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ZARJA

The DAWN



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CHRISTMAS PARTIES!

ANNUAL MEETINGS

SCHEDULE

Please read your Branch's reports in November and December ZARJAs for particulars. Have a wonderful get-together!

Dec. 1 Br. 47, Garfield Hgts., OH	Br. 13, San Francisco, CA Br. 81, Keewatin, MN	Br. 26, Pittsburgh, PA Br. 56, Hibbing, MN	Dec. 14 Br. 105, Detroit, MN
Dec. 3 Br. 14, Euclid, OH	Dec. 7 Br. 2, Chicago, IL (Juniors)	Dec. 10 Br. 42, Maple Hgts., OH Br. 57, Niles, OH	Dec. 15 Br. 20, Joliet, IL
Dec. 4 Br. 33, Duluth, MN Br. 38, Chisholm, MN Br. 95, So. Chicago, IL	Dec. 8 Br. 22, Bradley, IL Br. 35, Aurora, MN Br. 50, Cleveland, OH	Dec. 11 Br. 55, Girard, OH	Dec. 16 Br. 17, West Allis, WI
Dec. 5 Br. 12, Milwaukee, WI	Dec. 9 Br. 23, Ely, MN	Dec. 12 Br. 2, Chicago, IL (Adults) Br. 40, Lorain, OH	Dec. 17 Br. 1, Sheboygan, WI Br. 43, Milwaukee, WI
			Dec. 18 Br. 54, Warren, OH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER

Presidents:

- Dec. 14 - Josephine Mohorcic, Br. 25, Cleveland, OH
Dec. 28 - Marie Gombach, Br. 10, Cleveland, OH
Dec. 28 - Agnes Tomazic, Br. 40, Lorain, OH
Dec. 31 - Josephine Kapla, Br. 81, Keewatin, MN
Dec. 31 - Frances Vidmar, Br. 83, Crosby, MN

Secretaries:

- Dec. 9 - Elizabeth Birk, Br. 84, New York, NY
Dec. 25 - Jennie Mayasich, Br. 65, Virginia, MN
Dec. 29 - Marge Church, Br. 42, Maple Hgts., OH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY

National Officer:

- Jan. 6 - Irene Odorizzi, Cultural Heritage Officer, Reston, VA

Presidents:

- Jan. 2 - Kay Yuratovac, Br. 73, Warrensville Hgts., OH
Jan. 11 - Frances Corel, Br. 93, Brooklyn, NY
Jan. 11 - Kathleen Podobnik, Br. 96, Universal, PA
Jan. 23 - Mary Mundson, Br. 47, Garfield Hgts., OH

Secretaries:

- Jan. 5 - Mary Jackovich, Br. 28, Calumet, MI
Jan. 12 - Mary Krall, Br. 37, Greaney, MN
Jan. 14 - Virginia Zevkovich, Br. 57, Niles, OH
Jan. 24 - Mary Slaney, Br. 26, Pittsburgh, PA

INDEPENDENT SAVINGS

IS NOW



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731-8865



National President's Message

*May you all have **1154788**
a beautiful White Christmas!*

Well, we did it again! Not only did Minnesota win the World Series but a week later Minnesota made news as we broke all records with our "mega-storm." Mother Nature played a rather cool trick on Halloween Eve by virtually creating "ghost towns" throughout the area. The fluffy snow accumulated at an unbelievable rate per hour. When our son called on Friday from Minneapolis they had already registered 16" of snow but we weren't far behind with about 10 to 12". As the winter storm continued we could readily see that it was going to be a "big one." The radio and television stations cautioned people to stay indoors, also requesting not to make any unnecessary calls since the phones were jammed with the work force contacting their families and businesses. My husband, John would periodically snow blow the driveway and walks. Several hours later there would be no sign of his efforts due to the wind which began to whip the snow around. Fortunately, our area did not have the heavy, wet snow which can create a multitude of problems. Duluth totaled 36.9" of snow and the latest report from Minneapolis totaled 28". Since the highway was plowed on Saturday afternoon John decided to go to Ely as he needed a part for our mailbox which was knocked down by the snowplow. Most of the stores were closed and nearly all of the streets were unplowed. He said it looked like "No Man's Land." When he returned home John found it impossible to keep on snow blowing as it became obvious it was a "no win" situation. Luckily, we had electricity and thus far no damage occurred to the buildings or trees. It may be a different scenario in Duluth and Minneapolis and farther south of the Twin Cities. One-half of the total winter's snowfall accumulated in the Minneapolis area in less than 24 hours. What will the rest of winter bring? Only the good Lord knows!

When we gather with family and friends to sing the well-known Christmas song "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" we won't have to dream in Minnesota; this is reality and indeed a glorious winter wonderland. The purity and beauty of the glistening snow will remain all winter long in Northern Minnesota. Area skiing and snowmobile enthusiasts, as well as businessmen are rejoicing.

Being more or less confined during the winter months, undoubtedly more time is spent viewing television. Perhaps the names/addresses of the TV networks would be helpful in monitoring programs you feel are offensive. A brief letter stating your concerns can bring about change. To-

gether we can make an impact on society. The addresses are:

- 1) NBC - 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020
- 2) CBS - 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019
- 3) ABC - 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

During this Advent season let us review and put into action the message the Catholic Bishops of the United States prepared on the 100th anniversary of the papal encyclical "RERUM NOVARUM" called, "A Century of Social Teaching." A quote from the text states, "The basic moral test of a society is how its most vulnerable members are faring." Our faith calls us to serve those in need, to pursue peace, and defend the life, dignity and rights to all our sisters and brothers. Our faith calls us to work for real justice and true peace. WE CAN make this a better world to live in for all God's people.

May you have a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed and Peaceful New Year!

Victoria "Tory" Bobence

Thought this poem would be appropriate to begin a New Year:

CHARITY

*is Silence
when words would hurt,
is Patience
when your neighbor's curt,
is Deafness
when a scandal flows,
is Thoughtfulness
for others woes,
is Promptness
when stern duty calls,
is Courage
when misfortune falls.*

...Author Unknown

Tory

FOUR \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 1992

Dear Graduating High School Senior:

If you have been a member of the Slovenian Women's Union for at least three years and plan to attend an accredited college or university next fall, you are eligible to apply for one of the four \$1,000 SWU Scholarships to be awarded in 1992. However, only one member of a family can ever receive a scholarship and only one member of a branch per year can be awarded a scholarship.

Academic achievement, SWU branch involvement, extracurricular activities, and financial need will be the basis for selection by the Scholarship Committee composed of: Victoria Bobence, Olga Ancel, Irene Odorizzi, Mary Lou Videgar, Kathleen Emerson, Marjorie Church, and Carita Girman, Director.

The Slovenian Women's Union has so many bright, hardworking young members who deserve whatever encouragement we can offer. However, since our funds are limited we can only actually award financial assistance to four young members. If you would like more information and an SWU Scholarship application, mail the request for Scholarship Application to **Carita Girman, 7607 Blain Way, Indianapolis, IN 46254.**

May your senior year be filled with new knowledge, joys, and experiences.

Dear fellow SWU members,

This is not meant as a comment on the size of Hermine Dicke's feet, however, she has left some mighty big shoes for me to fill! In getting acquainted with my new position as SWU Scholarship Director, I have reviewed the records of the SWU Scholarship Program for the past 40 years. I have gained a greater appreciation for the communication and organization skills of Hermine, in addition to her sweet, caring nature. Most of all, I have gained greater respect for her dedication to helping young Slovenians achieve their dreams of education and success. I thank her for all the help she has already given me in trying to fill those big Slovenian shoes.

To avoid confusion at this time of transition, let me try to clarify the procedure for making a donation to the SWU Scholarship Fund. Whether or not you use an official contribution card that is available through your branch secretary, include the following information with your kind donation:

- 1) Amount of contribution
- 2) Name of person being honored and reason
or
Name of deceased person being remembered
- 3) Donor's name and address

Send your donation made payable to the SWU Scholarship Fund and the above information to me.

Remember that donations to the SWU Scholarship Fund are an appropriate means to honor both the living and the deceased.

As of this writing, SWU Branch No. 1 has already made a generous donation of \$100 as a tribute to Hermine Dicke for her 25 years as SWU Scholarship Director. Thank you.

If you know of any young SWU member who would be a qualified SWU Scholarship applicant, be sure to encourage him/her to complete and send in the Request for SWU Scholarship Application found in this issue.

Thank you for your continued support of the Scholarship Program. Working together we can make dreams come true.

REQUEST FOR SWU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I am considering applying for one of the \$1,000 SWU Scholarship which will be awarded to SWU members who will be 1992 high school graduates. Please send me the official application form which must be completed and returned by March 31, 1992.

_____ I have been an SWU member for at least three years and am currently a member of SWU Br. # _____

_____ I am a high school senior planning to attend an accredited college or university in the fall of 1992.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State & Zip Code _____

Mail this request to:

**Carita Girman, SWU Scholarship Director
7607 Blain Way, Indianapolis, IN 46254**

Vesele Božične praznike -- Srečno Novo Leto

On December 19 we will observe our organization's 65th year. Founded by Marie Prisland of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, much has been accomplished.

Through her inspiration there were Slovenian dancing and choral groups, drill teams and bowling leagues. Zveza was responsible for beginning the movement for the Slovenian Shrine at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Washington, DC, the Slovenian Miners and Laborers Memorial at Ironworld, MN, our own Heritage Museum. Zveza was helpful in the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Immigrant Wall of Honor at Ellis Island in New York.

The most outstanding accomplishments include the SWU cookbooks, WOMAN's GLORY and POTS AND PANS now its fourth printing and our ZARJA, an unsurpassed informative fraternal magazine, which keeps us in touch with members near and far. Both the cookbook and the ZARJA help bring in members.

For our SUCCESS WITH UNITY Campaign, it is hoped each one of you will try especially hard to enroll a member during Zveza's 65th year. If our Foundress were here today she would truly welcome each new member, especially the younger generation.

A very special thank you is extended to the precious and dedicated branch officers and members for their achievements during the past year.

*"May all the days of all the years
That God has still in store
Be filled with every joy and grace
To bless you more and more.*

*May hope of heart and peace of mind
Beside you ever stay
And that's the golden wish we have
For you, this Christmas Day!"*

National Board of Directors



Our Zveza is made of a membership of capable, energetic and farsighted women – the legacy left by three of our earliest organizers. **Albina Novak**, whose credits include 44 years in national office, the organizing of Branch 50 which is now celebrating 60 years and ZARJA editor for 19 years; **Bara Kramer**, organizer of our western states branches, beginning with Br. 13 in her home city of San Francisco, and **Marie Prisland**, Founder of S.W.U.; whose life was devoted to the progress of this organization. This vintage photograph not only brings us back to thoughts of the past, but inspires us to be good inheritors of their dream.





THE 1991 Regional CONVENTIONS

ILLINOIS-INDIANA REGIONAL CONVENTION

On Sunday, October 6, 1991, the Illinois-Indiana Regional Convention was held in Bradley, Illinois. Branch No. 22 was the hostess branch. Margaret Planton, President of Branch No. 22, and her ladies did an excellent job organizing the events of the day.

Our business meeting took place at the Moose Lodge after the delicious dinner. The meeting opened with a prayer for peace. A warm welcome was extended to National Officers, members and guests.

Out of the ten branches in the Illinois-Indiana Region, eight branches were represented. The Delegates reported on the activities of their respective branches. These reports included fundraising, concerns on how to enroll new members, the crisis in Slovenia and Croatia, and many other activities which they are involved in.

We had two guest speakers present. They informed us of the situations in Slovenia and Croatia. Their talks were very informative, telling of their first-hand experience with the problems going on. It was also stressed of how

important it is to write your letters to President Bush, the Secretary of State and also your Congressmen in hopes that the U.S. will give their full support to these troubled countries.

The election of Illinois-Indiana Regional President was held after our discussion period. Romaine O'Brien of Branch No. 16 was nominated and graciously accepted the position. I hope everyone will give her the same cooperation and support during her term as Regional President as I received. Congratulations Romaine, I know you will do an excellent job!

Our meeting closed with prayers for all SWU members living and deceased, and also for peace in Slovenia and Croatia.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Naudziunas
Illinois-Indiana Regional President

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

SUCCESS WITH UNITY Campaign which began April thus far and as of November 1, gained for our SWU a total of 110 members. This includes 13 Class As including 1 Junior transfer, 66 Class Bs including 22 Junior transferees and 31 Juniors.

Top individual workers are:

Jonita Ruth, Br. 20, Joliet, IL	13
Olga Ancel, Br. 20, Joliet, IL	11
Sophie Segulin, Br. 10, Cleveland, OH	9
Mary Maxin, Br. 50, Cleveland, OH	8
Mary Culkar, Br. 47, Garfield Hts., OH	4
Marion Marolt, Br. 17, West Allis, WI	3
Dorothy Jamnick, Br. 35, Aurora, MN	3
Alouise Epley, Br. 73, Warrensville Hts., OH	3
Evelyn Majercik, Br. 73, Warrensville Hts., OH	3

There were eight workers who brought in two members and 37 who enrolled one member each.

Twenty-three branches thus far are involved in the campaign. The top ten are:

No. 20, Joliet, IL	23
No. 50, Cleveland, OH	12
No. 2, Chicago, IL	10
No. 10, Cleveland, OH	10
No. 30, Home Office	9
No. 73, Warrensville Hts., OH	9
No. 23, Ely, MN	5
No. 47, Garfield Hts., OH	5
No. 35, Aurora, MN	4
No. 17, West Allis, WI	3

There are seven branches with two new members and six with one new member.

For Zveza's 65th anniversary PLEASE do enroll at least one new member during OUR SUCCESS WITH UNITY Campaign.

Success With Unity Membership Campaign!

If success and unity is a part of your branch's ideal - we will all benefit!
Enroll your family and friends in the Slovenian Women's Union today!

CONGRATULATIONS CORINNE!

Congratulations are in order for the Editor of ZARJA, Corinne Leskovar, who was chosen as the most vital person this year by the Bishop Baraga Association. This honor was awarded her at the Banquet held at the Washington Sheraton Hotel, Washington, D.C. on Sept. 11, 1991.

Corinne was recognized for her valuable contribution to the Association and her unceasing endeavors to achieve sanctification for Bishop Baraga. She has also promoted the annual Baraga Day weekend each year and has been instrumental in bringing many people together for this important event.

We are proud of Corinne and of the honor which has been bestowed upon her. She is truly deserving of this distinction. Congratulations, Corinne!

PLAQUE DONATIONS

Catherine Kroll, Calumet, Michigan sent \$100.00 for the Heritage Museum Memorial plaque in honor of her mother and father, Michael and Theresa Golobich. What a wonderful way to remember your parents! Thanks, Catherine.

\$25.00 was donated by Lillian & George Eggen of California and Irene Jagodnik donated \$10.00 in memory of August Ryavec. Thank you for both donations.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HERITAGE MUSEUM

The third Sunday in July has been a special day in the Chicago area for many years as the pilgrimage and picnic to St. Mary's in Lemont, Illinois has welcomed many from the surrounding area to pray, to meet friends and to picnic on the beautiful grounds of the Franciscan Fathers.

This year, on July 21, I had occasion to be present at the picnic in the afternoon and Fran Morison, President of Branch 2, brought some beautiful items that were donated to the Slovenian Museum by a member of a Branch 2.

The first item was donated by Dorothy Foral, Branch 2, and made by her mother-in-law. It was a twin bedspread and pillow covers which were crocheted very beautifully and remained in a trunk for a long time.

The next item was a hat and vest. Her uncle went through a trunk, upon the death of his wife, and found it. Also included was a picture which was left in a house which they purchased and it has a "Braided Rug Verse" on it.

Later, I had the opportunity to meet Dorothy who sold tickets that day. Many thanks, Dorothy, for your contribution to the Museum. It is truly appreciated.



IN MEMORY

Larry Ward, technician at the Heritage Museum for "Golden Times," passed away suddenly at the St. Joseph's Hospital Center in Joliet, Illinois. We shall miss not being able to call on Larry whenever a problem arises with the equipment. Larry was always available when we needed him and he was a most pleasant person at all times. Our condolences to his wife, Ellen.

Helen Horwath notified us of Larry's recent passing. We are happy to hear that she is quickly recovering from a stroke that occurred earlier in the year and is recuperating at her home in Joliet.

Helen is an advocate of the Heritage activities at the Slovenian Museum and served for many years as Chairperson of the Committee when the Museum was first getting on its feet. She also actively participated in the initial organizing of the "National Heritage Corridor" which includes our SWU building as an Illinois landmark. We wish you a speedy recovery, Helen.

BRANCH HISTORIES

The series on the branch histories has begun in the ZARJA with Branch 35. We want to thank all officers and members of the various contributing branches for their interest and support of this project. If you haven't compiled information for your branch, use these articles as a guide and an inspiration to get started. We want to hear from all branches!

If any member reading this message has a story, photo or remembrance of the early years PLEASE get in touch with your branch officer or send the information to me directly. We need much more information on the "good old days."

INDEPENDENCE FOR SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

The conflict is nowhere close to being over. Please do not give up on the telephone calls and the letters. Once isn't enough. We must continue to pressure our government and particularly our representatives and President Bush to support independence and now to come to the aid of Croatia as it struggles to maintain its independent status. If Croatia's efforts are not supported and they weaken, what will happen to Slovenia, which is at the border of the warring parties!

FOR INDEPENDENCE OF SLOVENIA!

CALL:

White House	(202) 456-1111
State Department	(202) 547-4000

TO SEND LETTERS BY FAX:

White House	(202) 429-5545
State Department	(202) 647-7120



Anita Vovk:

"Suha Roba" *Dried WOODEN WARE*

ware is closely connected with peddlery.

Besides the traditional objects, the cottage wooden industry today makes wooden packings and pallets for industrial use, as well as many miniature articles for the ever-growing tourist trade.

The rešeta or sieve is the product at home only on Ribnica soil, from which it came.

Each peasant or farmer has enough work and income just by one profession alone. Even the rim or frame maker for the sieve and the maker of the bottom of the sieve, are always separated in two different home workshops. The sieve is never completed under the same roof. Also it was thought that each village only produced one item or article but it is not so. In Sodražica they produce the rims for sieves, spoons, spatulas, skilled cabinet-makers, turners/lathers, weavers etc. In Zamostec they produce the rims, dishes, bowls, weavers and turners. However each house in the village does a different item. The larger farmer who may own a pair of horses may not participate in any of the professions as such; he feels he can earn more by transporting the wood from the forest.

All family members participate in the profession of the household which ordinarily begins in the fall when the crops of the field are under the roof and the wood is prepared for the winter. The crafts are done all winter until spring, but there are instances when the work goes on over the summer such as for the elderly folks who are no longer able to work in the fields or the forests. Each household prepares the wood for the winter and they make sure there will be a sufficient supply to last through the entire winter.

Between the preparation of the wood and the producing of the wooden objects each home workshop spends from 200 to 250 work days a year, about 2/3 of a year and the remaining 1/3 of the year they cultivate the land. The young learn the profession of their household and have it mastered even before they are grown up and in this way each profession is handed down from generation to generation using the same simple tools, preserving these wooden products. They work from early morning until late in the evening.

The vendors travel with all their wares strapped on their back and shoulders. They also repair farm and garden tools as they go from village to village. The vendor is called a "Krožnjar" or otherwise known to us as the "Ribničan Urban". The wooden wares can be found in the market places also in the open market in Ljubljana. Since 1976, an annual fair for the wooden crafts is held in Ribnica.

Many of us own pieces of these dried wooden wares and it is quickly identified with our heritage. We cherish these items as we know through motorized and electrical industrialization, these crafts will soon be lost. We truly

The oldest and most popular cottage industry in Slovenia is the making of wooden objects, daily used in individual households and farms.

The cottage wood industry was still flourishing in the regions from the Ljubljansko marshes to Kolpa, in the inland and upper Carnolia, up to the end of the last century. The fast industrial development of the twentieth century has checked the cottage industry, which has nevertheless been preserved in the densely populated and wooded regions of the Ribnica Valley, Slemen and Velike Lašče all the way to Rob and Krvava Peč, and eastward in Suha Krajina, especially around Dobrepolje.

First written records of wooden ware date from the fourteenth century, in a fair document from Lož. It is also mentioned in the permission given by Cesar Fredrick III in 1492 to the people of Ribnica, to export cattle, linen and various wooden objects, hazel hoops and pine rims to Croatia and other neighboring countries.

Thus the wood became an important source of survival of small farmers. However, not in the sense of today's tree felling and processing, but investing so much working capital and ingenuity that the value of the wooded surfaces is raised to the highest possible worth. Even the smallest wood estates are exploited from pine logs to hazel and dogwood bushes, maple, ash, cherry and beech.

The making of wooden ware is uniformly divided among all family members, the farmer, wife, children and elderly woman who sits at the table turning her knife and producing the sharpest and strongest toothpicks. Anyone who has been the recipient of these toothpicks knows how sharp they are. I have had them poke into my hands and thought they would certainly make a good weapon. These are a most favorite gift from our relatives in Slovenija and I have had guests ask to take them home for souvenirs. They could not believe that somebody sat and made these beautiful toothpicks. The well known diligence and ingenuity were not present only at home, but also at the sales far across the boundaries of the country, as wooden

appreciate the skill and love poured into each object.

For our lesson we shall coordinate some of the professions and the type of wood used in these professions and some of the objects.

Vocabulary:

strok...profession
obodarstvo...making of rim or frame for sieve
podnarstvo...making of bottom of sieve
posodarstvo...dishes, bowls, tubs, pails, vessels
(A) Žlicarstvo...maker of spoons
(B) Kuhalničarstvo...maker of spatulas, other utensils
ročno mizarstvo...skilled cabinet-maker

pletarstvo...weaving
strugarstvo...skill of the turner/lather
orodjarstvo...skill of the tool profession
zobotrečarstvo...making of toothpicks

Predmete...Objects:

rešeta...sieve	leska...hazel-brush
vevice...scoops	jesen...ash
valjar...rolling pin	(A) & (B) bukva... beechwood
skleda...bowl	bukva...beechwood tree
deska (za meso, za čebulo, itd.)...board (for meat, for onions, etc.)	javor...maple tree
držala...handles	slama...straw
grablje...rakes	vrba...willow tree
kosica...scythes	lipa...linden tree
les...wood	bukva, leska, jesen dren... cornel
smreka...spruce tree	brešta...elm tree
jelka...fir tree	gaber...white beech tree

ANNA HODNIK/ANITA VOVK:

Learn Slovenian

A January Prayer

God, my provider and sustainer,
this month we celebrate your winter gifts of
cold, darkness, breeze, snow, and numbing wind chill.

