

Zarja

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

\$ 3.99 U.S./\$ 8.99 International

Volume 86 Issue 4
July/August 2014

The Dawn



Bohinj

by Gregor Smukovič
Račja vas, Slovenia



Zarja - The Dawn

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PUBLISHER: **Slovenian Union of America**
(Formerly *Slovenian Women's Union of America*)

TELEPHONE: **815.727.1926**

Vol. 86, No. 4, July/August 2014

Published bimonthly

Periodicals Postage paid at Joliet, IL
and additional mailing offices.

(ISSN 0044-1848)

Postmaster: Send all changes of address to:

SLOVENIAN UNION OF AMERICA

(Formerly *Slovenian Women's Union of America*)

431 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432-1703

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 Slovenia, 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 September/October issue must be received by July 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 *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.

Gregor Smukovic's *Zarja* Cover "Bohinj" Prints Available to Readers

Gregor Smukovič, a fresh and talented Slovenian artist and oil painter, who just turned 25, is receiving appreciative eyes and complimentary reviews towards his art. Gregor was born and raised in the village of Račja vas and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2012 from the prestigious Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He grew up drawing, always hoping to become a professional painter. With family support, encouragement from teachers, and a dream to study at his eventual alma mater, Gregor persisted in creating a portfolio that received acceptance into the University. He considers himself a classical academic artist. His longtime desire for painting realism stems deep in his appreciation for the great master artists. His love of allegorical scenery, the details, brushstrokes, and atmosphere are mirrored in his own work. Gregor's artwork was recently featured in a two-man exhibition, entitled "The New Rise of Classical Art" at the Sevnica Castle, overlooking the Sava River. He is one of the few Slovenian painters who continue the mission of the old, classical masters, and hope to restore interest in the grandeur and importance of classical art. Gregor is currently preparing for an exhibit along Slovenia's largest coastal city of Koper on the Adriatic Sea, and is complet-

ing a major artwork piece for an exhibition in the castle of Brežice. He is hoping to catch some major critics' eyes with this show, which will feature his latest realistic compositions in the artistic style of his idol Bouguereau. They will consist of five realistic paintings of woodland nymphs done on expansive 12 ft. x 6 ft. and 5 ft. x 3 ft. panels.

Interested *Zarja* Readers who would like a print of the "Bohinj" cover painting can choose to order online from [Artflakes.com](http://www.artflakes.com) at: <http://www.artflakes.com/en/products/bohinj> or pre-order an autographed 8 in. x 12 in. print on unstretched canvas for \$15 by contacting bdsodac@gmail.com or calling David Sodac at 563.359.4075 for further information about pricing and shipping.

The canvas prints will be available in early fall.

Those individuals participating in the *Zarja - the Dawn* Anniversary of Živijo, *Zarja* Tour, have the option of meeting the artist in person during the tour and picking up their canvas reproductions.

President's Message

Greetings:

This issue is BURSTING with all kinds of Slovenian-American events across the Nation. Be sure to read every column and every Branch article. I am beyond excited! Every day our organization gets older, but every day we seem to be getting closer to our Slovenian heritage. Let's celebrate!

Thirty-seven travelers will be celebrating 85 years of *Zarja - The Dawn* this September. The tour is sold out! For those of you who are going, get ready for the trip of a lifetime. Debbie and I have all kinds of surprises to make this a spectacular experience. We can't wait!

I am proud to announce our membership campaign "Show the Love for SUA." For every member who recruits a new member, whether it's an adult or junior member, your name will go into a drawing for a chance to win \$150 or \$100 in cash. The member who recruits the most members will receive \$100. Who wants to participate? Simply fill out the application inside this issue of *Zarja* or download a copy from our website at www.slovenianunion.org. Write your name on the bottom for your chance to win. The more members you recruit, the more chances you have to win. Let's do this together! If every adult member would recruit one new member – just imagine the possibilities. ***We can do this!***

It's time to support everything you love about the Slovenian Union of America! Whether it's a gift of Time, Talent, or Treasure – ***WE NEED YOU!*** No matter how big or small your effort is, it will allow us to continue to share our love for our Slovenian heritage for generations to come.

TIME: Can you give us a helping hand? We are looking for Grant Writers, *Zarja - The Dawn* Writers, Fund-raising Teams, Exhibits, Membership Director, and Volunteers at our Home Office & Heritage Museum.

TALENT: Can you conduct a workshop at a location convenient to you that would share a Slovenian talent you may have?

TREASURE: Can you make a donation to our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation? Can you fund an exhibit at our Heritage Museum? Or can you enroll a friend or family member?

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

FIND YOUR SLOVENIAN ROOTS!

... maybe you don't know where to begin ...
... maybe you have hit that proverbial brick wall ...



Contact us:

Slovenian Genealogy Research Center
6415 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103

E-mail: sgsi.rc@gmail.com

Phone: 1.440.655.3954

Website: www.slovenianguenealogy.org

Our mission is to help you!!!!

April 15, 2014
411 East Harvey Street
Ely, MN 55731

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed you will find my check and application to join the Slovenian Union of America. I wanted to tell you why I am applying for membership. The reason I am joining is Mary Lou Voelk. Mary Lou is an inspiration. I have now worked with her on three major projects. She has demonstrated a love of Slovenia that reminds me of my father. She has the commitment to honor and celebrate our heritage.

Several years ago, she helped me put together a unit to teach about Slovenia in school. I had never met this woman, and she was willing to send me materials and artifacts. In the past two years we have worked on the celebration of Slovenian heritage in Ely, Minnesota. Because of her energy, we have had great success.

Mary Lou deserves recognition for all that she does. I am sure you know this and have done something about it.

Thank you for your consideration.


James E.N.R. Lah

W A N T E D GRANT WRITERS

We are looking for volunteers with good written communication skills who can help us research and seek grant funding opportunities.

**E-mail wprokup@aol.com
for more information.**

Welcome to Our New Members

Radosevich, Joan, 3	Harter, Susan, 30
Cameron, Jane, 20	Smith, Amanda, 30
Gutnik, Brad, 20	Furry, Heidi, 35
Lah, James, 23	Amato, Germaine, 50
Smith, Teresa, 23	Novak, Elizabeth, 50
Coleman, Amber, 24	Dutkiewicz, Connie, 89
Coleman, Kari, 24	Quinn, Michele, 93
Eide, Janelle, 24	Govednik, Agnes, 100
Eide, Julie, 24	Moralez, Barbara, 100
Manning, Jennifer, 24	Sixel, Mike, 102
Oberg, Linda, 24	Kristian, Andrea, 109
Pearse, Gerri Lynn, 24	Perhay, John, 109

SUA Donations - Thank You!

\$200 Donation

Friesenhahn, Barbara, 5, SUA

\$125 Donation

Zaverl, Albin, 35,

Zarja - Lake Bled Prints Sold

\$100 Donation

Branch 1, *Zarja*

Fox, Elizabeth, 89,

+Carolyn M. Widmar

\$75 Donation

Kambich, Anthony, 20,

+Helen & Tony J. Kambich

\$50 Donation

Glavich, Richard, 3,

+Sally Glavich

Pecharich, Martha, 99,

+Tina Hintz

Prokup, Bonnie, 24, SUA

Spehar, Suntina, 33, +Suntina T.

Spehar, grandma & mother

\$40 Donation

Zalar, Julia, 50, SUA

\$25 Donation

Bradford, Cynthia Bayt, 5, SUA

Cummings, Dorothy Govednik,

13, +Deceased members of
Govednik Family

Erjavec, Ronald, 20, SUA

Haslup, Aggie, 42,

+Teresa Vrcek Gorup

Jex, Erin, 43, +Ann Grambow

Klein, Vicki, 24, +Louise

Salvanski & Sally Strohmaier

Pecharich, Alexandra, 99, SUA

Polzin, Christine, 102,

+Josephine Bayuk

Rademacher, Sue, 109, +Veronica

Schumer Sieverding

Sherek, Robert Sr., 35, SUA

Tarizzo, Marilyn, 20,

+Mary Bozic, mother

Vavpotich, Josephine, 2, SUA

Vett, Louise, 54, +Ann Savor

Warren, Joann, 26, SUA

White, Doris, 71,

+Helen M. Hervol

Yager, Lynn Kurnick, 13,

+Edward Kurnick

\$20 Donation

Bartholomew, Nancy, 50,

+Ann Potochar Elliott

Bruch, Kitty, 89, +Betty Terselic

Bray, grandmother

Fitzsimmons, Bernadette, 108,

+Eric A. Kovacic

Grabowski, Josephine, 24, *Zarja*

Lockard, Karen, 42,

+Mary (Kranjc) Gruden

Mutz, Frances, 20,

+Frances J. Smrekar

Parola, Dorothy, 24, +Mary

Kastigar & Kathleen Lattuca

Reichelderfer, Frances Jean, 100,

+Jean Kurilich

Rossi, Rea Helen Marie, 23,

+Helen Theno & Uncle Billy

Slogar

Wadycki, Pamela, 2, SUA

\$15 Donation

Wallace, Katherine, 47, +Elsie

Spellacy & Olga Dorchak

\$10 Donation

Branch 43, Heritage Museum -

+Lucy Menchak

Gruden, Angela, 42,

+Mary R. Perko

Harley, Emily, 93, SUA

Jacobson, Carol Marie, 33,

Honor of Mary Hinnenkamp,

Josephine Rizzi, Dorothy

Jacobson, Mae Del Zotto

Jermenc, Murielann, 24, +Family

of Anton & Mary Jermenc

Kamnikar, Steve, 89,

+Kamnikar Family

Kamnikar, Terry, 89,

+Kernz Family

Kellett, Rose, 89,

+Mary Dusak, mother

Klatt, Lois, 30,

Honor of Aloysia Loncaric

Koncar, Dorothy, 20, SUA

Pohar, John IV, 24,

+Helen Swietek, aunt

Pohar, Julia, 24,

+Helen Swietek, aunt

Robertson, Jean, 43, SUA

Rossi, Dorothy, 16,

+Mary Novak

Schultz, Frances, 20, SUA

Story, Loretta, 24,

+Frances Ahcin

Tate, Alyssa, 3, SUA

Wroblewski, Elizabeth, 89,

+Betty Terselic

\$5 Donation

Kamnikar, Johnathan, 89,

+Grandpa Steve

Kamnikar, Lydia, 89,

+Grandpa Steve

Landgraf, Erin, 1,

+Josephine (Peppy) Zaletel

Larson, Charlene, 20, SUA

Lenkaitis, Adam, 24, SUA

Lenkaitis, Alex, 24, SUA

Lenkaitis, Cathy, 24, SUA

SWU Scholarship Foundation

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF FINANCIALLY ASSISTING STUDENTS

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

ANNOUNCING SWU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS OF 2014

ROSE MARIE PRINC SCHOLARSHIP \$4,000 to a GRADUATE STUDENT MAJORING in the FIELD of EDUCATION

This scholarship was awarded to **Corey K. Holden**, Branch 20 - Joliet, Illinois. Miss Holden earned her Bachelor of Science, Communication Disorders and Science, May 2009, and received a Bachelor of Arts, May 2014, from Saint Xavier University. As an educator, Corey has



directed her skills to those with learning disabilities and special needs. Her dream is to assist high school students with making life decisions, knowing full well that she can have an impact on those students she works with. Nothing would make her more proud than to see students she has helped to succeed. Corey's Slovenian ancestry goes back to Angela Bolte, Corey's great-grandmother, who was born in Slovenia in 1898 and immigrated to Joliet in 1901 with her family. Corey stated *"I am much honored and humbled for being chosen to receive the Rose Marie Princ Graduate Scholarship."*

BRANCH 2 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was awarded to **Gianna DeGarbo**, Branch 3 - Pueblo, Colorado. Miss DeGarbo graduated from Central High School with a 4.8 GPA and will enter Colorado State University - Pueblo in fall, majoring in Athletic Training. As an active participant in golf, tennis, and volleyball, Gianna is aware of concussions and other



injuries that must be avoided or dealt with. She not only has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years, but has done much charity work, including collecting toys for hospitalized children, Special Olympic events, caring for family and friends, and a Girls State representative. Gianna serves as an altar server, Eucharistic minister, ushers with her father, and serves church dinners. Gianna's great-grandparents emigrated from Slovenia and instilled in their children the importance of hard work, family, and traditions, which has been handed down to Gianna.

FRANCES COLNAR BARMAN
AWARD \$1,000



This scholarship was awarded to **Amanda Kinney** of Branch 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Miss Kinney graduated from North High School with a GPA of 3.9 and will attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, majoring in mechanical engineering. Amanda has

taken numerous AP courses while being an active participant in golf, track, band, the National Honor Society, and the "Christmas Fund Drive," which raises money for local, needy families. She has studied Spanish for four years. Outside of school Amanda has served on four mission trips and served vacation bible schools yearly. In 2012 she received the Silver Star in Girl Scouts and is currently working towards her Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Amanda's maternal grandfather, Tom Gruenke, is of Slovenian ancestry. Through the traditions of her family, Amanda has learned much about the foods and crafts of Slovenia. She proudly wore her Slovenian costume at many functions, including the 2007 SWUA National Convention at Starved Rock, Illinois, and the more recent 2013 Slovenian Family Festival at the Kohler Memorial Arts Center in Sheboygan, where she shared her love of crafts, painting and dying Easter eggs, and designing her own bee hive cover.

FRANCES COLNAR BARMAN
AWARD \$1,000

Angela Perez, Branch 3 - Pueblo, Colorado, is the recipient of this award. As a second year Business and Administration major, minoring in Italian, Angela has maintained a 3.25 GPA, and hopes to eventually focus on a career in International Business. During the 2015 academic year she will be studying in Bergamo, Italy. Angela's faith is very important to her. She does liturgical readings, sings in the church choir, and at the Children's Christmas Mass does a special reading of "The Legend of St. Nicholas." One of her biggest involvements with the church was having the opportunity to attend the 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. As part of a steering committee, she works on a project called "Tom and Louie's Cupboard," a fund-raiser for needy families. Along with the SUA, Angela is a member of the KSKJ and the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW. The Krasovec family, of which Angela is a member, emigrated from Busina vas, Bela Krajina, Slovenia. The family members continue to have a winery with grape vines that transform their product into spectacular wine. In Pueblo, the Krasovec family still celebrates the feast of St. Martin's Day with a big family dinner topped with Slovenian wine.



**SWU MATHEMATICS and
SCIENCE AWARD \$1,000**

This scholarship has been awarded to **Natalie Hocesvar Gorenssek** of Aiken, South Carolina, a member of Branch 30 - Home Office. Miss Gorenssek, holding a 4.3 GPA, earned an Aquinas High School diploma and will be entering Case Western Reserve University to study biomedical engineering. Natalie has always been interested in science, including NASA's interplanetary search programs, and mathematics, and has won awards for science fair projects. As a leader of the local Key Club, Natalie participated and supervised major clean ups in a project entitled "Rivers Alive - Cleanup of the Savannah River," cleaning creeks and small waterways of litter, cataloging, and removing litter and debris. Valuable data was collected from this project for a statewide database. Natalie is 100% Slovenian. Her father's parents and mother's grandparents all immigrated to the United States, and luckily, during 2005, Natalie was able to visit cousins who remain in Slovenia.



