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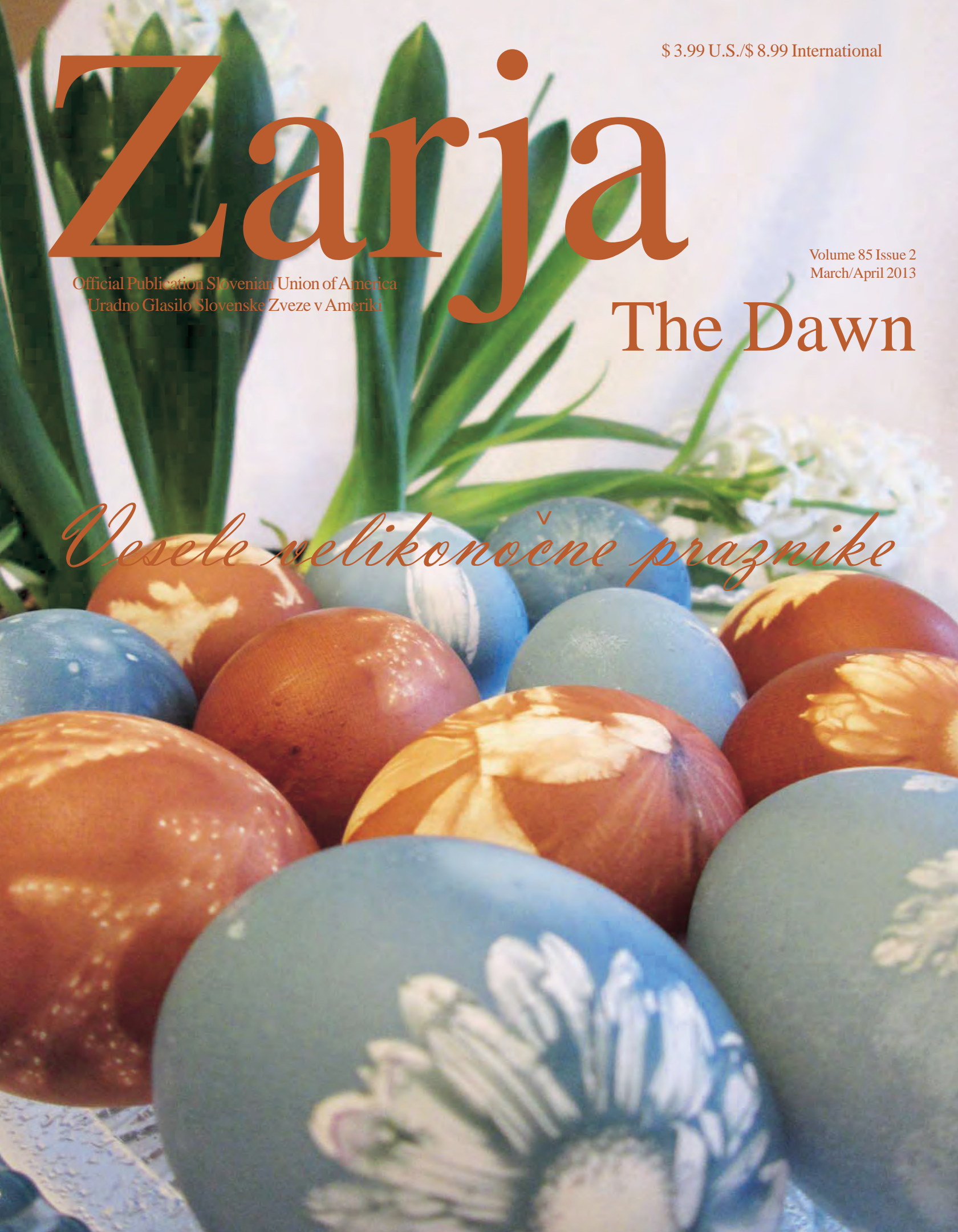
Zarja

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

Volume 85 Issue 2
March/April 2013

The Dawn

Vesele velikonočne praznike



Zarja - The Dawn

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Communications for the next issue of publication

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

Submission Guidelines

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

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

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

President's Message

Slovenian Union of America Approved for 501(c)(3) Status

*We need our membership's help to
continue to build a strong SUA*

Greetings:

We are so thrilled! We, the Slovenian Union of America, have been approved for 501(c)(3) status. Please stay tuned to Carol Ryba's column in the *Zarja* for ongoing updates. This is an important achievement and can make a huge difference in many ways for years to come.

One way to start planning for the future is by recruiting new members. Whether you are a part of an active branch, live in a city where you assume you are the only Slovenian-American, or a city that was once thriving in Slovenian heritage, or a town where you want to start your own branch - the time is now! We are fortunate that our organization is still very strong, whereas many others have folded. Perhaps it's because of our strong Slovenian spirit. We need to continue to keep our Slovenian Spirit Alive! We need our membership's help to continue to build a strong SUA.

Your National Board of Directors have been working very hard to improve this organization that has been alive since 1926 and now we need your help. Without members, we are nothing! We are challenging each one of you to find a new member. Consider giving a gift membership to a friend or relative. The future depends on our members. Can you help?

Applications are in every issue of *Zarja* or can be downloaded from our website - www.slovenianunion.org.

On behalf of the entire National Board of Directors, have a wonderful Easter filled with lots of potica, sausage, family, and friends. Sincerely,

Bonnie Pohar Prokup, SUA National President
wprokup@aol.com

Confused? What's with those initials?

SWUA Slovenian Women's Union of America

(Former name of our organization)

SUA Slovenian Union of America

(New name of our organization)

SWU Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation

(Name is not changed)

Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 2, 2013

Branch 100 - Southern California to hold cooking/baking class at the home of Bonnie Zupan in Banning.

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL to host 2nd Annual "Evening of Slovenian Heritage" from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Claudette's in Oglesby.

Saturday, March 23, 2013

Branch 99 - Lemont, IL to host the annual creation of butarice party at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Paula Mavec. Also a demonstration on the art of egg decorating using onionskins and leaves. Kids and adults are welcome. Lunch and supplies are included and it's FREE!

Saturday, March 23, 2013

Branch 43 - Milwaukee, WI to host annual creation of butarice event starting at 10:00 a.m. at Triglav Park in Wind Lake. Procession with butare at St. John's Church in Greenfield at 8:00 a.m. for Palm Sunday Mass on March 24; narodne nose are encouraged.

Friday - Sunday, April 12 - 14, 2013

KSKJ National Bowling Tournament to be held in Indianapolis, IN. See Branch 5 report for further details.

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Branch 1 - Sheboygan, WI, in partnership with the John Michael Kohler Art Center, is featuring "Family Festival – Slovenija" with all festivities showcasing Slovenian culture, heritage, and food.

Sunday, April 14, 2013

Branch 99 - Lemont, IL to host a mass for deceased members at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Slovenian Catholic Mission Church in Lemont followed by an All Members Celebration at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Sonja DePratt.

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Branch 20 - Joliet, IL to host regular meeting with guest speaker Paula Mavec, who will talk about her attempt to climb Mt. Triglav and her plans for next year.

Thursday - Sunday, May 2 - 5, 2013

Branch 109 - Twin Cities, MN to participate in the Festival of Nations, theme - "Children, Our Past and Future" at the St. Paul River Center.

Saturday, May 4, 2013

Branch 47 - Garfield Heights, OH to host Member's Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. at Burntwood Tavern in Solon.

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Branch 13 - San Francisco, CA to host Member of the Year Luncheon at Val's Restaurant in Daly City.

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Branch 20 - Joliet, IL to host Member of the Year Banquet. Contact the Branch for information.

September, 2013

Branch 35 - Aurora, MN to host the Minnesota Regional Convention. Date and information to follow.

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Ohio Regional Convention – more information to follow.

Sunday, October 20, 2013

Branch 20 - Joliet, IL are planning an 85th Anniversary Celebration - more information to follow.



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

All donations given to SUA will be tax deductible.

Ryba's Reminders

by Carol Ryba - National Treasurer

501(c)(3)

By now most of you have heard that on November 20, 2012, St. Nicholas delivered the BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER to the Slovenian Union of America. After a long, tedious journey we have been approved to operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax exempt organization.

The benefits for our organization will be endless. For starters, **all donations given to SUA will be tax deductible.** We also will take advantage of reduced postage costs by mailing at lower non-profit rates. These are just some of the benefits we can look forward to in our future. We are excited because there will be many more cost-saving benefits.

We are in the early stages of making the necessary changes to operate as a 501(c)(3). A checking account was set up using a new Federal ID number, so that in 2013, the membership monies collected will be interim funding for the new entity. Per a resolution passed in June 2011 at our SUA National Convention we can use the monies which are unrelated to the burial insurance policies affecting memberships initiated prior to the year 2000. All Branch Officers and the membership as a whole will be kept informed.

Please be assured that we are obtaining the proper guidance from a Certified Public Accountant so we can provide accurate and complete information to our Branches and all members. We do not yet know how much money we will be able to transfer from the old entity because we are also still waiting for more information and guidance from the Illinois Department of Insurance. Complete information will be forthcoming as soon as we are able to obtain CPA guidance.

Burial Insurance

When we receive instructions, every member who has a burial insurance policy (approximately 1,700 members) will receive a letter, and it will be absolutely imperative that recipients send a reply. By today's standards the policies are all quite small - ranging from \$100 to \$350. In answer to the members who have inquired about donating their policy monies to the SUA - we have learned from the Illinois Department of Insurance that that is one of the options. It is a very thoughtful offer and would certainly be helpful to the SUA's financial status. Hopefully, by the time you receive the next issue of the *Zarja*, we will have more information to provide.

Donations to the Slovenian Union of America

These donations can be sent with your dues and you only need to write ONE check, but specify the amount of the donation. Of course, **only your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by Federal law.**

*Membership dues are **NOT** tax deductible.*

Please Note:

Donations to the SWU Scholarship Foundation - A Separate 501(c)(3) Entity

These donations must now be sent directly to Mary Turvey. Per our attorney, one 501(c)(3) Corporation cannot collect for **another** 501(c)(3) Corporation. Therefore, please do **not** include donations for the SWU Scholarship Foundation with your dues in ONE check. All donations for the Scholarship Foundation must be sent to the Scholarship Program Director, Mary Turvey, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, MI, 49855, and the check must be made payable to the SWU Scholarship Foundation. If this donation is sent to us, we will send you a refund check so that you can issue a new check.

LJUDMILA NOVAK
MINISTRICA

Ljubljana, december 2012

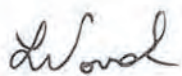
Dear Mrs Bonnie Prokup!

My first visit to Slovenian community in the U.S.A. is over. Impressions just settled down, as there was no time for proper rest.

*The tour can be evaluated as very successful and useful for everyone.
This was accomplished also due to your »contribution«, dear Mrs Prokup.*

Allow me to sincerely thank you for your very well prepared presentation of the SUA, for showing us the Museum and archives, as well as introducing us to the editor of Zarja, your sister Debbie and other co-workers. Thank you also for all goodies!

I also want to wish you, your co-workers and your family Merry Christmas and plentiful of health, personal happiness and success in the approaching year of 2013!


Ljudmila Novak
ministrica



SUA Donations

Thank You!

