

ZARJA

- THE DAWN



URADNO GLASILO
SLOVENSKE ŽENSKE ZVEZE V AMERIKI

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

NUMBER 3

MAY-JUNE 2004

VOLUME 76



Carnations = Love



What's Happening in the SWUA!

Mother's Day and Member's Day Parties

MAY

- 2 Br. 39, Biwabik, MN, Giant's Ridge Lodge
- 4 Br. 3, Pueblo, CO, LaRenaissance Restaurant
- 4 Br. 14, Euclid, OH, SSH on Recher Ave., 6:30,
Call Stana or Diane
- 6 Br. 16, So. Chicago, IL, Jovial Club, 1:30 p.m.
- 6 Br. 33, Duluth, MN
- 12 Br. 40, Lorain, OH, Lorain Joint Vocational School,
1 p.m.
- 15 Br. 43, Milwaukee, WI, Klemmer's Banquet Center,
10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., Reservations,
call Josephine or Yvonne
- 15- Br. 102, Willard, WI, Plant Sale and
- 16 Mother's Day party
- 16 Br. 42, Maple Hts., OH, Annual Mass,
St. Lawrence, 10 a.m.
- 16 Br. 13, San Francisco, CA, SF Downtown Marriott,
1:15 p.m., Call Jo Aiuto - Mass earlier at the
Church of the Nativity
- 18 Br. 20, Joliet, IL, St. Joe's Park Hall, 5 p.m.,
dinner, 6 p.m. followed by entertainment
- 19 Br. 50, Euclid, OH, Kristy's Restaurant,
434 E. 200th St., 1 p.m.
- 19 Br. 54, Warren, OH, Lunch at Café 422
- 20 Br. 24, LaSalle, IL, Spring Luncheon at
Mario's Maples, Peru
- 23 Br. 99, Lemont, IL, Commemorative Mass -
Marija Pomagaj Feastday (May 24) at St. Mary's
Slovenian Catholic Mission, Lemont, 11 a.m.

JUNE

- 16 Br. 50, Euclid, OH, Annual Picnic
- 17 Br. 24, LaSalle, IL, Slovenian Picnic at
Barb Pohar's Garden

JULY

- 18 Br. 2, Chicago, IL, Zveza Day in Lemont,
Mass at 11:00 a.m.

AUGUST

- 8 Br. 47, Garfield Hts., OH, Commemorative Mass,
St. Lawrence Church, 10 a.m.

STATE CONVENTIONS

September 12 - MINNESOTA (at Tower)
September 26 - WISCONSIN (at Sheboygan)
October 3 - ILLINOIS-INDIANA (at Peru)
October 3 - OHIO-MICHIGAN (at Kirtland)

ZARJA - THE DAWN

(ISSN 0044-1848)

Postmaster: Send all changes of address to: ZARJA - THE
DAWN, 4851 S. Drexel Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615-1703

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MAY-JUNE 2004

VOLUME 76

Member, Illinois Fraternal Congress

Official Publication of the Slovenian Women's Union of America -
Uradno glasilo Slovenske Ženske Zveze.

Published Bi-monthly - šestkrat na leto.

Annual Subscription for non-members, \$20.00 - naročnina \$20.00
letno za ne-članice.

Publisher: SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432

Telephone (815) 727-1926

Periodicals Postage Paid at Joliet, IL and at additional mailing offices

All communications for the next issue of publication must be in the
hands of the Editor by the first week of the month - vsi dopisi za naslednjo
izdajo mesečnika morajo biti v rokah urednice do 1. v mesecu.

Editor, CORINNE LESKOVAR

Editorial Office: 4851 S. Drexel Blvd., Chicago, IL 60615-1703

Email: CORLESKOVAR@AOL.COM

Telephone: (773) 548-8878 - Facsimile: (773) 268-4899

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MAY & JUNE

Presidents:

May 1 - Jean Korsman, Br. 39, Biwabik, MN

June 11 - Margaret Cullen, Br. 3, Pueblo, CO

June 17 - Mary Lou Terselic, Br. 103, Washington, D.C.

Secretaries:

May 6 - Gladys Buck, Br. 16, So. Chicago, IL

May 13 - Mary Mejac, Br. 103, Washington, D.C.

May 17 - Marge Mollica, Br. 57, Niles, OH

May 27 - Anka Krakora, Br. 55, Girard, OH

June 2 - Blanche Laurich, Br. 81, Keewatin, MN

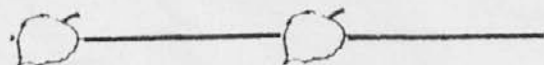
June 19 - Dorothy Brezonik, Br. 1, Sheboygan, WI

June 29 - Elizabeth Spolar, Br. 56, Hibbing, MN

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

In this Issue:

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT' Kathleen Dorchak-Hall



"Exciting Plans for Our Future"

I would like to extend my congratulations to all of our honored Members of the Year for 2004. May you all enjoy your wonderful branch celebrations.

It is with deep regret that inform you that the board accepted the resignation of Third Auditor Marge Church. The Board has appointed Nancy Henkel, president of Branch 89 from Oglesby, Illinois to complete the remaining term until June 2007.

Your National Board had a productive meeting at the end of February. We laid ground-work for many plans in the future. Some of these plans include: a new quilt raffle, a new membership brochure, 2004 membership campaign with awards, Magic Month Calendar for January 2005, trip

to Slovenia in June 2005, ways to highlight our Heritage Museum and much more. Look for detailed information in this issue of the ZARJA. The minutes of the National Board Meeting will be provided in the July/August issue.

One of the activities I would like to highlight is our "Carnation Express." This is a challenge for National Board members to reach out to our members by visiting each branch before our term ends in 2007. This means that one or two officers will be visiting branches away from their respective regions. Branch Presidents will be notified and provided with more information in the coming months to help make this a successful activity for all of us. National Board officers are most excited to be involved and ready to visit as many sister members as possible.

The highlight of this year is the 75th Anniversary of our beloved ZARJA – The Dawn. In celebration I am asking that each branch plan a way to celebrate in some way. There are many things you can do. One idea would be to bring in old issues and look to see what your branch did in the past. You could even make a scrap book of these precious memories.

Happy Mother's Day to all of our special mothers! May you have a wonderful day surrounded by your loving families and friends. And since this is the May/June issue, I also extend Happy Father's Day wishes to our father members.

I leave you with the words of Barbara Bush,
*"Cherish your human connectons:
your relationships with friends and family."*
Love and Blessings,

Kathy Dorchak-Hall



Branch 99 Recycled!

On this photo are, back row: Ivanka Buh, Josephine Zadic, Fanika Gorsic, Ljubica Novak, Martha Pecharich, Jean Gale, Frances Schultz, Susie Pecharich, Theresa Krampac;

Seated: Mihaela Simrayh Treasurer, Corinne Leskovar President, Joan Sobocan Secretary, Mary Balazic; in front: Slavica Sovan and Suzi Rus.

Photo by Linda Ford

The inaugural meeting of Br. 99, formerly of Elmhurst, Illinois (1960) and now relocated to Lemont, Illinois, took place at the Slovenian Cultural Center on Feb. 29, 2004. Many guests also attended including National Officers of SWUA who were concluding their annual board meeting in nearby Joliet.

National Secretary, Bonnie Prohar Prokup:

LET'S KEEP WORKING!

A special "thank you" to all those members who paid their dues AND to those who gave a donation towards our ZARJA Fund. The money is greatly needed. For years it's been hard on us to cover the ZARJA expenses. As most of you read, what we were pulling in for dues could barely cover the ZARJA expenses let alone running an entire organization. The dues increase effective 2004 was needed to help make us survive financially. Again, thank you to all those who were able to give a donation with their dues. If you were unable to donate at the time and would like to do so, it is not too late. Your name will appear in ZARJA.

Recently we had a National Board Meeting and I feel positive about the direction we are going. We recognized our strengths and weaknesses and now we are putting plans into action. In the next few months you will see and hear more about them. Something good is going on here and the future of SWUA is strong. Just think, in the last four years alone we recruited over 1,000 new members. That represents $\frac{1}{4}$ of our membership. These are members joining because they want to feel more connected to their heritage. And HERITAGE is what we need to deliver, at our Branch Meetings, the ZARJA, the Website, the Online Newsletter, the Heritage Museum and anything else we do. Take a look at the Vision/Mission/Purpose and ask yourself – are you following this?

MISSION STATEMENT

VISION – To preserve the living spirit of the founders and past membership by promoting and nourishing the legacy left to us for future generations.

MISSION – To reach individuals by uniting them through their common interest in Slovenian culture and traditions.

PURPOSE – To provide resources, communication, and foster friendships in honor of our cultural heritage.

Yes, we owe it to ourselves and to our ancestors who were brave enough to leave everything they knew behind and start anew! Let's KEEP THE SPIRIT ALIVE!

Bonnie Pohar Prokup
3119 Carrie Street
Peru, IL 61354
Wprokup@aol.com



WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION!

The Future is still now!

THE FUTURE IS NOW MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN – Part II –

The individual winners for the second part of the 2003 Membership Campaign are....

(fanfare!)

**Adrienne Micklich, Br. 34, Soudan, MN
and
Bernadette Fitzsimmons, Br. 108, Olney, MD**

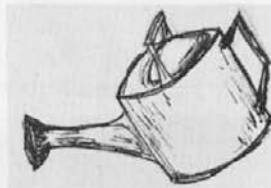
Congratulations to Adrienne and Bernadette who tied for the top prize with 10 new members each! Each winner received a nice present from our SWUA Heritage Gift Shop.

Thanks to them and all volunteer workers!

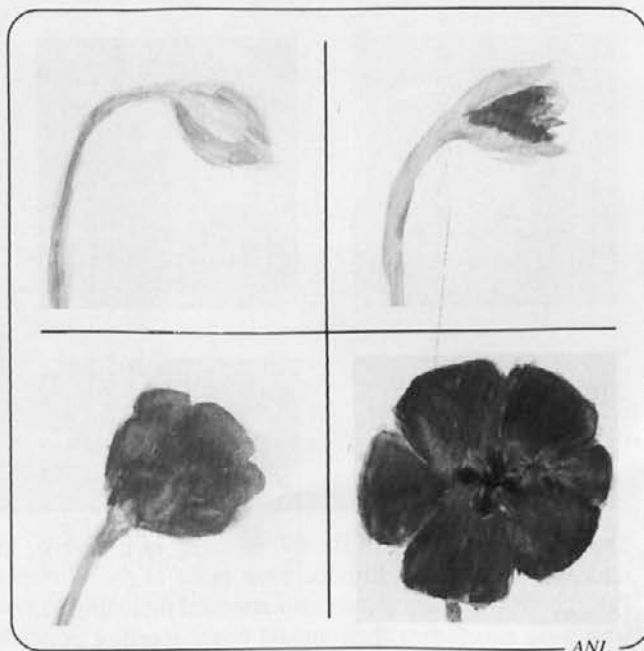
* * * * *

IN OUR GARDEN OF MEMBERS THERE ARE MANY FLOWERS

**Will you water
our Garden?**



**New Membership Campaign
begins July 1, 2004**



ANL

HERITAGE NEWS:



It's Mothers Day

A day to remember
a mother so very dear to my heart
Words cannot describe the love and admiration
I have for you.
Just know that the words:
"I love you" is the expression that
best describes my love and respect.

Lep Materinski Dan!

Matere, vi ste naši biseri!
Besede ne morejo izraziti vsega, kar čutimo.
Vendar vedite, da ste najdragocenejši zaklad naše
ljubezni!

New Exhibits at the Slovenian Heritage Museum

The windows of the museum have taken on a fresh new exhibit for spring. In the windows depict a Slovenian "gostilna" and a Tribute to France Preseren.

The Preseren window exhibit includes a drawing replica of Preseren. This specific likeness is on a Slovenian postage stamp. One may find various versions of his "looks" as no actual photo exists of Preseren. Also included in the exhibit is the Preseren poem entitled "Zdravljica" (The Toast) which has become the national anthem: Nancy Henkel is the designer of this window.

Donny Baldin and Debbie Pohar of Branch #24 constructed the **Slovenian wooden gostilna** structure, a "bar" area surrounded by stools. Grape vines wind through the top area. Assorted glasses are arranged along the bar top. A button box accordion sits nearby, several gentlemen's hats hang from the stools. A small round table with several chairs is set up for those choosing to sip their favorite beverage and/or to dine on local cuisine. Off to the side is a traditional wine press and crock.

The word *gostilna* is an old word. In Slovenia it can be a traditional gathering place, or a restaurant like those in America. Quoting Mirjam Hladnik: Today we say: "To which gostilna are we going to eat? Or which gostilna do you recommend?"

The following items from the museum collection are inclusive in the display. These items have been donated in memory of:

Button Box Accordion: Joseph Wolf, Straw Hat: Fred Troppe, Wine Press: Joseph and Marija (Dezman) Mikolic, Beer bottle: Kerner piva from Slovenia.

Being inquisitive in nature, I brought up Google on the internet and entered the word **gostilna**. What I found were the websites to many gostilnas in Slovenia. While one can go to the local corner and have a pivo, there are those establishments that serve some awesome foods. This is an example of fare available at the Gostilna Hana.

COLD FIRST COURSES

Carst ham with fig in honey,
Courgettes carpaccio with roast almonds and young goat cheese,
Foal carpaccio on vegetable spaghetti,
Octopus in salad with pumpkin oil,
Red mullet on salad bed with orange.
Smoked goose breast with garlic pannacotta,
Terrina with goose liver and truffles on apple slices to brown slightly.

Anything sound good to you?



Members of Branch 24, La Salle, IL, Donny Baldin and Debbie Pohar built the Slovenian-style "Gostilna" for their 75th Anniversary at the request of sister, Bonnie Prokup. Pretty, smiling gostilničarke were Debbie and her sister, Bonnie!

HERITAGE NEWS:

The word went out in January:

Needed: Volunteers to Inventory Museum Collection – Date: February 24–29, 2004

Nine volunteers came to the door! And here they are:

Sister Marlene Ambrose, Lillian Bennett, Theresa Burns, Pat Butterbach, Mary Kay Demick, Pat Figurowski, Eileen Plese, Millie Pucel and Jean Herbst.

In those few days this crew conducted an inventory of most items in the museum. While this endeavor does not show accomplishment to the “human eye,” the effort is a giant leap forward. The Slovenian Heritage Museum is becoming operational in the true sense of what a museum should be.

And now some hard news:

And while much work and effort has gone into the museum this past year, we must continue striving toward the same standards of all other museums of today.

How do we do that?

I suggest we ask the following questions?

- Is the Slovenian Heritage Museum competitive with other museums?
- Is the Slovenian Heritage Museum capitalizing on the hours established by the Joliet Museum down the street?
- Does the museum have a plethora of volunteers it can count on?
- Is the SWUA doing everything possible to advertise our museum to the public?
- Is the SWUA making visiting hours most advantages for potential visitors?
- Is the heritage museum and library cost effective for the SWUA?

The museum is like any business. Operating costs must be dealt with: taxes, heat, electricity, telephone, and maintenance. If our museum is to survive it must be competitive, which means we need a steady flow of visitors. That is the nature of its business. For this season I am proposing the following change in operating hours.

Museum Hours of Operation:

Monday: closed (except during the school year whenever school is not in session)

Tuesday–Friday 12:00 noon – 4 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday 12:00 noon – 4 p.m.

And now the Facts:

- The SWUA is not a financial giant, and must be very cautious and realistic about operating costs
- A few people are doing most of the work with little support.
- The museum is in Joliet, IL
- The Joliet/urban area has many SWUA members
- The Joliet area has been mainly unresponsive to requests for volunteers.

So what is the answer?

Each member must realize the seriousness of what we face. The SWUA is in the business to preserve our Slovenian heritage, to give homage to the Slovenian woman. This building must be open to the public during high traffic hours. And it needs volunteers to keep it open. Plain and simple!

**So let's hear from you!
A volunteer application is
being printed just for you!**

(Next page)

Contributions to the Museum:

Irene Jagodnik (50), former SWU National Officer: Bound ZARJA volumes, 1979–1988; Books: Footsteps Thru Time, From Slovenia to America; Baraga Postcards; Two Slovenian dolls in costume dress.

Richard Terselic: Book: Biography of Senator Frank J. Lausche; Memorabilia from the original Dedication, also the 10th and 20th anniversaries of the dedication of Marija Pomagaj Chapel in the National Shrine, Washington, D.C.

George Plautz: Slovenian Genealogy Society, Vol. 1 \$2 of the Every Name Master List of Slovenian Surnames.

Addie Humphries (14): Branch 14 Record of Minutes

Mary Juvan: From the Andrew Juvan family, Liquor Flask and Glasses, 53 years old

Jennie Fitzthum (14): Slovenian Chapel Dedication Booklet

Mary Palcic (93): Book: Pepca's Struggle

Me? A SWUA volunteer? Yes, you!

The SWUA needs you!

Send application to:
Slovenian Heritage Museum
431 No. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business: _____ Cell: _____

Department(s) of interest: *Circle those of interest*

Museum Archives Library Special Events Exhibits

Skills and interests: *Circle all that apply*

Slovenian Language Fluency Technology Skills Typing
Slovenian History Special Events and Activities Mailings
Exhibit Preparation Educational Programs Gift Shop

Traditional Slovenian Customs, Arts and Crafts

Christmas Ornaments Easter Customs/Music Christmas Customs/Music Wedding Customs
Lace Making Wood Carving Folk Dances Music
Costumes Folklore Cooking/Baking Folk Dance

Archives and Library

Artifact Preservation Organizing Cataloging Research Genealogy

Questions? SWUA, (815) 727-1926, E-mail: SWUAHOME@MSN.COM
Mary Lou Voelk, (251) 968-4364 E-mail: ottolou@earthlink.net

(This application can be downloaded from SWUA website and Online newsletter.)

