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YEAR CIX
 ISSUE 12

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016

USPS: 448-080
 ISSN: 1080-0263

A celebration of the grape harvest in California

by JEAN KOCI (786)
 California Federation Secretary/Treasurer

FONTANA, Calif. — On Nov. 6, a large group of members and friends gathered at the Slovene Hall in Fontana for the 17th annual Vinska Trgatev, the traditional Grape Harvest Festival hosted by the California Federation of SNPJ Lodges.

Members from all four California SNPJ Lodges helped in one way or another. The northern Lodges donated to the harvest basket fund, helping to fill the baskets with gourmet food and drink for the drawing that evening. Everyone who paid admission received one drawing ticket, and many purchased additional tickets in order to increase their chances of winning.

SEE CALIFORNIA HARVEST
 ON PAGE 8



It was a joyous day at the Fontana Slovene Hall for the 17th annual Vinska Trgatev (Grape Festival), sponsored by the California Federation on Nov. 6.

briefly

Home Office serving as a Toys for Tots drop-off

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office will once again serve as a drop-off location for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Please bring your new, unwrapped toys to the Home Office lobby during regular business hours and place them under our tree. The toys will be picked up by a Marine Corps Reserve representative starting Tuesday, Dec. 6. We thank you for your generosity throughout the years.

KEVIN RICHARDS
 SNPJ Fraternal Director

Lodge 138 preparing for 2017 with officer election

STRABANE, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 138 will hold its final meeting of the year on Dec. 5 beginning at 7 p.m. in the upstairs hall. The main order of business will be the election of officers for 2017. Lodge members who wish to be considered for an office but will not be able to attend the meeting should notify President Rick Herval in writing. As usual, klobase sandwiches will be available.

BOB LAWRENCE
 Lodge 138 Secretary

Lodge 33 members will deck the halls on Dec. 10

AMBRIDGE, Pa. — The Lodge 33 Reveliers Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 10, at 5 p.m. at the Crescent Township Municipal Building, 225 Spring Run Road, Crescent, PA 15046. Please bring canned goods for the local food bank. Your RSVP should be sent to lpindel@msn.com or call Irene at (412) 264-6559. We're looking forward to fun, fraternalism, friends and food. Hope to see you Dec. 10!

CHRIS PETUKAUSKAS
 Lodge 33 Secretary

Lodge 686 slates next meeting for Dec. 10

WESTALLIS, Wis. — December greetings to Lodge 686 members. Our next meeting will be held Saturday, Dec. 10, at Johnny V's Classic Cafe, 1650 S. 84th St. in West Allis. We will have a meal in the party room at 1 p.m., followed by the Lodge meeting. Contact Mary Alyce at (414) 421-3525 to let her know how many will be attending. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (414) 543-4429 or by e-mail at cak923@gmail.com.

CHARLES A. KASSECKERT
 Lodge 686 Secretary/Treasurer

Dec. 11 Christmas party planned for Lodge 776

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 776 will hold its annual meeting and Christmas party Sunday, Dec. 11, beginning at 2 p.m. at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ. Members are asked bring canned goods or non-perishable food to donate to a local food bank. Reservations for the Christmas dinner are required by Dec. 1. Please call Ed Snyder at (330) 427-6298, John Pierog at (330) 757-1369 or Vonnie Dombrosky at (724) 336-6500.

VONNIE DOMBROSKY
 Lodge 776 Recording Secretary

THE DEADLINE

The next two PROSVETA issue dates are Jan. 2 and Feb. 1, 2017. All material must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 21, for the Jan. 2 issue, and by Wednesday, Jan. 18, for the Feb. 1 issue. If you are concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to prosveta@snpj.com or submit your material via the publications area of our website, www.snpj.org.

Lodge 564 Grape Dance a happy ending for the Melvindale SAC

by MARION VOLPE
 Lodge 564 Secretary/Treasurer

DETROIT — Young Americans Lodge 564 held their annual Grape Dance at the Slovene American Club (SAC) in Melvindale, Mich. It was a bittersweet event this year since it was the last dance to be held at the SAC before they closed for good.

There were festive decorations of fall leaves and flowers displayed throughout the hall, as well as our decorated basket of bagged grapes. Eddie Adamic arrived early to collect admission and hand out tickets to those attending with assistance from Ermando Volpe.

Each guest was welcomed with a traditional Slovenian snack and offered a drink upon entering the hall. Mary Jane Smith's homemade bread was cut into pieces and enjoyed with salt and marmalade. I brought peach schnapps and slivovic from my dad's hometown of Bovec, Slovenia. Tom Hostnik was assigned the job of pouring the drinks for everyone — only the bravest drank the slivo.

When we were ready for dinner, Don Harrison was kind enough to collect tickets as

SEE YA GRAPE DANCE
 ON PAGE 8



Lodge 564 youth member JOEY VOLPE did a fantastic job policing at the Grape Dance, nabbing Phyllis and Bill Romanski as they attempted a theft from the arbor.

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

A full autumn draws Miss SNPJ into the holiday season

by ELIZABETH HARTMAN (138)
 Miss SNPJ 2017

STRABANE, Pa. — As summer drifted away, the holiday season picked up and so did my schedule of fun events. On Oct. 30, I unofficially visited my home Lodge, Lodge 138 in Strabane, to attend the Youth Circle 19 Halloween party. Circle 19, my former Youth Circle, always has wonderful events arranged by Circle Director Courtney Koenig, but this was one full of extra excitement and creative activities.

The children came dressed in spooky, wacky and beautiful costumes, ready for an eerie evening. One of my favorite parts was being able to see some of my former Youth Roundup campers in their Halloween attire. The kids were able to play games, take pictures at a photo booth and have a delicious meal. The most difficult part of the evening was judging the costumes. There

SEE MISS SNPJ
 ON PAGE 5



Photo submitted by Sis. Julie Chamberlin (218).

A Lodge 218 Donation, Just In Time for the Holidays

The members of Denver Lodge 218 hosted a food drive to collect donations for the JeffCo Action Center. The collection was delivered on Oct. 22 by [left to right] Lodge 218 Auditor BONNIE LEHNERZ, youth member McKAILA CHAMBERLIN, Secretary JULIE MILAVEC, Vice President JULIE CHAMBERLIN, Auditor DAVID CHAMBERLIN, and soon-to-be Lodge 218 member Ronon Chamberlin.



to all SNPJ members & friends from the staff at the SNPJ Home Office

PROSVETA
ENLIGHTENMENT
(USPS 448-080)
(ISSN 1080-0263)
The Official Publication of the
**Slovene National
Benefit Society**
247 W. Allegheny Road
Imperial, PA 15126-9774
Phone: (724) 695-1100
Toll-Free:
1-800-843-7675 (THE SNPJ)
Fax: (724) 695-1555
e-mail: prosveta@snpj.com
website: www.snpj.org

EDITOR:
Jay Sedmak
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Kimberly Winters
Subscription rate is \$8 per year for non-SNPJ members in the United States (Fla. subscribers, please add 6 percent sales tax). Canadian and foreign subscriptions, \$50 per year. Advertising information available by writing our office. Material concerning the official workings of the Slovene National Benefit Society is given publication priority. Unsolicited manuscripts returned only if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to:
**PROSVETA, 247 W. Allegheny Rd.,
Imperial, PA 15126-9774**
(Published monthly)
(Periodical postage paid at Imperial, Pa.,
and additional mailing office.)

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SNPJ Recreation Center
270 Martin Road
Enon Valley, PA 16120
(724) 336-5180 • fax (724) 336-6716
Toll-free: 1-877-767-5732
web site: www.snpjrec.com
e-mail: snpj@snpjrec.com



Photos submitted by Sis. Linda Scales (225).