Donation \$75

Primožic, Edward, 108, +Primožic Family

Donation \$50

Branch 24, Heritage Fund

Donation \$25

Skrilec, Maria, 93, Zarja
Lambert, Martin, 5, Zarja
Drobnick, Julie, 50, Zarja
Robertson, Jean, 43, Zarja
Wilhelm, Marjorie, 1, Zarja
Luoma, Marian, 13, Zarja
Smith, Marcia Jean, 30, Zarja
Fisher, Myra, 100, Zarja
Montgomery, Bernice, 20, Zarja
Banich, Mary (Mitzi), 89, Zarja

Donation \$20

Pavlovic, Frances, 40, Zarja
Twers, Michele, 13, +Josephine Aiuto, mother
Kellen, Susan O'Block, 26, +Kathryn Bergent

Donation \$15

Melmer, Jo, 93, Zarja
Tomaszewski, Patricia, 43,
+Helen A Tomaszewski, my mom

Donation \$10

Venne, Sally, 30, Zarja
Bartholomew, Nancy, 50, Zarja
Terlep, Carole, 20, Zarja
Palcher, Ray, 35, Zarja
Balata, Bernice, 24, Zarja
Burke, Cheryl, 1, Zarja
Boles, Helen, 71, Zarja
Prince, Sophie, 109, Zarja
Ogrinc, Josephine, 16, Zarja
Hodgman, Vicki, 99, Zarja
Rupar, Joan, 1, Zarja
Smole, Fannie, 43, Zarja
DeBernardi, Leone, 23, Zarja
Pakiz, Susan, 102, Zarja
DeJule, Beverly, 20, Zarja
Glazer, Zory, 50, Zarja

Donation \$5

Yach, Carol Jean, 43, Zarja
Niskala, George, 23, Zarja
Pakiz, Rose, 102, Zarja

Welcome New Members

Eccher, Mitchell, 3
Washkowiak, Mary Kaye, 24
Zupan, Michelle, 30
Zaverl, Albin, 35
Kuhel, Gertrude, 42
Burgess, Mary Lynn, 89
Gorgal, Allan, 89
Smukovic, David, 89
Terse, Paul, 89
Nasenbeny, Gordon, 99
Lomsek, Anna, 100
Lomsek, Jerry, 100
Trunkel, Sarah, 102
Cassell, Naomi, 103
Tugberk, Alisa, 103
Tugberk, Suzan, 103
Zadnik, Elizabeth, 103

Spring Fling Fund-raiser

Thank you for your support!

The SUA National Convention Spring Fling Fund-raiser winners will be notified by mail and their names posted on our web site - www.slovenianunion.org.

Our next issue of *Zarja - The Dawn* will also list all the winning entrants and the top sellers.

GOOD LUCK!



Membership Application and Renewal

Slovenian Union of America

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

slovenianunion.org sua@slovenianunion.org 815.727.1926

For RENEWALS use form at BOTTOM of this page

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

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

Dues are for January through December

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

Membership Renewal Notifications are sent annually in January

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

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

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M _____ F _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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

Maiden Name _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry and provide SLOVENIAN SURNAMES

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

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

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Dues Amount _____ Donation _____

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

SWU Scholarship Foundation

by Mary Turvey, SWU Scholarship Director

LINDSEY STRATTON, member of Branch 35 and a 2012 recipient of the \$4,000 Rose Marie Princ Scholarship for a Graduate Student, wrote a most moving, thought-provoking article she wants to share with ZARJA readers.

“Each person has social needs such as belonging, hope, safety, and love. These concepts have been validated to me by my Slovenian heritage. Heritage is membership to a group and an affinity with others. It is the luxury of relating to people with similar backgrounds. Coming from a close-knit Slovenian family affirms my social needs. It is important to extend these values to others.

I am who I am because of my family. My sister has Downs syndrome and although she is very independent, my family has always worked together to be her advocates. She has taught me empathy for others. Family is where we learn our heritage, especially from our elders. Growing up in southern Wisconsin, a couple times a year my parents packed up three kids and a dog in the minivan, destined for northern Minnesota to visit grandma. Visits to her Slovenian town have served as a reminder of my roots. Being around people like me validates who I am. **I belong.**

Like many, I enjoy animal companions. I have a passion for dog training, specifically facilitating an understanding between people and dogs. I volunteer as a “puppy raiser” for Occupaws, a Wisconsin nonprofit guide dog organization. Guide dogs provide independence and companionship for their blind recipients. I urge you to close your eyes for a moment and imagine what a properly trained guide dog could do for you in a world without light. **I am not alone.**

In May, I will graduate with a Master of Science in School Counseling. My role will be to prepare youth for healthy adulthood. I have lived a life of privilege and

belonging. Not all children have such an upbringing, but they can still have a bright future if someone shows them their potential. A school counselor helps students realize **I have a hopeful future.**

I have been practicing my professional role in the School Counseling Organization. I am organizing an event for a local nonprofit called Fierce Beauty, which advocates for victims of human trafficking. I am hosting a speaker and a supply drive for a new safe house. The women being rescued into this home need to feel a level of safety, another luxury that myself and others take for granted. It is critical to extend this to others. **I am safe.**

In addition to internship, my last semester includes completing a thesis. I am working with an advisor to discover how a school counselor can impact students in foster care. I need to be prepared to serve this population in my school and in my home as a potential foster parent. Many of these children lack the luxury of being surrounded by people of their heritage. They deserve to feel the support I always had. **I am loved.**

I belong. I am not alone. I have a hopeful future. I am safe. I am loved. These are all elements I have felt in my life largely due to my strong family base and the kinship of my Slovenian heritage. I can't give others my heritage, but I can share features from it. I am proud of my roots and I feel an obligation as a school counselor to extend these principles to others in need. The generous help from the Rose Marie Princ Scholarship has helped me to do so.”

“I AM LOVED, I AM NOT ALONE, I BELONG, I HAVE A HOPEFUL FUTURE”

These are powerful statements found in Lindsey's writing. They are the very heart of the well being of each of us. Yet most of these topics are not discussed openly. Our social community continues to diffuse; older, safe, caring neighborhoods no longer exist.

How many of you are aware of human trafficking? I only learned of it through an International Film Festival presentation which was held in our local library. The movie was produced in Yugoslavia and pictured a horrible situation of refugees boarding trucks with the belief they were being settled in a new land. In the end they were all killed and their body parts sold on the black market. We hear of

young children brought into the United States with promises of a better life, ending as sex slaves. In many of our cities there are shelters for abused women and the homeless. The EDUCATION that Lindsey has received, plus her driving ambition to make changes, is a beginning. We, who are not educated in the legal aspects and psychological treatment of human rights and needs, can still make a difference. By reaching out to someone with less; giving a nice warm smile, or a cheery positive greeting, we can in a small way convey Lindsey's healing messages. Let each one of us make a change for the better in the lives of others now.

CELEBRATING 64 YEARS OF FINANCIALLY ASSISTING STUDENTS

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

SWU SCHOLARSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

SWU Scholarship Representatives have been contacting and working with students who are eligible for 2013 Scholarships. Branch 100 - Fontana, California, has found a new representative, who is also a past SWU Scholarship winner: Teresa Koci, 14 Dion, Laguna Niguel, California, 92677, 949.363.1513. Welcome, Teresa!

BRANCH 20's ACTIVITIES OF 1960's and 1970's

During this time, the ever active, creative Branch 20 membership came up with the idea of a craft show. Breda Modic, a local artist, chaired the meeting. Frances Jasbec displayed her hand-knitted rugs, afghans, stoles, and vests. Mary Foys Lauretig exhibited her beautiful paintings, and Jennie Puhek's skill was in bobbin lace-making; a difficult task with lovely results. Luba Troha's talent was in tatting on the wheel. Breda Modic displayed her ability to make yarn. Albina Novak made dolls and dressed them in Slovenian costumes. Other hobby projects were often used for meetings; as when the ladies collected nylon stockings and used them to stuff animals that were sold or used as prizes for Zvezin Dan (Zveza Day) in Lemont.

Now in 2013, some of the hobbies have remained, but there are new ones too. In your branch, you most likely have members who bake, quilt, do crossword puzzles, scrap book, make ornaments, beaded jewelry, and wreaths. Wouldn't it be fun to share those talents at a meeting?

We would like to thank everyone for their special kindness that was shown during the Christmas season. The complimentary messages you sent were appreciated. Our students will benefit from your spirit of giving as you make an investment into the future of our nation. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** Donations can be sent to: Director Mary Turvey, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, Michigan, 49855, mturvey@aol.com or Marge Church, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, Ohio, 44056, yemec1@windstream.net or contributions can be wired to SWU Scholarship Foundation, Ishpeming Community Federal Credit Union, 1419 Second Street, Ishpeming, Michigan, 49849, www.Ishpemingcu.org. All contributions are tax deductible.

Scholarship Donations

Donation \$200

SUA Branch 109 - Twin Cities, MN

Donation \$150

Alisa Tugberk

Donation \$100

Maria Kompare, +Edward & Anne Kompare
Anthony Kambich, +Helen & Anton J. Kambich
Julie Wadyki Belloli, +Evelyn Tome

Donation \$50

Margaret & John Addicott, +Anne Mylnar Cooper
Agnes Kurnick, +Edward Kurnick & Edith Ansel
AMLA #50 Nas Com, +deceased members

Donation \$25

Jean Koci
Irene M. Odorizzi
Breda Loncar
Joyce Zawerschnik
Jo Lustik, +Joseph & Mary Vidmar
Patricia Budzilek, +Monica Mikolic
Branch 50 - Euclid, OH
Michael A. Progress
Carol Ryba, +Valburga Bucar Grantham
Ronald J. Erjavec

Donation \$20

Dorothy Jerneycic
Rosemary Mlakar, +Rose Novak
Ray & Agnes Zabak, +Louise & Tony Lausche

Donation \$15

Elvie Blasick, +Martha Luine

Donation \$10

John Gantar

For information, questions, and greatly needed contributions, please contact:
Mary Turvey, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, Michigan, 49855 mturvey@aol.com
or Marge Church, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, Ohio, 44056 yemec1@windstream.net

Death of a Surname

By George Plautz, Zarja Staff Writer
A Record of Immigration

Slovenian Pioneers to America 1840-1879

Every time I think I am making progress writing about immigrants in the 1870's I find others who came before that. Thanks to John Vidmar, a SUA member, who e-mailed me with information about the Rev. Philip Jacob Erhlah and his brother, Lawrence. In the last column I stated I could not find any information on Lovro Elrlah. He is listed in the censuses as Lawrence Erlach. He was born in 1840 in the Ljubljana area and attended school there. He came over soon after his brother was assigned to a mission in Nebraska, about 1866. Pertinent information follows in the column. Two genealogists also contacted me. They were researching their family from the Bela Krajina region, and I discovered that their families arrived in the 1860's. Another SUA member, Arlene Rose Considine, has volunteered to look up church records in four parishes in Iowa to assist me with my research. Hvala lepa! We continue with the Slovenian pioneers to America.

1857-During this year George Lorditsch (Lovretic, also Loretitsch) came to America. He married Catherine either in Slovenia or when he arrived. George was born about April 1826 in Dragatus Parish, Republic of Slovenia, and died about 1912 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Catherine was born about 1838 and died about 1910. They had the following children: Mary, born about 1857, married Jacob Bopp; Margaret, born about 1859, married John Bopp; Crescentia, born about 1860, married someone named Fees; Joseph, born March 20, 1863, married Magdalena Lentz, died May 25, 1958; John, born January 14, 1864, married Ida Hildigar Saly, died October 8, 1903; and George, born about 1865, married Margaret Pfarr in 1890. The family lived in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, with a son moving to Ohio, and a daughter to Maryland. Descendants are actively working on their family history.

1865-About this time, Lovro Erlah came to America. He traveled to Nebraska to be close to his brother. Sometime in the early 1870's he married Sarah McCormack, an early Irish settler of Nebraska. There exists an interview with Sarah in 1938 and she tells about her father settling in Nebraska. She states that she bore seven girls and five boys. Lawrence Erlach was a professor from Ljubljana, born about 1840, could speak 11 languages and was a teacher in his brother's school in Nebraska and a School Superintendent in 1888 and 1889. He died sometime before 1910. His wife, Sarah, was still alive in 1940 and listed in the U.S. Census. Their children do not appear to have left

heirs, but at least one married. The children are: Sarah, born November 13, 1874, died October 1970 in Dakota County, Nebraska; Mary, born about 1875, died young; Martha, born about 1877; Robert, born about 1892, married Bertha, last name unknown; Lawrence, born about 1882; Michael, born February 3, 1885, died about 1954; Thomas, born June 4, 1887; Helen, born about 1893; Ruth, a nurse, born November 25, 1893, died June 1975, in Jackson, Dakota County, Nebraska; Anna, born about 1894; Mary, a school teacher, born July 23, 1896, died June 1, 1992, in West Point, Cummings County, Nebraska; Teresa, born about 1898. Dates of birth in the censuses tended to be different each time the family was listed. There is an extra girl in the list and I am not sure whether a child had two different Christian names or that Helen is actually the same person as Ruth. The family primarily lived in Jackson County, Nebraska, only moving to Colorado for about three years, where their son Lawrence was born. Michael is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Dakota, Jackson County, Nebraska, where the family lived. It appears there were no descendants after the first generation.