Slovenia now a member of the European Union

On May 1st, 2004, Slovenia became a full-fledged member of the European Union and the joyful arrival of this date precipitated many exciting events all through Europe. According to SLOVENIA NEWS (13), the main celebration took place at the Italian border town of Nova Gorica, at the newly constructed square which has for over 50 years divided Italy and Slovenia. The border is now gone, and the cities of Nova Gorica and Gorizia are one city. The philharmonic orchestras from Trieste and Ljubljana held a joint concert with the choir of LaScala Opera of Milan. Present were the European Commission president, an Italian, Romano Prodi and Slovenian Prime Minister Anton Rop. Other border towns near Austria and Hungary had major events, too.

In Slovenia, a new slogan "New Star of Europe" was launched and will be displayed at all events marking the EU accession. In Ljubljana, Prešeren Square and Congress Square held music, dance, and theater presentations, and fireworks and parties were planned all along the streetsides.

Cities all across Europe also planned month-long events to welcome the EU newcomers who are now considered equal citizens of the same big continent.



NATO CELEBRATION

A flag-raising ceremony at the Brussels NATO headquarters marked the official entry of Slovenia and six other European countries into NATO. The U.S. welcomed the new partners at a Washington, D.C. ceremony April 24th.

HERITAGE DONATIONS

(A correction from the last issue: \$40 (not \$20) was donated in memory of **Mary Batic** from daughter, Beverly Batic Sciarabba and Josephine Gornik.

\$100 Br. 47, Garfield Hts., OH submitted by secretary Elsie M. Spellacy (This donation is for their name engraving on the Heritage Museum Plaque)

\$100 Patricia Massucci (2)

\$ 10 Mary J. Lustik

\$ 10 Agnes Stravitch Albino

Winner of the Slovenian doll, "Josie," handmade by Mary Lou Voelk, our SWU Special Projects Director is **NANCY HENKEL**, (Br. 89) our National Auditor. Congratulations!



bled FOR 1000 YEARS



The beautiful resort town of Bled located only an hour northwest of Ljubljana, is a picturesque holiday destination popular with package tourists as well as backpackers, skiers and other travelers looking for peace and relaxation in a tranquil Alpine setting. 2004 represents an important date in the town's history, as it is the 1,000th anniversary of the first recorded mention of the settlement in historical records.

The main celebration will be held from June 18 to 27 at different locations and with various activities, but with one motto – "Bled – For One Thousand Years!" Different performances featuring cultural and musical groups will be held. For this occasion, the Slovenian Post will issue a jubilee postage stamp.

A Mother's Day Idea!

Plant a beautiful Slovenian Carnation Garden

Just arrived:

Chabaud Giant Carnation Seeds from France

Just like the beautiful window boxes & gardens in Slovenia, you too can have these wonderful flowers in your yard and home.

Place your order now. The seeds can be kept for growing in 2005 as well, with proper storage.

Do not delay in placing your order. Such a flower that represents such a beautiful heritage!

Carnation

Chabaud Giant, Red 200MG

Half Hardy Perennial. Large flowers with delightful spicy, clovelike fragrance bloom first year. Prized for its long season of bloom. Use individual colors to create your own color garden. Superb for cut flower arrangements. Excellent for borders, bedding and indoor pot plants, where they'll flower much of the year. 70-90 days to bloom. Grows best in full sun to a height of 18 to 24 inches.

2 packets, \$6.00 including postage

5 packets, \$10.00 including postage

10 packets, \$18.00 including postage

Send orders to: Slovenian Heritage Museum
431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432
SWUA: (815) 727-1926. Email: swuhome@msn.com

Student Scholarship Winners



The Committee for "The New Slovenian Tour" would like to congratulate Martina Findley and Allison Hrovat, our first participants to attend the 2004 Student Scholarship, Slovenia Tour. We thank them for their interest and now we introduce them to you.

Upon returning from the trip, both young ladies will be giving presentations and sharing their experiences and their pictures with their branches, friends, relatives and all of us that receive the ZARJA. Again, congratulations to Allison and Martina and thank you to all who applied for this wonderful educational trip to our homeland.



Allison Hrovat is from Brookline, MA and is attending Boston College working on her Master of Arts in Teaching (Spanish). She has her B.S. in Journalism and Certificate of Major in Spanish from Ohio University. Allison has also been a member of the SWU since she was young and is being the branch reporter helps her feel connected to the group. Allison feels that it is vitally important to learn about her heritage especially since her parents have passed away and with them all their stories and memories. Her heritage is quietly slipping away and she wants to preserve and learn as much as she can now so she can pass it on to future generations.

Martina Findley is from Indianapolis, IN and is attending Indiana University and Purdue University majoring in Communications and Athletic Training. Martina has been a member of the SWU since birth and enjoys attending meetings with her grandmother, Angie Dragan her mother Mary and listening to all the ladies telling their stories of growing up in Haughville, her Slovenian community. One of Martina's favorite things to do is make potica. It is a tradition to make them around Christmas time and Martina is continuing the tradition! When she makes them using her great grandma's tablecloth she said it's like feeling a 'little bit of the old country'.

"FESTIVALS – FESTIVALS"

This October will be a
festival month for
our yearly get-togethers!



Slovenian Women's Union
ILLINOIS-INDIANA STATE CONVENTION

Sunday, October 3, 2004

St. Joseph's Parish

Peru, Illinois

Schedule begins with Mass at St. Joseph's Church,
dinner and meeting following.

Hostesses: LaSalle, Branch 24 – Oglesby, Branch 89
DePue, Branch 85

Mark Your Calendars Now – See you in Peru!

Slovenian Heritage Festival

"Keeping Our Slovenian Heritage Alive"

Hosted by
Slovenian Women's Union of America
Cleveland Area Branches

Sunday, October 3, 2004

SNPJ Farm on Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio

11:30 A.M. – Polka Mass
Father Pizmoht and the Joey Tomsick Orchestra

12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Festival
Refreshments, Demonstrations, Displays
Entertainment and Music

Advance Donation \$2.00 (\$3.00 at the gate)
Children 12 and under are free

To contact the Chair of the Slovenian Heritage Festival
Rosemary Toth, President of Br. 50
Call: (440) 358-9141

WOMEN—MEMBERS OF THE YEAR!



Congratulations and Best Wishes are warmly extended to each of our Woman/Member of the Year candidates! This is the time for us to thank and recognize an individual member amongst each of our branches. We are pleased to announce that special time of year has arrived, again. Being chosen is quite an honor. The individual insight of each candidate highlights and enlightens all of us to a little piece of that member's life. It is such a delight to read the members' stories and the joy in sharing memories and accomplishments is priceless. The individual articles about each member helps us realize how valuable our heritage is treasured throughout the states. Every member has their own history and reading such stories reflects a part of our heritage that continually thrives throughout our nation today.

We truly have a wonderful family of members that help carry on the Slovenian traditions of our heritage. Please join me in congratulating the following members for being chosen as this year's Woman/Member of the Year.

Wishing All Members Love, Health & Happiness,

Betty Ann Kolesari
National Vice President

Lillian T. Galich

No. 3, Pueblo, Colorado

Lillian T. Galich, a 45-year member of Branch 3, was born on August 7, 1920. She was raised and lived in Pueblo all her life. She worked for Walter's Brewery, Bill's Sweet Shop and other bakeries before and after her marriage.

She married Albert (Jonsey) Galich and had two children, a son, Albert and a daughter, Regine. Lillian raised the children, cooked fabulous meals, mostly Slovenian dishes, ran the household, baby sat for family's children, and assisted her siblings taking care of her mother. She knows how to make "real" potica, strudel, "ješprejn" (barley soup), "žganci" (cornmeal crumbles) and many other traditional Slovenian dishes.

Jonsey worked at the CF&I. They were married for 49½ years until his death in 1995.

Lillian has been an active member of St. Mary's parish and sang in the choir for many years. Albert and wife, Carol have two children; Regine and husband, Ron live in Tulsa, OK and have two children.

She participates in many St. Mary's Church activities, working and cooking at spaghetti dinners, lenten soup gatherings, and making strudels for our different organizations. She assists in collecting and distributing toys on St. Nicholas Day for the poor.

Lillian now devotes most of her time to visiting with her sister, Elsie. Her favorite time of the year is Christmas because all of her family is there filling her home with noise, laughter, happiness, and love.



Sue Ann Yovanovich

No. 5, Indianapolis, Indiana

Sue Ann Yovanovich is our Branch 5 Member of the Year. Sue Ann is a wonderful, caring person who is always helping others. For many years she worked for Holy Trinity parish as the Children's Daycare director, working with the many children and families involved there. Her lifetime involvement with Holy Trinity Church comes from her parents' deep faith and responsibility towards the Church. Her loving and caring attitude towards her family spills over into her every day life. She is well known in the parish and archdiocese for the many committees she is involved with.

Sue Ann is a wonderful Member of the Year for us!!



Mary Jane Strus

No. 16, So. Chicago, Illinois

Mary Jane joined Br. #16 in her late teens as a member of the "Cadet Drill Team." On October 10, 1999, she was elected as Vice President and still holds that office.

In September 2003, Mary Jane and her husband, John celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a Mass at St. George Church, officiated by their nephew, Fr. Paul Novak, OSM. They have three children, John (Debbie) Michael (Cheryl) and Joan (late Jeff) Krillic, and seven grandchildren. (All are on the accompanying photo.)

Mary Jane is kept busy with other organizations to which she belongs. She is on the Finance Committee at St. George Church, member of St. Florian KSKJ, Treasurer of Christian Mothers and Treasurer of the St. George Seniors.

Congratulations, Mary Jane, on being chosen "Member of the Year 2004, Br. #16!"

Sylvia Spretnjak, Reporter



Sr. Marlene Ambrose, O.S.F.

No. 20, Joliet, Illinois



The members have chosen Sr. Marlene for this special honor. She was a junior member as a child and is a 10 year adult member and reporter for ZARJA now. She is the daughter of the late Valentine and Ursula Ambrose who came from Slovenia – and her mom was a member, too.

Sr. Marlene has had a long teaching career, actually 46 years in schools throughout the Chicagoland area in Illinois and in Cleveland, Ohio. At St. Joseph's in Joliet, she was a teacher during the time of the pastorate of Msgr. Mathias Butala, when the Franciscan Sisters were there. She has taught students who knew no English, but a variety of other languages: Slovenian, Italian, Vietnamese, and Spanish. Besides she has been busy in school programs that included enrichment classes, choir, CCD, and as a Sacristan, Eucharistic Minister, Assistant coordinator, treasurer and secretary in various school districts.

But she has a special feel for music – especially Slovenian polkas and waltzes and being 5 foot 2, with eyes of blue, she fits right into some of the social events that Br. 20 holds. As a volunteer by nature, she works willingly, helping at the branch's anniversaries, at the Heritage Museum and for their various other functions.

When asked if she retired yet? She answers, "Of course, I do, every night!"

In 2006 she will be celebrating her 60th jubilee! Ad annos multos!

Pat Lammi

No. 23, Ely, Minnesota

Pat Lammi is our Woman of the Year! She has been our Treasurer for the past six years and held offices before then.

Pat is a widow and has 5 grown children, 3 girls and 2 boys. She retired from the City of Ely where she worked in the water and light billing office and the accounting dept and still helps out when needed. She keeps herself busy doing a lot of volunteer work, such as Meals on Wheels, Hospice-Respite Partners, church circle chairman and helps with many community projects. She loves to read in her spare time and enjoys working on her computer to keep in touch with family and friends.

Congratulations, Pat!



Loretta Story

No. 24, La Salle, Illinois



Loretta Story is our Member of the Year! Loretta was born in LaSalle, Illinois to Louis and Frances Ahcin, and comes from a rich Slovenian heritage with both sets of Grandparents, as well as her father, Louis, born and raised in Slovenia. She was married in 1962 to Joseph Story and was blessed with nine children; five boys and four girls. Joe and Loretta are now retired and spend a good amount of time visiting their children and grandchildren (eighteen, soon to be twenty).

Loretta has been a member of the Slovenian Women's Union for many years and is currently the president of Branch 24. She has done a wonderful job in her role as president by keeping the Slovenian spirit and customs alive at all branch meetings. For example, Slovenian music is enjoyed at every meeting, Slovenian artifacts are always on display and customs and traditions of the Slovenian people are always a topic of conversation. It is apparent that Loretta Story is extremely proud of her Slovenian heritage and openly shares this pride with her branch.

Mary (Spehar) White

No. 33, Duluth, Minnesota

It is very exciting to see a mother and her daughter selected as Mother-Woman of the Year of our branch. Mary's mother, Suntina Spehar, was selected 40 years ago and she is still active in Branch 33.

Mary has been an active lodge member and has served as Vice President for 6 years. If there is work to be done she can always be counted on to lend a helping hand or to chair a committee! She is very involved at St. Elizabeth's Church as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Cantor and is a member of the Catholic Council of Women. Mary has volunteered countless hours for church activities.

Her parents, William and Suntina Spehar, have taught her the importance of faith, family values and a strong work ethic. Mary is 1 of 7 children and has a twin brother, Mark. She has been influenced very positively by her siblings. Mary is married to a very loving and supportive husband, Gene. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota Duluth. As a high school Senior, she was the 1st recipient of the Marie Prislant Scholarship Award.

Slovenian Culture runs deep as she has grown up with ethnic foods and music. Her aunt, Anna (Spehar) Podgorsek always had many good things cooking in the kitchen like pastries, sarmas, strudels and potica and on and on! Music makes the world go 'round and she loves to sing and play guitar. As a member of the "Singing Slovenes" for 22 years, she loves to perform and bring happiness to all ages.

Mary is always trying to make a difference and brings a happy, positive demeanor to those she meets!



Barbara Urick

No. 35, Aurora, Minnesota



Barbara Urick has been a member of the Slovenian Women's Union for 25 years, and I am honored to introduce her as Mother of the Year. A mother serves many roles, and one that has left the biggest impression on me is that of a teacher. My mother taught me determination. Even though she lost much of her hearing at an early age, she was not deterred from her goal of running her own business for 14 years as a hair stylist. She currently serves on the advisory committee for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Northeastern Minnesota.

She taught me independence by traveling the world, and by being an avid skier at Giant's Ridge and many other resorts. She taught me responsibility by her involvement with civic affairs in her community, as well as Eucharistic Minister and many other events at Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

She taught me traditions by taking me to the Slovenian Grape Festival and serving apple strudel, krofi and potica.

Most importantly, she taught me love by how she and my father raised me, and how she now showers her three grandchildren and our family with affection. I am very proud of her for this honor.

Marty Urick

Ann Polichnik

No. 38, Chisholm, Minnesota

Ann has been a member of our branch for 13 years, and has been our Sunshine Lady for 10 of those 13 years.

She was born on October 28, 1915 in Balkan Township, north of Chisholm to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gornick. Ann was the second youngest child at 3 years of age when her mother became ill with the flu and died. Her brother, Martin Jr. was the oldest at 14 years of age and baby, Rose was 1½. Her father never re-married and young Martin and the oldest girl, Mary, took over the mother's duties in raising the growing family.

Ann finished her schooling and after graduation she worked in the special diet kitchen at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth for 3 years. She returned to Chisholm and in 1937 was united in marriage to Frank Laurich. Together they operated a glass shop. Frank and Ann had two beautiful little girls. Life was good, but in 1953, at age 46, Frank suddenly died and Ann was left a widow with two young girls, ages 7 and 11, to support.

Four years later, Ann married Joseph Polichnik. Joe was a great button box player and story teller, and Ann and Joe hosted many happy get togethers in their home. After 40 happy years together, Joe also died and Ann was again widowed. She now lives in Hibbing to be near her youngest daughter and family.

Up until age 85, Ann would drive down to Brooklyn Park to help daughter, Diane stage dance recitals. Ann's younger daughter, Donna and she and her husband are owners of two businesses in the mall in Hibbing. She has 5 grandchildren and proudly tells you that she also has 5 great grandchildren.

Ann has been a valued member of our branch. She faithfully attended all our meetings, even when she moved to Hibbing, she drove to Chisholm, picking up other members along the way, until it became too hard for her to drive at night. She was always ready to bake and she worked with Jennie Samsa, making many delicious meals for our branch.

Ann says the greatest inspiration in her life, comes from two people, her brother, Martin and her sister, Mary, who took over the rearing of the family after her mother's death.

We are happy to honor this most deserving recipient as "The Member of the Year."

*Charlotte Laurich,
President, Chisholm, MN*



All Members are all honored!



Br. 1, Sheboygan, Wisconsin would like to thank all of our members who work so hard to come to our meetings and make them special.

Congratulations to each of you, our Members of the Year!

Aggie Gruenke, V.P.

The members of Branch #12 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin have unanimously voted to honor all of our mothers, women and members for the year 2004. Each member in their own way has not only contributed to the continuation of our Lodge but all truly deserve to be nominated, because of their dedication to the Slovenian Women's Union and to continuing their Slovenian Heritage. They always attend meetings, bake the cakes and without hesitation "pitch in" when called upon. From the oldest to the newest member how could we truly designate just one to be honored as "mother," "woman," or "member" of the year?

So, to all of our members of Branch #12 – Congratulations!



Br. 108, Olney, Maryland will honor all their mothers, grandmothers and members at a pot luck dinner in May. We plan to have a sampling of Slovenian style dishes and live Slovenian music at the celebration.

Our Branch recognizes the importance of all our members who work together in support of the activities we sponsor in honor of our shared Slovenian heritage. Each member has a special and unique talent and makes a generous contribution to the group's success.

God's blessing on each and every one and our grateful love to you!

Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons, Pres.



Kathy Siskar

No. 39, Biwabik, Minnesota

Someone who thinks that Love is really in Slovenians because of those she has known in her lifetime is our chosen member this year. Kathy says she grew up as a small town girl who was nurtured from the beautiful surroundings, family and townspeople in her life. Among them are the members of Br. 39 where she served as "a real asset to our branch," they say. She has been secretary-treasurer and also vice president over a 10 year period and co-chaired a successful state day in 1990. Her pleasant personality and gracious demeanor make her welcome at every gathering. President Jean Korsman calls her "a real uniter" so helpful when the branch members can't decide on an issue!

Kathy is an outstanding college level teacher and follows an energetic schedule of committee-membership, coaching sports, and writing newspaper articles. She has a special love for athletic challenges and enjoys interacting with children and young people. She is a person who epitomizes the modern well-educated woman who is ambitious, capable, and a leader in her community.

Her friends welcome this opportunity to honor her as their favorite Woman of the Year 2004!



Milka Menchak

No. 43, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Milka Menchak was born on January 19, 1929 in the village of Jevšček located above the town of Kobarid in the valley of the Soča River, Slovenia. Before World War II, this part of Slovenia was governed by Italy and in 1946 after the war ended it became part of and was governed by the Communist Regime of Yugoslavia which Milka and her family strongly opposed. To avoid persecution, they left their home in Slovenia to join their relatives in Northern Italy and later transferred to San Antonio near Salerno to stay in a refugee camp. It was in this camp where Milka met her future husband, Frank, who at that time was working for the NCWC (National Catholic Welfare Conference). In 1950 Milka and her parents were transferred to another refugee camp located in Bagnoli near the city of Naples, and on July 9th, 1950 she and Frank were married in the camp chapel.

In 1951 Milka and Frank began their quest for a better life and immigrated to Norway where they spent the next eight years. In 1959 Milka, Frank along with their two children, John and Lucy made the decision to join Milka's parents in the United States where they made a temporary home in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Because employment opportunities were virtually non-existent at that time, they again made the decision to relocate to Milwaukee, where through their determination both found stable employment and where they finally made their permanent home. Milka is now enjoying her retirement after 27 years with Leader Cards Paper Company.

Through the years, Milka has remained a faithful Slovenian and a loving and dedicated wife, mother and grandmother. In addition to her devotion to her family and work, Milka is a very active parishioner of Saint John Parish where she is a member of the church choir and The Christian Women's Society. Milka is also a devoted member of the Slovenian Cultural Society, Triglav, where she has contributed so much of her time and talents (Milka is an excellent cook and loves to garden) toward the preservation of the traditions of Slovenian Culture.

Ann Tomsick

No. 50, Euclid, Ohio

A long-time member of Slovenian Women's Union, past president of St. Vitus Mothers Club, member American Mutual Life Association, Slovenian National Benefit Association #256, Slovenian Radio Club, and United Slovenian Society, Anne is married to Ken, her husband, and is the mother of 5 sons, daughters-in-law, and 6 grandchildren.

Anne is of Polish heritage and has 5 brothers and 2 sisters.

She is known for her baking talent and was showcased in the Universe Bulletin; also a volunteer contributor of many birthday cakes to the residents of the Slovenian Home for the Aged.

She and Ken enjoy listening to her son, Joey Tomsick and his Band, and has traveled to Slovenia, Poland, and many other countries.



Pauline Bužan

No. 100, Fontana, California

It is with great pleasure that Branch 100, presents its "Member of the Year," Pauline Bužan. Pauline, born in New York, just a day after her parents landed at Ellis Island, has been enveloped in Slovenian culture all her life. Pauline was born of Josef and Paula Shubel (Šubelj) and learned to love classical music and the music of her heritage from her uncle, Anton Shubel. She was a charter member of the SWU original Branch 93 in New York in the late 1930's and served as an officer.

As a young adult in 1943, Pauline joined the Women's Reserve Marines and was eventually stationed in El Toro, CA. It was in California that she met and married Boris Bužan. They became permanent residents of the Golden State and made their home in Laguna Beach where they raised their three children, Boris, Hedy and Ana. Laguna was the perfect place for this artistic family. Boris was a talented artist and that talent was passed down to Hedy, in particular. The Festival of Arts became a way of life for them. They took an active part in the art community, but never forgot their heritage.

In 1998, Pauline joined Branch 100 and has been an active member of our group. Pauline achieved her dream of joining the Peace Corps in 1999 and at age 80 was proclaimed the oldest volunteer of the Peace Corps in the world, at that time. She spent two years in Jamaica, teaching English and working on several other projects. At the same time she brought Slovenian music to these people and even taught a few of them to dance. After her return, Pauline jumped right in helping with youth song and dance performances, cooking, teaching a Slovenian Language class, and translating letters and documents for friends and members. She is always ready to play the piano for sing-alongs or lead a group while the accordions play. Now, she is hoping that one of her four grandsons will travel to Slovenia this summer with the Young Adult Tour so that he, too, will learn about his heritage.

We are honored to have Pauline Bužan as our friend and as a member of the Slovenian Women's Union of America.



Sue Pakiz

No. 102, Willard, Wisconsin

Branch 102 has named their Secretary/Treasurer, Sue Pakiz as their Member of the Year. Sue and her husband, Larry will be married 30 years on May 11th. They raised two sons, Troy and Todd, and will get their first daughter-in-law next year when Todd and Kaysie Benson are united in marriage. Sue and Larry have visited Slovenia three times and enjoy the beauty and friendliness of the country. Sue has worked for the Marshfield Clinic for almost 26 years and in her 'spare' time enjoys cooking, baking, reading and gardening. She also sings with the Slovenian Singers and in the choir at St. Mary's Catholic Church where she is also on the Church Decorating and Education Committees and has taught CCD for many years.



Mary "Mimi" Mejac

No. 103, Washington, D.C.



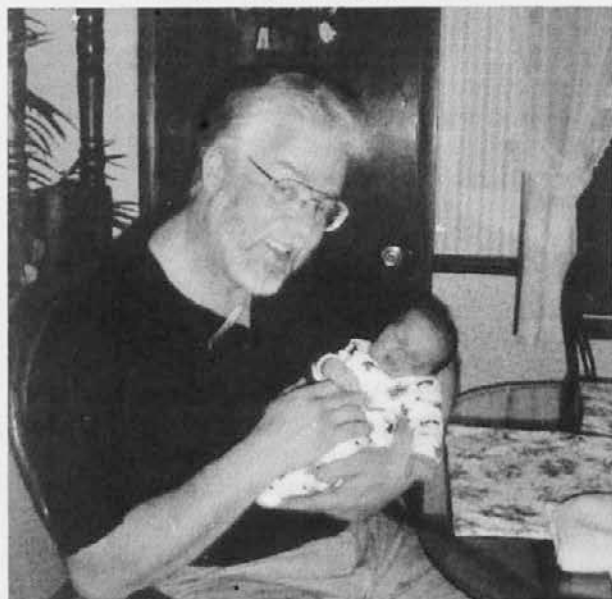
Mary Mejac has had a long and distinguished association with Branch 103. She was its first secretary when the branch was formed in 1965. Because of her excellent service she has been reelected to that position for the following 38 years.

She is dedicated to her ethnic heritage. As branch secretary she has been involved in the planning and execution of all the many events sponsored by Branch 103. She has been a vital contributor in all aspects of decision-making and members look to her for sound ideas and direction.

Mary was born in New York City of immigrant parents and was very active in local Slovenian activities while residing there. She graduated from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Yonkers, NY and worked at Sloan-Kettering Institute in NY, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C. While her children were young she was self-employed as a technical and medical proof-reader.

She, and her husband Conrad, are very proud of their three children, Helen, Peter and Maria and their eight grandchildren. Mary and Conrad are well known for their hospitality and host social gatherings in their home with traditional Slovenian warmth and cordiality. They work to promote preservation of their Slovenian heritage whenever the opportunity arises.

Mary's devotion to, and perseverance in promoting Branch 103 activities makes her a particularly valuable asset. She is loved and held in the highest esteem and we are blessed to have her with us.



Happy Fathers and Grandfathers Day!

Member Jack Kolesari proudly cuddles a new spring bloom of the family. Natalie Morgan arrived on March 13th, joining sister Alyssa Rose with mom and dad Tracy and Jason Kolesari.

Being their 6th grandchild, Jack and Betty Ann Kolesari just marvel at how wonderfully blessed they are for such a family bouquet!

Isn't a beaming grandpa and a sleeping baby the most precious picture you can imagine?

GRANDMOTHERS' CORNER:

My Baby's Baby * By Betsy Blair

When my daughter was pregnant for the first time, I reheard her gurgles in my dreams and saw her first steps. Her baby clothes came out of the tissue to be washed and ironed. The nest for the newcomer was being assembled, twig by twig.

And then came Rebecca. As I held her, I found myself loving my own mother. She had been a sensational grandmother. Could I do as well? Her words "my baby's baby" [said years ago when I gave birth to my daughter] were rollicking gleefully around inside my head. I still thought they were corny. But I saw, with clarity, the difference between sentiment and sentimentality. My mother was not silly or sentimental; she was loving, full of sentiment, and not afraid to show it.

I had great fun being a mother, but being a grandmother is different. Grandchildren love you for nothing. They jump into your arms and fall asleep clutching your finger. The perfection of their tiny bodies is an endless consolation. Your own gray hair or crinkly arms disappear when you gaze on their shining locks and smooth skin. They give you reality. They show you the meaning of life by tumbling you into a river of love.

— Blair was nominated for an Oscar for *Marty* (1955). Her autobiography, *The Memory of All That*, was published last year.

(AARP – March–April 2004)

Hi, Angie Nico!

We just learned that our loyal and wonderful member of Br. 89, Oglesby, IL, former officer, Angela Nico, has changed her residence and is now at LaSalle Healthcare, 1445 Chartres St., LaSalle, IL 61301. Her phone is (815) 220-1152.

Angie has attended every SWUA function in Illinois, and many national events including Conventions, dressed in her Slovenian costume! She's a proud Slovenian lady and we salute her!

On this photo taken at the 2003 National Convention in Duluth, Minnesota we see Angie (seated) and delegates from So. Chicago branches, Vida Kumse and Gladys Buck of Br. 16, and Dolores Hennelly of Br. 95.



A husband's tribute to his wife!

It's nice to read about a happy family and this month is the time to remember how much love there really is between husbands and wives, not to forget loving mothers and fathers, grandparents and family members.

This is just one of those stories. Robert W. Pulkinen, of Embarrass, MN, who calls himself a "Finlander husband" sent us this picture and paragraph about his wife, Francine, a member of Br. 39, Biwabik.

He says:

"Francine still has her old Slovenian ways, makes potica, has volunteered at local hospitals for 15 years, treating nursing home patients to free hair-cuts, operated a beauty shop in our home for 30 years and still finds time to fish for the big ones!

"Her late mother and father, Angelina and Frank Brula were from Gilbert and that's where I got acquainted with ZARJA. We have been married 45 years and have two children, Mike and Jim and 3 grandchildren."

Thanks to Robert for remembering Francine's March birthday with this special wish. On the photo we see Francine with one that didn't get away!



Mother of the Year 2003 honored in Aurora

On the 4th of July, 2003, the town of Aurora, Minnesota celebrated their "First Century" and our Anna Hodnik was honored as Mother of the Year by the Slovenian Women's Union, Br. 35. She participated in the parade dressed in her Slovenian costume. Anna has served her branch in many capacities and is a past National SWU Junior Director.

On this photo she is seen standing in front of the monument to Slovenian Immigrants that was erected near the Senior Citizen's building on Main St. in Aurora.

Congratulations, Anna!

In Memory on Mother's Day



Jennie Fitzthum
President of Br. 14, Euclid, Ohio
Passed away May 11, 2003

*I cried, you dried my tears
I laughed, you laughed with me
I needed help, you were always there
My Mother, my best friend*

Sadly missed by daughter, Diane

GOLDEN JUBILEE



Fr. Frank Perkovich will be celebrating his 50 years of Priesthood on Sunday, June 6 at St. Joseph Church in Gilbert, Minnesota. The celebration will begin with the Polka Mass at 1 p.m., immediately followed by a video program, "The Life and Times of Fr. Frank Perkovich." Refreshments and music and dance to follow until 6:30 p.m. No invitations have been sent. Everyone is most welcome.

Fr. Frank Perkovich's biography, "Dancing a Polka to Heaven - Story of Fr. Frank Perkovich, the Polka Mass Priest," is now released with the story and history chronicles of the life and ministry of Fr. Perk. A further story of the book is in this issue as a book review on page 17.

Slovenians at St. Pat's Day Parade



Corinne Leskovar:

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE HALL OF FAMERS OF ST. VITUS PARISH

On October 26, 2003, the parish of St. Vitus celebrated the lives of three of its former students, Jean Krizman, Robert L. Jevic and Edward L. Mihevc. And what seems especially interesting is the fact that their lives have also impacted on us, as members of the Slovenian Women's Union of America. They have earned their honors by leading exceptional lives and being examples of benevolence combined with hard work. That's the Slovenian spirit, you will say! And it surely is. It is also representative of the kind of people we have always had in our organization.

Jean Krizman is a long-standing member of Br. 50 since girlhood, belongs to the well-known Krizman family and great supporter of her sister, Albina Novak's work as a pioneer officer of SWUA. Jean has actively participated in important philanthropic work as a board member of the Slovene Home for the Aged and Slovenian National Home on St. Clair. She is always on hand with good concepts and ideas for fund-raising and has served her church and community well.

Robert Jevic is the son of our good member, Ernestine Jevic of Br. 50 in Cleveland. His military career brought him in active duty in places such as Korea and Germany and after retirement, he served in the Office of Emergency Preparedness of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Ernestine is a very proud mom and son, Bob still retains close ties with his Cleveland family.

Edward L. Mihevc was honored at this event for many reasons, among them for his philanthropic generosity to St. Vitus Church. His life was an exciting one, albeit filled with risks in business and in major sports adventures. The parishioners of St. Vitus are the recipients of his very generous gift of over \$6 million. His legacy to the parish and school lives in the Mihevc Scholarship Fund that has been recently established.

Edward's sister, Sylvia, is a very long-time member of St. Vitus parish and in her youth was an active drill team cadet with Br. 25. She has retained a long association with the Glasbena Matica Chorus and SND on St. Clair Ave.

The 16th Hall of Fame celebration has certainly brought a renewed spirit and sense of pride to the many former students and all the parishioners of St. Vitus, believed to be the largest Slovenian parish in the U.S.A.

Colorful Slovenian costumes enhanced the St. Patrick's Day parade at Gaithersburg, Maryland last month. Members of Br. 108, Olney, MD participated and it looks like they had a great time: Erika Kopel Roda, daughters Ayla, Brielle and Celine; Nika Kovacic, Bernadette Fitzsimmons and children Matthew, Thomas and Juliana (dressed in Bernadette's childhood costume), John Klansek and Frank Videgar with his wife, Gretchen and daughter, Anna. Frank played his button box accordion for happy dancing along the way.

See Branch 108 report for more!

The New Neighborhood Online Comments

by Lynn Zalokar



Dear SWUA Members:

July 2004 will find me for the first time in the homeland of my maternal grandparents, John Blatnik and Marija Kocevar who immigrated from the "Stari trg pri Ložu" area of Slovenia to Minnesota in 1909. In preparation I am learning some Slovene, translating birth and marriage certificates, and, being a career teacher, combing the web for Slovenian articles of historical and cultural interest.

My primary goal in this trip is to observe directly what it means to be Slovene. Besides visiting the many promising tourist attractions, I plan to wander off the beaten path. Few if any tours are involved.

Are any readers of this newsletter planning to be over there in July, and if so, would you be interested in perhaps meeting up to share some explorations?

It's kind of lonely being Slovene in Oregon. We don't have the same network of contacts you in the mid-west do. Najlepša hvala!

Margaret Moore
skybird@teleport.com



(Below) The pillow on the table display at the Duluth National Convention, June, 2003, tells an old Slovenian proverb.

Photo, Linda Ford



BOOK/VIDEO REVIEW



"DANCING A POLKA TO HEAVEN"

Part memoir, part tribute and filled with the story and history chronicles of the life and ministry of Fr. Frank Perkovich of Gilbert, Minnesota.

The major focus of the work: fifty years of parish ministry and the development and promotion of the Polka Mass – a celebration of the Roman Catholic Eucharistic rite set to the folk music of native Slovenian culture. It is conceived and born out of the belief that the Mass is at heart a joyful event and that it should be easily accessible to all people in familiar idioms.

The book is divided into three sections: "The Formative Years," "Celebrating the Polka Mass," and "The Priest and His Ministry." In each section, material from Tom Sullivan's extensive interviews with Father Perk and many of his friends has been integrated with data from other sources, including newsletters and records, letters, and historical reference works.

It would be easy in a work like this to focus solely on the daring and flamboyance of the Polka Mass and miss the larger ministry of which the Polka Mass has been but one component. In pulling together the various accounts and reactions of the many persons whose lives were touched by Father Perk, it has become clear that what has been central for him is his joyous commitment to his God and his ministry.

Final version has been edited by Betty Vos. Other contributors are Marjorie Miller, Chuck Morello, Chris Moroni, Veda Ponikvar and Rosemarie C. Russ.

Publisher of this book is Singing River Publications of Ely, Minnesota. Their website is www.singingriverpublications.com. You may also fax an order to them: (218) 365-5792.

Sonce ne sije
tako lepo
kakor mamice oko!

The sun does not shine
so beautifully
as do my mother's eyes!



Slovenian Women's Union ~ Scholarship Program

A VERY SPECIAL GIFT from Artist and SWU Foundation Officer, Mary Prisland is inaugurated in this ZARJA.