**RAYMOND DELOPST
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000**

Amanda Schniegenberg, Branch 50 - Mentor, Ohio, was awarded the Raymond Delopst Memorial Scholarship. Amanda graduated with a GPA of 4.1 from Highland High School, Medina, Ohio, and plans to enter Ohio State University this fall, as a pre-med major. Her aspirations are to be an orthopedic physician, specializing in sports medicine. Amanda not only has studied Mandarin Chinese for the past five years, but has earned high school varsity letters in soccer and softball. As a volunteer at the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank and Medina General Hospital she has been inspired to devote her life to the field of medicine. Being an involved member of the Key Club, Holy Martyrs Church, and part time store cashier fill her days when Amanda is out of class. In 2011 Amanda was able to visit Slovenia to attend the 25th Anniversary celebration of serving as a priest, for her cousin Monsignor Franci Petric. Her great-grandmother, Anna Stanonik, was born in Cleveland; great-grandfather Dominic Dekleva was born in Piva, Primorska, Slovenia; and great-grandparents on her grandfather's side were Anna Papesh Tusek and Franc Tusek of Binkelj, Slovenia, all of whom immigrated to the United States. This impressive heritage influences Amanda's great knowledge and appreciation of her ancestry and their culture.



THE PASSING OF FRIENDS

OLGA ZADNIK DORCHAK, a dedicated supporter of the SWU Scholarship Foundation, President of SUA Branch 47 - Garfield Heights, OH, and Treasurer of



the Newberry/Maple Heights Slovenian Senior Club for a number of years, moved onto her life with the Lord on April 19, 2014. Her enthusiasm for life, her interest and support of others, no matter what their orientation, has touched many. A 2015 SWU Olga Dorchak Memorial Scholarship is being established in her honor.

MIDGE CANNAVINO, wife and devoted partner of SWU Scholarship Foundation Trustee, Joseph



Cannavino, entered her new life March 25 in Sagamore Hills, Ohio. Midge was an organizer of many community functions and was especially interested in the welfare of children.

Children and adults are returning to school. We wish them and their educators success as they learn and thrive. May the knowledge they gain this academic year help each student in his or her lifetime to contribute much to society.

For more information on the SWU Scholarship Foundation,
visit website www.slovenianunion.org or please contact:

Mary Turvey, Director, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, MI 49855 mturvey@aol.com
Or Marge Church, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056 yemec1@windstream.net

Scholarship Donations

THANK YOU FOR THESE DONATIONS!

\$1,000 Donation

Branch 20 - Joliet, Illinois

\$500 Donation

Dr. Jeanette G. Brown & Glenn Brown,
+Olga Dorchak

\$400 Donation

Sean & RaeAnna Tucker

\$100 Donation

Branch 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Kenneth Janders, +Olga Dorchak
Frank & Debbie Duris, +Olga Dorchak
Dr. & Mrs. William Ansley, +Olga Dorchak

\$75 Donation

Mrs. Richard (Barbara) McMillin & family,
+Olga Dorchak

\$50 Donation

Joe & Pamela Zab, +Olga Dorchak
Paula Parker & Virginia Wilson,
+Olga Dorchak
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Davenport, +Olga Dorchak
Mr. & Mrs. George Spellacy, +Olga Dorchak

\$30 Donation

Sandy & Thomas Moir, +Olga Dorchak

\$25 Donation

Janet Glasz
Marge Church, +Olga Dorchak
Ginger & Annie Kemmerling, +Olga Dorchak
Diane & Robert Gallik, +Olga Dorchak
Luther & Sandy Millsaps, +Olga Dorchak

\$20 Donation

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Oleksiak, +Olga Dorchak
Mary Turvey, +Donald Turk
Marge Church, +Anna Mae Mannion
Ivanka Matic, +Olga Dorchak
Ms. E. M. Lawrence, +Olga Dorchak

***Hvala! Hvala! Thank you kind donors for
your support of our scholarship program.***

The Updated Library at the Slovenian Union of America Heritage Museum

SUA's home office, 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, Illinois, houses a museum filled with Slovenian educational exhibits and an excellent library. Georgene Agnich of Chicago, Illinois, has agreed, with great interest, to organize and catalog new books that have been kindly donated to this valuable collection. Some books that may be of interest are:

"Shepherd of the Wilderness,"

Lambert, Bernard, L'Anse, Michigan 1967.
Life-long story of Frederic Baraga, early 1800 missionary to the Great Lakes region.

"Dictionary of the Ojibway Language,"

Baraga, Frederic, Minnesota Historical Society.
English to Ojibway and Ojibway to English words and expressions written in 1853.

"George Koziak - A Slovenian Janizary,"

Jurcic, Joseph (1844-1881).
Gypsies and Turks kidnapped young Slovenian boys and changed them into fighters.

"Our Slovenian Ancestry,"

Sturtevant, Shirley Torlip, 2001.
Detailed history of Slovenian family stories, many extending surnames. Orazem family of Ribnica region is central subject.

"Spominska Zgodovina," Slovenska Druzba.

Historical Memories of Willard, Wisconsin, 1982. Huge collection of family histories of early pioneer, Slovene settlers of Willard.

"Still Sits the Schoolhouse by the Road,"

Bartol, Frank R., Alger County Historical Society, 2007. Memories of "good old golden rule days" in a rural, Slovenian-Finish community elementary school in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, 1935-1942, Traunik, Michigan.

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 _____

Recommended by:

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

Thank You for Your Support!

The SUA's 27th National Convention fund-raiser – "April's Showers of Dollars" - for the month of April 2014 was a huge success. Your entry was very much appreciated! The profit of over \$4,000 will enhance all aspects of the activities for our SUA/SWUA delegates and members. You can help to ensure even greater success by your attendance at SUA's Chicago/Naperville National Convention hosted by Branch 99 - Lemont, IL, from June 18 - 21, 2015. More information will be given in this and future issues of *Zarja - The Dawn*.
Thank you for your support!

Winner's List

1st Place Top Seller - Tie (23) \$110 Each

Kathy Cufar - Branch 99 - Lemont, IL

Stephanie Segulin - Branch 10 - Cleveland, OH

3rd Place Top Seller (20) \$50 - Bill Zerial - Branch 99 - Lemont, IL

Note: All Sellers received \$10 per winner.

	<u>Entrant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Seller/Branch</u>
Apr. 1	Janice Coats , Shorewood, IL	\$200	Audrey Churnovic - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 2	Ronald Smith , Joliet, IL	\$60	Dorothy Smith - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 3	Renee Herbst , Shorewood, IL	\$60	Jean Herbst - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 4	Doug Henkel , Peru, IL	\$60	Nancy Henkel - Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL
Apr. 5	Jeannette Elish , Canonsburg, PA	\$60	Same - Branch 10 - Cleveland, OH
Apr. 6	William Kobe , Joliet, IL	\$60	Charlene Kobe - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 7	Irene Odorizzi , Reston, VA	\$60	Same - Branch 103 - Washington, D.C.
Apr. 8	Sandra Flores , Raleigh, NC	\$60	Sharon Schroeder - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 9	Helen Troha , Perry, OH	\$60	Same - Branch 50 - Euclid, OH
Apr. 10	Staff of Advertising Women of NY , NY	\$60	Lynn Zalokar - Branch 93 - NYC, NY
Apr. 11	Marian Pechek , Pueblo West, CO	\$60	Same - Branch 3 - Pueblo, CO
Apr. 12	Rudy Krasovec , Pueblo, CO	\$60	Same
Apr. 13	Lauren Anzelc , Chicago, IL	\$130	Mary Ellen Anzelc - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 14	Georganne McNichol , Bloomington, IL	\$60	Kathy Cufar - Branch 99 - Lemont, IL
Apr. 15	Jean Herbst , Joliet, IL	\$60	Same - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 16	Nancy Henkel , Peru, IL	\$60	Same - Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL
Apr. 17	Dolores Franko , Chicago, IL	\$60	Same - Branch 16 - South Chicago, IL
Apr. 18	Aloise Dunne , Toledo, OH	\$60	Same - Branch 30 - Home Office
Apr. 19	Patricia Butterbach , Joliet, IL	\$60	Same - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 20	Molly Anzelc , Notre Dame, IN	\$200	Mary Ellen Anzelc - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 21	Bernice Montgomery , Falls Church, VA	\$60	Same - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 22	Theresa Bodus , Delafield, WI	\$60	Rose Chepeck - Branch 43 - Milwaukee, WI
Apr. 23	Meta Hanzlik , Western Springs, IL	\$60	Same - Branch 2 - Chicago, IL
Apr. 24	Barbara Friesenhahn , Austin, TX	\$60	Same - Branch 5 - Indianapolis, IN
Apr. 25	Wanda Kocinec , Crest Hill, IL	\$60	Same - Branch 99 - Lemont, IL
Apr. 26	Robyn Coyne , Shorewood, IL	\$60	Same - Branch 20 - Joliet, IL
Apr. 27	Ralph Dottai , Sheboygan, WI	\$60	Same - Branch 1 - Sheboygan, WI
Apr. 28	Frances Pavlovic , Lorain, OH	\$60	Same - Branch 40 - Lorain, OH
Apr. 29	John Keith Johnstone , Cudahy, WI	\$60	Same - Branch 43 - Milwaukee, WI
Apr. 30	Lois Pelander , Duluth, MN	\$130	Same - Branch 33 - Duluth, MN

Top Branch Support

76 Sellers: Branch 20 - Joliet, IL

30 Sellers: Branch 2 - Chicago, IL

28 Sellers: Branch 43 - Milwaukee, WI

28 Sellers: Branch 50 - Euclid, OH

21 Sellers: Branch 24 - LaSalle, IL

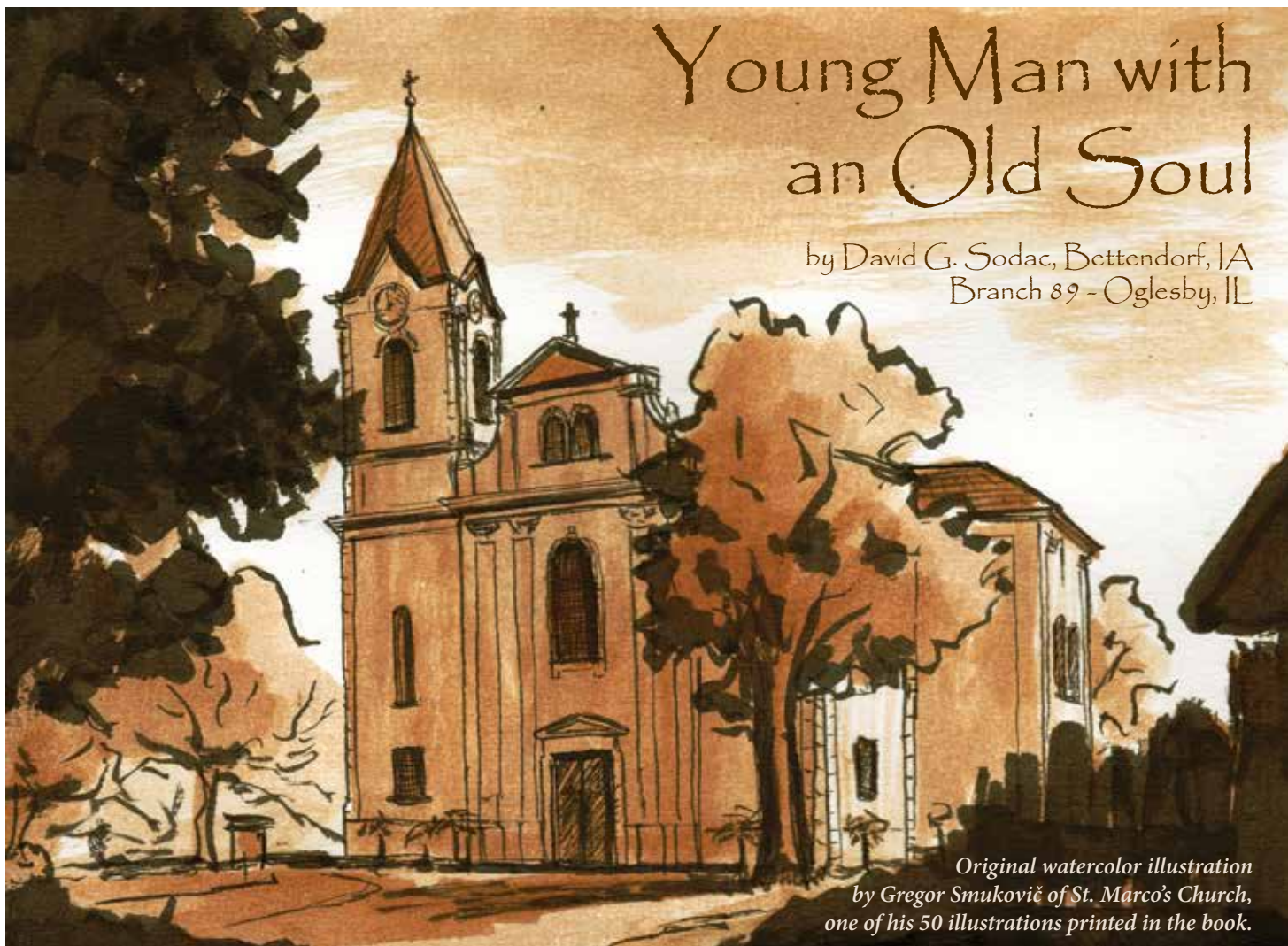
20 Sellers: Branch 16 - So. Chicago, IL

20 Sellers: Branch 99 - Lemont, IL

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Young Man with an Old Soul

by David G. Sodac, Bettendorf, IA
Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL



*Original watercolor illustration
by Gregor Smukovič of St. Marco's Church,
one of his 50 illustrations printed in the book.*

David Smukovič was born July 25, 1983, and raised in the close-knit village of Račja vas, in eastern Slovenia. This small, quaint village is nestled near the left banks of the picturesque waters of the Krka River that flows through the Krka River Valley. The area had been traditionally referred to as Lower Carniola, but now is a part of the Municipality of Brežice. This is a village whose population hovers around 100 people. The surrounding area enjoys pristine nature, ripening hillside vineyards, meandering flows of the Krka River considered the “Jewel of the Dolenjska Region,” as well as an easy distance to some of Slovenia’s most historic castles and monasteries. The Church of St. Marco is the heart of this small village and has just become the focus of a new genealogy resource publication announced by The Salve Ljubljana Publishing House. The book was based on years of David’s extensive research from private, public, and church records on the parishioners from his home village area. This resource book was dedicated as a testimonial in honoring David’s beloved church of St. Marco and the Cerklje ob Krki parish, as well as its vibrant and hard-working people that formed its roots through the centuries. David and his wife, Sara, their son, Nikolai Marjan, and daughter, Gloria Magdalena, have since moved down the road a few meters to Brežice, but still are active parishioners at St. Marco’s.