1866-During this year John Gorsche arrives in America. John originally starts in Chicago, working as a peddler, before moving to Dubuque. Eventually he bought a farm in Defiance. On May 5, 1883, he married Barbara Tomec (Thomas) in Defiance, Shelby County, Iowa. John was from Zapudje, house number 9 in Dragatus Parish, born on September 2, 1843. His father is John Gorse and his

mother is Ana Brajdic. He arrives in America with his brother, Peter, born September 23, 1846, and died in 1917. John and Barbara have the following children: Barbara, born September 5, 1883, died November 25, 1966; Johanna, born April 11, 1885, died March 26, 1963; John, born September 4, 1886, died December 11, 1978; Joseph Peter, born February 29, 1888, died April 6, 1978; Mary, born July 14, 1889, died March 10, 1947; Christina, born March 22, 1891, died March 17, 1980; Frank John, born February 15, 1893, died about 1939; Philomena, born March 13, 1895, died August 27, 1977; Dorothy, born October 30, 1897, died October 4, 1982; Henry, born August 6, 1899; Peter A., born June 29, 1901, died June 1972; Emil, born March 7, 1903, died December 24, 1989. As noted in an earlier column, John Gorshe was a pallbearer at the funeral of Michael Petsche, a fellow immigrant and farmer. Descendants are actively researching this family.

1869-1870-During this time period records indicate the immigration of Blasius Jekliz and his wife, Magdalena Klinar, from Mojstrana, Dovje Parish, Republic of Slovenia. Blasius settles in Minnesota with his son, John, and daughter, Mary; there is no record of his wife. Blasius was born on February 2, 1813, in Mojstrana, Republic of Slovenia, and died July 18, 1898, in Brockway, Stearns County, Minnesota. He was married to Margaret Klinar, daughter of Simon Klinar and Maria Skumanz, on February 8, 1847. Blasius settled in Brockway, Stearns County, Minnesota, as did his son and daughter. Mary Jekliz was born October 28, 1847, in Mojstrana, and died on February 8, 1930. She married Franz Schaubach, born November 2, 1841, in Kronau, Kranjska Gora, Republic of Slovenia. Frank died on June 11, 1913. Franz immigrated to Brockway (St. Stephens), Minnesota, in 1867, probably with his father Blasius and mother Marija Lucavnik. Blasius Schaubach was born about 1810 in Slovenia and died before 1885 in Brockway, Minnesota. Franz and Mary had the following children: Johanna, born July 1, 1867, died October 22, 1953; John, born December 8, 1869, died March 8, 1905; Mary, born April 14, 1871, died March 28, 1955; Marianna, born April 6, 1873, died about 1940; Anna, born about 1875; Frank born August 11, 1876, died October 27, 1962; Bernard, born August 16, 1878; Andrew, born July 20, 1880, died December 15, 1945; Gertrude, born August 20, 1882, died May 24, 1972; Louis, born July 20, 1884, died August 5, 1957; Joseph Lucas, born October 6, 1888, died September 15, 1976; and Agnes, born October 19, 1890, died May 23, 1978. Frank and Mary Schaubach were farmers. John E. Jacklich was born on December 21, 1850, in Mojstrana, and died about 1935 in Pueblo, Colorado. John married Frances Justin about 1877 in Brockway and they had the following children: Vincent Paul, born July 18, 1878; John Valentine, born April 1880; Louis Cyril, born June 15, 1883, died April 26, 1928; Mary, born June 1884;

Gertrude C., born April 1886; Frances G., born April 1886, died about 1917; Katherine A., born April 23, 1890, died July 5, 1983; Peter A., born about 1891; and Angela Josepha, born October 4, 1893. The family moved from Minnesota to Pueblo, Pueblo County, before 1900. In Pueblo he was a tailor for gentlemen; in Minnesota he was a farmer.

1870-During this year John Strutzell arrives in Waterford, Clinton County, Iowa, with his mother Margaret. According to the history of the *Strutzel Family 1986* by Jeff Strutzel, John David Strutzel was born on October 18, 1856, however this could not be verified in Crnomelj Parish baptismal registers. His mother was a widow and his father is mentioned as John Strutzel (Strucel). John marries Anna Suhoropetz on November 26, 1877. Anna Suhoropetz was born on March 28, 1859, in Otovec, Crnomelj Parish, and her father's name is Joseph. The following children were born to John and Anna: John David, born September 1, 1878, died November 11, 1955; Joseph Henry, born November 2, 1879, died October 11, 1952; Francis Bernard, born September 7, 1881, died March 4, 1936; Mary M., born June 16, 1883, died May 10, 1976; Anna D., born June 1886, died in Milwaukee; Henry Martin, born June 11, 1888, died November 1955; Helen C., born June 9, 1890, died August 3, 1962; Elizabeth C., born March 13, 1893, died May 1986; Andrew W., born May 8, 1895, died June 5, 1928; Margaret S., born May 7, 1898; Alice D., born March 29, 1900; and, Hildegard M., born August 7, 1902, died September 26, 1978. John's mother remarried to a Simonich in Iowa, and then after his death, to Andrew Perion in Joliet, Will County, Illinois. Margaret Perion died October 11, 1911, in Joliet, Illinois. John's and Anna's children were born in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota before settling in Illinois. John David Strutzel died on May 28, 1925, in Kankakee, Kankakee County, Illinois. His wife, Anna, died about 1909 in Illinois. John was a farmer and worked in the steel mill in Joliet. This family should have many descendants researching the family, but I was only able to find one on Ancestry.

SUA member, Richard Terselic, sent me a clipping from *The Wall Street Journal* regarding Autosomal DNA analysis. This analysis sheds light on the whole family tree, rather than just the direct maternal or paternal lines, and gives you the analysis of all four grandparents. I am wondering if anyone has experience with this type of test.

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Going Back Home to Camp Wilark: A Civilian Conservation Corps Story

by David G. Sodac, Branch 89 - Oglesby



"Economic hardships were already challenging his Slovenian immigrant family of six."

1654th Co. Camp P 202 C.C.C. near Wilark, Oregon
7/12/33 - # 143



Matthew Anton Sodac

had turned 15 years of age in April, graduated from La Salle Grammar School in June of 1927, and hoped to join the workforce just two years before the economic collapse of the nation. Economic hardships were already challenging his Slovenian immigrant family of six. Matthew was the oldest of the four children and needed to forego his hopes of continuing a formal secondary education. Instead, he soon was going to receive a real education from life itself and was expected to search for a job in order to contribute to the family's growing debts and day-to-day subsistence. He was fortunate in that the La Salle County, Illinois, geographical area in which his family lived, had abundant coal, slag, and zinc mining opportunities, as well as processing, production, and manufacturing factories that complemented the prosperous mining industry. He was eager to find a job; surely one of these companies would take him on and he could begin his post-schooling years. Obtaining a job wasn't easy but part-time work was occasionally available, so Matt went to work in various zinc manufacturing factories that produced castings and rolled zinc. The work was strenuous and hard, dangerous with the chemical fumes and the handling of equipment, but it gave him a means to financially contribute to the family's needs.

Within two years of his grammar school graduation and his entering into the workforce, the stock market crashed

that October of 1929. The rippling effects of the Great Depression spread throughout the United States, and the communities comprising La Salle County weren't an exception. As the nation's economy began impacting the La Salle County mining and manufacturing industries, more and more men were being laid off. Generally, the first to go were the younger, single men who didn't have families to provide for. Fewer and fewer work opportunities were available to Matt. He augmented his lessening income with occasional music gigs as an accordion player with a local polka band. By December of 1932, 15 million people had lost their jobs. The production and manufacturing of goods was severely restricted across the country, and included the once prosperous factories across La Salle County, Illinois. Matt was unemployed. The impact on the economy and families experiencing the Great Depression would linger on through late 1933. As the country was stifled by the economic effects of the Great Depression, employment opportunities were becoming increasingly bleak. Families were stretching what income they were able to save in order to put food on the table.

Then, on March 4, 1933, there was an emotional shift to anticipation, hope, and excitement following the presidential inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his address on the state of the nation's economic recovery. The newly elected 32nd President pledged to pull everyone out of the Great Depression that had draped over the country like a funeral pall. During his inaugural address, FDR stated that *"This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my*

firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” [1] Every American hoped and prayed for an end to the bad times - the unemployment, the unpaid bills, and the miserly life of having to just get by.

FDR set out to develop revitalizing legislation to get America back to work and on its feet. On March 21, 1933, the Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW) was introduced and passed. The ECU Act stipulated that “...*the unemployed could work for the prevention of forest fires and for soil erosion, flood control, removal of undesirable plants, insect control, and construction or maintenance of paths, tracks, and fire lanes on public lands. In return, those enrolled in this program would be provided with appropriate clothing, daily subsistence, medical attention, hospitalization, and a cash allowance.*” [2] The Emergency Conservation Work Act was more commonly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or Roosevelt’s “Tree Army.” Through the amazingly quick and successful passage of this Act, FDR proposed to bring together the nation’s young men and the land in an effort to save them both. The Act proposed to seek thousands of unemployed young men, enlist them in a conservation army, and send them to battle the increasing destruction of the nation’s natural resources. History has recorded that the Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the more successful New Deal programs of the Great Depression. Even though the CCC existed for just less than 10 years, it left a legacy of reforested lands, roads, bridges, and buildings throughout the United States’ parks and National Forests that would still serve us to this day. Between 1933 and 1941, more than 3,000,000 men served in the CCC. [3]



On April 5, 1933, the details of the CCC were drafted, finalized, and presented to the American public. The Department of Labor was to initiate a nationwide recruiting program; the Army was to condition and transport enrollees to the work camps;

and the Park Service and Forest Service were to operate the camps and supervise the work assignments. An April 24, 1933, front page article in The Daily Post-Tribune, the community newspaper, announced that the final instructions for enlistment in the “Tree Army” were expected any day and that the LaSalle county region was very fortunate to have



received a quota allotment of 192 boys and young men. Then on May 2, 1933, the Daily Post-Tribune listed all the requirements for the recruits and announced the formal call to “Forest Army.” The applications would be available at the local County Relief Office. Matthew Sodac was one of the first to request enrollment papers from the LaSalle Township Relief Office. He met all the necessary requirements, including being an American citizen, unemployed and on the welfare relief roll, the son of an unemployed head of household, unmarried, and between the ages of 18 and 26.

Then, May 5th, the headlines on the front page of the Daily Post-Tribune read “**Register 43 Here Today for Forest Army Work.**” The lead-in to the article read “*Youths Eager To Begin Service With Uncle Sam. Forty-three La Salle and Oglesby young men were selected Friday afternoon by the La Salle Township Relief Committee as eligible candidates for the civilian conservation ‘reforestation’ army that will be quartered at Fort Sheridan soon after enlistment.*” The article then announced the 26 selections from La Salle and 17 selections from Oglesby.

The La Salle selections included: Frank Komacar, Eugene Walker, John Borostowski, Louis Braggo, Louis Fink Jr., Martin Spriet, Philip Gerace, John Ajster, Carl Golden, Robert McConnell, Henry Feldhaus, Walter Michalski, Ernest Tomsha, **Matt Sodac**, Edward Kilanowski, Nickolas Herakovitch, Joseph Zeman, Charles Pagoria, Fritz Vande Wyngaerde, Frank Costella, William Reynolds, Frank Tomaszin, Anton Meznarich, and Joseph Keenan. The Oglesby young men chosen to attend were: Fred Stella, Frank Meglich, Charles Souvitski, Victor Sienza, John Skarston, Frank Targus, John Daffora, Guido Pisanechi, Charles Gillio, John Waitkus, Tony Samolitis, Mike Vidic, Julius Zarnicki, John Markovitch, Joseph Lesniak Jr., Angelo Mancinie, and Richard Carbis. [4]

Life’s new adventures awaited Matt and the other young men. Their sense of pride would be returned. They would experience people, places, and participate in activities that would hold memories for a lifetime. Soon after, Matt and the others were transported by the U.S. Army to the Jefferson Barracks Military Post, in Lemay, Missouri, for physical conditioning and work assignment prepping. Matt would become an integral member of the 1654th Company P 202 of the CCC, to be the first stationed in the forests of Oregon. The families benefited from the enrollment of the young men by receiving a monthly pay allotment. Each month, \$25 of the \$30 monthly pay was sent directly to the families back home. That was a godsend to Matt’s family, as his father had been unemployed for quite a while.