Mary designed this growing plant with roots system and lovely lettering for a SWU Scholarship brochure which will be printed in the near future. Mary wrote "I'd like to emphasize the aspect of promoting Slovenian culture by supporting the education and personal growth of its members. I envision a drawing of a flower with roots below ground, getting in touch with our roots and heritage. "MANY THANKS, MARY" for sharing your talent. This drawing reflects a personal aspect to our SWU Scholarship Program.

"Family"



Introducing ALLISON GRUDEN, 2004 recipient of the SWU Heritage Award. Allison, a member of Branch 42 is the daughter of John and Mary Gruden of Chesterland, Ohio. Allison has completed her freshmen year at Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, Ohio and writes about her family.

My family heritage is a strong and meaningful story told to me by my grandmothers, parents and relatives. Like the pieces of a quilt we come together to tell a story rich in our family's culture. Despite the fact that I have never met my great grandparents on either side of my parents' families, I feel I know them through the many stories told to me over the years. The good and the bad all come together in a unique tale of where I came from. I can appreciate the knowledge that my family, particularly my aunt Karen, have taken the time to gather and record facts for future generations. She has compiled a book for each of her siblings and painstakingly collects new facts to add each year. I know through these records that our family history will go on and I can add my own to further tell the story. Thanks, aunt Karen, for your dedication to our culture. You inspire me.

Allison Gruden

JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2004 DONATIONS

\$5.00 donations: Angela Nico (†Mary Jermenc), Angela Nico (†Ann DeBord), Lois Pelander – Scholarship Fund

\$10.00 donations: Ivanka Matic (†Mary F. Maxin), Janice Krebs – Scholarship, Olga Maynard – Scholarship, Josephine Lee – Scholarship, Kathleen Starcevic – Scholarship.

\$15.00 donation: Branch 41, now Branch 14 (†Cecelia M. Wolf) (†Steffy M. Zorman)

\$20.00 donations: Dorothy Zakrasek – Scholarship, Mary Jo Lustik – Scholarship, Kathleen Wheeler – Scholarship.

\$50.00 donations: Mary and James Fischer – their parents: (†Margaret and Robert Fischer). Branch 20, Joliet, IL deceased members: (†Ann Dragavon, †Josephine Ercegovich, †Anna Petric, †Frances Kodrick, †Alice Ancel, †Frances Papesh, †Bernice Skriner, †Rose Marjaservich, †Kathryn Hill, †Edith Spokas)

\$100.00 donations: Karent Longdon her Mother: (†Antonia "Toni" Brant), Mary Spehar White, 1992 SWU Scholarship Winner to Scholarship, Stanley Bratina, SWU Scholarship winner to Scholarship, Mary Ann Kosir – Scholarship, Franell Fedor – Scholarship.

\$250.00 donation: Family and friends of Edward Bogolin

\$1,000.00 Scholarship gifts: Anthony Colnar in honor of his Mother, Frances Barman;

Rose Marie Jisa in honor of her Mother, Mary Macek.

Four special people have funded \$1,000 SWU Scholarships for 2004–2005

FRANCES BARMAN Scholarship

Anthony Colnar's gift is in memory of his dear Mother, Frances.

Frances came to Cleveland as a young widow with her son, Anthony after her soldier husband was killed during World War I. Her work as a seamstress and love of gardens, all skills she learned in Slovenia, helped her to make a good adjustment to the American way of life. In 1925 she married Joe Barman. Frances was a dedicated worker and supporter of the Slovenian Women's Union.



Anthony Colnar and mother Frances Barman

MARY MACEK Scholarship

Rose Marie (Macek) Jisa's gift is in memory of her dear mother, Mary Stebver Macek of Onalinda, Pennsylvania. "Mary, my mom, was my inspiration" Mary married Frank Macek in 1924 and became deeply devoted to teaching her children the Slovene culture, it's foods, it's music, and encouraged them to participate in SNPJ plays and concerts. Mary spent hours, too many to calculate, as a loyal member of the Slovenian Women's Union in Girard, Ohio serving in all offices and worked tirelessly baking, cooking and serving for SNPJ lodge dances and picnics.



Daughter Rose Marie remembers two most important things about her Mom "(1) her positive attitude and (2) the trust she had in us to allow us to make our own decisions." Rose Marie was an 1954 recipient of a SWU Scholarship.

Mary Macek

JOSEF PRINC Scholarship

Josef, a native of Velika Bukovca, Ilirska Bistrica, graduated with an Engineering Degree from the University of Ljubljana and continued his studies in Germany. After immigrating to the United States in 1957, he continued his studies and worked for Nichols Homeshield as their chief designer and acquired a number of patents. He also designed for Anderson Window Company. Josef was married to Rose Marie Princ and loved being an American, although he was also very proud of his heritage. Josef was a devoted supporter of the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Illinois.



Josef and Rose Marie Princ

ROSE MARIE PRINC Scholarship

A native of Chicago, Rose Marie is a life long member of St. Stephan's Branch 2. She graduated from St. Mary's High School and Rosary College with a degree in History and English. She continued her studies at Loyola, De Paul and Northwestern and earned advanced degrees at the University of Chicago and Northern Illinois University. She taught at Nazareth Academy, J. Sterling Morton High School for 27 years and was also its administrator for 14 years.

Upon retirement Rose Marie served on the executive board as well as treasurer and president of the Retired Teachers Association. Rose Marie now resides in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she is active in numerous organizations. Rose Marie has been a generous supporter of our SWU program for a number of years.

For information on our Scholarship Program or to send much needed donations, which will be acknowledged by mail and in ZARJA contact:

Mary H. Turvey, Director
SWU Scholarship Program,
52 Oakridge Drive, Marquette,
Michigan 49855

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

DIANE BALACH 2001

Diane Balach, Branch 42, Maple Hts., Ohio, 2001 winner writes: I am happy to update you on the progress of my educational pursuits. On November 21, 2003 I took my final exam at Penn State University where I have been enrolled in the Paralegal Certificate Program. I completed the necessary course work including classes in Family Law, Civil Procedure and Practice, Elder Law and Legal Research. I was truly impressed with the quality of education from Penn State. I will be receiving my certificate shortly.

I currently work for the city of Maple Heights, Ohio and I am the Planning Commission Chairperson. I work with business applications site plans, public meetings and interpretation of the zoning laws of the city. My education from Penn State has been helpful with the position.

I am currently married to Michael, who works for Anderson Door Company in Cleveland and have a daughter Kimberly who is a sophomore at Trinity High School in Garfield Hts., Ohio and am currently the Sergeant of Arms of SWU Branch 42.

I send my best regards to the members of the Slovenian Women's Union and Scholarship Committee... Sincerely,
Diane Balach

ANGELA MLAKAR 1998

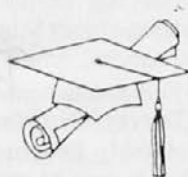
ANGELA MLAKAR JONES, Branch 100, Auburn, California 1998 winner writes: I attended California State Polytechnic University of Pomona and graduated in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. In those four years of college I learned so much about my major, life, and myself. During my senior year I had the opportunity to fulfill one of my lifelong dreams. For four months I backpacked across Europe and attended school in a small town in Italy, just outside of Florence. I received full credit for the fall quarter of my senior year at Cal Poly Pomona and experienced much of the Italian culture and lifestyle. I traveled through eight countries in Europe, one of which was Slovenia. I spent one week there and met my family

that I have heard so much about all of my life. My grandmother, Rosemary Mlakar, was on a trip there with the Slovenian Women's Union in 2001 when I met up with her and she introduced me to our people. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

Since my graduation from Cal Poly in June of 2002 I was engaged and recently married to my best friend from high school. His name is Clayton Jones and he is a soldier of the United States Navy. We married on November 8, 2003 in Auburn, California... our hometown. We are now residing in Gaeta, Italy where we are stationed until January of 2005. Once again I have been given the opportunity to experience the Italian way of life and travel Europe with my husband. I couldn't be more thankful for the things God has blessed me with in my life. Thank you so much for your support and your interest in my endeavors. Sincerely
Angela Mlakar Jones

CHARLENE HERRICK 2000

CHARLENE HERRICK, Branch 102, Willard, Wisconsin 2000 winner writes: I would like to thank the Slovenian Women's Union again for the college scholarship; the money helped fund my first year of school at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse I am currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse pursuing a degree in General Management and Technology with an emphasis in Sociology. I have striven to do my best and have accomplished highest honors the past two years of being on the Dean's List. I will be graduating in May 2004 and have applied at Kohl's Corporation. I hope to receive a job as as Assistant Store Manager. During spring semester of 2003 my sister Roberta, who is a nursing student at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and I had the opportunity to travel throughout New Zealand and Australia for six weeks. The experiences and sights from this journey will never be forgotten. Thank you. *Charlene Herrick.*



*To Help Keep
the Dream Alive*

Genealogy Search

My Dear Slovenian Genealogists:

Between 1815 and 1930, 60 million Europeans left their native lands. Slovenes settled in large numbers in the United States, Canada, Australia, and South America. Immigration to Argentina was greatest after WWI, when the Slovenian people were able to organize their own societies and publish in the Slovene language. However, during the Peron Regime, they were banned and did not begin to reorganize until 1957. Today there is still a large Slovenian population which supports a number of societies and publications. They work with the Slovene Immigrant Society, a source for those of you researching in Argentina.

Sao Paulo, Brazil was a prime Slovene immigrant site. Between 1870 and 1900 240,000 Europeans came, being promised land and wealth. But in actuality they ended up replacing slaves who had liberated themselves and abandoned land owners. Many died of yellow fever. Children especially had an extremely high mortality. The climate was extremely humid and hot compared to the Alpine environment from which they came, and hard labor paid only a few pesos a day. Some returned to Slovenia but many stayed and today have integrated with multiple nationalities of Brazil, including a large German population which to this day holds "Oktober feasts".

Part of a letter from an unknown author dated Brazil, 6 March 1891:

"We traveled 3,500 miles and we did not have any mishaps on the ocean. God protected us from great misfortune because one does hear that there were all kinds of misfortunes on the other ships (heavy seas, causing people to be thrown from their berths, nausea, illnesses, deaths) but we, thank God arrived safely. We traveled 21 days, aside from layovers. And now I inform you that when we arrived in the province of Sao Paulo, they put us in migrant homes like army barracks, owned by the government, and we were given food for eight days. For those eight days we were in those homes. They wanted to force us outside of them because we did not want to submit to life on a FAZENDA, that is, to those gentry who owned the coffee rights. It was difficult to hold out in that place because it was very hot. And with those gentry, it is like this: on their own land they are free to kill anybody with a rifle for disobedience. There is no law regarding that, because here in the Brazilian republic, it is ruled by nobility."

During 1983 I wrote to the Public Archives of Rio Claro, north of Sao Paulo and after a 6 month delay was sent the death records of my great grandfather and his second wife. My great grandmother's burial record was not found but I was advised that she was buried in a deserted cemetery in Itirapina, 20 miles from Rio Claro. Franz Černe (name changed to Francesco Tsherne, the German version of Černe) and his wife Marija came to Brazil from Trieste in 1895 where Franz, because of his education, was able to get a job translating and doing paper work for a coffee baron. His wife, my great grandmother, died one year later of yellow fever. She wrote back to Slovenia that she cried every day for her home and her small daughter whom she had left behind. The young daughter was Marie Černe Priland. Several years after I received Franz's death record, aunt Hermine Dicke and her husband visited Rio Claro and with the aid of a Portuguese interpreter, found the Tscherne family through a phone book. Černe Family members came from all over the Rio Claro region to see their American relatives. Since that time we have been in communication with them and one descendant's husband, who is a missionary, actually lived in Chicago for a few years while her husband was in family bonding, a feeling of belonging.

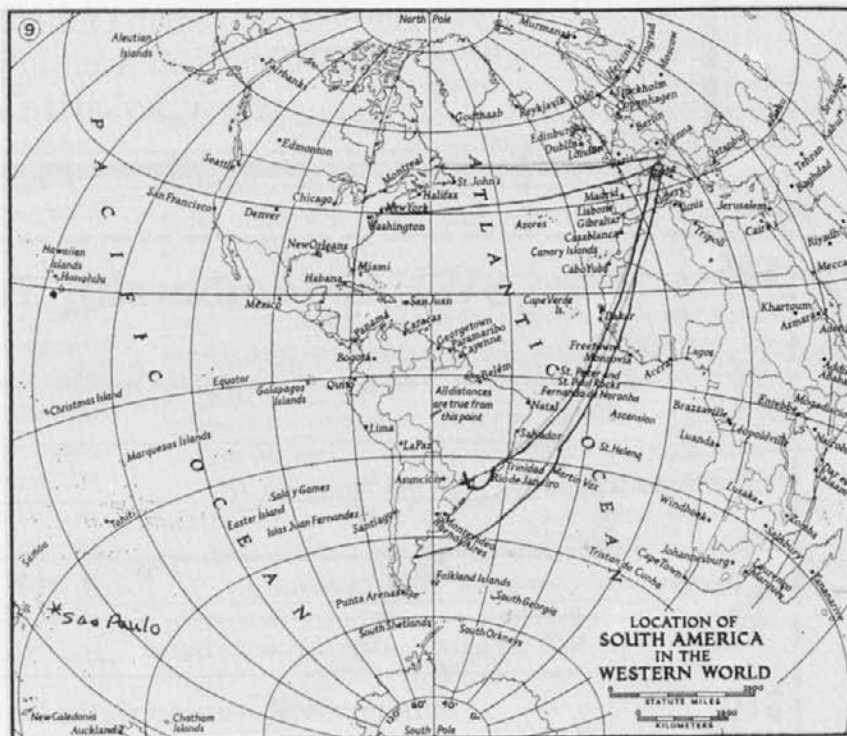
Wishing each of you many blessings and happy hunting!

Tončka

For queries, comments or to order \$6.00 Slovenian genealogy packets write to: 52 Oakridge Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855.

Reference sources:

"Writing Home: Immigrants in Brazil and the United States 1890-1891"
Witold Kula, Nina Assorodobraj-Kula, Marcin Kula
"Brazil: The Once and Future Country" Eakin, Marshall C.
"Emigration, Slovenes in South America and Australia"
Sao Paulo Genweb <http://www.rootsweb.com/brasp/index.html>
Public Archives of Rio Claro:
Arquivo Publico E Historico Do Municipal De Rio Claro,
Caixa Postal 284, CEP k3500, Rio Claro, Brazil



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FINDING FAMILY

A commentary on a recent pilgrimage to Slovenia in search of family

How can words adequately express our family pilgrimage to Slovenia to meet family that had been officially separated since circa 1920 when several family members immigrated to the United States, specifically to Johnstown and Pittsburgh, PA.

My story begins in 2001 when as a medical scientist working in New Orleans; I had the opportunity to attend a scientific meeting in Vienna, Austria in Sept. 2002. I immediately thought that this provided a tremendous opportunity to do something I always dreamed of – to try to find our family roots in Slovenia. Yes, I am full-blooded Slovenian. Thus, all 4 sides of my family originated in Slovenia – but where, I did not know. I always expressed an interest in this endeavor and often told my parents, “some day.”

My parents, Paul and Pauline Fidel are first generation Americans living in Pittsburgh. However, both grandfathers passed away before I was born and my paternal grandmother passed away when I was 6 years old. Hence there was little chance to get any first hand history. On the other hand, my maternal grandmother lived to a grand age of 89 and only passed away a few years back as I approached 40. However, she immigrated when she was 9 years old and did not remember much. It is unfortunate that I was not able to fulfill my wish of traveling to the homeland before she died. She would have enjoyed this story! But I am sure she saw it unfold and possibly had a hand in making it happen. In the end, the plans were made and I had also convinced my parents, who in their mid 70's were still able to travel. I thought my parents should go despite it being a tough journey – many of their siblings had already lost their chance to experience this.

In researching family history, my father's mother (Iskra) and father (Fidel) came from Novokračine and Sušak, two very small villages a few miles (kilometers) apart near the Croatia border. My mother's mother (Hliš) came from Šoštanj, north east of the central city of Ljubljana. My mother's father (Micklege) had come from Koper, a resort type area in the southwest corner on the Mediterranean. Some research and limited contacts with a few family members who had immigrated to Australia, and who had attempted to compose a family tree several years ago, provided the initial information necessary to learn the whereabouts of my father's family. As luck would have it, two of the younger progeny from Australia (Sylvia and Sandra, my second cousins) had immigrated back to Novokračine. Thus, we had English-speaking translators! Though there were some phone line difficulties, we did reach my cousins and told them of our plans.

We were not as fortunate on my mother's side. We only had two letters written in 1965 from my mother's great aunt in Šoštanj to her sister in Bridgeville, PA. We were able to get the letters translated and also had the envelopes with a return address in Šošanj.

So we set off on this pilgrimage with really no great expectations. First a long flight to Vienna (where we would eventually return for my meeting) and then a 6-hour train ride to Ljubljana. In Ljubljana we would rent a car and head south to Novokračine! If anything, we figured, we would meet a few people, visit a cemetery, and at least see the country. Our first meeting was with my Australian-raised cousin, Sylvia, and my father's two first cousins. Now you must understand, although first cousins, none of these people knew each other existed except maybe on a piece of paper. Upon meeting them for the first time at a hotel/bar at the Croatia border, I was stopped in my tracks!! These two older gentlemen looked exactly like my father's two deceased brothers! It was an amazing sight! Chills went down my spine when the first words spoken by Sylvia were: “Paul (my father), this is your first cousin, Anton, and your other first cousin, Joško.”