From the cold we learn our need to rely on your warmth.
The darkness teaches us to look to you for light.
The breeze speaks to us of your presence through the Spirit,
and the snow, falling like a mantle over the earth,
reminds us that we are covered by the mantle of your love.
The numbing wind chill factor reveals your power,
and reminds us we are helpless without your protection.

Be with me now as I reflect on your winter gifts
and also on the gift of life I receive from you.
Nourish me with wholesome food and good companions.
Protect and guide me as I seek to learn what you ask of me.
Teach me to follow you as Jesus did.
I ask these things in His name.

AMEN

May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with joy
and love!

Anna & Anita

Molitev za Januar



my provider--presrbvalec
sustainer--vzdrsevalec
celebrate--slaviti
cold--mráz
darkness--temà
wind--sapa
rely--zanesti se
breeze--vetrič
presence--prisotnost
through--skozi
Spirit--Duša
mantle--ogrinjalo
reveals--odkrije
power--moč
protection--varstvo
reflect--premisľjevati
nourish--hraniti
companion--družabnik
guide--vodiš
seek--iščem
follow--slediti
things--stvari

Homeland heartbreak

State woman leads U.S. effort to help Slovenia

By Larry Oakes

North Minnesota Correspondent

Soudan, Minn.

Victoria Bobence is leading a war of words to bring freedom to a homeland she's never seen.

Firsthand knowledge of Slovenia isn't essential for Bobence; roots and heritage are enough. Like thousands of other Iron Rangers, Bobence, 65, was born to Slavic immigrants. In Soudan those roots run as deep as the mine shaft her father descended each day to earn a living in a new land.

As president of the national Slovenian Women's Union, Bobence herself is now a symbol of that heritage. When violence broke out in Yugoslavia in late June, Bobence and the 6,500-member union turned from recipes and fund-raising to overt political action, attempting to pressure the United States into supporting the struggle of Slovenia and Croatia for independence.

"We had to get political," she said. "It's our homeland, and there have been lives lost and \$2.5 billion in destruction among the quiet and peaceful people. Homes have been destroyed. They need repairs, food and other humanitarian help."

Members of the group also gave toward the collection of the estimated \$250,000 in U.S. donations for Slovenian relief. "We are first and foremost

The above is a reprint from the Minneapolis Star Tribune, of an interview with Nat'l President, Victoria Bobence and on the following page is the report in the Joliet Herald News about the visit made to the SWU Home Office by two officials of the new Slovenian government, hosted by our Nat'l Secretary, Olga Ancel. We commend our officers for all their concern and activities. Please remember to call President Bush often to ask for U.S. support of Slovenia's Independence. Call 1-202-456-1111 and send donations to the Home Office for Slovenian Relief.

Americans," said Bobence, "but this is our roots and we're concerned."

The Slovenian Women's Union, which has 1,000 Minnesota members, is based in Joliet, Ill., but Bobence leads it from her Iron Range home on Hwy. 169 east of Soudan. Bobence — who runs a small resort with her ex-miner husband, John, and has four grown children — recently started her second four-year term as president of the national organization. She was head of the state chapter before that.

Bobence and other members of the union feel that without at least moral support from the United States, Slovenia won't be able to wrench itself free of Yugoslavian rule.

"They've been under suppression and Communist rule for so many years," said Bobence, who occasionally reveals her closeness to the situation by switching to the term "we" to describe Slovenians. "We are an Alpine nation. We don't belong with that southern area (the rest of Yugoslavia) at all."

As president of the women's union Bobence recently wrote to President Bush: "The United States...is supporting the Communist regime of Yugoslavia... We are appalled by the news coming from Slovenia... The United States should immediately change its policy and protest the occupation of Slovenia by the national Yugoslavian army."

The words are strong, coming from an organization with its roots in coffee parties and recipe exchanges. The union was formed in 1926 as a social club to help ease the assimilation of Slovenian immigrants. Later it focused on preserving Slovenian culture and supporting education and other community resources. It annually provides five \$1,000 scholarships to high school graduates.

"Most Slovenians in this area didn't know much about Slovenian or Yugoslavian political matters, but this crisis has gotten them interested," Bobence said.

It has required more of her than she had expected. "I'd never really been

"We had to get political. It's our homeland, and there have been lives lost and \$2.5 billion in destruction among the quiet and peaceful people."

—Victoria Bobence

focused globally up until this point," she said. "Since becoming an officer in the Slovenian Women's Union, and through a lot of reading, I've become aware of things."

Bobence said she's been a member of the union since 1951, when her mother signed her up. Her father and mother, Joseph and Mary Erchul, were proud of their new country, but they faithfully kept in touch with the old, and shared that concern for heritage with their children. Each night they would read newspapers mailed from Slovenia and discuss Slovenian issues in the living room while the children washed the dinner dishes and listened, she said.

The government response to the women's plea has been courteous but noncommittal. Bobence received form letters from the White House and State Department, saying that her opinions were appreciated and would get "full review" from all appropriate parties.

U.S. Sen. David Durenburger responded by writing that the United States has little influence in Yugoslavia and "relatively weak" historical ties to the country.

Bobence argues that the U.S. position is hogwash. She says the Bush administration's failure to support Slovenia and Croatia flies in the face of an important tenet under which the United States was born: that rebellion against a tyrannical and nonworking government is just. She echoes the criticism that for Yugoslavia, the official U.S. wish is for stability, even if it's at gunpoint.

"We must continue to fight for freedom for those we left behind," she said.



Slovenians enthused about democracy

Officials detail
situation in visit

By Mike Fitzgerald
Joliet Herald-News
November 11, 1991

While Serbians and Croats continue to fight, Slovenians are laying the foundation for a new democracy.

"We are taking all the necessary action to allow Slovenia to function as an independent state," said Ernest Petric, an official representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United States.

Petric and Janez Dular, the Slovenian minister for emigrants, visited the Slovenian Women's Union during a stop Friday in Joliet.

Petric said the government of the Slovenian republic has secured its

borders with Serbia and fighting has ceased between the two republics.

The Slovenian government also has held free, democratic elections for positions in parliament and in other government bodies, he said. In addition, Slovenia has issued its own passports and has printed its own currency.

But Slovenia's move toward independence may be slowed by fighting in neighboring Croatia.

On Friday, the European Community imposed sanctions on Serbia to try to end the 4-month-old fighting between the Yugoslavian republics.

Although aimed at Serbia, the sanctions could end up hurting Slovenia as well.

"These sanctions, which have been introduced against all of Yugoslavia, we hope will not affect Slovenia very much," said Petric.

"It would be absolutely unjust and impractical to hurt by sanctions the aggressor and the victim, or to say in the American way, the good guy and the bad guy," he said.

Petric said Slovenia's war with Serbia left his country's economy in ruins, but even in ruin, it is in better shape than the economies in other Yugoslavian republics.

"At least now we're able to deal with our problems on our own," he said. "We don't have to subsidize anybody anymore."

The real boost to the republic's goal of becoming an independent and democratic country would be diplomatic recognition by the United States, he said. "We are sure the

Dr. Dular makes a point to Stan Markun and Fr. David Stalzer at the SWU Home Office during his visit to Joliet. Looking on are Deannie Gudac of the Will County Development and Walter Adamich; standing, Ed Ancel and Alex Plut.

United States will understand that what we are doing is fully in line with the fully expressed views of our population.

"We don't want to do more or less than to establish a free, peaceful, independent country based on respect of human rights, democracy and a market economy," said Petric.

"We believe that sooner or later the United States will recognize the fact that there exists a new nation in the middle of Europe that wants to be a friend of the United States."



ON Friday, Nov. 8th, 1991, Dr. Ernest Petric, official representative of Slovenia and Dr. Janez Dular, Minister for Slovenian Immigrants visited the SWU Home Office.



Joliet Herald News reporter, Mike Fitzgerald, with Dr. Petric.



HISTORY OF S.W.U. BRANCHES

Looking Back

to the Future

There are many thoughts that come to mind when LOOKING BACK! Because the next step is to recover from the shock of time passing so quickly. We console ourselves, then, by looking ahead!

I would like to share with you some of the memories that our SWU National Officers had when asked the question "When were you the proudest of Zveza?" This may give us the best jumping off place from which to address the future with positive and meaningful programs that really reach into the heart of the organization, the heart of our membership.

So many beautiful occasions. I enjoy State Conventions with all the women attending mass and praying and receiving Holy Communion together – and the comradie and singing. – the spirit is beautiful!

Watching members celebrate together – sharing memories of the past!

Going to meetings where there is a strong family sense of unity. Other organizations have remarked about our togetherness and spiritual values.

When I saw the slide show "Golden Times" completed, and realized the unique immigrant experience and the challenges met by the membership with vibrant and energetic leadership through the years.

My first National Convention in Hibbing, Minnesota, when I felt I was part of a great organization.

When I was a part of the dedication of the Slovenian Chapel at the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

In the 40's, when there were so many activities – something constantly going on and again in the 80's when we put so much effort in Heritage Days and were successful in spreading the word about our Slovenian heritage.

At the Minnesota State Convention I attended, to see so many members present and all happy to be there as sisters.

At the time the Slovenian Chapel was dedicated and at the time the Memorial to the Miners and Laborers in Minnesota was dedicated – two events that melded our cultural and fraternal pride.

Do you get the similarity among all these statements? When we are looking ahead, – making plans – setting new goals for 1992, wondering what we can do to make our organization better, more successful, bigger and stronger... let us read over these thoughts and work toward greater unification, greater understanding and caring among us, and becoming better sisters.

Then we will be making our own GREAT FUTURE!

As an example of activity bringing women together for many happy years, read about Br. 50, Cleveland (Euclid), Ohio, next in our list of branch histories.

Corinne Leskovar, Editor

BRANCH #50, CLEVELAND, EUCLID, OHIO

"ZARJA"
MESEČNIK ZA SLOVENSKO ŽENSTVO V AMERIKI
October, 1931
Letnik (Volume) 3.
Dnev. (No.) 25.

A. Schiffrer
Junaska žena



VET ne p...
da vadi
dengi p...
jezuit...
Molati...
vibona...
Molandi...
na je p...
spada, n...
Vidiko...
Klopates...
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Št. 50, Cleveland, Ohio. — Cenjena kl. tainica: Naznanjam Vam, da se je sinoči, 15. t. m. ustanovila nova podružnica na St. Clairju; nosila bo št. 50, kakor me je obvestila Mrs. Prislant tukaj. Ustanovila se je z dvanaajstimi članicami. Pošiljam Vam pristopnino, asesment in prošnje pa bodo v kratkem sledile.

Sem skoraj sigurna, da bo nova podružnica vsceveta v veliko in močno društvo. Poslovala bo v angleščini, ker je namenjena le za mlade žene in dekleta. — Albina Novak.

The first branch of the SLU. for young ladies alone was organized in September in Cleveland (No. 50). Today they boast of nearly fifty members. They are getting along just fine and promised to send us their picture for one of the early future issues. This young branch certainly turned a new leaf in the history of the SLU. Something similar can probably be organized in some of the larger Slovene communities; many other places the young members will probably find it more convenient to form their own circle inside of the old branch, particularly where a large increase of new membership can be reasonably expected if they do so. Girls, the Supreme Committee does not know your wishes, but will, no doubt, act quick, when you tell me self, what...

Branch 50 was founded on September 23, 1931 by Albina Novak at her home on St. Clair and E. 62nd St. There were twenty ladies present that day and membership in the past 60 years has grown to over 400 members making it the second largest branch in the SWU. This was also the first English speaking branch in the organization.

The first officers were: President, Sophie Posch; Vice President, Josephine Orazem; Secretary, Josephine Seelye; Treasurer, Josephine Bencin; Sentinel, Carole Schmuck Traven.

Charter members were: Frances Andolek, Frances Bencin, Josephine Bencin, Mitzie Bencin, Antoinette Celesnik, Angela Hlabse, Gabrielle Jensen, Anna Koren, Emma Kress, Mary Marsic, Nettie Mavko, Frances Novak, Sophie Orazem, Sophie Posch, Josephine Seelye, Mildred Skerl, Jennie Suhadolnik, Anna Tomsic, Carole Traven, Anna Zakrajsek.

Ann Tercek writes, "Josephine Seelye, a charter member did a lot of work for our Zveza at the very beginning. She and Albina Novak were actually the organizers of Br. 50. Jo was a treasurer for many years without pay.

She canvassed from house to house for new members."

The meetings were first held at St. Clair Bath House and then changed to St. Vitus Social Room. From the Social Room the meetings were later scheduled at the Baraga Dom and presently are held at the Euclid Public Library.

MARIE PRISLAND CADETS

One of the earliest activities undertaken by Branch 50 was the formation of the "Marie Prislant Cadets." The group was organized by Mary Marsic in 1932. Each cadet made her own uniform which cost \$1.01. The first Captain was Sophie Posch, who was also the First President of the branch.

The cadets was reorganized in 1939, and the second group performed in competition at the SWU conventions along with cadets from other branches. The third group was reorganized by Mary Bostian along with the organization of a junior group of "Twirlers". The cadets were once again reorganized by Ann Tercek and this fourth group is active and marching.



Ann Tercek, President of Br. 40 and member of the Marie Prislant Cadets proudly shows the 1st Place Trophy won at the E. 185th St., Festival and Parade, 1979.



Marie Prislant Cadets SWU #50 Parade on East 185th St. August, 1979. They were presented a trophy for the Best Marching Unit.



In May of 1974, the Marie Prisland Cadets posed in their branch uniforms which consisted of royal blue dresses accessorized with cape, gloves, shoes and hat of sparkling white. First row L to R: Toni Turek, Jean Tomsic, Millie Pike, Hattie Jenko, Mary Champa, Ernestine Jevic, Velma Gricar, Jo Sieworek, Rose Zelodec, Mary Cesnik, Vi Zak, Ann Tercek and Mary DeLost; Second row L to R: Mary Kovelan, Jo Arko, Jane Novak, Pauline Klemenc, Mary Perusek, Rose Petac, Jo Trunk, Dorothy Winter, Sophie Zagorc, A. Kumse and Frances Sietz, Captain.



Capt. Fran Sietz – she loved to march!

Mary DeLost, Ann Tercek, Toni Turek in uniforms of the 1970's.



Cadet Instructors were Sophie Posch, Frances Sietz and Ernestine Jevic, respectively. Frances Sietz was responsible for making the blue and white uniforms and directed the styling and sewing of later uniforms, costumes and stage needs.

The Cadets made many public appearances including the Blessing of Flags for Branches 10, 14, 15, 21 and 25. They also competed with other Drill Teams annually at Euclid Beach Park and participated at dedication at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The Cadets also performed in areas other than Cleveland.

In 1979, the current Cadet Drill Team won the First Prize Trophy for the best marching unit at the parade and festival on E. 185th St.

Once a year the Cadets preside at the "Officers' Installation" and the New Member Initiation. When a Branch 50 member dies, the Cadets say prayers at the funeral home and they also act as escorts of honor at the church and the cemetery.

In the 1930 era, the Cadets were usually young unmarried ladies, whereas the present day cadets are mature women who not only bring pride to themselves and the branch but are contributing much to the current SWU activities of the branch. At the present, this is the only branch in the entire organization that enjoys the presence of "Cadets" in their midst. They have kept the tradition alive.



Cadet Candle-lighting, Memorial Ceremony

SOCIALS - DANCES

The dances were initiated in 1932, and became very popular. A committee of officers and members organized the event. A popular local orchestra was hired for \$15.00 and the price of ticket was 15 cents. Some of the musicians who played for various dances were: Jo Trinko, Frank Yankovic, Jackie Zorc, Germ Brothers, Trebar and Pecon.

The dances were given names and some of them were: Barnyard Swing, Merry Makers Fiesta, Silver Dollar Frolic, Valentine Dance.

ANNIVERSARIES

On October 11, 1981, Branch 50 celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Church followed by a 3:30 p.m. banquet at the Slovenian Home 20713 Recher Ave. in Euclid.

Seven charter members, including the first president, Sophie Posch, were honored. Charter members are Antoinette Celesnik, Josephine Benson, Frances Bencin, Mitzi Bencin, Carole Traven, Josephine Seelye.

Fifty year members were also honored and introduced at the program by Irene Jagodnik (Sec.-Treas.) and Ann Winter (Rec. Sec.) They are: Josephine Greben, Jennie Kepic, Angela Krall, Rose LoPresti, Louise Mlakar, Anna Pavlovic, Anna Slapnik Petkovsek, Julia Sadar, Frances Sietz, Mary Stusek, Antonia Turek.

Honored guests were: Corinne Leskovar, Editor of the ZARJA; Sophie Magajna, Ohio-Mich State President; Albina Uehlein, National Youth Director; Anthony Giunta, Mayor of Euclid. Rev. Victor Tomc presented the Invocation and Ann Tercek, President of Branch 50, the Welcome.

Dinner music was provided by Tony Jagodnik and the program featured the Dawn Choral Group which sang three Slovenian selections along with a duet performed by Rosemary Marn and Jane Poznik. Well-known Cleveland singers, Carolyn Budan, Br. 50 member, and Frank Plut

Seated at the head table for the 50th Anniversary of Branch #50 left to right: Dorothy Winters, Vice President; Ann Tercek, President; Irene Jagodnik, National Auditor; Corinne Leskovar, Editor of the ZARJA; and Charter Members, Carole Traven, Sophie Posch, Josephine Seelye, Antoinette Celesnik, Josephine Bencin, Frances Bencin, Mitzi Bencin.



45th Anniversary in 1976, L to R: Ann Winter, Sophie Posch, Antoinette Celesnik, Jo Bencin, Irene Jagodnik, Frances Bencin, Carole Traven, Mitzi Bencin, Ann Tercek and Dorothyann Winter.



Awards for Good Deeds, 1974, Sophie Magajna, Carole Traven, Ann Tercek, Toni Turek and Mary Bostian.



50 Year Members at 50th Anniversary



60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRANCH 50'

This is a reminder to all our members that we will be celebrating two lovely events on the same day, Dec. 8. It will be our Christmas Dinner, plus our 60th Anniversary. Come and celebrate this happy time of the year with all your friends. There will be music, singing, and surprise entertainment. The dinner will be superb, because the cook is none other than Julie Zalar and she will be aided by her capable crew of waitresses!

A lot of prizes will be given away; you may be one of the lucky ones! Make this an important date to attend. It will be in the upper hall of the Slovenian Home on Holmes Ave. at 1 p.m. – Donation \$10.00.

Call Ann Tercek 261-3615 or Mary Jo Rom 881-0442.

It's a big responsibility with a program like this, so let's give Ann and her committee a good turnout and have an enjoyable afternoon, with good food, good entertainment and good fellowship!

Respectfully,

A Charter Member

were featured as well. The gold-cover program booklet was designed by Albina Ulle.

Speakers for the event were Corinne Leskovar, who as a young girl had attended all meetings and was the first Cadet "Mascot". Her mother, Albina Novak was not only the organizer of the branch, but is fondly remembered as the motivator of many activities. Sophie Magayna, very active fraternalist and officer was the second speaker on the program. The festivity was concluded with an audience sing-a-long.

On Dec. 8th, 1991, the branch will celebrate its 60th Anniversary in conjunction with a Christmas Dinner at the Slovenian Hall on Holmes Ave. A delicious dinner, good music, singing and lots of happy people are expected to make it a special day. Member, Julie Zalar, will be the chef for the occasion.

This very active branch has also arranged banquets in celebration of the 10th, 25th, 35th, 40th, and 45th anniversaries. They were all very successful events held at the Slovenian National Home, Slovenian Society Home or the Collinwood Slovenian Home.

One of the earliest celebration banquets was held for the Blessing of the Flag which was made by Molly Martincic Frank and used for all organizational events and displays.



Officers of 1989, seated: Mary Maxim, Vera Sebenik, Anne Ryavec, Ann Tercek; standing: Josephine Smith, Mary Miller, Dorothyann Winter, Ann Winter, Evelyn Pipoly, Mary Jo Rom.



Officers of 1982, seated: Ann Winter, Dorothyann Winter, Ann Tercek, Irene Jagodnik; standing: Vera Sebenik, Marie Dolinar, Jean Tomsic, Frances Marold.



Officers of 1985, seated: Ann Winter, Ann Tercek, Irene Jagodnik; standing: Vera Sebenik, Dorothyann Winter, Anne Ryavec, Frances Marold.



Christmas, 1988, officers, Vera Sebenik, Ann Winter, Ann Tercek, Ann Ryavec, Irene Jagodnik.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Sophie Posch	1931
Josephine Bradach	1932
Mary Marsich Grile	1933-34
Toni Turek	1935-37 and 1970
Frances Sietz	1939-41; 45; 42-54; 58-61; 65-69 (total of 16 years)
Anna Pavlovic	1942-44
Bernice Novak	1948
Beatrice Tome	1964
Rose Zelodec	1962-63
Ann Tercek	1971-91 (Total of 21 years)



Initiation of New Members in 1983



Bowlers of #50: Ann Slapnik, Olga Srnovrsnik, Agnes Modic, Stella Ruppe, Frances Milavec.



Bowlers of #50, Angela Pozelnik, unidentified, Toni Turek, Jean Krizman.

BOWLERS

The bowling teams were organized by Toni Tanko Turek in 1937, and participated in the first bowling tournament at Pozelnik's. There was also competition with other branch teams and they participated in the SWU tournaments.

Mary Bostian organized a junior bowling team and the youngsters worked hard at this sport but the group lasted only a few years.