Following the Army's supervised, conditioning camp, Matt and 100 other Illinois young men were collected and shipped out by train to the forests of Camp Wilark, Oregon, to begin their CCC experience. This was his first cross-country train experience and his first opportunity to see the country outside of La Salle County, Illinois. Upon their arrival at Camp Wilark, and after becoming accustomed to the regimen expected, the boys of Company 1654 began a series of projects involving the development of roads, bridges, and telephone line construction on the forest lands. The summer weather had been hot and dry, with no significant rain since June 9. The temperatures soared into the high 90's. Then, on August 14, just before 1pm, the Wilson River fire started. The CCC "Boys from Illinois" were the first reinforcements on the fire and arrived on day two. The fire ravaged the Tillamook region for 10 straight days. One of their own, Frank Palmer, a CCC boy from Illinois, became the only fatality of the fire. He was struck by a falling green tree while he was taking a break on the fire line. The 1933 Tillamook Burn covered approximately 250,000 acres and burned 11.5 billion board feet of old growth timber. It was one of Oregon's most destructive and famous fires. Other than recalling dad talking about working on some construction projects and fighting a forest fire as a part of his thrilling experiences in the CCC, little did I realize what an important role these men from Illinois played in the history of Oregon. He described his CCC experience as "the time of his life," now I have a better take on what that phrase actually meant.

Matt had later held onto the postcards and pictures that he had sent to his family back home. He cherished his ID tag and discharge papers all of his life. He saved a yellowed and crinkled copy of a typed work detail that listed him as the squad foreman in charge of a group of men. Matt completed his rigorous six month assignment at Camp Wilark and was shipped back to Ft. Sheridan, IL, for de-processing and resumed his life back in his hometown of LaSalle, with a sense of accomplishment. Matt was a better man for this experience. He enhanced his self-worth, as a capable, competent, young man, who contributed to his country. He always talked about bringing us, his family, out to Oregon to share the scenic beauty of what he experienced so many years ago and walk the land that turned him into a man. We never got there. Dad died in



May of 1976, following a two-year battle with cancer. Following his death, the small collection of CCC mementoes mom passed on to me, his son. They continued to be stored, as they originally were, in an aged, black, metal box until the writing of this article.

Wanting to know more about this period in my father's life, I researched the CCC and attempted to obtain any information on the original camp that I could find. Apparently, Camp Wilark closed within a year after the arrival of the first CCC Company's assignment. Camp Wilark was originally set up as a makeshift camp whose housing accommodations were comprised of wooden platforms with canvas

tenting on top, neatly set in rows in an open field area of the forest. Near the camp was the small town of Houlton, which was used as a postal center. Houlton was a dying, eventual ghost town, located at the St. Helen's Railroad Station. The CCC boys would most likely have gone for recreation into the neighboring town of St. Helens, which is the county seat and the largest town in the area. St. Helens is situated on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, near the border of the State of Washington. The quaint town features a spectacular panoramic view of Mt. St. Helens. Camp Wilark itself, was eventually absorbed into another CCC Company with more permanent wooden structures, in place of the canvas tents.

This journey into the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps and my father's participation as one of the original enlistees, led me into discovering the presence of the

Oregon Department of Forestry's History Museum in Salem, Oregon. The Forest History Center's staff is working on preserving the history of the CCC's - their contributions and accomplishments in Oregon, from the CCC's focus in fighting forest fires to constructing many of the Forestry Department's



buildings and lookout towers. Their website posted an e-mail address with which you could contact the center for more information; so I did. When I asked about more detailed information about the forest projects from June to November of 1933 at Camp Wilark, the Coordinator of the History Center informed me that the camp was indeed one administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry, but that they too had very little information and no photos of the Camp Wilark. In 1935, the Oregon State Capitol building burned. The State Forester's office was located in that building, and all the photos and much information about the early CCC camps were lost in the fire. Given that information, I decided that my father's mementoes maybe needed to "go back for a visit" as my father had promised us so many years earlier. I asked if the Center would like the mementoes and photos that I had from my father. Alan Maul, the History Center Coordinator, immediately wrote back that "Yes, we would be very interested in any photos and the other items you have from Camp Wilark. It is very exciting for us to possibly get some of those early camp photos." So, what few pictures, documents, and items that dad had saved have now been carefully packed and shipped back to Oregon. Well, now it will be more than just a visit for these items, it will become "home."

In a later e-mail from this same History Center Coordinator, he wrote that he had found some articles about Camp Wilark and their projects in copies of the "Forest Log," a Department of Forestry newsletter that was started in the 1930's. He's promised to copy them and send them out to me. One article starts with: "*Since the arrival of the Illinois boys composing Camp Wilark P-202,*

Oregonians in the surrounding locality have come to know what real baseball is. To date Wilarkers have to their credit five victories out of a total of six games played." I smiled; they not only had the experience of a lifetime, but they made a winning impression.

SOURCES

[1] Franklin D. Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933, as published in Samuel Rosenman, ed., *The Public Papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Volume Two: The Year of Crisis, 1933* (New York: Random House, 1938), 11–16.

[2] *Only Thing We Have to Fear is Fear Itself: FDR's First Inaugural Address*. Retrieved from: www.historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5057/

[3] Hansan Ph.D., John E., *The New Deal: Part I* Retrieved from: www.socialwelfarehistory.com/eras/the-new-deal-part-i/
The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Services, 1933-1942: An Administrative History. Retrieved from: www.nps.gov Salmond, John A. (1967). *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study*. (Duke University Press) Retrieved from: nps.gov/history/ccc

[4] Select editions of "The Daily Post-Tribune," a community newspaper of La Salle-Peru, IL. Jan. 1933-Aug. 1933 editions. Available in microfilm viewing at the Peru Public Library, Peru, IL

In the writing of this story, we've wondered how many other *Zarja* readers across the country have had their Slovenian relatives enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

How wonderful it would be to hear from them, their names, where they were stationed, and what projects they've contributed to. We are asking you to consider sending that information, so we can compose a follow-up article with summaries of those stories.

Please write either the *Zarja* home office address listed on the inside cover of this magazine, or e-mail bdsodac@gmail.com, or write a note to David Sodac, 1211 Highland Court, Bettendorf, IA 52722.

Olga Dorchak

Tribute to Long Time Members

by Patricia Budzilek

All SUA members remember Kathleen Dorchak, who was our president for two terms; eight successful years. Kathleen had a special mentor, her remarkable mother, Olga Dorchak, who has been working for the Slovenian community all her life, and still, at the age of 84, is very active.

Olga Antoinette Zadnik was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 13, 1928, to Jacob and Ivanka (Kljun) Zadnik, better known as Jack and Jennie, immigrants from Podgrad, Slovenia. Olga attended public schools along with catechism classes at the oldest Slovenian parish in Cleveland, St. Lawrence Catholic Church, where she made her First Communion and Confirmation. As a child she participated in concerts, opera, and other activities at the Prince Avenue Slovenian National Home where she was a member of the Kanarcke (Canary) Slovenian Singing Society. Unfortunately, both St. Lawrence Church and the Prince Avenue Home have now been closed.

Tragedy arrived in her family with the unexpected death of her father on May 28, 1938, when Olga was nine years old. Her mother's desire at the time was to return to Slovenia to see her own mother, Olga's grandmother. In early July, 1938, carrying her father's belongings packed in a large trunk, Olga, her sister Elsie, and her mother left by train for New York City. There they boarded a luxury ocean liner, the "Normandy," spending eight days at sea before arriving at LeHavre, France. From there they took a train to Trieste, Italy, and then rode a hay wagon to Olga's grandmother's home in Podgrad, where she met for the first time a tall, grand lady, her grandmother, Franceska (Maslic) Kljun, and also her many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

While visiting, Olga had the opportunity to see and hear Italian dictator Mussolini. She almost did not make it back to America because the possibility of war (WWII) decreased the number of ocean-going ships, but by the



grace of God, the family was able to obtain tickets on the last ship out of LeHavre and returned to Cleveland. There her mother purchased a delicatessen on St. Clair Avenue. Fortunately, in the following years, Olga was to return to Slovenia seven more times, most recently with Tony Petkovsek and Joey Tomsic, and spent much time with many of her relatives, but never again saw Grandma.

When she lived in the St. Vitus neighborhood in Cleveland, Olga attended classes in a mostly Slovenian area where she felt very much at home, because for the first time she did not have to explain her Slovenian nationality. After two years in the school, she was considered an "ideal American girl" and was chosen to participate in Red Cross pageants, the first year as Florence Nightingale, the second year as Clara Barton, and the third year at Public Auditorium as a representative of Poland because there was no Slovenian costume to use!

Olga's mother remarried in December, 1939, to "Pepe" Gerk, as he was called at first. Later he definitely became Papa, as he was her father for many years longer than her birth father. This marriage was followed by a move back to the old neighborhood where Olga was born; where she could once again attend Mass at St. Lawrence, and go back to the same public school and be with her former classmates. In a way it was like she was going home again. Sadly, Papa died on May 20, 1957, exactly 19 years after the death of Olga's birth father.

Always athletic, in high school Olga became a gym captain and eventually Secretary of the Gym Captains. In her senior year at John Adams High School, she was voted Class Secretary. To this day she is still involved with her January, 1947, graduating class, meeting them three or four times a year for lunch, a yearly picnic, and for a special activity every fifth year.

The summer before her senior year in high school Olga met Alex (Al) Dorchak, who had been recently discharged from the Navy. He was then employed at the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, where coincidentally she was employed after graduation from John Adams. After a courtship of a year, Al and Olga were married on August 19, 1947, and became the parents of two darling daughters, Kathleen and Diane. Kathleen and her husband, Bob, presented them with one grandson, Jason, and two great-granddaughters, Sky and Teaghan. Olga's husband always encouraged her in all her activities, and cared for their daughters while she made two trips to Slovenia. Al died on January 10, 1994, on daughter Diane's birthday, and Olga's mother died soon after on August 26, 1994.

Olga has been a member of the SUA since 1965 and belongs to Garfield Heights - Branch 47 where her mother was president for a number of years. When her mother found it difficult to continue as president, a new president was voted in and Olga became vice-president where she chaired many meetings due to the health problems of the president. Her mother was very proud when Olga then became president; a position she held for about 20 years. She is presently secretary- treasurer, and her daughter, Diane, is vice-president.

Olga has also been financial secretary for the past seven years of the Newburgh-Maple Heights Pensioners' Club, which holds its meetings at the Slovenian National Home

on East 80th. As an officer and representative of the club, Olga attends Federation of Slovenian Home meetings and has been the president of the Slovenian Home's Seniors for the past five years. Other activities include CEI (Illuminating Company) retirees' functions, where she is the activities chairperson of the CEI ladies group, and AMLA #50, where Olga was president for many years and financial secretary for the past two years.

The NASH, the Slovenian Home on East 80th, is where you would most likely find Olga these days. She has devoted much of her time to keeping the Home active and wants it to last for many more years. It was very sad when St. Lawrence Church closed because it was closely tied to this Home and now it has become even more difficult to keep the Home going. In 2009, Olga was chosen "Woman of the Year" by the NASH.

Olga encourages everyone to participate as much as possible in all our Slovenian activities and organizations; helping to keep our heritage alive. For her, it is a labor of love.

Tribute to Long Time Members

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

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

TRIGLAV

by Mary Lou Deyak Voelk

Unfortunately, Paula did not reach the summit as she had hoped, but not without a gallant try on what was to be her first attempt.

Prologue:

It was a year in the planning, a July 2012 family reunion of the maternal Bajda and paternal Belehar families in Slovenia. They came from Slovenia, America, and Argentina. Part of the schedule was a planned two-day trek to the summit of Mount Triglav. Since Paula Bajda Mavec would be climbing the highest mountain in Slovenia and the highest peak in the Julian Alps, it might as well be for a cause. It was Paula who suggested, “I can do it for Zveza!”