Lodge 225 Honors Longtime Members

[Above] In August 2015, Girard, Kan., Lodge 225 President **DON SCALES** presented Sis. **MARY LIPASEK** with a certificate, pin and billfold for her 50-year SNPJ membership. [Below] In February 2016, President Scales presented Sis. **ROSE CAMPBELL**, an 80-year SNPJ member, with a beautiful afghan blanket in recognition of her anniversary. Sis. Agnes Goodman, who was also recognized, was acknowledged by Secretary Linda Scales during the September 2016 Lodge meeting.



Utah members head to the kitchen for annual strudel session

by GAYE BABCOCK
Lodge 689 Secretary

HELPER, Utah — The annual apple strudel making day was held at the Slovenian Home in Spring Glen, Utah, on Nov. 6. SNPJ Lodges 113, 689 and 757 joined forces to prepare more than 50 pans of homemade apple strudel.

This day been an annual event for 36 years, in support of our Slovenian picnic held each summer. Fathers, daughters, husbands, wives and everyone in between joined in the fun as we worked, laughed and shared stories. The faces have changed over the years as the older generation has passed on, but the tradition they started has been carried on by their children and grandchildren. It's an opportunity to pass on the art of strudel making to our youth members.

The strudel is frozen fresh until the day of the picnic. We are fortunate to have the support of our local grocer, Lin's Market, who bakes the strudel in their commercial bakery ovens. Once the strudels were safe in the freezer, we enjoyed lunch and a sample of the delicious strudel.

Our members look forward to this day each year as a time to catch up and renew old friendships. When the cleanup was done, everyone agreed that it was a day well spent.



It was a group effort at the annual Utah apple strudel making day as **VANESSA DIMICK** (689) helps her dad **ROBERT** stretch the dough, while **JEANETTE MARASCO** (757), **SHELLY WRIGHT** (757), **JUDY METELKO** (113) and **TONY LESSAR** (757) follow in the on the assembly line.



[Photo at left] "Senior" strudel maker **RUDY MEZEK** (113) took charge of the apple chopping. [Photo at right] The youngest strudel maker, **ALLISON WRIGHT** (757), looked on as her mother **SHELLEY** [right], **JOANN SHARP** and **JEANETTE MARASCO** rolled the strudels.



December meeting, Christmas party scheduled for Lodge 257

by RUDY PIVIK
Lodge 257

CLEVELAND—The members of SNPJ Lodge 257 will hold their Lodge meeting and Christmas party Thursday, Dec. 8, beginning at 6 p.m. at the West Park Slovenian Hall. Food will be provided, and

we will hold our election of officers. All members are invited to attend. For details contact Marie Pivik at (216) 433-1941 or Pat Juda at (216) 267-1656.

We also sadly report the loss of 40-year SNPJ member Joe Juda. We extend our sympathies to his family.

Pioneer Lodge 559 will close out the year at Dec. 9 meeting

by JEAN CHERWAY
Lodge 559 President

CHICAGO — As a notice to all SNPJ Lodge 559 members, our next regular meeting and annual meeting will be held Friday, Dec. 9, beginning at noon. Lodge 559 meetings are held on the second Friday of every other month at Czech Plaza Restaurant, 7016 W. Cermak Road in Berwyn, Ill. There is plenty of parking on the street or across Cermak Road at the mall.

Matiasek, and our young recording secretary, Kaitlyn Chiappeta, for a year of fine leadership and commitment. Of course, a fraternal thank you also goes out to the other Lodge 559 officers elected to serve in 2016: vice president, auditors and sergeant-at-arms.

Lunch will be served after the meeting with a special Christmas cake for dessert. Our members have agreed to have a Christmas present grab-bag. If you wish to participate and have fun, bring a wrapped Christmas gift.

We urge our members to attend meetings to meet with your friends and officers. You'll also hear about the various offers from the SNPJ Home Office regarding insurance, annuities, social activities, youth programs and scholarships. The SNPJ was formed in Chicago in 1904 and still generates a multitude of incentives for members.

We'd like to express thanks to our new and capable Lodge secretary, Melanie

We welcome all members and those interested in becoming a member to attend our meetings. We hope to see you Friday, Dec. 9, at noon!

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- DEC. 3Midway, Pa., Lodge 89 community bingo in the upstairs hall; 6 p.m. The kitchen will be open.
- DEC. 4Herminie, Pa., Lodge 87 Christmas party in the Herminie Crystal Ballroom; 1-5 p.m. Music by The Vibrations. Buffet, salad bar and dessert table will be available. Admission is \$17 in advance. For additional information call Shirley Bailey at (724) 864-1606.
- DEC. 4Imperial, Pa., Lodge 106 Christmas polka dance in the Imperial Room; 2-6 p.m. Music by Dick Tady and the DTO. For details contact the Lodge at (724) 695-1411 or e-mail snpj106@gmail.com.
- DEC. 4Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and Youth Circle 36 youth Christmas party in the Sunshine Room; 1-4 p.m. Food, games, prizes and fun for everyone in attendance. For details contact the Lodge 6 clubroom at (412) 221-9862.
- DEC. 4Warren, Ohio, Lodge 321 Christmas party at Blue Wolf Tavern, Boardman, Ohio; 2 p.m. For additional information or to RSVP by Nov. 30, please contact Gail Church at (330) 219-7580.
- DEC. 4Fontana Slovenc Hall jam session and Toys for Tots drive; 2-6 p.m. For additional information contact Frank Rote at (909) 987-8714 or e-mail butnboxr@aol.com.
- DEC. 10-11..... Fontana Slovenc Hall dances; 2-6 p.m. each day. Music by John Gora of Canada, with Molly B and Ted Lange. For more information contact Frank Rote at (909) 987-8714 or e-mail butnboxr@aol.com.
- DEC. 11..... Imperial, Pa., Lodge 106 youth Christmas party in the Imperial Room; 1-3 p.m. Food, games, music and a visit from Old Saint Nick. For information contact the Lodge at (724) 695-1411 or e-mail snpj106@gmail.com.
- DEC. 16 Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and the SASC Christmas party in the Lodge 6 clubroom; 6 p.m. Guests will enjoy food, bar bingo, darts and music by DJ Dave McMurdy from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. For more information contact the Lodge 6 clubroom at (412) 221-9862.
- DEC. 17..... Imperial, Pa., Lodge 106 adult Christmas party in the Lodge 106 clubroom; 4 p.m. Food and prizes will be available, with music by Clem Rolin and his band. For details contact the Lodge at (724) 695-1411 or snpj106@gmail.com.
- DEC. 31 Fontana Slovenc Hall New Year's Eve dance; 5-9 p.m. Music by the Fred Mlakar Band. For more details contact Frank Rote at (909) 987-8714 or e-mail butnboxr@aol.com.
- DEC. 31Imperial, Pa., Lodge 106 New Year's Eve party in the Imperial Room; 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Music provided by Party of 5. Buffet, party favors, and pork and sauerkraut included. Tickets are required and can be purchased from the Lodge 106 clubroom. For details contact the Lodge at (724) 695-1411 or snpj106@gmail.com.
- JAN. 7Midway, Pa., Lodge 89 community bingo in the upstairs hall; 6 p.m. The kitchen will be open.
- MAY 28Brew & Bean Festival at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For more information contact the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- JUNE 18-23 ... Youth Roundup at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For details contact Fraternal Director Kevin Richards by phone at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144, or e-mail krichards@snpj.com.
- JUNE 23-25 ... SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact Fraternal Director Kevin Richards at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144 or e-mail krichards@snpj.com.

2017

Have something for **Up-and-Coming?**

Lodge/Organization _____

Type of Event _____

Site _____

If a concert or dance, who is performing? _____

Date _____

Time _____

Who to contact _____

Phone () _____

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DENISE HERRON
SNPJ Marketing Department

Bury your money

The squirrels in my yard have been busy this fall, and they seem to be reveling in the fact that so far we have had unusually mild weather. This gives them more time to gather and bury their nuts throughout the yard and in my flower beds. Every spring, I'm busy pulling out unwanted oak seedlings from amongst my flowers, which has made me question if squirrels even remember where they bury their nuts.