H. Bonac, A. Shine, M. DeLost.



Dawn Choral organized in 1967 by Mary Bostian pose with their director for this photo prior to an annual concert. *First row L to R:* Pauline Krall, Rose Mary Marn, Jennie Fitzum, Carolyn Budan, Frank Gorenssek, Director, Julia Gorenssek, Josephine Trunk, Mary Kastelic, Frances Stariha; *Second row L to R:* Mimi Rezonja, Josephine Comenshek, Ann Kohler, Ann Kristoff, Frances Nemanich, Frances Somrak, Anne Troha, Barbara Maganja. *Third row L to R:* Olga Klancer, Albina Tichar, Antoinette Zabukovec, Ann Gabrenja, Vera Bajec, Ann Tercek, Louise Fabec, Frances Plut, Theresa Skur, Mary Gerl and Mitzie Globokar.



Combined Branches of Cleveland Singers – Dawn Choral Club, 1973

DAWN CHORAL GROUP

These choraleers, consisting of 36 women, were organized in 1967 by Mary Bostian and sang under the direction of Mr. Frank Gorenssek. There was a formal concert once a year and the group was together for a full fifteen years.

ACTIVITIES

The Br. 50 picnics are held the third Tuesday of August and rotate at the homes of various officers and members. The annual Pot Luck luncheon is one of the highlights of the year as all the food and refreshments are home-cooked, delicious and furnished by the members.

Games are played and accordion music furnished by the famous Eddie Simms of California and members, Jean Paik and Mary Champa. At times recordings were played for members to participate such as in the "Birdie Dance."



"Beatles" Band: Louise Zelodec, Mary Bostian, Mary Cesnik and Marie Azman, 1966.

CHARITABLE FUND RAISING

From 1932 to the present time there have been charitable fund raisers too numerous to itemize individually, however a few popular one were: card parties, reverse raffles and boutiques. The donations from these events were made to SWU sick members, Mary Mavec School for Retarded Children; Slovene Home For Aged; Holy Family Cancer Home; SWU Heritage Room in Joliet; ZARJA printing; Euclid Public Library; Hattie Larlham Foundation; Professor Edward Gobetz Research Foundation Center; American Home Publishing; Bishop Baraga Association and the Rosemary Home for Crippled Children.



Bake Sale Promoters, Mary Blatnik, Julie Sadar, Ann Tercek, 1991

Proceeds from one of the Cotillion Balls netted \$500.00 and the proceeds were presented to the Slovene Home For The Aged in Cleveland, Ohio. Frances Sietz (fifth from left) was the Chairperson for the event. Ann Tercek (eighth from left) President of Branch 50 and Mary Bositan (last person) National President, were on hand for the presentation.



Jean Krizman and Jennie Gorjanc at the USS Band Concert and Bake Off, 1981



Combined Cleveland Branches Bazaar was held at the Slovenian Home on Holmes Ave. Sept. 20, 1975: Mary Bostian #50, Julia Zak #32, Sophie Magajna #10, Beatrice Tomc #50. (children are unidentified.)

COTILLION BALL

Branch 50 was the only branch to conduct a Debutante Cotillion Ball each year. This was the favorite project of a very active member and officer, Frances Sietz. There were six Debutante Balls during these years.

Each year Slovenian Debs made their bow to society attired in lovely formal dresses and carrying a bouquet of flowers. Each Deb was escorted by her father with whom she shared the first dance.

MOTHERS OF THE YEAR

Every year since 1951, a member is chosen to be a Mother of the Year and a beautiful tribute is arranged by the members for her and her family.



Guests enjoying the COTILLION BALL are left to right: Judge August Pryatel, Albina Novak, Senator Frank Lausche, Antonia Turek, Mary Bostian; Standing: Corinne Leskovar, Tony Petkovsek, Mrs. Turk, and Edmond Turk



A Get-Together after the Ball, 1981: Mary Susnik, Marie Beck, Millie Pike, Frances Sietz, Irene Jagodnik, Irene Meden, Mary Bostian Corinne Leskovar, Ann Tercek, Sophie Magajna.



Parties for various holidays provide the theme for celebrations, such as the St. Patrick's Day meeting-social in 1989 with Ann Winter, Ann Tercek and Evelyn Pipoly.





Mother of the Year Ella Skoda with Cecelia Dolgan and Jane Berkopce, 1984.



Mother of the Year, Mary Petrich with her sisters, and right, with Rose Mary Marn and Jean Paik.



Mother of the Year, Molly, 1978

Mothers Party Photo

(from page 18)

On May 25, 1978, the Branch #50 held a tribute to Mothers of the Year at the Euclid Public Library. A number of former "Mothers" were in attendance and posed for the picture.

First row L to R: Marie Beck 1965, Mary Perusek 1974, Mary Petric 1973, Sophia Zagore 1962, Beatrice Tome 1970, Vicki Pianeck 1972, Marie Azman 1969; Second row L to R: Jean Tomsic 1975, Louise Voyko 1963, Ernestine Jevic 1964, Ann Kristoff 1971, Carole Traven 1967, Vi Zak 1976, Millie Pike 1978, Mary Cesnik 1977, Mary Susnik 1968, Agnes Trebar 1961 and Josephine Trunk 1957.



1980 Scholarship winner #50 receives her award from the Branch President. Left to right: Irene Jagodnik, Secretary; Frances Sietz, National Youth Director; Mary Bostian, National President; Dorothy Winter; Ann Marie Zak, recipient; Ann Tercek, President #50; Ann Winter, Recording Secretary; Vi Zak, Grandmother of Ann Marie (Zak) Klodor.



Nancy Tusek, recipient of an \$1,000 Scholarship receives her check from Pres. Ann Tercek. Looking on are her sister, Sue and mother, Dorothy Tusek. The girls are the granddaughters of Ann Dekleva.

S.W.U. HISTORY



The representatives of the Combined Ohio branches pose for this photo which advertised the "SWU Slovenian Day" held on Oct. 1st and 7th in 1965.

Sitting L to R: Marie Beck #50, Marie Azman #50. Standing L to R: Mary Susnik #50, Josephine Turk #73, Alouise Epley #73, Mary Bostian #50, Rose Zelodec #50, Mary Cesnik #50, Sophie Zagore #50, Louise Azman #50, Ann Dekleva #50.



Combined Branches of Cleveland are represented for this photo. *L to R: Marie Beck #50, Vera Bajec, #14, Irene Jagodnik, #50, Ann Tercek #50 (Ohio-Michigan State Resident), Cirila Kermavner, #25, National Vice President, Stella Dancull #21, Josephine Comenshek, #32.*



Installation of New Officers, 1984: Dorothy, Rose Mary Toth, Albina Mrsnik, Betty Debelak



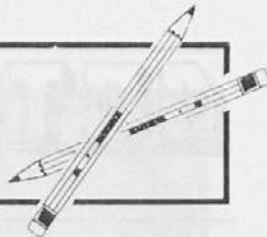
Initiation of New Members at a meeting.



National Convention Committee of Combined Branches, 1969

MORE
ABOUT
BR. 50
IN THE
NEXT ISSUE

SLOVENIAN PEN PAL EXCHANGE



To American youth of Slovenian descent, youth coordinators, parents, grandparents, relatives and friends of the S.W.U.

I am happy to report that correspondence is happening as a result of the list of names printed in two issues of ZARJA. Krissi Jones of Twinsburg, Ohio wrote to two young people on the list, and has become "great friends" with them. Mrs. Mary Ann Blakeley wrote from Euclid, Ohio "My children and I were very excited to see the beginning of a pen pal exchange in the July-August 1991 edition of ZARJA. Their first letters to children on the list are already in the mail. Thank you very much for sharing a wonderful idea with us."

I would love to hear from some of the other youth on the list. What do you think of the Slovenian Pen Pal Exchange? Have you made a new friend?

St. Nicholas made a special visit with me a couple days ago to tell me how exciting the Slovenian Pen Pal Exchange has been for those youth who have made the effort so far to write. He also told me that Andrea, Monica and Mark Selak from Girard, Ohio read, write and speak Slovenian. He asked that Mark and Monica keep writing in Slovenian to their relatives in Slovenia and he will reward them with special luck throughout their lives. He also made a special request for Andrea Selak of Girard, Ohio and Lydica Millonig of Washington, DC to write to each other in Slovenian. St. Nicholas told me Andrea and Lydica were destined to become friends through the Slovenian Pen Pal Exchange. Andrea and Lydica, it's worth a try.

St. Nicholas also said that many of the parents, grandparents and friends of the SWU had young relatives in

Slovenia or here in the US who would like to correspond either in Slovenian or English, but they keep procrastinating about giving me their names. He gave me a long look and said "people have been putting off small tasks for centuries, and they never get done. Sometimes years ago by and they never get done because the person passes on." He told me that all those who contribute to this exchange will experience a reward in heaven that is specially reserved for those who made an effort to preserve their Slovenian heritage by sharing with their loved ones the gift of joy and potential friendship. This surprise visit carried a profound message that really warmed my heart.

Send in a youth's address (see end of article) or share this information and have one of your relatives or friends pick at least one of the young people on the list and write a letter or postcard introducing themselves. I'm counting on all the ZARJA readers to share this with their young family members and friends.

To have a young relative or friend on the next list to be published in ZARJA, please send the name, age and address of the young person to me today. Also, please send names of young relatives in Slovenia, ages 6-16 who could correspond with American young people of Slovenian descent in either Slovenian or English.

Please write or call:

Bernadette J. Kovacic, Youth Director
13657 Cedar Creek Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 989-4643

Želim vsem

blagoslovljene božične praznike

in zdravo in srečno novo leto 1992!!!



At the Nat'l Convention Farewell Reception on Sunday, May 19, 1991, Cirila Kermavner, Bernadette Kovacic and Evelyn Majercik enjoyed a lasting hug.

ACTIVITIES

NO. 1, SHEBOYGAN, WI

Branch No. 1 will have a Christmas Party at the Grand Hotel Centre, 723 Center Ave. in the Garden Cafe Room, December 17 at 6 p.m. We have our regular meeting after the dinner with election of officers. For reservations call Ruth 452-8251, Janet 458-8766 or Aggie 452-8808 before December 10. Dinner is off the menu.

Get well wishes to Mary Udovich, Mary Turk, Dorothy Behnke and Agnes Scheible. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Dorothy and Aggie will be out visiting the shut-ins during the Christmas Holidays.

Please remember to pay your 1992 dues.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the members and families.

AGGIE and DOROTHY

NO. 2, CHICAGO, IL

Our October meeting was dedicated to the memory of our late Recording Secretary, Gloria (Novak) Nusko. Her husband, Ray made a beautiful memorial, with 13 red carnations (for the children and 1 white carnation) around her wedding picture. Fran Morison read a very touching prayer, our flag was draped, and we all stood and prayed that Gloria will rest in peace; she will be remembered and missed by everyone. Corinne Leskovar thanked everyone for their kindness extended to the family during the time when it was needed so much.

Meeting discussions:

1. Election of officers — Jean Hrstar has agreed to continue with Gloria's job and she was also elected for the office. The other officers will remain the same.

2. **New Meeting Hours** — please note! 7:00 P.M.

3. November 14 — **Penny Social** — 7:00 P.M. Theme "ROCK & ROLL"

4. December 7 — "Grandma's Children Christmas Party — 12:00 — 4:00 P.M.

5. December 8 — "Advent Tea" — after all Masses.

6. December 12 — Adult Christmas Party — Anniversary Mass 6:30 P.M.

7. Mary Ann Oblak gave the report on Convention. Thank you, members of Bradley, for the excellent job and also for your hospitality. Much success is extended to Romaine O'Brien, new State President. Let's all plan to attend the next convention in 1992 in LaSalle.

8. Remember the "Cheer Basket"

9. Market Day — it helps St. Stephen's Church.

Congratulations to Corinne Leskovar; she was honored by the Baraga Assoc. at the "Woman of the Year" in Washington, D.C.

October 26, Slovenian Radio Club celebrated the 41st Anniversary of the Slovenian Radio Program in Chicago. Our Kati Gaber was "Miss Slovenian Day." She read the proclamation from Mayor Daley stating that Oct. 26 was Slovenian Day in Chicago. Mihaela (Arko) Simrayh was honored as the person who contributed the most over the years to promote the Slovenian culture. The Triglav Dancers came from London, Ontario, Canada and music was by the "Alpine Sextet" from Cleveland. Little children of our Chicago area performed in their narodna noša outfits and they were great. The ladies prepared delicious meals.

Oct. 30 a Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Bernardin and concelebrated by priests of Croatian and Slovenian descent for Peace in the troubled homeland. We pray that peace will be restored soon. Please continue to write your elected officials and let them know how you feel. Remember election is coming, they will want your vote.

Our condolences to Julie Petrich and Frances Brencic on the loss of their mother, our member Marija Brencic. Also, to Stella Gorka on the loss of her sister, Josephine Abati. At the end of October Maria Rigler's father, Jacob Strazishar passed away and we sorrowfully accompanied Mici Krapenc to her eternal resting place on Nov. 4th. Our sincere condolences and please remember them in your prayers, that they will rest in peace.

Please pray for our sick: Bo Zubeck,

Anna Gaber, Percy Morison, Anna Sarn, Father Kalist and to all our home-bound members who cannot attend our meetings.

Congratulations, another little boy has arrived! "Matthew Richard Cacer" is his name and Grandma is Donna Cacer. To Great-Grandma Elsie Cizek, special wishes!

NOTE: The week-end of **January 18-19, 1992** will be Mini Baraga Days at St. Stephen's. St. Stephen's school children will participate. Mass will be at 11:30 followed by dinner at the Hall. Keep the date open and please try to attend.

Hope everyone has a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's pray that 1992 will be a Peaceful Year.

VSEM ČLANICAM IN ČLANOM
SŽŽ ŽELIMO VESELE BOŽIČNE
PRAZNIKE IN SREČNO IN
ZADOVOLJNO NOVOLETO 1992.

Love,
DAISY

NO. 3, PUEBLO, CO

Oh, how the time flies! When you get this issue of the Zarja, we will be in the month of December.

Our meeting in October was well attended and Mary Drobnick, Vice-President, filled in for Anne Spelich, President, who was ill. We wish Anne a speedy recovery.

Refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. Reports were given and approved. The mystery gift donated by Jessie Koshak was won by Mary Tekavec.

Our sick list includes the following and we wish them all a speedy recovery: Ann Boitz, Cathy Starcevic, her husband John, Frances Zaletel, Betty Hund and Lillian Kastelic. Erma Drobnick is recuperating from injuries incurred in an automobile accident in which her husband and grandson were also injured. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Don't forget — our meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church Hall.

PAULINE PAUCHICK

Beverly Meets the Congressman!

Beverly Jackson, SWU Vice Pres. attended a Board of Directors' meeting of the California Congress of Republicans recently in Fresno and there had the opportunity of meeting Congressman Tom Campbell with whom she discussed the Independence of Slovenia movement. Congr. Campbell represents the 12th District in California which includes Santa Clara County and portions of San Mateo County. He is very sympathetic to Slovenia and Croatia and has supported bills in the U.S. Congress to help both republics.

At this time, Congressman Campbell is working on several new bills to help our people. Beverly says he will keep them informed on these bills. She is happy to report that the Slovenian and Croatian people have a true friend in Congressman Campbell and she will be working to help elect him to the U.S. Senate in 1992.



NO. 12, MILWAUKEE, WI

On a balmy, very warm day we had a nice group of ladies at the meeting. Refreshments without calories! We sure are blessed with generous members and good bakers.

A report on the Sheboygan convention and a thank you note from the young people who entertained us was read. Money left over from the bus was sent to them and we hope they will continue their heritage.

Our branch will host the State Convention next year, so a date will have to be picked and hope it will not conflict with other doings.

Our Christmas Party will be at Meyers Family Restaurant on 60th and Forest Home Ave. on Dec. 5, 12:00 p.m. noon so get in touch with Mary Dezman. No meeting in December.

Mary Debelak had surgery and now is at Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Hospital. By the time you read this she should be home.

On a sad note, we heard that Caroline Mammaert lost her daughter, Carol, at age 46 in July. The week before she made a big party for her mom's birthday. We extend our sympathy to the family.

Our spring Card Party will be April 12, 1992 at John's Hall. So, save this date.

We sang Happy Birthday to all who were celebrating.

Sophie Rozman is not up to par. So hurry and get well.

Ann Paulin and her husband, Tony will be celebrating 50 yrs of marriage in November. Congratulations! Ann

looks like a teenager! How do you do it, Ann!

To all our shut-ins we wish you sunny days and to all, stay healthy.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

MARY KIEL

NO. 13, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

I cannot believe it is the end of the year and we are preparing for the holidays. We got back to our meetings in September and in October we had our annual Pot Luck Dinner. There were 48 people and a wonderful evening it was. Ann Sustarich won the hand-crocheted afghan made by this reporter.

We will be having our Christmas party at noon on Dec. 5th. Please bring an exchange gift so that you can join in the fun.

Vice President Louise Petrusich spent two "beautiful weeks" in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. She really enjoyed attending Mass at St. Mary's Church and says the addition of the new church is very impressive. Her grandchildren attend school there and Lynn Shaffer is a junior member of ours. Louise's friends, Lloyd and Joyce Kurkowski took her to see La Salle, Spring Valley, and Utica, and spent the day at Starved Rock State Park. Beautiful day walking around the trails with all the autumn colors. They had a lovely lunch at the well-known lodge there. Lloyd was born and raised in La Salle and now lives in Glenview with his family. Louise is truly looking forward to spending

the holidays in Buffalo Grove again.

I am very saddened to report the death of Sophie Troya's husband, Rudy. Rudy was the President of the Board of Directors of the Slovenian Hall for 40 years, a job he took great pride in. This is a very dedicated and hard working family. Rudy's mother, Mary Troya, was a charter member of SWU and Sophie's mother, Mary Klepec was also a member. Sophie and sister, Ann Nanut have both been honored as Mothers of the Year; and daughter, Carol is a member, too. There isn't anyone who can't think of Sophie without thinking of Strudels and Poticas. She excels in them. Our prayers and love go out to Sophie and her family. Ann Nanut's husband, Joe has also had a difficult time with illness. He is doing better with our prayers, I know. Another very dedicated, hard-working couple. God bless you both, Ann and Joe.

Get well wishes to Rudy Sustarich, husband of auditor, Virginia.

President, Josephine Aiuto's husband, Vince has been in Laguna Honda for a year and half. Jo has had a "very rough road" for many months but she never fails to have a smile and kind word. She's been our president for 17 years and never misses a meeting. She knows she has much love and support from all of us, but especially from her wonderful daughter, Michele and son-in-law, Dennis. We do love you, Jo and our prayers go to Vince.

Some members on the sick list are: Mary Panovich, Ann Vercelli, Tillie Kambic, Mary Ancel and Mary Wraa. We miss you, ladies, and send wishes

to anyone else I may have forgotten:

On a joyful note... I was proud to participate in the celebration of Dora and Alec Simenc's 40th Wedding Anniversary. A most beautiful day started with Mass at the Church of the Nativity. Dora's brother, Fr. John Sustaric and Fr. John Mihovilovich celebrated the mass and her five children had a wonderful dinner and party following in the church hall. Thirteen grandchildren presented a loving story and poster to them. Alec has been choir director, and organist at our church 40 years. Dora teaches Slovenian lessons and works so hard for our church. We recently made her "citizen of the year"! This couple is a perfect example of dedication and love of church, home, family and each other. I am proud to call them friends. We are blessed to have them in our church and Dora, daughters and granddaughters in SWU. Many more years of happiness to you both!

As 1991 comes to a close, I feel Br. 13 has had a productive and fun year. There is much sadness among our members, but they always bring a smile and joy to our meetings. I am personally grateful to Br. 13 for my opportunity to attend the National Convention. It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life and I have made some wonderful friends. Of all the gifts I received, a new friend is the most treasured.

A very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Healthy New Year.

BEVERLY JACKSON

NO. 14, EUCLID, OH

Riding through the countryside we can see the trees and shrubs ablaze with vivid colors. Nature made up for the drought we experienced this summer by giving us this brilliant display.

It's Christmas Party Time! Members are invited to bring a guest along to join in the fun on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 at Slovenian Society Home on Recher Avenue. Members are requested to bring along door prizes if you can of \$3 to \$5 in value. Our holiday dinners are always filled with excellent home-cooked meals and give us all a chance to meet new people and visit with old friends. Our entertainment committee has been hard at work to make this a memorable evening for all. Call in your reservation to Vera Bajec at 481-7473 or Martha Koren 585-4227.

40TH WEDDING



Mr. & Mrs. Alec Simenc

Our October meeting wound up with an array of deserts of all kinds brought by Ilene Collins as a treat for the members before she and husband Jay, take off for the warm climate of Florida for the winter. Bon Voyage Ilene and Jay!

President Marty and Ed Koren took off immediately after the October meeting for a week then went on to explore at their leisure Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Welcome back from your much needed vacation!

Let's close out this year by paying up all dues owed. Send to Secretary Diane Varney, 1155 Easton Dr., Akron, Ohio 44310. Phone number is 1-923-4034.

May your Christmas Season be blessed with love and joy! And may the New Year 1992 bring you and yours peace, happiness and health!

ALICE KUJAR



NO. 17, WEST ALLIS, WI

Regrettably, our beautiful fall season came to an end, as the winter season has begun with the anticipation of the Christmas holidays. This brings me to mention our annual business meeting and Christmas social on Sun. Dec. 16th at 2 p.m.

We will have the distribution of gifts to the children and a \$2.50 gift exchange among the members. Santa's helpers will be on hand to distribute the gift exchange; refreshments and an assortment of bakery and goodies will be served which will make our social festive with the holiday spirit. Bakery and goodies will be greatly appreciated. Many thanks in advance to our generous ladies who bake for many of our functions and especially at Christmas. Again, a big "Thank You"!

The Imperl family surely had a string of bad luck lately. Colletta Imperl, who has a liver ailment and is diabetic, was at St. Mary's Hospital and received 3 blood transfusions. She is now home convalescing. Cecelia's husband, Edward Quigley had a stroke and prostate surgery and is home now recuperating. Frank Imperl had 2 heart attacks as is also recuperating at home.

Mary Pauc is at Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center. She had the misfortune of breaking her hip and is adjusting quite well at the Center. A speedy recovery to all the above mentioned and to all our sick and shut-ins. May the Good Lord restore good health to them soon.

A very blessed and happy Christmas holiday to all and a Happy New Year.

And, in Slovenian, Vam vsem zelimo vesele bozicne praznike in srečno novo leto!