Paula spent the winter and spring of 2012 in training. Before we get to the story of her climb, let’s become more knowledgeable on this iconic symbol of Slovenian identity.

Mount Triglav

Triglav means “three headed,” Tri glave, and is probably named after the Slavic god, Triglav*. It is Slovenia’s only national park.

Triglav is usually depicted as a three-headed man, representing the unity of three gods, similar in nature to the Trinity in Christianity. The three heads represent sky, earth, and the underworld. In one legend, Triglav is veiled or blindfolded so that his eyes cannot see the evil deeds of men.

Triglav is also the setting of the legendary Slovene folktale Zlatorog, Goldhorn, whose realm is the heights of Mount Triglav.

The endeavors of Jakob Aljaž (1845-1927), a Slovene Roman Catholic priest, composer, singer, choir master, patriot, and passionate mountaineer, play an influential role in the notoriety of Mount Triglav. In 1895, he bought the summit of Triglav. With this purchase he gained rights to build on the property. The Aljaž Tower, a metal, storm structure of iron and zinc-coated sheet metal, was carried to the top summit of Mount Triglav with the help of friends. The climb, the tower, the immense physical endurance are all symbolic of his motive, to ensure recognition of the Slovenian people as a nation. The rocket shape was certainly visionary!

The first verse from “Oh, Triglav, My Home, how gorgeous you are!” was put to the music written by Jakob Aljaž. So dear to the Slovenian people, the Slovenian flag* was solemnly and passionately unfurled at the summit on the night of June 26, 1991, proclaiming Slovenian independence.

*Triglav is the prominent element on the flag of Slovenia and the only country in the world with a mountain on its flag.



In 1989, a monument in memory of Jakob Aljaž was commemorated in the Village of Dovje, where he spent 38 years as a parish priest. Not only a mountaineering enthusiast, he was one of the organizers of the main water system of Dovje and founder of the Cultural Society of Dovje. He renovated the church of St. Michael, and was “pastor and guiding force that led to better times.” Father Aljaž’s walking stick, which he used when climbing, is kept at the Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana. He is buried in Dovje. Engraved on his tombstone:

“Each day, in the light of mornings’ dawn
Our peaks are all aglow
Waiting - for your return
You, their guardian angel:
Our “King Matjaz” of Triglav
Priest of Dovje - Aljaž”

Paula’s Climb:

I was 70 years of age when I attempted to climb Mount Triglav last summer. Those who accompanied me were all related in one way or another! They were Albert Mavec, my husband, 82; Joe P. Mavec, son, 47; Meka Celidonio, daughter, 43; Eric Celidonia, son-in-law, 40; Marty Mavec, son and teacher in Manila, Philippines, 40; Emily Putnam, Marty’s friend and also a teacher in Manilla, 29; Leopolda Bajda Schutte, my oldest sister, 74; Albina Bajda Medved, sister, 64; and Rosie Bajda Antilla, sister, 58.

Also on the trek were Joe A. Mavec, Albert’s cousin from Glenwood, Illinois, an avid athlete at 69; Patty Tuma, my friend from Port Charlotte, Florida, 64. One grandson, Jared Morrisette, was also to go, but injured his foot and was in a walking boot.

Gospod Matija Selen, pastor of the parish in Skofija Loka, and an avid mountaineer and biker, served as guide and leader for the older group. My cousin-in-law and an avid



Background: Albert Mavec. Front: The Bajda sisters, left to right: Rosie Antilla, Albina Medved, Paula Mavec, Leopolda Schutte at the Vodnikov Dom elevation 5,961 feet.

mountain hiker, Ivica Gaspirc, early 60's, led the faster group, who did make it to the summit. She was accompanied by Romana Gaspirc, late 20's, my second cousin and daughter of Ciril Gaspirc, a brother to Ivica's husband.

July 9 and 10 had been planned for the hike. Weather is always an issue, and Gospod Matija had alerted us of a bad storm forecast for the 10th. It was a group decision to attempt the climb and see how far we would get.

On the evening of July 8th, the American branch of my family (Bajda and Belehar) split into two groups. Those who chose not to climb went on to Portoroz. The climbers went on to Podkluka and the Podkluka Sportz Center Hotel, where we spent the night. The Slovenian biathlon team was staying at the hotel and were training in the area.

On the morning of July 9th, we met with Gospod Matija, Ivica, and Romana for an early breakfast. Gospod Matija brought packs of potica for the trail. Ivica and Romana transported us to the trailhead about one mile away. The climb began at about 6:30 a.m.

Gospod Matija led the older group: Albert, Paula, Leopolda, Albina, and Rosie. The faster group was led by Ivica and Romana: Joe A., Joe P., Meka, Eric, Marty, and Emily. Very soon, the group split due to our endurance levels.

Gospod Matija was worried about the cloud cover at the summit and the safety of Ivica and Romana's group. There were many phone calls.

The mountain views were superb; herds of cows grazed in the alpine pastures. The continuous tinkling of their bells

echoed throughout. Each step needed to be carefully executed as we navigated the rocky formations and jutting tree roots. We hiked over hills and through valleys. The three-foot wide path gave ascending and descending climbers room to pass on the trail. From these heights, Mount Vogel, Lake Bled, and Lake Bohinj were gleaming jewels.

The faster group, led by Ivica and Romana, made it to Vodnikov Dom by 9:30 a.m. and up to Planinski Dom by 11:30 a.m. Meka and Joe P. made it past the Planinski Dom, but decided to turn back due to the scary heights and the weather concerns of Gospod Matija.

A local Slovenian, wearing cut-off jeans, no shirt, and with pivo in his back pack, gave the ascending team the confidence needed to reach the summit. Joe A. (cousin) went to the wrong hut (Kredenca) but did make it to the top. The summit team, Joe A., Eric, Marty, Emily, Ivica, and Romana finished the descent by 8 p.m. Throughout the trek, Romana was strong, and Ivica - she was a machine!

My group made it to Vodnikov Dom (elevation 5,961 feet) about noon, when we decided to stop. We had come more than half way, but time was needed to descend. My nursing experiences came into use when Albert stumbled on a tree root and cut his elbow. He was bleeding from a very large, ugly gash. I was able to bandage the wound and stop the bleeding using Rosie's bandana. We arrived at the hotel about 5:30 p.m. With the generous first aid supplies from the hotel, I was able to cleanse and bandage the wound, and thus avert any infection. Only a small scar remains today.

In retrospect, most of us underestimated the challenges posed by Mount Triglav. It certainly brings to mind the often quoted phrase by Robert Burns, "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry."

Sixty-seven years prior, my family and I walked through the mountains into Austria, with plans of returning in a few weeks. We were to spend the next five years in a refugee camp, and then, on to our new home - America.

Safety is what it is all about. For the final descent, we could have benefited from wearing helmets and the use of lanyards. Protecting the head and clipping on to safety lines using the belaying system, is sound advice. I know I could have reached the summit given more time, but it was the right decision to turn back, considering the weather and time constraints. Reaching the top is only half the trek.



Albert Mavec, in an alpine meadow.



Joe Mavec and Eric Mavec.

Descending the mountain can be more perilous. Triglav is indifferent to human needs!

The day ended with a wonderful meal at the hotel; the beverage of choice was Union Radler*. It did quench our thirst!

*Union Radler, a fruit beer, with a strong grapefruit odor, is brewed by Pivovarna Union (Laška). It's yellow in color, with a white foam that doesn't last.



Epilogue:

In August 2014, Paula will be returning to Triglav to complete what she began in July 2012. She holds true to her goal of making the climb; "I can do it for Zveza," and is grateful for those who had faith in her commitment. Paula's only purpose for this upcoming trip will be to reach the summit; time will be no matter. If need be, she will wait out the weather.

For those interested in joining Paula, be it climbing, sight-seeing, and/or excursions, a tour is in the planning stages. Hired professional guides will accompany on the climb. Look for details in an upcoming Zarja and the SUA website - www.slovenianunion.org.

Triglav Or Bust – Paula's Trek

\$100 Donation
Mavec, Marty

\$5 Donations
Trad, Nancy
Harsy, Dorothy
Underhill, Carol
Rogalla, Rose

Paula's original goal was half the distance to the summit, or \$4,696 (feet). \$3,737.96 has been pledged to date. All pledges are specific to heritage events during SUA's 2015 National Convention. The search is on, both at home and in Slovenia. A number of great, potential events are being considered.

Triglav speaks to you as you climb; it speaks of human endurance, of sure-footedness to go forward despite hardship. It speaks of the panoramic beauty of nature. Its spiritual payoff

far exceeds the price of admission to climb the mountain; the payoff is priceless! While most of us will never accomplish such a feat, we can join in the climb by making a pledge. It is assuring Paula she has support all the way to the top! A pledge means we climb Triglav without any risk, any hardship or feeling any aches. I say we take a risk and go the entire way, \$9,396 (feet). Let's reach the summit before Paula! As Paula would say, "We can do it for Zveza!"

To whet your appetite, check out this website!.
<http://home.kpn.nl/rjs25/hoofdmap/climbingtriglav.htm>

**Check out www.slovenianunion.org
for Facts and Information on Triglav!**

A reminder, as the SUA is now a non-profit organization, pledges made after November 2012 are tax deductible.

Send checks payable to SUA to:

**Slovenian Union of America
Attn: Jana Hlade
431 N Chicago St.
Joliet, IL 60432-1703**

Triglav, the Slovenian symbol of endurance; its silhouette on the national flag, represented on its money, and rooted in history and mythology. Its spiritual draw beckons to all Slovenians

"Come climb me once in your life."

"I Can Do It For Zveza..... We Can Do It For Zveza"



Slovenian

Union of America

Branch Reports

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

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

We started our holiday season with the placement of a decorative wreath on Marie Prisland's grave at the Greendale Cemetery. The wreath was made and donated by one of our members.

On December 6th, we got together for a holiday party.



The "donated" gifts for the needy.

In keeping with the spirit of the true meaning of Christmas, we donated canned goods and items of winter wear to a local food pantry. Scarves, hats and mittens filled a large Santa bag.



St. Nicholas cookies baked and decorated by officers.



Branch 1's new officers after installation.

There was a total of 90 items and over half were handmade. Each member received a holiday stocking with a St. Nicholas bookmark and a St. Nicholas spice cookie. The cookies were baked and decorated by the branch officers. The caterer was "Czech Please" who provided a wonderful meal. It was topped off with Slovenian Pink Tea and nut rolls (like potica) made with walnuts and poppy seed and served with honey butter. Yummy!

The newly elected officers were installed. A funeral candle from Slovenia was lit and the group spent a few minutes of silence in remembrance of those in our branch who had passed away in 2012. Memory angels were presented to the families of the deceased. Entertainment for the evening consisted of a piano sing-a-long started off by "The 12 Days of Christmas" using Slovenian words such as ena, dva, etc. (We are trying to bring in bits and pieces of the Slovenian language during our meetings.) There sure were a lot of smiles and laughter during the song. We then continued with traditional Christmas carols and ended by singing Silent Night (Sveta Noc) in Slovenian.

We are putting the finishing touches on Family Festival - Slovenija, our project in partnership with the John Michael Kohler Center to be held April 13th and is open to the public. The planning of the Slovenian festivities has been a lot of work, but we are eagerly anticipating this special opportunity to highlight our heritage.

CHERYL LOPOUR

BRANCH 2 - Chicago, Illinois

We opened our new year with the most treasured icon of our heritage, a tribute to the "Snow Shoe Priest," our own Bishop Frederick Baraga. His selfless giving and work with



April 2011: A group of Engineering College students from Slovenia that was entertained by Branch 2 during their visit.

the education and cultural exchanges between Baraga and the Native American should be an inspiration and example for us to draw from. Acts of charity and kindness take little effort to put into practice. The compassion of education is also passed along the way.

February offers us the opportunity to show the love in every Slovenian. Our heritage shouts this from the mountaintops.