For the next 48 hours we were showered with hospitality, congeniality, food, spirits, and beautiful conversation. Now if you can imagine sitting at a table with people of two different languages and interpreters for each side, but with conversation never ceasing for even a minute! And to look across the table and see the resemblance of these individuals in their 70's with that of my aunts and uncles and grandparents! I sat back and watched this unfold, house after house. And did I mention that Slovenia is God's country? Words cannot describe the picturesque settings of the family villages set amidst the mountains and valleys.

During our two days in Novokračine and Sušak we met upwards of 25 people from both sides of my father's family. We were invited into their homes and treated as royalty. I even met two second cousins that I looked like! And I don't really look like anyone in my U.S. family. That was a real treat for me! I should mention, too, that Slovenians are very congenial. Since everyone always congregates in the kitchen/dining area at gatherings, each home has a couch in the dining area! It certainly made for a beautiful setting for our interactions.

We toured the local cemetery where relatives had been laid to rest. It went back quite a few years. It was amazing to see how well these people respect their ancestors. Although this cemetery was several hundred years old, it was so well-maintained. To learn the history of our family and see pictures was an equally tremendous experience.

We ended our stay at the village pub that is owned by another of my father's cousins. We didn't want to say goodbye, but it was time to go in search of my mother's side. We vowed to return! After many hugs and kisses and pictures we set off on the second half of our pilgrimage.

(To be continued)

In Loving Memory

MARY L. SEVER BATIC



On the suggestion of Bonnie Prokup, National Secretary, I am writing this article about my dear mother, Mary L. Batic. She was proud to be of Slovenian heritage and it only seems fitting that we remember her in ZARJA, since her photo as the Captain of the St. Mary's Cadets of Br. 41, was on the cover of ZARJA in 1943.

My mother was a wonderful mom who loved to cook, travel and attend social events. She loved to dance and all kinds of music, but especially Slovenian style polkas and waltzes. She was an active member of many organizations and Br. 32, SWU in Euclid.

As the captain of the cadets, the drill team girls were good friends and they met many times – at least twice a year – to reminisce and have fun talking about their trips and activities as members of SWU. Until she became ill she attended many of the lodge functions and traveled with groups of her Slovenian girlfriends. It was nice to see many of them come to pay their respects at her funeral.



She brought me up in the culture she learned from her parents who came from Slovenia, first to Minnesota and then to Cleveland. As long as I remember, their heritage was the biggest part of my upbringing, from the holiday traditions to preparing the wonderful food.

After a long illness that left her somewhat home-bound, my mother went to heaven on Christmas Day. She prayed the rosary every day and hoped she wouldn't be alone. Her last three days were happy ones, from going to Midnight mass, to seeing her grandchildren enjoying Santa Clause's visit, to having a wonderful dinner on Christmas Day. Later that same day she had a heart attack and left us.

I always said goodbye to my mom after our visits with the words: "Be a good girl, and I'll see you tomorrow," and she would answer: "I love you and I'll try to be good."

* * * * *

Am sending these photos of my beautiful mom. Hope many will remember and enjoy seeing the drill team cadets of the 1940's who are on the picture below.

Beverly Batic-Sciarrabba, Mentor, Ohio



ST. MARY CADETS NO. 41, CLEVELAND (COLLINWOOD), OHIO



† Ruth Sheck

Sincere condolences to the family of Ruth Sheck. Ruth was the president of Branch 1, SWUA in Sheboygan, Wisconsin for over 25 years and a life-long member. Slovenian was her heritage and she was so very proud of it. Ruth practiced her Slovenian in prayer and song. Polka music was commonly heard in her home. Apple strudel was one of her favorites to make. If you asked Ruth for a recipe, she would say: "Go to your Slovenian cookbook – you'll find it!"

Branch 1 was at the top of her many organizations. She worked diligently making meetings special. She was a beautiful lady.

Thank you, Ruth, for your kindness and for giving of the word and spirit in the many wonderful years of your life.

Aggie Gruenke, Vice President

† Mary Jermenc

Loyal member, Mary Jermenc of Br. 85, DePue, Illinois, a long time reporter for her branch news in ZARJA, passed away suddenly on Feb. 15, 2004. She was born Oct. 11, 1921 in DePue.

In her articles she never failed to write something pleasant about the members and families. We're certain that they will miss her very much and we, too, will miss Mary's cheerful and agreeable nature. May she rest in peace.



RECIPES FROM THE FARM

Food Columnist, Jean Korsman

4222 McKinley Rd., Gilbert, MN 55741

My Finnish husband always prefers his pancakes "thin," so when I tried the Slovenian Palačinke (Crêpes Suzette) from our *More Pots and Pans* cookbook, page 65, they were really a BIG hit! I used an eight inch teflon round-sided pan and sprayed it with butter-flavored shortening.

Crepes Suzette – Palačinke

- 6 Medium eggs
- 2 Cup milk
- 1 Rounded Tablespoon sugar
(I used 2 Tablespoons)
- 4 Tablespoon oil
- 1½ Cup Flour
- ½ Teaspoon salt

Beat eggs until light and foamy. Add milk, sugar, oil, and flour. Beat until smooth. Heat pan and put in a small amount of oil for each crepe. Pour about 3 oz. of batter, tilt pan to cover bottom. Fry until "lacey brown and bubbly" (perfect description). Turn over to lightly brown other side. Remove to plate. May be served with sour cream, jam, syrup, or as the French would say, *beurre sucre*, (a little butter and sugar) Ahem! We preferred them with Lingonberry jam. I also tried some with "home-canned" pitted plums. Spoon the filling down the middle, overlap sides to divide crepe into thirds. Sprinkled with powdered sugar. They

are a "treat for the eyes" as well as the stomach. I add bacon and sausages to the menu for a filling brunch or lunch. I cut the recipe in half the first time; two of us ate them all, so make a full batch. They can be frozen, separated by wax paper.

Martha Stewart's recipe for "Swedish Pancakes has nothing on Ann Ferks' (MP & P). Martha has slightly different measurements and she adds ½ teaspoon of vanilla! Are Slovenians excellent cooks or what?

Dandelion Salad – Regrat

Delicious in the early spring!

Pick dandelion leaves in the earliest spring – the best are small and tender. Prepare them by washing and cleaning off the earth and roots. Tear into small pieces.

For the dressing – prepare a vinaigrette by frying bacon pieces and pouring vinegar over them while hot, adding finely chopped garlic, salt and pepper to taste.

Some cooks like to add small pieces of boiled, peeled potatoes to the mix.

Yummm... (Probably every Slovenian family has had this served by mom or grandmother.)

Meat-filled Dumplings – Žlinkrofi

Since I won the "Potica Contest" with my friend Fran Siskars' recipe, I finally made her **Meat-filled dumplings (Žlinkrofi)**, page 116 in our new cookbook. They were great! Just be sure to seal them well; mine tended to pop open! I always preferred them deep-fried, and her hint was to make them all at one time, and to allow them to dry out slightly before frying. This makes for a better seal. These resembled small egg rolls.

NOODLE DOUGH

- 3 Eggs
- 2 Cups flour
- 1 Tablespoon oil

FILLING

- 2 Cups ground cooked ham
- 1 Beaten egg
- 1 Cooked Polish Ham

Some recipes call for crumbs or fresh parsley; I added 1 Tablespoon parsley.

Mix the dough ingredients. Let stand about ½ hour. Divide in half and roll out on floured cloth or counter top, very thin, as for noodles. Cut into four inch squares and place heaping tablespoon of filling in center. Tuck in ends, roll up and seal edges well. Deep fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towel. I serve them as a main dish. Left-overs are good even cold!

Happy Mother's Day

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26/ ZARIA – The DAWN

Activities of our Branches



Reports due first of month
preceding publication.

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1926

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

Our beautiful city of Chicago is celebrating 167 years. There are so many places to go see, to shop, to enjoy – why not plan a trip!

We are so happy that the birds are back, singing, looking around for nesting material and thankful to all those for all the food awaiting them after the cold winter. Even some of the flowers have shown their faces. Spring – how wonderful!

On March 21, we celebrated St. Joseph & St. Patrick Day meeting; it was well-attended with 40 members and guests. The day was chilly but we were blessed with sunshine which we all appreciated. Our hall was decorated in red and green and our beautiful statue of St. Joseph watched over all the food. Fran welcomed everyone and read a St. Joseph prayer. Everyone brought delicious food to share and we had so many different types of desserts. It was a fun afternoon, good to see all, but we really missed the members who were unable to be with us.

At our May meeting, we will celebrate by honoring all our members as – “Members of the Year.” We will have lunch and there will be surprises. Please come and celebrate with us.

The following members are home from the hospital: Jean Hrastar, Jennie Worth, Stella Longosz, Bernadine Storz and Frances Jasbec. The following members had surgery: Theresa Lopez, Elsa Antonioli, Mary Kosar and Matt Buol. We hope they are all doing well and will be with us at the next meeting. God Bless You All.

We are so sorry to report the deaths of family members. Our sympathy to: Lorrie Gornick who lost her mother; Millie Paisoli lost her sister-in-law, Fanny Kuhar; Frances Silko, Jeanette Frontier. Joseph Skala lost their cousin Agnes Lesar; Mary Kosar, Christine Stanek and Frances Yucevecius lost their brother-in-law, Joseph (Tootsie)

Grzetic; and to the family of Vince Rigler who passed away in Slovenija – to his wife, Marija, son, Vince, daughter, Susie and grandchildren. Also, condolences to the family of Eddie (Ate) Bogolin, to his wife Sofie, his children Gary, Robbie, Lorrie, Josie, grandchildren and his brother, Bill. Please remember them all in your prayers that they will rest in peace.

Good News: Geneva Cerjak's grandson, Joseph has completed tests at Indiana University to become a doctor's assistant and is now taking a class for the Medical College Admission test. Good luck, Joe.

Congratulations to Grandma Fran Kuca (Kozelj), great aunt, Jo Barc and aunt Kari, and to the parents, Kevin and Diana Kuca on the arrival of little Kaitlyn.

Please make plans to attend our Zveza Day Picnic on July 18 – Lemont, IL. We are planning some fun things for everyone – young and older. Mass 11:00 a.m. Our kitchen committee will be waiting to serve you great food on the hill, music by Vince Rigler. It will be a fun day! See old friends and meet new ones!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Mothers and Fathers Day.

Love,

DAISY

NO. 3, PUEBLO, CO

Founding Date: DECEMBER 19, 1926

**Meetings: 1st Tues.
St. Mary's Church Hall**

How nice it is to have the winter weather behind us and to see everything green and flowers blooming.

We are so happy that Margaret Culen and Eileen Kaplan will lead us again. Lillian Galich is our “Mother of the Year” and she is very deserving of this honor – always willing to help, very good about attending meetings and cheerful to be around. She will be honored at our May party at LaRenaissance Restaurant May 4.

During Lent, soup was served every Wednesday and some of our members were very helpful in serving. Any do-

nations are for the Rice Bowls for the poor.

Our sympathy goes out to all who have lost loved ones and, as always, let's not forget our homebound, the ill, caretakers and residents of nursing homes in our prayers.

PAULINE PAUCHICK

NO. 5, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Founding Date: JANUARY 15, 1927

**Meetings: 1st Thurs.
SND, from May to Dec.**

Happy Easter!! Happy Spring!! Finally it feels like warmer weather is here to stay. We really can't complain, though. Our winter here in Indiana was cold, but fairly easy to get out and about. I like the kind of snow that looks pretty for a few days, then melts!! This is also the time of year for renewal. Renew yourself by calling an old friend with whom you have lost contact. Renew yourself by a visit to church or cemetery that holds memories for you. Most importantly, renew your family ties. Spend time together, especially with younger members, sharing the history of your family. Pass along information to out-of-state family via letter or e-mail. Copy pictures of family members and share old albums and photos, this is where family history interest is sparked amongst the younger members. The next family historian may be right under your nose!!! Many of you are celebrating First Communions, Graduations and Weddings at this time of year. Member Betsy Fon, winner of the SWUA scholarship and picture-queen of the SWUA cookbook, will graduate May 9th from Purdue University with degrees in Interior Design and General Studies. Member Brooke Mohr just finished her first year at Notre Dame University and plans to return next year (and I am sure she will send 2004 ND football tix to her favorite SWUA President then!!) Member Sara Fon is busy planning her July wedding, and very excited that Fon family members from Slovenia are coming for the festivities! Texas member, Nancy (Konechnik)

Kronoshek is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild (and possible new SWUA member!). Member Linda (Konechnik) Dalton's son Scott is getting married in May. Texas member, Barbara (Mohr) Friesenhahn will be returning to Indiana in May to be Confirmation sponsor to member Kristina Cox.

This winter, SWUA and other Slovenian organizations were invited to participate in a project at the Haughville Library. We were asked to create a 12" x 12" quilt square that depicted our involvement in the Haughville community. It could be about anything, but had to incorporate a common fabric that would be in all the squares. Fr. Taylor asked if I could do one for Holy Trinity Slovenian Catholic Church. I also did one showing all the Slovenian groups in a "SLOVENIA TO INDIANA" square. The quilt will be assembled and on display at the library this summer. Try to stop in and check out this latest project.

Congratulations to Sue Ann Yovonovich, our Member of the Year. Sue Ann comes from a family known for their willingness to help out when and where they are needed. Thanks for your continued support and help in Branch #5. We will honor her at our May meeting.

Welcome to new members who are reading this column for the first time. Any member information that you would like to share with others can be sent to me via e-mail (SLOVENEAFON@AOL.COM) or by mail to: PHYLLIS FON, 7151 Windridge Way, Brownsburg, IN 46112. Speaking of new members, enroll a new member today—just give them the application in the back of each ZARJA, or enroll online.

Please keep our members in your prayers over the summer season, especially our older or sick members. Travelers need extra prayers for their safe return. Also, remember our military families and friends. Drop them a note to let them know you are praying for them. Peace to all.

PHYLLIS



NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927

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

We surely had some very cold days and missed a few members at the meetings. Delores Kodrich made us her favorite punkis and Ann Noprelli brought pizzelles — she brings them to every meeting.

Rose Lorek is at Assisted Living, and was glad I called her. She misses our meetings and seeing friends.

I had a phone call from Leona Zigman — she is feeling better and misses the meetings and friends, also. Virginia had Helen Sem give pamphlets out to the members on the 3 day trip to Pittsburgh and Cleveland they were planning for April 2nd. We're sure they had a marvelous time.

At our March meeting Chris Kuks and Rose Mattias helped set the tables. Connie Lewandowski made reservations for our Christmas party on December at Aliolo's Restaurant.

President, Josephine Janezic came to our meeting and talked about the State Convention in Sheboygan which will be on Sunday, September 26th. She is getting a bus for Br. 43 and asked our members to join them. March birthdays included Fanny Smole and Ludy Babich. Fanny brought a cake.

Happy Mothers Day to all and happy springtime.

STAVIA DOBERSEK

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Founding Date: OCTOBER 30, 1927

**Meetings: 1st Thursday
Slovenian Hall on Mariposa St.**

I have just returned from our April meeting which is usually great with "bag lunches." In honor of Easter, Doreen Sustarich and Moreen Spencer brought egg salad and tuna sandwiches for everyone. Louise Petrusich brought cold slaw and Jo Auito brought chips, Bev Jackson, an Easter Cake. So, we had a delightful lunch and great meeting.

In May, Barbara Chiodo offered to do "sandwiches" for all. It's nice to have such generous members.

Our Woman of the Year Brunch

will be May 16th at the Downtown Marriott in S.F. at 1:15 p.m. It's \$28.00 per person. Please call Jo Auito for reservations, (415) 863-8532. Mass is at the Church of the Nativity with brunch to follow. We will be honoring all members.

It is so good to see spring after all the rain. Beautiful colors of flowers everywhere. Happy May birthdays to Sophie Troya, Laura Frick, Marie Fir, Danielle Barbee and Steven Stimach.

In June, Ann Fabian who is celebrating 93! Diana Gremett, Karen Jensen, Ivanka Lukezic, Margaret Schmidt and Mary Copp.

The June meeting is our annual "Hello to Summer" pot luck dinner at the Slovenian Hall at 6 p.m. This is usually great food and good fun. Come and join us! We don't meet in July and August, so come, say hello and join us for dinner.

Betty Doherty is now living at Daley City Retirement Inn, 501 King Dr., Daley City, CA 94015, call (650) 878-4884. Send a card, and say hello to one of our most supportive members — for a lot of years. She will be celebrating her 94th birthday in August. God bless you, Betty; we miss you!

Please send me any news of what's happening in your life...Everyone loves to hear about our sister members.

"A true friend laughs at your stories, even when they're not so good, and shows sympathy with your troubles, even when they're not so bad."

BEVERLY JACKSON

NO. 14, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: OCTOBER 31, 1927

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

A last minute reminder that this year No. 14 will once again honor all of our ladies as Mothers and Women of the Year. You're invited to join us in our celebration on Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 at Slovenian Society Home on Recher Ave. Call in your reservations to Stana Grill at (440) 944-0598 or Diane Varney (330) 923-4034. We're looking forward to another fun evening with all of our friends and members. Hope to have another large crowd!

Greetings to all of our members at Gateway Assisted Living and at Gateway Apartments. I'm writing this article the end of March, but we had our

meeting on April 6 at Gateway Retirement Community.

Members would like to take this chance to send best wishes to all of our ailing ladies for a speedy recovery and hope to see their smiling faces very soon.

Upon seeing my first brilliant purple crocus in my garden today, I'm anxiously waiting for the first spring flowers to appear with their spectacular colors and fragrance!

Enjoy your Mothers Day with your loved ones beside you!

ALICE KUCHAR

NO. 16, SO. CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 13, 1928

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

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

Congratulations to all "Members of the Year 2004." Br. 16's choice for this honor is our Vice President, Mary Jane Strus.