FRAN PIWONI

NO. 20, JOLIET, IL

I must commend Vera Ancel Muir for her "Statement of S.W.U. Ideology," on the cover of the October Issue of the Zarja. It says it all. They are statements we should all live by and try to uphold to set an example to others. Thank you for words well said.

Before we know it Christmas will be upon us. We will be scurrying to get everything done for the Holiday season. The S.W.U. Museum has

lovely Christmas cards in Slovenian and in English. Jonita Ruth is at the Home Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. The funds go toward supporting the Museum.

Congratulations to: The Goldmans - mother, Lou Ann had a lovely baby boy and Ann Stefanic is the proud grandmother.

Shirley Dzurko was recognized by "The Herald News" for 23 years of service as a crossing guard. She's a mom on the corner, and all the children love her.

The S.W.U. IL-IN State Convention has selected Romaine O'Brien as the new Regional President. Congratulations to you, Romaine, from Branch 20. Members who attended were Olga Ancel, Mildred Pucel, Joyce Vicich, Mary Anzelc, Jean Prijatelj, Jo Lustik, Helen Plut, Ann Kobe, Lorraine Lange, Charlene Kobe.

Patricia Ann Horwath and Robert Anthony Rambo were married Sept. 21, at St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville. Congratulations to the happy couple, happiness always.

Get well wishes for a speedy recovery: Phyllis Mutz, Shirley Dzurko and Walter Lustik.

Condolences to the families and friends of: Rose Pasdertz on the loss of her son, John, and to Betty Sholp, his sister.

Amalia Molek family on the loss of Amalia.

The Malone family on the loss of Josephine.

The Jevitz family and friends on the loss of their mother, Lottie D. (Charlotte), a 57yr. member. Her daughters are members as well as her son, Lottie's husband, John, who preceeded lotte), a 57 year member. Her daughters are members as well as her son, Lottie's husband, John, who preceeded her in death, was a very strong supporter of S.W.U. and a very active member. He was a very good speaker and spoke for S.W.U. many times. He was active in helping out a functions when needed.

Marie Malnarick (Metesh) Branch 20's, Sargeant-at-Arms passed away, always there to help. Her funeral Mass was beautiful. The children of St. Joseph School sang at her funeral and all the children attended her Mass. It was a great tribute to Marie, whom they loved so much, and she, in return, loved them. Marie was very active at St. Joseph School in the library, and enjoyed mothering the children. She

Members not forgotten!

No. 20 — Joliet, IL — Remember the saying, "Behind every successful man is a woman."

Lottie Jevitz was that lovely, gracious woman. She manifested her love, energy, perseverance and patience as her husband, John pursued an active role in politics, in the St. Joseph Church Slovenian choir, and various fraternal groups, especially our local Branch no. 20 and the cadets.

At the age of 87, Lottie entered the kingdom of heaven and was reunited with husband, John.

Because of John's love and devotion to the Slovenian Women's Union, Lottie was one of our dearest supporters between the years.

It is said, that she daily wore her "Zveza" pin over her heart, because she loved us dearly. And as it was destined to be, this precious jewel accompanied her to the great beyond.

We are grateful, Lottie, and to your family our deepest sympathy.

* * *

On Friday, October 15, the gates of heaven opened for Marie Malnarick. For the many who knew her, her epitaph will read "Mother of none, Mother to all."

Because she loved children, she spent hours and days at St. Joseph School as assistant librarian. This gave her the opportunity to live life and feel young again.

A fitting final tribute was presented at the funeral Mass from the people she loved the most... husband Steven, her family, Fr. David Stalzer, Fr. Bernard, the school children and her beloved Slovenian Women's Union.

Slovenian Women's Union was

was always there to help them. Her dear friend, Fr. David Stalzer, our spiritual leader, offered the mass, in her honor. Marie, we will miss you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

May the God Lord bless you all — and may all our deceased members rest in peace.

Dates to Remember: **Dec. 15** — Sunday Brunch at Town & Country West 1-55 and Jefferson St. Cocktails at 11 a.m. cash bar — Brunch 12 noon. The price per person is \$10.00



Marie Malnarick

deeply etched in her heart. Her involvement began way back in 1940 as a cadet in the Joliet Drill Team. She continued her interest by being an officer in the local branch and spent hours in the Heritage Room preserving the culture and heritage of the Slovenian people. On many festive occasions Marie proudly wore the Slovenian costume she herself made.

Her attitude in life was positive and hopeful and displayed the rare gift of giving. Unbeknown to many, she was afflicted with Lupus for over 40 years. She was an inspiration to all as she believed there is always a tomorrow.

We'll be thinking of you, Marie. May God give you the fullness of eternal life.

MILDRED PUCEL

which includes tax and gratuity. A \$5.00 gift exchange is optional. For Reservations call chairperson, Ardis Gregorash 725-7893 or Co-Chairperson Ann Dragovan 726-1345. Let's get together this holiday season and spread the Christmas spirit. — See ya' there.

January 19 — Sunday, 1992, Meeting at St. Joseph's Park at 1 p.m. We will have the installation of 1992-officers. A buffet dinner will follow provided by the 1991 officers.

ANN M. DRAGOVAN

Is the hurricane season of activity over? Not hardly, but as for me, I'm looking forward to the dull months of January and February: I'll survive on the memories of the dedication of St. Joseph's new hall/gym on Oct. 5 by Bishop Imesch in the morning and a gala dinner-dance at night. Back from Sun City, AZ. to be a part of all this (and enjoying themselves immensely) were Mayme Drassler and her sister Mathilde Beham. Mayme sporting two new knees that work beautifully.

Early the next morning (and proud to initiate the use of the new facility), Br. 22 was busy welcoming guests to the IL-IN State Convention for coffee and rolls, including our faithful Br. 22 members from Indiana, Rose Barothy and daughter Mary Anne. Some ten guests came in native dress; the sight of such colorful costumes and varied avbas stirred emotions and pride in our Slovenian heritage and for our parishioners, an unexpected rare view of the Old Country. Our thanks to Pres. Marge Planton, Sec. Helen Sebastiani, and Ann Richards for assuming 99% of the Convention preparation and doing it so efficiently.

Mollie Starasinich, Elizabeth Kinder and daughter Anne were fully prepared to host the Branch meeting in October when Mollie required emergency hospitalization. What to do? Follow Helen Sebastiani's example - open your heart and your home. Thank you, Helen and the Starasinich family, for a fine afternoon.

We meet again December 8, with a buffet dinner at Davidson's, Route 17W, followed by meeting in Mollie McIntyre's home, Mayme Drassler hosting.

Congratulations to John Lustig on his 90th birthday on Oct. 23. He still has a lively step to his walk!

We pray for God's blessings of healing for our sick members. They have the faith, a faith so wonderfully expressed by British author M. Louise Haskins: "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the new year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown,' and he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'" These are words to ponder upon come the last remaining days of '91 and "the gate of '92". God's blessings of Faith to all, this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

EMMA LUSTIG

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

- 19 — Theresa Krall (91)
62-yr member
20 — Lottie Jevitz (87)
53-yr member
Marie Malnarick (66)
19-yr member
Amalia Molek (70)
23-yr member
Josephine Malone (69)
27-yr member
31 — Ivanka Kovac (79)
40-yr member
74 — Mary Grandovic (80)
55-yr member
Charter Member

NO. 23, ELY, MN

Our meeting started with a prayer for all deceased husbands, especially for John Feroni who passed on suddenly last week -- his wife, Olga, being a member.

Election of officers for 1992 took quite a bit of time, but finally came up with the following: President, Marcy Zupc; Vice Pres., Rosemarie Buckner; Secretary, Jane Yadlosky; Treasurer, Mary Folio; Auditors, Rose Novak, Margaret Deyak and Olga Feroni; Reporter, Jane Yadlosky.

Plans for the annual Christmas dinner were finalized with the majority voting to have Britton's Cafe do the catering. The choices will be stuffed pork chop or baked chicken/dressing. The calling committee will be calling all members to get reservations. The Committee members for this December 9 dinner are: Rose Pucel, Theresa Zaverl, Rose Lobe, Darlene Nemanich, Bill Slogar, Gert Mosnik, Rosemarie Buckner, Dorothy Popesh and Mary Ravnarik. --- See you there!

Members were urged to try to get new members to join and forms are available from Ann Saari or Mary Folio.

Our meeting was a week late as the heavy snowfall last week caused many cancellations of meetings and ours was with them -- yes, they say this snowfall was record-breaking, and I do believe it! Some drifts in our backyard were over eight feet high.

A reminder for dues, which can be paid at the Christmas party, if you haven't taken care of them, was given by President, Ann Saari. Door prize went to Dorothy Popesh.

Dawn Club -- Ely, MN

The Dawn Club meeting was held before we had the SWU meeting and we started with a prayer for deceased husbands of all the members. A nice card from Annette Marn was read.

Laughter filled the hall when Dorothy Popesh read a few jokes, which really relaxed the members. There were 38 members present, and Ann Stupnik won the door prize.

A lovely lunch was served (a pumpkin dessert) with all the trimmings of Halloween and "Fall" -- the table was decorated with a cute snowman, all glittering and orange scarf 'n all -- so appropriate for the weather this evening, as it was snowing again, too. Lunch committee for this evening were: Helen Theno, Sally Davidson, Mary Petritz, Roselyn Perko and Angie Godec.

January lunch committee members will be: Rose Kozar, Mary Gotchnik, Mary Mavetz, Julie Hegfors and Evelyn Prijatelj. ---

Have a Nice Thanksgiving!

JANE YADLOSKY

NO. 24, LA SALLE, IL

There were nine members present at the October meeting. Adele Gensler, delegate, gave an excellent report of the Illinois-Indiana State Convention hosted by Branch 22 of Bradley. Anne Wangler, Minnie Carter and Theresa Savnik also were in attendance. We were very impressed with the cooperation of the Bradley members who, though small in membership did such a great job of hosting the convention. We left home in drizzling rain but as the Convention progressed the day grew brighter and we returned home in brilliant sunlight. We registered at the lovely new St. Joseph's Hall which was blessed by Bishop Imesch of Joliet the day before, participated in Mass at St. Joseph's Church where Pastor Rev. Joseph Butters made us feel so proud to be Slovenians, we joined in singing with the choir and heard in uplifting homily by one of the Parish Deacons. A delicious dinner was served at the Moose Lodge and the meeting was well-organized and convention business went along smoothly. We will

benefit from many of the good ideas shared that day. A new State President was elected. Romaine O'Brien. Before the meeting was adjourned, Branch 24 extended an invitation to all to come to La Salle in 1992 to the next convention. Most of us were lucky and took home prizes -- this adds to the fun of the day. Thank you Margaret Planton and all members of Br. 22 for a great time in Bradley!

Anne Serri, Treasurer reported on the "Bakeless Bake Sale" which is coming along nicely. We hope you will all participate. Ten 50-year members, Marian Borisek, Barbara Cass, Ann Cassidy, Gail Hoffman, Evelyn Kastigar, Terese Kinczewski, Irene Mauser, Audrey Prokuski, Rita Mae Pyszka and Marie Terselic were honored at dinner on Sunday November 3 at the Paramount Club. All were not able to be present but Frances Puetz accepted for her sister Marie Terselic, and greetings were read from Irene Mauser of Omaha, NB.

Helen Gorgal has sold her home and moved to Moline, IL to live with her son, Allen and family. Olga Fritz has sold her home and will now reside with daughter, Diane Sandin and her family in Seabrook, TX. Both have been active members and will be missed at our meetings and activities.

Several members have been hospitalized -- Theresa Wellner had surgery at Illinois Valley Community Hospital and is recovering at home. Theresa is the Parish Secretary as well as an Organist at Resurrection Parish as well as a soloist and we're all anxious to have her back with us. Mary Ann Potthoff had more knee surgery at IVCH and is now recuperating at St. Margaret's Nursing Center where she is receiving therapy. We hope she will be with us soon. Anna Lushina was a patient at IVCH and is now at Carelenn Nursing Home as is Marie Terselic. We pray for a return to good health and better days for all our sick and shut-in members.

Our sympathy is extended to Olga Fritz and her family whose sister Anne Butler of New Jersey passed away on October 27 and whose funeral Mass was at Resurrection Church on October 30. She is survived by her husband, Ray, and daughter and son-in-law, Lynn and Rudy Ferentchak, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild, of new Providence, NJ. May God grant her Eternal Rest.

We usually have our first meeting of the year in March, but may call a special meeting earlier to get or-

ganized for the Convention in October. We hope we can count on all of you to help us do a good job at that time.

I wish each and everyone of you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 1992.

ANNE WANGLER, Reporter

NO. 25, CLEVELAND, OH

It has been sometime since our branch had an article in ZARJA. It is hard to get a reporter, so I do the writing. I know it is not A-OK, but, well, what is nowadays? Please bear with me. At least you get some news from our area, from our part of the city -- St. Vitus, where a lot of your grandparents and parents had their roots.

Our area is not as bad as some would like to make it. We can still walk on the streets during the day and early evening hours. Car thieves, purse snatchers? They are everywhere anyway. If they like it, they take it! And, it does not matter where you are. One of these days we will all have to rebel and say, "it's enough!"

During the summer, we did not have any meetings. The "heat" keeps us away from discussing important business.

In our midst we had a tragic loss, a lovely young mother, Amelia 'Molly' Kozina Stefančič gave life to twin boys, healthy, cute babies, but her life was taken away. Only God knows why things like this happen. Deepest sympathy to the Kozina and Stefančič families.

Heartfelt sympathy to Ivanka Stupica on the loss of her sister, Lojzka. Deepest sympathy also to Andrean Streck on the loss of her mother, Angela Kavchnik and Bart Lanchmann on the loss of his mother, Annie Knaus. God rest their souls and give them eternal peace.

Some of our ladies visited surgeons and doctors recently. We wish them all better health in the future. Listen, Jennie Strumbel, Josie Mohorčič, Mary F. Turk, Eva Stransky, Angela Kovach, Linda Plecnik, Jennie Fenc! If I did not list any more sick ladies, it's because nobody told me about you. God keep you all!

Hello to the ladies in Homes: Jennie Kusan and Angela Zeleznik.

Now, we have a happier note to sing! We are going to sing Happy Birthday to Megan Chrzanowski,

John Kermavner, Sr., Lynne Chrzanowski, Cecelia J. Kermavner, Josie Mohorčič, Derek Chrzanowski and also to everybody else! "Živijo, na zdravje!"

Ladies, don't forget, in January we have to have a dollar more, so when you are paying your dues, please add a dollar. Thank you!

With the holidays approaching, be careful, be happy, enjoy life and have a blessed Christmas in the embrace of all your loved ones.

And, lastly, don't forget SLOVENIA! Pray for her!

CIRILA KERMAVNER

**Success
With
Unity**

**Membership
Campaign
is now on!**

NO. 26, PITTSBURGH, PA

A nice showing for our October 21st meeting. 33 members were in attendance. We have a good deal of business to discuss and many announcements were sent by the Home Office. Agnes Widina, our president, stated that the members were urged to find new members, daughters, granddaughters, and nieces -- all are welcome. We now take boys in as members, too.

A date was set for our Christmas party Dec. 9th at 7 p.m. We would like to see a great group of women attend. We will have beautiful prizes donated by our branch. The attendants do not need to bring gifts as we are not exchanging any.

We also voted on a "Mother of the Year" for 1992 and a beautiful person was chosen, Mary Slaney. For her kindness, faithfulness and dedication for so many years, Mary is our choice. Congratulations!

We had no birthdays this month, so no Sing-a-long was needed. "B" was played and delicious refreshments were served. A Halloween treat was enjoyed by all, donated by financial secretary, M. Slaney.

I hope to have more news after our No. 18th meeting. Come one and all and try to bring an inactive member or a new member, so we can plan for a great year ahead. God's blessing to all.

JANE LYNCH
Rec. Secretary



Al and Jo Comenshek on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

On August 30, 1991, Albert and Josephine Comenshek celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They had a family gathering that began with Holy Mass at St. Christine's church followed by a dinner at Sterle's Country House.

Sons, Jerry and Robert and grandson, Robert, along with their wives and many relatives and friends join in extending their best wishes for good health and happiness for many years to come.

Jo just retired as secretary of Br. 32, a position she has held for many years. Br. 32 will miss her a lot, for she was always a hard working and dependable officer, the kind that are the mainstay of our organization.

We know that Jo's guidance in branch activities will always be welcome!

NO. 32, EUCLID, OH

In Oct., Br. 32 members attended mass at St. Christine's Church for our deceased and living members. It was well attended by the members.

Pres. Dorothy Lamm called the meeting to order. V. Pres. Ceal Znidar, was absent as she is ill.

Our Chinese Auction in Sept. was very successful. Thanks to all who worked and attended the affair. Our next Auction will be even better as we know now what to expect and what has to be done. Thanks to Faye Starman, who suggested this fund raising affair. Faye was diligent and we appreciate hard work and that of our members.

Many thanks go out to our Ohio-Mich. Regional Pres., Ann Tercek, for the many years of hard work she did as president. We wish her well. We hope she will be able to enjoy her retirement. Congratulations to Evelyn Majercik, for being our new Regional Ohio-Mich. president. She did a great job with the Nat'l Convention. She will be a great Regional President.

Thanks to our guards and members that attended the mass and meeting at the Regional conference.

We had election of officers at our Nov. meeting. Dec. 18 we will have our meeting and Christmas party. Members may bring a \$3.00 exchange gift with the theme of Christmas. There will also be a donation box for St. Augustine's Church, to feed the hungry. Members may do whatever

they choose or not at all. Guests will pay \$3.00 for the Christmas party. Please try to attend these last two meetings this year.

Congratulations to our hard working Pres. Dorothy Lamm; she will be honored as Woman of the Year representing Slovene Society Home in 1992.

Mary Zakrajsek's son, Jim and wife, June presented Mary with a granddaughter in Aug. Mary now has eight grandchildren, one being a step grandchild. Congratulations to all and may they have a healthy, happy family.

People on the go: Dorothy was in Nashville, Tenn. Dorothy enjoyed the Western style of life very much. Charlotte Perdan and husband, Rudy vacationing at Myrtle Beach for a week before the cold weather sets in. Group leaving for Las Vegas this month for five days are Dorothy and Bob Lamm, Esther and Zani Garbincus, Jean McNulty and Fran and Frank Ogoreuc. Hope all have a good time and are lucky.

Get well wishes to all our sick members. Carmella Carotenuto was in the hospital for three weeks in July. Hope that by now Carmella is well on her way to recovery.

Happy birthday to all. Our members, Mary Zakrajsek and Josephine Comenshek were at the meeting to celebrate their birthdays. Dorothy and Bob Lamm, celebrated their 39th anniversary on Oct. 4. Happy Anniversaries to all members! May they have many more with good health and happiness.

After the meeting refreshments

were served by our hostesses, Esther Garbincus and Josephine Gornik. We celebrated Halloween.

Time to check your dues book to make sure your dues are paid up for 1991 as 1992 is just around the corner for the new year dues. Please try to attend the meeting.

Safe, happy and healthy holidays to all.

FRANCES OGOREUC

NO. 33, DULUTH, MN

We had 46 members at our Oct. 2 Dinner.

Meeting at Confetti's, Shari Bucar did her usual "good job" with prizes and arrangements.

Dec. 4 will be our Annual Meeting, Christmas Party, Penny Social.

Fran Kusanovich won attendance prizes.

Prayers of sympathy for families of two members who died in October: Mary Bucar, 70, (9 year member); and Mary (Mae) Del Zotto, 79 (42 year member).

Our thoughts and prayers to any sick members and in nursing homes.

Remember, dues are increased and add a \$1.00 for Funeral Fund.

Trip planned to Fannie Hill Dinner Theatre at Eau Claire, WI.

Happy Holidays to all!

LOIS PELANDER, Reporter

**Christ's birth brought the
infinite God within
reach of finite man.**

Acknowledging S.W.U.

Dear Ms. Ancel:

Thank you for sending me the resolution which passed at the national convention of the Slovenian Women's Union of America in May. I am glad we agree on these fundamentally important values.

There is no question that traditional family values have been the core of American morality and strength. Over recent years, we have witnessed the erosion of values which were taken for granted only a short time ago. Clearly, the time has come to recognize the tremendous contribution traditional family values have had in societal advancement and progress.

Children are the future of this great nation. If we do not teach them these values, who else will? We all have a duty to provide a good education and a safe home for every child.

I commend you and the Slovenian Women's Union on your efforts and, as your Congressman, will work to promote family values. Again, thank you for contacting me and please let me know your thoughts on other issues of concern to you.

Sincerely,

*George E. Sangmeister
Member of Congress
4th District of Illinois*

At the suggestion of our very thoughtful National Secretary, Olga Ancel, here's something for every member to do!

Photocopy the cover of ZARJA, October, 1991 issue, and send it with a message to your elected officials, underlining the points brought up in the Statement of Ideology. We sometimes think that our wishes and hopes are not worthy of anyone's special attention, but Olga and her family think that our politicians should hear these words from time to time to give them the strength to do the best for our Christian population living in the United States.

With the world crisis as it is, and the harm that is being done in our own country by crime, plague, apathy, maybe we, you and us, can make a difference.

This Christmas, do something for all of us!

Form letter you can send to your elected public officials with a copy of our "Statement of Ideology."

Dear Sir,

At our national convention in May of this year, held in Ohio, the officers and delegates felt the passage of the attached resolution is most important to the future of our country.

Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you would do all in your power to involve yourself in the promotion and passage of laws protecting the future and morality of our younger generation.

Your efforts on behalf of said generation will be truly blessed by God.

Sincerely,

A TRIBUTE TO HERMINE DICKE

When the Slovenian immigrant arrived in America, she often carried with her little more than her dreams. One of those dreams was that in America her children would have the opportunities she never had in Slovenia — opportunities to attain a college education, to achieve financial success, to enjoy independence.

Hermine Dicke realized that for many Americans of Slovenian descent the dream of providing those opportunities for their children would remain just a dream. Hermine realized that one of the ways members of the Slovenian Women's Union could support each other was to offer financial support to the young members of the Slovenian Women's Union so that the dream of a college education could become a reality.

