

ZARJA - THE DAWN

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WWW.SWUS.ORG

70th Anniversary in this year, 2000!

Br. 38, Chisholm, MN

Br. 39, Biwabik, MN

Br. 40, Lorain, OH

Br. 42, Maple Hts., OH



Dates and Birthdays on page 38.

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Mission Statement

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

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

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Kathleen Dorchak

“Spring is Here In All It’s Glory!”

Isn't the Spring Season just glorious? I love the happy feeling I get every time I see a new bud on a tree or a flower bloom in my yard. How lucky we are to be able to enjoy the beauty of life.

In the last issue of ZARJA we announced the foundation of our own web page. For those of you who tried to locate it – it didn't quite happen in the time frame we had anticipated. However, it will be up and running soon, if it is not already. I appreciate your patience and understanding. Technology is wonderful, but not always easy. Please remember that our web page will always be a “work in progress.” It will take the members of our association to keep it up to date and informative. Please furnish branch information to Marc Judnick to keep our information current.

The National Board of Directors had a great Board Meeting in March. We worked very hard and long. Minutes of the meeting and board reports will appear in the next issue of the ZARJA. There was just not enough time to get them published with this issue.

All members should have received their annual billing statement by the end of February. The Board would like to extend their appreciation to our National Secretary, Bonnie Prokup and her sister, Debbie Pohar for mailing the billing on such a timely basis. Debbie was instrumental in the design and printing of the billing statement. Both Bonnie and Debbie worked many hours to accomplish this job. We hope the members liked the new format of the billing.

After all dues received are recorded, Bonnie will be preparing current membership lists for each branch. These lists will show both the paid and unpaid members. Each Branch Secretary will receive her branch listing by May 15th. Please review the list and contact those members that have not paid their annual membership assessment. The deadline for payment of the yearly assessment as stated by our Bylaws is the third month of every year. We are making every effort to determine that our membership records are correct. We have extended the deadline for this year to June 30th. Any member who has not paid his/her yearly assessment by June 30th will be dropped and his/her benefits may not be paid in full in the event a claim is submitted for payment. I encourage all branch secretaries to be in contact with Bonnie to update your membership lists.

Great News! The format of the new billing invoice has proved to be extremely effective in obtaining donations for the Heritage Fund, Scholarship Fund, and the ZARJA. With the payments received so far, we have collected over \$7,000.00 in donations. Individual donations are listed separately in this issue. A special thank you is extended to these members for their generous contributions.

The National Board is extremely pleased and excited to announce the appointment of two Regional Presidents. Ceta Zagar of Branch 13 has accepted the position of Regional President of the Western States and Fran Gazvoda of Branch 25 for the Eastern States. Fran is currently the Ohio-Michigan Regional President. We thank both ladies for stepping forward and taking on this challenge. With these appointments, we have Regional Presidents representing each of the defined regions as prescribed in our Constitution Bylaws and Regulations.

The National Board is committed to increase our membership and retain our current members as much as it is possible. We are encouraging active participation and involvement from our Regional Presidents as well as the membership for ideas and suggestions to help reach our goal. Members – help us obtain our goal by contacting any one on the National Board of Directors or one of our Regional Presidents for any comments and suggestions you may want to share with us. We are here for you and want to represent you in the best way we can.

May each of you celebrate a very special Mother's Day and take time to enjoy the awakening of the Spring Season!

*Talk a little, sing a lot,
Walk a little, dance a lot,
Smile a little, laugh a lot,
Dream a little, live a lot!”*

Peace, Love, and Joy!

Kathleen



Thank you to all those who have paid their dues and especially for the kind words written on the invoices. I love hearing all of the enthusiasm and positive comments! I wish I could write back to each and everyone of you but this is perhaps the busiest time as the National Secretary. Not only did I update our membership lists but billing was a timely procedure. (For instance, just to print Branch 20 of Joliet took me five hours.) When the first bills were mailed I was receiving over 200 a day. Now they are trickling in at about 15 a day. About 75% of our members have paid and hopefully by June 30, 2000 I will have received everyone's dues.

In addition to the above we had the Insurance Report due. This was another timely procedure that took many hours to update, research and to program. With all of this behind me I will have a little more time.

I received several phone calls on the amount members owed for their annual dues. Let me state the by-laws as set forth at the 1995 National Convention in San Francisco.

Class A: \$12.00 per year Class A: \$8.00 per year (over the age of 75)
Class B: \$15.00 per year Class B: \$10.00 per year (over the age of 75)

Also, I received phone calls from grandparents looking for the invoices of their grandchildren. If your grandchildren's invoice did not come to your house then it was probably mailed to their home address as was indicated in the database I received. For most of you we have straightened this out; but if we did not please write me a letter and tell me where you would like the invoices sent next year. You can also go over this with your branch secretary – they will receive a new listing of updated membership.

The calls and the communication via invoices were quite interesting. I have to share three stories with you. One invoice said to tell my husband, Bill hello as she used to work with him at Amoco. Another said there might be some connection between my husband's last name of Prokup and her's. She said her family came over from Slovakia. This was also the case with my husband's family. A third invoice came in from an old family friend of my family, the Pohars. Betty Tezcek's father, Frank Struna was the godfather to my dad and all of his siblings. They lived down the street from us. What a connection we have through the SWU!

Please read my separate report on our membership!

Have a Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and aunts!

* * * * *

Many of you wrote kind words on how nice and professional looking the new invoices look. I want each of you to know that it was the work of my sister, Debbie Pohar.

Last summer could not have been a more perfect time for my sister to move back home to LaSalle-Peru, Illinois after living in Phoenix for over 15 years. She arrived in the summer, right when I needed her most. Debbie has excellent experience at building programs. She developed a program for me to do everything on Access. The reports I can pull are endless and priceless. Recently, at our National Board meeting, I brought in several reports breaking down the average age of membership by branches, regions and all together. It helped us to understand our membership and gave us insight to how the future will be if we don't make any changes. (Read National Secretary's Report).



I can't begin to tell you the hours she put in on her own time. This was all voluntary work in the best interest of our SWU. When we all celebrate our Mother's of the Year -- don't forget to celebrate Debbie and all she has done!

Debbie is a member of Branch 24 in LaSalle, Illinois. She joined about five years ago even though she lived in another state. Debbie stayed connected by the ZARJA and through our family of whom many are members in LaSalle. Although she did not attend the first convention hosted by our branch she made lovely programs and placemats. She is very talented on the computer and with a paintbrush. She can draw just about anything and turn it into a masterpiece. At Christmastime we all look forward to gifts from Debbie. She always paints us our favorite scene on sweatshirts.

Not only is she talented with the arts but she is very handy around the house. She moved here to take care of the family farm that was recently purchased. She turned this neglected house into a home right out of Better Homes and Garden. She actually laid her own carpet and tiles! The home is now used for family parties since it is so large and spacious.

This summer will find her in the new garden she is building in her yard. She will be planting just about everything to compliment her apple orchard and asparagus field. Debbie also plans to make wine this year with the grapes she has growing. I would say Debbie is our very own Martha Stewart!

Hats off to Debbie Pohar!

So, now you have met Debbie and maybe, you have a better idea of how we work together for the benefit of our S.W.U.!

Bonnie

Kellett, Rose (89)			10	Mihelich, Clare (20)			10	Rossi, Helen Marie (23)			15
Keltz, Melanie (20)			5	Miklavcic, Mary (68)		2		Rot, Maryann (33)			5
Kerzicnik, Antonia (10)			2	Milkich, Rose (14)		10		Rozman, Renee (20)			50
Kezele, Rose (20)			5	Milbrandt, Sylvia (12)			5	Ruggera, Frances (20)			50
Kiel, Mary A (12)			10	Miller, Mary E (50)			10	Rupar, Pauline (1)			5
Kirk, Dorothy (25)			5	Millonig, Lydia B (103)		3		Rupe, Stella (50)		10	10
Kiss, Elizabeth (105)			5	Mills, Robert Mrs. (25)			10	Rupnik, Vida (50)			5
Klainsek, Genevieve (20)			5	Mismash, Mary (23)		5		Ruthenberg, Helen (12)			2
Klopac, Ann (25)			20	Mladic, Helen (2)		10		Rutkowski, Bernadine (20)		5	
Klun, Kathryn (23)			10	Miakar, Rosemary (100)		20		Ruzic, Geraldine (102)			13
Klun, Madelyn A (35)			10	Mocnik, Sylvia (32)		25		Ryan, Mary Pat (28)			10
Kobe, Stephana F (32)			5	Modiz, Bonnie (1)			5	(in memory of Stephanie Ryan, Br. 28 officer)			
Kobel, William (20)			10	Mohar, Mary (14)		10		Sabosky, Mary Jane (3)			5
Kobow, Estelle (12)			2	Mohr, Mary Frances (5)		10		Sacsek, Mary (91)		10	
Kocevar, Rose M (47)			5	Mollis, Frances (57)		10		Sankar, Suzanne (30)			10
Kocevar, Robert (20)			15	Morison, Frances (2)		20	20	Satej, Carol (68)			5
Kociuba, Barbara (20)			10	Moro, Faye (10)		1		Savoi, Mary Jo (20)		20	
Kocyan, Tillie M (30)			10	Muller, Mary (2)		10		Scavarda, Catherine (66)		5	
Kodrich, Dolores (12)			8	Muren, Julia (6)		2		Sceppita, Mary Ellen (7)		5	5
Kokal, Mary (14)			5	Murphey, Betty Ann (91)		5		Scheidt, Marie (20)		10	
Kolakowski, Sophie (20)			10	Murphey, Melissa (91)			5	Schiffler, Mary (2)		10	
Komater, Eunice (89)			20	Mustonen, Scott L (34)			6	Schmidt, Jo (89)			25
Kompare, Maria (95) (memory of Anne Kompare)			50	Nanut, Anna F (13)			20	Scholz, Elizabeth (20)			10
Koncar, Dorothy (20)		5	5	Nemanich, Frances (50)		10		Schultz, Frances M (2)			10
Koporc, Agnes (25)			5	Nemanich, Francis L (34)		10		Schultz, Linda (2)			25
Korecko, Stella (14)			5	Nevelos, Dorothy J (63)			10	Seday, Olga Mary (10)		2	
Koren, Mary Alyce (20)	2.5	2.5		Newhouse, Margrette (23)			25	Sedmak, Elsie (14)		2	
Korpnick, Laverne (12)	10	5	5	Nimmer, Josephine (12)			10	Sejud, Wilhelmina (2)		10	
Korst, Joyce A (20)		5	5	Noson, Mary (35)			5	Selak, Monica A (55)			10
Koss, Josephine (32)		5		Novak, Carol (20)			15	Semansin, Helen (105)			10
Kovacic, Jennie (2)		10		Novak, Josephine (10)			10	Serazin, Agnes (40)		10	10
Kovacic, Nika (103)		5	5	Novotny, Eugenia (73)		10		Sertich, Noncetta (16)		5	
Krall, Frances (10)		5		Nowakowski, Anne (50)		5		Shine, Elsie (54)			5
Krall, Mary E (30)		7		Nuteson, Cecelia (12)			20	Shine, Wanda V (54)		10	
Krapenc, Rosemarie (2)			25	Oblak, John (20)			5	Shisila, Christine (73)		3	
Kresse, Antonia (16)		5		(memory of Jane Barle Svete & Mary Oblak Barie)				Sholar, Ray (30)		10	
Kress, Anna (26)			10	Ogoreuc, Frances A (32)			5	(in memory of Mary Sholar)			
Krnel, Mary (14)		2		Oldenburg, Frances (20)		5	10	Shubitz, Genevieve (33)			25
Kunka, Joann (73)			10	Oldenburger, Frances (20)			10	Shuster, Helen (30)		5	
Kunovar, Irene (43)			5	Ollis, Nicole (12)			10	Simenc, Dora (13)		5	
Kurmick, Otilia (13)	10	10	10	O'Neill, Mary Jo (15)			30	Sisto, Helen (2)		10	
Kushlan, Mary (10)		2		(honor of grandmother †Mary Fink)				Skender, Anna (3)			5
Kwecinski, Mary Anne (19)		5		Orehek, Frances (2)		5		Skerl, Mary (91)			10
Lambert, Theresa (5)			10	Ogrinc, Josephine (16)		10		Smajdak, Julia (25)		5	
Laurich, Anne L (38)		5	5	Ovnik, Lorraine (2)		10		Smith, Julie (35)			10
Laurich, Charlotte M (38)		5	5	Paik, Joan E (50)		2	2	Soltysinski, Jacqueline (16)		10	
Lawrence, Rose Marie (71)		5	5	Pakiz, Rose (102)			10	Sostakowski, Barbara (47)			10
Lea, Josephine (47)			5	Pakiz, Rose (102)			10	Sova, Mary (20)			10
Leach, Agnes C (13)		10		Paulson, Katherine A (34)		10		Spendal, Dorothy (10)		5	
Legris, Antoinette (22)			5	Pavlovic, Fran (40)		10		Sporis, Vickie (43)		5	
Lesnik, Joan (20)		5	5	Pekol, Rose (102)		10		Spremlj, Rose (73)		10	
Lesnik, Julie (20)		5	5	Perhay, Anne (105)		10		Springer, Martha (103)			10
Lesnik, Mary (20)			10	Perko, Ann J (3)		10		Sray, Mary Ann (73)			7
Lind, Rose Marie (19)		5		Perpar, Josephine (25)		5		Stanek, Christine (2)		10	
Lindsay, Jean (34)			20	Perzga, Mary (7)		5		Stanonik, Dorothy (50)		10	
Lipic, Hilda (100)		5		Pesec, Julia (12)		2		Starich, Rita M (43)			10
Lorek, Carol (14)			15	Petric, Joann (14)			25	Steenland, Janet (20)			3
Lorek, Kristen (14)			10	Petric, Verna (6)			5	Stefancic, Caroline L (10)			10
Lorek, Lisa (14)			10	Phillips, Antonia (43)		5		Stefanich, Lillian (20)			10
Lukacs, Franciska (32)		5		Pisoni, Viola (46)		10		Ster, Mary (32)		10	
Lukancic, Anna Mae (20)			10	Polymer, Jean A (23)		15		Sterle, Mary (32)			10
Lustig, Emma (22)		10		Ponikvar, Joanne (54)		5		Sterle, Rose (38)			10
Lyle, Anna Mae (35)		5		Popich, Katherine A (30)		10		Stimac, Bertha (30)			10
Lynch, Jane (26)			5	Poropat, Mildred (20)		10		Stopar, Christopher (6)		2	
Macht, Molly (12)		10		Pozelnik, Albina (25)			5	Strmseck, Dari (12)		1	1
Mahler, Frances (1)		5		Preberg, Rose (100)			10	Stropanik, Milena (1)		5	
Maliensek, Anton (30)			10	Prebil, Margaret (16)		5	5	Strupeck, Viola (2)			10
Malloy, Mary (2)			5	Price, Judith (12)			20	Stupica, Emily (10)		10	
Maloney, John (85)		10	10	Prijatelj, Evelyn (23)			5	Sunkat, Arlene (20)			100
Marel, Eleanor (91)			10	Prijatelj, Frances (14)		5		Sustarich, Virginia F (13)		5	
Mam, Helen (23)		8		Primc, Donna (10)		10		Svigel, Josephine (10)			2
Marolt, Mary (10)		10		Prokup, Barbi (24)			5	Svigel, Rose (68)		5	
Marolt, Mary Ludmila (81)			10	Prokup, Bekki (24)			5	Swintosky, Dorothy (30)		5	5
Marquardt, Lydia (20)			10	Prokup, Bonnie (24)		5		Tarizzo, Marilyn (20)			10
Martincic, Alice (14)		10		Pucel, Mildred (20)		30	30	Tavcar, Frances M (25)			10
Matic, Vesna (50)		1		Purkat, Jane E (39)		10		Telich, Florence (23)			10
Mattson, Emily (1)		5		Puterko, Mary (16)		5		Templin, Lorraine R (30)			10
Maxin, Mary (50)			10	Putzell, Victoria (16)			10	Tesovnik, Germaine A (1)			10
McAsey, Mary (20)		15	10	Rasbornik, Mary (12)		2		Tezak, Betty (20)		5	
McGinnis, MaryAnn (20)			10	Ravnikar, Mary M (34)		10		Theno, Helen M (23)			10
Menapace, Ana (103)		2		Rifejl, Sophie (43)			10	Theoharis, Christine (105)		50	
Mershnik, Theresa F (12)			7	Rigler, Marija R (2)			10	Thomas, Amelia (103)		10	
Metzger, Andrea (10)		5		Rittmanic, Barbara (22)		5		Todd-Fellows, Mary A. (2)		5	5
Mezgec, Anthony (47)		5	5	Ritz, Frances M (30)			5	Tonkii, Blanka M (25)		5	
Mezgec, Julia F (47)		5	5	Rogers, Mary (3)		5	5	Tomsic, Anne A (40)		5	

Troya, Sophie M (13)	15		Whitgrove, Linda (20)		10
Trunkel, Sophie (102)		10	Wleck, Matilda R (43)		5
Tushar, Anne (39)	5	5	Woynovich, Diane (95)		25
Tverberg, Althea (33)	5		Wyant, Sophia (30)		5
Uleplic, Dorothy (32)		2	Yaggy, Claire ((20)		15
Urbas, Helen (103)	25		Yaklich, Joan M (43)		10
Urbas, Sophie (10)	8	5	Yakos, Vida (12)		5
Urbic, Elsie (25)	5		Yauch, Rose M (106)		2
Valasek, Mildred (70)	5		Yemec, MaryAnne (105)	5	5
Valek, Rose (20)		50	Yovanovich, Frances (5)		12
Valencic, Jennie (106)		20	Yucevicius, Frances (2)		10
Valerugo, Helen A (20)		25			
Vatovec, Rose (47)	10		Zabak, Agnes D (47)		10
Vercsek, Marie (42)		10	Zadel, Vern G (30)		5
Vergo, Mary (20)	5		Zagar, Ceta (13)		5
Vicsek, Mary F (47)	20		Zagger, Anna (55)		6
(memory of Mary Vicsek)			Zakrajsek, Angela (47)		5
Vidergar, Mildred (6)	7		Zakrasek, Dorothy (3)		20
Vinyard, Elizabeth (20)		5	Zalar, Julie (50)		15
Vogel, Kathy (79)		5	Zales, Mary (8)		10
Vogrin, Mary (50)		10	Zaman, Jennie (10)		1
Vogt, Julia L (34)		10	Zamien, Molly Jane (39)		5
Volpe, Marian (105)	5		Zeleznik, Dorothy (25)		5
Vorisek, Brenda M (73)		6	Zidar, Dori (42)		5
Vorisek, Mary (73)		5	Znidarsic, Mary (32)		5
Vovk, Anita (35)	5		Zschetzsche, Josephine (1)	5	5
Voytko, Angelina (40)		5	Zubek, Genevieve (2)	5	5
Vrtich, Julia (20)	5				3
Wagner, Antonia (27)		10			30
Walsh, Martha (43)	10				38
Wangler, Ann (24)	10				39
Wanthal, Mary (20)	8				

SWU New Member Report

Branch	Member ID	Name	Date Joined
100	68044	Lucido, Eleanore J	02/19/00
103	68064	Bohince, Valerie	04/06/00
12	68014	Dezman, Mary	01/01/00
20	68065	Carlson, Carol A	04/06/00
20	68068	Horvat, Carol J	04/06/00
20	68060	Judnick, David B	04/06/00
20	68059	Judnick, Marc R	04/06/00
20	68058	Parker Pershey, Donna	04/06/00
20	68071	Shiner, Diane M	04/06/00
20	68070	Shiner, Julian M	04/06/00
20	68069	Shiner, Steven M	04/06/00
20	68062	Welsh, Anna B	04/06/00
23	68067	Dargontina, Judith	04/06/00
24	68072	Klopcic, Elizabeth A	04/06/00
25	68066	Kuhar, Nicholas	04/06/00
26	68037	Lavrach, Joann	02/08/00
3	68061	Lipich, Josephine	04/06/00
30	68038	Supanich, Agnes A	02/08/00
38	68036	Sega, Mary	02/08/00
39	68063	Harkonen, Brittany	04/06/00

\$2,364.50 951.50 3,756.00

Grand Total \$7,072.00



**YEAR 2000
MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN**

Every adult member receives a copy of our bi-monthly publication ZARJA-THE DAWN!