*St. Marco Church,
Račja vas, Slovenia.*

Zarja - The Dawn

David holds a fascination for all things old, especially his immediate and extended family lineages from centuries past. His love of genealogical research has also carried over into assisting other families with their family history, and now the entire parish of Cerklje ob Krki, as well, is benefitting from his genealogy research. He majored in history and theology at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, captivated by the evolving events in the development of his country, as well as with the people and leaders who shaped today's Slovenia. David shows a remarkable sense of history. He's an old soul in a young man's body, respecting what the past has to offer us today.

David, the oldest son born to Marjan Smukovič and Irena Piltaver, grew up within a mile of his family's long-time parish church of St. Marco. This church, dedicated to Saint Mark, was built in 1905 to replace the original 17th century church structure that had been heavily damaged through a series of historic earthquakes. The church today belongs to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Novo Mesto, but is located in Cerklje ob Krki, within the settlement of the Cerkljanske parish. David's religious convictions were heavily influenced by his involvement in this church. As a first-grader at the age of eight years old, he became a mail delivery boy for Catholic newspapers such as "Ognjišče" and "Družina" and the parish newsletter for Račja vas. Every Sunday he rode his bike to the vicarage to pick up the newspapers and then delivered them to all the parishioners. David recalled that given such a position of responsibility at that young age made him feel like he was really important in the eyes of the parish community. When he became a second-grader David had been coaxed by his parish priest, mag. Jože Miklavčič, into becoming one of his church's altar boys. Becoming an altar boy was a decision that he has never regretted as he looks back on those years, embracing great memories and experiences. David says, "It was just a special time for me growing up." Mag. Miklavčič was eventually reassigned to a different church and replaced by mag. Tone Gnidovec. He remembers this priest as a role

model to others on how to lead a just and religious life. David grew to love his faith, appreciate his church, and learned through positive experiences how to live a Christian life through what the church of St. Marco, in the parish of Cerklje ob Krki, instilled in him and his family.

Within today's Cerklje ob Krki Parish boundaries there are still two active churches, St. Marco in Cerklje, and St. Mohor and Fortunat in Krška vas.

In the village of Veliko Mraševo there is the church of St. Peter and Paul that was redistricted into land boundaries of "Sv. Križ - Podbočje" parish in 1972.

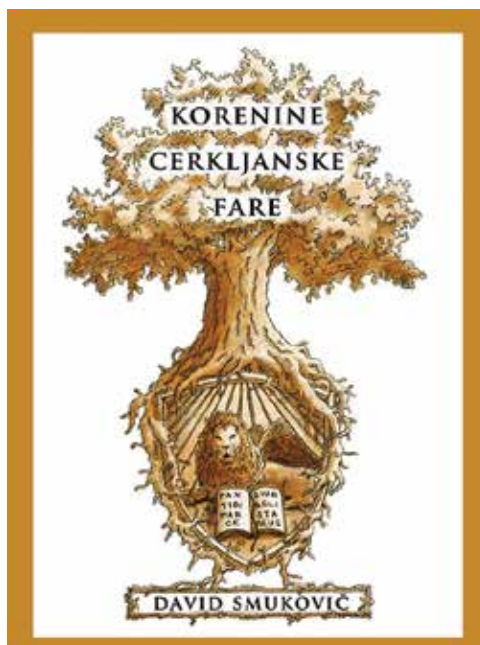
David continued to show his gratitude to the church through his various research writings and publishing on the history and uniqueness of his church and parish members. Some of these writings were reprinted in the same Catholic newspapers and parish newsletters that he had once delivered as a youngster on his bike. He also wrote a short 118 page book about three important people from the Cerklje ob Krki parish: Stanislav Lenič, a bishop of Ljubljana; Franc Omerza, born in Župeča vas, a priest, professor, and translator in Ljubljana; and Andrej Račič, an organist and craftsman who built the organ used in the Cerklje ob Krki parish church. Now David has given back a hundred-fold; he has donated his five-year intense labor of love, a 1,100 page genealogy manuscript of extensive research collected on over 9,000 ancestral lineages of former Cerklje parishioners, beginning with the 18th century to 1910. This unique book was just published in February 2014 through the sponsorship of the parish priest. The sales from the book will all be turned over to raise funds for his beloved parish church. David's book is entitled "Ko-



(Top photo) Author David Smukovič with his two year old son, Nikolai Marjan.

(Bottom photo) Sara with their six month old daughter, Gloria Magdalena.

renine Cerkljanske Fare” (translated as The Roots of Cerklje Parish). The book is about the parishioners, whose extended family roots molded the Cerklje ob Krki parish. David’s reconstruction charts retrace the names, family members, and significant dates of all the families who lived in each numbered village house within the Cerklje ob Krki parish, beginning from the late 17th century to the early 19th century. Included in his reconstruction collection are families from the villages of Borst, Cerklje, Črešnjice in Cerkljah, Dolenje Skopice, Gazice, Gorenje Skopice, Hrastje in Cerklje, Krška vas, Račja vas, Zasap, Župeča vas, as well as the villages of Veliko Mraševo and Zasavje, which once belonged to the parish Cerklje.



The cover of the book portrays the iconic lion representing the evangelist St. Mark. St. Mark is the patron saint of St. Marco's parish. On the book which the lion holds it is written: "PAX TIBI MARCE EVANGELISTA MEUS" (May peace be with you, Mark, my evangelist).

This attractively designed, resource book is the end result of years of meticulous research of multiple sources of data extracted from church registries, land registers, and from parish family books called status animarums (State of Souls). Brief histories and supplemental information on each of the parish’s 13 villages is included. This book’s uniqueness is enhanced with the numerous illustrations of an up-and-coming Slovenian artist, Gregor Smukovič. Gregor happens to be the younger brother of David, who is quite the accomplished artist and film producer. Gregor’s talented artwork can also be viewed on the website:



Village Zasavje with St. Nikolaj Church by Gregor Smukovič.

<http://www.gregorsmukovic.com/biography.html>.

David credits the completion of this book to the church’s current pastor, mag. Janez Žakelj. David expressed that because mag. Žakelj believed in him so fervently and offered such encouragement, the manuscript finally got finished. He also credits this parish priest with securing the funding for the books’ eventual publishing. David says without mag. Žakelj there would not be *Korenine Cerkljanske Fare/ The Roots of Cerklje Parish*. Either through Divine intervention of St. Mark himself, or due to the bittersweet status of the Slovenian government no longer needing guards along the Croatian border, David

became officially unemployed. (Croatia officially became a member of the EU in January, 2013.) David struggled with finding any new job opportunities in the financially-strapped and struggling Slovenian economy. Consequently, he found all the extra hours necessary to finish his genealogy research project. He immersed himself into its completion and working with the publisher in proofing the manuscript for publication. The first copy rolled off the press on February 12, 2014.



David Smuković and his book mentor, priest mag. Janez Žakelj.

Korenine Cerkljanske Fare/ The Roots of Cerklje Parish is quite the comprehensive genealogical resource. This hard-bound book contains solidly accurate research, careful attention to detail, and interesting additional content. Despite the fact that this book is published in the Slovenian language, David feels that the information on surnames, dates, and villages will still be recognizable and invaluable to family genealogists in America. David also is offering all SUA members an opportunity to have him check through his book and search for your family surnames. If

he is able to connect names to your family, you can authorize him to proceed, and David will construct a family tree of the information at a nominal cost. Please feel free to e-mail him at davidsmu83@gmail.com; he'd love to help you. Please check through the listing (pages 14-16) of all the surnames researched from the 13 villages that form the basis of the book to see if you might have family that were included.

This book is also of special interest to several members of the Slovenian Union of America who have their own family roots connected to both the St. Marco parish and as a part of the same family tree as David Smukovič. Most of these SUA members are from the Illinois cities of La Salle, Peru, Oglesby, Moline, and Normal, as well as Bettendorf, Iowa, who are descended through the Piltaver sisters, Marija and Terezija, who immigrated to La Salle in 1905 and 1909. Both sisters were born and raised in the village of Krška vas, which was in the parish jurisdiction of St. Marco. Terezija and Marija were baptized, attended mass, and received their sacraments in both the old and rebuilt St. Marco church prior to their emigration. Ten pages of Piltaver family charts are featured as having multi-generational parish roots to St. Marco. Terezija Piltaver married Franc Terselic and they raised their family in the La Salle area. Seven of her grandchildren, Barbara (Bray) Bruch, Beverly (Bray) Briddick, Betsy (Bray) and her husband Mark Wroblewski, and Rebecca (Bray) and her husband John Novack are also members. Allan Gorgal, of Moline, Illinois, and Paul Terse of Erfstadt, Germany, are the long distance, extension members of Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL. Three of Terezija's great-grandchildren, Kitty Bruch, Ellie Wroblewski, and Ava Novack, are also members of Branch 89. Marija Piltaver married Matthew Sodac and they raised their family in the LaSalle area as well.

The writer of this *Zarja* article, David Sodac of Bettendorf, Iowa, is Marija's grandson and also an extension member of his grandmother's Branch 89 of Oglesby. When formulating ideas for the contents of the book, David Smukovič wanted the Slovenian readers to know what typically happened to the many fellow villagers who sought emigration from Slovenia to America in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He requested that I provide a short chapter on the Piltaver family's early beginnings in America, a challenge agreeably accepted. The chapter will be presented in

both the English and Slovenian languages. Branch 89 is also proud to say that David Smukovič has been one of their own "European" Branch members for the past two years.

In the preface of the book, Cerkljanski priest mag. Janez Žakelj wrote, "The five-year work of David Smukovič introduces us to the foundations of our family tribes, our identity, the roots from which grows a mighty tree - today's generation." David Smukovič's book certainly takes a look at family roots and he hopes it to be a catalyst in motivating families to conserve our Slovenian histories. He views the main functions of our ancestral roots as in the anchoring of a tree to the soil, absorbing and enabling nutrients to transport to its branches' growth, and ultimately strengthening its preservation for future generations.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:

**Number of pages: 1,009, hardcover, color, format: A4 (8.3 in × 11.7 in).
Publishing House: Salve Ljubljana.**

[Published in Slovenian.]

**PRICE: 96 €; U.S. \$131.50
plus s/h (\$176.26) Total**



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Look very carefully through the following three pages that contain the listing of all 935 surnames of those that at one time resided within the boundaries of the St. Marco Parish. The surnames trace back to the late 1700s up to the early 1900s. They were all derived from reconstructing the residents who had lived in the numbered houses of each of the 13 villages, tracing back through the time period of the late 1700s up to the early 1900s.

If you recognize a family name , please e-mail David Smukovič at davidsmu83@gmail.com so he can verify and locate your family chart at those residences.

Ajdovšek	Bevc	Cerovšek	Drenik	Gramc	Ivanov
Ajster	Bevk	Cetin	Drobnič	Grebenc	Ivanuš
Ambrož	Biderman	Cimerman	Drugovič	Gredis	Ivšič
Ambrožič	Bilk	Cirnski	Druškovič	Gregel	Jabelšek
Anderle	Birtič	Cizelj	Dubič	Gregoršanc	Jager
Andolšek	Bitenc	Cizerle	Dubrovič	Grezhman	Jagrič
Andrejaš	Blankar	Clokan	Duhanič	Gričar	Jaketsh
Androjna	Blantzh	Cokel	Dulc	Grida	Jaklič
Angel	Blatnik	Colarič	Duler	Grilec	Jakolič
Annudoni	Blaževič	Corazzo	Dur	Grimšič	Jakše
Antončič	Blažič	Cugelj	Dušak	Grogoris	Jalovec
Antonelli	Bogolin	Curhalek	Dvornik	Grojzdek	Jamnik
Arh	Bogovič	Cvelbar	Dvoršek	Grošelj	Janc
Asher	Bogovšič	Cvetežar Cvetko	Edliher	Grozđina	Janko
Ause	Bohinc	Cvetkovič	Elsotti	Grubič	Jankovič
Avguštin	Bohor	Čebular	Erceg	Grumnik	Janžek
Avsec	Bojc	Černard	Erjavec	Gunde	Japel
Babič	Boldin	Černečič	Erlach	Hafner	Jarkovič
Bajc	Bolha	Černelič	Erman	Haler	Javeršek
Bakič	Borovinšek	Černič	Erzhul	Herakovič	Javornik
Balas	Bosina	Černoga	Essih	Herman	Jazbec
Bambič	Bošak	Čertalič	Fabinc	Hiti	Jeke
Ban	Boškovec	Češnjegar	Fabjanič	Hočevan	Jelašič
Banič	Božič	Čučnik	Faletič	Hodnik	Jelčič
Barbič	Božiček	Damič	Ferenčak	Holeshek	Jelenčič
Barkovič	Bračinič	De Ceceo	Ferjan	Homan	Jelinek
Barlič	Bradač	Debeljak	Fischlovizh	Horvat	Jenčič
Bartol	Bratanič	Derende	Fištrovec	Horvatič	Jenko
Baškovič	Bregar	Derganc	Florjančič	Horžen	Jenskovič
Baznik	Brezec	Dermaž	Fagnotti	Hostar	Jenžur
Belančič	Brinovec	Dernovšek	Frančič	Hostnik	Jerak
Belčan	Brisnik	Dimič	Franekovič	Hotko	Jerele
Benčin	Bučar	Dobravec	Franko	Hrastnik	Jerič
Benje	Bukovec	Dobrinc	Franover	Hrastovšan	Jerin
Benkovič	Bukovinski	Dobrintz	Franutti	Hribar	Jerinčič
Berdajs	Burgar	Dolan	Gačnik	Hrovat	Jerman
Bergnarich	Burnik	Dolinar	Gal	Hudoklin	Jernila
Beribak	Butara	Dolmovič	Gorenc	Humar	Jerše
Berkopec	Butkovec	Domitrovič	Goričar	Humek	Jeršič
Berkovič	Buttler	Donatti	Gorišek	Ignotti	Jesenovec
Berlan	Celek	Doravec	Gorjup	Ilc	Jetsch
Berlančič	Celerič	Dornik	Gornik	Impolšek	Jevšnik
Bernardič	Cenin	Dragaš	Govekar	Indihar	Johan
Bertole	Cerjak	Dragonja	Graber	Irgulič	Jordan
Betica	Ceronja	Dragozet	Grabner	Ivanc	Judež