Hermine Dicke worked hard for more than 25 years to help make those dreams come true. She continued the SWU Scholarship Program her mother, Marie Prislend, initiated in 1949 by further developing and organizing the program, acknowledging the generous contributions to the SWU Scholarship Fund, making wise investments to help the Fund grow, supervising the selection process of the

scholarship winners, and, most importantly, sending letters of praise and encouragement as well as financial assistance to the young SWU Scholarship winners.

Now that Hermine Dicke has retired from the position of Director of the SWU Scholarship Program, it would be most fitting if we all showed our appreciation of her more than 25 years of dedication and caring by giving a contribution to the SWU Scholarship Fund in honor of Hermine Dicke. Knowing her hope for the youth of SWU and respect for education, I feel that Hermine would be truly honored if a \$1,000 *Hermine Dicke Scholarship* were to be awarded in 1992.

Please help assure that the dreams of the Slovenian immigrants for better opportunities do not fade away. Continue the work of Hermine Dicke in making those dreams a reality by supporting the SWU Scholarship Program in its efforts to help provide our young members with the opportunity to attain a college education. Thank you very much.

Z Bogom,

Carita Girman

An enthusiastic group of twenty-two members attended the October meeting of Branch 34. It was nice to see so many out, the weather was good and I'm sure that helped. We had a busy meeting, and appreciated hearing from the National Office.

We welcome into our branch, Adrienne Dolenshak Micklich, who is originally from Ely. We hope you will enjoy being with us, Adrienne--welcome!

Our local schools have come on difficult times, so we donated toward the purchase of The Weekly Reader, which is a small newspaper used in the elementary school.

We had the election of officers, made easier this year by having a nominating committee and the following were elected: Pres.: Adeline Mustonen; 1st Vice Pres.: Angeline Morin; 2nd Vice Pres.: Lorraine Berg; Sec.-Treas.: Eileen Poderzay; Recording Sec.: Emma Betourne; Auditors: Mary Gornick and Angela Tekautz. I am happy to have all these ladies as officers and I know they will be good for our branch.

Plans were made for our Founder's Day on November 20. We planned to have Mass in the morning, with Father Anselm officiating, then a breakfast served by Adeline Mustonen, Emma Betourne, Lorraine Berg, Angeline Grahek and Agnes Tekautz. After the breakfast, a meeting was to be held with the installation of officers being held. This has been such a nice time for our branch since they started honoring our Founders.

Our ladies agreed that we will start remembering our shut-in members with Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthday greetings...we already remember our members if they are ill. Helen Adkisson agreed to send these out.

Our good member and past auditor of many years, Sophie Zavodnick, is in St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth and we all wish her recovery from her illness. Sophie was active until her illness forced her to remain homebound.

Tory Bobence, National President, was featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune concerning the war in Yugoslavia. It was a good article and we should be proud that the paper would consider our president worthy of being quoted in a paper that reaches statewide and elsewhere.

Plans were being made by our parish to honor our patron saint's feast day on November 9. The Poderzay Brothers provided the music for the Ethnic Mass, a stew dinner followed.

A new Zupancich Brothers store is being constructed in Tower, on the former site of the Zobitz store building and it is interesting to see progress made each day. This will be a big plus for our communities.

I became a grandma again on October 22, a son was born to Jim and Lynda Mustonen of Clear Lake, Iowa. Ethan James is the chosen name--and he will be a new member of SWU!

How about the MN Twins! Do you know John Smoltz, Braves pitcher, is a grandson of Frankie Smoltz of Chisholm who had a polka band years ago?

I send all of you my best for a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

ADELINE MUSTONEN,
Reporter

NO. 35, AURORA, MN

We met at the Community Senior Center on Oct. 27th with 20 adult members and one junior member, Maria Menart, 4 years old. We were happy you could be with us, Maria. We will see you at our Christmas party, too, we hope.

An interesting report on the Minnesota State Convention in Ely was given by President Holland. She also thanked everyone for their generous support of the Scholarship and Heritage Funds.

Our branch became a lifetime member of the Baraga Association and we decided to include the Bishop Baraga prayer at our meetings.

Have you wondered when the S.W.U. History Book will be published? It was decided to feature each branch in future issues of ZARJA instead of printing a book at this time, due to the high costs involved.

Thank you to Barbara Urick who has been our Historian for the past ten years, a job well done. And, to Florence Holland, who will be our new Historian, best wishes.

The Slovenian choir sang at the 5 p.m. mass for our deceased members on Nov. 2nd. Our prayers are with all our ill members and those in the nursing home.

Thanks to all our officers who agreed to serve another year. They are

Florence Holland, Pres., Anna Rose Smolich, Vice Pres., Alice Wilson, Sec'y., Dorothy Jannick, Treas. and Betty Turk, Sgt. at Arms. Our next meeting will be on Dec. 8th at 3 p.m. at Holy Rosary Parish Hall. All Jr. members will be our guests. Hostesses are Phyllis Turk, Janice Grebence, Betty Turk, Erica Hodnik, Julie Turk, Ann Zupancic, Anita Vovk, Julia Strukel, Jennie Klune, Frances Stark, Olga Berdace and Gabriella Goritchan. Instead of a gift exchange, we will each give a monetary contribution to the Activities Dept. at our local nursing home.

Dues will be collected at this meeting. Remember, ladies, that dues are increased one dollar per year for all adult members. Jr. dues stays the same.

We were happy to hear from you, Mary Hudy.

May all enjoy a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

ANNE ORAZEM

NO. 38, CHISHOLM, MN

Forty women braved the cold weather and attended the Nov. 6 meeting of Br. 38 in Chisholm, MN. Members were asked to bring a guest to hear the Ponikvar twins, Mary Lou Meadows and Fran Nobens, relate their experiences in Slovenia this past summer. What a story they had to relate! They were in Ljubljana when the airport in Brnik was bombed, and when the city of Ljubljana was hit by the Yugoslav army. The two women experienced the seeking of refuge in bomb shelters, hearing the cries of children and their families: The twins had a difficult, frantic time trying to get out of Slovenia, and finally made their way to Istanbul, Turkey, where Mary Lou's daughter was fearfully waiting for them. What was going to be a beautiful vacation in the homeland of their parents, John and Frances Ponikvar, turned out to be a short visit and a frightening escape. We wish to thank the Ponikvar twins for coming to our meeting and sharing this time with us.

Member Jennie Briski had petitions available for signatures which will be sent to Pres. Bush asking him to recognize the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

The business meeting of Br. 38 was short but productive. A report of the card party was given. 78 women (and a table of men) cardplayers, attended

and all had an enjoyable time. Our next meeting on Dec. 4th will be the pot luck Christmas party. Joe Polichnik promises to entertain on his button box, and if we know Joe, he will recruit another musician... May be Mike L.???

On our sick list is Jennie Samsa. This must be the first meeting she has missed! We know she will be at the Christmas party, as it wouldn't be the same without her.

A lovely lunch was served by Rose Niemi, Jo Zupancich, and Carmen Cardini, and Frances Zalec who surprised us with a Cream-cheese strudel! Thank you to the following who contributed money in lieu of help: Ann Arko, Mayme Gazvoda and Jennie Samsa for the recent card party.

The November birthday girl was Fran Lucas. The traveling prize was won by Katherine Knuth. Drawings were won by Angie Nelsen, Fran Verant, and Rose Stonemark.

The election of new officers will be on the agenda for the Dec. 4 meeting. Nominated are: President: Charlotte Laurich, Vice Pres.: Jennie Briski; Sec'y/Treas.: Katherine Knuth; Reporter/Sec.: Ann Nusich; Auditors: Rose Faras, Rose Niemi.

There will be no meeting in January. So the next meeting is on Feb. 5th 1992!

Submitted by

ANN NUSICH

NO. 40, LORAIN, OH

Here it is October and the weatherman is predicting an Indian Summer for this weekend. Look around you and enjoy the beautiful colors in the trees and before you know it winter will be here.

18 members came to our Oct. meeting. A delicious lunch was served us by Jean Balogh, Joyce Arrendondo, and Agnes Serazin. They also were generous with prizes. Mary Ferlic, Molly Glavan, Sophie Pogachar, Annette Septaric and Francine Pavlovic also helped make our money making project a huge success.

Pres. Agnes Tomazine and V. Pres. Francine gave us a report on the Ohio-Mich. mini convention held recently in Cleveland. Our Sec.-Treas., Agatha Donges also attended. Evelyn A. Majercik was elected State President; she replaced long-time President Ann Tercek. Evelyn also thanked our lodge for the \$100 we donated to help defray the cost of the Nat'l Convention

held in Cleveland last May.

We made plans for our Christmas dinner.

It will be held on Thursday Dec. 12th at 12:30 p.m. in the German Villa in Vermilion.

Reservations will be necessary. Call Agnes at 245-3919. Deadline is Dec. 5th. We will have a gift exchange for those who wish to exchange. Gifts should cost at least \$5.

Since the end of the year is fast approaching I wish to remind you that when you pay your dues in January please remember to pay your \$1 to help defray the cost of the ZARJA and other expenses.

Don't forget our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the St. Cyril Methodius Church school hall at 12:30 p.m.

We will not have a meeting in Dec. but we hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner on Dec. 12th.

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I know you all heard by now that my husband Joseph passed away on Sept. 23th. I wish to thank you all for being so kind to us during this very trying time. Thanks again and God bless you all.

Love,

MARY MATOS

NO. 42, MAPLE HEIGHTS, OH

It is amazing that the year 1991 is almost over. The months really seem to go by swiftly. We were skeptical when our mothers told us that time seems to go by faster as one gets older, but we all find that it really is true.

We held our rummage sale at the Slovenian National Home in Maple Heights on Friday Oct. 25 and Saturday Oct. 26. Congratulations to Josie Gruden who was the chairman of the rummage sale. She did a wonderful job of organizing to make it the success that it was. Many of our members worked hard on the sale which helped towards its success. It also is a lot of fun when you work as a group. Special thanks to all these members. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10. A small Christmas party is being planned and each member is asked to bring a \$5.00 gift for a gift exchange. Please plan to attend.

Also, please remember to pay your annual dues. Most of us are procrastinators sometimes, but it is important to pay your dues to the Treasurer. Our get well prayers go out to Marge Roz-

nik, Helen Prudic and Terry Anzo. We also send get well wishes and prayers to Albina Mroczko as she recuperates from her recent surgery.

Halloween and Thanksgiving cards were sent to our Shut-ins by our Sunshine chairman, Ann Zupancic. We're sure they enjoyed receiving them.

Edna Scotton became a grandmother for the first time recently. The baby was named Bryan and you can imagine how happy Edna is to have this grandson.

Happy birthday wishes to the following members: Donna Stubler, Julia Lipnos, Beth Agnes Harr, Mary Yemec, Eleanor Lipnos, Albina Skocaj, Yong Hui Shega, Jennifer Lockhard, Frances Wenckus, Frances Zakrajsek, Marjorie Church and Christine Hajek. May all of you have many more healthy and happy birthdays.

Our President, Millie Lipnos and all the officers wish to send Holiday greetings to all the members and their families.

Branch 42 extends best wishes to all the delegates and guests whom we met at the National Convention when it was held here in May. That really was a highlight of 1991 for us.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and May God Bless you all!!

DOROTHY MEHOSKY

NO. 43, MILWAUKEE, WI

The last month, December, is here and in a few days 1991 will be history. One more meeting to attend with a luncheon. The day is Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1991. The Christmas luncheon will be at John's Hall, 35th & Lincoln Avenue at 12:00 noon. You must call in your reservation as soon as possible to yours truly at 481-7357. You must be at the hall no later than 11:45 a.m. Let's fill the hall with our members.

To all the sick and shut-ins a speedy recovery. The next meeting will be on Wednesday Jan. 22, 1992 at 1:00 p.m. at John's Hall. If you are making any resolutions, be sure to make these two, I will try to make all the meetings, and I will enroll a new member.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

R.K.

Wise men still seek Jesus.



Baraga Days and 20th Anniversary of the Slovenian Chapel in Washington, D.C.

Memories linger of Labor Day weekend, 1991 – rekindling old friendships and making new ones amidst the crowds as hundreds of Slovenian families gathered for a joint celebration of Baraga Days and the 20th Celebration of the Slovenian Chapel in Washington, D.C. Like an orchestra with its varied instruments, the small Slovenian community of the Washington, D.C. area worked together to produce a concert of events to be long remembered by the guests and participants.

A Personal Glimpse – Sunday, September 1, 1991

Incense swept past my face and floated like mist towards the front pews as the mass began. I looked to the right towards the giant mosaic of Christ as the mist lingered and gave the mosaic a human appearance. The eloquent mass proceeded and the familiar echo of voices reverberated through the basilica. The magnificent pipe organ accompanied glorious Slovenian melodies throughout the mass. The meaningful readings and the homily so profoundly expressed by the speakers will forever remain etched in my memory.

My narodna noša (Slovenian national dress) swayed over my petticoat as I walked slowly towards the podium to read the petitions in Slovenian. My voice echoed around the basilica as about a thousand people listened peacefully. The crowd of faces, the choir off in the distance and the serenity of the occasion seemed like a chapter from a heavenly place. It was an experience of spiritual peace that I will always cherish.

The communion gifts were brought up to the altar by two couples dressed in the Slovenian national dress. The many shades of purple, yellow, red and green and the shining sequins on the head pieces looked stunning as they walked up the marble steps and handed the gifts to the clergy. They all gathered around the altar after the offertory. Their voices chanted together as the body and blood of Christ were raised towards the heavens of the basilica. It was truly beautiful to observe the expressions of their faces – nearly trance-like at times.

One of the clergy asked those sitting near the altar if we spoke Slovenian. I told him I did and he led me back to the sacristy and told me Cardinal Hickey wanted to address a farewell greeting in Slovenian at the close of mass. He requested that a brief message be prepared in Slovenian. I wrote, "Želim Vam vsem srečno vožnjo domov." (I wish everyone a safe trip home) I also wanted to add thank you for coming, in Slovenian, but the clergyman said what I had given will be difficult enough for him



Bernadette with H.E. James Cardinal Hickey

to pronounce. The clergyman initially was going to coach the Cardinal after my instruction, but he decided it would be better if I sounded it out for him before he addressed hundreds of Slovenian people. He led me out the sacristy and back towards the altar to where the Cardinal was standing. We reviewed the short statement three times; he appeared so grateful and pronounced the words slowly with an accent.

When the time came to bid farewell, Lojze Peterle, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia made closing remarks of how honored he was to be invited to the Baraga weekend activities and to have had the opportunity to see so many Slovenian people gathered from faraway areas. Cardinal Hickey then clearly said, with an accent "Želim Vam vsem srečno vožnjo domov."

The mass ended and we processed down the aisle towards the front entrance of the basilica; cameras flashed and the voices of the choir sang the familiar Slovenian melodies. The warm breeze swept through the front entrance while the long colorful hand embroidered ribbons from my auba (head piece) danced in the breeze and I processed out between the heavy wooden doors.

A Matter of Opinion

The critiques have been printed in Slovenian newspapers throughout the nation and Slovenia. Opinions vary as much as the colors of the beautiful material and scarves seen on the Slovenske narodne noše. Willingness to share time and talents, whether it be organization, logistics, music or art is not dependent on how much recognition one will receive, it is a sacrifice of time and efforts. For this spiritual celebration each person chose to do what was possible in his or her realm of capability and choice. Orchestra instrument are used as an analogy for all the individuals who contributed their time and various talents. We often forget the stage manager and the percussion instru-

SEEING THE BEST IN THE BEST WAY

Over the Labor Day weekend a group of us from Branch 20 attended Bishop Baraga Days in Washington, D.C. with an extended trip into New York City. The tour was very ably conducted by Ken and Irene Odorizzi of *Washington Landmark Tours*. A bus took us to O'Hare Airport which included Chicago members, the Slovenska Pesem singers and Angie Nico from Oglesby, IL. Br. 89. We were met at the airport by a Washington Landmark Tour escort wearing a red carnation for identification. She checked in our group most graciously.

At about 11:30 a.m. that Saturday morning we arrived at the National Airport in Washington, D.C. We were met and welcomed by Ken and Irene. The All-About-Town tour bus was waiting for us along with our congenial tour guide, Tim.

Some of the highlights of our trip to the nation's capital were the Viet Nam Memorial, Smithsonian Space Museum, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol Building and a tour through picturesque Georgetown where John and Jackie Kennedy once resided. We also saw a very spectacular night view of Washington, D.C. when Tim took us on a night drive around the city. We stayed at the very impressive Sheraton Washington Hotel. It is a beautiful big hotel situated up on a hill. We were certainly living in grand style.

Many attended the Mass on Saturday at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and some of us went on Sunday afternoon. We were just amazed at the array of beautiful Slovenian costumes worn by the people in the procession and the beautiful singing of Slovenian songs. We were both pleased and proud to see so many members of Slovenian Women's Union represented. Of course, we wouldn't miss the opportunity to go to the lower level of the church and see the lovely Slovenian Chapel. By vigil light we knelt down and said a few prayers before we went on our way.

Early Monday morning we left for New York City. During the drive there, Irene and Ken kept us occupied playing Bingo games until we reached our destination.

We did stop for breakfast on the way, too. On arriving near the city, the first thing you notice is the Statue of Liberty in the distance and the skyscrapers. Our points of interest here were the United Nations Headquarters, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Manhattan, Empire State Building, a tour of NBC studio, and we got to see from where Saturday Night Live originates.

When we arrived at Battery Park we took a ferry to the Statue of Liberty first and then on to Ellis Island. Visiting Ellis Island and seeing the many artifacts they have there brought to mind our own Slovenian Heritage Museum with its display of artifacts that our ancestors brought with them from Europe. Outside there is the wall with the immigrants' names in copper. Standing there looking for familiar names gives you almost a feeling of something spiritual. Anyone who has the opportunity to see this should certainly do so.

Seeing New York City at night from the 85th floor of the Empire State Building was, to say the least, an awesome sight. Lights everywhere. Some of the people on the tour with us saw a Broadway show, the "Will Rogers Follies" at the Palace Theatre. They said it was just great.

We ate at many fine restaurants such as Hogate's on the Potomac River, Beefsteak Charlie's, Clairmont Diner and Mamma Leone's. The food was excellent and I'm sure we all gained a pound or two.

Late Tuesday afternoon we headed for LaGuardia Airport. Our departure was somewhat delayed due to inclement weather conditions in Chicago, but our United flight No. 85 brought us home safely.

Thinking back on the trip brings to mind the great beauty of the New York skyline, the fun we had and the wonderful people who were with us: Ken and Irene, who organized the tour and were always gracious and accommodating to all of us, and Tim, our guide, who was so well-versed on all the sights in Washington, D.C. and New York City. It was a memorable four days.

*Josephine Lustik,
3rd National Auditor*

ments when we listen to a concert, perhaps paying more attention to the violinists and the conductor.

Many individuals will continue to be mentioned as key players, as others will be unintentionally ignored. Although it is impossible to mention each individual, I would like to commend the dignitaries for their speeches, the choral groups for their lovely performances of Slovenian songs, all the individuals of the Washington, D.C. community, the members of the committee who diligently coordinated Baraga Days, The Slovenian Women's Union, Branch 103, the Heritage Committee and the Bishop Baraga Society of Washington, DC who contributed their time and talents to the coordination of the weekend events. Let us remember—the whole is nothing without its parts.

A special thank you to my mother and Mrs. Ivanka Antolin for assisting me in making the carnation corsages for the head dinner table, and for delivering the centerpieces and corsages to the hotel. Also, thanks to both for their personal attention to me.



Bernadette at the Basilica altar.

(Photo Joe Jagar, Chicago)

NEW COOKBOOK ALMOST READY

Many thanks, dear ladies, for your favorite recipes which were a real pleasure to receive. There has been quite a revision of this fourth printing of the POTS AND PANS cookbook, with deletions, to allow for 140 new recipes. Ted Prislund again designed a most attractive and beautiful cookbook cover. I am confident that this edition of POTS AND PANS will be a great fund raiser for the 1995 California National Convention. The cookbook will be available sometime around the end of January.

Nika Kovacic of Branch 103, Washington, D.C., delights us with her EXCELLENT PUNCH and "I guarantee all your company will be in a good and tipsy mood." She also shares her MARINATED PORK. "We ladies of our branch 103 have made this recipe two times for our Dinner Dance and it was very well accepted by all the guests." Vi Zak of Cleveland, OH, Branch 50, tells us her "LIME-PEAR SALAD is very good." Matilda Simic of Franklin, WI, Branch 43, did send many delicious recipes, one of which is ORANGE TORTE.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to all,
Hermine



ORANGE TORTE

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 1/2 cups flour | 1/2 lemon, grated |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | Juice of 1/2 lemon |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 1 cup chopped walnuts |
| 1 cup butter, softened | 1 cup raisins |
| 1 cup sugar | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 3 eggs | Juice of the 2 oranges |
| 1 cup sour milk | 1/2 to 1 cup powdered sugar, |
| Rind of 2 oranges | sifted |

Heat oven to 350°. Butter 10 x 4-inch tube pan. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Alternately add dry ingredients with sour milk, orange and lemon rind, and lemon juice, beginning and ending with flour. Stir in walnuts, raisins and vanilla. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes 1 hour or until toothpick inserted in cake comes out clean.

Topping: Stir powdered sugar into orange juice until sugar is dissolved. 5 minutes after cake is removed, pour slowly over warm cake. Sprinkle with powdered sugar when ready to serve.

LIME-PEAR SALAD

- 1 can (16 ounces) pears
- 1 package (3 ounces) lime gelatin
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 pint whipping cream

Drain pears reserving juice. Heat 1 cup pear juice (add water, if necessary). Stir in lime gelatin until dissolved. Cool until syrupy. Mash the pears and add to the cream cheese. Beat until creamy and smooth. Add the gelatin to the pear-cheese mixture; stir. Whip the whipping cream and add the gelatin mixture to it. Fold in so it's smooth. Refrigerate until set.