It just so happens that the Princeton University biology department did a study on this subject in an attempt to dispel the theory that squirrels have bad memories. What they found was that squirrels actually find most of their stashes throughout the cold winter, and are rewarded for their hard work with goodies to eat during a time when food can be hard to come by.

Just like squirrels, humans also like to stash resources for a time when there will be less, and for many, that time is retirement. We all look forward to retirement, but let's face it — usually there will be less money coming in during this time. Sure, Social Security is still hanging in there for now, and some of us have retirement plans that will begin to pay out, but most of us will still be short of our normal income. This is when it's necessary to have a stash that you can find and dig up to supplement your income.

The SNPJ annuity is one of the best places to squirrel away your money until it's needed. Not only will the principal be protected, but unlike the buried nuts, it will multiply and grow. The Loyalty 8 is currently earning 3.5 percent for one full year, and the Loyalty 5 is earning 3.0 percent for the first year. Both annuities have a guarantee minimum interest rate of 2.0 percent. The squirrels in your neighborhood will be jealous to see that when you go back for your stash, you can be sure that it has grown!

When you find your stash, you can take just a little or you can take it all. The important thing to remember is each annuity has a surrender charge period: eight years for the Loyalty 8, and five years for the Loyalty 5. During that time you can still withdraw up to 10 percent of your money without a penalty, and after the surrender charge periods you have access to all of your money without penalty.

Don't tire yourself out by scurrying all over looking for a place to hide your money. Contact your agent, Lodge secretary or the SNPJ Marketing Department at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 124 for help in finding the perfect hideaway for your stash.

- **Thought for the Month** — Living is no laughing matter. You must live with great seriousness, like a squirrel.
Nazim Hikmet



SNPJ Loyalty Annuities

Your loyalty with SNPJ is now being rewarded! Contact the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 and open your new SNPJ Loyalty Annuity TODAY!

3.5% Loyalty 8 Annuity

3.5% first-year guarantee rate
3.0% in years two through eight
2.75% in year nine and after
3.75% first-year Loyalty Rate for conversions

3.0% Loyalty 5 Annuity

3.0% first-year guarantee rate
2.75% in years two through five
2.75% in year six and after
3.25% first-year Loyalty Rate for conversions

* Rates are not guaranteed after the first year.
* Guaranteed minimum interest rate of 2.0%.
* No fees are attached to either Loyalty annuity.
* The SNPJ Century 8 Annuity is earning 3.0%; the Century 5 Annuity is earning 2.75%. Century series annuities issued prior to 2012 are earning 3.0%

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Melania's hometown delights in election results

SEVNICA (STA) — The residents of Sevnica, the hometown of Melania Trump, the soon-to-be First Lady, are delighted with the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States.

Mayor Srečko Ocvirk said he was happy that Melania Trump, who was born Melanija Knavs in Sevnica in 1970, was able to attain the title of First Lady. He added that she gave her husband the support he needed to claim victory in the election.

Asked whether President-elect Trump's victory would affect the number of tourists visiting Sevnica, Ocvirk said that the media had written a lot about the town in the past year, which made tourists, mountaineers and travelers more interested in the town. Thus, he expects visits by foreign tourists to increase.

The people in Sevnica say Melania Trump has not kept in much contact with her hometown since moving to the United States, but they nonetheless believe that her new title will increase Slovenia's recognition worldwide.

Bogomil Ferfila, a Slovenian expert on U.S. politics, was also excited to hear about Melania Trump's new title and said this could open new business opportunities. Like Ocvirk, Ferfila also believes that it will increase the number of American tourists visiting Slovenia. However, he does not expect any big leap in Slovenian-U.S. trade.

Slovenians remain among EU's top savers

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Saving for the future requires little promotion in Slovenia, where the savings rate was recorded as the third highest among EU members in 2015. Despite falling interest rates, Slovenians remain conservative savers, setting aside half of their savings as investments in the form of deposits.

According to the Slovenian Statistics Office, the savings rate in Slovenia (the ratio between income and the amount saved) stood at 14.8 percent in 2015. The savings ratio peaked in 2006, at 17.3 percent, which placed Slovenia at the top among EU members. The rate had steadily dropped afterward until 2013, when the trend reversed. Data for 2015 placed Slovenia third in the EU, following Sweden (18.7 percent) and Germany (17 percent).

The upward trend is also confirmed by data released from Banka Slovenije, the central bank. Slovenian banks held EUR 39.7 billion (\$43.3 billion) in household investments at the end of March this year, which is EUR 3 billion (\$3.3 billion) more than at the end of 2013.

Slovenians are risk averse when it comes to investing their saved income. Nearly half of Slovenian household savings are invested in the form of deposits. Stocks follow at roughly 25 percent, while the remainder is invested in life insurance, pension plans, loans, securities and other claims.

Slovenian savers are, however, reacting to the low interest rates by preferring to invest savings in sight deposits (deposits that can be withdrawn immediately without notice or penalty) over term deposits. In 2015 the volume of term deposits by households dropped EUR 900 million (\$981 million), while sight deposits were up EUR 1.6 billion (\$1.74 billion). That trend is continuing this year.

In 2013, the interest rates for long-term deposits in Slovenia were twice as high as those in other Eurozone countries. These have since leveled off and are dropping to new lows, while interest rates also continue to fall for short-term deposits.

Shortage of manpower the largest in recent years

LJUBLJANA (STA) — A survey on staff shortages conducted by the Manpower temp agency indicates that roughly a third of Slovenian employers have difficulties finding suitable staff. This is the highest figure since 2011, when the survey was first conducted.

Five years ago, 29 percent of Slovenian employers reported having a difficult time finding suitable staff. This figure dropped to 19 percent in 2014 — the lowest figure recorded — but then rose to 27 percent a year later, a Manpower agency representative stated.

Almost half (49 percent) of the surveyed employers pinpointed an insufficient number of candidates as the main



cause of difficulty when searching for qualified staff. The lack of experience was noted by 17 percent of employers, while 13 percent blamed a lack of specific skills. Lack of teamwork skills (eight percent) and low wages (eight percent) were also mentioned.

However, those working in professions such as engineers; truck drivers; skilled technicians; doctors, nurses and other health experts with a higher educational degree; restaurant and hotel staff; IT experts; and sales representatives remain in great demand.

Hong Kong wine buffs impressed by Slovenia

HONG KONG (STA) — Slovenia's finest wines, in particular the reds and fortified wines, have made an impression among visitors to the Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Fair, the largest in that part of the world.

Slovenia made its debut at the fair in mid-November, and was featured as a guest country among 1,600 exhibitors from 36 countries. The Asian market represents a 10th of the global wine consumption.

Attending the fair's opening on the conclusion of his six-day official tour of China, Slovenian Agriculture Minister Dejan Židan spoke about Slovenia's long wine-making tradition and the diversity of its wines. During his visit to the Slovenian pavilion, Benjamin Chau, the executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, sampled a fortified wine.

The Slovenian pavilion featured 16 wine makers, along with chocolate and liqueur maker Berryshka, and the Kočbek Oil Company.

While on his Asian tour, Minister Židan held several meetings with Hong Kong political leaders and the Food Safety Center, which is considered one of the most stringent authorities in the world. Židan assessed his visit as "exceptionally successful," saying that it reaffirmed the good political relationship and opened up opportunities for business cooperation.

"Some wineries are already in a position where they could sell more wine than they are capable of producing," the minister said. "I have also noticed in China that contracts have been made between Slovenian wineries and Chinese direct buyers or distributors," he added.

Minister Židan also sees major opportunities in tourism; the people of Hong Kong are avid travelers and are looking for what Slovenia can offer — a clean environment, adventure, diversity of landscape, and culinary offerings. As far as agriculture is concerned, Slovenia is currently focusing on exports of wine and dairy products.

Slovenian researchers identify new olm species

LJUBLJANA (STA) — After completing the field portion of what is believed to be the largest systematic study of the olm (proteus) in Slovenia, a team of researchers have discovered that the Slovenian underworld is home to not one, but at least three subspecies of the enigmatic aquatic salamander that is also known as the human fish.