Jugovič	Koprivnik	Lavrinšek	Mauri	Novoselič	Peterčič
Junkar	Korais	Lazanski	Mavrič	Obershen	Peterkovič
Juratovac	Koritnik	Lekše	Mavsar	Oberstar	Peterlin
Jurca	Korpral	Lenardič	Maznik	Oberšen	Peternel
Jurečič	Kos	Lenič	Meda	Obertz	Petreček
Jurgalič	Kosec	Leopolis	Mede	Obreza	Petrič
Jurgel	Kosmač	Les	Meden	Oglesk	Petrinjak
Jurica	Kosovan	Leser	Medol	Ogorevc	Petrovčič
Jurkas	Kostrevc	Levak	Mehle	Ogrin	Pevc
Juvanc	Košak	Leven	Meke	Ojsteršek	Pevec
Kaitner	Košič	Levičar	Merše	Oman	Peyer
Kalin	Košir	Liberšek	Mešič	Omerza	Pfeifer
Kamnič	Kotshinsch	Lipar	Mešnak	Omerzu	Pflege
Kampuš	Kouinski	Lipoglaušek	Metelko	Opravš	Pilpah
Kante	Kovač	Lisec	Metličar	Orel	Piltaver
Kaplan	Kovačič	Logar	Meznik	Orešar	Pimk
Kastelic	Kozjan	Lomšek	Mežič	Orešek	Pincolič
Katič	Kožar	Lončarič	Mihelič	Oreškovič	Pintar
Kavčič	Krainčič	Longer	Miklavčič	Orešnik	Pintarič
Kaver	Krampelj	Lopatič	Miklič	Orlar	Pipagna
Kavšek	Kranjc	Lorber	Mikolič	Orn	Pirc
Kebe	Kranjec	Lovko	Mikota	Orsehizoeka	Pirič
Kelhar	Krašovec	Lovše	Miler	Osiunitz	Pirzler
Kerin	Krauser	Lubi	Mirt	Ostreljč	Pisanski
Kersini	Kravčar	Lubšina	Misle	Osvald	Pistovalp
Kervak	Kreačič	Lukanc	Misotti	Ošaben	Pišek
Kervak	Kreis	Lunka	Mladkovič	Oštir	Planinc
Keržan	Kren	Luznar	Mlakar	Pacek	Pleskovč
Keržič	Krevelj	Lužar	Mochar	Pachich	Pleterski
Kirin	Križanič	Maček	Močan	Pajek	Pleteršnik
Kirn	Krkovič	Majdič	Modic	Pakič	Plevanič
Klasič	Krolc	Mald	Mohor	Palotti	Poček
Klaučar	Kronawater	Malekovič	Mohorčič	Pangeršič	Podgoršek
Klavžar	Krošelj	Maletič	Mokolanc	Pangre	Podlogar
Klemen	Krošl	Malinger	Mokolaunz	Pasquotti	Podpadec
Klemenčič	Krošnjak	Manter	Mokričar	Pauk	Poklečki
Klobas	Krulc	Marcotti	Molan	Pavlia	Polanec
Knavs	Kržičnik	Marek	Montini	Pavlič	Poldan
Knez	Kubat	Marevi	Mosel	Pavlovič	Polovič
Knežič	Kuhar	Margetič	Mošina	Pavšel	Polutnik
Kocjan	Kukovičič	Marinček	Mozhiler	Pečar	Ponikvar
Kočnar	Kunst	Marinčič	Mrak	Peček	Posavc
Kodadek	Kuntarič	Mariosi	Murko	Pečnik	Potokar
Kodrič	Kuntič	Markovčič	Murn	Pegam	Povše
Kolar	Kus	Markovič	Mustar	Pekalec	Požar
Kolarič	Kuzma	Marlič	Nahtigal	Penca	Požun
Kolenc	Kuželj	Marn	Nečemer	Penča	Prah
Kolešnik	Kvartuh	Marnek	Negro	Penič	Prebin
Kolnič	Lajkovič	Marolt	Nepazlan	Peotler	Predanič
Komar	Lajovic	Martinčič	Neuman	Perenič	Premelč
Komljanc	Lapuh	Masnik	Nolimal	Perk	Presen
Komočar	Lauz	Mateš	Noršič	Pešec	Preskar
Komotar	Lavrič	Matinotti	Novak	Petan	Prešiček
Konzlan	Lavrinc	Matjašič	Novosel	Petelinc	Prijatelj

Prikelmajer	Rupe	Stancker	Šporer	Vahčič	Zalokar
Primožič	Ruprecht	Stanič	Šraj	Vajdič	Zavec
Pristovšek	Rus	Staniša	Šribar	Valešek	Zavrašek
Prišelj	Rutter	Stanko	Štajer	Van	Zavrič
Prodrut	Sagadin	Starčič	Štajer	Vastel	Zbačnik
Prutsch	Sagorjen	Starec	Štampek	Vaščer	Zdravje
Pšeničnik	Sakside	Staroveški	Štavcelj	Veble	Zehner
Puc	Salmič	Stegenšek	Štefak	Vegelj	Zernele
Puch	Saltn	Stekal	Štefanič	Velikonja	Zevnik
Puček	Sattich	Stente	Štrekal	Venčer	Zhamer
Pugel	Savnik	Stepušin	Štrukelj	Vengušt	Zidar
Punčah	Schmid	Stergar	Štrus	Venzel	Zidarič
Puntar	Schmitz	Sterlak	Šturn	Verar	Zlobe
Račecič	Schroif	Sterle	Šuler	Verne	Zlobko
Račič	Schuzhizh	Sternad	Šumlaj	Verstovšek	Zofič
Radanovič	Sečen	Sternisheustar	Šušтариč	Vertič	Zorčič
Radej	Selan	Stibič	Švigelj	Vesel	Zore
Radi	Semenič	Stipič	Tauciq	Vesroti	Zorec
Radovan	Senica	Stokar	Tekavčič	Vičič	Zorič
Rajd	Seničar	Stopar	Terček	Videnič	Zorko
Rakar	Sernic	Strašek	Teršan	Vidic	Zoržič
Ramus	Seršen	Strel	Teršelič	Vidmar	Zumek
Rangus	Sešina	Stritar	Tkavec	Vidovič	Zupan
Rant	Sever	Strlekar	Tolar	Vimpolšek	Zupančič
Ranz	Sganz	Suman	Tom	Vintar	Zwar
Rapp	Shneler	Sushiz	Tomac	Virant	Žabkar
Ravnihar	Simon	Suša	Toman	Vitrič	Žagar
Ravniher	Simončič	Suško	Tomažin	Vizler	Žarn
Ravnik	Simonišek	Svešič	Tomec	Vnuk	Žerjav
Ravnikar	Simšič	Šaver	Tominc	Vodan	Žibert
Rebnik	Sintič	Šavrič	Tomše	Vodopivc	Žičkar
Rekas	Sirotka	Šeberl	Tomšič	Vogrin	Žičnikar
Rekel	Sivič	Šemlak	Toporišič	Vogrinc	Žitnik
Repqnowizh	Skosplos	Šetinc	Tranati	Vohinec	Živoder
Resinger	Skubic	Šimac	Tratnik	Voljčanšek	Žnidar
Resnik	Slak	Šinkovec	Traven	Volk	Žnideršič
Rešek	Slakonja	Škoda	Travnik	Vorek	Žokalj
Retelj	Slavic	Škof	Trebovc	Vorelj	Žonta
Riauchi	Slivšek	Škofljanc	Trešše	Vouk	Žugič
Ribič	Slovinc	Škofljek	Tunkovič	Vrabec	Žunar
Rischla	Sluga	Škrabec	Turčinič	Vrančič	Župevc
Rishner	Smole	Škrbina	Turenšek	Vranetič	Žuž
Rolih	Smrekar	Škulj	Turk	Vrgl	
Romšak	Smukovič	Škvarč	Turšič	Wever	
Rosina	Sodec	Šoba	Uglešič	Wezhe	
Rostohar	Sole	Šok	Ujčič	Wohte	
Rot	Sotelšek	Šoln	Ukmar	Wolf	
Rotar	Sotošek	Šoško	Ulašič	Zabukovec	
Rozina	Sovič	Šparemblek	Unetič	Zadnik	
Rozman	Spitzmuller	Špec	Urbanč	Zagorc	
Rožanc	Srebernjak	Špilek	Urbas	Zajec	
Rožman	Srovin	Špiler	Urek	Zakovšek	
Rudman	Srpčič	Špilsk	Urekar	Zakrajšek	
Rudolf	Stancel	Špolar	Urh	Zalezina	



2015 National Convention

Mark your calendar!

Branch 99 of Lemont, Illinois, is pleased to host the 27th SUA National Convention for next summer. It will be held from June 18-21, 2015 (adding another day from previously noted) at the Chicago Marriott Naperville hotel in Naperville, Illinois, and spending a day on the beautiful grounds of the Slovenian Catholic Mission and the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. Lemont and surrounding areas have a very proud, active Slovenian community and we welcome you to enjoy a long weekend enjoying Slovenian food, entertainment, and friends.

Our National Convention will include many activities, including a celebration at the SUA Home Office/Heritage Museum in Joliet, Lipizzan stallions performance, Slovenian fashion show, Potica contest, Apron contest and auction, Polka lessons, Beehive tour and presentation, tour of the Slovenian Catholic Center and grottos, Slovenian art show, entertainment, and more!

Room reservations may be made at the Chicago Marriott Naperville hotel (630.505.4900) at special convention prices beginning later this year. Plan to enjoy the beautiful downtown area of Naperville with its many shops and restaurants.

The Convention is open to all members, Branch delegates (Member Representatives), and guests of all ages. All are welcome to join in the meals, activities, special events, and business portions of the Convention.

Watch for future *Zarja* issues with more information and details. If you have questions, please contact:

Julie Lajoie

National Convention Chairperson

jamp817@comcast.net

or 630.854.5400

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014

BRANCH 1 of Sheboygan, Wisconsin and friends are invited to the Annual Slovenian Picnic sponsored by Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish.

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014

BRANCH 2 of Chicago, Illinois to host their annual Zveza Day Picnic held in Lemont.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014

BRANCH 99 of Lemont, Illinois to host a Slovenian Stew culinary class at the Slovenian Catholic Center. Class begins at 8:00 a.m. in the kitchen. Cost to attend is \$20 per person and includes all supplies. RSVP to Mary Ann Partyka at craftymar304@comcast.net or 630.661.3600.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

BRANCH 99 of Lemont, Illinois to host a Member Lunch Brunch at 11:00 a.m. at the Slovenian Catholic Center. The event is free to all Branch 99 members. Guests are welcome to attend for \$10.00 and children \$5.00. RSVP is required by August 31 to MaryAnn at 630.661.3600 or e-mail craftymar304@comcast.net.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

BRANCH 93 of New York, New York to host a special children's event featuring storytelling, music, songs, games, and activities from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at 62 St. Mark's.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

BRANCH 20 of Joliet, Illinois to host their annual Grape Harvest Festival Dance.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

BRANCH 43 of Milwaukee, Wisconsin to host a bake sale at the South 88th Street School.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015 –

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015

27th SUA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dorothy Lamm

Tribute to Long-Time Members

by Patricia Budzilek



Dorothy Lamm, a coal miner's daughter, was born in Parkhill, near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1928, the last of seven children of Jacob and Mary (Hiti) Koss. She was very close to her father who worked for the mines for 43 years, overseeing secured plots where miners were assigned to work. His job did not include membership in the miner's union and that sometimes made it difficult for the family and children.

Her father was an excellent carpenter and built the family home. He taught Dorothy to dance the polka and make goulash, as well as how to whitewash trees in order to keep the bugs away. The family always had a garden and raised one pig a year to keep them with meat during the winter months. It took almost two weeks to get the butchering completed. Lard was rendered. On Sundays, water

had to be pumped for washing, wood needed to be cut, and coal needed to be brought to the house. The family raised canaries for use in the mines and sold the birds for \$8.00 each, which was a large sum at that time. The birds were sensitive to poisonous gases and warned miners of possible dangers in the mines.

Dorothy was only one of two children in the family who were able to graduate from Conemaugh High School, as the older children had to quit school after 8th grade to help support the family. She then worked in a local store for seven years, after which she came to Cleveland, Ohio, where she obtained a job working at General Electric and made a much better wage. During that time she stayed with her sister and family who were already living in Cleveland. Bob Lamm, of German and Slovenian ancestry, also worked at General Electric and arranged to meet Dorothy, by accusing her of making defective light bulbs which she knew she was not doing. This incident ultimately led to their marriage at St. Therese Church in Johnstown; a church her father helped build. She and Bob are the parents of two daughters, Denise and Robin, and five grandchildren. Her daughter Denise is married to a doctor; Denise is a past Miss SNPJ, along with Miss Activity. Robin is married to an attorney.

Dorothy and Bob were married for 48 years when Bob died, and she is now living in Mentor for the past 12 years with an old friend, Dr. Dave Adams, also widowed. When Dave's wife died, he asked Dorothy to be his companion and the relationship has endured. Dorothy and Dave knew each other well, as there had been a deep friendship between Dorothy and Bob, and Dave and his wife, going back many years.

In 1968, Dorothy took her mother home to Slovenia for the first time since she had left many years before, enabling her to see once again where she was born. The surprised look on her aunt's face will never be forgotten! Dorothy

also joined her daughters, Denise and Robin, when as children they sang and toured Yugoslavia (Slovenia) as members of SNPJ Circle #3, and also toured Europe as members of the Euclid High School Choral Club.

Dorothy and Bob were always active in the Slovenian community. Dorothy is a member of SUA Branch 50 (formerly of the merged Branch 32) in Euclid, Ohio, where she is currently an auditor. Some of her other interests have been the Slovenian Society Home, where she served on the Board, the Euclid Pensioners, where she served as President, Progressive Slovenian Women 3, where she was President for many years, and she is currently Vice President of both SNPJ #566 and AMLA #6, both Slovenian organizations. In 1996 Dorothy was the Woman of the Year

of the Slovenian Society Home in Euclid. You can always find her helping at one or another of these organizations.

Dorothy is most proud of her work at the Slovene Home for the Aged, where as director of the Jean Petrick Fund, her first project was the purchase of buses for the residents to use; something they never had before. Many other improvements came out of the fund due to her work. Dorothy still works Bingo every month and brings treats for the residents.

Anyone who knows Dorothy is aware that she has a very good heart, always helping wherever she can, whether the need is an individual or a group. Even though she is 86 years old, she still "tells it like it is."



The family house built by Dorothy's father in Parkhill.

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.

Slovenian Pioneers to America 1840-1879

A Record of Immigration

by George Plautz, Zarja Staff Reporter

This will be my last column in this series. Occasionally I will provide an update if I receive information pertaining to our pioneer immigrants who arrived in America before 1879. This column has been a labor of love. Hours and hours of exhaustive research, writing down facts, discovering descendants, all resulting in over four years of columns in this magazine. I will be taking a break before I engage in any new projects. I am sure I will be writing about some aspect of genealogy or history in the future. Thanks to Bonnie and Debbie (Zarja production team), who gave me freedom to explore an area I saw needing documentation, and a medium to produce the results. A very big hvala (thanks) to all the other members who contributed and those that had positive words to say about my work. I appreciate it all.