MARINATED PORK

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 pound pork roast | Salt and pepper, to taste |
| 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cumin | 1/2 cup dry chablis |
| Piece of lemon peel | 1/3 to 1/2 teaspoon sugar |
| 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon thyme | 1/2 to 3/4 cup beef soup |
| 1/4 garlic clove | More salt, if necessary |
| 4 to 5 Juniper berries | |

Crush and combine the cumin, lemon peel, thyme, laurel leaf, garlic clove, Juniper berries, salt and pepper. Rub mixture on pork roast. Wrap the meat in a cheese cloth that has been soaked in red wine vinegar. Put the wrapped meat in a plastic bag and store for one (1) day in the refrigerator. When ready for baking, unwrap meat and bake slowly at (325°) for two (2) hours. During baking time, add salt, to taste, and keep basting meat juices over the pork. When baked, take meat out of pan; pour off the grease; add the chablis, sugar and beef soup. Cook to boiling point. (May need to thicken the sauce with a small amount of cornstarch.) Pour the sauce over the sliced roast pork; serve and ENJOY! 15 servings.

EXCELLENT PUNCH

$\frac{3}{4}$ pound granulated sugar	1 bottle (1 liter)
8 cups water	cognac or brandy
4 cups lemon juice	to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Peach liqueur
2 bottles (1 liter each) rum	

Mix all above ingredients together and let stand 1 hour; then add 1 large piece of ice and let set another hour; then serve. 40 servings.

1992 and here after, be sure when mailing your dues to add \$1.00 more for high cost of inflation.

Hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving with your family and friends; also wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Vesele Božične Praznike in Srečno Novo Leto Želim Vsem!

MARY TAUCHER

NO. 50, EUCLID, OH

A beautiful night, not too cool for our trick and treaters and a goodly amount of leaves on the ground for them to kick around. Our record summer is over and who knows what our winter will bring. Seems the West is getting early snowfalls which means we'll get it soon.

Thanksgiving Day will be over by the time you read this and we shall be home, too, as the holiday will be spent at our son's home in Boulder, Colorado. We always enjoy Colorado – the mountains are a joy to see, winter or summer and we always hit the unexpected weather conditions, but we love it. Family traditions are remembered, too.

Our Christmas Dinner party will be combined with our 60th anniversary, two celebrations at one time! Hope you all come as we will really celebrate it at Holmes Avenue Slovenian Home with a good dinner cooked by our own Julie and surprises, too. Don't forget, December 8th at 1:00 p.m. Please call Ann Tercek for reservations.

Our members who attended the ZARJA Singing Group's 75th anniversary concert were treated to a lively concert and a great dinner and dance and to a full house. It's always done so well and we wish them many more years of active service to the community and their enjoyment.

Eleanore Karlinger was made an honorary member of the St. Vitus Alumni Hall of Fame and the Tercek family had 6 representatives in the first Alumni gathering at St. Mary's in Collinwood starting with the year of 1917. Hoping you all are able to attend more in the future.

Two sisters and two brothers – 4 couples – celebrated their 55th wedding anniversaries at St. Mary's Church by renewing their wedding vows. All four married in 1936. The boys are from St. Vitus and the girls from St. Mary's. Sisters Sophie and Rose Stimec married Joseph Glavic

COMMENTS FROM A BRAND NEW MEMBER!

I have enclosed a check for \$20.00 to cover the cost and mailing charges for two "Pots & Pans" cookbooks to be sent to the two addresses on the reverse side of this letter.

I am also interested in becoming a member of the Slovenian Women's Union. How do I go about doing this? I am Slovenian on my mother's side and Croatian on my father's side (I think! or else he is Slovenian also; my mother's parents disagree on this issue). I live in Minneapolis and have a strong interest in ethnic arts (e.g. folk dancing and folk music) and would like to learn more (including the language) about my heritage. So if you could give me a start in the right direction and send any information or anything that you think I could use, please send it to me (if there is a cost, please, before sending it to me, send me a price list) to:

Liesl Harvat
Minneapolis, MN

Liesl received a membership application which she immediately returned – so she is a brand new member! Also, we managed to send her some other information on her ethnic roots, maps, national costume pattern, and publications that are available about Slovenia. So, we hope we helped her a little in her quest!

Ed.



NO. 47, GARFIELD HTS., OH

After a hot scorching dry summer, we are ready to enjoy the cooler weather. We already are in the last month of the year. It seems as though the older we are getting, the days, months and years are just whizzing by. Our September meeting was well-attended. Nine members attended the Ohio State Convention. For our 60th Anniversary a delicious dinner was catered to a full house. Our dining room looked just gorgeous, tables covered with white linen table cloths, red napkins, vases filled with red carnations. After dinner was served for dessert we had "yum-yum" good potica – flancete – fancy finger pastries and wine.

Wine festival and bake sale held on October 6th at S.N.H. Maple Hts. was a success as always. To all the ladies who baked – donated monies – worked or who helped in any way, a big "Thank You."

Welcome to our branch new B member, Jane Spellacy and 4 juniors transferred to adult department.

Happy birthday to Nov. and Dec. ladies namely, Angela Zakrajsek, Josephine Korman, Mary Vidakovich, Ann Harsh, Caroline Stare, Pauline Rogel, Jennie Gerk. On the sick list, Mary Vidakovich, Frances Bricel, Antonia Dolinar; Katherine Gasparic in Nursing Home. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Deepest sympathy to bereaved member, Elsie Spellacy and family on the loss of her husband, George, also to Antonia Dolinar on the loss of her son, John.

Yearly meeting election of officers and pot luck Christmas Party, Dec. 1 at 1 o'clock S.N.H. Maple Hts., Ohio. Bring door prizes and canned goods to fill baskets.

To ladies who are behind in their dues please pay up. Would like to keep my books up to date ready for audit.

Notice! Important as of Jan. 1,

and Charles Bratusch; Brothers Joseph and John Petric married Mary Rovere and Mary Novak. After Mass, a good dinner was had by all. We wish them well and many healthy years of togetherness. Knowing Mary and Joe Petric well, their generous personalities deserve all blessings.

Second and fourth Fridays of the month at 1:00 o'clock is a good way to spend 2 hours playing at a pinochle tournament held at Briardale for senior citizens. My brother, Stan Laurich is an excellent M.C. and would be glad to have you join us. If pinochle is not your forte then play other games on the first and third Fridays. If you're a senior citizens, come and enjoy, only 50c for refreshments and prizes. Glad to see many of our members participate. You can come alone, too.

Rose Zihlerl called from Florida and asked me to please tell our members to visit her sister, Mary Chesnik as she loves company and needs it. So if possible, ladies, do pay a visit. Rose enjoys our ZARJA.

Our other sick members are Molly Mauer, Fanny Kaltenback, Anne Ryavec, Helen Novinc, Julie Sadar Pauline Seifert (Bell) and Gertie Laurich at Gateway. Our prayers and hopes for recovery are with you always.

Mamie Marin celebrated with friends her 80th birthday at Gateway where so many of our Slovene ladies are calling it home. My brother, Stan Laurich also reached this big one. Wish all "Eighties" many more. Just give us birthdays, and we'll all make



ANNE RYAVEC

A super member of Br. 50 was our Valentine Queen this year. All good wishes to you, Anne.

"50" GOLDEN YEAR CELEBRATION



Louis and Ann Winter of Cleveland, Ohio celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 1991. Their family and a few close friends attended a party

at the Spanish Manor in Euclid, Ohio, given by their daughters, Dorothyann and Alyce.

They were married November 1st, 1941 at St. Mary's Church (Collinwood) by Monsignor Vitus Hribar.

Ann is a member of SWU #50 for 47 years and currently holds the position of Recording Secretary. Louis is a retired foreman from the Fisher Body Euclid Division.

Her family consists of two daughters, Dorothyann and Alyce. Dorothyann, a member of Br. 50, served as Vice President and Sentinel. She is presently employed at Progressive Ins. in Richmond Heights, Ohio. Alyce is married to John Germovsek and works for Parker Hannifin (Engineering Dept). They reside in Willoughby Hills, Ohio.

"Congratulations and Best Wishes to Louis and Ann from Branch #50" and may you have many more happy years together.

them happy. How about it!

Please pay your dues to Evelyn Pipoly, 23330 Williams Ave., Euclid, Ohio 44123 and add \$1.00 (one dollar) to your dues as an assessment to help our national expenses which was voted on at the Convention. Get your name in the bowl soon and you might get a winner for free dues. Don't forget the "buck" for Zvezda. All expenses are up now.

We wish you well, ladies, but we do miss you at our meetings and think about you and want to say "HELLO" to Rose Skully, Mary Susnik, Mary Chesnik, Jean Tomsick, Amy Gad, Sophie Koplan, Alice Lausche, Frances Lausche, Sophie Yapel, Mary Frank, Alice Bozick, Agnes Bradek, Angela Cestaric, Mary Marinko, Rose Bavec, Marie Dimitrojevic and Louise Mlakar, and there are others, too. We have good speakers on interesting and timely subjects and surprises and good refreshments - home baked. So, ladies, come and be welcomed by our president. She'll spot you, I'm sure. Third Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at the Library. You asked for the afternoon sessions so let's see you there.

A reminder that I promised - sometime before the New Year put a dime

on the window sill outside and after the New Year take it in. You will expel bad luck and bring in the good luck for the year. Honest, it works! Have had a lot of testimonials and stories. I even say a "Hail Mary" as I put my dime out. I'm afraid to forget it - and I don't.

Our sympathy to the family of Rose Zaller, our member who recently passed away.

Have a Merry Christmas with family or friends and a Happy New Year and see you in January.

VERA SEBENIK,
Reporter

NO. 54, WARREN, OH

Our October meeting was well attended and final plans made for our Christmas Luncheon to be held on Wed. Dec. 18th at the Elks Clubroom, Rt. 422. All of you will be called for your reservations. We will have a \$5.00 gift exchange. Door prizes and canned foods and cookies are on your list to bring to our party.

Get well wishes to Margaret Racher who has a pacemaker and Elsie Persin. They both came to our last meeting

and are really spunky! Some of our younger members make no effort to come to our meetings - so we really tip our hats to the faithful ones. Frank Zuga, husband of Vi, had major surgery. Keep him in your prayers.

God bless you all and keep you and may you all have a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

JOANNE PONIKVAR

NO. 55, GIRARD, OH

Our meeting was opened with our President, Maria Selak leading us in the Lord's prayer. There were 13 members present. The meeting was held at the Jib-Jab restaurant in down town Girard.

A baby boy was born on Sept. 25th 1991 to Janet and Toby Mirto. They named him Ryan Andrew. His big sister, Candace Lynn, who is 17 months old, is overjoyed to have a real live baby brother all her own. The proud grandparents are Dr. Richard and Rosemary Juvancic (maternal) and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Mirto (paternal). Congratulations to all.

Frank and Virginia Bestic's daughter is planning a December wedding. Mary Ann Bestic will wed Joseph Center on Dec. 14th. Miss Bestic is a respiratory therapy clinical coordinator at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, while pursuing a Masters degree in health services administration at Ohio University. She graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelors degree and completed her respiratory therapy studies at the University of Kansas.

We were sorry to hear that Gala Jhoss couldn't come to the meeting as she is laid up with a bad Sciatic Nerve condition and is in a lot of pain, we hope she is feeling better by now.

We are making plans for our Christmas party, it will be held at Denny's Restaurant on Belmont Ave. Dec. 11. Members will be contact by telephone for their reservations.

Andrea Selak read us a poem about Halloween, it was very nice. She's a lovely young lady and so smart, I'm sure she will make something of herself.

Prayers were said for all members and their families that have passed away this year.

Anka Kregar brought some parsley and vegetables from her garden to all of us, it was so nice of her to think of us.

With no further business the meet-

ing was closed. We then played a few games and had something to eat.

Love,

ROSEMARY GORDON

NO. 56, HIBBING, MN

Meeting was held at the First Ave. Apt Prayers opened the meeting. Lucy Paun, who was a fifty-two year member, passed away in July. She was a charter member of the Ely branch. Ann Selvo passed away Sept. 5th and will be greatly missed. May they rest in peace.

On Nov. 17th at Immaculate Conception church, we held the mass for our deceased members. Pres. Carlson was to contact the Kitzville branch to join us at this special mass and breakfast.

Lunch committee for November were Veronica Marter, Ann Subert and Jennie Sator. Jackpot was won by Amelia Dohman, "B" to Ann Pintar and 500 to Julia Vecchi. Canasta winner was Agnes Barkis.

EDITH JONES

NO. 57, NILES, OH

Fall is in the air as I write and the leaves are really beautiful. It's October and our meeting was just wonderful as we had a great turn out of 18 members. We hope we can get a few more members out to join us each month.

Our lunch committee, Viola Logar and Mary Ann Leonard served us a lovely lunch. Later, our meeting was opened with a prayer led by our president, Frances Yerman. The Minutes of our previous meeting were read and approved as were the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports. We discussed our plans for the Christmas Party to be held at Paul's at 1 o'clock. Each member is to bring a dollar Bingo prize as we do like to see all our members go home with at least one prize.

We sang Happy Birthday to our birthday people who were: Mary Vinosky, Mary DeCapua, Josephine Fabian, Elizabeth Havaich, Louise Mateyko and Caroline Fabjance. We closed the meeting with a prayer and went on with our social fun time, with playing a few games. We really enjoyed a very nice afternoon which combines meetings and fun. Ask any of our members and they'll tell you how great it is!

Next meeting was Nov. 12th for

which I will report later. Mary Vinosky and Frances Stanec were on the lunch committee. Wishes to all sick members for a speedy recovery.

FRANCES STANEC

NO. 73, WARRENSVILLE, OH

Merry Christmas to each and everyone of you. It is hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close. It's nice that we have such a beautiful holiday to end the year. It gives us something to carry us into a new year-- a year that holds so much for all of us. Let's hope that only good things are in store.

Congratulations: To Vera and Charles Kozak who celebrated 40 years of marriage. And to Frank and Rose Spemulli who chalked up 50 years with a Mass at St. Jude's and a lovely party at Landerhaven. Frank is Mayor of North Randall, I am sure many of you remember his appearances during the convention. To the Kozaks and the Spemullis we wish you many more years of wedded bliss and may those years be healthy, active years.

We hear that Angie Vik has become grandma for the first time. Have you received your "Best Grandma" T-shirt yet, Angie? You can usually spot new grandmas that way. Please extend our congratulations to the happy family.

Get well wishes: To Mary Szabo who has suffered a broken ankle, to Joe Fortuna (husband of Jeanne) who underwent surgery. And to our ladies in nursing homes, Jane Stelmas, Louise Berndtsone, Anna Harvot and Louise Majercik. We think of you often, our prayers are always in your behalf.

Condolences: To Antonette Trzaska on the death of her mother-in-law. Also, if you remember my article in the October issue of ZARJA, we offered congratulations to Florence and Andy Duale on their 55th Wedding Anniversary. The Duale's had just recently moved back to the Ohio area from Florida and in the interim, Andy had been ill. He died at home, late September, while sitting and watching television. Several of our members were able to attend the wake and funeral mass. We extend our deepest sympathy and Florence and her children, and to all the Duale Family. Although they were of Croatian descent, they had strong ties to the Slovenian community of Warrensville Heights.

"You Are Special"

Emma Casserly

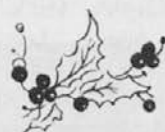
Emma was born to John and Frances Dittle on Dec. 13, 1913 in Lowell, IL. There were two brothers and two sisters, Wilbur and John Jr., Johanna and Emma. There were two half brothers and one half sister, Harvey and Barney Dittle and May Gaul. All of them have passed away.

Emma received her education at the Oglesby Public School. She held various jobs in the surrounding community, some are Eicor and Westclox factories, Ford Hopkins, Steak & Shake and at the Starved Rock Lodge. Emma married Hugh Casserly on Mar. 7, 1931. They spent 42 years of happy married life together. Hugh died in 1973. They have one son, William, who lives in California, three grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, and one great, great grandchild.

How nice to have such a lovely family. Too bad they don't live closer, Emma, so you could visit them often.

We hear that you are a wonderful volunteer at Care Inn Center, where you are a resident. You are a joy to have around with your cheerful and friendly manner. You are always ready to lend a helping hand at what ever has to be done.

Br. 89 is happy to say: "You Are Special." Congratulations! We love you.



Welcome: In checking my notes, I find that we failed to give proper welcome to a new member, Delores Mueller. If you have ever participated in our bus trips, you will remember her husband, Bob. He's the one that plays the buttonbox so beautifully.

Although she was not a member at the time of the convention, Delores (and Bob) attended all of the activities. She also acted as chauffeur for some of the group who wanted to see specific areas of Cleveland. We are happy to have her in our group. Delores shares "radio" time with me when she dispatches for a neighboring police department. Sorry for the delay in saying "welcome."

Mary Dittle

Mary was born on Sept. 8, 1900 to Jacob and Josephine Paulicka. All of the Paulicka children were born in Germany and when Mary was five years old the family emigrated to United States and settled in Oglesby. There were three brothers and three sisters: Frank, Rudolph, and Fred and Josephine, Rose and Mary. The only survivors are Mary and Rose.

Mary received her education in the Oglesby public schools and the Sacred Heart Catholic School. While a young lady, Mary worked in the Oglesby Glove and Dress Factory. She also was a clerk at the Grubar-Barbarich Grocery store for a short time until she decided to go to Chicago to earn more money. She found employment at the Olson Rug factory and later, Harvey Dittle and Mary were married on Dec. 24, 1923. They were fortunate to have 58 wonderful happy years together. Harvey passed away on October 15, 1982. From the marriage they had three children, a son who died soon after birth, Shirley who also passed away at a young age. Surviving is Marlene Zamin. Mary is very proud of her six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They keep Mary young and there is never a dull moment with them around.

She has a lovely flower garden which she gives her tender loving care. We, of Branch 89 are happy to honor you, Mary! You are the greatest! Congratulations! We all love you!

A few things delayed our return to Florida, hopefully we will be on our way before the snow falls. We do plan to be home for the Christmas holidays and perhaps our paths will cross at that time. For all of you who are traveling, we hope that you have safe journeys. Enjoy the time spent with family and friends. It will be a whole year before this special time rolls around again.

Plans for our Christmas party (at the time of this writing) are very indefinite. You will be contacted when those plans are made.

Have a happy holiday.

Respectfully submitted:

EVELYN A. MAJERCIK

NO. 74, AMBRIDGE, PA

Once again I must speak of the loss of a valued charter member of our Ženska Zveza. Mary Grandovic will be remembered as a kind, gentle lady who always made me feel better for having talked to her. She always remembered to ask about my family and had a positive attitude. She couldn't stay in her home until her death; but even in the personal care home she was cheerful. I know her brother, sister-in-law, nephews and nieces will miss her, as well the Slovenian community of Ambridge as we mourn her death on Sept. 29, 1991.

JANE HUDAK

NO. 85, DEPUE, IL

It is a cold and blustery, windy day here - which reminds us that winter will soon be here. We have already had 7 inches of rain in October. Just think, what if it would have been snow! I can remember as a girl, walking to church for All Saints Day (we walked in those days), and there would be a sprinkling of snow.

Our dear friends and famous sausage and potica makers, Al and Mary Planton have sold their store building and moved to La Salle. We are glad that Mary will continue to belong to our branch. As long as I can remember, there has always been a Zickar or Planton store there, so we have lost another era. We want to wish Mary and Al the very best in their new home. They have worked long and hard and are deserving of a little relaxation. Mary has been a weight watchers lecturer for many years and from all reports was one of the best. Mary and Al plan to spend several months in Arizona where their son and family live. There is one grandson who is very anxiously waiting for his grandma and grandpa to come.

My sister and husband spent two weeks in Gettysburg, Pa. with their daughter and family. Their two grandsons were happy to see them. And, they had to visit Jordan's school while there. Speaking of my sister, their grandson, Barry, who lives in Bloomington, participated in some races (running) this past summer and won first places in his age group in all of McClain County. We are all proud of you, Barry. He is very sports

Oglesby woman joins World War II effort

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted from the Post-Tribune of the early 1940s. Many of us will remember that 50 years ago this month the U.S. became involved in WW II.

Our wonderful member, former officers for many years, Mary Kernz, is a resident at the Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois. The members of Br. 89 are proud of Mary and her unselfish lefestyle that has benefitted so many people. They thought it would be interesting for us to read a story about Mary that was written in the early 1940's during the Second World War.

Mary, we extend to you our warmest wishes and love!

The first young woman of the Tri-Cities community to leave for Army service, having enlisted sometime ago in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps was Miss Mary Kernz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kernz, 125 E. Third St., Oglesby, who left Saturday morning and was to report by noon today at Des Moines, Iowa, where she will be stationed at the "Waacs" camp.

Miss Kernz, who is well known in Oglesby and the surrounding community, enlisted several weeks ago and was awaiting her call, which was received Monday, advising her to report for duty today. She received her education in the Oglesby schools and La Salle-Peru Township High School. She has been prominently affiliated with the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality of St. Constantine's Catholic Church, Oglesby, and among young people's groups in the community.

Miss Kernz has been employed at Westclox, resigning her position this week. She enlisted through Sgt. William Worley, who is in charge of army recruiting in this vicinity, and who is located at the La Salle post office.



Footnote: - After her return from service, Kernz worked 13 years at the former St. Mary's Hospital in La Salle and later at the Peru Medical Center as a laboratory technician. Four of Kernz' siblings also served in the war.

Cpl. Mary Kernz of Oglesby is the first area woman to leave for the Army service, having enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. In this 1943 photo, she is a laboratory technician in Fort Meyer, Arlington, VA.

mindful in all sports as well as interested in those on TV.

My cousin, Joe Sterle is visiting in San Francisco. I am sure he will have a good time there. That's the way to go, Joe!

By the time this is printed in ZARJA, Thanksgiving will be over and we will be looking forward to the Christmas holidays and hopefully we will have nice weather so everyone can get to their destinations.

Best wishes to everyone for a very happy and healthy holidays season and hope Santa brings you lots of goodies.

God bless,

MARY JERMENC



NO. 89, OGLESBY, IL

Our November meeting (Nov. 11th) was well attended and business was taken up with the nomination of officers for 1992. The same officers will serve on the 1992 slate. The only auditor being replaced is Jo Morrison. Serving will be 1. Catherine Golick, 2. Marilyn Argubright, 3. Darlene Wasielewski.

Condolences were sent to Rose Kellett, Mary Stubler, and Mitzi Banich on the death of a relative.