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



God bless and reward our beloved departed sisters!

Branch	Name	Date of Death	Age
67	Mildred Yardis		86
93	Francis Shager	02/04/00	95
14	Martha Koren	11/13/99	76
2	Ann Ukleja	02/07/00	82
25	Frances Kompare	02/14/00	82
19	Julia Ellersich	12/02/99	93
12	Katherine Osep	02/09/00	92
26	Ann Bobel	02/23/00	69
55	Gala Jhoss	11/29/99	90
10	Theresa Sorc	08/14/99	78
100	Ann Pozar	11/15/99	94
35	Rose Ann Planton	10/05/99	78

NOTICE

All invoices must be paid by June 30, 2000 to avoid cancellation of the ZARJA magazine. If you did not receive an invoice please write to me with the following information.

- Name
- Birthdate
- Policy Number
- Address (old address if applicable)
- Date Joined

You can either send in your money or I will send you a bill. Chances are I have it here in a pile that was returned to me for wrong address.

If you did receive your invoice and have not paid - please do so by June 30, 2000. I will be sending a list to all branch secretaries on or about May 15 for their review.

Bonnie Prokup, National Secretary
 3119 Carrie Street
 Peru, Illinois 61354
 WPROKUP@aol.com

In Loving Memory

Frances Colnar Barman



It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Frances Colnar Barman, a most generous supporter of the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship program in recent years. Five students have been awarded scholarships in her name in the past and in the year 2000 another award will be given in her memory, due to the kindness of her son, Tony Colnar.

Frances was born February 18, 1889 in Trzin, Slovenia, the daughter of Jakob and Gertud Abe. Frances married Anton Colnar in Slovenia during WWI. He died in battle. As a young widow with her son, Tony, Frances immigrated to the United States, settling in Cleveland. Her work as a seamstress and love of gardening, all skills she learned in Slovenia, helped her to make a good adjustment to the American way of life and gave her gratifying hobbies that she enjoyed also in later years. In 1925 she married Joe Barman who died in 1936.

Our Slovenian Women's Union has lost a wonderful member, but we certainly will remember her well.

M.T.

SWU Scholarship Fund Report Donations for February and March 2000

\$5.00 Donations: Bill Slogar (†Frank Toutloff), Bill Slogar (†Francine Sarvela), Elberta Erzen (†Frances Ger-car), Branch 23, Ely, MN (†Mary Gotchnik), BeBe Lobe (†Mary Gotchnik), Kay Yuratovac (†Laura Berdyck), Branch 23, Ely, MN (†Amelia Rozman)

\$10.00 Donations: Bill Slogar (†Amelia Rozman), Janvid & Mary Staut (†Anton Jeras, †Frank Parkel, †Frank Morgal), Mrs. Robert Rizman (her sister, †Antonia Jerson), Ann Tercek (†Leo Jevce), Bill Slogar (†Mary Gotchnik)

\$20 Donations: Violet Moravchek (Br. 50) – Scholarship Program's 50th Anniversary.

\$24.00 Donation: Bernice Krasovec, author of "A Legend of St. Nicholas", percentage of book sales.

\$25.00 Donations: Branch 55, Girard, OH (†Gala Jhoss), Branch 38, Chisholm, MN (†Rose Drop, †Dorothy

Shanks, †Mildred Bashel, †Josephine Zupancich), Frank Kosten Family (Anna P. Kosten)

\$40 Donation: Josephine Turk (her sister †Laura Berdyck)

\$50 Donation: Roberta Patterson, Richard and Ray Camaish (dear Mother †Anna J. Camaish)

\$100.00 Donation: Theodore Prisland – Scholarship Fund, Branch 101 Bedford Hts., OH. Scholarship Fund, Prof. Max L. Schuster (dear sister, †Frances Payton), Arlene J. Sunkel – Scholarship Fund.

\$1,000.00 Donation: Tony Colnar (dear Mother, †Frances Barman)

We are grateful for many dear friends who contribute generously to our SWU Scholarship Program. May all of our readers enjoy the wonders of spring!

Communication and donations can be mailed to:

Mary Turvey, Director

52 Oakridge Drive

Marquette, Michigan 49855

M. MARGE CHURCH, Vice President

Branch Officers' Roster Sent to Branches Soon

A complete list of officers, National, Regional and Branch is in the process of being compiled in order that each branch may have a copy as a reference. Contained in the booklet are the forms that SWU uses to transfer, to change beneficiary, membership applications, etc. This document will assist the branch Presidents and Secretaries with their transactions. The booklet will be mailed to each branch by the middle of June. Not all branches have responded to sending in the names, addresses, titles and particulars of officers.

At this time, the deadline for sending in the names of officers is May 31, 2000.

IF THERE IS NO RESPONSE BY THAT TIME, YOUR BRANCH WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BOOKLET. Remember it will be an annual document and sent to you once a year. To expedite your information for inclusion in the booklet, forward information to

Marge Church, SWU of America, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, Ohio 44056.

Please put this on your "to do" list as soon as possible.

Places & Things to See

by Fr. David J. Stalzer

As the summer months approach us and people do a little more traveling there are a few things to see for those interested in Slovenian history and culture.

Beginning out West there is the S.N.P.J. Hall in Fontana, CA, which has a memorabilia room; going to Pueblo, CO, there is a room of memorabilia and artifacts at St. Mary's Church.

Going East of the Mississippi, we find our Slovenian Heritage Museum in Joliet, the largest such facility here in the United States, sponsored by the Slovenian Women's Union. Across the street is the beautiful and historic St. Joseph's Church (1891), built in 1905 by Slovenian immigrants to the United States. It is a jewel.

We keep going East and we come to the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Ill. We certainly should be proud of this facility. Recently built, they have many cultural programs and delicious dinners.

Located adjunct to the Center is St. Mary's Seminary and Retreat House with beautiful devotional grounds. The Slovenian Franciscan Fathers provide spiritually to the people.

Going North to Milwaukee, WI, is the Slovenian Room in the European Village at the Milwaukee Museum. Further North, on the upper Peninsula, is Baraga Land with many shrines in honor of the saintly missionary bishop. We continue to pray for the day of his canonization.

Coming back down South and going East, we come to Cleveland, Ohio, having the largest population of Slovenians in the United States. Here is also the beautiful church of St. Vitus and the Polka Hall of Fame Room. The Cultural Gardens are in the process of being rehabed. Not to be missed is the Slovenian Chapel at the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. and the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in New York. The Slovenians of the United States helped in the renovation process of this cherished Statue of Freedom. Makes one proud to be an American!

Going north to the Iron Range of MN, we find Iron World in Chisholm, MN, very interesting and educational. Here we have the memorial to the Slovenian Miners and Laborers.

In addition to the sites mentioned, there are and were a number of churches that have been closed, merged or are no longer classified as Slovenian parishes, but one can step into most of these churches today, such as St. Joseph church in Leadville, CO, St. Paul Church in Calumet, MI, and St. Stephen Church in Chicago, and see murals, pictures of Marija Pomagaj and stain-glass windows with Slovenian names. In addition there are Slovenian Homes and clubs.

As you can see, for a small ethnic group, the Slovenians have been and in a few cases are active in keeping their traditions, culture and spirit alive.

BOG ŽIVI SLOVENC!



Ware joyous in the news that Fr. David is on the road to recovery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Messages to him may be addressed as follows: Fr. David Stalzer, Pastor, St. Mary Magdalene Church, 127 S. Briggs St., Joliet, IL 60433.

Best wishes, Fr. David, on your birthday June 28th!

Veliko zdravja in vse lepo za rojstni dan!



Maksim Gaspari

*Kadar se mati
moja nasmeje,
sreča v srcé mi
zlata zaveje.*

Franjo Ros

*Whenever my mother
smiles at me,
golden happiness
winds around my heart.*



HERITAGE FUND DONORS

- \$300** – Officers and Members of Br. 20, Joliet, IL;
- \$100** – Carol Gaergen of Br. 13, San Francisco, CA in memory of her father, Rudy Troya;
- \$ 50** – Ilene Collins, 14, Euclid, OH;
- \$ 25** – Mary Anzelc, Br. 20, Joliet, IL;
- \$ 10** – Charlene Kobe, Br. 20, Joliet, IL; and, Frances Babic, Br. 50, Cleveland-Euclid, OH.

*Thank
you*

ACTIVITIES

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

Many of our members were traveling for the Easter Holidays – hope you all had a wonderful time.

At our March meeting, we celebrated St. Joseph and St. Patrick with a nice spread of all kinds of delicious food and our sweet table was filled with many different desserts. Thanks to the members and their guests who brought these for us to enjoy. We were sorry that Fran was not with us because she was not feeling well.

Congratulations to Elsie Kroeshel Wojdula – our Woman of the Year. Elsie was born in the neighborhood, graduated from St. Stephen School, was VP for the Bowling League and Secretary of the Chicago Sports Club. She is a member Zveza for 57 years and very active with our branch. Elsie and her husband, Ted attended our 70th Anniversary also went to the National Convention at San Francisco. She is a great baker, brings a delicious cake each month for our meetings. Elsie is very active with her church, Mary of Charity/Cicero. We wish her good health and much happiness in the years to come.

Ann Bunetta is now the Sunshine Secretary – if you have any info regarding our members, please call her, tel. (773) 376-0770 or drop her a line – 1940 W. 22nd Place, Chicago, IL 60608.

Our condolences to the family of Metoda Fischinger (Alfred) to her children: Peter, Andrew, Thomas and Mojca who grew up and went to school at St. Stephen's. She was a ZVEZA member for 38 years. Mrs. Fischinger was very devoted for the Slovenian cause: she spent many hours decorating the Christmas Tree at the Museum of Science & Industry each year, made "Butarice" which were sold at Easter at St. Stephen's, worked at Navy Pier in the Slovenian booth for the Ethnic Heritage, helped with the strudel baking for money to send to the Slovenian Missions. Please remember her in your

prayers that she will rest in peace.

The Holy Name members honored Mothers/Daughters with a breakfast after Mass (May 14). Thanks to all you members for your thoughts to remember us. We really appreciate it. You have been treating us on Mothers' Day for a long time. Our Lady's Guild will honor the men with a Father's Day Breakfast in June.

Rosary is said for our sick, those in Nursing homes and those who are house-bound at St. Stephen and St. Mary. Please remember them in your prayers, also with a note or card that would cheer them up: Mary Foys Lauretig, Elsie Melissa, Frances Jasbec, Chris Pirman, Mary Vrhovnik, Angie Blatnick, Amelia Smith, Fran Morison, Angie Benedict and Ann Sarn.

Our State President, Gen Puhk Buol is a very busy lady, but she and a friend prepared a spaghetti dinner for 150 people to help her church, Mary, Queen of Heaven. That's great!

As summer draws near, picnics are being planned at St. Mary's/Lemont. The first picnic will be a Father's Day Picnic on June 18, mass at the Grotto, 11:30 a.m. **Zveza Picnic** information will be in the mail.

Our sympathy to the Banich/Lelko family on the loss of Richard (Butch) Lelko who passed away March 31. Over the years, you all remember going to their "Landmark" for parties, wedding receptions and luncheons. Marlene (Babe) and Butch were always special people and we always feel welcomed at their place. Please remember Butch in your prayers that he will rest in peace.

Remember: Time for our "Woman of the Year" celebration – 6:00 o'clock p.m. Mass – afterward luncheon, May 11. Hope to see many of our members and friends.

"The best way to wake up with a smile on your face is to go to bed with one already there" GH

Happy Mothers' day!

Love,

DAISY

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

Meeting was held on March 22nd at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Ave. Prayers were said for our sick and deceased members. Plans were finalized for the party on May 24 when we honor all our mothers and members of Branch 10. It will be at Perkin's Restaurant, 22780 Shore Center Dr., Euclid, Ohio. Members, guests and friends are invited. For reservations, please call (216) 531-7635 or (440) 944-4954.

Many thanks for a donation from member Bea Zimmerman in memory of her sisters, Sophie Magayna and Fay Zagar; also to Lillian Romeo for her donation. Our treasury is low and any donations can be sent to secretary, Theresa Dagg at 15611 Saranac Rd., Cleveland, OH 44110, phone (216) 451-1876. Please notify our secretary on the death of a member, so we can pray for them and put our flag on display. Prayers were said at the meeting for our sick members. Get well wishes to Faye Moro's daughter who was ill and recovering, Marion Bokavsek. Joyce LeNassi, our prayers are with you. Theresa Ferraccioli, who is now home from the hospital, and Lucy Romih who had hip surgery and is now home doing well – both of you are sent get well wishes. To all others that we don't see often, our best wishes.

Caroline Stefancic lost her beloved brother, Vic Kosoglov. Heartfelt sympathy. Meeting closed with prayers and refreshments were served by bakers Faye Moro, Steffie Segulin, Jean Glovsa, Mae Keig. Door prizes were donated by Steffie Segulin and Antonia Kerzičnik.

Happy Easter (belated!) to all and Happy Mother's Day!

Check your policies -- keep your beneficiaries up to date. Please let us know of any member who is ill.

ANN STEFANCIC

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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

The weather has not been bad for us, but death and sickness has paid its toll! Year 2000 has not been kind to us. We lost Louis Galic and our expert potica maker, Kate Osep who passed away suddenly in February. So, we did not get our treat from her which she brought every year. To her sisters and family, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. To the family of Louis Galic and caretaker, Michael Piacentine, we extend sympathy. Vera Ornik lost her husband and is also having some of her own health problems. May their souls rest in peace.

Our dear friend, Jackie Nimmer is now a resident of Illinois. We will miss her kind words and generosity and friendly smile. On May 15th, Jackie will be 90 years young. My wish is that people will send her a card so the mailman will have a big sack to carry to her house that day! Her address is: Jackie Nimmer, 1420 So. Barrington Rd., Barrington, IL 60010, Room 107. Happy Birthday from the members!

Our member, Dorothy Dedert had heart surgery. She is well on the road to recovery. After talking to her I would say "she's amazing" and she may see us very soon at the meeting. On her way to vote, Mary Cimmermancic had a mishap and landed in the emergency room. Glad to see you back again. Just heard Marion Marolt is in the hospital with a heart attack, but doing well. We miss Loni Limoni as she was a faithful attendee. But, Loni's husband, John has some medical problems which are taking up her time.

When saying your prayers, please include an extra prayer or two for our sick and caregivers.

Evelyn Laurich took one month to visit in Arizona. Enjoyed her family who is living there. Connie Lewandowski took a trip to Minnesota and another to the Mississippi River area. She said she is going while she can, and I don't blame her. Mary Evanich spends a lot of time in Michigan so she can get some old fashioned Slovenian cooking by Connie Rebernisek Robotka. Connie's husband plays the

Please turn to page 10

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Branch 2, Chicago, Illinois



Elsie Kroschel Wojdula

We are happy and honored to have as our "Woman of the Year of the Millennium - 2000" - Elsie Kroschel Wojdula. Her parents Martin and Frances (Zoric) Kroschel, were both born in Slovenia and came to Chicago in the early 1900's.

There were seven children: Elsie, Theresa Kroschel, Ann Malone, Clare Gospo, Joann Hardebeck, and Frances and Martin who are both deceased. All attended St. Stephen School and were parishioners of St. Stephen Parish.

Elsie and her sister, Clare Gospo have been members of S.W.U. Br. 2 for over 53 years. Both were very active with our Sports Club of which Elsie was an officer; and members of the Bowling League. They have so many memories of the activities within the League, particularly going to the tournaments and meeting sisters of other branches.

After working at Sunbeam Corporation for 40 years, Elsie retired in 1982.

On July 29, 1972; at St. Stephen Church, she married Ted Wojdula; soon afterwards they moved to Cicero. They both enjoyed golf, traveling and being with family and friends. At their church, "Our Lady of Charity," they joined the Friendship Club for seniors and participated in trips and outings.

Her husband, Ted passed away March 21, 1999. He is missed by everyone. Ted enjoyed accompanying Elsie to the Nat'l Convention in San Francisco and often to IL-IN State Conventions!

Elsie is very active with Br. 2 and helps at all our activities. She is an excellent baker; we anticipate her delicious cakes which she always brings to our monthly meetings.

Elsie visits her sister, Clare in Arizona annually. She stays active in her church clubs; there are many activities in which she participates, i.e., day trips, shows, concerts and Casino trips.

We will honor Elsie at our meeting on May 11, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. The evening begins with Mass at St. Stephen Church and the Crowning of Our Blessed Mother. Please come and enjoy her company; it should be a memorable day for her. We wish her many years of good health and happiness!

Reporter

Photo above: Elsie with husband, Ted, at his 80th birthday celebration

accordian and played at St. John's with Frankie Yankovic many times.

Happy Mother's Day to all ladies.

At this time I would like to compliment the new system for our billing. A big improvement. If you have not received your bill, get in contact with our secretary, Fran Remshak and let's get all things straightened out in a hurry. Also, the ZARJA is so great and put together with class! Keep it up, Corinne! (Thanks. It's a labor of love. C.)

The kitchen crew after meetings does a big job. One, two, three and they are done! A big thank you from us all. Stavia Dobersek donates the milk and Tony Stanich a gallon of wine every month! Sylvia Kotze and Lud Babich gave us a good donation. Thank you.

Stay healthy and enjoy the summer.

MARY KIEL

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

I have just returned from the National Board Meeting in Joliet. After a two night flight (being up all night) in four days and losing an hour with daylight savings, I can't seem to catch up.

I am very encouraged and enthusiastic with the direction the Board is taking. We are definitely going into this New Millennium with a progressive and wonderful spirit. And, ladies, if we are to stay alive and grow, we cannot stay the same.

The trip ended with a lovely Sunday spent in Lemont, IL with mass at the Marija Pomagaj church - beautiful choir singing - then refreshments (klobase and soup!) and a gorgeous slide show of Slovenia put on by Borut Sraj from Ljubljana. I met a most delightful family, Stuart and Branka Nyberg and children. These children read poems about spring in Slovenian and made a remarkable impression on me. Afterwards, my hostess, Corinne, took me to visit her friends, Marija and August Petek where I spent a beautiful afternoon and had a wonderful dinner - and the world's best cheese strudel made by Marija. Thank you, Corinne, for one of the loveliest days I can remember! (You are very, very welcome. C)

Here at home, I found out that Betty

Doherty and Dorothy Zaharin will be celebrating their 90th birthday in August. Anna Kambick has had some set backs and is staying with her daughter, Jackie Lowe. We miss you so much, Annie, especially me.

I am so pleased to know that Diane Brainey read my plea for news and called to say her mom, Anna Fabian is now in assisted living. She misses everyone and would love to hear from you. Her 10th great grandchild was born in October and #11 is due this month. Her address is: 2340 Sycamore Ave., Santa Rose, CA 95404, phone (707) 566-0129. It takes five minutes to send someone a smile and I guarantee you will have a better day.

Our May Brunch honoring all members will be May 21st at 11:00 a.m. at the Marriott Downtown. It is always a lovely day. Call Josephine for reservations, 863-8632.

President Josephine Aiuto has started our monthly bustrips again. In May we are taking a ferry in S.F. Bay to Vallejo and our bus will meet us for a ride to Sonoma for lunch. In June we go to a ghost town called Pollardville for lunch and a narrated train ride. Call Jo right away if you would like to join us.

Am so sorry for missing an article in the last ZARJA, but without put-in from you, I haven't had any news. So, call me... (650) 631-1098. I'd love to hear from you.