1867-During this year, Jacob Supancheck arrived in America, settling in Nebraska. Jacob was born on August 13, 1844, in Slovenia and died about 1930 in Humphrey, Platte County, Nebraska. He married Anna Pluth about 1870. She was born March 4, 1840, and died March 8, 1901, in Nebraska. Children of Jacob and Anna are: Joseph, born October 7, 1872, in Kansas, died about 1958, in Nebraska, married Caroline Klein, on April 30, 1901, in Ravenna, Buffalo County, Nebraska, she was born about 1877 in Nebraska, and died about 1944, in Nebraska, children are Jacob (1902-1985), Anna C. (1905), and Carrie M. (1910); Mary, born March 26, 1873, in Kansas, died in Albion, Nebraska, married Frank Conrad Schad, July 16, 1895, in Marysville, Marshall County, Kansas, Frank was born January 16, 1873, in Nebraska, died September 26, 1946, in Nebraska, children are: Sylvester Michael (1896-1909), Victor Anton (1897-1952), Emil Joseph (1899-1952), Louis Peter (1903-1991), and Clara Agnes (1909-1982); Rose, born January 1876, in Illinois, married Augustus Patrick O'Grady, born about 1876 in Nebraska, Rose's and Patrick's children are: Irving (1899-1942), Nora A. (1902), Leo (1904), Ewart (1906), Helen (1908), and James (1909); Peter Ambrose, born January 22, 1878, in El Paso, Woodford County, Illinois, died March 26, 1965, in Seward County, Nebraska, married Mary Elizabeth Phillips on September 24, 1902, Mary was born August 13, 1882, in LaMotte, Jackson County, Iowa, died October 7, 1964, in Nebraska, children born to Peter and Mary were Evert A. (1902-1983), Elmer A. (1904), Irene M. (1906-1936), Veronica C. (1908-1993), Anthony Nicholas (1911-1987), Loretta Kathryn (1914-2001), and Lawrence W. (1918-1984); Anna, born May 15, 1880, in El Paso, Illinois, died on January 23, 1958, in Whitehall, Franklin County, Ohio, she married Andrew J. Boesch on May 15, 1907, in Humphrey, Nebraska, Andrew was born on November 14, 1882, in Columbus, Ohio, died December 4, 1918, in Columbus, Ohio, children are Marquerite (1908-1994), Genevieve (1909-1986), Anthony (1911-1994), Jerome (1914-2002), Francis (1916-1995), and Mark (1917-2000); Agnes Helen, born October 14, 1884, in Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois, died June 24, 1979, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, married Charles W. Dougherty on November 14, 1910, in Ohio, he was born on September

13, 1886, died June 13, 1932, in Mahoning County, Ohio, one son, Gerald Francis Dougherty, born April 5, 1917, in Ohio, died December 2, 1981, in Ft. Lauderdale. After Jacob's first wife, Anna, died, he married Marie R. Oestreicher Ruoff on June 11, 1906, in Humphrey. She was born about 1855, and died March 14, 1951, in Marion, Marion County, Oregon.

1878-During this year, Andrew Supan, arrived in St. Stephen, Stearns County, Minnesota. Andrew was born October 30, 1858, in Slovenia and died on January 7, 1925, in St. Stephen. He married Rose Zemwa on November 15, 1882, in St. Stephen. Rose was previously married to John Blenkush. She was born on August 30, 1856, in Slovenia, and died November 3, 1932, in St. Stephen. Andrew's and Rose's children are as follows: Andrew Zupan, born October 22, 1883, in St. Stephen, died March 3, 1965, in St. Stephen. He married Myrtle Barnes. They had two children. Rosaline Rose Supan, born June 20, 1885, in St. Stephen, died October 22, 1950, in St. Stephen, married on July 8, 1906, to Joseph Mensinger, son of Lucas Mensinger and Agnes Blenkush. Rosaline and Joseph had ten children. Mary Supan, born April 16, 1887, in St. Stephen, and died September 21, 1970, in St. Stephen. She married Gregor Anton Smoley, son of Gregor Smoley and Ursula Blenkush, and they had eight children. Bartol Supan, born August 2, 1888, in St. Stephen, died on July 16, 1965, in St. Stephen. He married on October 21, 1912, in St. Stephen, to Katherine Smoley, daughter of Gregor Smoley and Ursula Blenkush. They had seven children. Felix Zupan, born December 20, 1890, in St. Stephen, died February 18, 1971, in St. Stephen. He married Anna Zima on January 10, 1914, in St. Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota, daughter of John and Anna Zima. They had four children. Johanna Zupan, born July 4, 1892, in St. Stephen, died October 29, 1971, in Little Falls, Morrison County, Minnesota. She married Simon Peter Lodermeier on October 14, 1912, son of Peter Lodermeier and Margaretha Fruth. They had eight children. Joseph Supan, born March 2, 1894, in St. Stephen, died October 3, 1937, in St. Stephen. Steve Supan, born December 6, 1895, in St. Stephen, died January 21, 1987, in Sartell, Stearns County, Minnesota. He married Frances Schumer on June 5, 1934, in St. Stephen, daughter

of John Schumer and Mary Smoley. They had seven children. John Supan, born March 18, 1898, in St. Stephen, died August 15, 1976, in St. Stephen. He married Agnes Schumer on April 3, 1923, in St. Stephen, daughter of John Schumer and Mary Smoley. They had six children. Anna Supan, born December 29, 1899, in St. Stephen, died January 26, 1947, in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. She married June 26, 1925, in Milwaukee to John Joseph Lewandowski, son of Michael Lewandowski and Apolinia Wasikowski. They had three children. Many of the surnames of marriages in the Supan family were mentioned previously in this column.

1878-During this year, Martin Jaksa, born October 17, 1848, in Pribje house number 3, Semic Parish, to John Jaksa and Anna Golobic, arrived in Chicago. From there he took a job in Joliet and then made his way to Iowa, by 1879 he arrived in Portland, Oregon. He moved in the spring of 1880 to Wasco County, Oregon, where he homesteaded near The Dalles. On January 31, 1884, at The Dalles, he married Albena Pasic (Pashek). Martin died on January 2, 1937, in Umatilla County, Oregon, and Albena died on February 23, 1929, in Wasco County. To Martin and Albena were born two sons, Andrew and Joseph. Andrew Francis was born November 26, 1884, in Wasco County, Oregon, and married Catharine E. LNU on November 26, 1908, in Multnomah County. Andrew died May 8, 1970, in Multnomah, as did Catharine, who died on July 31, 1957. Joseph Matthew, born January 24, 1877, in Columbia, Wasco County, Oregon, died October 31, 1959, in White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington. He married Margaret Schanton, she died before 1914, two children were born to Joseph and Margaret: Francis M., born December 26, 1911, died September 21, 1944, in Klickitat County, married Elizabeth Demarest on February 17, 1935, in Klickitat County, Washington; Victor J. born July 31, 1913, died July 24, 2001, in White Salmon, married Joyce Simons in 1949, in Klickitat County, Washington;

Joseph then married her sister, Rosa Lena Schanton, she was born December 12, 1896, and died February 1976, in White Salmon. Joseph and Rosa had the following children born in Columbia, Wasco County, Oregon (the family moved to Klickitat County in Washington before 1940): Martha, born about 1918, married Carroll G. Thompson on November 6, 1940, in Skamania; Christine R., born July 2, 1919, died March 31, 2006, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon; Cecil C., born February 1, 1921, died July 29, 2007, in Klickitat County, married Rose Anne Quackenbush on February 1, 1958, in Skamania County; Alvina, born about 1923; Joseph A., born April 17, 1924, died July 13, 1996, in Ranier, Columbia County, Oregon; Esther, born about 1926, Helen born February 3, 1928, died on May 27, 1999, in Seaside, Clatsop County, Oregon, married Leonard E. Shum on September 27, 1957, in Skamania, Leonard was born on April 9, 1928, and died on March 16, 1994, in Seaside; Donna M., born about 1932. Martin Jaksha amassed over 500 acres, of which 200 were planted in wheat. He owned two other lots in The Dalles. Martin spoke and wrote English fluently and was conversant in four other languages. He was also prominent in political matters and held various offices. Thanks to Heide Scott Jaksha, who provided the information that helped me in researching this pioneer family.

1878-About this time Slovenian immigrants begin the New York community.

To contact me by mail: George Plautz, 1307 Dragon Head Drive, Valrico, FL 33594 or by e-mail at doblice@gmail.com.

FOR RENT: Slovenian Rustic Retreat

This quaint little hillside cottage is located in Bela Krajina in the town of Semic. Sleeps 6

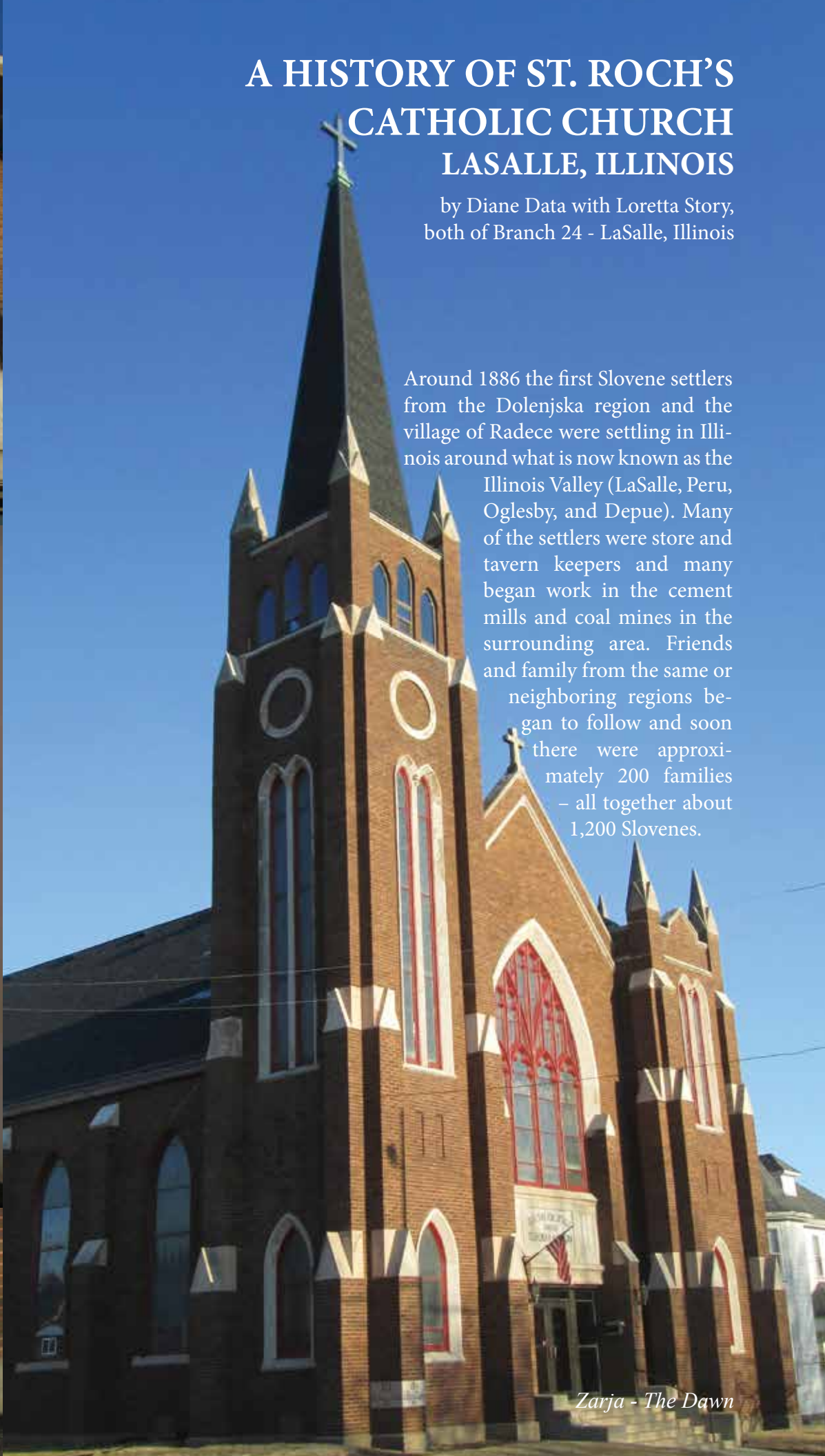
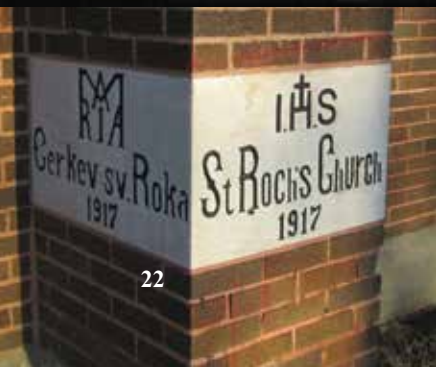
Contact: Mitch Vlahovic-
McIlvene
mihelamitch@hotmail.com



A HISTORY OF ST. ROCH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH LASALLE, ILLINOIS

by Diane Data with Loretta Story,
both of Branch 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Around 1886 the first Slovene settlers from the Dolenjska region and the village of Radece were settling in Illinois around what is now known as the Illinois Valley (LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby, and Depue). Many of the settlers were store and tavern keepers and many began work in the cement mills and coal mines in the surrounding area. Friends and family from the same or neighboring regions began to follow and soon there were approximately 200 families – all together about 1,200 Slovenes.



Zarja - The Dawn

Rev. Frank Sustersic, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Joliet, Illinois, came to LaSalle to minister to the spiritual needs of the Slovene community. By the early 1900s, the Slovenian community in LaSalle had risen so dramatically that a church was needed for the Slovenes. They first built the Slovenski Narodni Dom in the northwest corner of First and Crosat Streets to house social meetings.

In 1900, the Bishop of Peoria, Illinois, received a delegation from LaSalle, including Fr. Sustersic, Anton Sorcic, Matt Komp, and Anton Kostello, who presented him with a petition requesting their own priest. The Bishop responded to their plea by sending Rev. Anton Podgarsek, who arrived with much zeal and who took upon his shoulders the burden of planning for and building a church, school, and rectory.

The Slovenes worked diligently to raise funds and were very generous in donating their time and labor for this project. In 1902, land at the corner of Sixth and Crosat Streets in LaSalle was purchased for \$3,000. In one year, Fr. Podgarsek built the school for \$13,000 and for 15 years the upstairs served as a church, the downstairs was a school, and the priest lived on the south end of the building. The new church was called St. Roch's. The first Mass was celebrated on July 12, 1903, and Bishop J.L. Spalding from Peoria blessed the church on September 13, 1903. Some 32 Catholic societies took part in the festivities. Croatian, Irish, and German societies sent representatives and approximately 3,000 men marched in the parade. The main speaker for the event was Fr. Frank Sustersic.