Our May Luncheon will be held at the Jovial Club on May 6th, 1:30 p.m. For reservations please contact Mary Jane Strus (773) 768-5127 or Mary Therese Ehnat (773) 646-5758. We are asking the members to please bring a contribution for the "Sweet Table." Anything will be appreciated. Thank you.

We have lost another faithful member, Helen Pastirik, on March 5th, 2004. Even though Helen was in her nineties (94), she attended meetings until the last few months when her health was failing. She always helped set up the place settings for the refreshments. Helen was also very active at St. Francis de Sales Church. Our sympathies to her daughters, Joanne Freeman and Barbara Pastirik.

Congratulations to Michael Strus, son of Mary Jane and John. He was named Coach of the Year of the St. Francis de Sales High School Girl's Basketball team. He is also a math teacher at the school.

To: Megan Novak, granddaughter of Fran and Rudy Novak. They will be travelling to Boston for her graduation from Boston University on May 16th.

To: Tina Sertich, for receiving a "Senior Citizen of the Year 2004" Award. Tina is a member of the

Calumet Park Seniors. A Luncheon will be held at the Sheraton Hotel on Sat. May 22 honoring the Chicago Park District Seniors.

Belated Birthday Greetings to Mary Puterko (82) 3/13, Helen Battista (81) 3/15 and Dotsi Rossi 2/14. Dotsi's family had a surprise 75th at St. Mary's Hall in Griffith where her family and friends helped her celebrate. Another surprise celebration (80) was held at Villa De Bruno for twin sisters, Julie Vrlch and Bess Ivancovich. We will be sending 93 Birthday Wishes to Clara Saviano on May 5th.

Our members love to travel. Gen Marco has returned from visiting her son and family in Arizona. Marjorie Mitchell and John are on a Mexican Riviera Cruise for 10 days. Andrea and Ed Kral are on a visit to daughters in California and Reno. Gladys Buck and niece, Barbara Ireland went to Las Vegas and Dolores Franko and I also went to Las Vegas and California to visit family members.

At our March meeting Vida Kumse read articles of news from Slovenia and Marjorie Mitchell read items from the On-Line newsletter. Our refreshments included Corned Beef sandwiches to celebrate St. Patrick Day.

Welcome to two new members to Br. 16 - Connie Saviano and Julie Pastor.

Hostesses for June meeting are Fran Novak and Victoria Putzell.

Happy Mothers Day and Fathers Day to members of SWU!

SYLVIA SPRETNJAK

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

Founding Date: JUNE 11, 1928

**Meetings: 3rd Tuesdays
except June to September
St. Joe's Park Hall**

Contact: Sr. Marlene (815) 724-0731

"Bring flowers of the rarest..." We honor Mary with this hymn.

At the Feb. 10 meeting the accumulating attendance award of \$60 was won by Pat Butterbach and Judy Derlinga won the 50/50 prize. Good for you!

We had the 'St. Joseph Table' on Mar. 16 followed by the meeting and some Bingo games. The accumulating attendance award winner was Tom Mahalik who was not present. Evelyn

Thank You, Br. 20

Thank you for remembering our mother, Katherine Hill, nee Malnarick, at her funeral. Having you there was very important to us because our mother was so proud of her heritage.

I am enclosing my long overdue application and requesting additional application forms for my sister and three daughters. I would love to be a part of the membership my mom was so proud of, and I would like that pride to be continued with my daughters.

Thank you again for your kind words...I will not forget.

Love,

Angie Brooker

Lustik won the 50/50 prize.

Come on May 18, Tuesday to help celebrate the 'Woman of the Year' who is Sister Marlene Ambrose. "I was surprised and honored!" The celebration will take place at St. Joseph Park Hall. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m., program will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the banquet at 6:30. And - entertainment will follow.

St. Joseph's Fair will be held at St. Joseph's Park on Theodore and Raynor on June 26 and 27. There will be a Polka Mass at the Grotto at 11:30 a.m. on June 27. We'll see you there. Come and enjoy your friends, food, drink and music for your dancing enjoyment.

'Zveza Day' is on Sun. July 18 in Lemont, IL. This is hosted by Br. 2 of Chicago, IL. Start the day with the 11:00 a.m. Mass (Slovenian singing), the picnic follows. We hope to see you there. Need transportation? Call Jonita at 726-6990.

If you know of someone who is sick, celebrating an anniversary, had a baby... Call Jonita - 'Our Sunshine Girl' at 726-6990.

Get well wishes to Grace Doerk, our recording secretary. (Vicki Hodgman is filling in for Grace at this time.)

Congratulations to:

* Bruce and Kathy Korosa on their new grandson, Nicholas Andrew. So, when will we see him playing the accordion?

* Dorothy Koncar, who is now a great grandmother to Lucy Aileen Koncar.

* Mark Cepon on his excellent performance with his button-box and voice rendition in the play 'Caberet' pre-

Plan on going with us to Minnesota June 6th

We will be attending the celebration of Fr. Frank Perkovich's 50th Anniversary of Priesthood on Sunday, June 6th at St. Joseph's Church in Gilbert, Minnesota. Br. 20 has sponsored Fr. Perkovich and his Polka Masssters at St. Joseph Church in Joliet three times. All of us know him and appreciate his friendship, so we hope to be there to help him celebrate.

After the mass, there will be a banquet, entertainment, the "Singing Slovenes" from Duluth, and dancing.

On Sat. June 5th, you may want to go to the German Restaurant Gasthoff where Bill Koncar, Dorothy Koncar's son, will be playing. You can go sightseeing, too. This is a "once in a lifetime," experience.

For more information and reservations, contact Jonita Ruth, (815) 726-6990 by May 18th. Transportation costs will depend on the number of those attending.

sented by the University of St. Francis, in Joliet, IL.

* Jake Jakovich, Class of 1961 – "Alumnus of the Year."

We extend our sympathy and prayers to:

* Evelyn Mauro (death of husband, Louis)

* Marge Grayhack and Bernadine Rutkowski (death of their brother, Frank Cernugel)

* Family of Johanna C. "Jen" Rogel. Johanna was a Br. 20 member since 1932!

* the sisters and brothers on the death of their brother, William Anzelc.

Remember – when you are studying spirituality, you can tell everyone you are working toward your master's degree.

SISTER MARLENE AMBROSE, OSF

NO. 23, ELY, MN

Founding Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 1928

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

The last couple of years we've been so lucky with Minnesota weather but this year it was very unpredictable. In February, our president, Gerry Petrich, was stranded in the Twin Cities area because of bad driving conditions so vice president, Judy Swenson took over our meeting on the 2nd.

Pat Lammi, treasurer, presented of list of our "over 90" members whose dues are paid by the lodge – we have 14 members over 90 years of age. All members were asked to come up with new ideas for a fund raiser to be held in Sept. or Oct.

Mary Ann Pulis offered to be in charge of entertainment at our special

doings as she has connections with groups and persons that entertain (she does this type of coordinating programs for our nursing home). Thanks, Mary Ann.

Judy Swenson went over the article in the Jan.-Feb. ZARJA "Ask Tončka" – the geneology search – She explained very thoroughly how to fill out the forms for our own 'tree'. We'll ask the members to bring them to the next meeting and also review the places on our map of Slovenia. Thanks, Judy.

Molly Grahek won the door prize and Janet Grahek won the 50/50 drawing. Thanks to Gloria Smuk and Sally Davidson for the coffee 'an' and for pitching in at the last minute when those appointed couldn't make it to the meeting.

I'm sure some of you may have been at the 2004 Illinois Polka Fest in Oakbrook, IL. Well, Gerry Petrich and I (Jane Yadlosky) and our husbands were there also. MN had two buses from the MN Iron Range – We met so many nice people – mostly Slovenian – and you should have seen the dancing!! It was great!! I was really impressed – the bands were very good and from all over. Saturday afternoon, the Polka Mass with a priest from Joliet and the Bob Dozak band was beautiful!

March Report

Cold, blustery winter weather greeted us again for our March meeting on Monday, March 1st. Just a few members showed up to take care of the business at hand, mainly selecting a committee to plan our "Woman of the Year" dinner in May. Drawn to serve on the committee were Rose Starkovich, Pauline Ferderber, Janet Grahek, Mary Ann Starkman, Dorothy Grahek, Jane Yadlosky, Mary Ann Pulis, Mary Ann Lekatz, Pat Lammi and Roslyn Perko.

The previous 'women of the year' will form a committee to select this year's honoree.

Judy Swenson reported on a book "Slovenia" with descriptions of tools and crafts used there – example: a typical 'hay rack' and the reasoning behind how it is made and used. It brought back fond memories to many of us of our parents and grandparents using similar tools.

Gloria Smuk won the door prize: a replica of wooden kitchen utensils used in Slovenia – a gift from president Gerry Petrich. The 50/50 drawing was won by Gerry Petrich.

A lunch was served by Rose Gornik and Helen Champa.

Best wishes, with hopes that you had a glorious and blessed Easter season!

JANE YADLOSKY

NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL

Founding Date: OCTOBER 17, 1928

Meetings: 3rd Tuesdays
Eureka Savings Building
Monthly except July and August

Dober Dan!

What better way to welcome Spring than to have a meaningful Lenten season and a glorious Easter! In our home, my mother always made the most delicious dandelion salad – she called it our "spring tonic." So, between Easter and the "tonic" we were ready for the season which meant planting vegetable gardens, flower beds, housecleaning, etc.

Yes, spring brings forth much new life – just ask Adele Gensler, who was expecting the arrival of three new Great Grandchildren. She has those knitting and crochet needles going making booties and bonnets. My husband and I are awaiting the arrival of our 19th Grandchild in April. We had three last year alone. They seem to be coming in "batches."

We had 24 members attend our January meeting and were happy to welcome two new members: Frances Michaels and Willa (Bildhauer) Dellinger.

Jo Grabowski and Helen Swietek visited three of our shut-in members over the Christmas season – Minnie Carter, Mary Senica, Justine Anglevar. They enjoyed their visits and the plants that were given to them by our Branch.

Helen Millman regularly visits Antoinette Hoefflerle who resides in Lacon and she, too, always likes to hear of our Branch news.

As we listened to the music of Lojze Slak, whose CD we purchased while in Ljubljana in March, we talked about the famous Slovenian poet, France Preseren whose life and times are celebrated in conjunction with Slovenian Cultural Day in February.

Our hostesses for the meeting, Rose Mary McLaughlin, Melissa McLaughlin and Mary Ann Pieczynski did a fine job with the "treats" and in February, Mary Mecum, Linda Struna, Robbie Donohue and Liv Karun were in charge.

Our March meeting was attended by 32 members and it was a fruitful meeting indeed. We had a demonstration on how to dye Easter eggs with onion skins, we talked about the Holy Saturday Blessing of Food, or Žegen and also how to make the traditional "Easter Butare." Although many of our members already know of these customs, there were many who were interested and eager to learn. It was a lot of fun! Also, for the first time we had a "pot 'o gold" (or 50/50). \$19 was won by little Adam Lenkaitis, a junior member.

Mimi Hewitt suggested that her sister, Helen Millman begin teaching those of us who can't speak the language, and there are many, several words or phrases each month. There was an enthusiastic response to that suggestion and Helen is going to prepare something along those lines for next month's meeting. She jokingly added that we will be graded on our efforts.

Our plans for the State Convention on October 3 are coming along nicely. We are going to co-host with Oglesby's Branch 89 and DePue's Branch 85. We were sorry to hear of the death of Mary Jermenc from the DePue branch. Though their numbers are small, they have always been faithful and loyal to their heritage.

Our Branch lost one of our 50 year members, Evelyn Kastigar, in January. She was active until her health began to fail and she went to live in Waukesha, Wisconsin to be near her family. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and will remember her in our prayers.

At our May meeting we will have the annual Spring luncheon, it will be

held at Mario's Maples in Peru. It is always a lovely event and one that is enjoyed by all.

In June we will once again have our Slovenian picnic hosted by Barbara Pohar and her daughters Bonnie, Cathy and Debbie. This has turned out to be one of the highlights of our year. It is a potluck where everyone has to bring a Slovenian dish to pass. Combine that with the atmosphere, the balmy summer breeze, the tables under the trees and the Slovenian music. If you didn't know any better you'd think you were in a little village in Slovenia. Barbara has always so graciously agreed to host this event and she works very hard to make sure the huge yard and flower gardens are in perfect condition. She does a marvelous job and it is appreciated!

We are so lucky to belong to this organization and to have the opportunity to maintain, explore and enjoy our heritage, and we are having fun doing it together!

Until next time, may your hearts be happy and filled with peace and love.
LORETTA STORY

NO. 25, CLEVELAND, OH

Founding Date: NOVEMBER 22, 1928

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

Happy Springtime and sunny and warm summertime! The weather favored the Easter festivities. A belated Blessed Easter to all!

Also... Rev. Fr. Jos. Boznar, Pastor of St. Vitus Church located on Lausche Ave. was chosen to represent the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave. as Man of the Year! Congratulations! The affair was wonderful with over 600 people in attendance. Our accolades to all the honorees from all the Slovenian Homes.

Julie Zalar and her very efficient staff did the catering which was delicious. Most delicious were the Flancati and Poticas as the dessert.

Dates to remember: Mother's Day and Memorial Day in May. Display the flag! Father's Day is on June 20th.

The parishioners of St. Vitus Church and St. Mary's Church were given tickets to the movie by Mel Gibson of The Passion of the Christ. The movie was very intense, in fact I must say *very, very intense!!!*

The Presidential election is coming up in November...don't forget to vote. Very important... I know it is a bit early but it is very, very important that everyone vote.

To all the shut-ins and our sick in nursing homes... a big, big hello. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Luv you!!!

The St. Clair Pensioners were going to "Trek on Down" to W. Virginia to the Mountaineer Casino in March. Will give you the inside story as to the happening at the casino at a later date. Good luck to all.

Remember this: Yesterday is *history*... Tomorrow is a *mystery*... Today is a *gift*. That's why we call it present. How about that?

Till the next time... be good to your neighbor.

Aloha!

EMILEE

NO. 32, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: AUGUST 25, 1929

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

March meeting - a treat with ice cream and a large cake for the birthday girls. Nice crowd and a joyful night together.

Our Pres., Pam Dirk, opened the meeting with prayer and a tearful request for a moment of silence for her grand-dad, her mom, Charlotte Perdan's dad, grandma, Frances Ogoreuc's husband, and hostess, Alex's great granddad. Four generations of one family and the deep loss of Frank Ogoreuc, loved and remembered by all of us, saddened us very much. May Frank rest in peace.

The deceased in our members' families are in our prayers and wishes to the bereaved.

To all our shut-ins, we hope you will have great, relaxing lives and happiness. Remember our shut-ins, Mary Ster at Heather Hill Rehab, Anna Rossman at No. Ridgeville nursing home and Mary "Z" at the Slovene Home for the Aged. We send best wishes to these three ladies who gave their hearts to our branch with many hours of labor, ideas and good deeds.

The business part of this meeting - theme for us is: Keeping Slovenian Heritage Alive! This will be seen at the Ohio Branches' Heritage Day to be held

October 3rd at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, beginning with a Polka Mass at 11:30 a.m. It will be a day of fun and is planned with all our members in mind.

We thank our Mary Sterle for the donation of \$100 to defray the expenses of this event. Mary also does a lot for people in her own special way.

Remember, also, the conference of Ohio-Michigan on Oct. 31st with our branch, #32 as hostess. It will begin with 12:00 mass at St. Mary's church in Cleveland (Collinwood). Pastor, Father Kumse is always ready to do more than his share for our Slovenian Women's Union. We certainly are looking for a nice turn out for this affair as well. So, branches, we have a lot of going on and hopefully, both affairs will be well done and well attended.

Mother's Day! All the Br. 32 members-mothers will go out to dinner. At the April meeting we made plans – as always, hugs to all mothers!

The spring season means we can get outdoors and enjoy the sunny days. Dig up the flower beds, you'll be glad to be able to do these things. Sun and fun for all!

A person's reputation is just what people think she is! Her character is what God knows she is!

DOROTHY LAMM

NO. 33, DULUTH, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 8, 1929

**Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month
St. Elizabeth Church**

Inadvertently my last article was lost or misplaced so please bear with me if some of this news is old and my apologies to those who submitted information.

In December under the direction of Doris Skull and Sharon Bucar we took a bus trip to Arden Hill, MN to see a Christmas Pageant. It was absolutely awesome. We enjoyed the trip so much Doris planned another to the Passion Play on April 25th. It was wonderful, too.

We lost two of our members within a day of each other. Elizabeth Picconatto and Madelyne Abbott.

Madeline was chosen Mother of the Year in 1991. At her celebration she presented each member present with a rainbow of beads and ribbon and plastic canvas to hang in the window. We will miss them and offer our condolences.

Armenia G. Immanuel lost her son in December. He passed away from a disease similar to Lou Gehrig's disease. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her.

At our April meeting we demonstrated how to do Easter eggs. Stella Mattson demonstrated how to do the beautiful ones and Bev Menart demonstrated coloring eggs with the red onion skins. Easter tablemat door prizes were given by Bev Menart.

Mary Spehar White is our Woman of the Year. In 1982, she was chosen for the Marie Priland scholarship award and has remained a vital member of Branch 33. She has been Vice President for several years. We are very happy for her and will celebrate with her on May 6.

At this reading our member Doris Skull will have moved to Blaine, MN, near the Twin Cities. Doris has been very active with our Branch and we will miss her. She was Branch 33 delegate at the National Convention last June. Thank you, Doris, for all you have done!

Plans are in the works for the Celebration of our 75th year this fall. Sharon Bucar and her committee are in charge of the activities.

We will also be celebrating the 75th year of ZARJA at our September meeting.