Wishes to everyone for a beautiful mom's day.

Some complain because the roses have thorns...

Others rejoice because thorns have roses...

Which are you?

BEVERLY JACKSON

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

This bright sun shining through our trees which are bursting into bloom reminds us that it's time to make our reservations for our dinner at which we honor all mothers and women from No. 14. Date for this annual dinner social is Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Slovenian Society Home on Recher Ave. Call in your reservations to President Jennie Fitzthum at (216) 261-

1196. Hope to have another large crowd!

Our recently deceased President, Martha Koren was honored posthumously as Woman of the Year by Euclid's Slovenian Society Home at the Federation of Slovenian Homes banquet held March 26. Marty was honored for all her active work at the Hall as a board member, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and an officer of many of their organizations and for her tireless efforts in helping many other lodges and groups. God Bless you, Marty!

Our Sunshine lady, Rose Rodgers reports that active member, Vera Bajec had surgery and is on the road to recovery after her move back to Gateway in Euclid. Glad to hear also that Stana Grill is doing so well after her bout with being ill.

Hope all of you mothers and grandmothers will find joy as you celebrate among your loved ones on Mothers Day!

ALICE KUJAR

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

Welcome to the merry month of May! Are your gardens thriving? What beauty there is in every blooming thing! Enjoy!

Our next meeting is May 13th, the usual place, St. George Hall. Please join us. Thanks to Edna for accepting the office of auditor. Come and support your officers, I guarantee you will enjoy a great afternoon.

Antonia Krese, Bernice Jarkovich and Fran Zupancic, along with Elsie Seiner attended our last meeting. Kathy and Tim enjoyed a ten-day trip through Italy. On their anniversary they attended an opera in Milan at LaScala, the world renowned opera house. They were awestruck by the art and old ruins. They hope to return there someday.

My first born, Lois, celebrated her big one - she was surprised with a lovely party attended by family and friends. Ad multos anos!

Our Ann Ksiazek had some luck - good and bad! Her good luck was that

Please turn to page 12

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Branch 3, Pueblo, Colorado

Our members have designated two of their members as Co-Women of the Year. They are Margaret Cullen, President and Eileen Kaplan, Secretary-Treasurer. It would be difficult to select one without the other. They are like "Two Peas in a Pod" and rightly so as they are first cousins, thru their maternal grandparents, Martin and Katherine (Stepan) Gersick (Gerseč). Grandpa and Grandma Gersick operated Gersick Meat Market in the Bessemer area of Pueblo in the early 1900's to mid 1924. Their store offered home delivery daily by horse and cart!



Margaret Cullen



Eileen Kaplan

Margaret Cullen

President of Branch 3, Margaret Cullen is a native of Pueblo, Colorado. She is the middle of three children born to the late Peter A. Perse, Jr. and Mary Gersick Perse. Her two brothers, Edmund "Chick" Perse, a retired tavern owner and Richard "Dick" Perse, a retired building contractor, both reside in Pueblo.

Margaret's mother was a member and held the office of Secretary-Treasurer for a number of years. An aunt, Mary (Mici) Bozaich, was the last remaining charter member until her death in 1989.

Margaret has been a life long member of St. Mary Help of Christian Church, is a graduate of St. Mary Grade School and Pueblo Catholic High School. During her student years she was a member of St. Mary SWU Cadets.

During World War II she was employed at the Pueblo Army Air Base for over four years in the supply dept. and after the base was deactivated she was employed by the Pueblo Credit and Collection Bureau, Inc. for 35 years as a mortgage report supervisor and consumer credit counselor until her retirement in 1981.

In September 1943 she married Richard Cullen. Richard worked for the Colorado Supply, served in the U.S. Army during World War II and after service worked for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Corp., retiring in 1981. Prior to his death in 1991, Richard and Margaret enjoyed their relationship with their numerous nieces and nephews, traveling, hunting, fishing, raising roses and three cocker spaniels, Taffy, Cindy, and GiGi.

Currently, Margaret is enjoying her association as President. She is joint coordinator of St. Mary Senior Sociables, maintains her membership in Credit Professionals International, of which she is a charter member in the local chapter, and continues to serve on various committees. At the district level was corresponding secretary and assistant to the District President, Eileen Kaplan. She participates as a member of The Oblates of St. Benedict, Holy Cross Abbey, Pueblo Bishop's Guild, and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Eileen Kaplan

Secretary-Treasurer, Eileen Kaplan, was born in Pueblo, Colorado to the late Anton and Frances Gersick Kaplan. After her graduation from Pueblo Central High School in 1950, she became employed by the Pueblo Credit and Collection Bureau, Inc. as a novice credit reporter and retired 39 years later as Reporting Supervisor. Currently she is employed part-time in the collection department of the Sports and Family Medicine office of Doctors Rocky Khosla and Lawrence Anaya.

A member of Branch 3 since 1950, she has been serving as Secretary since 1994 at which time previous Secretary-Treasurer of many years, Frances Simonich retired and recruited her for the office. She assumed the same position that her beloved Aunt Mara (Mary) Perse, held many years ago. Eileen considers one of the enjoyable aspects of being an officer is planning the annual Christmas Party and Mother's Day Luncheon.

Please turn to page 12

Eileen Kaplan

Her St. Mary Church ministry involves being Co-Chair of the St. Mary Senior Sociables and she assists in the planning of the Lent and Advent sanctuary environment. She belongs to the Oblates of St. Benedict, Holy Cross Abbey, Pueblo Bishop's Guild and Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Working in the credit field she is a member of Credit Professionals International, having served as District President of the Rocky Mountain Council District 9 and has a 35-year perfect attendance record.

Her interests and hobbies are her pets, Roxcie, an Airedale Terrier and Sugar, a perfect little gray

and white cat. She enjoys crafts, studying, but not investing in antique dolls, visiting the Pueblo State Park as a raptor watcher trying to spot the Bald and Golden Eagles, Owls and Hawks which winter in Colorado.

Her one regret is she did not learn the Slovenian language. She wishes the best for SWU and is very encouraged by the changes the association has made these past years with computerization of records and central billing.

Branch 3 feels Margaret and Eileen are a most deserving of the year 2000 recognition!

Happy Mother's Day to All!

she won mucho dollars at a raffle at St. Anne's in Lansing, IL. Her bad luck was sustaining a dog bite! But, knowing Ann, she'll take it all in stride and go on!

Therese Ehnat's grandson, Nick Panczuk is attending classes to become a fireman. Good luck to you, Nick.

Stephanie Golob called. We enjoyed a nice chat, especially talking about St. Stephen's church and school in the old days. Stephanie is home-bound now but still enjoys crocheting afghans. Keep it up, Steph! Jane Szymonik also called. She, too, is home-bound, but was recently hospitalized. Nice to hear from you, Jane.

A group of twelve of the Kral clan went on a skiing trip to Mancelona, Michigan. The Kral family is a perfect example of togetherness.

Our Fran Novak had knee surgery — hope that all is healed by now, Fran, and we'll be seeing you at the meeting. Manda Maggio has been ailing for a long time and is currently hospitalized. We miss you, Manda, and hope you'll be with us for the May meeting. Helen Milanovich was hospitalized for a few days. Our prayers are with you, Helen. Tini Tomasick is home recuperating after her recent hospitalization. We are all praying for you, Tini.



We're having a party in June! Come to Tom's Restaurant on June 8th at 1:30 p.m. for a good lunch and some fun. We're celebrating June weddings so bring your "old" wedding pictures to admire and share! Make reservations by June 1st by calling Mary Jane Strus, (773) 768-6127. Tom's Restaurant is at 894 Burnham Ave., Calumet City.



Thanks to all for the TLC I have received when I had that bout with pneumonia. Am grateful for all the prayers and cards!

Our condolences to Mary Crnokrak on the loss of her son, John. Sympathies also to Elaine Strubel on the loss of her brother. May they rest in peace.

Happy Mothers Day, Moms! Congratulations to all Graduates this month and prayers for all First Communicants! I know many of you are celebrating birthdays these months of May and June, so, many happy returns! And, in June, Happy Father's Day to all Dads!

MARGE

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

Dear members,

Get well wishes to our Recording Secretary, Grace Doerk, Jeanne Warsaw, Robert Kostelc and Father David Stalzer. Please pray for them all.

Congratulations to Bill and Charlene Kobe on the birth of their granddaughter born to daughter Cindy and Dennis Welsh on 1-19th, and also congrats to great grandmother Anna Kobe! Congratulations to Ralph and Virginia Papesch on the marriage of their daughter Maryann to Patrick McGinnis on 11-6-1999. Bev and Ron DeJule announce the engagement of their daughter Jill to Sean Killelea to be married 9-2-2000. Kathy and Ron Kramerich celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary on Valentine's Day, 2000.

Rev. Robert Herbst, son of Jerry and Jean Herbst, attained his bachelor degree in St. Mary's College in Winona, MN and completed his theological studies at the Dominican School at U.C. Berkeley, CA. His skills in sign language and fluency in a few other languages served as the basis for his recent appointment to St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City in August. He was ordained on June 1, 1991 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Hermosa, CA. In addition, Rev. Robert may be pursuing a doctorate in Canon Law. We give Rev. Robert our prayers and wish him Godspeed as he works for God's people!

The recent Kiwanis show "Thanks for the Memories" at the Beautiful Rialto Square Theatre in February included our talented members, Jill DeJule and brother, Tim and also Jerry Zupancic. Their performances were outstanding and enjoyed by a full house. It was a nice divergence from all the world stresses we endure daily on TV and radio.

Our silent auction in March was a success. We had many nice gifts to bid on. Thanks to all who made this a success!

As I opened the Sunday paper this morning, I saw a picture of Audrey Churnovic of Crest Hill and Hattie Mutschink of Forth Worth, Texas giving each other a big hug.

The two women, pen pals for 62 years, had never met, never even talked on the phone. Audrey's children arranged the visit. Stamps cost 3c when the two first exchanged letters in 1938 when they were in grade school. The schools offered a pen-pal program that

Please turn to page 14

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 20, Joliet, Illinois

Marcia L. Judnick

Marcia is in her first term as Secretary-Treasurer of br. 20, our most progressive branch of SWU. She is a member for over 8 years and previously was a trustee, much the same as her grandmother, Louise Riffle, a charter member of Br. 20 and a trustee in their first years (1928). Her mother, Louise Krameric, taught her the skills of homemaking and ethnic pride. She was well-equipped to enter into a wonderful long marriage with Robert Judnick 35 years ago this month. Thus, being wife, homemaker and mother has been her "career."

Marcia's post-high school years put her into the business world where she was employed at Material Service Corp. She says it was fun then to work with many friends. She and Robert met at St. Joe's Park at the church fair in 1960. They were introduced by Marcia's mother who worked with Bob. From their first meeting, they shared backgrounds and interests including dancing the polka! After a five year courtship they were married on May 8, 1965. Besides being there for her children as they were growing up, Marcia unselfishly has "always been there" for Bob through the struggle of his earning a college degree at night school, building a home and holding a full time job. They are both life-time members of St. Joseph Church and presently are Eucharistic Ministers. On special diocesan occasions they have represented their home parish.

Son, David (34) is a graduate of Lewis University with a masters degree in finance. He is employed by Northern Trust Bank of Chicago as an investment analyst. As a resident and townhome owner in Naperville, he is the treasurer and investment manager for their Homeowner's Association. One of his lifelong interests in playing the organ. As a member of the Joliet Organ Enthusiasts Assoc. he has played the Rialto Theatre pipe organ and was on the team that restored the organ and still keeps it in tune.

Michele (29) is a graduate of Lewis University with a degree in marketing and fine arts. She is an event coordinator of corporate events for the Northern Trust Bank in Chicago, lives in Joliet, and is an accomplished portrait artist and graphics designer. She enjoys traveling whether it's business or pleasure.

Marc (19), is a sophomore at Lewis University pursuing a double major in computer network management and computer science with a minor in communications. Marc has a three hour weekly radio program on the Lewis Univ. radio station and is actively involved in the Scholars' Program. Aside from his academics he is employed part-time at Circuit City. His hobbies include recording and mastering music CDs and tapes, computer graphic arts, repairing, updating and building computers from scratch. He has a natural talent for composition and enjoys photography and video camera work.

Marcia has always been actively involved in her children's activities, from kindergarten on, from room-mother to Cub Scout den mother, even teaching her children to cook and bake. Marcia's values have been reflected in each of her children - she has a very close relationship with each of them. They are a very close-knit family and value their traditions and heritage.

She always likes to tell how her mother instilled in her the deepest respect for family life and how she learned to sew, and cook and bake poticas. Her mom's positive outlook was an inspiration for her own life.

"It's truly an honor to be thought of so highly by my sister members," says Marcia. "I have enjoyed being a member of SWU. I have met many new friends and have had a lot of fun at our functions!"



*When God thought of Mother, he must have laughed
with satisfaction, and framed it quickly - so rich,
so deep, so divine, so full of soul, power,
and beauty, was the conception.*

—Henry Ward Beecher

both girls quickly got involved with. Since then they exchanged letters that blossomed into a cherished friendship for the past six decades. The group met for a cookout and a day of reminiscing. They exchanged photos and vowed that they would keep on writing.

Remember St. Joe's Altar and Rosary card party, 5-21 at St. Joe's Park at 1:30. We will have refreshments and many games for you to enjoy. It's always a lot of fun to meet and greet all your friends, so please try to attend.

Sympathy to Vangie Wolf on the death of her mother, Irene Kokas and to Marge Grayhack and Bernadine Rutkowski, sisters to Anna Valek and to Delores Plut, sister to Ralph K. Papesh and also to the many family members of Frank Cepon who passed away 4-1-2000.

Our WOMAN OF THE YEAR banquet is May 16 and we will be honoring Marsha Judnik as our WOMAN OF THE YEAR. A special tribute to OUR LADY OF BREZJE is planned and we will have a short meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Br. 20 Scholarship Awards are to be presented and our entertainment that evening is Magical Moments with Magician, Dave Gogdan from Grand Rapids, MI.

Our attendance award of \$50.00 was won by Stephanie Kovacich, who was not in attendance, so \$60.00 will be our award for our next meeting in April. See you then,

KATHY STONICH,
(815) 727-3177

NO. 22, BRADLEY, IL
Meeting: 3rd Tuesday
every other month
Members' Homes

My sincere apologies to our friend Leo Rittmanic for cheating him out of one year of life. Leo celebrated his 95th birthday in February (not 94 as I erroneously reported) with family and friends at an open house at the Family House Restaurant. Leo goes to daily Mass and is still active in the Holy Name Society. Great going, Leo! Keep it up!

Toni Legris and Mayme Drassler observe natal days in April and May, respectively. We pray that all good wishes come their way. Unfortunately, Mayme has been in the hospital more than once because of heart problems

but we hope to see her at the May 16 meeting at Heritage Village, where she resides.

Besides Mayme, a few more were missing from the March 21 meeting at the Village, the first of the new year. Mollie McIntyre and Emma Lustig were on "sick leave." Glad to say that both are improving, thank you.

Of course, St. Joe's had its Las Vegas Night in March. Seventy-five winners in the High Roller Raffle drawings! I was not among them, nor anyone closely related to me. The grand prize of \$30,000 sounded sweet to our ears! Hope always springs eternal though like the Cubs, wait till next year!

Memorial Day is approaching. Not only in Flander's Fields do our soldiers lie but in the Pacific National Cemetery, where my sister Toni and I spotted the grave of Ernie Pyle, a popular WWII correspondent. Now grateful we must be for the sacrifices our boys made for the sake of freedom. Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord.

Still, Uncle Sam wants YOU, and out to getcha is none other than Airman Mark Clutter, grandson of member Ann Richards. Mark graduated recently from a "stiff" course in recruitment; he will be stationed in Aurora, IL about May first. He must find his own apartment but is allowed \$650 for rental and \$250 for food, in addition to salary. If the Air Force does not appeal to you, there's the Army, Navy and Marines! Take your pick!

Would you like a definition of a politician? A politician is one who divides his time between running for office and running for cover. So says anonymous, and I think he's right!

Well, Happy Spring, Happy Summer! God bless you all. More rain our way would be appreciated, Lord.

EMMA LUSTIG

NO. 23, ELY, MN
Meeting: 1st Monday
St. Anthony's Church Hall
Sept. thru May

Members of Branch 23, Ely, Minnesota, met at St. Anthony's Church Hall on February 7, 2000. The meeting was called to order by President, Bev Lobe. We remembered our deceased members, Fran Zupancic and Mary Gotchnik with prayer.

The ladies were very busy making plans for all of the different activities that are coming up. Our March meeting was a Pot-luck on our regular meeting night, and we were signing up with our favorites dishes to bring. April was "Pizza night" with several activities being planned for Mothers' Day. This year we plan to honor all of our mothers, and will take part in the Living Rosary at St. Anthony's. We are also getting everything in order for Minnesota Day, with President BeBe and Virgie Ivancich as co-chairpersons. Chairmen for the different committees volunteered their services. Get-well wishes go out to Mary Starkovich and Tillie Novosel.

Anyone needing a change of address form is asked to contact Pat Lammi, 34 N. Klondike Drive, Ely, MN 55731. It was also reported that Ann Koschak had passed away. Our condolences. Our President was the winner of the door prize; and Dolores High won the 50/50 drawing. Lunch was served and the B-game was played.

Respectfully submitted,
MARCELLA ZUPEC,
Recording Secretary

NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL
Meeting: 3rd Thurs.
Catholic School Library
Mar.-Apr.-May-June
Sept.-Oct.-Nov.

There were 12 members present at the March meeting of our Branch. Adele Gensler conducted the business meeting in the absence of President, Anne Wangler and Vice President, Minnie Carter. Plans for the May dinner honoring all members were to be made at the April meeting as well as arrangements for the June Picnic Supper meeting.

We have two new members, Junior member, Cassie Witek and Betsy Ann Klopocic. We welcome them and hope to see them at our activities.

Theresa Gende is now a resident of Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Peru. Fannie Piletic has been a patient at St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley. My husband, William was a patient at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria with heart problems and is feeling much better now. Marion Borisek's brother, Philip Ferentchak has had two heart surgeries

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 23, Ely, Minnesota

In Loving Memory

† Mary Gotchnik

Mary Gotchnik was our "Button Box Queen" She entertained us for many years with her special musical talent. Her "spark for life" brought happiness and laughter wherever she would go.



Mary was one of those special "little stars" that God makes present for us to enjoy! Thank you, Mary, for all the "good times" YOU MADE HAPPEN!

SWU Branch 23 of Ely, MN, was saddened by the death of Mary Gotchnik on Feb. 2, 2000. She was born on Feb. 16, 1910 in Ely, MN, to Mathew and Mary (Miksha) Stefin, and married Joseph Gotchnik on May 15, 1926, in Crosby, MN. She was a lifelong resident of Ely, and a past employee of Vertine's Cafe. Her reputation as a cook and baker was outstanding. Her apple strudel, caramel rolls and desserts were renowned. She celebrated her heritage by learning to play the button box accordion and shared this talent and her "zest for life" with all.

She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, the American Fraternal Union, the American Slovenian Catholic Union, the Women's Life Insurance Society and Branch 23.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Joseph, her son, Joseph, Jr., a sister, Molly Domin, brothers, Matt and Fred Stefin, and granddaughter, Christy Skraba. Survivors include three daughters: Mary Ann (George) Pulis of Ely, Molly (Joseph) Milberry of Crosby, and Dolores Brenna of Arlington, VA, two sisters, Angeline Stupar of Las Vegas, NV and Helen (Walter) Erickson of Crosby, also a daughter-in-law, Mary Ellen Gotchnik of Ely; 12 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; and 10 great, great grandchildren. There will be spring interment in the Ely Cemetery.

Jane Yadlosky

A friend, and past president

at a heart hospital in Texas. All of our sick family members have been added to the Resurrection Church Prayer Chain and it is a great comfort to know that so many people are praying each day for all of us. Bill and I thank everyone for the prayers.