Birthday cards were sent to the following November birthdays: Honorine Corpus, Mitzi Banich, Barbara Sitar and Marilyn Argubright.

Congratulations were sent to Mary and Rudy Stubler on their Anniversary, Nov. 7th. They are married for 44 years.

A report on the Bakeless Bake Sale

was given, which is heading for success.

Marilyn Argubright is a proud grandmother again. Lynn and William Quick had a baby boy they christened John William. Congratulations!

Our Christmas Party will be held as soon as our Committee: Josie Argubright and Anne Batty, notify members. Guests are welcome.

Marilyn Argubright was happy to report that her daughter, Jill, a surgical technician, will be working in Springfield, IL. We wish her the best.

Serving on committee was Frances Rolando and Marilyn Argubright. The tables were set in a Thanksgiving Theme and delicious cakes and coffee were served. Very good, ladies.

Would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a prosperous '92.

Sincerely,

EUNICE KOMATER

Our November meeting was a night of mixed emotions! President, Mildred James sadly extended her sympathy to member, Louise Diehelle on the death of her daughter, Rosemary, also a member of our branch. Mother Louise lavished loving care during her daughter's lengthy illness.

Treasurer, Marge Krmpotic eulogized Cyril James, husband of our Millie, for the past 56 years. As we all know, Cyril suffered an industrial accident 31 years ago. He required numerous surgeries over the years, during which Millie valiantly nursed her beloved husband.

Our tears were "on hold" as were led in prayer by Millie. This had to be the most sorrowful duty. God love you, Pres! We salute you! Our sympathies to the families, Janice and her brother.

Secretary Frances Benkovich gave a report on the State Convention after which Dolores Hennelly reviewed various data sent by the Home Office.

National Treasurer, Sylvia Vukodinovich made a motion to donate \$100 to the Croatian Relief Fund which was unanimously passed.

Our yearly fund raiser was a success due to the efforts of Ann Youse and her sister, Helen Santy. Prize winners were Kathryn Kompare (who donated it back to the branch), Millie Mach, Lucy Kopilash, Helen Price and Charlotte Fryza. Split the Pot was shared by Marge Krmpotic and Harriet Isek. Lucky turkeys went to Manda Dosen, Harriet Isek and Charlotte Fryza. I did not get the names of the other lucky people as I was in the kitchen doing, you know what! Sorry ladies!

Our sick members are Mary Zelenika, who is recuperating from heart surgery! Get well soon, Mary! Also, Mary Possedi is ill - and we hope, on the mend!

On a happier note, our 50 year members were honored. Matilda Grepko lives in Lakewood, CO. Helen Nowicki was present and congratulated by all. She is the picture of her mother, Vicky Tomich. How well I remember Vicky, always helping with the dishwashing, etc. at church functions, always with a smile! A gallant lady who struggled with her large family!

During those years, our mothers did the cooking at all the church doings - no caterers. What hard work it was!

We tend to forget all those wonderful women!

Birthday greetings to hostesses Bernice Morrison, Helen Price, Dolores Hennelly, Frances Griffin and Baba Kate Musa.

See you all at the Canadec's on Dec. 4th at 6 p.m. for our Christmas Party.

Holiday greetings to all of you in the great big yonder, out there!

MARIE MARAS

NO. 102, WILLARD, WI

Najlepše pozdrave vsem! Greetings, everyone! Unbelievable, how fast the seasons pass. Even the cranberry harvest is completed now. Tours are welcome and it is very interesting at the marsh about 20 miles from Willard.

Our Strudel Social was well attended, beginning with a meeting. Reports were given of the National and Wisconsin State Conventions. Approved was a donation of \$100 to our local seminarian, Brian Coughlin, to help him continue his education. We wish him success and God's blessing. The next meeting will be in December with elections and a Christmas party.

Congratulations to Frank and Doris Cesarec on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 4th; also to Vic and Mira Staut, parents of Aimee, our 1987 Scholarship Winner, on their 25th Wedding Anniversary, Oct. 22. A small family celebration was held at their cabin at Mead Lake, which included Mira's parents, Rudy and Theresa Kotar from Milwaukee, Mira's twin brother, Rudy and wife, Karen of Muskego and brother, John and wife, Karen of Manomarie, WI.

The Pakizs and Stauts returned safely from their western travels. Yosemite Park was our destination but 4 days was much too short to see such wonders of God's creation. Mary Djubinski, our secretary, and family members toured the Joliet area recently, visiting cousins, etc. They were very disappointed not being able to tour the SWU Heritage Museum.

Our community was saddened by the death of Mary Ruzic, wife of Ivan and daughter of the pioneering Joe Pekol family. Our sincere condolences to her grieving family. Sincerest condolences also to Corinne, our Editor, on the great loss of her dear sister, Gloria Nusko.

To our many shut-ins, our thoughts

and prayers are with you. Anne Collier is having serious surgery today as I write. May the good Lord ease all of your pain, Anne.

Hoping everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for, especially such a plentiful harvest.

Certainly must comment on how interesting ZARJA has been. It's great to read more about Slovenia. That helps people to better understand the situation in that beautiful country. Let's all do our part to help as much as possible. Let's also gladly make our donations to the ZARJA Printing Fund, to help keep this wonderful magazine in existence. As our slogan says: "Success With Unity", which is what SWU stands for!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. It is hard to believe that's already that time again!

MARY STAUT

NO. 103, WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 103 convened for the first meeting of the fall season on Nov. 3, 1991. The Sept. meeting was cancelled because of various activities in Washington, DC at that time; e.g., the celebration for the proposed sainthood of Bishop Frederick Baraga, with many visitors from the U.S. and abroad in attendance. Also, we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Slovenian Chapel at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A special thank-you to Irene Odorizzi of Branch 103, for her tireless efforts in planning the bus tours for visitors which included Washington, D.C. and Ellis Island in New York, among other things. The visitors who were on these tours were very happy and pleased

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COOKBOOK GIFT CERTIFICATES are Free, with prepaid orders received by December 10th, 1991!

Send for your Cookbook-Christmas Gift Certificate to the Slovenian Women's Union, 431 No. Chicago St., Joliet, Illinois 60432 and remit \$10.50 per copy plus postage and handling charges of \$2.00.

BRANCHES NOTE! You may order your bulk shipments of the new version of POTS & PANS, in advance and you will receive shipment in late January!

POTS & PANS in its 4th edition will include 100 NEW RECIPES!

Publication date is January, 1992.

Get your order in as soon as possible!

(See page 48)

with everything. As we all know, Irene always does a superb job, and we want her to know it's very much appreciated.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to Branch 103--Marie Robinson and Estelle Zorman McGuckin. We are hoping they will be able to attend our meetings often and participate in our various activities.

We had a very productive meeting touching on various subjects. Nika Kovacic, who was our delegate to the recent National Convention held in No. Randall, Ohio, played a tape of the opening ceremony, then gave a very detailed and interesting account of the convention for those of us who were unable to attend. We feel she was indeed a very effective delegate

and we thank her for her efforts.

It seems that time moves onward so rapidly, so it is already time to be preparing for the holidays. Our best wishes to all the Branches.

MATILDA AUSICH

NO. 105, DETROIT, MI

September 28th was the date of Branch 105's first venture at hosting a Harvest Dance (at least in recent memory). It was an unqualified success thanks to the work of the various committees involved in decorating the hall, serving the food, selling tickets, baking and selling baked goods and last but not least running the bar.

About a month before the dance,

TRIO OF DELEGATES



Mary Staut (102), Nika Kovacic (103) and Kathleen Emerson (105) are branch officers who always bring a lot of expertise and enthusiasm into their group events. You can imagine how valuable they were as delegates to the Nat'l Convention last May, serving on various committees and contributing their ideas to the discussions. "Many good friendships are created from SWU Sisterhood", said Nika, eagerly concurred by Mary and Kathleen.

seven members gathered together to make strudels to be sold at the dance. While some of these volunteers had made strudels before, many of us had no real knowledge about the "stretching" process. Many hands make for light work and ten strudels were prepared and sales were brisk.

We are fortunate to have wives and daughters of popular orchestras in the Detroit area as members and the Eddie Adamic Orchestra provided the toe-tapping music for this event.

Since this was such a successful affair, plans are already underway to repeat such an event in 1992.

Branch 105 takes its community service very seriously. For the past several years we have donated canned goods which are brought to our Christmas Party to Operation Can Do which provides food for various shelters and soup kitchens in the metropolitan Detroit area. We also donate money to the Coats for Kids fundraising event. This year each member will be donating toys which will be given to Children's Hospital of Michigan. We also plan to donate to the Slovenian Relief Fund.

Under the direction of our President, Kathleen Emerson, Branch 105 has grown during the past several years. New members bring new ideas and enthusiasm which are utilized for the benefit of all of our members.

Mark December 14th on your calendars. We will be holding our annual Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m. at the Van Dyke Manor. As usual, guests are welcome. Please contact Patricia Adamic, 751-0513 since reservations are required.

Our best wishes to all for a happy, healthy holiday season and get well wishes to all of our members who are under the weather.

PATRICIA ADAMIC

Ta mesec oktober, nam je pa res poplašal z vremenom, za vso hudo poletno vročino. Tudi potrebnega dežja so nam poslali od zgoraj, da so nam vrtovi z travo zopet ozeleneli, tudi povrtnina jesenska, kar jo je še bilo, kot endivija, se dolgo obdrži, ta pozni fižol, rudeča pesa in vložili tudi v zmrzovalnik za zimsko uporabo in kuho.

Dostikrat pa čitamo po časopisih kako, je česen priporočljiv za naše zdravje. In sem ga to jesen, tudi jaz posadila. Še v starem kraju, so rekli da česen mora rasti v gnoju, da bolj uspeva. Vsako leto tudi posadim v jeseni, na posebno gredico kamelice, ker te moram posaditi tudi v jeseni in ne pozebejo. Obiramo jih meseca junija in julija in obiramo samo cvetke, te se morajo posušiti v senci; naj bolje na podstrešnih prestorih na prepihu. Mogoče bo o kamelicaх katero zanimalo, saj njen čaj pomirja živce.

Imela sem priliko udeležiti se Konventio Ohio-Michigan v nedeljo 29. sept. letos, na kateri predseduje priljubljena Viktorija Bobence, povezano je bilo z 60 to obletnico ustanovitve društva st. 32. To pa je vodila Regional Prez. ljubezniva Ann Tercek.

Ob desetih je bila sv. maša, katero je daroval čast. John Kumse, in Tomc z lepim govorom in pozdravom članicam konvencije. Lepo je bilo videti, ko so počasi korakale po sredini cerkve v lepih modrih uniformah, lepe mladostne gospe in se posedle v sprednjih klopih pred oltarjem. Kako ganljivo naredijo, naredijo te že v letih, na to pomembno 60 letno



Ptjuska mati Božja

obstajanje te podružnice Slovenske Ženske Zveze.

Po sv. maši smo imele zakusko, ki so nam jo pripravile članice ob praznovanju šesdesetletnice ustanovitve njih podružnice. Imele smo sendviče, kavo in mize polne, vsako vrstnega peciva. Nepekle so ga toliko, da so ga man še za domov dajale. Prav iskreno se vam zahvaljujemo za vašo postrežbo in dobro pecivo. Vesela sem bila srečati se z Mrs. Nikoleta Larchbaker in je moja po pok. možu daljna sorodnica. Bila sem vesela v njeni družbi in okoli vse luštne gospe. Pred vsem pa najtoplejša zahvala Mrs. Josephini Gornik, ki me je povabila v svoj auto. Tukaj v našem mestu nimamo nič takih slavenostih; sicer pa Cleveland ni tako daleč, le starejši smo, tako so nam bolj odaljeni kraji kjer je več Slovencev. Prijetno se je srečati z znanci in prijatelji, s katerimi se

dolga leta ne vidimo. Srečala sem Ms. Vasle Francko, koliko bi se imele za pogovoriti pa ni bilo časa. Povedala mi je, da sta z možem postala stara mamica in dedek. Kako v prijetnem govoru mi je to novico povedala, veš deklica je. Srečni starši. Ja v starem kraju so rekli, otroci so božji dar. Te sreče dosti ljudi ne more doseči...

Ko, bo ta dopis v Zarji prišel vam v roke, ne bodo več daleč Božični prazniki, boste že v polnem teku z nakupovanjem daril, za vaše drage.

Vsem, ki se trudite z urejevanjem našega mesečnika Zarja naj Vam bo Božično razpoloženje, kot vesela Božična pesem, ki naj Vas spremlja, skozi vse leto 1992.

Prav lepe pozdrave, vesel Božič ter srečno in zdravja polno 1992 leto želim vsem čitateljem ZARJE.

Vas lepo pozdravlja,
JULKA KLAMMER

VESEL
BOŽIČ

PRAZNOVANJE V STRAŽIŠČU PRI KRANJU

Ob domačemu lipovemu čaju, samo z "limonico", podprtemu sva začeli z Mici-Marijo Zupanovo obujati spomine na nekdanje božične praznike, v "Stražišču pri Kranju".

Božična doba se je začela takoj po sv. Miklavžu. Vsak večer po večerji je bilo govora samo o pripravljajanju za božič. Težko smo ga čakali, zelo veliko smo molili v pripravi za božič, za rojstvo Jezuščka.

Živelimo blizu mesta, a tudi blizu gozda. Otroci smo se najprej spravili nad ata, da bi šel čimprej v gozd po mah. Smo pač mislili, da z mahom v hiši se bodo božični prazniki kar naenkrat znašli med nami. Ata so se malo zgovarjali, češ, da je še prezgodaj. Končno so bili le prisiljeni, od našega nerganja, da so šli ponj. Do božiča se je mah posušil in je bila zmeraj treba dodati še "frišnega".

V zadnjemu tednu pred prazniki smo se začeli pripravljati za peko. Treba je bilo streti orehe. Trli smo jih še z valjarjem. Strojčkov še ni bilo. Malo pozneje so pri sosedu kupili strojček, in je vsa bližnja okolica z nami vred hodila tja mleti orehe.

Potico smo pekli dva dni pred božičem. Pekla se je v lončeni posodi prevezani z "dratom". Imenovali so jo "modu" (model). Za božič in veliko noč smo imeli velik kolač. Razvaljati ga je bilo treba čez vso mizo, da je "pasel" v modu. Kolač je bil kot potica. To je bila prva peka. Za drugo peko, drugi dan so pa zamesili za štrukeljčke in mlečen kruh.

Popoldne pred svetim večerom smo pa otroci z atom postavili "jaselce" (jaslice) v kot, v hiši. Ata so porazložili mah po hribčku, pustili so pa eno vdolbino v hribčku, za hlevček, za sveto Družino. Vse so prav lepo založili. Ata so se postavili sveto Družino v hlevček, otroci smo pa postavljali ovčke, pastirčke po hribčku. Zvezda repatica je bila tudi pritrjena od ata. Vse jaslice – Marija s svetim Jožefom, Jezušček, ovce, pastirčki, osliček, vol in zvezda repatica in pozneje še sveti trije Kralji so bili iz "popendekla" z lepimi slikami spredaj. O tem, teh kar so predstavljali v hlevčku in hribčku.

Sveti večer, ko je zvonilo "Ave Marija" smo šli vsi veseli blagoslovljati okoli hiše in v njej. Ata so kadili in molili rožni venec, kdor se šel za njimi je škropil z blagoslovljeno vodo, vsi drugi smo šli za njima, moleč rožni venec.

Po blagoslovljanju je bilo večerja. Za sveti večer je bil ponavadi sok in krompir. Včasih smo imeli tudi "smokja", to je mala drobna repica, kuhana kot krompir.

Večerjo smo kar metali vase, da smo se potem otroci hitro odpravili od hiše do hiše ogledati kdo ima lepše in lepe jaslice. To je trajalo tja do desete ure. Pa, pri eni sami hiši so takrat imeli božični drevešček. Vsi smo občudovali v srebrni in zlati papir zavite bon-



bončke, lepe piškote, ki so se nam ponujali, ptičke po vejah, vsakovrstnih barv in svečke pripete na veje. Nekaj čudovitega za tisti čas in dragega tudi.

Prišedši domov, smo se že začeli pripravljati in napravljati za k polnočnici. V Stražišču je bila naša hiša v tistem koncu pot sv. Joštom, zato pa je bila naša pot do sv. Martina cerkve v Šmartnem pri Kranju dobre četrte ure hodà. Pot se je vila skozi vas, kjer so se nam med potjo k polnočnici pridružili znanci in prijatelji. Ob veselemu pritrkovanju zvonov sv. Martina in ob mislih na polnočnico in seveda mi otroci smo se skrivoma včasih malo podrsali, kar je bilo seveda prepovedano, ker so bili čevlji predragi za tako stvar. Čas je hitro minil in že smo bili pri cerkvi in v cerkvi.

Stražiški cerkveni zbor je bil znan po svojem lepemu petju, toda ob polnočnici je bilo pa najlepše.

Po polnočnici, napolnjeni veselja in božje milosti smo jo kar hitro vsi ubrali proti domu in odšli spat.

Zjutraj na božič je bila navada, da smo šli k deveti maši. Opoldne je bila dobra južina in popoldne smo ostali doma.

Sv. Štefan se je tudi še praznoval, hodili smo obiskovati.

Mi smo pričakovali jezuščka, ne darov. To je bil pravi božič, pravo veselje, pravo razpoloženje, za rojstvo Jezuščka.

Boglonaj Mici-Marija.

Blagoslov božjega Deteta naj vas spremlja ob čudovitih praznikih Njegovega rojstva!

BARAGA

*Začetki Katoliške Cerkve v Ameriki*

FRANC JAKLIČ

IV. BARAGA V KRIVEM DREVESU

ZAČETNO DELO

— Nadaljevanje —

Spotoma se je oglasil pri spreobrnjenecih v Manitiku. Vesel je bil njihove gorečnosti. Hvali jih, da radi molijo. "Razen dolge in jedrate jutranje in večerne molitve molijo tudi po dvakrat ali trikrat na dan rožni venec. Kadarkoli utegnejo, vzamejo v roke indijanski molitvenik, ki sem ga bil lani dal tiskati v Detroitu, in molijo ali pojo iz njega in se iz glave učijo katekizma. Večina jih zdaj že zna brati, drugi se pa pridno učijo." Na Bobrovem otoku je z žalostjo zvedel, da pogani še vedno nasprotujejo gradnji cerkvice in grozijo, da jo bodo takoj zažgali, če si jo bodo kristjani upali postaviti. Baraga jih je skušal pomiriti z darovi, a brez uspeha. Naposled so na zborovanju toliko odnehali, da so dovolili, da smejo kristjani daleč v gozdu postaviti cerkvico.

Ko se je vrnil v Krivo drevo, ga je čakalo veliko veselje: o binkoštih je krstil 44 oseb, med katerimi je bilo samo šest otrok; drugi so bili vsi več ali manj odrasli, nekateri že v visoki starosti. V Starem Krivem drevesu, v cerkvi sv. Vincencija Pavelskega, jih je pa krstil 15.

S krščanstvom se je med Indijanci širila tudi kultura. Opuščali so lov in se naseljevali v vaseh. To že zato, ker so ob nedeljah in praznikih hoteli biti pri sv. maši. Iz bližnjih lovišč bi bili sicer lahko hodili k maši, a so bila lovišča že skoraj prazna divjačine. — Baraga in drugi misijonarji so pa Indijance zlasti zato odvrčali od lovskega življenja po gozdovih, ker so jih hoteli

varovati pred pijančevanjem. "Ameriška družba za nakupovanje kož" je imela prvenstvene pravice za kupovanje kož pobite divjačine. To indijansko krzno je za drag denar šlo tudi v Evropo in Azijo, tja do Kitajske. Družba je pa kupovala kože ne za denar, ampak za razno blago. Imela je na več krajih svoje podružnice, n.pr. tudi v Mackinacu. Od tam je vsako jesen odplulo v indijanska naselja nešteto ladij, polnih obleke, živil, orodja, zlasti pa žganja. Uslužbenci družbe so pa šli za Indijanci tudi v gozdna lovišča. Vlada Združenih držav je sicer prepovedala Indijancem prodajati alkohol; imela je pa na obširnem, skoraj praznem indijanskem ozemlju le peščico uradnikov, zato so njene prepovedi ostale le bolj na papirju. Celo nekateri državni uradniki so Indijancem prodajali žganje. Za Indijance, ki jih je žganje upropaščalo na duši in telesu, torej ni bilo druge rešitve, kakor da pretrgajo vsak stik s temi nakupovalci kož, to je: da sploh ne hodijo več na lov, ampak ostajajo v svojih stalnih naseljih.

Spreobrnjeni Indijanci so Barago ubogali. Blizu selišč so si delali vedno več njivic, na njih sejali žito in sadili sočivje. Krompirja so pridelali več kakor za lastno potrebo in so ga prodajali v Mackinac. Zasajali so sadne vrtove, kakor je tudi Baraga zasadil okoli cerkve jablane. Začeli so gojiti domače živali in perutnino. Vedno bolj so znali rabiti orodje. Šli so se učiti raznih obrti; njihove hiše, obleka, obutev, čolni itd. so bili vedno boljši. Njih poglobitveni dohodek je seveda ostal sladkor iz javorovega soka.

O kulturnem napredku svojih vernikov je pisal Baraga v pismu z dne 25. avgusta 1833: "Življenje spreobrnjenih divjakov v tem misijonskem kraju je že precej podobno življenju belih. V Krivem drevesu je

36 dodelanih hiš, ki so sicer lesene, a prav trdne in pripravne. Gradijo še več drugih hiš, da jih bo župna vas kmalu imela 50. Tudi v podružnih vaseh so spreobrnjeni že začeli delati namesto svojih ubožnih koč prav pripravne hiše. Tako se bodo tudi tukaj zmerom bolj kazali časní blagri, ki jih krščanstvo prinaša ljudem. Indijanci v Krivem drevesu zdaj že vsi polje obdelujejo; zemlja v tem kraju pa ni kaj prida in pridelujejo samo koruzo, sočivje, krompir in buče, ki imajo prav dobro slast. Stop nimajo, zato koruzo sami phajo in potem kuhajo kašo iz nje. Vsaka vas ima mnogo prašičev in kureline, ponekod se že dobijo krave in celo konji, ki jim pa služijo samo za jahanje, ker so pota tod še preslaba. Njihovo poolje, ki so si ga bili napravili iz posekanih gozdov, je še pretrdo in premalo očiščeno korenin in štorov in se zato še ne da orati. Pa se bo tudi to kmalu zboljšalo."