After our long cold winter we are looking to Spring and Summer. Enjoy the summer and take time to smell the flowers! (Carnations!)

BEV MENART, Reporter

**See page 5 for carnation flower seeds
you can buy through SWU!**



NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 12, 1929

Meetings: 3rd Wed., 1 p.m.

St. Martin's Church Hall

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

Members saw red at their February meeting as the motif had a Valentine effect! Hostesses, Ag Mattson and Adrienne Micklich served a beautiful red cherry salad supreme with Valentine decorations. Discussion centered around the coming State Convention on Sept. 12, at Tower. Games were won by Betty Dolinar, Helen Adkinson and Kay Dean. Door prize went to Betty.

My memories of Valentine's Day as a girl were of my mom's birthday – so we had all the trimmings of the season – my family could always depend on having lots of candy! So, my heart and prayers remain with you, Mamica, on this, your 99th birthday!

On our recovery list are Kay Berglund, Marianne Hill, Ann Myre and Frederick Pahula. God bless you and all.

* * * * *

"Sure and it was the wearin' of the green" at our March meeting – with St. Patrick's Day celebrated at the meeting in the upper room of St. Martin's church in Tower. Discussion centered on the upcoming State Convention.

We were saddened by the loss of our vibrant member, Kay Berglund. Kay was always full of life and fun. We will all miss her smile and warmth.

Our fellow member, Fred Pahula was 90 years young and with his twin brother, Doc, they celebrated! Bog vas živi! His years of teaching, his kindness and generosity are in inspiration to all his former students and all his friends.

Member Ann Myre is still on the mend. Keep your faith strong and we are all praying for you.

Games were played and winners were Betty Dolinar, Adeline Mustonen and Ag Mattson. Jennie Driscoll brought the door prize and hostesses were Marcy Rooney and Ag Mesojedec.

We all celebrated Easter with wonderful food and church ceremonies. It was so inspirational to remember the meaning of Easter.

Thanks for joining the SWU family and keeping our heritage alive.

ADRIENNE MICKLICH

NO. 35, AURORA, MN

Founding Date: OCTOBER 15, 1929

Meetings: 6 times per year

Community Center

Contact: Anita Vovk

E-mail: AMV@cpinternet.com

Our ladies came to the meeting on Feb. 8th in spite of the bitter cold weather and enjoyed the afternoon. Vice President Dorothy Jamnick opened the meeting with prayers. Thanks, ladies, for your generous donations for another successful dime social. This money and free-will offering for coffee an' is the beginning of a fundraiser for our 75th anniversary celebration.

As we gather articles from past ZARJAs for our scrapbooks we realize what a treasure and link this magazine is to our heritage. Remember, ladies, all ideas and articles are welcome to make this a special anniversary.

Congratulations and best wishes to all our high school graduates: Lindsey Antilla, Alyssa Hodnik, Katherine Furry, Jennifer Menart, Nicholas Martinetto and Erin Putnam.

Get well wishes to Martha Gunderson and Madelyn Klun and all our members who are ill.

Special thanks to:

Veda Marinsek for your letter – we enjoyed hearing from you;

Pres. Anita Vovk for your Valentine card and letter and keeping in touch while on vacation;

Corinne for another very interesting issue of ZARJA (March–April), and the beautiful cover picture of the Slovenian "butarica";

Our hostesses, Martha Gunderson, Barbara Urick and Anne Orazem. I was the winner of the lovely door prize donated by Anita.

Welcome home from Texas, Anita ... and Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers!

ANNE ORAZEM

DONATIONS FOR PHOTO PRINTING

\$20 Anne Tomsick, Br. 50,
Cleveland, OH

\$10 Mary Jermenc, Br. 85, DePue, IL

\$10 Jane Yadlosky, Br. 23, Ely, MN

NO. 39, BIWABIK, MN

Founding Date: FEBRUARY 3, 1930

Meetings: 1st Sunday monthly

St. John's Church

As I write we are beginning our most holy Easter season. It seems like we just finished our Christmas report and now our spring is rapidly approaching.

Our March 7th meeting was opened with prayers by President, Jean Korsman. In spite of a snowy day, twelve (12) members were in attendance. A discussion was held on a new member induction to be held in April. It was announced that on March 14th, on our local PBS channel, members of our SWU branches #35 and #39, Aurora and Biwabik respectively, would be featured on a segment about Iron Range cooks. Our own ZARJA food columnist, Jean Korsman, demonstrated the process of potica-making and Anita Vovk and Anne Orazem demonstrated the art of flancati. We hoped to video-tape that portion so that those who miss the program can view it at a later date. Kathy Siskar, was named our 'Member of the Year' and the date of the dinner to honor her will be on May 2nd at Giant's Ridge Lodge. Coffee an' was served by Eleanor Intihar, Helen Zallar and Phyllis Kukar.

Our April 4th meeting was opened with prayers by Jean Korsman. Eighteen members were in attendance and were updated on various items of correspondence and reports. An induction ceremony for new member, Phyllis Lamkin, was read and she was welcomed as a "sestra naše Zveze". Good to have you aboard, Phyllis. Lots of good discussion on various Slovenian recipes continued and many nostalgic memories surfaced. Again, ladies, this is our avenue to continue passing on our heritage. An appeal was made for members to share items of interest, stories and pictures to submit for display at the Heritage Museum in Joliet. A dessert was served by Lucille Starken and Rosemary Ribich. The door prize was won by Maria Ferkul.

What a delight it was to see a picture in the ZARJA of a junior member of Br. 20 playing his button box. Several of our Br. #39, 23, 34 and 35 members had the pleasure of hearing him play in Oak Brook, IL at the annual Pol-

kafest. Martin Mavec, has some Iron Range ties and how great it is to see that this musical interest continues to grow in the next generation. I recognized some familiar faces at the Hyatt Regency hotel that weekend. I am sure I met some of you at the SWU convention in Joliet. Wouldn't it have been fun to have some item of identification recognizing SWU members that were in attendance from all the different states? Maybe next year??

We look forward to this issue of the ZARJA that is devoted to honoring our branch members of the year. We join all the members in congratulating them and send our best wishes for a Happy Mothers Day to all of SWU.

ROSEMARY (SERTICH) RIBICH,
Reporter

NO. 40, LORAIN, OH

Founding Date: APRIL 21, 1930

Meeting: 2nd Wed., 1 p.m.

SS Cyril & Methodius Hall

*Ljubi Maj – Krasni Maj
Konec zime je sedaj!*

I well remember my mom singing that song. And we can all breathe a sigh of relief and say goodbye to winter. Time to think of planting a garden. Mom always tried to get her first planting of lettuce on St. Joseph's day – March 19th.

Instead of a meeting in Feb., we met at a very fine Mexican restaurant for lunch. Nice attendance, too. A good time was had by all. We decided to skip April and have our next luncheon on May 12th at 1 o'clock. This will be at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School. Their class of future chefs has won prizes in national competitions. I know we will enjoy our luncheon there. If you need a ride, call Agatha or me. You will be called as we need to know how many will come.

We have had some interesting meetings. Last month Babe Grayson brought two very old books for us to pass around and examine. One was a cookbook published in Ljubljana in 1903, and the other was a Slovenian – English handbook published in New York by Viktor J. Kubelka in 1912. This had phonetic pronunciation of American words useful to our Slovenian immigrants. This was a help in any situation the new arrivals found

themselves, whether shopping or going to the post office or bank etc. Thank you for sharing, Babe.

Congratulations to Agnes Tomazin on being chosen Woman of the Year by the Lorain Slovenian Home. She represented us at the 43rd Annual Awards Banquet held in March by the Federation of Slovenian Homes, during which one person from each of 11 Slovenian Homes in the northern Ohio area was recognized for his or her service to their home and their community, an honor well deserved. Again, congratulations, Agnes.

I read that Toni Morrison, writer of many best selling books would be featured in an article in Time Magazine during April in which she told about growing up in Lorain where she was born and schooled.

My sister, Mary Bradish was visiting her daughters in the Youngstown area. She is our Georgia member - lives outside of Atlanta - but ended up in the hospital with pneumonia. Not a very pleasant way to spend a week. Now she will stay another 2 weeks recuperating before heading home. Get well and stay well, Mary.

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers. Enjoy the day and every day. Happy Spring!!!

Love,

STEPHANIE POLUTNIK

NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH

Founding Date: MAY 31, 1930

Meeting: Feb., May, Aug. & Nov.

2nd Saturday - 11:00 a.m.

Contact Person: Lil Sadowski

(216) 398-4367

Greetings of Spring everyone. I hope you all had a happy Easter and are now looking forward to a pleasant summer.

The Hribar clan has been hard at work and study. Diane Balach (Albina Hribar Mroczka's daughter) has received a certificate in paralegal studies from Penn State Univ. and is now employed by the City of Maple Hts., as the Planning Commission Chairman. Her husband, Mike, has been elected treasurer of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society and daughter, Kimberly, has been nominated as a delegate to the Student Leadership Council in Washington, D.C. where students earn college credit and meet political lead-

ers. Kimberly now holds a black belt in Karate and by the time you read this will have traveled to Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens and Virginia Beach during Easter break with the Trinity High School band.

Aggie (Gorup) Haslup has recently returned from Moscow having gone there on her job as marketing V.P. for ALEITA, a software company with home offices in St. Petersburg and Moscow. Ag works in their Columbus branch.

Recently, Marge Church and I attended mass at St. Lawrence church with fellow lodge members of KSKJ #146. The mass was also being offered up for deceased members of the Rudy Novak family. While in the lobby after mass I recognized a gal from my YWCA water aerobics class in Parma. When I asked her how she happened to be at St. Lawrence she informs me that it was her husband's former parish and they were attending the mass and a dinner at the SNH with members of Rudy Novak's family. Introducing me to her husband I discovered that he was the son of Elsie Novak Ellis. Elsie's father was Rudy Novak, the legendary huckster of the 30's and 40's. Boy, does that bring back memories! I vividly recall Rudy and his open-sided truck coming to our Maple Hts. burg every week to supply the Slovenian families with fruits, vegetables and at times even live chickens. He would park his truck in front of our house for a midday repast at the "Nash." Frequently one of his sons, Harry or Rudy, Jr. would accompany him as co-pilots. The two daughters, Frances and Elsie are the sole survivors of their family. Rudy, the huckster, played a more important role in our family when as a "border" in my parents home he drove my mother to the hospital when I was about to be born. Retaining borders during this era was a common practice and provided the pioneers with a way to supplement their income. By the same token it surely helped the single young men who were far away from their families. I have no idea what borders paid for the service but my older sisters told me that room and board included all meals, their laundry and a lunch regardless of what shift they worked. Since sleeping accommodations were at a premium my 3 sisters shared a bed and had to be up early

enough to get the linens changed and the bed ready for the night-working borders. At night the procedure was reversed and the cycle continued. In addition to a large family and borders my mother also did laundry for several teachers who had admired the appearance of my sisters' school dresses and approached me to do their laundry. I can't imagine how this stalwart woman ever got out of the basement considering the wringer type washers in use at that time and having to hang all the clothes outside to dry in the summer and in the basement in winter. Whatever the result the Legan borders must have been satisfied since in later years they often came to visit my parents with wives and children in tow. Thus, another custom fades into the fabric of the past and to think that someone I see regularly has a direct connection to our family and neither of us was aware of it.

Happy May birthdays to: John Gravier, Dorothy Mehosky, Shawn and Samantha Thompson, Mici Champa, Melinda Phne, Madelle Zimmer and Jack Haslup.

Happy June birthdays to: Tatjana Cernigoj, Jackie Albers, Ann Trattar, Dolores Lipnos, Bob Kastelic, Betty Ann Kastelic, Sally Phne and Katherine Gruden.

The date for the SWU N.E. Ohio Heritage Day to be held at SNPJ farm in Kirtland is Oct. 3rd. We will keep you informed as plans unfold. For now, our next branch meeting is Sat., May 8th at 11:00 a.m. and our annual mass for living and deceased members is Sun., May 16th at 10:00 a.m. mass at St. Lawrence.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mamas and Happy Father's Day to all our atas. Get well wishes to any ailing members.

Zbogom!

LIL SADOWSKI

**IT'S IN
EVERY
SLOVENIAN**



Anita Vovk:

Reflections on the movie, "The Passion of the Christ"

Shedding tears for Jesus, being beaten and tortured, was so difficult to watch. But still more difficult was knowing Mary was bearing all the pain of watching the Son whom she loved so much, "hated" and crucified.

You could feel the pain as her body shook with grief and fear for her Son.

I also felt the weakness overcome her, saw the pain in her eyes, helpless, with no way to save Him from this cruelty, like a knife thrust into her heart.

Cleaning up the blood of your child has to be the greatest heart-tugging pain. Listening to the clamor of the hammer used to drive the spikes into His feet and hands, your heart tears apart with each strike.

The relationship of Mary and Jesus is likened to our own, with our children, caring for them, looking out for their safety and nursing their illnesses and wounds.

They also experienced some humorous moments together during their 33 years together.

Yes, Mary's relationship with her Son is not unlike that of most mothers, but we can go to her with all our trials and tribulations. She has experienced it all. She understands our pain and our tears.

Marija, Mati Božja, prosi za nas!



France Prešeren (1800–1849) was Slovenia's greatest poet and known for the magnificent drinking song, "The Toast" – "Zdravljica" the nation's anthem after independence in 1991. Another of his well-known works is "The Unwed Mother – Nezakonska Mati" included in most anthologies of Prešeren's poems because of its lyrical description of motherly love.

*

France Prešeren,
največji pesnik Slovenskega
naroda, hoče v pesmi
Nezakonska mati pokazati
najglobljo ljubezen, ko jo
premore materinsko srce.

France Prešeren PESMI
Pibernik-Drolc, Editors
H.R. Cooper, (Translation)
Mohorjeva založba, Celovec 2001

Nezakonska Mati

Káj pa je tēbe treba biló,
dete ljubó, dete lepó!
mēni mládi deklici,
neporočēni materi? –

Oča so klēli, tēpli me,
mati nad mano jokáli se;
môji se mene sram'váli so,
túji za mano kazáli so.

On, ki je sám bil ljúbí moj,
on, ki je právi oča tvoj,
šel je po svēti, Bóg vé kám;
tēbe in mēne ga je srám!

Káj pa je tēbe treba biló,
dete ljubó, dete lepó!
Al te je tréba biló, al ne,
vēnder presrčno ljúbim te.

Mēni nebó odprto se zdi,
Kadar se v tvóje ozrem oči,
kadar prijazno nasméjaš se,
kár sem prestála, pozábljeno je.

On, ki ptíce pod nebam živi,
náj ti dá srčēne, veselē dni!
Al te je tréba biló, al ne,
védno bom srčno ljúbila te.

The Unwed Mother

What need for you was ever there,
Child so dear, child so fair?
I am young, by fate misled
I, a mother never wed.

By father was I cursed and strapped,
And bitterly my mother wept;
My own were overcome with shame,
The rest could only point in blame.

He who was my heart's delight
Whom you father name by right,
Disappeared to parts unnamed,
For we made him so ashamed!

What need for you was ever there,
Child so dear, child so fair?
But whether there was need or no,
With all my heart I love you so.

I see the sky before me rise
Whene'er I look into your eyes,
And when I see your lovely smile
All my pain seems well worthwhile.

May you joyful days be giv'n
By Him who made the birds of heav'n,
And whether there is need or no,
With all my heart I'll love you so.

NO. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI

Founding Date: JUNE 4, 1930

Meetings: 4th Wed., noon

St. Mary, Help of Christians

Contact: Yvonne Johnstone Khaldy

YJK1013@AOL.COM

(414) 744-3837

At our March meeting, Dr. Gary Kolesari was our guest speaker. Dr. Kolesari is a family physician at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital. He spoke to us regarding high blood pressure (hypertension) – what causes it, how it affects other body organs such as the brain, heart, kidneys and eyes and what treatments are available. He also gave us literature on how to help lower blood pressure and a packet-sized blood pressure recorder.

This turned out to be a 2 for 1 treat for us, as Dr. Kolesari ended his talk by taking out his button box and giving us a mini concert. The branch members joined in by singing several Slovenian favorites and others danced to the lively Slovenian tunes. What a treat for us!!! Since he is BettyAnn Kolesari's brother-in-law, we are hoping to see him again before too long.

Slovenian Fest was planned for April 17th, with **Deseti Brat**, an octet from Ljubljana, performing. Our own Josephine Janezecz was there promoting her book, *Pepca's Struggle*.

Saturday, May 8, 2004, marks the 100th anniversary of St. Mary, Help of Christians church. Archbishop Timothy Dolan will officiate at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. The USPEH Chorus will sing and several of our members will be baking potica, strudel and other goodies for the reception that will follow.

Milka Menchak, our Mother of the Year for 2004, has selected Klemmer's Banquet Center (10401 West Oklahoma Ave.) for her luncheon on May 15th. Tickets are \$16.00 and the party starts at noon. Everyone is invited to attend. Call Josephine at (414) 545-0691 or Yvonne (414) 744-3837 for information and reservations.

The USPEH Chorus will celebrate their 25th anniversary with a concert at St. Vincent Pallotti Church, on 76th and Stevenson, just south of Bluemound Road. The date is Sunday, May 23rd at 2 p.m. For more informa-

tion and for tickets, call Mici Bregant, (414) 543-6695.

Our Branch is also looking forward to helping Branch #1 in Sheboygan celebrate its State Convention on September 26, 2004.