Theresa Rose Savnik passed away on February 18, 2000 at Heritage Manor Nursing Home. Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. John Onderko officiated at her funeral Mass at Resurrection

Church. She was a 49-year member of Branch 24, serving as Financial Secretary for several years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank and son, Ronald. Survivors include 3 brothers, John, Anton and Frank Ajster and a sister, Christine Potthoff. I thank the members who recited the SWU burial ritual at the funeral home. We offer our condolences to the family and pray that Rose will enjoy Heavenly Peace and Rest.

A Happy Birthday to our May Birthday celebrants: Jo Foley and Rita Mae Pyszka--and to those celebrating their birthdays in June: Paula Illman, Financial Secretary, Betty Stack, Abby Schweickert, Jr. Member Patricia Weihman, Jr. Member Bekki Jo Prokup, and Rose Mary McLaughlin.

Congratulations to all the June graduates, especially my granddaughter, Abby Schweickert, who will graduate from Waubunsee High School in June. She completed her high school work in three and one-half years and has one semester completed at the College of Du Page. She will become an Adult member of our Branch in June. She has been a Junior member since birth.

Linda Struna (for Mary Mecum) and Adele Gensler served refreshments after the March meeting and the members enjoyed the treats very much.

Watch the Church Bulletin and the News-Tribune for information regarding our May Dinner and again for the June Picnic meeting. Join us for an enjoyable evening and be sure that you are all welcome to participate in all of our events.

We wish all of our mothers a Very Happy Mothers Day and we remember those no longer with us with prayer. We won't meet in the HOT months of July and August so enjoy your vacation trips and return to us refreshed and ready for a busy Fall SWU Season!

ANNE WANGLER, Reporter

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

Hello out there in ZARJALand!

Due to the flu bug and the inclement weather during Jan. Feb. and March we missed a couple of meeting sessions...but we're on track now. The millennium has come and gone. It wasn't the disaster that was predicted... Thank goodness.

One of our long time members, Albina Pozelnik was confined to the hospital for awhile with pneumonia. She's back in the saddle now.

Gene Drobnic, by the time this is issued, should be back from her extensive stay in Florida. Hope she'll be around for while. You were missed.

Our congrats to Councilman of Ward 13, Joe Cimperman on his "Man of the

Year Award" on St. Clair Avenue... Couldn't happen to a nicer fellow. Way to go, Joey.

To all our mothers... Happy Mother's Day. Treat her to a day out of the kitchen. She is so deserving. She's the one who takes care of all our needs... she needs a break.

Did you have your Corned beef and cabbage on St. Patty's day??? I did... Deelish!!!

Let's not forget the Fathers on June 14. They are the bread winners... Alive or deceased, we love them all.

May 23rd will be a big day at Slovenian National Home. We will all be celebrating with Lou Trebar's 80th birthday and J. Pecon's 25th anniversary... Hope to see you there ready to swing and sway to all those beautiful waltzes and polkas.

Stop by and say hello.

A friend gave me this saying...when your memory lapses, it is not due to age... it is merely a "Senior Moment" isn't that precious.

Also each day is a gift from God... make the most of it.

Na svidenje.

EMILEE JENKO, Reporter

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

Our wish for a happy Mothers Day to all members of S.W.U.!

Our new Recording Secretary is Esther Garbincus who volunteered to take the job. Thanks to Adrienne Jager; we appreciated everything that you did for our branch while you were Rec. Secy. Mary Zakrajsek is on the sick list. Dorothy Lamm volunteered to help Helen Kovacic with the raffle tickets. Thanks for your help Dorothy. Josephine Comenshek is feeling a little better and stronger each day. We wish all our sick members a speedy recovery to good health. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

On May 17 we will be going to the Home Town Buffet, 35085 Euclid Ave. Time is 6 o'clock. Guests are welcome. Pay for your dinner as you enter the restaurant. A room is reserved for our

branch. If anyone needs a ride please contact Pres. Ann Cooke. In June we will have our picnic at the meeting. Hope everyone will be able to attend. In July and August there will be no meetings.

Happy birthday and happy anniversary to all members who are celebrating their big days in the months of May, June, July and Aug. Good health and happiness to all.

FRANCES OGOREUC

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

There were 55 attending the December meeting and Christmas Party. Everyone contributed to a Grand "Pot Luck." Great food, terrific bars and cookies were enjoyed by all. A special Christmas "Fun" song with Sharon Bucar was great. Lucy Olaf entertained with Christmas Carols on her concertina. The "Dime Social" added \$58.00 to the Funeral Fund.

Officers are: Beverly Menart, President; Mary White, Vice President; Jackie Rukavina, Secretary; Rosemary Donald, Treasurer. Lois Pelander, Reporter and Funeral Fund.

Sympathy prayers for Thyra Rukavina, son; Sandra Malmquist, brother; Thyra Rukavina and Ruth Boben, brother.

Frances Hutar Blatnik, 84, Br. 33, member for 42 years and past President, died after over 13 years in nursing homes.

Marriage wishes: Donna Collard, son; Renee Doble, grandson; Carla Skull, son; Emily Skull, grandson.

New baby for Barbara (Bucar) Hudson; first grand child for Sharon Bucar.

Florence Burger retired from St. Elizabeth parish office.

Father Patrick Moran will never forget the St. Patrick's Day celebrated after mass in St. Elizabeth Hall. Slovenian and Croatian singers sang many Irish songs as Father Moran narrated. He and his "Fish" were really a hit. Much fun for all!

Margaret "Peggy" Collard will be honored as our Mother of the Year on May 3.

After a very mild winter tulips up Feb. 29th. We observed a House Finch

pair is building their nest on March 1 & 2. Hyacinths and daffodils budded up already on March 20 and I picked some bright blue Scilla for a friend. "Super early" for Duluth.

"Happy Spring" to all.

LOIS M. PELANDER,
Reporter

NO. 34, SOUDAN, MN
Meeting: 3rd Wed., 1 p.m.
St. Martin's Church Hall
Jan. to May; Sept., Oct. & Nov.

February

Branch 34 met on February 16 at St. Martin's Church. As incoming President, we all thank Adeline Mustonen for her over twenty years of devotion to our group. She compiled a beautiful history, of which we each received a copy, reminding us all of our mothers, relatives and friends. Each had her own story to tell and contributes to our heritage. Each of our members is a reflection of this heritage today in the many ways we do social justice in our families, extended family and community. All of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are lived. Adeline has been our impeccable president and guide.

Vice President Lorraine Berg has agreed to be Publicity Chairman. Adeline will remain our Eulogist. Emma Betourne is our recording secretary and our auditors are Marcella Rooney and Lucille Svatos. Agnes Mattson is our secretary-treasurer and will continue to tutor all of us in our prayers in Slovenian. Adrienne Micklich is our Sunshine Committee of one. Margaret Mesojedec, Theresa Berg and Emma Betourne were winners during recreation. Marge Skala and Marcy Rooney served a lovely and delicious Valentine luncheon. The door prize, furnished by Emma Betourne was won by Theresa Berg.

This May, we will be honoring all our members as special mothers.

March

Branch 34 met on Wednesday, March 15, at St. Martin's Church. As suggested, Agnes Mattson led us in an exercise to better our prayers in Slovenian. Adrienne Micklich reported on the engraving of the gavel Helen Adkisson presented in memory of her mother,

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 33, Duluth, Minnesota



Margaret "Peggy" Collard

Peggy Collard has been chosen Mother of the Year in this millennium year.

Peggy was born in St. Paul, MN 71 years ago. She now resides in Duluth at 251 102nd Ave. West. She married Victor Collard in Maryland in June, 1951. He was in the service and they lived in Maryland, Germany, England, Germany, Kansas, Japan, Okinawa and Duluth during his 26 years in the Army. Victor died in 1966; she is a widow 33 years.

They had five children, Melvin, Phillip, Robert, Donald and Sandra. During this time Peggy was foster mom to 10 children that she cared for. She was very capable due to her nursing education, (LPN) and as a medical lab technician and medical secretary. She worked for 15 years in this field and retired after 37 years only after she was physically disabled due to her legs. As a 15-year old, she was trampled by a horse and has had 15 knee surgeries that meant she wore a leg brace.

Margaret enjoys cooking, playing bingo, going to rummage sales (buying good things for her grandchildren) and is a "fishing nut." She goes fishing at favorite places as often as possible; even got to go "Finishing with the Pros" during a contest. She takes disadvantaged children fishing whenever she can.

Margaret has a close family, regardless of the distance between them. Two boys live in Duluth, one in Texas, one in Oregon, and her daughter lives in Virginia, MN. She shares her home with a son, and his family. They provide needed assistance for Margaret rather than having her in a nursing home.

There are 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She still likes to go out to dinner and hockey games and enjoys letters from family members who are not living close by.

Peggy says she is most inspired by her sister-in-law, Cyrilla Collard. Her fondest memory is when grandchildren crawl onto her lap for story time. "Then I feel truly blessed!"

"I feel humble and honored to be chosen for this honor," Margaret's own words. The members of Br. 33 feel equally honored to have her!

Lois Pelander

Helena Mesojedec. It was established that Adeline Mustonen submitted all corrections of our membership list to the home office. Donations to the Minnesota Citizens for Concerned Life and Bishop Baraga Association were approved. Emma Betourne presented several informative articles and the address for Miss Vail, former music teacher, who will be 100 years old.

We have projected to celebrated all members at a luncheon at Fortune Bay on May 15 at 12 o'clock in appreciation of the terrific jobs we did for our Minnesota Day. Agnes Mesojedec, Marcy Ronney and Emma were game winners. Agnes Mattson presented "Reflections by Sister Armella Oblock, O.S.B." read at the recent funeral services of Sister Antonia, O.S.B. Agnes and Victoria Bobence experience heart-felt loss of their three exceptional sisters, Sister Antonia, Sister Gervace and Sister Maxine.

Adrienne and Theresa served a special lunch with Father Pakiz as guest. Lorraine Berg won the door prize, furnished by Victoria. It has been noted that our next meeting will be on May 12, because of Holy Week, with Lorraine and Theresa serving and door prize furnished by Kay Dean.

Branch 34 of Soudan met on Wednesday, April 12 at St. Martin's Church. On May 15, we will honor all of our members for Mother-of-the-Year at a special luncheon by the branch in appreciation of the beautiful job they all did for the success of Minnesota Day under the expert direction of Adeline Mustonen. All members are invited. In our projected plan for membership, all inactive members will be personally contacted and included. Members will assemble at the church to pool rides.

We accepted with great pleasure, an invitation by the Ely Branch to participate in their Living Rosary Celebration on May 1st. Plans are in place for the Regional Meeting with Charlotte Laurich on May 6. All would be welcome.

Lorraine and Theresa Berg were hostesses and the door prize was furnished by Kay Dean, won by Marjory Skala. The games were won by Lucille Svatos, Emma Betourne and Agnes Mesojedec.

THERESA BERG

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Branch 35, Aurora, Minnesota



Martha Gunderson

When we announced that Martha Gunderson was our Woman of the Year at the Christmas party, it came as a complete surprise to her! She says she feels very honored.

Martha was born in Kinney, MN on June 24, 1921, the second of five girls and one boy. Her parents were Matt and Mary Kolak. The family moved to Keewatin when she was a school girl.

She was working in Grand Rapids, MN when she met her husband, Ralph, a pharmacist and they were married there on Nov. 17, 1941. Ralph joined the Navy and served in the Pacific for 3 years while Martha worked at Bendix Aviation in Bendix, Indiana. When he came home they returned to Minnesota, and lived in St. Paul for 27 years. They both worked at Capitol Drug and from there, Ralph worked at the Samaritan Hospital, while Martha was employed at a bank. They both retired in 1972 and moved to Aurora to be near her family. Martha still lives here.

She has enjoyed knitting, crocheting, embroidery and counted cross stitch; she is still an excellent cook and baker. She collects Hummels as a hobby.

Martha and Ralph didn't have any children but have enjoyed all the nieces and nephews and their families.

As a member of Br. 35, for 18 years Martha has been a great member. Thirteen of her family are also members, including her three sisters, Anne Orazem, Barbara Urick and Francine Stellmach.

She also belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary, Am. All Slav Club and was a member of the Women of the Moose and Hospital Auxiliary.

Our branch and her family will pay tribute to Martha on Sunday, May 21st at a special dinner in her honor.

Reporter

***A Mother is not a person to lean on,
but a person to make leaning unnecessary.***

—Dorothy Canfield Fisher

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

We enjoyed the luncheon meeting on Feb. 13th at the Community Center, followed by the Dime Auction. Thank you, ladies, for your lovely prizes. This money is put towards paying our over 80 members' dues.

Congratulations to our High School graduates, Janelle Antilla, Katie Martinetto, Katie Orazem and James Wheeler. Best wishes for success in whatever your plans are for the future.

My grandson, James Wheeler has studied Chinese for 5 years and is excited to be visiting China for the first time in June with several classmates and his teacher. We will look forward to a "report" when you get home, James! Enjoy your trip!

Nicholas Martinetto won a Bronze Medal at the Special Olympics Winter Games at Giants Ridge in the Glide Event. Congratulations, Nicholas! We are so proud of you!

Welcome home to Frank and Anita Vovk. We missed you at our meetings, Anita.

Correction in the last ZARJA: The albums and scrapbooks were prepared by Janice Grebence and Ann Hodnik and Dorothy Jamnik gave a report on Br. 35's history at the 70th Anniversary celebration in October, 1999.

We closed our meeting with prayers. Thank you to Janice Grebence, Betty Turk, Betty Rokser, Dorothy Jamnik and Anne Orazem who prepared and served the lunch and to Anita Vovk for the door prize - won by Helen Simonich. Vida Marinsek and Mary Noson will be hostesses in April.

Plans are being made for many interesting events during All-Slav Days at Ironworld on Aug. 12th and 13th including a mock wedding and Grape Festival. (Notice the All-Slav Days at Ironworld adv. in this ZARJA.)

ANN ORAZEM

I want to thank you, Mary, for being close to me so far this day. With your help I haven't been impatient, lost my temper, been grumpy, judgemental, or envious of anyone. But I will be getting out of bed in a minute and I think will really need your help then.

Amen.

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 39, Biwabik, Minnesota

Helen T. Zallar

Helen Mahovlich Zallar has been a member of SWU since 1946, and, at 83-years young, she is still an active participant in Branch 39 activities, meetings, and functions. Her family and everyone loves and reveres Helen for her strong religious faith, devotion to her family, and commitment to service.

Helen was born on February 27, 1917, to Matt and Milka Mahovlich, Slovenian immigrants who settled first in Elcor, Minnesota and later in Gilbert, Minnesota which became their permanent home. She was born into a family of nine children, four girls and five boys. Life was very hard, but the family learned early how to laugh and treasure each other. Helen graduated from Gilbert High School and worked as a typist and as a clerk at the Gilbert Co-op Store.

On June 29, 1939, Helen married Dr. Frank J. Zallar, D.D.S., and they lived on Wisconsin Avenue in Gilbert. Doc's dental practice was above the Gilbert Drug Store. Doc and Helen had three sons: John (Duluth), is now a retired school teacher; David (Anoka) is also

a school teacher; and Robert (Duluth) is an attorney who specializes in labor law. Helen has four grandsons, Frank, Jim, Zeb, and Pete, and one granddaughter, Jennifer. All of her family, children, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren alike, have been spoiled by Helen's incredible walnut potica, strudels, cakes, fresh vegetable soup, mlince (pronounced meleen's sah), and other specialties. Everyone gets a package of goodies when they either leave her house or when she comes to visit.

In 1951, Doc and Helen designed and built their new dental building and residence on North Broadway. By 1953, Helen began working in the office as a dental assistant. Initially trained by Doc, Helen attended the University of Minnesota Continuation Center for further courses in dental assistance. As the business grew, Doc and Helen felt a need to get away from the busy life so they bought a cabin on Lake Eshquagama. The whole family remembers weekends spent in the beautiful, calm surroundings at the cabin. Helen always cooked special meals, and Doc puttered around doing a little of this and a little of that. The lake is the source of some of the family's fondest memories.

The Helen her family knows best is a woman devoted to God, her family, and service to others. Helen models her deep devotion to God. She is an inspiration through her steadfast examples of private prayer and service. Her rosary and prayer books, always next to her bed, are testimony that her thoughts are never far from God. Whenever someone is having troubles, we know Helen is praying for him or her. Her assuredness that God is a source of help and comfort is a strength she has passed on to her family.

She made a wonderful home for her children and husband. She helped her boys with their homework, instilled proper values and manners in them, and supported them with prayer and wise counsel. When her grandchildren were little, it was not uncommon to walk into a room and find Helen on the floor playing games, coloring, or reading with them.

Helen's daughters-in-law say that on all occasions she is impeccably dressed and credit her for much of what they know about hosting dinner parties and entertaining. For simple foods or fancy feasts, Helen's table is always beautifully arranged and her meals delicious.

Helen was devoted to and proud of Doc. They worked many, many years together in their dental office on Broadway. She was proud of his conscientious perfectionism that was admired not only by his patients but by his colleagues. Doc retired after fifty-two years of dentistry, and Helen spent thirty one years working by his side. Helen says that one of her fondest memories was their fiftieth anniversary celebration hosted by their sons, spouses, and grandchildren. She writes: "On June 29, 1989, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary at the Holiday Inn. My husband and I were overwhelmed by the beauty and splendor of the dining room. The beautiful centerpiece on the head table, pink carnations in crystal vases on all of the other tables, the iridescent favor cups, and crystal candle holders set the room aglow. The guests were dazzled by the flawless and elegant setting. We didn't expect anything that elaborate. I especially remember our youngest grandchildren, Jenny and Pete, serving our anniversary cake to our guests. It was wonderful! We were surrounded by our lovely family, our sisters and brothers, and dear relatives and friends."

Please turn to page 20



WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Branch 43, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Lorraine Johnson

Lorraine Johnson has been a member of the Slovenian Women's Union since February 19, 1972 and is a member of Branch 43. She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After high school she attended the University of Wisconsin Extension for two years.

She went to work for Mr. Harry Soref, inventor of the Master Lock. She married John Johnson in June of 1942, at Holy Ghost Church.

In 1946 she went to work for the General Electric Company, Medical Systems where she worked for 37 years. When she retired in 1989 she was honored with several dinners and many beautiful gifts. She has retained many wonderful friends with whom she worked and gained beautiful friendships.

Lorraine spent several years doing volunteer work with physically handicapped children and adults who were homebound. Her hobbies are cooking, collecting glass and chip carving.

Lorraine has said, "we have so many wonderful ladies in our organization, representing them is a great honor..."

Reporter



Lorraine and John Johnson

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

JUBILEE YEAR 2000 OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST

Mother Nature played an April Fool's joke on us very early in March. The snows up here in the north country had completely disappeared by mid-Feb.---and during the first week of March we were already raking our lawns and washing our cars. Enter--nature's joke! By March 8th the temps had dropped from plus 70 to a low of 10 above bringing back the snow and ice!!! Well, it was fun while it lasted!

Our first meeting of the new year was held on Feb. 2nd. We have been meeting on the street level of our Slovenian Home to avoid the long staircase trek above. Incidentally, our building has a new bright red canopy. The SLOVENIAN HOME is printed in bold lettering along with the official crest of Slovenia. It is really an eye catcher!!

Our group sponsored a Valentine card party on Sunday, Feb. 13th. This was strictly a social get together event to which the ladies of the town look forward each February.

Plans were finalized at our March 1st meeting concerning our 70th anniversary celebration to be held on Sunday, May 21st. We are hoping that some members of branches in the general area will join us on that day. I'll share our festivities with all of you in my next ZARJA article.