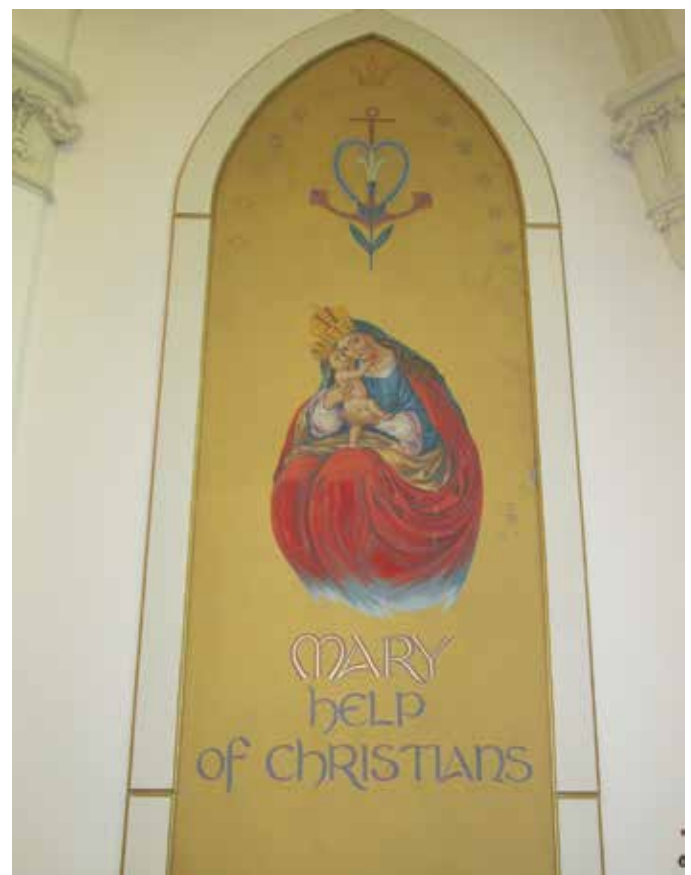
In 1905, Fr. Podgarsek built a two-story frame home, which was to become a rectory. In 1907, Rev. Aloisius Kastigar was sent to replace Fr. Podgarsek. Rev. Kastigar remained until 1914, when Rev. Francis Saloven was appointed to St. Roch's. Under Rev. Saloven, the present brick and tile structure was built at a cost of \$40,000. The first cornerstone was laid on August



20, 1916, and the church was completed in 1918.

In 1930, Fr. Saloven retired and returned to his homeland. Slovenian Franciscan fathers of Lemont, Illinois, then staffed the parish until 1943. The Franciscan pastors were Fr. Bernard Ambrozic, O.F.M., Pascal Esser, O.F.M., Leo Novitski, O.F.M., and Joseph Corrigan, O.F.M. During this time, several men of St. Roch's parish helped build the Grotto (an outdoor shrine to the Blessed Mother) in Lemont. In 1943, Rev. Stephen Kassovic was appointed pastor and his brother, Koloman Kassovic,

served as an assistant. They served the parish until 1950 when Rev. Michael Zeleznikar was appointed. SUA Branch 24 - LaSalle, IL member, the late Rev. Bernard Horzen, spent most of his childhood as a parishioner of St. Roch's. He also was able to serve





Mass where homilies were spoken in English and Slovenian.

On July 16, 1979, Resurrection Parish was chartered as a result of a merger between St. Joseph's and St. Roch's parishes, located only two blocks apart in LaSalle. St. Joseph's had been established in 1870 to serve German immigrants. St. Joseph's church was renamed Resurrection parish and St. Roch's church and rectory were sold to Catholic Charities to house their offices and a day care center for the elderly. Catholic Charities made many changes to the inside of the church to accommodate their needs.

In 2010, John Fialko of San Diego, California, purchased the former church from Catholic Charities with a plan to restore the original interior and to use it as a family residence.

On Thursday, March 20, 2014, Branch 24 - LaSalle was privileged to host their first meeting of 2014 in the newly-restored, former St. Roch's Church. We also had in attendance members of Branch 89 - Oglesby, and friends and family. We all had St. Roch's in common. Some of us were baptized there, some were married there, some were altar boys there, and some had memories of family singing hymns in the choir loft. The choir loft is now the master bedroom with a



new bathroom. Downstairs are two more bedrooms and a large living area where pews were once filled with Slovenians. Protective glass that had been over the stained-glass windows for years was removed to let the light shine through, revealing beautiful colors and scenes. The altar area is now a kitchen space, where the back altar was removed to reveal a painting of the Last Supper. As Slovenian music played in the background, Mr. Fialko's uncle, Jerry Massini, acted as tour guide providing stories of the church that he learned from the restoration process. He learned many new stories of what took place in the church from our members, who heard them from family or who were present at the time.

In the words of Loretta Ahcin Story, who provided me with much of the history for this article, "We are blessed with countless wonderful memories, such as men climbing the tall steeple of St. Roch's to ring the church bells by hand with little hammers, of church socials, and chicken dinners; more poticas, strudels, and kroffe than you can count. Also memories of polka dances at The Dom and the Slovenian choir singing the beautiful hymns of their homeland; solemn processions and May crownings and the sheer joy of being together celebrating life and being moved by the beauties of nature. We hold these memories close to our hearts as we continue to make more of them for those who will follow."



Slovenian

Union of America

Branch Reports

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

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

April 24th was an evening of celebration for Branch 1. Our member of the year, Agnes Wiltzius, was honored. She was presented with a Rogaska crystal bowl from Slovenia and a plaque of Marija Pomagaj painted by member Dick Jelovnik. We also honored our 50-year member, Kathy Schroeder, who also received a crystal bowl and plaque. Our last presentation went to Amanda Kinney. She was



awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the SWU Scholarship Foundation. Amanda is the granddaughter of past president, Aggie Gruenke.

Mary Jo Grabner gave a short presentation. She shared her childhood memories and photos of Marie Prisland. We concluded the evening with the song "Marie" on a CD, which was written and sung by Katie Gorton, a granddaughter of Marie Prisland.

The annual Slovenian picnic sponsored by Ss Cyril & Methodius parish will be on Sunday, July 13th. All are invited to attend and enjoy a wonderful day of Slovenian music and food.

Our next meeting will be in September.

BETTY REPENSHEK

BRANCH 2 - Chicago, Illinois

Contact Information: Judy Stoll / judystoll@att.net

On March 16th, we held our first meeting of 2014. It was fun to see everyone after such a long winter. We were happy to welcome Kathy Rojina to her first Branch 2 meeting. Kathy, who was born in Slovenia, graciously brought along three Slovenian language books: one of poetry, a wonderful recipe book, and a novel that was co-authored by her mother.

Prayers were said and condolences offered to the family of Kathy Lattuca. Kathy, who was a very active Branch 2 member, will be greatly missed.

We discussed ways in which we, as a group, can become more involved in Slovenian traditions. Ideas included sharing recipes, bringing old family photographs for everyone to enjoy, and just simply talking about our past experiences.

Plans for our annual picnic were a big topic and it was decided to increase the very popular "bag raffles" this year. Henrietta Gorski was the lucky winner of the member attendance prize.

After the meeting adjourned, we were treated to pizza, a delicious salad made by Gen Buol, home-baked goodies, and finally, a few games of bingo.

Earlier this year, Jennie Kovacic hosted a 75th birthday party for her sister, Joan Steinman, at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. Along with Joan's family, friends, and many Branch 2 members, were Corinne Leskovar (Branch 99 - Lemont, IL) and Grace Doerk (Branch 20 - Joliet, IL) to join in with the festivities.

Jean Zeleznikar (Daisy) traveled to Florida to be with her daughter, who is battling health problems. Pray for her, all our ailing members, and those in service to our country.

Have a great summer, everyone! Hope to see you all at our picnic.

JUDY STOLL

BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information:

Annette Charron / amtcharron@yahoo.com

The April Branch 3 meeting was held in St. Mary's Church hall on April 1, April Fools' Day. Vice President Eileen Kaplan discussed April Fools' Day, and members had fun sharing April Fools' Day jokes that they remembered playing on others. Marilyn Kristan was the hostess and Norma Becco brought the mystery gift, which was won by Mildred Stofac.

In place of the May business meeting, Branch 3 hosted a luncheon at Park East Restaurant on May 2 with 28 attendees. The luncheon celebrated Mother's Day and honored our SUA Member of the Year, Annette Charron. The theme of the luncheon was butterflies, and the Branch 3 members gave Annette a lovely butterfly key chain. Rosemarie Billick, Mary Gavato, and Mae Vinci were guests. President Marge Cullen and Vice President Eileen Kaplan presented Gianna DeGarbo and Angela Perez with awards from the SWU Scholarship Foundation. Both Gianna and Angela will study at Colorado State University in Pueblo. Since all attendees brought hostess gifts, members left with prizes such as cookbooks, wine, and gift certificates.

Branch 3 helped sponsor the Slovenian/Croatian Heritage celebration in the Gorsich Technology Center Theater at



Slovenian display table at the Slovenian/Croatian Heritage Day at Pueblo Community College.



Okolitz Tamburitza performing at the Slovenian/Croatian Heritage Day at Pueblo Community College.

Pueblo Community College (PCC) on April 9. Branch members, Annette Charron and Barbara Karlinger, helped organize the event along with members of the PCC Diversity Committee. The celebration included displays from the Slovenian Heritage Museum and performances by the Prešeren Glee Club and the Okolitz Tamburitza who featured Croatian music and dances. PCC served kolbasse, potica, sauerkraut, rolls, and chocolate candies to the students and the individuals from the community who attended. The event was a tremendous success.

Norma Becco and Mitzie Drobnick are organizing the Cripple Creek Gambling Bus event, which will be held on Sunday, July 13. The Prešeren picnic in Rye, Colorado, will be held on Sunday, August 10. Branch meetings will be suspended this summer, and the next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7.

ANNETTE SABO CHARRON &
BARBARA KARLINGER

BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

Our Slovenian Union of America member luncheon on May 4th at Val's Restaurant was a wonderful success. President Doreen Sustarich thanked all of our members and friends who bought raffle tickets and donated wonderful prizes. Beverly Jackson gave two quilts and an apron, Margie Schleiger made an afghan, Shirley Cooper donated San Francisco Giants baseball tickets, Virginia Sustarich gave brandy, and Doreen Sustarich brought bottles of wine. All winners went home very happy!



Val's Restaurant - Member of the Year Luncheon.

Lodges that meet monthly at the Slovenian Hall are celebrating special anniversaries this year. Educational and Dramatic Club Slovenia is celebrating their 90th anniversary. Slovenian American Fraternal and Beneficial Society celebrated its 100th anniversary on June 8th. President Louise Petrusich said that the event was wonderful, held at the beautiful Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

Our Branch will be 87 years old on October 30th. Congratulations to all these lodges, who have worked together to keep the Slovenian organizations going, with generations of family members and new members supporting our Slovenian Heritage.

A big “Happy Birthday” to Elizabeth (Betty) Doherty, who is celebrating 104 years young on August 16th. Betty joined SUA 66 years ago, on March 4, 1948. God Bless You, Betty. To all our July and August birthday members, enjoy your birthday cake, too!

MOREEN SPENCER

BRANCH 16 - South Chicago, Illinois

Contact Information: Marjorie Mitchell
773.646.4392 / Dolores60617@yahoo.com

We had 17 members attend our April meeting with guest speaker, Dr. John Vidmar, Honorary Counsel with the Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia. He spoke on the Consulate’s help to foreign travelers. A very informative question and answer period followed.

In honor of our honored guest, we hosted a potluck lunch. I must say, everyone outdid themselves with an array of salads, hot dishes, and desserts. We even had an authentic struklje dish prepared by Vic Sebahar. Marjorie Mitchell presented us with her first attempt at apple strudel. Bravo to all!

Rose Petrich’s husband, George, is our newest member. Welcome, George! He has been attending meetings with Rose for a while, so his is a “friendly” face.

Hopefully, the “April’s Showers of Dollars” drawing brought a shower of dollars to some members. This reporter was a winner! Of course, I will be an advocate of the Convention’s fund-raiser from now on!

In keeping with SUA’s Member of the Year, our Branch has decided to pay tribute to our 1920s gals who are now enjoying their “golden years.” One such member is Marie Maras. Marie has been a SUA member for quite some time. She began at Branch 95 in South Chicago. When, a few years ago, that Branch disbanded, she became a welcomed



Marie Maras

member of Branch 16. Born in 1923, Marie (Loncar) held many jobs – among them secretary to then-Alderman Emil Pacini and society and special events reporter for the *South Chicago Daily Calumet*. Marie married Ed Maras and had four children – one of which is a Cook County Circuit Court Judge. All four are college graduates, with three achieving postgraduate degrees. Marie is the proud grandmother of six.

Don’t forget donations for the women’s shelter, Haven House. Our next meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday in September. Have a happy & healthy summer.

DOLORES KRAL FRANKO

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Contact Information: Diane Hohenwater
dhohenwater@comcast.net

We hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. Even though we do not hold meetings during the summer months, Branch members continue to socialize at St. Joseph Park. This wonderful facility, which opened in 1939, has an outdoor area where local churches and organizations host picnics each Sunday. These picnics are open to the public and are quite popular. There are several buildings on the grounds, including one that functions as a bar, another for serving food, and a bandstand. If you find yourself in Joliet on a Sunday afternoon, stop at the park. Many of us have been attending these picnics since we were youngsters!

We would like to wish a very happy 50th Anniversary to Sue and Rudy Mihelich.

Our first meeting of the 2014-15 year will be on Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, September 28, we will be holding our annual Grape Harvest Festival Dance at St. Joseph Park. As always, we welcome the public to this event, and enjoy seeing other Branch members. More details will be in the next issue.

DIANE HOHENWATER

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Contact Information: Loretta Story / 9_lives@att.net
Dober Dan! After a brief “hiatus,” I am delighted to return as Branch reporter for the *Zarja*!

The first meeting of the year was presided by our new President, Diane Data, and was held in the former St. Roch’s Church building in La Salle. We had a record crowd attending as it was a very unique setting. Many of those in attendance had received their Sacraments in that beautiful, old building, which has now been converted into a magnificent residence. Please refer to the featured article in this issue - pages 22 - 24.

It’s been a busy spring so far. In March we celebrated with Branch 89 - Oglesby, IL, at Claudette’s in Oglesby for a wonderful Sunday of Slovenian camaraderie, food, and music. April found us making butares for Palm Sunday, and on May 15 we enjoyed our annual Spring Luncheon



Branch 24 members with their butares for Palm Sunday.

at Mario's Maples.

Plans are in motion for a trip to St. Joseph's Church in Joliet, the Slovenian Heritage Museum, and a lunch.