The aim of the project, led by the Department of Biology of the Ljubljana Faculty of Biotechnology, was to discover the number of different olm species, the areas where they are most common, and the size of the olm population in Slovenia.

Olms — the blind salamanders popularly referred to in Slovenia as "human fish," but also lovingly referred to as Slovenian dragons — are a rare and mysterious species living in the deep caves of the Dinaric Alps along the Adriatic coast.

"We want to find out as much as we can about olms since they are a symbol of our country, but they are still as mysterious as they were 100 years ago," said faculty member Peter Trontelj.

The field portion of the study was carried out in the Postojna Cave, certain water caves in the regions of Dolenjsko and Bela Krajina, and the underground Reka River. "Many of the field studies were also carried out in the Planinska jama cave, where hundreds of olms were found, exceeding the researchers' expectations," Trontelj said.

According to Trontelj, the size of the olm population cannot be accurately

determined, mostly because some of the caves in Slovenia's underground are inaccessible. The researchers will thus calculate the average density of the population in the accessible parts of Slovenia's cave systems and make an estimate of the olm population.

Trontelj believes the population is decreasing, especially in Dolenjsko and Bela Krajina, the two regions that were inhabited by many olms just several decades ago.

The final results of the study will be known next autumn, but Trontelj predicts that more than five olm subspecies live in the Slovenian underworld. The results will then serve as guidelines for the monitoring and protection of olms in Slovenia and across Europe.

The study began in 2014 and is a joint project of the Faculty of Biotechnology from Ljubljana, the Karst Research Institute from Postojna, the Tular Cave Laboratory, and the Postojnska jama company. It was financed by the Slovenian Research Agency, and co-financed by the Ministry of the Environment and the Fauna and Flora Cartography Center.

A unique prehistoric settlement discovered

ROGATEC (STA) — A prehistoric settlement situated at an altitude of 750 meters (2,460 feet) was recently discovered in eastern Slovenia in what archaeologists say is a unique site in Europe.

The site, containing the remains of ceramics from the Early Iron Age, was stumbled upon by a hiker on a steep slope of Donačka Gora, an 884-meter (2,900 foot) peak above Rogatec and Rogaška Slatina.

Archaeologist Boštjan Odar has established that the remains are about 2,800 years old and date between the Chalcolithic period (Copper Age) and the Iron Age. "This is an exceptional find. We have many high-altitude settlements in Slovenia, but we have not known such an exceptional site even in Europe. It's unique," Odar said.

Further proof that the mountain was once populated lies in its terraced terrain. The terraces are not the work of nature, but rather man-made. "To be able to live on the mountain and build their homes there, the people had to transform the steep terrain into flat terraces. These are about 20 meters (65 feet) long and five meters (16 feet) broad."

Odar estimates that the area was populated by at least a hundred people some 2,800 years ago. The community's survival was also dependent upon a nearby water spring and pastures.

After work on the site is concluded, the findings will be subjected to analysis and should be published by mid-2017. The artifacts will be displayed in Rogatec and at the Regional Museum in Celje.

First levitating turntable a Slovenian design

LJUBLJANA (STA) — MAG-LEV Audio, a Slovenian producer of electronic devices, has created the world's first levitating turntable which uses a magnetic platter enabling the vinyl record to "float" as it is played. The company launched a campaign on the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter to raise EUR 300,000 (\$325,000) for production.

According to MAG-LEV Audio representatives, the turntable combines a classic turntable with cutting-edge technology. It is designed for those who appreciate high-quality sound and innovative design.

"The levitating concept prevents vinyl records from getting scratched while being played; a common problem with classic turntables," said Klemen Smrtnik, a member of the MAG-LEV Audio team.

"By using our innovative and patented technology, we were able to achieve not only levitation, but also incredibly precise turning thanks to sensor regulating software," the team announced. While in off mode, the platter rests on feet which rise when the turntable is switched off. The device was also designed with a UPS system, which stores enough power to safely turn off the turntable in the event of a power outage.

The first 100 supporters pledging \$780 to the Kickstarter campaign will receive the black edition of the turntable. The price will then jump to \$960.

The turntable is a joint effort between MAG-LEV Audio, the Desnahemisfera design studio, and the Topsol solar technology company.

The articles comprising this feature have been reprinted with permission from the Slovenian Press Agency (STA).

A busy, productive year for Utopians Lodge 604

by GERRI TREBETS
Lodge 604 Secretary

CLEVELAND—Once again the doors to the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, have closed upon another picnic season. Where did the time go? It seems as if we were just planning the events for the year, and now they're fond memories. Many great events were held at the Farm during the year, coupled with good food and lively music. Thanks to our ambitious and reliable Farm crew, many changes have been made and many more are to take place.

It was a warm, sunshiny August day, Aug. 21 to be exact, for the Utopians Lodge 604 annual picnic. A nice group of people was on hand – with quite a few young people, I might add – to enjoy the delicious, homemade food as well as the luscious krofe made by our “expert” donut makers.

This year we introduced a new item on our menu, smoked gouda bacon mac and cheese made by member Kathleen Trebets. It was absolutely delicious and quickly sold out. Our expert grillers, Bill and Pam Dirk and daughter Mary, served up “krofe” hamburgers which got a lot of rave reviews. In addition, we had our regular menu items of roast beef and sausage dinners, Slovenian potatoes, sauerkraut, salad, and hot dogs.

As stated in member Charlotte Perdan's recent article, Lodge 604 collected non-perishable items at the gate for the Cleveland Food Bank. People were very generous, and it's such a good feeling to give to those in need.

Music for the afternoon was provided by the Ed Rodick Band. What great entertainment! Many thanks for making

the day very enjoyable.

I want to thank all of the Utopians, members of the Ladies Auxiliary, krofe crew and the members from other Lodges that lent a helping hand at our picnic, whether it was in the kitchen, the refreshment area, the gate, selling tickets or manning the grill. It's all very much appreciated. It was so nice to see member Frank Ogoreuc, brother of Charlotte Perdan, at the picnic. Frank had traveled from Pennsylvania to attend a surprise birthday party for Charlotte and came out for our picnic. Of course, we had to put him to work! Please come again, Frank.

On Aug. 15, our Lodge members were treated to Heritage Night at the Lake County Captain's stadium. It was not only a beautiful and warm evening, but a fun-filled night with plenty of polka music provided by Patty Candela and Joe Strukel throughout the game. There was plenty of Slovenian food on hand, and the entire evening was dedicated to the Slovenians. The Zarja Chorus sang the Slovenian National Anthem and did a beautiful job. Approximately 120 Slovenians were on hand for the festivities. And to top it off, the Captains won by a score of 2-1.

Thanks to Region 3 Vice President Linda Gorjup (158) for orchestrating the event. Utopian members in attendance included Rudy and Charlotte Perdan, Ally Perdan, Pam and Mary Dirk, Kathleen Trebets, Bill and Terry Perdan, and yours truly.

The last activity sponsored by the Lodge 604 Utopians was the third annual Polka Brunch held at the SNPJ Farm on Sunday, Oct. 23. The kitchen

crew and our illustrious chefs received many great comments about the food, which included egg strata, breakfast sausage, pancakes, Slovenian potatoes, scrambled eggs, polenta sticks, fresh fruit, pastry, orange juice and coffee. If you went away hungry, you had nobody to blame but yourself.

Utopian members in attendance at the brunch were Rudy and Charlotte Perdan, Ally Perdan, Karen Spehar, and yours truly. It was very gratifying to be able to serve and talk with people as they made their way down the line. Thanks to Kathy Hlad & Friends for providing the musical entertainment throughout the morning and early afternoon. They always do a tremendous job. Thanks also to Joe Valencic for all the publicity in promoting this successful event.

In a previous article, I described in detail our other two activities for the year: the Parkinson's fund-raiser at Recher Hall on April 11, sponsored by the Perdan family and Lodge 604 Utopians; and our attendance at the Spring Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on May 22.

