje in misli, da bo lepši.

Naš imenitni slovenski jezik se ne marnja samo po Koroškem, ni ga jezika na svetu, ki bi ga marnjali tako po širokem kakor jezik slovenski. Pojdi za jugom do morja, našel boš po Hrvaškem, Dalmatinskem ljudi, ki govorijo slovensko kakor ti. Prehodi ogrsko, češko, poljsko in moravsko deželo, povsod boš našel svojo slovensko žlahto.

Za slovenski jezik se malo zmeni le tisti, ki sveta ne pozna in ne ve, kakšni ljudje živijo po svetu. Tak je podoben nevednemu otroku, ki tudi misli, da je Celovško

jezero največje morje na svetu in da je onkraj Ljubelja že konec sveta.

Je pa morebiti slovenski jezik tako grd in zarobljen, da bi nas moralo biti sram slovensko govoriti? – Lepe so pridige v nemškem jeziku, pa božji nauki teko lepo tudi v slovenskem, lahko se primejo človeških src in obrodijo dober sad. Prijetne so nemške pesmi, ali prijetnejše tudi slovenske, ki se lepo gladko zlagajo in po nebeško razveselijo naše srce. Zategadelj Slovenci po vseh krajih tako radi pojo. – Kdor svoj materinski jezik zavrže ter ga pozabi in zapusti, je podoben zmedenemu pijancu, ki zlato v prah potepta in ne ve, koliko škodo si dela. Slovenski starši, ki slovensko znajo, pa svojih otrok kar slovenskega jezika ne učijo, so nevaležni hišniki, ki zapravijo svojim otrokom drago domačo reč, ki so jim jo izročili njih dedi. Taki očetje in matere so podobni slabim gospodarjem, ki svoje očetno gospodarstvo prodajo, kupujejo drugo pohištvo, poslednjič pa večjidel najdejo beraško palico. – Kar je oče dobrega prejel od svojih starih, mora zapustiti svojemu sinu, in kar se je mati hvalevrednega naučila od svoje matere, bo zapustila tudi svoji hčeri. Materinski jezik je najdražja dota, ki smo jo dobili od svojih starih; skrbno smo ga dolžni ohraniti, olupšati in zapustiti svojim mlajšim. Človeški jezik je talent, katerega nam je izročil Gospod nebes in zemlje, da bi z njim barantali in storili veliko dobička. Kdor svoj materinski slovenski jezik pozabi, svoj talent malopridno zakoplje; Bog bo enkrat terjal in vsi zaničevalci svojega poštenega jezika bodo potisnjeni v vnanjo temo. Oj ljubi lepi in pošteni slovenski materinski jezik, s katerim sem prvič klical svojo ljubeznivo mamo in dobrega ateja, v katerem so me moja mati učili spoznavati Boga, v katerem sem prvič častil svojega Stvarnika! Tebe hočem kakor najdražji spomin svojih staršev hvaležno spoštovati in ohraniti, za tvojo čast in lepoto skrbeti po pameti, kolikor premorem; v slovenskem jeziku do svoje poslednje ure najrajši hvaliti Boga; v slovenskem jeziku najrajši učiti svoje ljube brate in sestre Slovence in želim kakor hvaležni sin svoje ljube matere, da, kakor je bila moja prva beseda slovenska, tako naj bo slovenska tudi moja poslednja.

Ljubi Slovenci, bratje in sestre moje! Dve reči med nami največ žalostita moje srce. Prva moja žalost je, da nas neki Nemci, naši sosedje, dostikrat zaničujejo. Oh, vedimo se tako, da bomo vse časti in hvale vredni pred Bogom in pred ljudmi, tako bomo nakladali na glavo svojih nasprotnikov goreče oglje in ne bodo imeli kaj slabega govoriti zoper nas naši sovražniki.

Druga žalost, katera moje srce boli, je slaba navada Slovencev, da se sramujejo svojega rodu in jezika in še marnjati nočejo po slovensko, ako jih ogovorim v materinem jeziku. O nikarte tega! Ljubite svoj rod, spoštujte svoj jezik! Za čast svojega jezika vsak pošten mož bolj skrbi kakor pošten ženin za čast in poštenje svoje neveste. Pred Bogom ni nobenega razločka med Nemcem in Slovencem, vse ima za ljubo, ki njemu zvesto služijo. Kakor se je sv. Duh prikazal v podobah velikoterih jezikov, ravno tako naj se v vseh jezikih Bog hvali in čast v lepi slogi, edinosti in krščanski ljubezni. In kakor je Bog sv. Duh vse narode in jezike poklical v svojo sveto cerkev, ravno tako bo tudi kdaj združil vse svoje zveste služabnike v svojem večnem kraljestvu.