I graduated with a very small class (eight students), from St. Roch's School. Our beloved teacher, Sister Annella, O.S.B., a very wise woman, gave us our class motto: "Quality, not quantity." I think of that often as I observe, with great admiration, those who continue to strive to keep our traditions and values alive.

God bless our organization and each and every one of us! Enjoy the summer (if it ever comes), and until next time, may your hearts be filled with peace and love.

LORETTA STORY

BRANCH 35 - Aurora, Minnesota

Contact Information: John Stark / johnks6@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 4th, we honored our Member of the Year, Anita Vovk. It was so good to see her and some of her family again. It was a wonderful, fun afternoon. All had a good time and the food was delicious.

Birthday greetings to Francine Stellmach, who turned 80, and her sister, Anne Orazem, in July. They both reached another milestone! Congratulations, Francine and Anne.

Branch 35 sends get-well wishes to Rosemary Ribich. Get well soon!

We welcome our new



Rose with Roman Soldier at the Slovenian Embassy open house - 2000 years since Ljubljana was under Roman rule.

member, Cateline Vajda, to our Branch.

Rose Anttila and John Stark traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the EU Open House at the Slovenian Embassy. Rose joined her sister, Albin, from Branch 23 - Ely, MN, and her sister, Nadi, from Branch 109 - Twin Cities, MN, in demonstrating walnut potica and apple strudel. Mary Lou Voelk helped them, as she was there representing the SUA and Albin Zaverl's artistic display. John, our Branch president, entertained all the visitors with his button accordion. It was quite a work out, since it was extremely humid and hot - near 90 that day.



One of Albin Zverl's paintings on display.

Sharon Starkovich, our Branch vice president, is Al Zaverl's niece. She has been blessed to have grown up surrounded by his talent and artwork. Sharon, originally from Ely, has been a great addition to our Branch.

Have a safe summer!

MARLYS RABB

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact Information: Jan Gehm

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April 12th, the Saturday before Palm Sunday, we gathered at Triglav Park and under the watchful eye of Minka Mejac we made the traditional Butare, which were blessed on Palm Sunday. Many thanks to Minka for all of her help. Many thanks also to Helen Frohna for making all the arrangements for the use of the "DOM" on that cold, rainy Saturday. On Sunday we came to St. John the Evangelist Church, proudly wearing Slovenian Costumes or sporting a red carnation, and processed into church carrying our Butare as the Slovenian Choir sang and Fr. Michael Merklt blessed the Butare and Palms.

April 27 was a special day for Milly Mursec. On behalf of the Slovenian Arts Program at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, I was proud to present the Award of Merit to Milly. Milly is the teacher of our Slovenian Language Class, offered by the Slovenian Arts Council, and is so very proud of her heritage. She is currently the Corresponding



Palm Sunday, Cvetna Nedelja - Milwaukee Branch 43.



MaryCay Freiberg, Tom Gehm, and Branch President Jan Gehm on Palm Sunday.



Branch 43 members - Milly Mursec receiving from Mici Bregant - "The 2014 Award of Merit" from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (UWM) Slovenian Arts Program.



Rose Chepeck and June Znidorka on Palm Sunday.

Secretary of the Council, as well as an active member of our Branch.

Saturday, May 3, was the day of celebration with our Member of the Year, June Znidorka. Jackie Smith, Wisconsin's Regional President, began the afternoon by recognizing all past Members of the Year who were present, and talking about the Slovenian Spirit and heritage in all of our members and their willingness to carry on our traditions. After a beautiful invocation by member, Helen Frohna, a delicious lunch was served. Our President, Jan Gehm, then presented a short summary of June's participation in Branch 43's events and crowned her as Member of the Year. June was proud to introduce her children, Jerry from Milwaukee, and Jean, who flew in from Baltimore, sharing the day with their mom. As is June's giving nature, each guest was given a lovely ceramic vase as a remembrance of the day. The fun continued as many guests shared stories about June.

Tuesday, November 4, is election day and our Branch is planning a bake sale at the South 88th St. School. Of course, we need the cooperation of all members to make it a success. Please volunteer your help and baking skills.

Happy belated Father's Day to all of our dads.

MICI BREGANT

BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

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We lost a very active member and former officer, Olga Dorchak, on April 19th. Olga was a member of our Branch for 50 years. She held Branch leadership positions as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Olga also served many years as Ohio Regional President and Vice President. Our prayers and sympathy are with her daughters, Kathleen Dorchak Ferrante and Diane Fornaro, and their families.



The Slovenian Union of America will sadly miss Olga Dorchak, a true example of "Keeping the Slovenian Spirit Alive." May you rest in peace!

Twelve members attended our May 3 "Mother's Day" lunch meeting at Burntwood Tavern in Solon. Katherine Wallace made red carnation and white rose favors for each attendee. Thank you, Kitty. The favors were to honor her mother, Elsie Spellacy, and her aunt, Olga Dorchak.

Our next meeting is Saturday, September 6, at 1:00 p.m. at Panera in Solon. If you are attending, please RSVP to Debbie Duris at the phone number or e-mail above.

Kathy Ferrante will gladly share any of our members' activities. Call 330.730.8951 or e-mail her at kjferrante@gmail.com and she will include it in the next Branch report.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable 4th of July holiday!

DEBBIE DURIS for KATHLEEN FERRANTE

BRANCH 50 - Euclid, Ohio

Contact Information: Rick Tomsick

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Greetings from the "5-0" on America's North Coast, Cleveland, Ohio!

We just drove to Boston to pick up our member, Johanna Tomsick, at Boston College for her summer vacation here in Cleveland. Jo is finishing up her first year as an Art and Biology student. One of her art pieces is included with this newsletter, a portrait she painted of her mother, Merybeth DeHass Tomsick. Jo's brother, Zachery Tomsick, graduated from John Carroll University with a degree in Exercise Science/Physiology.

Our member, Amanda Schniegeberg, was awarded a SWU Scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Raymond Delopst of Branch 43 - Milwaukee and funded from memorials by his family and many friends. Mandy will receive the award at Highland High School's Awards Assembly. Congratulations, Mandy, and best of luck!

Great news! Ivanka Matic and Rose Mary Toth have each now become a great-grandmother. Little George Matic III lives in Columbus, Ohio. Rose Mary's great-grandson lives in Maine.

We held the Mother's Day luncheon at Dubrovnik Gardens in Eastlake Ohio, and in June we had a picnic. The next meeting will be September 17 at the Euclid Library.

Let's each remember to keep one another and all members of Branch 50 and all of the SUA in our prayers. Please write to me at

ricktomsick@gmail.com with any family news and I will add you to our list of updates for Branch 50 (you don't need to be a member of Branch 50).

This way, you'll get more up to date information on activities, member notices, and news. That's all for now. Many thanks to everyone for all you do in SUA!



RICK TOMSICK

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

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Branch 89 hosted our 3rd Annual "Slovenian Heritage Event" on Saturday, March 29th, from 4 to 7:00 p.m. at Claudette's in Oglesby. A large Slovenian flag served as decoration above the serving area, which featured tastings of smoked sausage, horseradish, cheese and crackers, strudel, and potica as polka music played gently in the background. Branch members wore their hand-made "Grandma's Aprons" as they tended to our guests and short stories containing memories as how these aprons were used in earlier years graced the tables. Archive-type photographs of local "Slovenians of the Past" were on display, as well as laminated personal stories of Slovenian



Denise and Jordan Duffin.

relatives growing up in the 1920s and 30s. The "packed house" kept the raffle tables of the 50/50, Bloody Mary Dream Bucket, Slovenian wine basket, potica, and smoked sausage busy throughout the evening. Old friendships were rekindled and new friendships begun as all those present enjoyed the evening.

Our April meeting was held at the Oglesby American Legion Hall on Palm Sunday, April 13. After a short business meeting, President Barbara Bruch and Nancy Henkel led the members in creating their own "butaras" for their home Easter decorations. Butaras are traditionally made with stock from the yard and garden at this time of year, however, a trip to Hobby Lobby can also add color and variety! Symbolic of the Blessed Trinity, the butara usually begins with three, long, straight-type branches such as pussy willows or dogwood, and then various greens and flowers are added, each to one's own imagination. New member, Geri Shouba, was welcomed at this occasion, as well as her two guests, Martha Feddern and Jan Boehle. (Geri, Martha, and Jan will be traveling together to Croatia and Slovenia later this summer.) Topping off the afternoon were group pictures of our members holding their colorful finished creations.

Our May Closing Dinner was held at Mario's Maples in Peru at noon on Sunday, May 4. Chairpersons for this event were Flossie, Trudy, and Mary Argubright. Mary Jane Gunderson and Elizabeth Fox won door prizes. After a delicious buffet meal, Branch President Barbara Bruch reminded members of the Mass for Branch 89's living and deceased members on Wednesday, June 4, at 7:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church, followed by breakfast at Delaney's Family Restaurant. The group joined in song to recognize the birthdays of Flossie Argubright and Fran Morrison. After taking a break in July and August, we will be kicking back into gear in September with our annual potluck! Wishing you a safe, healthy, fun-filled summer wherever you are, near and far!

JIM EBNER



BRANCH 93 - New York, New York

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We're busy making plans for the fall - a special children's event featuring storytelling, music, songs, perhaps a treasure hunt, games, and activities - Sunday, September 21, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 62 Saint Marks Place. Please tell your friends and children and grandchildren; all are welcome - the young, the very young, young adults, and the young at heart!

We demonstrated our Go-to-Meeting format of learning Slovene conversation at the European Union's Open House Event at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. on May 10. After one year of study, our presentation was gratifyingly successful and was enjoyed by visitors who were participating along with us - the online students were excited to be greeted and encouraged by the Ambassador himself! An added treat was Alex Gregan from Bethlehem, PA, playing a Frankie Yankovich Slovenian waltz on the accordion for our class.

In April, Branch members attended a Dialogues Concert at CITE Arts in Williamsburg, NY, in collaboration with the Koper Music School of Slovenia, featuring three of Slovenia's new music composers, Uros Rojko, Larisa Vrhunc, and Matej Bonin. The concert - one in a series - explored the question of how true the concept of music being a universal language actually is - and how we interpret what we hear through our own cultural limitations. New music, new ideas!

A very different event in Brooklyn was Crystal C - an ongoing performance and installation that began in 2013 in Ljubljana. The artist, Jaša Mrevlje-Pollak, sought to engineer an elixir that would produce and define poetic rapture, and created Crystal C - both an actual synthetic drug and a multimedia installation. Relax - no arrests were made!

Our best wishes to Mia Branc, member of our Branch and mainstay at the Church of Saint Cyril, on the marriage of her daughter, Mojca Branc, to Kevin Dusold, whose wedding at Bled was a wonderful reason for a number of our members to fly to Slovenia in May!

ELIZABETH GROSS



BRANCH 99 - Lemont, Illinois

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Happy 4th of July! Summer is in full swing and our Branch has some fun summer and fall activities planned.

Just a recap of the last few months. In April, we held our Spring Fling get-together at the home of Sonja DePratt. Thanks, Sonja, for your hospitality. We were able to use this time for socializing, as well as a National Convention planning meeting which was very productive. In May we held a potica culinary class at the Slovenian Catholic



Center (SCC). Thank you to Mary Mavec for organizing the class and demonstrating her baking skills. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and learn about this traditional Slovenian sweet bread. In June we held a meeting to discuss upcoming events and the National Convention planned for 2015. And there are no events planned for July - so stay cool!



On August 16th, we will be having another culinary class at the SCC. Come learn to make Slovenian stew! Class begins at 8:00 a.m. in the kitchen. Cost is \$20 per person and includes all supplies. RSVP to Mary Ann Partyka at craftermar304@comcast.net or 630.661.3600.

This September 6th, our Branch is hosting a Member Lunch Brunch at 11 a.m. at the SCC. This special catered lunch is free to all Branch 99 members, and guests are \$10 and children \$5. RSVP is required by August 31 to MaryAnn Partyka. This is a luncheon prepared by our members to celebrate our members! Enjoy your summer!

JANA HLADE

BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Contact Information: Jean Koci / ajkoci@cox.net

It was a beautiful day in San Juan Capistrano where Lina Kerwick hosted the Branch 100 Cooking Class on March 15th. Our cooking classes also include a lunch of appetizers, fruits, a soup, and whatever we might be cooking. This time on the menu was Slovenian-style fruit dumplings. Because fresh plums are not in season in March, we used dried prunes, dried apricots, and some with jam. We found that the dried fruit worked quite well. Even though none of us were expert dumpling makers, they were very tasty and most of us were able to take several home to share. But the most fun was getting together and enjoying each other's company. Lina, and her husband, Tony, are great hosts and everyone enjoyed their friendly hospitality. Hvala lepa, Lina and Tony!

Our next get together will be the Annual Member of the Year Luncheon honoring Bonney Zupan. She chose one of the members' favorite restaurants, Napoli's Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda. Since many of the members and families live in the inland and desert communities, it works well.

We were happy to hear that the new American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF) has taken off quite well. We first heard about the possibility of this program through Fr. Peter Rožič s.j. about a year ago, as it was just in the formation stage. By January a plan was put together and

in February a truly fantastic "kick-off" took place in Northern California. This is a student exchange program for college students and faculty. It unites scholars and educators globally, especially Slovenian students and American-Slovenian students. You can find out more about this project by going to their wonderful website - www.ase-fund.org.



Branch 100 members at March 15th cooking class, having a great time!

We send our best to members and their families who may be having health issues or other difficulties at this time.

May you have a safe and relaxing summer while enjoying your children, grandchildren, and the nature around you. Na svidenje!

JEAN KOCI

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

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On May 10th our members participated in the European Union Open House at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. What a wonderful day to celebrate this small European country with LOVE in its name. There were thousands of visitors, with a long line of men, women, and children winding down the block on California Street waiting to come in and experience Slovenia, to taste a delicate sample of sweet potica, strudel, kranjske klobase, and Slovenian wine. Some even danced a polka and had the opportunity to see a demonstration of strudel and potica-making, smell the aroma of fresh, Slovenian, ginger bread, heart-shaped cookies decorated and sold by the Andrejaš family from the well known Lectar museum in Radovljica, and to hear Mr. Andrejaš skillfully play Slovenian folk



Getting their hands in the dumpling dough - Juliette Leathers, Lina Kerwick (hostess) and Marie Bajc (new member).



songs on a harmonica, like never before.

While waiting in line, guests were serenaded by button box and accordion players, all dressed in national costume. It was truly a Slovenian party, with the friendly Ambassador Cerar welcoming guests, and at certain times humbly offering Slovenian food samples of klobase and potica from a large tray near the entrance. When the line outside got

very long, and a rain shower blew through, Ambassador Cerar walked outside with a hospitable smile and tray in hand of authentic Slovenian fare, offering samples before guests entered Slovenian ground at the embassy.