In closing, I'd like to wish the Executive Committee and everyone who works at the SNPJ Home Office, as well as all Lodge members throughout the country, a very blessed, joyful and healthy holiday season. Be good to one another, take time out to enjoy life's little moments, and continue to support our many Slovenian events that take place throughout the year. Thanks to all of our radio prompters who do a fabulous job in helping to keep our ethnic heritage going strong. Let's hope 2017 is even better as we all continue to work together for one common good.



Utopians Lodge 604 members enjoying the baseball game during Slovenian Heritage Night with the Lake County Captains included **RUDY PERDAN, KATHLEEN TREBETS, GERRI TREBETS, CHARLOTTE PERDAN, BILL PERDAN, ALLY PERDAN, MARY DIRK and PAM DIRK.**



Utopians Lodge members attending the Lodge's annual picnic, held Aug. 21 at the SNPJ Farm, included *[front row, left to right]* **ED TREBETS, GERRI TREBETS, MARY DIRK, KATHLEEN TREBETS, [middle row] JEAN LIPOVEC, PAM DIRK, CHARLOTTE PERDAN, [top row] ALLY PERDAN, BILL DIRK, RUDY PERDAN and FRANK OGOREUC.**

Share your holiday spirit at Imperial Lodge 106

by KEVIN RICHARDS
Lodge 106

IMPERIAL, Pa.—Starting in December, Lodge 106 will play bar bingo on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Special early bird games start at 6:30 p.m.; the first regular game starts at 7 p.m. Our kitchen will be open during bar bingo.

The Lodge 106 clubroom will once again serve as a drop-off location for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Please bring your new, unwrapped toys to the clubroom during regular business hours. Our collection will be added to the toys collected in the SNPJ Home Office lobby, which also serves as a drop-off. Donations will be picked up by a Marine Corps Reserve representative beginning on Tuesday, Dec. 6. We thank you for your generosity.

A Christmas polka dance will be held in the Imperial Room at Lodge 106 on Sunday, Dec. 4. Music will be performed by Dick Tady and the DTO from 2 to 6 p.m.

The Lodge 106 children's Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Imperial Room from 1 to 3 p.m. This afternoon activity will include food, games, music and a visit from Old Saint Nick! Our adult Christmas party will take place Saturday, Dec. 17, beginning at 4 p.m. There will be food and prizes. Clem Rolin and his band will provide the entertainment.

Come celebrate New Year's Eve with us in the Imperial Room from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be a cash bar, and entertainment will be provided by Cleveland's Party of 5. We'll be offering an extensive

buffet beginning at 8 p.m., and party favors, and pork and sauerkraut will also be provided.

New Year's Eve tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased in the Lodge 106 clubroom during regular business hours. This adult-only party is open to the public, but you must have a ticket to attend.

Would you like to receive e-mails from Lodge 106 about upcoming events and important announcements? If so, send an e-mail to snpj106@gmail.com and we'll put you on our list.

Keep track of all the activities going on at Lodge 106 by visiting the “Upcoming Events” page on our website, www.snpjimperialpa.com. And be sure to check out SNPJ Lodge 106 on Facebook and “Like” us.

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Sept. 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

The minutes from the Aug. 30, 2016, meeting were read and approved.

Discussed the three-year break-even plan for the SNPJ Recreation Center and its presentation to the National Board. The plan was sent out to all board members with their packet of reports for the meeting.

Discussed the Lodge and secretary awards that were based on renewal premium. Discussed the proposed change to the program to eliminate all awards based on renewal premium as requested by the National Board at the March meeting. Discussed the proposed new plan for rewarding Lodges and secretaries, and will present at the upcoming board meeting.

Discussed the remaining items for the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance examination.

Sis. Pintar reported that we will be doing a full disaster recovery test at the SNPJ Recreation Center in October with some of the managers and staff who will be needed to implement the recovery program.

Approved payment of \$375 to the Michigan Fraternal Alliance for delegate registration for the annual meeting.

Approved a donation of \$50 to Bay Area Women's Center, the annual charity for the Michigan Fraternal Alliance.

Approved a cultural donation in the amount of \$200 to the Chicago District Federation for hosting a dinner-dance.

Approved payment of \$135 to the California Fraternal Alliance for delegate registration for the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH
National President/CEO

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the month of October 2016

The Cadez family (138), Strabane, Pa..... \$250
In memory of Tony Bole

Bruce & Joni Barna (158), Gilberts, Ill.\$100
In memory of Frank & Ruth Lapinskas

Pat Miskulin (158), Kirtland, Ohio \$50

Jim & Monica Progar (138), Perryopolis, Pa. ...\$25
In memory of Daniel Kiefer

John R. Long (776), New Castle, Pa.\$20
In memory of the Serjak family

Don Just (6), Ft. Wayne, Ind.\$20
In memory of John & Rose Just (Žust)

Ron & Debbie Cadez (138), Strabane, Pa. \$20
In memory of Rose Cadez

Nicole Sewasky (721), Monaca, Pa.\$10
In memory of The Whistler & his wife

Laura Stahl (5), Cleveland\$10

David & Peggy Cushman (138), Houston, Pa...\$10
In memory of the Cushman/Verna family

Cyndi McClain, Darlington, Pa.\$10
In memory of John R. Hodgson Jr.

Susan DeMalio, Cadiz, Ohio\$10

Ron Skrajner (142), Aurora, Ohio \$5

PROSVETA Crossword

The Holidays (#1216) by StatePoint Media

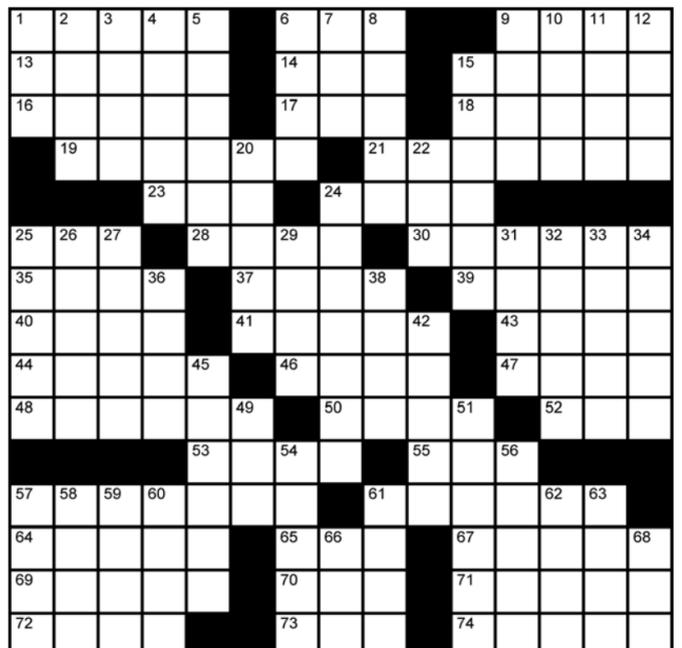
ACROSS

- Post-employment insurance
- T-cell killer
- Many focuses
- Finno-___ language
- Cassius Clay
- Noted Impressionist
- Russian pancakes
- And not
- Oxygen-containing compound
- *Spiked holiday libation
- *a.k.a. Timothy Cratchit
- Not a regular teacher
- Animal waste
- ___ y pimienta
- *Hanukkah dreidel has Hebrew letter on each one
- 1/100th of a ruble
- “___ to perfection”
- Habitual twitches
- Wood turning device
- Back of neck
- Like the north face?
- Inmate's weapon
- Nashville player
- Edible tubes
- Prima donna's numbers
- Not digital
- Wide river valley
- Break a commandment

DOWN

- Chicago baseballer
- Check out
- Place for mutinous sailor
- Saturn's feature, pl.
- Just one of acini
- *Done to ornaments
- Internat'l Labor Organization
- Taste for fine objects of art
- Like Jimi Hendrix' Lady
- “Put a lid ___!”
- Ghana monetary unit
- Found on a list
- Golden Horde member
- Newspaper notices
- Octopus' fluid

- Do like Pinocchio
- *One “chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf”
- “Encore!”
- Former Greek coin
- Flighty person
- Aaron Rodgers' move
- Community spirit
- Popular cook-off dish
- *Macaulay Culkin's character
- *Look for a good one on Black Friday
- “___ good example”
- Mushroom caps
- Hose attachment
- India's smallest state
- Aerie baby
- Like Forrest Gump or C-3PO?
- Not these
- Wounded ___ Massacre
- Hit this when tired?
- Tiny piece of anything
- Takes a siesta
- Like TV's famous ranger
- *Marines' holiday donees
- Dick and Jane's dog
- *Boxing ___
- Melissa McCarthy's 2015 role



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The solution to puzzle #1216 will run in the Jan. 2 issue.