With the Girl Scout Cookie drive going across the U.S., many of our members may remember belonging to troops #122 and #1345 of St. Stephen and selling those delicious cookies. We brought boxes to SWUA meetings and sold them. The ladies were happy to see the young members in their uniforms and presenting their sales pitch. Keep supporting our junior members who are out selling for their troops. One day some may be the officers of SUA and will tell other members of the experience they had with the Girl Scouts of America.

Please remember in your prayers our members who are on the sick list: Christine Podder, Joyce Broader, Donna Cerer, Mary Reicher, Mary Newbould, Glen Latronica, and Barbara Reich.

We had Christmas dinner at Ignatz Restaurant. We sang Slovenian songs and Fran read a beautiful Christmas poem. She

told us a memorial candle would be lit at St. Peters/Chicago for our deceased.

Upcoming dates: March 17th – St. Joseph Table and April 21st – Springtime meeting.

Keep our troops and their safe return in your prayers.

DAISY

BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information:

amtcharron@yahoo.com

Early December was filled with holiday reveling for Branch 3 members. On December 1, many members participated in the annual St. Mary's Church St. Nicholas Feast Day Mass, which was followed by a Slovenian dinner in the church hall. The Diocese of Pueblo Bishop Fernando Isern, Monsignor Kapushion, and Father Ben Bacino concelebrated the Mass. Monsignor Kapushion thanked the congregation in both English and Slovenian for the mountain of gifts donated during the offertory for needy children in the Pueblo area served by Catholic Charities. At the end of the Mass, St. Nicholas (Bishop Isern) made an appearance to the delight of all of the children, young and old. St. Nicholas personally visited with children in the church hall during the delicious dinner, which featured klobase, sauerkraut, hotdogs, condiments, beer, and soda. A large variety of desserts, including several kinds of strudel, were also served. Vice President Eileen Kaplan donated a Barbie doll clothed in a traditional Slovenian costume which she made. The doll was a part of the silent



Annie Chrisman, great-granddaughter of Branch 3 member Bernice Krasovec, chatting with St. Nick (Bishop Isern).

auction, and proceeds went to the church's religious education programs.

The Christmas party was held on December 4. Guests of Barb Karlinger included John Skul and Mary Fran Sabo Kelley. The party had a reindeer theme, and Betty Skul won the reindeer centerpiece. During the luncheon, John Skul strolled through the room playing various selections on his chromatic accordion. Vice President Eileen Kaplan gave an interesting presentation on reindeer and their relationship to the Christmas season. As is the custom at the annual party, all attendees brought Santa gifts to share; everyone went home with a fun door prize. Madeleine Khosla gave each participant a favor bag filled with Christmas goodies. All members who attended the Christmas party contributed to the SWU National Scholarship Fund.

*ANNETTE SABO CHARRON &
BARBARA KARLINGER*

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

I love it when Easter is early, although Ash Wednesday being the day before Valentine's Day was a real bummer if you decided to give up sweets! Fasting during Lent is good. Perhaps it is time to think of others who don't have as much, or as much to eat. Perhaps it is time to clean out your house, and donate to those in need. Perhaps it is time to sit and think of how to share your most precious asset...yourself. Call someone just to ask, "How are you today?" Invite someone to share a pot of soup. Ask someone to join you for coffee and donuts after Mass at Holy Trinity. We always think of Lent as a time to "give up something" so this year, "Give of yourself."

Watch your mail, on-line and postal, for date, time, and place about our next meeting. This is always a very busy time of year, especially with the Mini Marathon and Race, but please try to make time to stop in for our meeting. Thank you!

April also brings the KSKJ National Bowling Tournament to Indy, so mark your calendar for a weekend of fun! Friday, April 12, is "Meet and Greet" at the Slovenian National Home, with bowling on Saturday and Sunday at Brownsburg Bowl. The Bowling Bash dance will be Saturday night at the Slovenian National Home. Friends and families from all over the Midwest make this a yearly trip, so come and see old friends and meet some new ones! There's sure to be plenty of Lasko, klobase, and polkas for everyone! Come and cheer for our Branch 5 members on the men's and women's teams... GO INDY!!

Remember that after Lenten "Fasting," comes Easter "Feasting!" May your Feast be shared with loved ones! Happy Easter!

KAREN, MARY, & PHYLLIS

BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

Spring is in the air in the San Francisco Bay area with all of the blossoms, tulips, and daffodils in all their beautiful pastel colors. March is the month of shamrocks and the



*Standing (Left to Right): Doreen Sustarich, Moreen Spencer, Beverly Jackson, and Margie Schleiger.
Seated: Virginia Sustarich and Agnes Leach.*



Looking good in their Christmas surprise this year were the husbands of Loviscek/Fon family wives! Pictured are husbands: Grant (Betsy) Walker, Steve (Phyllis) Fon, Scott (Sara) Cline, Terry (Sheryl) Thorpe, and Pat (Katie) Poole.

wearing of the green; Happy St. Patrick's Day. St. Gregor's Day is celebrated in Slovenia this month. We want to wish everyone a very Holy and Happy Easter – "Veselo Veliko Noc."

Thanks to Ann Sustarich for taking Slovenian language lessons at the Slovenian Hall. Join us at our Member of the Year 2013 luncheon at Val's Restaurant, 2468 Junipero Serra Blvd., Daly City, on Sunday, May 5, 2013. Please send in your reservations by April 26 and check for \$32.00. Lunch is served at 12:00 p.m. The food is tasty, conversation and gossip wonderful, and the raffle prizes out of this world. Branch 13 officers and members (pictured) will all be there to greet you: Doreen Sustarich - President, Moreen Spencer - Secretary/reporter, Beverly Jackson, Margie Schleiger, (seated) Virginia Sustarich - Auditors, Agnes Leach - Vice President, and Michele Twers - Treasurer.

MOREEN SPENCER

BRANCH 16 - South Chicago, Illinois

Contact: Marjorie Mitchell: 773.646.4392

Dolores60617@yahoo.com

A very happy and healthy New Year to all! We celebrated Christmas early with our annual party at Tom's Restaurant on December 8th. Thirty members, plus guests, gathered for our monthly meeting and ended with singing of Christmas carols. It was nice to see Helen and John Battista, Bob Kuhel, Jim and Dotsi Rossi, and Jackie Soltysinski and her husband enjoying the festivities.



Branch 16 members at Tom's Restaurant.

The mail brought an unexpected Christmas greeting from long-time member, Gladys Buck. Gladys moved to Minnesota to be near her niece. Vida Kumse, our member in Slovenia, also sent Christmas wishes to all.

DOLORES KRAL FRANKO

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Contact Information: patricia.schager@att.net

It's not too early in the year to announce that this is the 85th anniversary year of Branch 20 and plans are being made for a huge celebration on Sunday, October 20. More details as we get closer to the date. Stay tuned.

A big thank you to Jo Lustik for her tireless, behind the scenes volunteering and cheerful readiness to help with

jobs, big and small. Jo is the lady who puts together the Branch's yearly Calendar of Activities that is sent to each member. No excuses for not keeping in touch with Branch activities!

Barbara DeLaney takes over the Branch Treasurer duties. Jean Herbst, who has been a tiger watching over the money, reluctantly passed the wand because of family commitments. Jean is another of the tireless volunteers in our Branch.

Guest speaker, Paula Mavec, will entertain members at the April 16 meeting with her thrilling adventure, her mountain climbing attempt to Mt. Triglav in Slovenia. Paula is a member of Branch 99 in Lemont, Illinois, and first National Auditor of SUA. It's always exciting for we "arm chair adventurers" to hear about treks to exotic places.

Our final meeting for the year is May 21, when we will honor our Member of the Year with a banquet. This night is a time-honored meeting/party filled with good food, entertainment, and a chance to dress up.

It is with sadness we announce the passing of long-time member, Lillian Brulc. She led an extraordinary life as a renowned artist who left a legacy of sculptures, paintings, and murals throughout the world. She is the sister of member, Lucille Dragovon.

PATRICIA SCHAGER

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Contact Information: 815.223.9596 wprokup@aol.com

We had a great turnout for our Annual Christmas Party held at Amici's Ristorante. Special guests included Brother Luke from St. Bede Abbey and Mike Kasap and his wife who were instrumental in our highly successful All Soul's Day event. Thank you to hostesses Barb Pohar, Debbie Pohar, and Bonnie Prokup.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21st at Eureka Bank. Hope to see everyone there. This is a good time to invite a friend to join.

Welcome new member, Mary Kay!



First Midwest Bank

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800.322.3623 • firstmidwest.com

Member FDIC 

BRANCH 35 - Aurora, Minnesota

Contact Information: 218.742.8049

johnks6@yahoo.com

Our branch is looking forward to another great year. Anita Vovk, our president for many years, did not run for re-election as she and her husband plan to move to the Twin Cities area to be near their family. We are really going to miss her. Best of luck to them!

The officers elected for 2013-14 are: President - John Stark, Vice President - Marlys Raab, Secretary/Treasurer - Bernice Ceglar, Recording Secretary - Sharon Starkovich, and Sergeant at Arms - Jean Stark.

We will be hosting the Minnesota Regional Convention in September. Some preliminary planning has begun. We are looking forward to this event and welcome your input to make this an outstanding fall event for our Minnesota members.

2013 is off to a very mild start weather-wise. We will enjoy it as long as it lasts. A very happy and healthy 2013!

MARLYS RAAB

BRANCH 40 - Lorain, Ohio

Contact Information: step@windstream.net

At our monthly luncheon we celebrated Francine and Frank (Fritz) Pavlovic's 65th wedding anniversary. They are parents of Frank and Cathy, grandparents of five, and great-grandparents of two. They are active parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church. To you both, dear friends, we send our love, congratulations, and our wishes that God continue to bless you in the years ahead.

Long time president, Agnes Tomazin, died on December 7 at age 91. A very special lady, she was honored in 2004 as the Lorain Slovenian Home Woman of the Year. Ever proud of her Slovenian heritage, Agnes learned to play the button-box in her 60's, and entertained residents in area nursing homes. Having served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, she resided at the Ohio Veteran's home in Sandusky for a number of years. Members attended her wake and funeral at St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Get well wishes to Mary Gradisek, and to Aggie Serazin who is in Amherst Manor Nursing Home. We miss you both.

Our meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

STEPHANIE POLUTNIK

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact Information: Jan Gehm 414.321.1413

twogames@wi.rr.com

Our Pobozična Zabava was held on January 12, and all who attended had a good time. Many thanks to President Jan Gehm, who made all the arrangements and to the many members that donated the wonderful raffle prizes and to the members and guests who attended. Congratulations to

Francine and Frank (Fritz) Pavlovic



"President Roosevelt signed the draft in 1940. Frank was drafted on March 25, 1941. The popular song then was 'Goodbye Dear, I'll Be Back in a Year, Because I'm in the Army Now.' But on December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and everyone was in the service for the duration. Frank was in the army for 4½ years. He came home in July and we became engaged. Then on January 6, 1942 his next leave - Three Kings Tuesday, we were married and he returned to the army on Friday. Our son was born in 1943 and Frank came home in September of 1945. And here we are thankful to be together for 71 years. I thank God for His Blessings." - Francine Pavlovic





Branch 47 (left to right): Jan Gehm - President, Betty Ann Kolesari - Vice-president, Jack Kolesari - Auditor, Mici Bregant - Recording Secretary and Reporter, Stan Vidmar - Auditor, Tillie Skusek - Corresponding Secretary, Helen Frohna - Treasurer, and Linda Abstetar - Sgt-at-Arms.

all of the newly elected officers who were installed after our dinner. Thank you to Fannie Smole who read the installation words. After this solemn ceremony, we played a picture game in which we had to name the Christmas Carol that was depicted in the picture. Thanks to Helen Frohna for providing this entertainment. All had fun enjoying the camaraderie while exchanging our ideas as to what the pictures portrayed. The afternoon ended much too quickly and it came to a close with everyone singing *Sveta Noc*.

By now you have received your 2013 calendars and I hope that you will refer to them for meeting dates and other events. We are looking forward to making butare starting at 10:00 a.m. at Triglav Park in Wind Lake on Saturday, March 23, and then our traditional next day (March 24) procession as we carry our newly made butare at the 8:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass at St. John's Church in Greenfield. If you have a Slovenian costume, please wear it. After Mass we will have breakfast at the Open Flame Restaurant on W. Edgerton Ave. and Hwy. 100.