There was a table filled with information about the Maryland-based Branch, SUA applications, and a Slovenian photo card display, an activity for children and adults to make their own greeting cards for Mother's Day, birthday, or Christmas with a Slovenian greeting and a bobbin lace motif. May and Erika Kokal dressed in their Slovenian costumes, including the avba - many people stopped for a photo opportunity with our beautiful ladies in Slovenian national costume. May brought her belated husband Danilo Kokal's heirloom beehive panel collection for display. She posed, dressed in costume next to her special display, proudly displaying and sharing the folklore art with her granddaughter, Brittany, also dressed in costume. The display brought many people to our table, admiring the exquisite beauty of such rare pieces,

seldom seen outside of a museum. Three generations of SUA women, Nika Kovacic, and Bernadette and Juliana Fitzsimmons (wearing the zavijačka handmade by stara mama Nika for Bernadette several decades ago), wore their colorful, handmade, Slovenian rute. Once, Mary Lou Voelk brought over to the Branch 108 table a prospective member, and Nika Kovacic began her marketing pitch, along with Bernadette, for new members; the three of them easily persuaded several women of Slovenian descent to join the Branch at the EU Open house event.

When the doors closed to the public, the party continued inside the embassy with approximately 50 volunteers enjoying a country-style dinner with ambassador Cerar; like one big Slovenian family. It was a special day to gather in celebration of the success of the day, and honoring Slovenia's accomplishments and independence.

BERNADETTE K. FITZSIMMONS

BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities (TC) of Minnesota

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Much of our time this spring has centered around the Festival of Nations, the genealogy workshop (May 17), and the organizing efforts for the pop folk Slovenian ensemble, Navihanke. However, we are starting to set our calendar for 2014-2015.

The Festival of Nations proved to have a very challenging theme as directed by the International Institute - "Peace Among the People." Our exhibit was designed to engage students and adults to the concept of "peace keeping vs. peace building." We emphasized the Slovenian national anthem, which is based on the 7th stanza of Prešeren's poem, "The Toast." We then displayed the peace building efforts of Pedro (Peter) Opeka, who was born in Argentina of Slovenian refugee parents, and a Nobel Peace Prize candidate in 2013. His efforts helped some 300,000 poorest of the poor in Madagascar. The third panel of our exhibit centered around our late TC Slovenian member, Karl J. Grahek, a peace advocate who seemed to embody the spirit of peace by living Pope Francis' theme - "Peace calls for Daily Commitment."

Chuck Podominick, our in-house genealogy expert, organized a Genealogy Workshop on May 17-18 with Peter Hawlina, president of the Slovenian Society in Slovenia, Rose Marie Jisa, President of the Slovenian Genealogy Society of Cleveland, Terry Rugar, Iron Range genealogy chapter, and Jay Fonkert from the Minnesota Genealogy Society. Armed with their lap tops and bringing up their individual data bases, Slovenians from around the state could bring in their bits of genealogy information and get immediate help in finding their Slovenian roots.

"Hvala Lepa" and red carnations to the following TC Slovenian members: Pat Dahl, who organized the Navihanke concert on May 1 at Concordia University

and worked tirelessly in making all the arrangements for Navihanke to come to the Twin Cities; Rick Pisa, for chairing and overseeing the Slovenian photo contest, which features member photos for the 2015 Calendar; Tea Rozman Clark, director of Green Card Voices, interviewed Yul Yost and Mimi Gorshe Manning, who told their stories as first generation immigrants from Slovenia; Mary Ann Palmer, who reminded the membership about the SUA project - "It Is Who We Are" wedding photos to be displayed at Vermilion Junior College in Ely on August 15; Mary Lou Voelk, VP of Culture and Heritage for SUA, is heading this project; Miro Medved, who is organizing our Anniversary Dinner and Balina tournament for the TC Slovenians on June 21 (Slovenian Independence Day); Norm Setnicker who talked about the TC Slovenians on the CTV show, New Brighton NOW - a short segment that gave us exposure in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis-St. Paul; Mary Schwank, who did the layout for the FON brochure and the concert program for Navihanke; Liz Miller, who has taken on the Herculean task of organizing a photo collection of our Branch 109 - TC Slovenians; Frank Medved, Joe Kuznik, Mici Kochevar, and President John Zakel for organizing and teaching the Slovenian language over the past three years; Mike Koski and Sue and Dave Rademacher, for chairing the FON; and many carnations to the 40 plus members who worked to make our exhibit one of the best.

Our prayers go out to Tom Moren's family and to the James Oberstar family for their losses. Tom's mother, Ella Angela Moren, was 102 and a long time resident of Gilbert, MN. She was born in Dolnje Podpoljane, Slovenia. Tom is our resident artist and one of the original members of the TC Slovenians. Two years ago, former U.S. Congressman Jim Oberstar had spoken to our membership about growing up Slovenian and also was a featured speaker at our Bishop Baraga Rendezvous held at the Cross River, north of Duluth. He was the longest serving Congressman in Minnesota's history with 36 years of service.

More prayers go out to the family of Mary Percic Bernard who lost her battle to cancer. Mary was a native Slovenian and she and her brother, Andy, owned the Nectary restaurant where our Branch 109 meetings were held for the first six years. Also to the family of Yvonne McComber who suffered a massive stroke in May. Yvonne was our Member of the Year in 2010 and served on the board as treasurer.

We wish all of our Slovenian friends throughout the country a fun summer and look forward to the visit from Slovenian ambassador, Dr. Bozo Cerar, as he visits the oldest Slovenian community in the United States, St. Stephen, Minnesota, on July 19.

"Drzi smehljaj se" - Keep smiling!

NORM SETNICKER

"Born in USA with Slovenian Parts"

Festival of Nations 2014



Norm and Mary Ann Setnicker.



Left to Right: Mike Koski (FON Chairperson), Yul Yost, Vonnice Rohloff, Sue Rademacher, and Jim Bernard.



Jim Smrekar and Don Palkovich posed in front of Slovenian national anthem. Slovenian peace pole also in the corner made by Miro Medved.

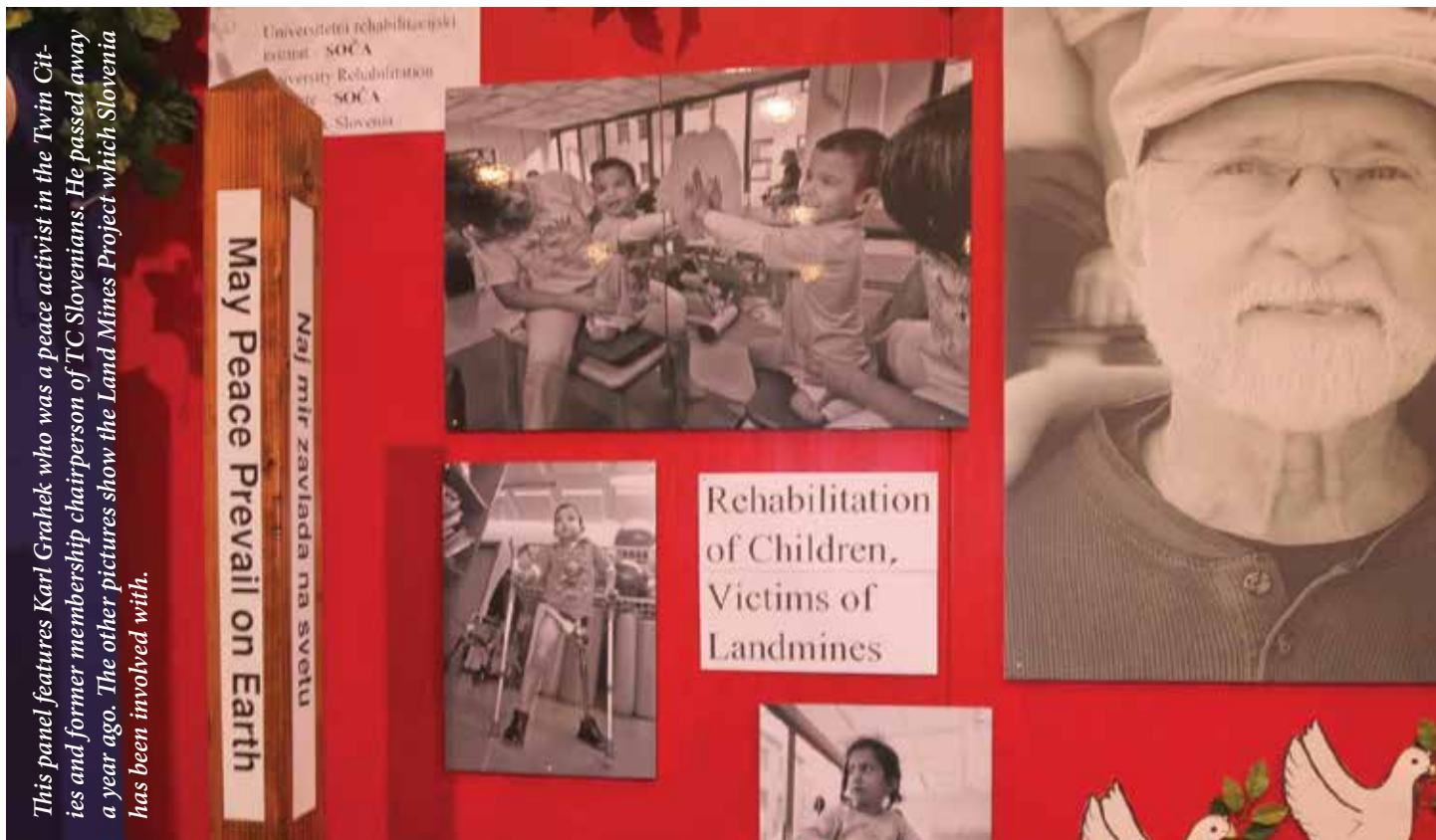


Sue Rademacher stamping the little girl's passport. The Slovenian stamp is of Mt. Triglav. In background is the Slovenian peace pole in front of Karl Grahek's home in St. Paul. Sue was a co-chair this year and has been involved as the chairperson for the last four years.



Left to Right: Mike Koski, President John Zakelj, and Jim Bernard.

This panel features Karl Grahek who was a peace activist in the Twin Cities and former membership chairperson of TC Slovenians. He passed away a year ago. The other pictures show the Land Mines Project which Slovenia has been involved with.



Panel featuring Pedro Padre Opeka.



Welcome to a Year of Food Celebration in *Zarja*

For the rest of 2014, we'll explore a variety of aspects of Slovenian cuisine. To make preparation easy for our readers, we will offer up our delicious, modern, and easy-to-make recipes in a blog-like format. We will share steps, photos, and words on culture and maybe a little cooking wisdom all at the same time. Before we embark upon this year-long journey, let us introduce ourselves.

We are three sisters, along with our mother and our grandmother, Daniela Lavrenčič. Our grandmother was born and raised in Maribor, the second largest city in Slovenia and the capitol of Lower Styria. From there, she went on to become the Primadonna of Yugoslavia before moving to Trieste and then Washington, D.C. in 1950. She still resides in the nation's capitol and has shared a handsome variety of culinary sound bites for these articles. She has been ever-present in our lives and her stories of her youth in Slovenia have filled our dreams and inspired our imaginations. It is with much love and respect that we dedicate this series to her. And with her wonderfully skilled hands in mind, we will share a full dinner menu over the course of 2014, starting with this easy soup that can be made richer in the winter and lighter in the summer.

- *Alisa Tugberk*

Step 1: Prep Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil

1.5 ounces smoked bacon, chopped

1 onion, diced

2 pounds root vegetable medley, e.g. carrot, sweet potato, turnip, cabbage, peeled and diced

7 cups chicken stock

4-5 fresh tomatoes, chopped

½ cup rice



Step 2: Cook the Base

Heat the oil in a pan over medium heat. Once hot, add the bacon and onion and stir until the bacon is lightly browned and the onion translucent. Add the diced vegetables and cook for 7-10 minutes until they start to cook through, but are still firm. Time varies depending on how small/large vegetables are cut.



Step 3: Let the Flavors Meld

Add the chicken stock, bring to a boil, and lower heat to medium-low, simmering for 15 minutes or until vegetables are almost fully cooked.



Step 4: Thicken the Consistency

Add the tomatoes and rice (or other grain, if desired) and simmer until rice is cooked through. Adjust seasoning with salt as needed.



Step 5: Plate and Serve

Garnish with finely chopped parsley or a dry, grated cheese and serve.



To make this soup heartier, you could chop the vegetables larger, or instead of rice, substitute a grain such as pearl barley, soaked overnight before adding.

For a vegetarian version, eliminate the bacon and use vegetable stock. Serve with nice, crusty bread.

Dober tek!

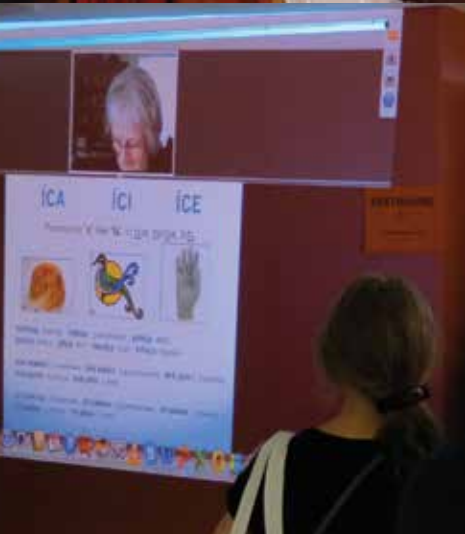


Washington, D.C. Embassy of Slovenia

Hosted by
Ambassador Božo Cerar and
Nuška Zakrajšek, Cultural, Press,
and Public Diplomacy Officer

On May 10, the Delegation of the European Union to the United States and the Embassies of the 28 EU Member States opened their doors to the public for a rare look inside; a chance for entire families to experience authentic music, dance, food, film, and art.





Washington, D.C. Embassy of Slovenia

Four thousand people walked through the Slovenian Embassy doors that day. The queue extended out the door, down the block, and around the corner. They were greeted with a spirited “Welcome to Slovenia” as they passed over the threshold.

There, for their cultural experience, were traditional costumes, music, tourist travel, Rogaska crystal, Idrija lace, wine sampling, potica, strudel, Carniolan sausage, pumpkin oil, bee hive panels, and an 85 year old issue of *Zarja - The Dawn!* Activities for children and Beeasels! And more - Slovenian history, online class in Slovene, exhibits of traditional and original items from the SNPJ museum in Pittsburgh, PA. Representing the Slovenian Union of America were members of Branches 23 - Ely, MN, 35 - Aurora, MN, 50 - Euclid, OH, 93 - New York City, NY, 108 - Olney, MD, and 109 - Twin Cities, MN, with several other Branches in attendance. It marked the official opening of the Albin Zaverl art exhibit. The exhibit of 27 paintings will continue until mid June.

“Welcome to Slovenia. Enjoy your visit!”
- by Mary Lou Deyak Voelk