In order to update our membership list President Catherine Sandvick spent part of our last meeting going through all the members' names with the help of the women present. She will be returning the list to the main office. We

Helen T. Zallar

Her service to the others has taken many shapes. Helen is a past president and treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary and a past president of St. Theresa Guild of St. Joseph's Parish. She coordinated church fund raisers including dinners, bazaars, and a Fourth of July food and novelty booth in her front yard. She remains a member of the funeral choir, Senior Citizens Diet Club, VFW Auxiliary, SWU, and many other activities. She is a wonderful cook and baker who donates many wonderful foodstuffs.

Helen feels truly blessed to be chosen "Mother of the Year" for Branch 39. She joins Grandma Johanna Zallar, Grandma's daughter, Jenny Ahlin, and Doc's sister Josephine Reishus as Mother of the Year. Helen says that it is a such a joy to be a part of this special group, she is grateful for the 54 wonderful years of membership. Helen loves all of her friends at Branch 39 and will always treasure this great honor.

Reporter

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 50, Euclid, Ohio



Anne Orlikowski

Our chosen Mother of the Year 2000 is Anne Orlikowski. Her maiden name was Paulin. She was born in the Slovenian town of Trebnje, then Austria, now Slovenia, in 1909. She was brought to this country right on her 2nd birthday, April 28, 1911.

Her family consisted of five – 3 girls and 2 boys. One brother is since deceased. They lived on Hamilton St. in Cleveland, and later on East 39th St. in rent, at the Budan's home. Anne went to St. Vitus School and also was married there.

From there Ann's family moved to E. Worcester, New York, near Albany, on a farm. They came back to Cleveland, in 1927.

In 1946 she and John Orlikowski were married and soon, John was inducted into the Army where he served for three years. On his return they bought their own home in Euclid where she still resides. A son, John was born, and when he was seventeen years old, Anne lost her husband, John who died suddenly at the age of 53. She then had to go to work and found employment at Osborn Mfg. Brush Co. in Cleveland. It's 36 years since Anne became a widow and now, at the age of 91 she looks positively great!

She is a very friendly and happy person, and in good shape for her years!!! Yes, she drives a big car, too. She loves to sing, play cards and keep house for her son, John, who lives with her. She makes super good apple and cheese strudels and poticas! She loves to work in her home and yard, has a small vegetable garden and loads of flowers. She is very proud of her large dahlias, especially the ones that are peppermint candy striped red and white – they measure a good ten inches across! Beautiful!

Anne belongs to three Slovenian Pensioners Clubs, at Holmes, Collinwood and Waterloo; also, St. Mary's Seniors and Club Ljubljana in Euclid. She is always ready to help at our events and bake for us. She is also a Marie Priland Cadet.

We have had this very pleasant lady as our member for 24 years – yes, Anne, you are quite a gal! and we love you!

We will help her celebrate Mother's Day on May 16th at Sterle's restaurant, E. 55th near St. Clair Ave.

We extend our congratulations, Anne, for all you are and with God's Blessings, we wish you many more healthy and happy years – at least til you reach 100!

Ann J. Tercek, Pres.

trust it will at long last be satisfactory.

Charlotte Laurich, our State President and also a member of our branch, just returned from a visit with her daughter in Arizona. During her stay she suddenly got very ill and was rushed to the hospital. She is home now and we are glad for that. Our prayers are raised upward for your full recovery, Char.

Our long standing member Veda Ponikvar left us for just abit. She is in Arizona with her sisters, soaking up the sun and resting her tired feet. We hope you're having some fun, too, Veda!

The first couple months of this year have been non-happenings for our group but with the coming of spring we'll be jumping--hopefully!

*"O Time, be kind be gentle,
Give ear to this one thing,
Stand still while earth renews itself,
O – do not hurry Spring!!*

GERT ZAKRAJSEK

NO. 42, MAPLE HTS., OH
Meetings: Quarterly, 2nd month
of the quarter, 2nd Saturday
Maple Hts., Library

Hi, members! I send you greetings from sunny California. My original plans to travel here in late March were abruptly changed due to a major fall down my basement stairwell on Feb. 1st. I sustained fractures of my lower right arm and crushed the heel in my right foot. With a cast on my leg and pins with an external fixator on my arm I prepared to enter the world of left-handedness. Since I would be non-weightbearing for at least 8 weeks my daughter, Lynn, flew in from California and stayed with me for a month. She is an orthopedic nurse working at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills. With my surgeon's permission and with x-rays in tow I flew back to California with her and 4 year old grandson, Alex. I now have a whole new appreciation for the obstacles the disabled have to overcome.

This whole experience has given me time to reflect on the mother/daughter relationship. For those of you blessed with daughters no explanation is necessary. For you daughters, God bless you!

Please turn to page 22

This being the month we honor mothers, what better time to pay tribute of remembrance of the Slovenian immigrant mother of our youth: diligent, hardworking, scrupulously clean, good cook, nurse and unyielding disciplinarian. I can still see Ma in her immaculate apron, lisle stockings (from Vacha's Dry Goods Store) and her "Enna Jettick's (from Sanda's Shoe Store). They didn't need a Martha Stewart to tell them "How To"!

Since I am geographically out of touch I have no news items to report. Marge Church writes me that Christine Hajek (daughter of Jennie Intihar) was married to Dan Stropki on 02-04-2000 at 2:00 (how's that date?) and they will reside in Solon, Ohio.

Happy May birthdays to: Clara Hrovat, Dorothy Mehosky, Samantha Thompson, Shawn Thompson, Mary Champa, Melinda Prhne and Angeline Zupanc.

Happy June birthdays to: Ann Tratar, Dolores Lipnos, Robert Kastelic, Betty Ann Kastelic, Sally Prhne, Katherine Gruden and Joyce Scott.

Happy Mother's Day to all you moms and Happy Father's Day to all the dads.

Get well wishes to any ailing members and greetings to those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Zbogom,

LIL SADOWSKI

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

We had a very good attendance at our March meeting. We were very happy to see Lorraine Johnson. She wasn't able to come to our meetings because of knee surgery. We are very happy that she is doing much better. She also treated us to a delicious cheese torte. We were also treated to a very delicious luncheon by our Birthday Ladies, Milka Menchak, Mary Martino and Josephine Janezic.

The April 26th meeting we had our meeting without our President. Josephine, with her husband, Stanley, and granddaughter, Michelle will be leaving for Australia on April 3rd. Josephine and Stanley, who met in Australia and were married there, left 40 years ago to come to the U.S.A. Josephine and Michelle are going to

travel to Northern Australia to view the Coral Sea and Rain Forest, and to spend the day with the Aborigines. The rest of the vacation they will spend with relatives and friends in Sidney and Melbourne, and tour the Olympic village. What a vacation!

On May 20th we will be honoring Lorraine Johnson as our "Woman of the Year" with a dinner at noon at Klemmer's Banquet Hall at 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. Tickets are \$15.00. You can get tickets and make a reservation by calling Josephine at 545-0691 or you can call me at 604-0518. We will have no formal meeting in May but we will have a meeting on Wednesday, June 28th.

We hope you will all keep in mind our 70th Anniversary which will be held in conjunction with the State Convention on September 10th. The entire doing will be at Klemmer's Banquet Hall, with greeting and Continental Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. meeting at 9:30 a.m. Mass at 11:00 a.m. with singing by the USPEH Chorus, and the Banquet at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00, and some will be sent to our sister lodges.

On May 28th there will be a Memorial Mass for all of our sick and deceased members at 8:45 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church.

ANNE E. KONCZAL,
Reporter

NO. 47, GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OH
Meeting: 2nd Sunday, 1:00 p.m.
Maple Heights Library

Our meeting in March proved eventful. We discussed our Mothers' Day Luncheon which will be held on Saturday, May 6th, 2000, 1:00 p.m. at QUINNS Restaurant, located in Solon, Ohio.

We will have a Mass for our deceased members on June 11, 2000, 10:00 a.m., at St. Lawrence Church. At 12:00 noon a luncheon to follow the mass will be at Sterle Restaurant.

Refreshments were served at the end of our meeting.

Thought for the day:
To know someone with whom you can feel there is understanding in spite of distances or thoughts unexpressed - that can make life a garden.

DOROTHY SQUIRE

Marija Pomagaj
Patroness of Slovenians
Feastday is May 23rd



Think on Mary. Call upon her as with her aid you will not err or make a mistake. She will guide you to a safe harbor and an eternity of happiness.

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

Spring has sprung and nothing could be more welcome at this time. The magic of our definite seasons in these parts keep us looking forward even though we must refer to the recent past as well.

We lucked out in choosing Anne Orlikowski as our Valentine Queen for this year. We couldn't have made a better choice! Looking ahead to celebrate with the Mother of the Year (2000), Anne Pauline Orlikowski, we should meet at Sterle's Restaurant on Tuesday, May 16th, at 1:30 p.m. Final details were set at our April meeting.

During our March 15th meeting, we learned that Dorothy Ann Winters and Bertha Vidmar were under the weather. Jean Miller was hospitalized with congestive heart failure which led to pneumonia. She is recuperating at home. We wish them all speedy recoveries.

Albina Kocisko left us to her reward and so did my Teta, Bonny Senfner from Pittsburgh who loved ZARJA. They both succumbed to the curse of cancer.

The next best gathering in the future will be our yearly picnic meeting on September 20th. Set aside that special date.

There are a few important member happenings. The Skoda's (Ella) 65th wedding anniversary on September 28th and our Ann Cern has gathered more darling grandchildren recently. Sidney arrived to Jason and Ami Zavoda; also Kate came to Michael and Kelli Zavoda. That makes a total of nine great grandchildren for Ann.

Jo Smith announced that her daughter, Adrienne Radcliffe is teaching English in Japan. What a wonderful experience!

That's it for awhile from Lodge 50 and again we thank Gojko Stare for his marvelous history of Slovenia... how it was, how it is, and what may be.

Na svidenje!

VI MORAVCEK

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

Happy and Blessed Mother's Day to all. May the rest of your year include good health and all of God's blessings!

We were very blessed in March to have a grandson born to our youngest son and his wife. He is a real "Bundle of Joy." They named him Brent Edward and needless to say we all argue on who will hold him!

Home from Augusta, Georgia is Elsie Shine and her husband. They visited their son and family. Grandson, Neil, who is 13 years old, is a champion tennis player and competes all through their state. At our last meeting Elsie was our hostess and gave all of us a scrubbie that she makes; she also served a delicious potica cake. Vic Zuga is

traveling and visited her niece, Marie Drasler in Arizona. We're going to Charleston, SC to baby sit and hopefully do some sightseeing. I love that historical town!

Our Mother-Daughter luncheon will be held on Wed. May 17th at 1 o'clock at Cafe 422. Louise Vett is in charge of favors, etc., and I will be calling all of you for reservations. We will honor all our members. You can bring a door prize for the raffle.

Recently hospitalized was Mary Zuga, with pneumonia. She is now back in the nursing home.

We will not have any meetings this summer, so please try to attend the May luncheon. Our next meeting will be at my home on Sept. 20th at 12 noon.

It is so lovely to see all the spring flowers blooming and trees blossoming after a long winter!

JOANNE PONIKVAR

MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

Mountains, valleys, narrow roads, farms, family and friends. All of these things will be hard to forget after the trip my family and I took to Slovenia this past summer. Traveling with my two sisters, Katie (21) and Sara (17), my father Steve and grandmother, Mary Fon as well as friends of the family, Barbara and Mary Frances Mohr, we set off on a trip for two weeks. We flew to Munich, Germany first then rented a car to drive to the little town of Mozirje in Slovenia where my grandmother's side of the family originated.

It took us about 6 hours to get there but it was well worth the drive to see the mountains of Austria and all the beautiful scenery along the way. Some of the mountains were so high that the tops of them disappeared in the clouds. Needless to say, I have many pictures now of mountains and clouds! We even stopped to eat at this little gostilna along the way just to enjoy the sights. Until now however, we had not really come into contact with people that didn't speak English. My dad and grandma were the only ones that spoke Slovenian but we still weren't to Slovenia yet and no one with us spoke any German whatsoever! So we were trying to order sausages and sauerkraut cause we thought that would be easy to understand. However, we ended up with bean salad, vegetables and something that resembled

a hot dog but tasted nothing like one! Now, I'm not saying that it wasn't good but I am saying that on the way home we didn't stop in Austria to eat.

Once we finally got to the home of the Gostečnik's in Šmihel, we settled into the vacation log cabin that we would be living in for the next two weeks. It was a four bedroom cottage on the hillside just down the path from the family farm. There was even a little stream that ran alongside. It was very picturesque and comfortable.

The first few days were spent with us meeting some of our family. My grandmother had been here many times before and her last trip was just a few years ago. My dad had also been to Slovenia before but that was 23 years ago. For the rest of us, meeting most of these people would be the first chance. I only wish that I could have known the language so that I could participate in the conversations better. You can only say "hvala lepa" so many times. Mary Frances and Barbara also had the opportunity to meet some relatives from their family. Barbara has been trying to trace her family tree and has many pictures and names but was unsure about who was who and what side of the family they came from. They even took us up to the farm where Mary Frances' grandfather lived in a city named Šoštanj. They were also able to meet some cousins from her dad's side of the family in Novo Mesto. It was weird, too, because when we went to meet them, you could tell that they were cousins. The same eyes and build made the one cousin look like Barbara's dad so much that they could pass for brothers.

My family and I were also able to visit the home of our great grandmother (as seen in the picture). My grandmother's cousin and her son's family still live in the house. For me this was a great experience because I never had the opportunity to meet my great grandmother (Frances Vertačnik); she had died before I was born. Coming to her home

UTRINKI IZ OTROŠKEGA SVETA

Kdo se boji ponedeljkovih juter?

Otroške oči so nas pripeljale do intimne med možem in ženo in ta intima je otrokov dom, prostor, skozi katerega otrok vstopi v svet, zrcalo v katerem uzre svoj obraz, varno naročje v katerem se prebudi njegovo čutenje in mišljenje.

Že od rojstva je namreč otrok usmerjen k temu, da išče odnose, ki bi dali varnost in pomen njemu samemu in drugim. V najzgodnejšem obdobju se tako otrok iz odnosa staršev do sebe že nauči kdo je on sam in kakšen je svet, v katerega se je rodil. Problem vzgoje je torej v prvi vrsti problem ponedeljkovih juter, problem sprejemanja odgovornosti za lastna čutenja in odgovornosti za odpiranje novih razsežnosti odnosa med možem in ženo, ki temelji na globoki vzajemnosti, zvestobi in sprejemanju drugega v njegovem čitenju. Varnost med možem in ženo omogoča otroku, da raziskuje in preizkuša svet, da preveri kako globoko lahko požene svoje korenine. Katero je tisto vprašanje, s katerim otrok zrahlja gredico, na kateri raste? Kdaj otrok to vprašanje postavi? Seveda, v ponedeljek zjutraj!

Mali deček, star dobri dve leti in pol je zelo navezan na svojo mamico. Nekega ponedeljkovega jutra, po dveh dnevih, ko je bila družina ves čas skupaj, jo

deček zjutraj objame in reče "Mami, a ne, da se imava midva tako rada, da bi ti ostala doma, če te jaz ne bi pustil v službo?" Mamica mu je pretresena odgovorila: "Res se imave tako rada in včasih je hudo, ko moramo zjutraj od doma. Tudi meni bi bilo zelo všeč, če bi bili lahko ves čas skupaj." Deček vesel steče stran in začne pripravljati igračke, ki jih bo odnesel s seboj v varstvo. Tisti ponedeljek nikomur ni bilo težko oditi od doma.

Morda so to najgloblje besede, ki opisujejo moč globine stika med otrokom in materjo, ter hkrati kažejo na to da do tega sploh ne bi prišlo, če ne bi bil v istem vzdušju prisoten tudi oče. Otrok je namreč mater v resnici vprašal: "Ali me imaš rada? Ali sva tudi v tej bolečini ločitve skupaj ali pa je hudo samo meni in je zato z menoj nekaj narobe?" samo če sta se lahko mati in oče v svojem odnosu zazrla drug drugemu v oči in si odgovorila na vprašanje: "Ali me imaš rad(a), ali lahko verjamem da imam rad(a) in da me imaš rad(a), bo mati lahko otrokovo vprašanje sprejela in nanj odgovorila tako, da bo resno vzela bolečino, ki je skrita v tem vprašanju. Če sta se mož in žena srečala v tem vzajemnem afektu in jima je ta pokazal kje in kako globoko se lahko začne ljubezen, bo tudi otrok lahko spoznal, da varnost in intimnost odnosov presega vsakodnevne ločitve in srečevanja. In prav ta paradoks hkratne enosti, intimnosti in dvojnosti, samostojnosti je temeljni afekt vsakega odnosa in vsakega posameznika. Samo mož in žena, ki s to bolečino, ki sta se je morda res zavedla šele ob otroku, živita in skupaj rasteta, bosta omogočila otroku, da bo ob svoji materi lahko naslovil ta afekt in jo izzval v najgloblji gotovosti, da so odnosi enako varni in trajni tudi v ponedeljek zjutraj, ko se mudi in ko v nas še odzvanja spomin na nedeljski blagoslov. Brezpogojna ljubezen, ki se pretaka v družini v ponedeljek zjutraj je tista, ki otroku govori o tem, da je varno pognati globoke korenine in visoko iztezati veje, da globino zemlje povežejo s širino neba in barvitostjo sveta. ★

and seeing were she used to live and meeting the family of her brother, Jerry Pečnik was truly special. Then I learned of how she walked to the next town to catch the train to begin her journey to America. I could only imagine what courage that must have taken to leave her family.

After all the reunions and meetings we spent most of the next week and a half traveling the countryside of Slovenia. Although the country is only the size of New Jersey, it takes quite awhile to reach your destination because of the mountains. Up one side of a mountain, down another side, up one side, down another. Thank goodness none of us got carsick! Lake Bled, the waterfalls at Bohinj, the Postojna Caves, Logarska Dolina and Ljubljana were just some of the major places that we visited. All of them were beautiful. We were also amazed at the beauty of all the churches which we stopped to see along the way. And once again, many, many rolls of film were taken as well as hours of home videos!



The Fon family with Fr. Christian Gostečnik at the family farm.

Katarina K. Erzar contributes the second in a series of articles on family life. For any questions you may wish to have addressed in future issues, please write to the Editor.

Good morning, Monday!

A child's eyes lead us to look into the deep place where he lives. His mother and father provide the circle of love in this place, where he can flourish. Reflected in parental love, he can take a chance – he can freely express himself – knowing his feelings, asking questions, dealing with the thoughts that flood his mind. He knows that he is where he belongs, in the family embrace. A child reaches out and searches for what this life is all about. He is looking to reassure himself that he is ok, he is where he feels good, in this new world that he knows nothing about.

Above all, he needs to touch love. The adventure of his young life is about to begin and he is facing the supreme unknown.

The problems we encounter in the upbringing of a child challenge us like Monday mornings. There it is! Do it! Take hold of it!

Monday morning says: take responsibility for a new thing. Work at it from the most fundamental dedication you have as a mother, or a father. Be willing to open new avenues to your child so he can happily try all the new things before him. Give him the springboard from which he can push his own limits safely!

After a busy weekend when his family had spent two full days together, little Marko rose from his bed and said to his mother, "We love each other sooo much – if I don't let you to work today you'll stay home with me all day, ok?" His mother was a little surprised and said, "Yes, Marko, we love each other very, very much and sometimes it's so hard to leave you in the morning. I would be so happy if I could stay home and play with you all day."

With these words, Marko began to gather his toys and get ready for daycare. That Monday morning it was not hard for either of them to part from each other.

Not the words, but the feelings. In that precious moment, with his daddy nearby, Marko felt good, without the pain of separation. His mother's words and dad's smile gave him ease. In so many words, Marko had asked his mother for reassurance. "Do you love me as I love you? Is it only me that feels this way? I don't want you to go away from me. There must be something wrong with me if you don't want to stay with me!"

The adventure of his young life is about to begin and he is facing the supreme unknown.