The March birthday members, Mary Martino, Mary Zortz, Josephine Janezecz and Elizabeth (Elsie) Gallun treated us to vegetable lasagna, salmon salad, coleslaw, Jell-O, butterhorns and cookies. Members Paula Behling, Milka Menchak, Helen Otto and Yvonne Khaldy also contributed. Josephine Janezecz made the Turkish coffee. Last month, the birthday people, Jackie Wainio, Shirl Gricar, Helen Otto and Milka Menchak treated us to tuna fish and egg salad sandwiches, tuna casserole, Milka's famous butterhorns, Jell-O and chips. We sure do eat well!

Denise Bartlett shared with us her discovery of Slovenian canned and bottled foods and Slovenian kitchen items she found at Lucky's European Grocery and Deli, 1480 South 84th Street.

We know that a lot of our members are unable to attend our meetings because of school or work, but please keep in touch with us and let us know about your family news, vacation trips, etc. Of course, we prefer to see you in person.

ANNE KONCZAL, Reporter

NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH

Founding Date: JUNE 17, 1931

**Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the Month
Maple Heights Library, 1 p.m.**

Contact: Elsie Spellacy

(440) 232-8733

We would like to congratulate ZARJA, the staff and editor on the 75th anniversary of its publication. Everyone is doing a fantastic job!

Our Mass for Living and Deceased Members will be at St. Lawrence Church August 8th, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. Our next meeting will be September 12th at the Maple Hts. Library at 1:00 p.m.

On October 3rd, 2004 we will have our Festival for the Heritage Museum. Our Branch members will be in charge of the membership table. The Festival will be held at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, OH. There will be a Polka Mass at either 11:30 or 12:00 before the Festival begins.

There will be all kinds of booths and different displays and demonstrations.

Start thinking about our Christmas Party Dec. 4th at the Valley View Center. We are hoping that everyone will do a Slovenian dish, to keep with our Slovenian Heritage.

Birthday wishes go out to all of our May and June members.

May members: Robert Hall, Katherine Wallace and Skye Hall.

June Members: Elsie Lawrencic, Jane Spellacy, Mary A. Skul and Therese Turner.

Many happy returns to all. See you all at our next meeting.

KATHARINE WALLACE

NO. 50, EUCLID, OH

Founding Date: SEPTEMBER 15, 1931

Meetings: 3rd Wed. 1 p.m.

except Jan., Feb., July & Aug.

Euclid Public Library

Contact: Anne Tomsick

Tel. (216) 531-2745

Greetings from Euclid, OH, and a big thank you to my Branch 50 members for selecting me as "Mother of the Year 2004." You cannot imagine how surprised I was to hear this news upon returning from a trip to Ormond Beach, Florida where my sister, Helen and I visited my brother, Walter. I am truly honored and look forward to what will be a fantastic year for Branch 50!

Our president, Rose Mary Toth, has been designated as Chairwoman of the SWU Fall Festival to be held on October 3rd, 2004, at our local SNPJ farm in Kirtland, Ohio. This year's theme is "Keeping our Slovenian Heritage Alive." Rose Mary has been meeting with representatives from other branches who have responded favorably and have promised to cooperate with this huge project. All SWU members are welcome to participate by displaying their crafts, hobbies and demonstrations. This is the perfect opportunity to open our hearts and show our Slovenian love and make our fall festival a day to remember. In future issues, there will be more information. All suggestions are welcome.

At our March meeting, long-time secretary, Mary Miller resigned for personal reasons. Her skills will be sorely missed. Great job!

All members wished Ann Or-

likowski Happy 95th birthday with a delicious surprise cake. Always friendly, Ann is a devoted member.

Bon Voyage to Allison Hrovat, granddaughter of Mary Maxin. She won the SWU Travel Award—a 3-week trip to Slovenia — by writing the best essay ever received.

Proud grandma Ivanka Matic, told me her grandson, George Mastic, Jr. was recognized for his school project entitled "Litany for Teens". It drew much attention and praise at St. Felicitas School in Euclid, Ohio. We're happy to print it for you here. One of his other essays is a heartwarming "Letter to Grandma."

It was nice hearing from Jean Paik following daughter Carol's tribute to mom and dad in the Jan.-Feb. issue. She said her granddaughter, Jennifer, Br. 50, received a SWU scholarship, and her granddaughter, Angela Marie, graduated with highest honors from the Nebraska School of Nursing.

Happy 97th birthday and get well wishes to Mary Ster from Br. 32. She is well known for her many years of fine catering.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- The 'Mother of the Year' dinner will be Wed., May 19th, 2004 at 1 p.m. at "Kristy's Resturant," 434 East 200th Street, Euclid, OH. For reservations, call Rose Mary 1 (440) 358-9141.

- Our Annual Picnic will be on June 16th 2004! Details later.

ANNE TOMSICK

Litany for Teens

By George Matic, Jr.

Grandson of Ivanka Matic,

Br. 50, Euclid, OH

*When I experience suffering and death
of a loved one,*

give me comfort, Oh, Mary.

When I have questions,

guide me to the answers, Oh, Mary.

When my soul is undecided,

show me the way to the truth,

Oh, Mary

When I am feeling sorry for myself,

open my eyes to other people's

problems, Oh, Mary.

When I feel like hurting my brothers

and sisters,

give me the courage to accept the

things I can not change,

Oh, Mary.

When my parents are upset,

help me to show compassion,

Oh, Mary.

When I come short of my goals,

give me the strength to try again,

Oh, Mary.

When I have hurt others,

give me the strength to say,

"I sorry", Oh, Mary.

When I am tempted to be a follower of

misguided deeds,

help me to be a leader, Oh, Mary.

When I feel overburdened with fear,

lighten my heart, Oh, Mary.

When my spirit is misguided,

show me the path to righteousness,

Oh, Mary.

NO. 54, WARREN, OH

Founding Date: AUGUST 22, 1932

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday

Feb. thru May, Sept., Nov., Dec.

Contact: Joanne Ponikvar

4010 Greenmont Dr., S.E.,

Warren, OH 44484

Happy Mother's Day to all our members and we will be celebrating by having a luncheon on Wednesday, May 19th at 1 p.m. at Café 422 on Youngstown Road. I will be calling you for reservations.

Get well wishes to our president, Anne Brdek, who is recovering from pneumonia and Louise Vett's husband, John who has been seriously ill. Louise is a very active member and we wish them all the best.

This month's article will be a little shorter — as I am recuperating from a broken wrist and instead of a plaster cast, I have a faxator pin with screws and a bar on the outside of my arm. I fell on the ice in our driveway! Needless to say, I am really handicapped. Thank goodness for my wonderful husband who has taken over all my jobs at home and permits me to borrow his shirts — none of my tops fit over the contraption! (What a nice husband, eh, ladies? CL)

Happy summertime to all and safe vacationing. Please pray for peace — our world is in such a turmoil. God bless and keep you healthy and happy.

As I am closing this article, a call came from Louise telling me of the passing of her dear husband. Our prayers and sympathy to the family. Love you, Louise!

JOANNE PONIKVAR

A question from the Illinois-Indiana State Meeting:

What is a Penny Social — or a Dime Social?

Well, we're talking money here, aren't we? This is a way to gain funds, a raffle type event, but a little more interesting for the donor!

Prizes are displayed and each has an open paper bag attached. Participants buy little tickets and place these tickets into the bag of a prize they would like to win. She/he can put as many tickets into the bag as desired. At the drawing time, a winning ticket is drawn from each bag.

The cost of the tickets is optional. You can sell them at 10 for \$1, or \$1 each, or some different amount. The "penny" or "dime" part of the title of this raffle refers to the cost of these tickets, although pennies and dimes are passé and we are talking dollars here!

What's fun about this kind of raffle is that all the people walk around selecting their favorite prizes and they feel more excited about selecting only these items.

This is just one more inventive way to raise funds at your meeting on a smaller scale!

Welcome "NEW" Members

Name	Branch
Zwaschka, Joanne C	102
Cummings, Dorothy Govednik	13
Pastor, Julia	16
Saviano, Connie	16
Bruni, Michael	20
Ebner-Landgraf, Tammy	20
Feigerle, Diana	20
Gruber, Joy	20
Yakos, Jacqueline	24
Guziewicz, Lana K	26
Kelley, Marcia L	26
Adamic, Joe	30
Adamic, Mary	30
Norton, Shirley	30
Rippey, Carolyn	30
Batic-Sciarrabba, Beverly	32
Spehar, Isaac J.	33
Fautch, JoAnn	39
Kukar, Paula	39
Lamkin, Phyllis M.	39
Stratton, Margaret	39
Rechlitz, Aidan	43
Rechlitz, April	43
Rechlitz, Katelyn	43
Rechlitz, Nicholas	43
Relien, Ryan M.	43
Lambright, Benjamin Thomas	6
Atken, Paula	71
Fidel, Paul Jr.	71
Gregory, Nancy	71
Rodriguez, Molly G. Ambrose	89
Taylor, Karen	89
Taylor, Valeria	89
Buh, Ivanka	99
Gale, Jean K.	99
Novak, Amalija	99
Pecharich, Suzanne M.	99
Puc, Nandi	99
Sobocan, Joan M.	99



NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL

Founding Date: MAY 9, 1938

Meetings: Second Mondays

Place: Dickinson House

We gathered together on Monday, March 8 for our meeting. We are so happy and bursting with pride over our nine new members – Courtney Ebner, Terry Kamnikar, Alice Kernz, Natalie Landgraf, Tammy Landgraf, Molly Rodriguez, Karen Taylor, Valeria Taylor, and Kathy Utz. We thank you and welcome you to Branch 89. It is a pleasure to have you all with us.

We are saddened to say we had to say goodbye to one of our dear members, Catherine Golick. Catherine passed away on February 2, 2004. A red carnation was sent with her as a final tribute. We remember all of the good deeds Catherine had done while she was with us, and pray for the repose of her soul.

Our president, Nancy Henkel, introduced us to a pre-lenten custom of the Slovenian people. "Pust" is a celebration that coincides with our present day Mardi Gras. "Pust" celebrations begin during the week-end before Ash Wednesday. These days are referred to as Fat Sunday and Fat Tuesday. Everyone feasts on especially fatty foods. The old saying goes, "If you do not eat on this day you will be hungry all year." Weather was predicted according to "Pust." If the Sunday before was warm, Easter would be very cold; if there was rain, there would be a rich harvest. Thank you, Nancy, for teaching us a new word and custom of our Slovenian heritage.

Our Branch 89 would like to recognize our member Paula Snell for celebrated 25 years with Illini State Bank. Paula started working for Illini on January 20, 1979. She is now a Vice President, Cashier, and Lending Officer. Congratulations, Paula!

We would also like to recognize our member, Mitzi and her husband Bill Banich on their 25th wedding anniversary, February 17, 2004. We wish you many more happy years together.

We were all looking forward to our next meeting, April 12th when we had a "Bakeless Bake Sale" and celebrated "Zegen." Chairpersons were the officers.

We hope everyone had a joyful Easter celebration and look forward to spring.

Peace to all!

ALICE EBNER

NO. 93, NEW YORK, NY

Andrea Selak

(212) 925-6521

andreaselak@hotmail.com

(212) 925-6521

Branch 93 followed the lead of branches in Minnesota and Ohio and donated a cookbook to the main branch of the New York City Library on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. We plan to use a photo of the presentation for publicity purposes.

Mirjam Hladnik plans to move back to Slovenia this summer after a few years in New York with her husband and two daughters. We thank her for helping to re-establish our branch and assisting in many of our meeting plans. Many SWUA members participated in Mirjam's research project, and we look forward to hearing from her about the final outcome of the project.

Several Branch 93 members have news regarding school. Tea Rozman Clark started a masters program at CUNY (City University of New York) and was also awarded a fellowship at NYU (New York University). Last spring, Marta Stemberger completed her masters degree at the New School. Congratulations Marta! I am planning to return to school this fall to pursue a Masters in Business Administration graduate degree either at Harvard Business School or at the University of Chicago School of Business.

The branch held an egg-dyeing event this spring. The event included and appetizer/dessert party followed by egg dyeing, and we had "butare" also, and awarded a few door prizes. New member Aleksandra Wagner attended with her daughter Viktoria (5), and Tea's sister, Ana was visiting from Slovenia.

If you find yourself in the NYC area, please feel free to contact us! Branch 93 members, look for e-mails with information on upcoming events.

ANDREA

Slovenia in 2005!

NO. 95, SO. CHICAGO, IL

Founding Date: MARCH 1, 1939

**Meetings: 2nd Wed. Apr.-May-June
Sep.-Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 12:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church Hall**

How is everyone doing? Dan and I are doing fine. We are very busy down here in Florida – we do hope the cold weather is over for you up north. Planting flowers is such a good therapy after the long winter!

When I get back we will go to lunch (June) and have a nice visit. Remember, we will be going to the Jovial Club, so please try to come.

I hope by now that all the dues have been paid and if you forgot, please pay now.

Happy belated birthdays to those I may have missed and to all members who will be celebrating in May and June.

Say a prayer for those of our group who are sick and shut-in. They need for us to remember them.

DOLORES HENNELLY

NO. 99, LEMONT, IL

Original Founding Date: JUNE 13, 1940

**Meetings: Feb. 29, May 31, Aug. 30,
October 31, 2004**

Slovenian Cultural Center

Contact: C. Leskovar (773) 275-1115

Since the month of May is dedicated to Mother's and we are such a young branch, we feel all our members and friends who are mothers are worthy and deserve all the honors that can be bestowed on them. So, a hearty wish to all for a happy family celebration on Mother's Day!

We also pay tribute to our Slovenian Heavenly Mother in May, on the 24th. This being the case, we invite you to attend Mass on that day at our church in Lemont. Fr. Metod has asked us to participate by reciting our own petitions in Her honor. It seems very appropriate that we do this, since we represent the only women's organization in our Slovenian community. Please come to mass and accept this invitation to take part in reading or in any other way you can to make this feastday special. Members of our neighboring branches are also welcome.

The original founding date of our new branch, 99 is in June and it would be a nice gesture if we could remember the members of the "old time" in some special way at the June 6th annual Corpus Christi Day Procession in Lemont. What a perfect time for us to gather again as a group and join in the procession. I thought it was so special to hear that the mother of one of our members, Jean Gale, was an original branch member of Br. 99 in Elmhurst. Jean treasures some SWUA memorabilia, e.i. badges and medals, that her mother had saved.

We'll be in touch by letter as things progress in the next few months. Meanwhile, have a happy spring time and make something good to eat for your family, like "dandelion salad" maybe, using those delicious newly formed and fresh leaves. I'm sure you remember eating this at home. (See page 25.)

CORINNE LESKOVAR

NO. 102, WILLARD, WI

Founding Date: MAY 11, 1941

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

A belated Happy Easter to everyone. Spring and the robins are all back.

Our February meeting had 12 members and 4 guests present. Our Palm Sunday bake sale was held April 3-4th. The Plant Sale and honoree Mother of the Year day had to be changed to May 15-16th due to a family requesting the use of the Parish Center on the day we usually meet.

Sue Pakiz read an article entitled "Little by little – Learning Grandma's holiday Potica" (a recipe), sent to Rose Pakiz from John Brenchek of Waukegan, IL. He had ordered a history and cookbook and had never visited Willard, but heard much about it. This article was enjoyed by everyone.

On March 13-14th our CCD kids had a bake sale after both masses to defray the cost of sponsoring a little girl in the Dominican Republic. Also, they send get well cards to the sick and donate to people who are in need. May Crowning will be on May 9th at 10:30 mass. On May 23rd we will have a mass for our graduation students.

Fellowship weekend is held the last weekend of the month after the masses with potluck lunch. Everyone is invited

and visitors are especially welcome. This is great opportunity to get acquainted with neighbors and parishioners.

Prayers and get well wishes to Shirley Sibilski, Paul Kabus and Edith Backus.

Condolences to the family of Sophie Plautz Matkovich, sister of Rose Pakiz and Josephine Debevec and sister-in-law of yours truly.

AGNES DEBEVEC

NO. 108, OLNEY, MD

Founding Date: NOVEMBER 16, 2003

Meetings: 1st Sundays

**Contact: Bernadette Fitzsimmons
FITZSIMM@NETCONNECT.NET**

On March 6, Branch 108 members and friends met for a short meeting and social evening at Blob's Park in Jessup, MD. Blob's is an authentic European style Biergarten that features polka bands weekly. We gathered at Blob's to listen and dance to the music of Jerry Intihar, a Slovenian who honored our group with special selections. We all enjoyed Jerry's music, the food and beer from many countries!

March 13th brought us to walking in Gaithersburg's 4th Annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Several of Branch 108's junior members carried a banner with the name of the club; members dressed in national costume and waved Slovenian flags while Frank Videgar serenaded us (and the audience) with Slovenian folk songs and polkas on his buttonbox accordion. We smiled and did a polka at the reviewing stand when they announced, "The Slovenian Women's Union of America, Branch 108 wishes to share a bit of culture and heritage today as they march in colorful national costumes to the beat of Slovenian folk tunes." At the end of the parade, our group was approached by Emily Hogan, Miss Maryland Pre-Teen and her parents who quickly took a photograph of our group with their lovely daughter, and proudly told us that Emily's father is of Slovenian descent. What a day of memorable moments for Br. 108! (See page 16.)

We are looking forward to plans for our May Potluck Dinner, which will honor all our members.

Happy Mothers Day (Srečen Materinski dan) from Br. 108!

JOAN SIMMONS



Membership Application

Yes!

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

Please type or print legibly. Choose type of membership:

☐ Junior (Birth to 18), Annual Dues \$5.00

☐ Adult, Annual Dues \$20.00

Name and Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry _____

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

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

Please allow four to six weeks for membership processing.

In addition to my dues, I wish to contribute to the General Fund:

\$ _____

For Office Use:

Date Received: _____

In honor of _____ Membership No.: _____

In memory of _____ Branch Affiliate: _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

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

Tell a Friend!

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

My friend's name _____

Address _____

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