There was no regularly scheduled meeting for January, because of our Pobožicna Zabava. Our next meeting will be held at noon on Wednesday March 27, at the West Allis Library. Come and enjoy a nice lunch, and fellowship prior to our meeting. We meet there again on Saturday, April 27, at noon.

A REMINDER: If you would like to share your Slovenian Heritage with our members, please contact Jan Gehm. Enjoy your springtime.

MICI BREGANT

BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Contact Information: Olga Dorchak 330.468.7989
webblekatt@hotmail.com

Greetings! At our Christmas meeting for 2012 members voted for our officers. The officers are: President – Debbie Duris, Vice President – Diane Fornaro, Recording

Secretary – Debbie Duris, and Treasurer – Olga Dorchak. Our auditors are Ginger Kemmerling and Katherine Wallace. Thank you for your participation.

In an effort to keep Branch 47 members involved and participating in our meetings here are dates for 2013. Our first meeting will be our member's luncheon on May 4th at 1 p.m. at the Burntwood Tavern (formerly Max & Erma's) on Kruse Drive in Solon. Our September meeting is on the 7th at 1 p.m. at Panera Bread in Solon and our December Christmas Party is

again at the Valley View Community Center on December 7th. Please note that we have changed our meeting time to begin at 12:30 p.m. and the potluck luncheon is immediately following.

I encourage you to mark down these dates and times to come share in our good times. It's always special and memorable when we get together with as many of our members as possible.

To get branch information contact Debbie at her home at 330.467.2281 or e-mail her at ddcuris@gmail.com.

I am excited to be your new reporter. Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed Easter as we move into Spring and warmer weather. If you have any information you want me to share, you can call me on my cell 330.730.8951 or e-mail me at kjferrante@gmail.com.

KATHLEEN FERRANTE



Kathy Hlad, Rick Tomsick, and Joan Podmore.



Mery Tomsick and Ken Tomsick.

BRANCH 50 - Euclid, Ohio

Contact Information: 440.655.6735

ricktomsick@gmail.com

We enjoyed the Branch 50 Christmas party and gift exchange at Recher Hall on December 4th. The food by Tavcar Catering was exceptional and we were treated to some lively accordion and button-box music thanks to Bill Kirkle and our members Kathy Hlad and her student Joan Podmore (daughter of Anne Tercek). Thanks to Cookie Maxin for making party favors and of course to Maureen Podlegar and Rose Mary Toth for all their hard work in planning the evening.

Our first monthly meeting will be Wednesday, April 17 (at Euclid Public Library) at 1:00 p.m. I would be interested to hear from you as to whether the 1 o'clock time works for you; maybe we can schedule future monthly meetings on different days or at times when more people can attend.

Mark Sunday, October 13, on your calendar for this year's Ohio Regional Convention. Planning is underway, and we really do want to make this year's event a very special and well-attended one! Watch this column and the SUA website for more information at www.slovenianunion.org. Please let me know if you are able to get involved in the planning for this year's convention. It is our hope to do things a bit differently this time so that the organization can build greater enthusiasm and attract new members. If you've been wanting to get involved or just have any novel ideas about new content related to our cultural heritage, perhaps this is the year for you to get involved!

Ann Arhar and Louise Troglia have been on our sick list and in our prayers as we wish them health and recovery. Remember to keep all of our Branch 50 members living and deceased in your daily prayers.

We've learned from the National Board that the SUA has been granted tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization by the IRS, which is really good news that we all hope will encourage charitable contributions to the SUA.

I want to remind you to check in on SUA's activities by going to the website at www.slovenianunion.org often. Bonnie Prokup reminds me that SUA is always looking for volunteers who like to write, do research, or submit photographs (you can let her know at wprokup@aol.com).

Many blessings of this holy Lent and Easter season to all of you!

RICK TOMSICK



Branch 55 - Girard, Ohio.

BRANCH 55 - Girard, Ohio

Greetings from Girard! I hope the first few months of the New Year 2013 have been full of blessings and joy. In Branch 55 news, the Annual Christmas Party was held on December 5. As in the past, the event was co-hosted with members of AMLA Lodge 42. All in attendance had a great time.

Monthly meetings have resumed. Members are strongly encouraged to attend! That's all the news for now. In closing, a quote from William Shakespeare: "*April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.* (Sonnet XCVIII)"

MONICA SELAK

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Contact Information: Jim Ebner 815.883.3268

deadendbluff@yahoo.com

"Ooh's and aah's," as well as several bursts of laughter filled the dining room at Mario's Maples as we held our December "get-together" which concluded with a "White Elephant" gift exchange. Twenty-nine members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal.

Officers for the coming year are as follows: President - Barbara Bruch, Vice President - Fran Morrison, Secretary - Rose Bell, Treasurer - Terry Kamnikar, Auditors - Paula Snell and Alice Ebner, Zarja Reporter - Jim Ebner. Our sincere thanks to those who have taken an office for the first time, and to those who have taken a higher office. Your willingness to serve is a great asset to Branch 89!

A great time is in the air as we plan our second annual "Evening of Slovenian Heritage," Saturday, March 9, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Claudette's in Oglesby. There will be tastings of Slovenian smoked sausage, potica, apple strudel, raffles, polka music, cash bar beverages, photos from the past, and a great time to visit with others of Slovenian heritage. Whether you are near or far, stop in, bring your friends, take time to enjoy the moment, our heritage, and each other!

Remember! Our 2013 Branch meetings resume Monday evening, March 11, 6:00 p.m. at the Dickinson House. A food demonstration featuring traditional Slovenian crepes (palacinke) will be hosted by Barbara Beer. Until then! Dober Dan!

JIM EBNER

BRANCH 93 - New York, New York

Contact Information: 718.335.8459 lgross@tstnyc.org

Our first meeting of the new year - held at a new location - Ana Kitič's Cafe Marlene in Sunnyside, Queens - led by Tanya Vajk (currently mentoring V.P. Tanya Makovec Petrik who assumes the presidency in 2014), was attended by about a dozen familiar faces, but enlivened by new member Gregor Pintar from Slovenia. Everyone introduced themselves and described their Slovene connection, especially when they or a family member came over from

Slovenia, and that person's immigration story. It was fascinating and we regret we hadn't planned to tape it! Carole Ryavec told us about her documentary, currently in post-production, "Shifting Borders-Lasting Ties" (Gozdarska povest) about her family; her grandfather's tiny village was in Austria in 1909, but became part of Italy after 1918, then Yugoslavia in 1947, and since 1991 is now in Slovenia. It's a story about family ties and cultural identity that overcome all political divisions. (See <http://shiftingbordersdoc.com> for some wonderful pictures and a fuller description.)

Members addressed the lack of Slovenian language-learning opportunities and we are investigating the possibilities of a class via Skype. Also being considered is a brief Slovenian lesson at each meeting; first goal - being able to order what filling we want in our Panini in Slovenian!

We then enjoyed viewing a short, animated film, *Čikorja an' kafe* (Chicory 'n Coffee), followed by *Moj ata, socialisticni kulak* (My Dad, the Socialist Kulak).

At the end of January, in honor of Slovenian Cultural Day, the Four Saxs Saxophone Quartet gave a concert at St. Cyril's. Opening remarks were given by the Ambassador of Slovenia, Roman Kirn.

Fashion devotees were in for a treat in January when Slovenian designer Sanja Grcic presented her winter collection in NYC. Her style has been described as "Street Couture; instinctive, innovative with clever detailing." The unusual combinations of shape, fabrics, and colors make her a standout. Her store, Koda 386, in Ljubljana, was lauded by *The New York Times* as one of the best designers' corners in town.

ELIZABETH GROSS

BRANCH 99 - Lemont, Illinois

Contact Information: jmhhlade@hotmail.com

Hello everyone! Just a recap of the last few months. In November we held our election of officers. Most positions stayed the same, however our treasurer, Tom Zakosek, stepped down and Monica Morrisette will replace him. The board consists of the following: President - Julie LaJoie; Vice-President - Paula Mavec; Secretary - Linda Schultz; Treasurer - Monica Morrisette; Auditors - Mary Mavec and Ann Nowak; and Zarja Reporter - Jana Hlade.

Our December cookie sale was a success and our branch raised over \$400. Thanks again to Paula and Mary Mavec for their dedication in organizing the event. Also, a special thank you to Dawn Vidmar for her very generous support of the cookie sale. We thank you!

On March 23rd at 1:00 p.m. come join us for a Butara-making party! A butara is a decorated bundle of spring greenery that Slovenians traditionally made to bring to church on Palm Sunday. The party will be at the home of Paula Mavec. Paula will also demonstrate the art of egg decorating using onionskins and leaves. Kids and adults

are welcome. Lunch and supplies are included and it's FREE! RSVP to Paula required by March 17th.

On April 14th, we are hosting a Mass for deceased members at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Slovenian Catholic Mission Church in Lemont. Then at 1 p.m., join us for our Member Celebration at the home of Sonja DePratt. We again will celebrate ALL our members. Bring a dish to pass. Water, lemonade, and coffee will be provided. There will be games, prizes, and a perennial plant exchange. It'll be a great time!

Something new this year is our Meet and Greets; just a social get-together and we'll provide the sweets. Please see details for all events in the new calendar. Wishing you a happy spring!

JANA HLADE

BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Contact Information: ajkoci@cox.net

We had a festive dinner meeting to celebrate Christmas on December 8th. Our favorite Napoli's Italian Restaurant took care of us beautifully in their banquet room.

Dolores Glivar greeted us with lovely, red carnation corsages and boutonnieres to add to the festive mood. Mary Lou Jensen put miniature poinsettias on the tables. Members, families, and friends arrived from many directions to take part. Mary Lou Videgar spent time in Southern California to participate in several Slovenian gatherings that week. It was so nice to have her with us.

Our meeting went smoothly with willing participants taking offices that needed to be filled. We thank Joanna Farrage as our new Treasurer and Jean Turnbull as Recording Secretary. Mary Lou Jensen will continue as President. We elected our 2013 Member of the Year and are pleased to say that Marcia Leathers will be our honoree. You will



Enjoying the Christmas luncheon are Anne Kapel with daughters, Mary Lou Jensen and Linda Sand.

hear more about this fun-loving and generous person in the next issue. In the meantime... congratulations, Marcia!

We decided to have another cooking/baking class as we have done for several years now. The date is Saturday, March 2nd, at the home of Bonnie Zupan in Banning. The menu will be corn meal zgance with goulash. These cooking sessions have been fun, educational, and tasty, too! We hope that many of you will attend.

I want to personally thank Editor Debbie Pohar for putting together the very nice article on my cousin, Fr. Joze Cukale, s.j., and his work with Mother Teresa in India that appeared in the January/February issue of *Zarja*. I had no idea that the piece would turn out so well. Hvala lepa!

We wish everyone a Happy Spring... as it will almost be upon us when you receive this issue! Na svidenje!

JEAN KOCI

BRANCH 102 - Willard, Wisconsin

Contact: kleespires@comcast.net

Greetings from Willard! It was a quiet winter in our village, highlighted by our Holiday meeting and party in early December 2012. The Christmas meeting and party were enjoyed by 11 members and 4 guests on a beautiful, crisp, winter day. The afternoon included lunch, present exchange, and bingo, all branch favorites.

We are happy to announce our officers for the next term: Bonnie Brierton was unanimously re-elected as our President. Theresa Zorman will be our new Vice - President, Sue Pakiz will continue as Branch 102's Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you, ladies, for continuing to lead our branch.

Everyone was happy to gather for our Valentine's Day party and meeting on February 16th. Honoring our Member of the Year, Ruth Zwieg, was on the top of the agenda. Ruth and her family are long-time members of the Willard community and have done much to support SUA activities, community events, and area residents. Many thanks go out to Ruth for her support of Branch 102.

Sue wants to remind all members to watch for their renewal notices in the U.S. Mail. Members may also use the renewal forms that are published in every issue of *Zarja*. Don't forget to send in your renewals!

We welcome new members, Sarah Trunkel and Gloria Plautz!