Mother and father had the opportunity here to take Marko's little heartache seriously and release him from being sad. They all shared the same heartache and let him know it. They spoke the same language. When parents can recognize how deeply affected their child is in his own world, and are able to gently bring him into the circle of intimate family love, they can overcome his very real pain. They are allowing him to be himself, be an individual, yet also a part of the thing he loves the most.

Husband and wife have a role here to grow themselves. Parenthood is an experience that allows them to know each other better, absolving, sharing, forgiving. Their child is learning what part he plays in their lives and they in his. When he feels good about it, he can fly with it. The relationship of mother, father, child, is life-long, but it's made up of days of testing and trying. On Monday morning, comes a chance to try again.

Marko is thinking that it's great to be Marko. There is nothing under the blue sky to fear!

Translated by the Editor

The last few days were spent trying to re-pack all of our stuff as well as all the souvenirs that we bought! These days also went by the fastest trying to see everyone one last time. On the last day both families joined in prayer in the Savinjski Gaj, a park in Mozirje. When the mass services were over, promises were made to come back, as well as tears shed because of doubts if we ever would. We headed back to Gostečnik's farm for one last meal before we began our journey homeward.

As we drove away, I was sad because only God knows if I will ever get the opportunity to come and see these wonderful people again; but I was also happy for even getting the chance to meet them and see this beautiful country. Good-byes, they seem forever. Farewells are like the end. But in my heart are a memories and there they'll always be.

*Elizabeth –Betsy– Fon
Br. 5, Indianapolis, IN*



It's a step back in time when viewing the old Vertačnik homestead.

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*"Honor thy father and thy mother
that thy days may be long upon the land
which the Lord thy God giveth thee"*
Exodus 20:12.

Branch 55 Mother's Day Banquet will be held May 3, 2000. We will notify the members of the time and place. This is one of the highlights of our year. We always have a good time.

Gala Jhoss passed away December 1999. We belately express our sincere condolences to Gala's family.

May Birthdays: Dori Kregar Fooy, Virginia Rostan, Andrea Selak, Anka Kregar Krakora and Frances Lukz.

June Birthdays: Seth Gordon, Anna Zaggar, Marian Cigolle and Milka Kregar.

JOAN KRISTIN TWADDLE

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

Spring arrived, Easter has passed, school will soon be out, summer will start shortly and it's time to start vacations. Hard to believe how fast time is moving along.

My stepmother, Ethel Walters, died very unexpectedly on February 16th. She had emphysema for years, had been in a nursing home for seven months and had improved enough that plans for her to move into assisted living were started. A sudden turn in her health put her in the hospital. She died shortly after being removed from the respirator. Ethel was part of our lives for forty-seven years. She will be missed. She rests in peace.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Josephine Turk and Olga Sray on the death of their sister, Laura Berdyck. Laura was also the aunt of Joanne Tom-sick and MaryAnn Sray. Our prayers are with all of you and other family members.

Get well wishes go out to Larry Franchini, husband of Marguarite, who spent several days in the Clinic for heart problems. We hope all is going well

for you now, Larry, maybe our warmer weather will help with your recovery.

Angie Musil and I had a most delightful stay in Clearwater, Florida. Weather was great. We found a lot of time to enjoy ourselves as we shopped, walked and shared many facets of our lives. We saw two Cleveland Indian baseball games, went to Sandy Hill SNPJ for an evening of music (Joe Novak) spent a day at Epcot, experienced shopping at a large Flea Market and on Ash Wednesday attended mass at the Queen of the Universe Shrine in Orlando. Our traveling group included members of Branches 42 and 47, plus several former members of SWU who belonged when the organization was at its peak.

Some of our members attended a Spring Luncheon and Style Show sponsored by St. Mary's Ladies Guild (Bedford, Ohio) on April 27th. We grasp at these opportunities to spend time together.

In regards to Mother's Day, each and everyone of you were nominated for our Member/Mother of the year. We hope that you celebrated the day with those near and dear to you.

We did not have a March meeting, and by the time you read this column, we will have had our April and May meetings. We will meet again in June, dismiss for July and August, and hopefully resume in September. We trust all of you will have a happy and safe summer. Let us know about your travels, or about those who traveled to visit you. Take care!

EVELYN A. MAJERCIK

NO. 85, DEPUE, IL
Meeting: at Members' Homes

It's a beautiful, sunny day and it looks like we will have many May flowers.

Due to one thing and another, we haven't had any meetings recently, but will try to get together soon. Our member, Pearl Drennen is now residing at Rosecliff Manor and we all wish her well.

Congratulations to Fr. Bernard Horzen who has won another humanitarian award - his room must be filled with all the awards and honors he has received! It could not happen to a nicer and more deserving person. Congratulations, Father!

SWU WEBPAGE:

WWW.SWUS.ORG

I have noticed that many lodges put the birthdays of their members in their articles. Our member, Mary Kuhar, who has worked so hard all the time and done so much, celebrated her birthday on April 6th and my sister, Ann DeBord will have one on May 1st! Our best wishes.

Barbara Logan, daughter of our vice president, Mary Benkse, is the Director of the Office of Divine Worship in the Diocese of Peoria since 1993 and is the director of the RICA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults into the Catholic Church) since 1989. Approximately 500 individuals were welcomed into the church at the Easter Vigil. A variety of liturgies which relate to the opening of the Jubilee Year and the Millennium were directed by Barbara. Of course, there are many more things she does - and we are very proud of her accomplishments!

My sister, Ann and I planned a trip in April to Kansas City on the Amtrak. Ann's daughter, Cindy and her family live in Olathe, KS and we were to attend her son, Jordan's Confirmation on April 9th. Grandmother, Ann, was his sponsor. Congratulations to Cindy who was recently promoted to assistant plant manager for General Mills Flour in Kansas City, MO.

Have a good summer all of you, and God bless you all!

MARY JERMENC

* * * * *

FROM OUR MAILBAG:

I was wondering if members of S.W.U. could help me out. I am looking to purchase a SLOVENIAN UMBRELLA, the type that the women use when they are in their National Slovenian Dress. If you know some one who has one that is willing to sell it PLEASE let me know or maybe there is a store there, a Lodge or organization that might know of where I can send for one. Any information you give will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Mlakar
6571 Lawnwood Ave.,
Parma Hts., OH 44130

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 100, Fontana, California

Pauline "Polly" Petric

I love nature. Feeding and watching the many different species of birds that call our backyard home and enjoying the affection of our love bird, "Pooh" bring me a welcome change of pace from a busy schedule.

Another one of my joys is to knit, crochet or sew gifts for friends and family. I will always thank my mother for teaching me the pleasure of "busy hands."

Whether in my own kitchen or the one at the local Slovene hall I have enjoyed baking the wonderful ethnic foods of my youth... especially strudels and poticas.

As one of the youngest children of a large family in South Chicago there were many Slovenian organizations to choose from. One favorite of all the girls was the Slovenian Women's Union Cadets. I remember how proud we were to be a part of the parades



Above: Mary Jane Strus and I get ready for a parade

Right: The corps of Cadets led by Gladys Buck, Capt. of Br. 16 Cadets.



and dedications supporting the war effort.

I have been singing all my life. I started as a member of the choir at St. George's Catholic Church. The Slovenian population of this area would gather on Sunday at the 8 a.m. mass where the choir would sing, and everyone could worship, in our native language. It was here that I first learned the beautiful Slovenian May Devotions that are so special to our people. Now, I have been singing them for over forty years, first at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ediwanda, California and more recently at St. Joseph's

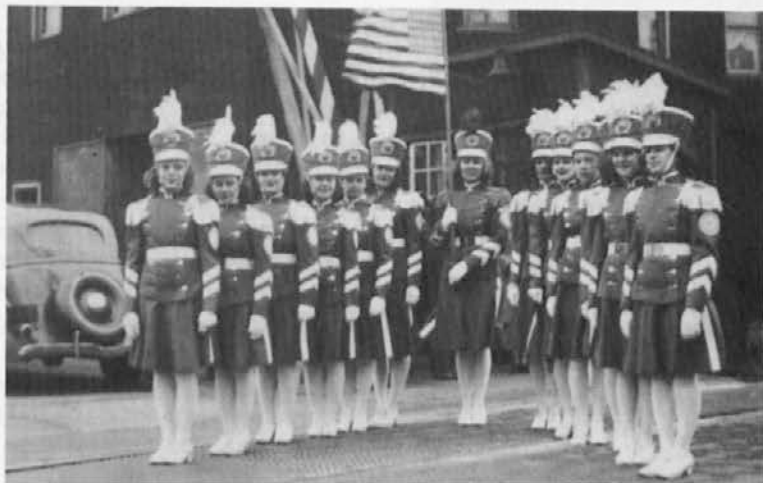
Catholic Church in Fontana, California. The devotion has grown from a local event to one attended by people from all over Southern California.

After working at Kaiser Steel Corporation for 28 years I retired to a most active life style that allowed me to devote time to my church choir, service organizations, hobbies, travel and, most important, my family.

I have been on 26 cruises traveling to Alaska, the Panama Canal to South America and all of the Caribbean. I have cruised from England visiting Ireland, Scandinavia, Germany, Poland, Finland, Russia, Portugal, France, Spain, Italy and Sicily.

I have walked down the gangplank into Venice, Dubrovnik, Croatia, the Greek Isles, Istanbul and Turkey. I have crossed the Straits of Gibraltar to Morocco and the Medinas of Tangier, Casablanca, and Marrakech. One of my greatest adventures was a trip to mainland China. Through it all my constant companion has been my loving husband, John.

Please turn to page 28



I have one child, my son John, who laughingly thanks me for his being an only child. He is a good man, a Lector at our church and has served our community for almost two decades as a funeral director. He has three wonderful children that I feel very close to. The oldest, my grandson Cory has traveled with my husband and me all over the world. He is a bright young man with a solid future. Katie is next, a quiet girl with an artistic nature. She is now coming into her own as a Programmer for CBS TV in Seattle, Washington. The youngest, Heather Skye has clever hands and an inquisitive mind. Together we bake and sew. If there is any one thing we all love doing together it's going to the zoo. For many years we have been members of the San Diego Zoological Society and enthusiastically support their work.



Mother of the Year, Polly Petric is ready to bake with granddaughter Heather Skye

What is a Grandmother?

*Grandmother is a mother with time--
time to linger in front
of a toy store window,
time for a visit to the zoo,
time to listen to the
really important things
like the injustices of a playmate
or a parent,
what happened at school today,
or the thirty-seven reasons
why bedtime should be later.*

*Grandmother has amazing talent--
she is a combination Betsy Ross,
Florence Nightingale, and Emily Post,
with the ability to fix anything
from the most mouth-watering treats
to fractured toys, torn clothes,
bumped heads, skinned knees,
and broken hearts.*

*Grandmother has the wisdom
of a schoolteacher,
the artfulness of a magician,
and the tenderness of a mother...
but can still see the world
through the eyes of a child.
She knows the most interesting things
about animals, flowers,
crickets, pussywillows...
and Mother and Dad.*

*Her home is a treasure chest filled
with things to explore, take apart,
look through, smell, touch and eat--
a wonderful combination of warmth,
laughter, and memories--
a happy place to visit.
Grandmother may forget bad tempers
and cross words,
but never your birthday.*

*There are a hundred big
and little things which make
grandmother wonderful--
her friendship, understanding,
and sympathy--
but most of all--
her love.*

Submitted by Jonita Ruth

Greetings and Reminiscences!

In the March issue of ZARJA, a letter from Jean Koci (100) mentioned the Racic family. When I knew them as a youngster at St. Stephen's in Chicago, Ivan Racic was our organist and piano teacher. I took lessons from him for several years as did many other children. It brought back memories to read about the family. It's a small world, after all. The ZARJA keeps in vivid memory the many years I enjoyed as an active member of Br. 2, Chicago.

I live now in a senior citizen complex in Oakbrook, west of Chicago, for 12 years, since my husband Walter's death. I have my own apartment, one room with bath, enjoying many amenities here. We have a chapel where we can hear mass every day, nurses are here five days a week, if we need their services. Also, a bus is available to us for shopping or doctor's appointments.

Also, many facilities are here for our pleasure, programs we can enjoy or we can join others for crafts and there's a nice library to visit. We are all living here, seniors, and have the same needs and desires to share.

My regards to all.

Mary Muller
Past National President

From Our Heritage Kitchens



Veda Ponikvar:

Sunflower Corn Muffins

This is a different and tasty muffin.

- 1 cup (8 oz.) sour cream
- 1 can (8 oz.) whole kernel corn drained
- 1 can (8 oz.) cream style corn
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions
- 1/4 cup butter melted
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 pkg. (8 1/2 oz.) corn bread muffin mix
- 3 tbs. sunflower kernels

In a bowl, combine the first seven ingredients, stir in corn bread mix just until moistened. Spoon into greased miniature muffin cups. Sprinkle with sunflower kernels. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until muffins test done. Cool for two minutes before removing from pans in a wire rack. Serve warm. Yield: 3 1/2 doz. mini muffins.

Cottage Cheese Torte

Crust

- 28 graham crackers crushed fine
- 1 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 3/4 cup melted butter

Mix together, and put half of the mixture on the bottom of a 9 x 13 pan.

Filling

- Beat until thick:
- 4 large eggs
- Add: 2 pound cottage cheese
- 1 cup sugar
 - 1 cup crushed pineapple
 - 1 cup light cream
 - 2 tablespoons flour
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1 teaspoon salt

Spread over bottom crumbs. Put the remaining crumbs on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Cole Slaw Dressing

This favorite dressing used at St. Joseph's Catholic Kitchen in Chisholm was submitted in 1986 by Gert Zakrajsek, Secretary of Branch 38 at the annual Christmas Bazaar.

- 1 cup oil
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. celery seed
- 1 medium onion grated

Blend all ingredients in blender.

To sliced cabbage, add small amounts of red cabbage, carrot and celery. Add dressing to taste.

GRACE AT MEALTIME

Sing to the tune of "Edelweiss"

*Bless our friends, bless our food
Come, O Lord, and be with us.
May our hearts glow with peace,
May your love surround us.*

*Friendship and love, may it bloom
and grow,
Bloom and grow forever.
Bless our friends, bless our food,
Come, O Lord, and be with us.*

Štruklji

Štruklji are a most favorite Slovenian specialty. They are also known as knedelni and cmoki, but are all DUMPLINGS! In the new SWU cookbook, "More Pots and Pans," we have 11 pages of dumplings, from sweet to savory, fruit-filled to meat-filled (žlinkrofi).

There are also different types of flour used for the dough: white (bread) or buckwheat flour, and some cooks just use bread cubes. Here is one of our favorite recipes. Apparently, these were served by a very good Joliet cook at SWU Board meetings many years ago!

COTTAGE CHEESE ROLL (Sirovi Štruklji)

Dough: 1-1/2 cups of flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons melted butter, 1 egg, 1/2 cup water.

Place dough on floured board, knead until smooth. Cover it and let rest in warm place for two hours.

Brown lightly 1/2 cup butter 1/3 cup crumbs. Cool to lukewarm and put aside.

Filling: 1 lb. box cottage cheese, 2 eggs, well beaten, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons sugar, mix well.

Roll dough, spread with the above lukewarm buttered crumbs, stretch dough by hand until paper thin. Spread filling on dough. Roll like jelly roll. Place in a cheese cloth or dish towel; tie each end and in the middle with a string, place in boiling water and boil very slowly for one hour. When cooked, untie, unwrap, cut in 2 inches long pieces, place on platter, top it with browned buttered crumbs to which you may add a tablespoon of sugar – if you like it sweet – and serve.

Mrs. Jennie Benedict, Joliet, Illinois (1951)

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

We held our first meeting of 2000 on February 14th. Instead of receiving Valentines we were happy to receive three new members to our branch. What a lovely Valentine gift for Br. 89! Our thanks goes to Jonita Ruth who was instrumental in making it happen. Our new members are, Nancy Henkel, Eunice Supan, and Florence Argubright. Nancy is the daughter of Eunice and Florence is a sister to Marilyn.

A short business meeting was followed by an hour of getting acquainted with our new members.

Nancy, Eunice and Florence are looking forward to going back to see Slovenia again. They really enjoyed it.

Just to let you know that we have not forgotten the "Archives" work. We have been getting information on past officers. It has proven to be quite a challenge because the first book was written in Slovenian and dated January, 1938. We will be sending the books for the archives in the near future.

We remembered four of our members who passed away in 1999 by reciting prayers. They are, Mary Dittle (Jan.), Elsa Zabavnik (Feb.), Fran Kerbach (Nov.) and Helen Komater (Dec.). They are all greatly missed.

Happenings at Holy Family Church

The Slovenian Heritage Day which is scheduled for May 7, 2000 is being capably handled by chairperson, Angie Nico and co-chairperson Rose Ann Prey. The tickets went on sale in April. Mass will be celebrated first, dinner to follow with entertainment and live band music. Each ticket is \$15.00.

Also remember that a Fall Tour is scheduled for October 3rd to 12th, 2000 to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Austria. You can call the rectory for a brochure (883-8233). Make your reservations as soon as possible.

We'll be back to keep you up to date.
EUNICE

Rejoice - God has done great things for us as He has for Mary.



NO. 100, FONTANA, CA

Branch 100 in Fontana is happy to announce our Mother of the Year honoree for the year 2000. Pauline Petric is a long time member of our group and a great contributor to the SWU as an active member. I remember her for years as the charming lady with the beautiful voice who sings the old Slovenian hymns at Masses and weddings. She is a lovely lady, mother and grandmother and very deserving of this honor. More about Polly will be found in the ZARJA issue where this year's honorees are featured with their biographies. Congratulations, Pauline Petric. We love you! Our Mother of the Year luncheon will be at the Napoli Restaurant in San Bernardino on Sunday, April 30th.

After months of looking forward to our branch's Ensenada Cruise, sixteen members and friends can now look back on a wonderful weekend with friends. (However we missed Francie and Don Watson who had to cancel at the last minute. Francie, we hope you are doing much better by now.) The weather was perfect. The ship, The Viking Serenade, was comfortable and luxurious. The crew was very attentive. The food and entertainment was outstanding! But, most of all, we'll remember the camaraderie of our group!

Many of us took the bus tour of the countryside and two Mexican wineries. The guide was very knowledgeable about the history and geography of the

area as well as winemaking. The wineries were immaculate and well run and we were offered a generous wine tasting experience, along with cheese and bread. Quite a few of us bought "samples" to take home with us. We shopped in town before returning back to the ship for our evening gala.

Led by Frank Vidergar, Slovenian button box music could be heard in several areas of the ship during the cruise. Participating were Fred Mlakar, Arnold Koci and Linda Costell. Frank, of course, never goes anywhere without his "box." We all enjoyed the music and so did a few of the other passengers who stopped by to listen. Some of our group were lucky in the casino and then there were others... But to put it simply: "A good time was had by all!" We're talking about another trip next year! Thanks, Mary Lou!

Na svidenje...

JEAN KOCI



ZARJA donations!

Our thanks to Jean Kurilich (100) for her donation of \$25 to the ZARJA Fund. It was received last July and we regret the delay in acknowledging it! Our good member, Angela Desnica (2) generously donated \$70 recently. All our donors have a special place in ZARJA's heart!

MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 102, Willard, Wisconsin



Agnes Debevec

Our Mother is a native of Wisconsin and is the mother of four children, Patricia, William, Randy and Alan. She and her husband, Frank, enjoyed so many activities with their children and grandchildren through their 50 years of marriage. Frank died shortly after their anniversary in 1998.

Agnes began working as a young woman in the nursing field. She was a technician at a research farm and also was a nurse's assistant for 14 years. She has been retired for 6 years. She still enjoys volunteering at the nursing home, teaching CCD and helping family and friends.

Daughter, Patricia (51) is a Special Ed teacher, restores antique furniture, paints, golfs and recently biked in a week long marathon for Muscular Dystrophy in Minnesota.