2016 SNPJ Fall Classic Bowling Tournament Results

Tournament rolled Oct. 15-16, hosted by Imperial, Pa., Lodge 106

Men's Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Ja. Cadez/J. Duval	138	1,312	\$120
**Jeff Cadez/B. Lawrence	138	1,335	\$120
T. Sedora/A. Brumbaugh	138	1,305	\$80
J. Grabiak/J. Abajace	138	1,299	\$60
E. Valencic/S. Wiant	138	1,295	\$46
K. Pintar/T. Carroll	6	1,294	\$42

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
A. Brumbaugh	138	653	\$23
D. Belfiore	138	653	\$23
R. Brumbaugh	138	646	\$22
J. Valencic	138	645	\$20
B. Wasky	6	644	\$20

Men's Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Ron Godish Pro Shop	138	2,566	\$120
**C-L's	138	2,881	\$120
Older Guys	138	2,659	\$92
Where's Joe?	138/6	2,654	\$84
My Finger Hurts	138	2,589	\$80
Renegade Hawaiians	6	2,586	\$76

Men's All-Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*J. Grabiak	138	2,049	\$50

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
**T. Carroll	6	2,077	\$50
Jeff Cadez	138	2,052	\$30
K. Richards	106	2,048	\$25
R. Brumbaugh	138	2,013	\$20

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
P.O. Smith	6	695	\$32
K. Brumbaugh	138	669	\$24
M. Maletta	138	662	\$22
B. Bozicevich	6	658	\$20

Women's Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*D. Bible/D. Brand	6	956	\$84
**K. Brumbaugh/M. Maletta	138	1,354	\$84
M. Wasky/P.O. Smith	6	1,309	\$40

Women's Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Queen Sisters	6/138	1,813	\$104
**Superstars	6	2,534	\$104

Women's All-Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*B. Bozicevich	6	1,551	\$28
**P.O. Smith	6	2,021	\$28
C. Koenig	138	2,017	\$14

*Indicates Actual Champion
**Indicates Handicap Champion

best wishes to our Outlived Members

SNPJ was member's home away from home



UNIVERSAL, Pa. — Sis. KATHERINE MIKESKA (715)

Sis. Katherine Mikeska, a member of SNPJ Lodge 715, has outlived her life insurance policy. She writes:

"I was born in Canton, Ohio, on July 27, 1920, the oldest of five children born to Luis and Lena Monsanty. Today I still reside in my home in Canton.

"I married Frank Mikeska on Sept. 9, 1940, a union that lasted 55½ years before his passing in February 1995. We were blessed with one son, Frank (Pam) Mikeska, who resides in Ft. Myers, Fla.

"I owned and operated Kay's Homemade Candies for many years, a profession I truly loved.

"Additional blessings came along with the birth of my three grandchildren. Becoming GiGi to three great-grandchildren was icing on the cake.

"My family and I rented cabins at the SNPJ Recreation Center for many summers before purchasing our home away from home in the Trailer Court. For 14 years our trailer provided us unlimited family time filled with swimming, dancing, food and recreation. Many cups of coffee were shared on my trailer porch as we enjoyed fraternalism between the friends we met at SNPJ. Oh, what a beautiful place!

"As I look back through years of wonderful memories, I'll always be thankful for the many opportunities that SNPJ provided me and my family."

On behalf of the members of Lodge 715 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend best wishes to Sis. Mikeska for continued health and happiness.



While visiting the Lodge 53 110th anniversary celebration in Cleveland, Miss SNPJ 2017 **ELIZABETH HARTMAN** had the opportunity to hit the dance floor.



In November, Miss SNPJ 2017 **ELIZABETH HARTMAN** had the honor of attending the 110th anniversary celebration of V Boj Lodge 53, at which she helped SNPJ National President **JOSEPH C. EVANISH** recognize the Lodge officers.

A busy fall for Miss SNPJ

MISS SNPJ
FROM PAGE 1

were so many creative and wonderful costumes that everyone deserved to win a prize! It was truly a great event and I enjoyed attending.

On Nov. 4, I was invited to be a part of the anniversary festivities in Cleveland for V Boj Lodge 53 as they celebrated 110 years. I was so honored and proud to be part of such a wonderful event. When I got to the Slovenian Workmen's Home, I was greeted by the Lodge 53 officers and presented with a beautiful corsage. The officers and members took such wonderful care of me all day.

As my family and I entered the hall, we were welcomed

with warm smiles and delicious food. There was a table full of great appetizers, including klobase, which was my personal favorite. After the cocktail hour, everyone was seated and the fun began. We had a full Slovenian meal complete with traditional Slovenian soup, chicken and stuffed pork. The meal was topped off with homemade strudel and potica.

After dinner, some lovely speeches were made by SNPJ National President Joseph Evanish, Lodge 53 Secretary/Treasurer Martha Meglich and Lodge 53 President Pauline Barbish. Once the speeches were complete, everyone began to dance the night away. I was able to speak to so many wonderful people and I even took a few turns on the dance floor with some wonderful Cleveland dancers. The evening was capped off with the drawing of door prizes. It was a wonderful night and I want to thank Lodge 53 for inviting me to participate in their event.

By the time this issue comes to print, the Christmas season will be upon us. Many of our Lodges and Circles will be hosting festive year-end events, and I'm hoping to attend a few at my local Lodge once my college finals are complete. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! It's my hope to be able to meet more wonderful SNPJ members in 2017!

Cookbook for the Ages

The cookbook sponsored by the SNPJ Heritage Center is now on sale! For additional information, contact the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.

\$20 each

plus \$3 s/h for first 2 copies

For 3 or more books, add \$1 shipping for each copy.

Return this order form to:
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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Number of copies _____

Make check or money order payable to SNPJ Heritage Center.

Slovenian American inventors and innovators: A contribution to diversity

(Part I of a three-part series)

by EDWARD GOBETZ, Ph.D.
Lodge 142

When former President Richard Nixon visited China in 1972, his party took along the first pocket calculator, the HP-35, as a "prime example of advanced American technology." The calculator was developed under the direction of lead inventor Dr. France Rode, an immigrant from Slovenia.

As a follow-up to that brief introduction, we'll open this column with a question: "How have Slovenian Americans contributed to America and the world in terms of innovation and invention?" We'll start in the field of transportation — on the ground, at sea, in the air, and in space.

Max Stupar, an immigrant from Metlika, Slovenia, was one of the pioneers of airplane design and manufacture, and was referred to as "the father of mass airplane production" by *The Atlanta Journal* (Nov. 29, 1944). Dr. August Raspet, a second-generation Slovenian American, was an internationally prominent astrophysicist and designer of spectacular modern lightweight aircraft; while Joseph Sutter, whose father, Frank Suhadolc, was an immigrant from Slovenia, has been acclaimed as the "father of the Boeing 747 jumbo jet" that "forever changed long-distance travel," according to Dr. Neil Armstrong, the first man ever to step on the Moon. Air Force One, the plane of American presidents, is a modified version of the Boeing 747; as are intercity travel and cargo planes, especially those redesigned for use in Japan, without which it is hard to imagine a successful Japanese economy.