Agent Združenih držav za indijanske zadeve v Mackinacu, polkovnik Boyd, je o kulturnem in gospodarskem napredku Indijancev v Krivem drevesu zelo pohvalno poročal vladi in je Baragi šel zelo na roko. Ostala sta si dobra prijatelja.

Škof Fenwick je bil Baragi ob prihodu v Krivo drevo naročil, naj skuša spreobrniti ves rod Otava. Zato je Baraga pozimi 1832/33 prosil nekega vaščana iz Krivega drevesa, ki je odhajal proti jugu na običajno zimovanje, da naj gre v naselje "Pri Vélíki reki" ali po angleško Grand River. To otavsko naselje se je tako imenovalo po reki enakega imena, ki priteče od vzhoda in se izliva v južni kót Michiganskega jezera. Dandanes je tam mesto Grand Rapids. Ta vaščan naj tam govori o krščanstvu in o duhovniku, ki je pripravljen priti k njim, ako želijo. Mož je naročilo dobro izvršil; ob spomladanskem povratku je veselo segel Baragi v roke in vzklikal: "Vesela novica, moj oče; vesela novica!" Pri Vélíki reki so bili z veseljem pozdravili Baragovo zanimanje zanje in so ga povabili k sebi.

7. junija se je peš vzdignil na 450 km ali 100 ur dolgo pot. V Mašigongu ob jezeru, nekoliko severneje od Vélíke reke, je krstil 21 Indijancev in jim maševal. To je bila prva sv. maša v tisti okolici.

Vélíka reka ali Grand River je bila takrat meja med državo Michigan, spadajočo k Združenim državam, in med svobodnim indijanskim ozemljem. Naselje je ležalo na indijanski zemlji, na desnem bregu reke, sredi čudovito lepe okolice. Na levem bregu, torej na ozemlju Združenih držav, je imela bogata, številna kanadsko-francoska družina Campeau (Kampó) mnogo zemlje. Dajala je Indijancem blago v zameno za kože. Postregli so mu in mu prepustili hišo, ki so jo bili pred kratkim postavili, za začasno kapelo. Blagoslovil jo je v čast Materi božji.

Ta Baragov obisk je trajal 10 dni. Vsako jutro in vsak večer so Indijanci prihajali na čolnih preko reke k njegovim govorom. Krstil je 46 oseb, v treh bližnjih naseljih pa 40. V vasi je že devet let živel protestantovski baptistovski pridigar, pa je v tem času dobil za svojo vero samo 10 oseb. Najbolj vnet med njimi je bil poglavar z imenom "Poldne" (Noonday). — Baraga jih je pa v desetih dneh krstil 86. "O kako tolažilni pogledi so to zame!" je upravičeno zapisal 26. junija v pismu na Dunaj.

Medtem so se pa razmere v cincinnatski škofiji

spet zelo spremenile in živo posegle tudi v Baragove misijonske načrte.

Že škof Fenwick je želel odcepiti severno ozemlje od svoje ogromne škofije in v Detroitu ustanoviti novo škofijo. Ta Fenwickova želja se je izvršila šele po njegovi smrti, poleti leta 1833. Za prvega detroitskega škofa je bil posvečen Fenwickov generalni vikar Friderik Resé. Baraga je pripadel njegovi škofiji. Novi škof pa indijanskim misijonom in zato tudi njemu ni bil tako naklonjen kakor škof Fenwick.

Ker je bilo v Krivem drevesu skoraj že vse spreobrnjeno, je Baraga prosil škofa Reséja, kakor je bil prosil tudi škofa Fenwicka, naj mu dovoli oditi iz Krivega drevesa in iti na južne bregove Gorenjega jezera, med Očipvejce, ki so bili skoraj še vsi pogani in so si želeli katoliškega misijonarja. Takole je pisal:

"O kako me je zbolelo srce, ko sem slišal take novice. Tako lepa priložnost, rešiti večnega pogubljenja toliko neumrjočih duš! Od sramu bi se moral skriti, dokler ne dobim dovoljenja, da grem k njim. — Zato zelo zares prosim Vašo milost, da se me usmilite in mi pomagajte izpeljati načrt, ki ni od včeraj, ampak sem že dolgo časa resno razmišljal o njem. Dosti jih je, ki sem govoril z njimi, in vsi so mi rekli, da imam prav. Za izvršitev svojega načrta, iti h Gorenjemu jezeru in tam ustanoviti nov misijon v tolažbo vernih katoličanov v tisti okolici in v spreobrnjenje mnogih Indijancev v tisti pokrajini, Vas ne bo stalo nič drugega kakor besedica 'Da'. Moji potni stroški, moje vzdrževanje tam, nova cerkev in moje stanovanje: vse to ne bo Vašo milost stalo niti en dolar. — Prišel sem v to divjo deželo in sem zapustil domovino in vse udobnosti s tem namenom, da bi iskal izgubljene ovce Kristusove in jih z njegovo pomočjo in milostjo pripeljal nazaj k njegovi čedi. Tukaj v Krivem drevesu so že skoraj vsi kristjani in je vse v najlepšem redu."

Škof Resé je pa mislil, da čas za spreobračanje Očipvejcev ob Gorenjem jezeru še ni prišel. Zato je Barago, ki si je želel novega misijona, napotil k Vélíki reki. Baraga je ubogal in v duhu pokorščine gledal dobre strani tega misijona:

1. Pri Vélíki reki živi okoli 900 poganov. Otavani so in jih bo lažje spreobračal, ker njihov jezik že precej zna.

2. K Vélíki reki pride vsako zimo tudi s severa mnogo poganških Otavanov na lov. Kar jih bo dobil za krščansko vero, bodo čez leto seznanjali svoje vaščane z njo.

3. Pri Vélíki reki je žye nekaj belih priseljencev in jih bo vsako leto več. Nekateri so zelo pokvarjeni in kvarijo tudi Indijance. Stalen duhovnik bo torej tudi zanje zelo potreben.

4. Bati se je živahnejšega misijonstva protestantov-baptistov, ki imajo tam že cerkev, pástorja in šolo.

Takoj se je začel pripravljati za odhod. Urejal je, kar je bilo še potrebno, da bo svoj misijon v kar najboljšem stanju predal drugim rokam.

— Nadaljevanje —

RAZDRTO GNEZDO

Nadaljevanje

Sestra Marjeta, ki se je peljala na Dolenjsko k stricu je vzdihnila: Moj Bog, meni se hudo šele začenja, stric je čudak in nikoli mu nisem bila všeč. Na postaji je ni nihče čakal; dolga bo moja pot in še težak kovček. Pot se je vila navkreber. Koliko je pravzaprav trpljenja v tem bregu, je premišljevala. Skrb v srcu je z vsakim dihom rasla in se večala. Le kakšen bo stric in kaj ji bo rekel? In Žunov Slavc, ki jo je nekoč snubil, kaj ji bo rekel? Ali se bo sploh še lahko vživela v to življenje? Od daleč je zagledala hišo in tudi kaščo, kjer sta z materjo nekoč živeli – po očetovi smrti.

"Torej si le prišla? Pozabil sem, da boš danes prišla, sicer smo pa včasih hodili samo peš. Stanovala boš na kašči kakor nekoč – za silo bo. Neža je vse pometla in pozneje si boš morala sama pomagati. Žunov Slavc me je že včeraj vprašal, kdaj prideš. Dela na žagi in lepo zasluži. Po nunsko pa ne boš mogla tukaj živeti."

Odpahnila je vrata v kuhinjo, spustila kovček na tla in se vsedla na surovo klopico, ki je stala ob štedilniku. Vse stvari so stale tako, kakor jih je pred leti pustila.

Slišala je stica vpiti na dvorišču, a Neža se ni oglasila. Ne počuti se dobro, da sem jaz prišla. Delavko on rabi samo za poletje, čez zimo mu bom samo v breme in nadlego. Obrnila je ključ v vratih in legla. Spodaj je pa slišala glas Žunovega Slavca: kaj, ali me zopet pričakuje? Treba se bo prej ali slej umakniti.

Mati Doroteja je bila pri sosedu skozi vso žetev. Prevzela je kuho in pazila otroke. Prve dni je bilo vsem nekam nerodno, a otroci so jo začeli klicati za teto in tako so se zblížali. Vsem je bilo to všeč.

Pisma, ki so jih pisale nekdanje redovne sestre so postala vedrejša. Iz trpkosti je postajala vdanost. Vedele so; ne ločiti se od ljudi in življenja. Pismo sestre Vendeline je bilo naravnost sončno: Prve dni se mi zdelo, da ne bom vzdržala. V družini sem vzljubila otroka, ki sta postala bolna in tudi oba me imata rada, pravtako njuna starša. Zdaj sem srečna!

Da, tudi njej je sestra Jedrt pisala:

"Imela sem srečo. Da sem dobila službo pri starem zdravniku, ki je mislil že na pokoj, toda zaradi pomanjkanja zdravnikov, mu ga niso dovolili. Zaposlena sem kakor služkinja, toda pomagam mu tudi v ordinaciji, kolikor jo sme imeti. Najhujše je to, da je daleč naokoli edini zdravnik, vasice raztresene po bregovih. Zdravnik je dober človek in prav nič navdušen za nove razmere. Pravi: "Vse so postavili na glavo. Na glavi stojte, mislijo pa s petami."

Mati Doroteja se kar smeje, pravtako tudi njena sestra. In reče sestri: "Če katera od tvojih sester ne

bo našla nič pametnega in bi bila v stiski, nazadnje, eno sobico še imava, naj pride."

"To si bom zapomnila, Polona. Zdi se mi, da je sestra Marjeta v taki stiski. Če me bo ona prosila, bom tebe prišla za besedo."

V septemborskem dnevu je sestra Vendelina zopet pisala. Naletela sem na sestro Anastazijo, z njo sem govorila in vam bi lahko več povedala, le iz oči v oči. Prilagam vam izrezek iz časopisa, malo se bojim, da je njenekaj kritizira z naslovom: "Za samostanskimi zidovi". Mati Doroteja je prebrala, izrezek stisnila v kepico in jo spustila v košek za smeti.

Sestra Anastazija! Obsodila jo je, pa vendar ne verjela.

Polona je potrkala in vprašala: "Ali je spet kaj narobe?"

"Nič takega, draga sestra, nič takega! Prihodnjo nedeljo pride na obisk sestra Vendelina. Ali bo lahko pri nama na kosilu?"

"Seveda, kakšen dan lahko tudi ostane, če hoče. Potrebna si stare družbe, že vidim. Že dolgo vidim, da si še vedno mati Doroteja, kajne?"

"Sestra Vendelina je prišla s prvim vlakom, ali ji lahko grem naproti?" Mati Doroteja je bila vsa iz sebe. Veselost sestre je velika."

"Ste bili že pri sestri Katarini, draga sestra?"

"Seveda, vsak teden jo obiščem. Naglo gre navzdol. Rahla kap."

"S sestro sta bili veliki prijateljici, vam morda kaj piše? Meni se že dolgo ni oglasila; mislim na sestro Virgino."

"Seveda. Obiskala sem jo tudi. Živi v bratovi hiši, gosapodinji pa pri sosedu. Štirje otroci so, najmlajša punčka ima komaj štiri leta."

Po kosilu je hotela sestra Vendelina pomiti posodo, toda Polona ni pustila. Pospravila bom že sama. Vidve pojdiva gor v sobo, morda se za dolgo ne bosta videli. In sta odšli.

"Torej videli ste sestro Anastazijo in tudi govorili. Povejte."

"Kakšna pa je?"

"Lepa, zelo lepa. Tudi moderna, nosi..."

"Mislim, ali je bilo v njenem govorjenju še kaj sestrskega, ali je po kateri sestri kaj vprašala. Bila je neoporečna sestra do zadnjega."

"To sem vam hotela povedati, častita mati. Rekla mi je, da si je sestrsko skupnost predstavljala drugače in da je šele proti koncu spoznala, da se je prenagljila. Ni imela pravega poklica, prepričana pa je, če bi dobila službo glavne instrumentarke, bi pa le obvisela v redu. Pravi, da so civilne bolničarke boljše in treznejše – morda zato, ker so plačane."

"Ali je bila sama, ko sta se srečali?" je vprašala mati Doroteja.

"Sama, toda povedala mi je, da čaka doktorja Polca. Doktor je šel na posvetovanje in ga je čakala zunaj."

Mati Doroteja je pri zadnjih besedah stala ob oknu in se jokala.

"Zdaj, draga sestra mi povejte vse o sebi. Pre-nočili boste pri meni. Poglejmo, kako živi sestra Marjeta pri čudnem stricu tam v hribih? Mati Doroteja je v skrbih zanjo – in prav ima. Vsak večer je klub trudnosti odmolila svoje molitve in preden je legla, je v mislih obiskala vse tiste sestre, ki so ji bile posebno drage; stric je brez posebnih ukazov gonil obe, njo in Nežo, ki je bila pri stricu manj kot dekla. Sestro Marjeto so stalni prihodi sosedovega Žuna strašno motili – kaj vendar misli, da se bom z njim poročila? Ko sta bila nekoč na dvorišču, se je Marjeta ustavila:

"Mislim Slavc, da ti moram povedati, da sem še vedno istega prepričanja kakor takrat, ko sem odšla iz vasi. Zaradi tebe bom morala oditi zopet. Slavc, jaz se ne bom nikoli možila". Trdo je spregovorila in odšla.

Marjeta je vedela da ji v hiši ne bodo dali miru zaradi mojitve, in da se mora pri njej nekaj zlomiti in tako je v veliki stiski takoj pisala obupano pismo materi Doroteji.

Odgovor je dobila še isti teden!

Sestra Marjeta, ne pozabite, da ste popolnoma prosti. Vaša odločba! Ker trpite pri stricu in se ne marate poročiti, lahko pridete k meni; moja sestra ima še eno sobico in ta bi bila vaša. Delo bi pa lahko dobili pri kmetu, pri katerem pomagam zdaj jaz. Sestra Marjeta je jokala od veselja. Malo bo še počakala pri tej hiši, ker je veliko jesenskega dela, potem bo pa z velikim veseljem odšla.

Nekega dne je zgodaj zjutraj odšla. V vasi je imela prijateljico Robnikovo ki jo je Marjeto še kot nuno obiskovala v Ljubljani; ona in njen mož sta jo peljala na postajo. Vedela sta, da je Marjeta brez vsakega beliča, ker stric jo je pustil iz hiše praznih rok. Prijateljica ji je kupila karto za vožnjo in ji nekaj drobiža stisnila v torbico.

Nekdanja sestra Anastazija, sedaj samo Pavla Robnik, ki je edina ostala v bolnici, je zvedela, da je nekdanja sestra Katarina – že stara, umrla v bolnici. Novico ji je prinesel doktor Polec; ni ji dalo miru, da je le stekla k njej, a Pavlo ni več poznala – bila je pač prepoznana.

Odločila se je za pogreb. Mraz je bil tak, da je šel skozi kosti. Ni hotela srečati nekdanje sestre in se je ustavila daleč od gručiце, v kateri je takoj našla mater Dorotejo, sestro Vendelino, sestro Alfonzo in sestro Mavricijo. Mati Doroteja je imela črno ruto kakor kmečke ženske in si je brisala oči. Ko je bil pogreb pri kraju, so se vse štiri zbrale pri visoki cipresi; zdelo se ji je, da je sestra Vendelina z glavo mignila proti njej in da se je mati Doroteja obrnila. Nekdanja sestra Anastazija je kar zginila.

Zdaj ji je bilo žal, da je šla za pogrebom. Tako strašno težko je ubežati preteklosti. Varanje same sebe, da bo vse pozabila, je postalo trpljenje. Pričakovala je, da se bo katera od sestra pismeno oglasila. Niti ena se ni. Prijaznost doktor Polca jo je najprej vznemirjala, a vse se je kralu končalo.

V bolnišnici se je hotela znebiti sobe, ki jo tako dobro poznala – nekdanje pisarne matere Doroteje. Bila je sicer najlepša soba, toda spomini v njej so bili boleči in hotela se jih je znebiti, ali rešiti. Tedaj je prvič videla, kako daleč je od resničnega življenja. Cena za majhno, slabo opremljeno sobo, je bila tolikšna, da ni mogla verjeti.

"Kje vendar ste mogli živeti toliko časa, da se vam cena zdi nemogoča?", je vzkliknila ena izmed žensk, ki je imela sobo na razpolago. "Še več lahko dobim zanjo. Vam jo dam za to ceno, ker se mi zdite poštene. V tem času človek naleti na vsa mogoča dekleta."

Tako je ostala v hiši, v bolnici, kjer je živela nekoč –v sedaj opustošenem gnezdu – z mnogimi dobrimi sestrami, za kar pa prej ni vedela.

Gledala je v zibajoče se veje, s bilo je nosil veter drobne, suhe snežinke proti cesti. S prvega oddelka sta prišla doktor Polec in instrumentarka Sonja. Oba v beli halji. Sonja je imela preko nje oblečen plašč. Doktor se je smejal, ko je Sonja zakrila obraz z dlamni; drobne snežinke, ki jih je nosil veter, so jo motile. Odrgrgal ji je roke z obraza in jo potegnil s seboj. Šla sta proti drugemu oddelku in Sonja je pričela teči. Nato je prišel teči tudi doktor in zginila sta pod kos-tanji.

Nič ni bilo in vendar je nenadoma v njej nastala praznina. Bila je to muka mladega, samotnega človeka, ki udari na dan nenadoma s tolikšno silo, da preobrne ves smisel življenja. Kaj je pravzaprav ostalo od sanj, ki so prišle v prvem tednu svobodnega življenja?

Odtavala je k mizi in sedla. Praznina vsepovsod. Mnogo polnejše so bile sobice nekoč, ki so bile še pregrajene s špansko steno in sta dve sestri spali v njej. Takrat je sobice polnilo veličastvo žrtvovanja.

Zdaj je resnično sama. Gručica sester pri cipresi je bila vendar enota, tam na pokopališču. "Morala bom iti od tod," je mislila. Vedela je, da je mesto instrumentarke na Jesenicah prazno in nujno ga rabi. Da, jutri!

Jutri napiše prošnjo in jo izroči v roke doktorju Polcu.

Male deklice so sedele stisnjene v kuhinji, kjer je bilo še najbolj toplo. Strmele so v mlado nekdanjo sestro Virgino, ki jim je na svoj način pripovedovala zgodbo o Jezusovem rojstvu. Štiri sestrice: Marija, Anica, Polonca in najmlajša Barbka. Tesno druga pri drugi so sedele na klopi in sestra Virgina je sedela na visoki pručici, ki jo je Tratnik, oče teh štirih punčk nalašč zato zapravil, da je Virgina mogla doseči posodo, ki je bila v omari na gornji polici. Pravih jaslic ni bilo, hlevček iz papirja, figurice pa na mahu.

"In Marija ni mogla dobiti hiše?" vzdihne Barbka.

"Tudi zdaj je težko dobiti stanovanje in vaš očka je zelo vesel, da ima svojo hišico. Sveti Jožef tudi ni veliko zaslužil in hišice ni mogel kupiti. Toda z Marijo je moral iti v Betlehem in tam je bil tujec. Kar pomislite, otroci, če bi vaša mamica, ki je še živela, šla iz Ljubljane na Jesenice, prišla tja ponoči in zbolela, kdo bi jo vzel pod streho? Nihče. Tako je bilo z Jožefom in Marijo. Zato sta šla v hlevček, kjer so spale ovce in tudi slama.



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A perfect Christmas gift Recently published by **Five Island Press**

artistically presented, bilingual (English/Slovene) book of poetry **WHISPER** by **Danijela Hlis**, P.O. Box 399, Stawell, Australia 3380. The book was published with the assistance of a grant from Australia Council for Arts. Australian writer Morris West wrote a congratulating letter to Danijela and said, quote "This is only the beginning, you must keep writing!" unquote. Slovene poet Ivan Minatti wrote her: "the poetry is beautiful, I have a very good opinion of the book, including the presentation and illustrations."

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"FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART"

A Polish Christmas

It is dusk. At first, one child comes outside. Then, another, followed by another and another. As twilight fades into night more and more children come out, until all the children are outside, looking towards the sky.

Anticipation, as well as excitement and anxiety fill the air.

Suddenly, one child shouts, "Look! There it is!"

Simultaneously, all heads turn to where the child is pointing, to get a glimpse of the first star of the evening. Christmas in Poland has officially begun.

This search for the first evening star commemorates the Three Wisemen. They slept by day and rode by night. At the first sign of twilight, they awoke, and as their servants broke camp and loaded up the dromedaries, they went off to a clearing or hillside. There they could get a full view of the sky. Anxiously, they scanned the heavens for their celestial guide.

They had no idea of where they were going. Once they arrived at their destination, they didn't know who or what they'd find. All they knew was they had to follow this star.

It was like no other they had seen. It was an omen. It had to be. What other explanation could there be? This magnificent star was a sign of greatness.

In Poland, as is the custom in a number of Slavik nations, the meal at Christmas Eve is opened by the father, or head of the family taking a thin wafer with the manger scene embossed on it and breaking into as many

pieces as there are people present. After taking one of the pieces for himself, the wafer is passed until everyone has a piece. The Polish name for this wafer is "Oplettek". (Its Slovak name is "Oplatky")

This tradition commemorates the Last Supper Christ had with his apostles.

This holiday season, may the star

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of Bethlehem shine brightly on your hearts, so that you, too, as the magi did so long ago find Christ. Once you find Him, receive Him as they did, with gifts and joy.

'til next year
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by Josephine Janezic

Narrative Synopsis

In essence this true story is historical, although its spirit at times is romantic and occasionally reaches into the heroic. The story takes place from 1938 to 1957 in Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and in refugee camps in Italy and then on to Australia.

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This is a human story of thousands of people who suffered under tyranny and oppression. The story is replete with astonishing incidents and revealing insights into human nature. It is a document of events, drawn from the seared memory of a child, which describe a life scarred by deprivation, fright and horror, but redeemed and healed by love.

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