One of her sons, Randy, is deceased. Of two remaining sons, William (49) was a medic in the service, and is a mail carrier. Alan (45) has his own business, restores old cars, races cars and also enjoys golf and snowmobiling.

Christopher, Ann and Jesse are Patricia's. Christopher has one daughter, Macey and one is on the way; Ann has a daughter, Kelsy; Jesse is in the 8th grade. William has two step children and three step grandchildren. Alan's children are Craig and Mindy who goes to school in Eau Claire.

"When the oldest grandchildren moved to California, they came back to spend summers with us. Grandpa Frank made the boys go-carts but the granddaughters liked them, too! Would play ball and frisby with them and go to games. We always had a good time with our grandchildren." It's obvious that our Grandma Agnes loves to be with them and tries to spend all holidays together.

Agnes says "My religious upbringing and being able to get along with others is all due to my wonderful mother and father, from whom I learned all these things. I am proud to be named Mother of the Year!"

Mothers are a gift of love!

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

The past 2 months were unusually mild with very little snow. Warmer weather and longer days are finally here.

The SWU Branch 102 held a Valentine party and meeting on Feb. 8. The meeting began with prayer followed by a pot luck lunch. During the meeting, discussion was held on various subjects. Afterward, Bill Snedic showed us some of the things he makes with wood, such as benches, magazine holders, small tables, etc. He brought a bench to show us made of pine from the Old Depot in Greenwood. Bill does beautiful work and is indeed very talented.

Two men of our area had heart surgery on Mar. 17 at St. Joseph's hospital in Marshfield. Alton (Buddy) Musich had several by-passes done, while John Wildish had 2 heart valves replaced.

Mary Djubenski left on Mar. 12 for a 2-week vacation in Santa Fe, New Mexico where Mike and Gloria Plautz own a home. We hope she enjoyed her trip.

Roberta Herrick showed a slide presentation on Mar. 22 at the Holy Family Parish about her recent trip to Ecuador as a medical missionary. While there she saw much unemployment and poverty.

In October, Jean and Frank Govek left for Yuma, Ariz. where they spent the winter. They returned to Willard in late March.

Tony Jeras, a former Willard native, passed away in February. A memorial mass will be held for him at the Holy Family Church on June 30. Our sympathy goes to his family.

Jesse Plautz flew to Scotland with his Scout group. They left on Apr. 14 and returned on Apr. 22. No doubt it was a very educational trip.

Our thoughts and prayers go to those who are ill at home, or in Nursing Homes or in the hospital. A special prayer for the health of Rose Pakiz, president of SWU Branch 102. May they all enjoy continued good health.

FRIEDA KLANCHER

We are now beginning to enjoy some exceptionally beautiful weather here in the DC-MD-VA area, and on March 20th we welcomed the first day of Spring. The beginning of Spring and Fall have always been exciting times for me. The weather is so beautiful at those times. In fact, we are now beginning to see many bus loads of visitors arriving to see the sights of this great Capital City of Washington, D.C.

We had a very enjoyable meeting on March 5th. Many thanks to Nika Kovacic for her efforts in recruiting new members. Her latest recruit, Valeria Bohince, attended this meeting. Valerie is truly a lovely person and expressed much interest in the activities planned for Branch 103. Welcome, Valerie, we are so happy that you are a member of our group and hope to see you often at our meetings and activities.

By now, we hope Terezija Bevec is feeling great; she had planned to demonstrate the making of potica for us today-she makes delicious Slovenian pastries for our activities--however, she was unable to do so on this day, and we are hoping she will be able to do so later. Stay well, Terezija!

Nika Kovacic again stressed the importance of having more cultural programs which always stirs up much interest in the Slovenian community here, and they love to attend on those occasions. Nika suggested some things that we might consider; so keep tuned in to discover what great things are in store.

Our meeting on this day was not only productive, but enjoyable. Our hostesses, Mary Mejac and Ica Zebot served coffee and treats during our recess; very delicious; thank you ladies.

Since Easter Sunday was on April 23, we want to extend our belated Easter wishes to all members and families of the SWU!

MATILDA AUSICH
Rec. Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MATILDA (TILLIE) AUSICH

The new millennium--the year 2000--has indeed been widely celebrated. Another memorable event for us is the 80th birthday of SWU Branch #103 member, Matilda (Tillie) Ausich.

Tillie was born on March 11, 1920 and lived in Woodward, Iowa where she and her two brothers and a sister attended school. In 1944 she attended an intensive course at the American Institute of Business (AIB) in Des Moines before going to work at Wright Field (now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio, as a secretary. On February 24, 1948, she transferred to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. where she worked as a secretary for the U.S. Air Force until her retirement on December 31, 1984, after 40 years of Government service. She then worked for Business Management Research Associates (BMRA) in Arlington, Virginia, retiring in 1993.



Tillie's father emigrated to the USA in 1907; her mother followed in 1912, and they were married in St. Mary's Catholic Church in

Des Moines, Iowa. At that time, they had many Slovenian friends in Dallas County, Iowa who made the transition from beautiful Slovenia to the great country of America enjoyable. Their home was maintained with the Slovenian language, traditions, and customs. Her mother (Mary Črnelič) was born in Podsreda, a small village in Slovenia; her father (Anton Ausič) was born in a nearby village. Their recollections of beautiful Slovenia greatly impressed their children, and have remained precious memories for them.

In October 1965, Tillie became a Charter Member of SWU Branch #103 when it was formed in Washington, D.C., MD, VA, and was immediately elected to the office of recording secretary, continuing in this capacity and performing her duties as a recording secretary and historian in a most excellent and dedicated manner. She attended meetings as a very active officer and member, participating in all Branch activities. In 1983, she represented Branch #103 as a delegate to the SWU National Convention in Chisholm, Minnesota; and again, in 1995, she represented the Branch as a delegate to the SWU National Convention in San Francisco, California.

As an aside, Tillie assisted in tasks such as packaging heritage gifts to be used at other SWU National Conventions. Another big project was the compilation of notebooks containing ZARJA articles of Branch #103, many of which were written and submitted by her. Other notebooks contained memorable events and articles written by our Heritage Director.

The formation of Branch #103 was a turning point in her life since she was able to meet and make friends with other Slovenians, and learn more about her heritage and Slovenian customs. "She will always have fond memories of the Slovenian events and the many friends she acquired," she says. As always, Tillie is proud of her Slovenian heritage.

Submitted by
Nika Kovacic, Branch #103

P.S. - My heartfelt thanks to Tillie for the details of her life history.



MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Branch 103, Washington, D.C.

† Agnes V. Javornik

Agnes Javornik was born on February 19, 1914 in Ljubljana, Slovenia of Bozidar and Marija Vodusek. One of fourteen children born to the couple, she lost her mother at three years of age. She completed Teacher's College and worked as a teacher until her marriage to Mirko Javornik, a Slovenian author and newspaper editor. Agnes and Mirko married in 1936 at the Chapel of Marija Pomagaj at Brezje, Slovenia.

Agnes and Mirko had three children by the end of the Second World War when Mirko had to leave Slovenia for political reasons. For 9 years Agnes raised her children alone, working hard to support them. In 1953 she was finally allowed to join Mirko in Trieste, Italy, where he worked as a reporter and radio announcer for the Allied Forces. The family lived in Trieste for seven years. In 1960 they emigrated to the United States and at first made their home in San Francisco, California where Agnes's brother, Father Vital Vodusek was pastor of the Nativity Church which at that time had a mostly Slovenian congregation.

Two years later Agnes and her family moved to

Washington, D.C. where her husband had obtained a job as an interpreter for the State Department. Agnes herself worked first at the Woodward and Lothrop Department Store as a sales lady. After becoming an American citizen at the age of 53, she was able to get

a job as a cataloguer of Slavic books at the Library of Congress where she worked for 31 years. At the Library of Congress she was greatly appreciated for her knowledge of several languages, and her extremely conscientious performance of all her work. She retired from the Library at the end of 1998, at the age of 84.

Agnes passed away April 3, 2000. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, but especially by her children and grandchildren; her daughter Agnes; her daughter,

Alenka, with her husband, Zdravko Pfeifer and their two children, Nežka and Borut; her son, Miro with his wife, Monica and sons, Paul and Mark as well as by many other relatives and friends both in Slovenia and in the United States.

Her sister members of Br. 103 mourn her passing but felt this tribute would be an appropriate farewell.



Agnes (Agna) Javornik with members of her family. This photo was taken August, 1998 at a family wedding. She is seen bottom center of the photo. Standing behind her, from left to right, are, her daughter, Alenka Pfeifer, grandchildren Borut and Nežka Pfeifer, grandson Paul and daughter-in-law, Monica (Mrs. Miro Javornik).

Našim slovenskim materam

"Ej, mati, življenje moje, vseh mojih misli, vsega mojega nehanja začetek in cilj! Kako so žuljave in zgrbljene tvoje uboge svete roke. Blagoslovi me, sina, z ubogimi, svetimi rokami! Tvoje čelo je polno skrbi in trpljenja, s trnjem je kronano namesto z diademom. – nagni k meni, sinu, svoje ljubljeno, s trnjem kronano čelo, ozri se na ponižni dar, ki ti ga prinašam, siromašne matere siromašen sin, ozri se na moje srce in sprejmi ga!"

(IVAN CANKAR)



† Agna Javornik

Kdo bi si mislil, ko sem se ustavila 2. aprila po slovenski maši pri Agni Javornik, da bo to zadnjokrat, ko se bova videli. Tisto noč je v vsej svoji veličini izdihnila svojo plemenito dušo.

Naše poznanstvo se je spletlo v kito neomajnega prijateljstva pred 38 leti. Med seboj smo si delili srečne dogodke svojih družin, pomagali smo si ob težavah, se bodrili v skrbeh, le kot se to dela med najožjimi sorodniki.

Agna Javornik se je rodila 19. februarja, 1914 v znani Voduškovih družini v Ljubljani. Od štirinajstih otrok je bila dvanajsta po vrsti. Pol leta po njenem rojstvu se je začela I. svetovna vojna. Ko ji je bilo pa komaj tri leta, ji je pa mamica umrla, stara komaj dvainštirideset let. Tako je ostal oče odgovoren sam za vse. Agna je večkrat poudarila, da je bil njen oče svetniški oče. Skrb za deset otrok: štiri fante in šest deklet ni bila lahka. Po očetovih nasvetih so vsa dekleta končala učiteljske. Menil je, da je to najboljši poklic za materinstvom, če se katera ne bi poročila od deklet. Družina je stanovala na Dunajski cesti, v Ljubljani, kjer je bila kavarna Evropa spodaj. Oče pa je imel svojo odvetniško pisarno v Tavčarjevi ulici. Imel je izredno ljubezen do svojih otrok. V svoji dobroti je večkrat nosil majhno Agno po stanovanju, da ji je olajšal neugodje pri suhi in srbeči koži, za kar je Agna trpela tudi pozneje celo življenje.

Agna se je poročila z znanim slovenskim pisateljem Mirkom Javornikom 7. julija, 1936. S poroko je zgubila učiteljsko mesto, ker takrat niso bile žene v službi, če je bil mož zaposlen. Po dobrem letu je Agnin mož dobil karierno službo pri Jugoslovanski knjigarni pri časopisu Slovenski dom kot glavni urednik. S tega visokega službenega mesta, si lahko predstavljamo, da je proti koncu II. svetovne vojne in ob osvoboditvi postalo Mirkotovo življenje nezaželjeno in v veliki

nevarnosti. Umaknil se je v Avstrijo, pozneje pa v Trst v Italijo. S tem se pričinja za Agno novo obdobje življenja – ostala je sama s tremi majhnimi otroci.

Sledila so hišna preizkovanja Ozne. Takoj je bila zaplombirana študijska soba in jedilnica. Agna je lahko samo nekaj knjig še preje rešila. 18. avgusta, 1945 je sledila Agnina aretacija in izguba stanovanja. Otroci pa so se takrat držali mamice in neugnano jokali. Še dobro, da je bila v stanovanju moževa mama in sestra, da sta popazili na otroke. – Vse to preganjanje samo zaradi svojega imena, imena po svojem možu.

Svojo družino je preživljala s pomočjo sorodnikov, inštruirala je otroke kakšnih trgovcev in po dveh letih iskanja dobila službo na Bokalcih kot knjigovodkinja. V službo se je ob vsakem vremenu vozila s kolesom osem km na eno stran vseh sedem let. V tej dobi je bila ponovno aretirana leta 1949 v Ljubljani. Takrat so ji pobrali vse kar je še imela od moža: pisma, katera ji je še pisal predno sta se poročila.

Po zaslugi dobrotnika iz Bohinja, ki je dal družini brezplačno hišo z ognjiščem in eno sobo so imeli vsaj včasih Javornikovi malo veselja v naravi. Prav tu se je zgodil en majhen čudež o katerem mi je Agna večkrat povedala. Istočasno je bil prav v njihovi bližini, pravtako v Bohinju na počitnicah tudi Tito. Vsi trije otroci so dobili nerazložljivo korajžo in so stekli k njemu. Enajstletna Alenka s sopkom ciklam pa je pred Titom spregovorila: "Veliko prošnjo imam do vas, če bi lahko šli v Trst k očku." Od takrat naprej so bili slovenski funkcionarji zelo prijazni in v zelo kratkem času je bila Javornikova družina skupaj v Trstu. Po parih letih so se potem odselili najprej v San Francisco, kjer je bil Agnin brat župnik Vital Vodušek v Slovensko Hrvaški župniji. Tam je bilo zelo težko za službe, to pa zato, ker se je ogromno število Amerikancev iz vzhoda selilo v Kalifornijo.

Avgusta 1962 je Agna prišla z otroci za možem v Washington. Pred državljanjskim izpitom leta 1967 je bila zaposlena pri Woodward & Lothrop. Isti dan, ko je dobila državljanstvo je zaprosila in tudi dobila službo v Kongresni knjižnici. V tej največji knjižnici na svetu je bila Agna neizrekljivo zadovoljna. Pri vsem študiju v mladih letih je na jesen svojega življenja našla sebi primerno delo, katerega je iz srca in ljubeznijo izvrševala. Knjige je kategorirala na področju zgodovine in literature v slovenskem, hrvaškem, srbskem, makedonskem, albanskem, nemškem in italijanskem jeziku. 1980 leta je postalo lažje, ker ni bilo treba več iskati podatkov v katalogu, vse je postalo zgoščeno pred njo v računalniku. Nema lokrat je poudarila, da ima najlepše spomine ravno na leta v knjižnici, kjer je v 31. letih zaposlitve predelala veliko tisočev knjig.

Ko se nas je peščica Slovencev leta 1965 organizirala v prvo slovensko društvo v Washingtonu, v podružnico SZZ, je bila Agna med nami. Vsa leta je bila zvesta članica.

Še do nedavnega je bila Agna redna obiskovalka pri slovenski maši v Baziliki National Shrine.

Vsi, ki smo Agno poznali, jo bomo iskreno pogrešali. Še tembolj pa njeni najožji: sin Miro z ženo

The Meaning of Gratitude

The following short memoir of Mrs. Agna Javornik, who died on April 3, 2000 was written by Mrs. Bernadette Kovačič Fitzsimmons. Bernadette shared these memories at the funeral mass held at St. Gabriel's Church, Washington, D.C. on April 8, 2000.

My earliest memories of Mrs. Agna Javornik are through a little girls eyes. Although my parents first met the Javornik family when I was only two, I more vividly remember being a tiny guest at their home in northeast, Washington, D.C. in my preschool and grade school years. We were warmly greeted by a tall, slim and gracious woman who loved plants and animals. Her garden was filled with colorful flowers of all kinds. It was always fun for me to join my parents for these outings, since they had cats to play with and watch as they mysteriously plodded around us. Mrs. Javornik also loved birds of all types, so with her many bird feeders there seemed to always be a variety of critters to watch from the window or the back door, including hungry squirrels. Mrs. Javornik, whom we called Gospa Javornikova was really like a grandmother to me. As an only child with no extended family members in the United States, Gospa, her husband and family were really like family to me.

Gospa Javornikova used to work at Woodward & Lothrop before her career began at the Library of Congress and like a grandmother bought beautiful dresses for me to wear. In most of my early school pictures I was all dressed up in one of the dresses I received as a gift from her.

I remember her daughter, Alenka; she was so fond of me as a child and played with me like an older sister. My earliest memories take me back to fine meals, hot tea and potica in the same house Mrs. Javornik grew old in. Her eldest daughter Ajca, lived with her and worked hard in the background with meal preparations. Mr. Mirko Javornik was a prominent Slovenian writer and always seemed to be engaged in conversation with my parents about some controversial Slovenian topic. I can still see those piercing sea blue eyes, a glass of red wine in one hand and a cigarette in the other. The first time I set foot in their house with a pair of glasses on my nose as a self conscious adolescent,

Moniko in družino, hčerki: Alenka Pfeifer z možem Zdravkotom in družino in Ajca. Vnuki: Nežka, Borut, Paule z družino in Marko. In dva pravnuka: Alexis in Anthony.

* * * * *

Kaj je Nesmirtnost: Nesmirtnost je preživetje in nadaljevanje obstoja človekove duše po smrti.

Nika B. Kovačič
Podr. 103, Washington, D.C.

he said "kako učena zgledaš!" (You look so studious!) I only remember meeting the youngest son Miro a couple of times, and his having a great sense humor.

Once Alenka settled down, she moved to upstate New York with her husband, Zdravko Pfeifer and soon had a little girl of her own. Our visits were even more fun, since it was great to play with Nežka as if she were a little sister, and to speak Slovenian with her.

There were visits to our house too for special occasions like birthdays, my First Communion and graduations. She always remembered me in a special way, like a grandmother would. A paramount memory of mine is how thankful Gospa Javornikova was when she was offered a position at the Library of Congress where she was able to use her talent of languages and worldly knowledge in a constructive way. Through my father's encouragement and recommendations, she began her career at the Library of Congress in 1968 until her retirement two years ago after 31 years of service! She indeed was a fortunate woman to have this opportunity for a fulfilling career. She loved her work and was so thankful to have a meaningful job that she hesitated to retire.

What struck me as most impressive was her gratitude for everything, especially her willingness to acknowledge those who had helped her. She reinforced in me the need to always give thanks for all our blessings, since we don't make it alone in the world.

As time went by, Mrs. Javornik was blessed with four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. The children and her career at the Library of Congress brought her much joy and hope for a bright future. She was deeply saddened by the death of her husband in April 1986 and also endured two surgical procedures on her knees, but confidently took one day at a time and recovered. I'm reminded of Paul's words in Romans 5, verses 3-4 that encourages us: "We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." With God's help, through and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are perfected one day at a time. In Mrs. Javornik's case time brought about changes, but she graciously accepted everything she had, her health, family and a comfortable home.

Gospa Javornikova always remembered special occasions with her presence, a card, a gift or a phone call. She had an outstanding memory all the days of her life, and remembered details that most of us lose sight of. She was a brilliant woman with a keen sense of history and grateful for her Slovenian heritage.

For all my major life milestones, graduations, jobs and promotions, she shared her kind words and emphasized gratitude for all my blessings. In the last six years of her life, she shared my happiness with me when I became engaged to my husband-to-be; attended my wedding and reception, and welcomed the birth of our two sons and a daughter, like a grandmother would.

I'm thankful to have known Mrs. Javornik for as long as I can remember, and I know I'll remember her gift of gratitude bestowed upon me for the rest of my life.

ŠT. 39, BIWABIK, MN
Prvo nedeljo
v cerkev sv. Janeza

Matilda (Tillie) Ausich 80-letnica

Naše prvo srečanje v tem novem letu – na pričetku tretjega tisočletja – je bila naša 'božičnica' v cerkveni dvorani na Biwabiku. Ob lepo pripravljenih mizah je sledilo okusno kosilo ob navzočnosti članic in gostov. Kljub temu, da so bili božični prazniki že za nami, je bilo vzdušje še vedno za nas božičnega razpoloženja. Po dobrem kosilu smo se še nekaj časa potem prijetno zabavale ob igri in vsaka je imela zavojčke pred seboj, katere smo prinesle za to priliko.