– nikova –

# Hi, everyone!

It's moi! Julie,

This month's tip is: if you want people to be honest with you, you first must be honest with them. I personally hate it when people compliment me or say nice things to me, just to hold a conversation with me, especially if it's a lie. Why would you want to hear things that are lies? I like to be able to be honest with people, why would I want them to return the opposite action to me? Think about it. If a friend (doesn't matter about the gender) comes up to you and says, do you think this shirt goes well with these pants? What would you say? "Hey, it looks great!" (Thinking in the back of your head, "Ugh! That does not go well at all!") Or would you say, "You know, if you put khaki's on instead of jeans it might look better." No matter which one you would choose, I just know that if I were the friend looking for your

opinion, I would most definitely want you to be honest with me! That's just me, though I tell all my friends that if they ask for my opinion, they are going to get nothing but the truth. Keep in mind that the truth hurts. Just be careful knowing that you could hurt their feelings. In return, I ask my friends for their honest opinion as well.

Blah! Enough of that!! As we have approached the MILLENNIUM, we've all made our new year's resolutions. Girls, I know a lot of yours are, "stick to a diet." PLEASE! How long does yours last? Mine: oh, a day or two. A week if I'm lucky! Guys. Gee, I really don't know. Please write me with some "male" resolutions. (I'll publish them in the next issue with your name so that you get credit!) New Year Resolutions don't necessarily have to be things that are life altering. Like, losing weight, achieving a higher position at your job, or things like that. Resolutions can be as simple as helping out more around your house to help your parents, read books on things you don't know about, giving your time to help with a charity once a month, or even



turning in your homework on time. If you end up doing some of these simple resolutions you may find yourself becoming a better person. Helping others, responsibility, and knowledge of new things are great qualities to have. A lot of times, doing little things like these turn good people into great people. Not only will you see a change within yourself, people will see changes in you that can really help boost your self esteem, which in return, will build you to be a greater person.

Enough preaching for me, I must go. I have some homework, and things to take care of. Talk to you later, and take care. Have a great start to the Year 2000!

Julie '00

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From the Youth Director  
**Angela Stare:**

Sept. 6, 1996  
The Heights  
Catholic Boys  
School.

This letter was written by my little son, Andrej and the answer he received from Mother Teresa is dated just a few days before she died in September, 1999. We are proud of all the children who demonstrate the values they have learned to be charitable and kind.

Please share your letters with us and we will print them in this column.

***Mother Teresa was a living saint!***



\* MISSIONARIES of CHARITY  
LDM 54 A, A.J.C. BOSE ROAD  
CALCUTTA 700016 INDIA  
2nd September, 1997

Dear Andrej,

This brings you my prayers for God's blessings on you and your family. God loves you tenderly. Count your blessings one by one and thank God for all the love and care you have received from your family, teachers and friends. Give your best to others to be God's love and joy to them.

LET US PRAY.

GOD BLESS YOU

*Mother Teresa me*

Mother Teresa MC  
Missionaries of Charity  
54A, A.J.C. Bose Road  
Calcutta, India 70016

Dear Mother Teresa,

I would like to greet you warmly. I am a third grade student at an all boys Roman Catholic school, The Heights in Potomac, Maryland. In my English class we are writing letters. We were assigned to write a letter to someone we admire and respect. I choose to write to you because I admire you and have been inspired by you.

I read many books about you and how you take care of all the people that nobody wants. You pick up lepers, sick and old people from the streets and take care of them. You open hospitals and places where they can go and be safe. You even pick up kids my age and show them how much Jesus loves them. I know they love you too. You are doing God's work and showing us how we must be. You are showing the world how we are to follow Jesus. You really are a pencil in God's hands.

I always pray for you and your sisters, in school and at home when we pray the family rosary. You are a witness to the whole world. In my school we have chapel time three days a week and we can go to Holy Mass every day as well as Confession. In my religion class we also study and learn more about you and your work. We are studying the bible and the Roman Catholic catechism. I really love religion class and learn so much about our faith.

I pray for you and your sisters as you go around helping and loving the poor and unwanted. May the light of Jesus shine

Your friend  
Andrej Stare

I am enclosing my school picture and my \$5.00 allowance to help you in doing God's work

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