In the field of space programs, in addition to three prominent astronauts — Ronald Sega, Jerry Linenger and Sunita Williams — a distinguished role was played by Frank Puhek, a lead engineer at General

Dynamics and designer of intercontinental, Tomahawk and space missiles, including the Atlas and Mercury space rockets. Puhek also taught John Glenn, the first American astronaut in 1962, as well as six subsequent Mercury astronauts, how to operate the Mercury guidance systems.

Edward Repic, an aeronautical engineer and space rockets expert, substantially contributed to America's Apollo 11 program and its 1969 exploration of the moon, and has since then, together with astronaut Buzz Aldrin, researched the best methods of future interplanetary space flights, especially those to Mars.

Slovenian immigrant Dr. Dušan Petrač is an award-winning authority on space cryogenic systems, while second-generation chemist John Repar was the inventor and developer of astro-rubber which is capable of withstanding the rigors of long space flights. Albert Volk was one of two specialists who developed the mesh wheels for the Apollo 15 lunar rovers that, according to a proud General Motors report, literally left their tracks on the moon.

John Hrastar, an authority on unmanned exploratory and weather satellites, became director of Systems, Technology and Advanced Concepts at the Goddard Space Flight Center, leading some 150 of the center's brightest minds. Dr. Anthony Strazisar played a key role as a prolific researcher, award-winning author and chief scientist at John Glenn Research Center, formerly known as the NASA Lewis Research Center, in Fairview Park, Cleveland.

Several other Slovenian Americans distinguished themselves at the Glenn Research Center, among them award-winners William Ivancic, Dr. Mark Celestina and Godfrey Miro Anzic; while Dr. Aloisius Lojze Arko, a prolific author and international lecturer, was named Laboratory



Dr. France Rode, lead inventor of the first pocket-size calculator, the HP-35, then a "prime example of modern U.S. technology."



Joseph Sutter (Suhadolc), father of the 747, which includes Air Force One.

Fellow of Alamos National Laboratory "for landmark achievements in the field of high-temperature superconductivity."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Portions published by the U.S. Embassy, Ljubljana, June 20, 2011. The original article, "Highlights on Slovenian American Inventors," was first published in *Slovenian American Times* (June 2011).

SNPJ Crossword THANKSGIVING (#1116) solution

B	L	O	G	S	W	A	S	S	O	C	K	
B	E	R	E	T	A	L	P	U	N	T	I	E
C	A	S	T	E	S	E	E	N	U	T	T	Y
F	O	U	R	T	H	C	O	W	B	O	Y	S
	P	E	A		U	S	E	R				
S	A	Y	O	R	B	S	R	A	D	I	U	M
A	L	E	S	S	U	E	S	P	I	N	T	A
U	P	T	O	I	S	L	E	S	O	T	I	C
C	H	I	L	I	H	E	W	N	R	E	L	Y
E	A	S	I	N	G	S	N	A	P	R	E	S
			D	A	I	S	F	O	E			
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	T	U	R	K	E	Y
O	C	E	A	N	C	A	B	T	I	T	L	E
C	H	E	S	T	H	R	S	I	N	N	E	R
K	Y	L	E		Y	E	P	A	G	A	M	A

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of August 2016

LODGE NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY-STATE
A02 Michael D. Relac	07-24-2016	Pittsburgh, Pa.
2 Sylvia C. Penca	06-06-2016	East Moline, Ill.
2 Lillian Caresio	02-25-2016	Peru, Ill.
2 Daniel C. Ushman	07-06-2016	Ocala, Fla.
5 Mary Cocco	06-04-2016	Chardon, Ohio
5 Robert J. Koeth	07-05-2016	Willoughby, Ohio
5 Ethel I. Wunderlich	06-01-2016	South Euclid, Ohio
6 Morgan T. Pecarina	03-19-2016	Garner, N.C.
8 John J. Jereb	06-23-2016	Huntingdon, Tenn.
8 James E. Bergles	07-02-2016	Chicago, Ill.
34 John L. Lampert	08-16-2016	Indianapolis, Ind.
41 Leslie G. Wiser Sr.	06-24-2016	Trafford, Pa.
41 Alice G. Snyder	07-22-2016	Irwin, Pa.
87 Marian M. Pasternak	06-23-2016	Belle Vernon, Pa.
106 Earl L. Wiechelt	06-08-2016	Oakdale, Pa.
106 Bertha Hayes	07-16-2016	Acworth, Ga.
107 Sophy K. Ross	07-27-2016	Carlville, Ill.
107 Glenn C. Griffin	06-06-2016	Florissant, Mo.
126 Charles A. Sumrada	06-30-2016	Willoughby, Ohio
126 Coletta R. Orel	05-15-2016	Bratenahl, Ohio
138 Walter R. Klick	07-12-2016	Washington, Pa.
138 Patricia L. Martin	05-24-2016	Williamsburg, Va.
142 Olga M. Seday	08-07-2016	Euclid, Ohio
142 Kristine Hospodar	05-29-2016	Richmond Hgts., Ohio
165 Amelia Stawovy	08-13-2016	Scottsdale, Pa.
207 Lester J. Sodja	02-14-2016	Helena, Mont.
218 Josephine Phillipich	07-17-2016	Raton, N.M.
254 Hilda M. Burinda	07-21-2016	Tire Hill, Pa.
254 Mary L. Hodos	03-30-2016	Johnstown, Pa.
257 Raphaela Hassa	05-13-2016	Columbia Station, Ohio
277 Samuel J. Fiumara	06-20-2016	Poland, Ohio
304 William J. Majerle	06-13-2016	San Jose, Calif.
371 Betty J. Siders-Srok	05-20-2016	Lynnwood, Wash.
459 John J. Stepanick	05-16-2016	Flint, Mich.
518 Daniel A. Verderbar	01-19-2016	Dearborn Hgts., Mich.
559 Ralph M. Potokar Jr.	03-02-2016	Gold Canyon, Ariz.
564 Tony Stimac	07-19-2016	Chassell, Mich.
566 Margaret C. Aldrich	07-05-2016	Westlake, Ohio
576 Bruce J. Plemel	06-21-2016	Euclid, Ohio
577 Douglas A. Zobec	06-14-2016	Colorado Springs, Colo.
584 Lillian Mae Skrobis	07-04-2016	Greendale, Wis.
584 Elvera Roberts	10-07-2015	Lake Villa, Ill.
584 Ann Schulz	07-06-2016	Thiensville, Wis.
584 Dolores M. Kodrich	07-26-2016	West Allis, Wis.
584 Henry A. Camlek Jr.	07-25-2016	Crivitz, Wis.
626 Joseph Bischak	06-09-2016	Barberton, Ohio
629 Robert J. Kucic	06-13-2016	Murrysville, Pa.
665 Miroslav Pecman	06-24-2016	Pittsburgh, Pa.
686 Ann Valle	07-31-2015	Sacramento, Calif.
686 Josephine Fidler	06-11-2016	Sussex, Wis.
686 Thanie I. Petrich	07-19-2016	Superior, Wis.
689 Sheldon Grant Babcock	07-10-2016	Helper, Utah
715 Eileen C. Titlow	07-17-2016	Glenshaw, Pa.
721 Thomas Scheidemantel	08-30-2014	Beaver Falls, Pa.
723 Michael F. Molnar	01-08-2016	Mulino, Ore.
723 Sylvia M. Mullens	03-09-2016	Rock Springs, Wyo.
723 Jack E. Mullens	08-23-2014	Rock Springs, Wyo.
782 Anne Szymanski	08-01-2016	Gowanda, N.Y.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary

SNPJ fraternal sympathies



Bro. JACOB R. CHESNIC (723)

BRO. JACOB R. CHESNIC • LODGE 723 •

FONTANA, Calif. — The Chesnic family and the members of Lodge 723 sadly report the Oct. 5, 2016, passing of Bro. Jacob Richard Chesnic, 21, of Muskegon, Mich.