Bonnie is developing a phone tree so that we can keep in touch with more ease. More on this at our next meeting on March 23rd. By the time you read this, we will be getting ready for our Easter celebrations, our bake sale, and spring will have returned. Any members with events or other news to report, please contact Bonnie, Theresa, Sue, or Karen.

August 10th and December 7th are the dates of the remaining meetings for 2013. Please try and attend! Until next time!

KAREN HRIBAR SPIRES

BRANCH 103 - Washington, D.C.

Any mention of Slovenian heritage and SUA involvement has a special significance in our local Slovenian-American community. In the cases of four deaths among Branch 103, their Slovenian heritage was featured prominently in their obituaries. An example of our dear members' recognition:

The 2011 death of **Amelia (Molly) Thomas** was in *The Washington Post*, which included mention of Molly's Slovenian-American heritage and her work with Branch 103.

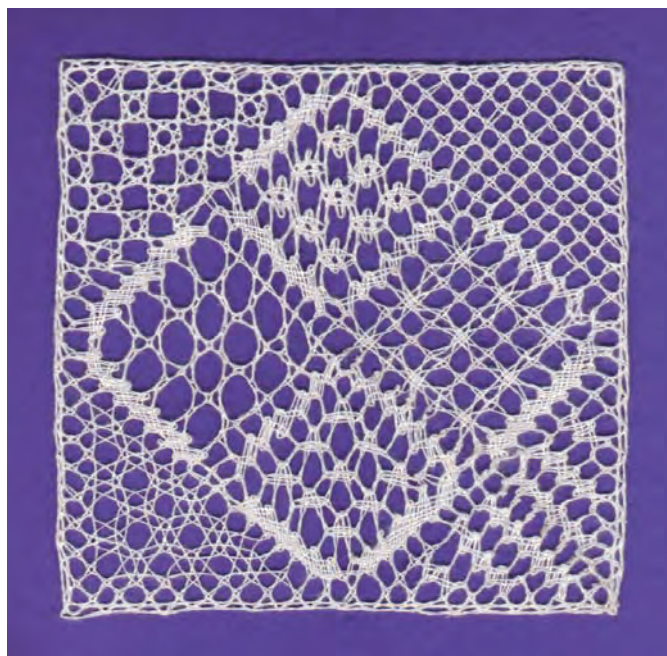
Ana Menapace, a faithful supporter of events and the Slovenian Mass, died in January 2011, with a Mass by Spiritual Director, Fr. Wadas. Ana fled Slovenia during WWII, settling in Rome, and eventually outside New York City with her husband, Robert, a U.S. military officer. Later moving to Washington, D.C., she was a patron of the arts and regular attendee at Slovenian Embassy events.



Ana Menapace

Matilda (Tillie) Ausich, died in December 2012. She came to the Washington area in 1948 where she began a long, successful career at the Pentagon. She served faithfully as our recording secretary for many years and wrote articles for *Zarja*. She enjoyed ballroom dancing and worldwide travel.

Tatjana Zunjo Rudl arrived in the Washington area to work as an au pair. She served as a Slovenian language instructor, one of her students being a future U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia. She married Greg Rudl in Slovenia



Idrija tape lace made by Nancy Terselic

in August 2009. Before becoming ill, she brought her enthusiasm to the planning of branch activities. Her extensive online obituary can be found at the Legacy.com website: <http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/TatjanaRudl/homepage.aspx>

Our branch is fortunate to have among our membership, Nancy Terselic and her husband, Jason Butsch, who are active in medieval research and re-creation activities through the Society for Creative Anachronism. She is a fiber artisan who spins sheep's wool and other animal and plant fibers, and uses the yarn for weaving, knitting, crocheting, and other fiber arts. Combining her love of history, fiber arts, and Slovenian heritage, she taught herself to make bobbin lace, including Idrija tape lace, using traditional Slovenian-style tools and techniques. (She would love to get in touch with other Slovene-American bobbin lace makers – e-mail nancyterselic@juno.com.)

RICHARD TERSELIC

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

Contact Information: Bettekfitz@verizon.net

In December, Branch 108 participated in a Kris Kringle Parade in Frederick, MD. The SUA banner was proudly displayed, showing respect for our historical roots to the organization.

Congratulations to member Lisa Kokal; she graduated in December, 2012, with her Therapeutic Massage Degree. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was a recipient of the Jeff Young Scholarship. Lisa is also the proud mom of junior member, Daniel Kokal Hester, who came in 1st place in the New Market Elementary School PTA Reflection Photography Contest and Music Composition. His photography artwork is titled "All Parts

In Memoriam Matilda Ausich

1920-2012

Recording Secretary of Branch 103

Matilda “Tillie” Ausich served 37 years, as Recording Secretary and Zarja Reporter from 1965, when Branch 103 was organized, to 2002. She was the epitome of a Recording Secretary, having worked as a secretary at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and eventually becoming Executive Secretary to the Air Staff Board, Office of the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, until her retirement in 1991. Her minutes reflected outstanding secretarial skills and were accurate, grammatically correct, perfectly typed and presented at each meeting for review.

Tillie participated in all branch activities undertaken, assisting in preparations from setting up tables, working in the kitchen or serving at the buffet table. She could always be counted on for donations of delicious pastries for meetings or festivities.

Along with attending all branch meetings, which required a drive of 45 minutes each way, Ms. Ausich attended SWUA National Conventions as a delegate in Washington, DC (1965) and the Chevy Chase, MD, Regional Convention (1990).

When the Heritage Museum in Joliet was established, Tillie donated antique items and clothing that belonged to her mother. This interest in heritage led her to complete the Ausich Family History, a huge undertaking, as well as participating in the SWUA tour of Slovenia in 2001, along with her traveling partner Nika Kovacic of Branch 108. A highlight of the trip was traveling to Podsreda, where her grandmother and



mother were born and worked at Grad Podsreda (Podsreda Castle). Her life-time wish, to visit Podsreda Castle was finally fulfilled.

In 1983, Tillie was appointed “Woman of the Year,” a title she truly deserved. She was a lady with a very quite manner and many outstanding qualities. Her contributions to Branch 103 were numerous and her friendship will be treasured by those that knew her well. Tillie’s life was one, well-lived. She will be remembered by many.

– by Irene M. Odorizzi, Branch 103 and
Nika B. Kovacic, Branch 108

Work” and his piano music composition is titled “Tears for Junior.” Congratulations to Daniel on all his accomplishments and for helping to coordinate a coat drive at his school to help the less fortunate in Frederick, MD.

A warm welcome is extended to three new SUA members; all members of the Konchar family. Frank Konchar signed up his two teenage daughters, Noelle and Natalie, of Etters, PA, for junior memberships, and his

father, Frank, from Ashville, NC, has gifted an adult membership to his daughter, Katie, in St. Louis, MO. Lynn Koiner and I enjoyed meeting Frank and Frank Konchar, the father-son duo who attended the National Convention in June, 2011. Through correspondence, I encouraged both Frank’s to sign up their family members, and I’m delighted that they have taken the step to pass on the legacy of our Slovenian heritage with gift memberships for their children.



Kris Kringle parade:

Pictured are May Kokal, her grandson Daniel, and her daughter Lisa Kokal

Branch 108 will be celebrating their 10th anniversary at the end of the year; members, friends and guests are invited to attend meetings to help plan for this special occasion.

Vesele velikonočne praznike in veliko pirhov!

BERNADETTE K. FITZSIMMONS

BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota

National and international economic issues, carried over from 2012, ushered in the new year in Slovenia and the United States. Pension cuts, EU budget demands, along with leadership questions, have clouded Slovenia's traditional optimistic attitude. However, at the state and regional levels the TC Slovenians ushered in 2013 with a hopeful outlook.

At our 8th anniversary dinner held at the Venetian Inn on January 20, President John Zakelj briefly summarized our accomplishments from 2012 and asked for a renewed spirit of volunteerism from the TC members. Norm Setnicker reported on the progress of the SUA's non-profit status as well as an update of the officers for 2013. John Zakelj will continue as president; Bob Grahek, vice president; Mary Ann Setnicker, treasurer; and Liz Miller, recording secretary.

Jean Rolsted, our corresponding secretary, and Karl Grahek, our membership chairperson, are undergoing

cancer treatments and their duties are being shared by other members. Please keep them in your prayers during this difficult period.

Our first language lesson in 2013 centered on Slovenian children's books. Tea Rozman and her 4½ year old daughter, Isabella, shared a dozen Slovenian children's books with the class. Tea centered her presentation around one of Slovenia's most celebrated illustrators, Lila Prap, and the book entitled "Moj Ocka." One of the highlights during the session was Isabella reading parts of the book in Slovenian and being able to translate into English. Tea Rozman Clark is a native Slovenian and one of our newest members. She is currently finishing her PhD at the University of Minnesota.

Two major challenges face Branch 109 this spring. The Festival of Nations (May 2-5) exhibit which centers on "Children, Our Past and Future" promises to test our creativity. Another challenge will involve a "genealogy workshop" at our March meeting. It will be chaired by Charles Podominick, who has been doing genealogy research in Slovenia for the past few years. This workshop promises to be a rewarding experience for our members.

Keep smiling "z obdržanim smehljajem."

NORM SETNICKER

"Born in USA with Slovenian parts"

Jenka's Taste of Slovenia

Add a little Slovenian flare to your Easter this year by creating these beautiful eggs for display and then turn them into delicious deviled eggs, to be enjoyed by your family at your Easter feast.

Slovenian Colored Eggs (Pictured on front cover)

Foliage and flowers collected from your garden are the secret to these works of art. To achieve natural colors, select produce based on your color choice. We used yellow onion skins to create a brownish color and purple cabbage to create a blue color. (Note: You can use other fruit and vegetables to create different color dyes.)



Eggs
Foliage and Flowers
Panty Hose
Purple Cabbage, 1 head, sliced
Yellow Onions, 3 (skin only)
Vinegar
Pot for each color

The process is simple. Position a leaf or flower facedown against an egg. Wrap the egg in a four-inch square piece of panty hose and tie the ends with string.

Brown Color:

Bring 10 cups of water and the skins from 3 yellow onions to a boil over medium-high heat; let boil for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to low, then strain and discard onion skins.

Bring colored water back to a gentle boil, then stir in 3 tablespoons vinegar. Gently lower eggs into the pot and boil for 30 minutes.

Blue Color:

Bring 10 cups of water and 1 head of sliced purple cabbage, sliced to a boil over medium-high heat; let boil for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to low, then strain and discard cabbage.

Bring colored water back to a gentle boil, then stir in ¼ cup vinegar. Gently lower eggs into the pot and boil for 30 minutes.

Turn off heat, cover, and let stand for 2 -3 hours, or until desired color is achieved. Remove eggs and transfer to a carton; let cool.

Slovenian Style (Horseradish) Deviled Eggs

6 hard-boiled eggs
¼ cup mayonnaise
1-2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
½ teaspoon dill weed
¼ teaspoon ground mustard
Dash salt
Dash pepper
Dash paprika

Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks, set white aside. In a bowl mash the yolks, add mayonnaise, horseradish, dill weed, ground mustard, salt, and pepper; mix well. Spoon mixture into egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika. Refrigerate until serving.

Makes 1 dozen

Note: For a tangier taste, add more horseradish.



Can you help?

NON-PROFIT
PERIODICALS
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Grow Our Membership

We are challenging each one of you to find a new member.

Consider giving a gift membership to a friend or relative.

The future depends on our members.



Benefits of Membership

- * **Receive** the bi-monthly magazine *Zarja - The Dawn* which highlights Slovenia, its rich heritage, culture, traditions, and recipes, plus more.
- * **Receive** the monthly on-line newsletter *The New Neighborhood*.
- * **Participate** in local branch activities which promote “*Keeping the Slovenian Spirit Alive*.”
- * **Scholarship Opportunities** after three years of membership.
- * **Research** both SUA/SWUA’s historical and genealogical resources – the *Ivana Project* and the *Matti Register*; both long-term scanning projects of member documents since 1926.
- * **Visit** SUA’s website with links to numerous Slovenian-American interests.
- * **Visit** SUA’s free Heritage Museum in Joliet, Illinois, with exhibits, library, and merchandise.

BEST OF ALL

Connect and network with Slovenian-Americans across the country!