Kljub temu, daje pri nas v Minesoti v tem času veliko snega, mraza in da tudi naše seje večkrat niso bile dobro obiskane – je letos narava zaigrala svojo pot – da prav v teh dneh tega pisanja nimamo nič več snega. Kar ga je bilo, ga je pobral zadnji dež. Tako je bila februarjska seja na 13. zelo lepo obiskana. Bila je sicer predstavljena, ker večina naših članic je imela druge obligacije tisto prvo nedeljo. Ker je bil drug dan praznik sv. Valentina, je bila potem zakuska tudi v tem primerno obdana. Jane in Jean sti postregle vsem navzočim s "češnjevim čajem".

Seja je trajala malo dlje kakor po navadi. Veliko je bilo debate in raznih nasvetov, kako naj namreč letos proslavimo 70. letnico naše podružnice, ki je že pravzaprav 30. februarja letos. Vsekakor bomo to proslavile malo kasneje. Načrti sicer še niso dokončni, a vendar bo to v času, ko izide 'Zarja' za počastitev naših zaslužnih mater in žena. Za letošnjo "Ženo leta" je bila izvoljena HELEN ZALLAR, ki je zvesta in aktivna članica že 46 let. Najprej je bila pri Gilbertski podružnici, ko pa se je ta pred nekaj leti soočila z Biwabikom, je ostala vedno pripravljena to nadaljevati. Iskreno čestitamo!

Vsem prav lep "zgodnji pomladanski" pozdrav.

ANNE TUSHAR

Tillie sem spoznala pred petin-tridesetimi leti, ko je postala ena od prvih članic pri na novo ustanovljeni podružnici SZZ tu v Washingtonski metropoli. Ko se zamišljam kaj naj napišem o njej ob tej njeni častitljivi obletnici ne morem preko nešteti drugih slovenskih dogajanj, katera so pravitko vklesala pečat v slovensko zgodovino z nastankom naše podružnice št. 103 tu v Washingtonu.

Naj navedem samo nekaj začetnih delovanj, kjer sem spoznavala Tillie kot sodelovko v naši organizaciji: Leta 1965 smo bile ženske tu v Washingtonu prva organizirana slovenska organizacija. – Od 17–30 oktobra, 1965 smo organizirale prvo veliko slovensko umetniško razstavo v Hilton hotelu in kiparsko razstavo gospoda Goršeta na Georgetown univerzi. – 9. januarja, 1966 smo imeli Slovenci na pobudo naše podružnice prvo slovensko sveto mašo. Že takrat smo dobile potrdilo kako potrebno in koristno je naše društvo. Pri tej maši smo v Ameriški metropoli prvič videli toliko Slovencev skupaj zbranih. – Maja, 1967. je bila 14. konvencija SZZ tu v Washingtonu na pobudo in s pomočjo naše podružnice. Ob tej priliki je bilo ogromno število Slovencev v Washingtonu. Na tej konvenciji so delegatkinje prejele resolucijo, da se bo zgradila Slovenska kapela v National Shrine. Vse druge organizacije so se bale povzeti tako velikega postopka z nabirkami. – To je samo nekaj bistvenih začetnih delovanj kjer sem imela priliko spoznavati Tillie.

Tillie se je rodila 11. marca, 1920 v Woodward, Iowa. V družini so bili štiri otroci; dve deklici in dva fanta. Družinsko vzdušje in domača predšolska vzgoja je bila samo slovenska, saj sta bila mama in oče

oba novonaseljenca. Mama je na svojem vrtu pridelala zelenjavo in potem vse na slovenski način pripravila za družino. Tillie ima najlepše spomine kako so se slovenski sosede dobili ob nedeljskih popoldnevih na veselje otrok in v razvedrilo starejših. Tako je že v rani mladosti Tillie vzljubila vse kar je v zvezi z deželno Kranjsko.

Po končani višji Administrativni šoli so se ji odprla vrata v širši svet in tako je prišla v Washington, kjer se je zaposlila pri svetovno znanem Pentagonu. Kot tajnica na oddelku za letalstvo se je po 40. letih upokojila leta 1984. V privatni administrativni družbi je potem še delala do leta 1993.

Tillie, kot jo vsi poznamo, je izredno disciplinirana oseba, vestna, globoko verna, neomajno poštena in delovna Slovenska Amerikanka. Je zvesta zapisnikarica od ustanovitve pri naši podružnici. Vsako delo, ki ji je naloženo izvrši vzorno hitro in to na miren ne kričeč način. Je vzor mlajšim članicam. Čeprav na prvi pogled tiha in rezervirana ima zelo rada slovensko plesno glasbo. Redko se vidi Slovenko, ki ob zvokih slovenske godbe tako poskočno zna zavrteti svoje pete, kot to zna ravno Tillie. Rada tudi plete in heklja. Rada tudi potuje. V zadnjih letih gre rada v ladjo na križarjenja. Večkrat jo pot zanese po drugih državah Amerike, kjer ima številne sorodnike. Precej svojega prostega časa sedaj, pa porabi za pisanje po spominu in dokumentacijah o svojih starših. Vsi nečaki in nečakinje so ji zelo hvaležni za to delo.

S hvaležnostjo izrekam ob 80. Tiliini obletnici iskrena voščila in to v imenu vseh nas članic in prijateljev. Naj Brezjanska Marija varuje našo drago jubilatko še dolgo let!

Nika B. Kovačič



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KNJIGA O SLOMŠKU

ZBORNİK OB STOLETNICI SMRTI

Sestavila: Janez Poljanec in Franc Hrastelj

Celje, 1962

—nadaljevanje—

SMRT

Že leta 1851 je zdravnik dr. Kočevar v Celju Slomšku napovedal še deset let življenja, če se bo pazil zaradi bolezni na želodcu oziroma črevesju. Slomšek se je ravnal po zdravniških navodilih. Tako je v tem zadnjem času zmozel opraviti svoje velikansko delo prestavitve škofijskega sedeža v Maribor. S tem zgodovinskim dejanjem je kronal vse bogato življenjsko delo z največjim uspehom.

Pri državni in deželni oblasti je bil zaradi svojega slovenskega narodnega delovanja ne le nepriljubljen, brez priznanja in odlikovanja — edini med avstrijskimi škofi — ampak so ga celo tožili in dolžili protidržavnega rovarjenja. V graških arhivih so še ohranjeni zadevni akti, ki pričajo, kako se je moral kot škof pred vsemi tedanjimi oblastmi zagovarjati zaradi poučevanja in pospeševanja slovenščine pri bogoslovcih in duhovnikih ter po šolah. Slomšek je tedaj odločno zavrnil vse obdolžitve in utemeljil to svoje delo po svojem živem prepričanju, da mora biti materinščina

prava in uspešna podlaga izobrazbi, kar je strnil in zllil v znani svoj rek: »Materin jezik je ključ do omike!« Ta ključ je torej treba rabiti, da bo plodno naše izobraževanje. Po tej prepričljivi obrambi, ki je privrela iz njegovega najtrpkejšega izkustva in spoznanja ob šolskem izobraževanju, so morali uplahniti hudi očitki in obtožbe. Saj tega osnovnega našega narodnega izobraževalnega zahtevka ni mogel nihče zanihati niti pobijati. To je bil glas po naši narodni enakopravnosti in svobodnosti.

Že prej — v letih po marčni revoluciji — se je Slomšek povezal z znanim in veljavnim našim jezikoslovcem, vseučiliškim profesorjem in celo rektorjem dunajske univeze dr. Franom Miklošičem, da sta skupno ustvarila možnost za izdajanje osnovnošolskih učbenikov v slovenščini za prve tri razrede ljudske šole. S tem namenom si je Slomšek dopisoval tudi s takratnim prosvetnim ministrom, grofom Leonom Thunom, ki mu je poveril možnost, da je posredno vplival na preosnovo tedanjih avstrijskih šol. Slomšek se je kajpak pri tem opiral na svoje sodelavce (eden med njimi je bil učitelj Peter Mussi!) in slej ko prej zastopal svoje stališče, da je materin jezik prvi pogoj prave omike. Le kjer je nujna potreba, naj se poučuje v drugem deželnem jeziku.

Toda v Mariboru nestrpni nemškutarji niso dali Slomšku miru. Strupeni narodni nasprotniki so ga črtili, sumničili, obrekovali in preganjali; zasledovali in tožarili so ga ter nagovarjali poulično drhal, ki mu je od časa do časa prirejala hrupne prizore (mačjo godbo!), mu s kamenjem razbijala okna, posebno odkar je v mariborski čitalnici v nemal Slovence za narodnostno delo. Skoraj ni bil več varen in nekateri prijatelji so ga svarili in mu svetovali, naj se izogiba nevarnosti s strani teh naščuvanih nemških gorečnejev, ki so kovali tudi zasramovalne pesmi, polne laži in natolčevanja proti Slomšku. Skratka, bil je pri svojem velikopoteznem delu pravi narodni mučenik. Vendar je vse to Slomšek junaško prenašal in se tudi ni bal nikakega preganjanja, a to ni ostalo brez vpliva na njegovo zrahljano zdravje. Čeprav slab, je po vrnitvi iz Rima blagoslovil 8. avgusta cerkev Sv. Križa pri Belih vodah, a že med mašo ga je prijala kolika, da niti pridigovati ni mogel. Potem se je nekaj časa zdravil v Slatini in v Laškem, 23. septembra — dva dni po vrnitvi v Maribor — je obležal, naslednji dan zvečer pa izdihnil.

Ob njegovi smrti poroča Davorin Trstenjak dr. J. Bleiweisu, ki je to poročilo tudi objavil v Novicah: »Predragi moj! Našega premilega škofa Antona Martina Slomška ni več na svetu. Žalostno in otožno razglašajo zvonovi od Mure do Save, od koroške do ogrske meje škofovo smrt, in vsakoga, kateremu prežalostno to novico poveš, polijejo obilne solze



Slomšek v družbi z
Blažetom in Nežico

grenke žalost. Kdo bode nas tolažil, kdo tako lepo učil, kdo tako lepe bukve spisoval, kakor so jih rajni g. škof Slomšek? Tako vpraša narod slovenski in se bridko joče. Ko so zvonovi zapeli žalostno pesem pri župnijskih cerkvah in podružnicah, je ljudstvo bežalo v cerkev in med solzami molilo za svojega višjega pastirja in se pripravljalo njegovi priprošnji. – 'Saj – pravijo – so rajni škof živeli sveto in pobožno in bili nam pravi apostol...' Prijatelj, izguba je velika za narod slovenski!...«

Tudi pesnik Umek-Okiški se je spomnil Slomška v Zgodnji Danici, kjer je priobčil obsežen slavospev: »Slomšku v spomin!« – Zgodovinar Orožen ga opisuje: »Bil je...dokaj visoke rasti, visokega, a šibkega in vitkega telesa. V obrazu je bil zdrave, rdeče barve, čednega lica. Nosil je dolge lase, ki so v gostih kodrih padali čez rame... Sicer je bil rahlo občutljiv na zunaj,

a ognjevite narave in nagle jeze. Kri mu je hitro zavrela, a če se je s kom sprl, se je ravnal po starem reku: Sonce naj ne zaide nad jezo!«

Svojo oproko začenja: »Oporoka od mene A.M. Slomška, knezoškofa lavantinskega, po dobrem premisleku, zdravih močeh in prostovoljno napisana z namenom, da se moje malenkostno premoženje sledeče porabi (oz. porazdeli).« Potem postavi za glavnega dediča postavnega naslednika v lavantinski škofiji. S tem je hotel poravnati izgubo, ki jo škofija trpi zaradi preselitve škofijskega sedeža. Spomnil pa se je v njej tudi otrok svojih treh sester, sirotišnice v Št. Andražu, ubožcev, služabnikov in dvornega kaplana, dobredelnih društev, škofijskega kapitlja za stanovanja gg. kanonikov.

— KONEC —

SPECIAL EVENTS IN Y 2000

Mother/Women of the Year Parties

MAY

- 3- Br. 33 Duluth, MN Meeting & Mother's Day Party, 7 p.m.
- 6- Br. 47 Garfield Hts., OH, Luncheon at Quinn's Rest. 1 p.m.
- 11- Br. 2 Chicago, IL Mass 6 p.m., Party follows
- 16- Br. 50 Euclid, OH Lunch, Sterle's 1:30 p.m.
- 17- Br. 32 Euclid, OH Dinner, Home Town Cafe, 6 p.m.
- 21- Br. 13 San Francisco, CA Lunch Marriott Downtown, 11 p.m.
- 21- Br. 42 Maple Hts., OH Mass 12:00 p.m. Lunch follows
- 24- Br. 10 Cleveland, OH Dinner, Perkins Rest. 1 p.m.
- 21- Br. 38 70TH ANNIVERSARY, Chisholm, MN

JUNE

- 11 Br. 47 Maple Hts., OH Mass 12:30 p.m. Luncheon follows at Sterle's

SEPTEMBER

- 20 Br. 50 Euclid, OH Picnic - Meeting

DATES:

MAY

- 11- Br. 5 Indianapolis, IN, Spring Luncheon
- 16 Br. 20 Joliet, IL, 6 p.m.
- 15 Br. 34 Soudan, MN, Celebration Luncheon, Fortune Bay
- 3- Br. 55 Girard, OH

SEPTEMBER

- 2-3 BISHOP BARAGA DAYS, MARQUETTE, MI
- 10 Br. 43 Milwaukee, WI, Anniversary Event, Klemmer's Restaurant
- 15 Br. 50 Cleveland, OH, Picnic

OCTOBER

- 1 OHIO-MICHIGAN STATE DAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MAY & JUNE

National Officer:

- May 1 - Jean Korsman, National President, Gilbert, MN
- June 28 - Rev. David Stalzer, Director of Heritage Museum, Joliet, IL

Presidents:

- May 9 - Theresa Berg, Br. 34, Soudan, MN
- June 11 - Margaret Cullen, Br. 3, Pueblo, CO
- June 17 - Mary Lou Terselic, Br. 103, Washington, D.C.

Secretaries:

- May 3 - Anna Anderson, Br. 79, Enumclaw, WA
- 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
- May 27 - Marjorie Stergar, Br. 38, Chisholm, MN
- May 28 - Linda Lambright, Br. 6, Barberton, OH

- June 2 - Blanche Laurich, Br. 81, Keewatin, MN
- June 11 - Betty Stack, Br. 24, LaSalle, IL
- June 19 - Dorothy Brezonik, Br. 1, Sheboygan, WI
- June 29 - Elizabeth Spolar, Br. 56, Hibbing, MN

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

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From the Youth Director Angela Stare:

Making Sauerkraut



Last fall some of my family got together at Grandmother Anna's house to make sauerkraut the way my great grandparents did. This was my first time, however, because our families on both sides had been making it since they came from Slovenia in the early 1900s.

My mother picked up big bags of cabbage heads at the supermarket. After washing them off, my Uncle Joe chopped the core out and passed it over to my Dad. His job was to shred the cabbage with this old fashioned shredder. As the cabbage was shredded, it would fall into a big metal tub. Next, my grandma gave my sister a bowl of pre-measured canning salt to sprinkle on top of the cabbage and mix it together with the cabbage and put into the crock and I would stamp each layer

down until the juice came out (don't worry I washed my feet in soapy water and put clean white socks on first)!

The enclosed picture captures the process. We all did the same task until

FUN IN THE KITCHEN

*Toys you and your children
can create at home*

Kids can quickly become bored and irritable if there are no planned activities to pass the time. You can use this time to stimulate learning by showing little ones how to make toys at home.

PLAY CLAY

*2 cups white flour
1 cup table salt
1 cup warm water
Food coloring*

Mix flour, salt and warm water in a large bowl. Color dough by adding food coloring, and mix. You can separate dough into different bowls, and add a different food coloring to each bowl to separate several colors of dough. Store dough in a plastic baggie or airtight container when not in use.

To make ornaments or animal figures, form dough into desired shapes. Harden dough by placing shapes on a baker's sheet and put in a warm oven for five to ten minutes. Remove carefully and allow to cool.

QUIZ CORNER

1. What did the warrior Judas Maccabee do for his men who had died wearing amulets to a false god?

2. What saint was born in Lycopolis in Egypt; had the gift of healing and reading of souls; lived in a cave on a hilltop eating only dried fruit and vegetables for 50 years; and died in 394?

Quiz Answers

1. He took up a collection for an expiatory sacrifice for those who died.

(2 Maccabees 12:40-46)

2. Saint John of Egypt. Feast day March 27.

all the cabbage was sliced. Then grandma put a clean white cloth over the cabbage and partly filled a strong plastic bag that was tied and she placed it over the cabbage to weigh it down to keep a cover of the juice on top of the cabbage while it fermented. We checked it each week and put another clean cloth on top until it was finally ready to be canned.

When it was fermented my Auntie Carol and Mom packed it into clean Mason jars and sealed it with lids. They placed the bottles into a big pressure cooker to seal the lids. When the jars were cooled overnight they were placed in the fruit cellar. We gave some to our families and friends. I gave one to my teacher because he is Slovenian and a pretty good guy! I learned how to make sauerkraut and had fun stomping it down in the crock.

*Carolyn Hodnik,
age 10*

Junior member of Br. 35, Aurora, MN

Happy Birthday!



Sky Hall

**4 years old,
May 23rd!**

Sky is a member of Br. 47 and lives in Akron, Ohio. Thank you, Grandma, Kathleen Dorchak for sending Sky's picture and your \$10 ZARJA donation!

Hey!

It's me, Julie!

Finally school is near its end. Nine long months of work finally paid off, and we are ready for the year ahead to be reality. The first thing on my list of things to do is sleep. It seems like so long ago that I had a good night's sleep.

This month's tip is going to be replaced by a topic. This topic is fears. I know that there are a lot of weird fears that are acquired among a lot of different kinds of people, with different backgrounds, and with different views. Some are simple though, too. For instance, the fear of riding a bicycle, the fear of water, or the fear of doing anything and risking the chance of falling. I don't have a lot of fears that interfere with my everyday life, but there was

one fear that I had that was overtaken by tragic events. Death. Could I have picked a sappier subject?!?!? I used to be afraid of death. I mean, I wouldn't do something because I might die, even tho I am a risk taker, and always will be. But, the whole thought of leaving earth and watching life go on for eternity scared me. Tragically enough, I got over this fear in March of 1999, when my family and I lost three of our relatives. My great grandma, and great grandpa, and my uncle all passed away within one month, and, though they all died of separate causes, it was the worst three weeks of my life. (You may have heard, seen or knew them: Tony and Josephine Squok, and "Eggsa Zibert). Ironically enough, it got me over my fear. The way I took at it, when my time comes. I'll be able to see all those I dearly loved and thought I had lost forever. Don't think I want to die or anything, I just have learned to accept it, and see the positives to it. I know

I'll hurt the ones I leave behind, because I know how I felt last year, and still feel today, but I know that eventually I will see them again soon. It's not so bad, it's life.

Keep in mind there's a positive side to everything. Like my great grandma, the late Fannie Zibert used to say, "I'm all ready." (looking up to the sky and pointing) "but I'd like to stick around for a while."

I think we can all agree with Fannie on that one. She also believed that the reason why she lived so long was because she traveled so much and God could never find her. So, if you travel a lot, then maybe you have longer than you think!?!?!?

Well, that's all for this month. Until next time, keep in touch, stay safe, make good choices, and have a great start to a lot of school and no school!!

Love Ya Lots and Always,

Julie 2000

BENEFICIARY CHANGE FORM

Make sure your beneficiary is up to date! If you need to change the name of the person – please fill out the form below and mail to:

Slovenian Women's Union of America
Attn. Jonita Ruth, Nat'l. Treasurer
431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432

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