Bro. Chesnic was born April 25, 1995, in Okinawa, Japan, to William and Kari Chesnic. He was a 2014 graduate of Oakridge High School and a former member of Oak Crest Church of God Youth Group.

Jacob enjoyed kayaking, disc golf, fishing and hanging out with family and friends. He and his sisters enjoyed many fun times at the Fontana Slovene Hall when Jacob and his family lived at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Surviving are his parents, William "Bill" Chesnic and Kari Chesnic; sisters Jenae, Larah, Lyndsie and Julia Chesnic; his grandparents, Ken and Margaret Little, and Jacob Chesnic; his girlfriend, Tiffany Johnson; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Elfie Chesnic.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 723 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Chesnic's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. HARRY J. SEKELIK • LODGE 6 •

SYGAN, Pa. — The Sekelik family and the members of Lodge 6 sadly announce the Oct. 11, 2016, passing of Bro.

Harry J. Sekelik, 51, of Belleville, W. Va., formerly of Carnegie, Pa. He was surrounded by his family and friends when he bravely lost his two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer.

Bro. Sekelik was born Feb. 5, 1965, to the late Harry Sekelik and Erma M. Krek Sekelik. Just 19 days before being called upon, he celebrated his ninth wedding anniversary in Tennessee with his loving and truly devoted wife, Marlene V. Morehead Sekelik, whom he married Sept. 22, 2007, who survives. Marlene was truly the love of his life.

Harry was a true inspiration. He lived life to the fullest, always with a smile and a kind word. He was a devoted father to his cherished daughter, Brandi Lee Sekelik, who also survives. He passed on his love of horses to her. They attended many horse riding competitions together. Brandi was truly his heart.

Bro. Sekelik was a carpenter by trade and was last employed by Marc and Patty Coleman, owners of Dove Contracting Inc., of Washington, Pa. He was their first hired employee, but was never treated as just an employee. He was loved and adored by them, and they are forever a part of his family.

Harry cherished every moment spent with his family, and he looked forward to every hunting season with his buddies. He was truly a devoted father, husband, brother and son. He will be terribly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, daughter and mother, whom he cherished dearly, are his sisters, Anna Sekelik, Karen (Anthony) Lucciola, Nancy (Marty) Horton and Erma Sekelik; a brother, Ronald Sekelik; several nieces and nephews; and many beloved friends.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date at the family's convenience.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 6 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro.

Sekelik's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. FREDA A. MASSEY • LODGE 89 •

MIDWAY, Pa. — The members of Lodge 89 sadly announce the Oct. 13, 2016, passing of Sis. Freda A. Massey, 95, in Washington Hospital, Washington, Pa.

Sis. Massey was born Jan. 19, 1921, in Canada, a daughter of Henry Q. and Mary Ashmore. She previously worked as a press operator for Stylette Plastics in Oakdale, Pa., and was a homemaker who enjoyed farming, sewing and cooking.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, she was a member of First Church of Christ.

Surviving are her children, Gilbert (Judy) Massey, Sheila (Bill) Dixon and Angus Massey; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Mary Jane Ashmore.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Barton F. Massey, in 2011; and siblings Bill, Andrew, Lewis, Ann, Mary and Hilda.

Services for Sis. Massey were held Oct. 17 in Thomas-Little Funeral Service, Midway. Interment followed in Center Cemetery, Midway.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 89 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Massey's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JOHN M. CHIZMAR • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Oct. 16, 2016, passing of Bro. John Michael Chizmar Jr., 79, of Jacksonville, Fla., formerly of Washington, Pa., in Life Care Center, Orange Park, Fla.

Bro. Chizmar was born Sept. 19, 1937, in Pattersons Mill, Cross Creek Twp., Pa., a son of the late John and Mary Kiddo Chizmar. He grew up in

Rea, Pa., where he lived until his marriage. He graduated with honors from Mt. Pleasant Township High School in Hickory, Pa., where he was president of student council and the student athletic association. He was also a member of National Honor Society and lettered in football and track.

From 1956 until 1962, John worked for the former Mesta Machine Co. in Homestead, Pa., where he served a four-year apprenticeship to become a journeyman machinist. He then worked for 42 years for Millcraft Products, the last 22 years as general manager. Following his retirement in 2004, he continued to work for Millcraft as a consultant.

In addition to his SNPJ membership, Bro. Chizmar was a member of Raccoon Valley Sportsmen's Association and attended St. John's Church in Avella, Pa. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, traveling, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

His wife, Diana Wright Chizmar, to whom he was married for 41 years, passed away Sept. 14, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Cheryl (John Stanley) Chizmar, with whom he made his home in Jacksonville, and Melissa (Greg) Waites; a son, John "Trey" Chizmar (David Burton); stepsons John and Duane McWee; five grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; two sisters, Marion Brice and Margie Marker; a sister-in-law, Kathy Chizmar; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Paul and David Chizmar; and a sister, Katherine Wojack.

Services for Bro. Chizmar were held Oct. 22 in William G. Neal Funeral Homes, Ltd., Washington, Pa., officiated by the Rev. Steven Dunlap. Burial followed in Washington Cemetery.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Chizmar's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

PROSVETA 2017 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2017							MAY 2017							SEPTEMBER 2017								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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MARCH 2017							JULY 2017							NOVEMBER 2017								
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APRIL 2017							AUGUST 2017							DECEMBER 2017								
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Publication dates are highlighted in black boxes; deadline dates are circled. The deadline for submissions is noon on the third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted above or on the front page. Submissions may be mailed to PROSVETA at 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126; faxed to (724) 695-1555; e-mailed to prosveta@snj.com; or submitted via the Publications section of the SNPJ website, www.snj.org.

You gave your hearts to us,
to the Fontana Slovene Hall, and to your community.



LORENE RICHTAR
Sept. 17, 1918 — Dec. 10, 2012
STAUNTON, IL FONTANA, CA

JOE RICHTAR
Nov. 19, 1909 — Aug. 6, 1988
LEADVILLE, CO FONTANA, CA

MARRIED AUG. 2, 1947

- Krste and Pamela Pandza

In loving memory of Lou "BLP" Progar

Who passed away 12 years
ago on Nov. 28, 2004

Sadly missed by brother Mike,
Frank and Amy Mavrich, and all
of his friends and family.



Remembering our dear ones
during this holiday season and always...



FRANK J. VIDERGAR
LOUIS LIPOVEC
MARY LIPOVEC GLAD
MICHAEL GLAD
FRANK & MARY VIDERGAR AND EDITH

May they always rest in peace.

Sadly missed by Mary Lou (Lipovec) Vidergar;
Frank, Gretchen, Anna & Ivan Vidergar;
Keith, Lisa (Vidergar) & Mia Lucas.

Always in our thoughts

Frank Joseph Vidergar

March 15, 1935 — Dec. 27, 2007



Nine years have passed
since you left us.



We will always love you.

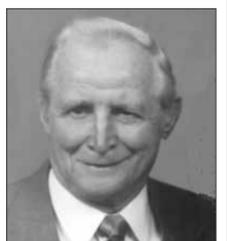
Mary Lou
Frank Jr., Gretchen, Anna & Ivan
Lisa, Keith & Mia

In loving memory of

PHIL MARTINCIC

Sept. 2, 1924 — Dec. 23, 1997

"What the heart has
once cherished can
never be forgotten."



Missing you today and every day.

Your loving family - wife Alice; children Andrew & wife Linda,
and Christine & husband PJ; grandchildren Patrick, Sandy, Brendan,
Jason, Christopher & Alycia; and great-grandchildren Patrick & Aiden.



Pioneer Lodge 559 members had the opportunity to meet Miss SNPJ 2017 **ELIZABETH HARTMAN** (138) during her visit to the Chicago Federation dinner dance in August.

Lodge 559 food drive benefits nearby community

by MELANIE MATIASEK
Lodge 559 Secretary

CHICAGO — The members of Pioneer Lodge 559 participated in the Chicago District Federation dinner dance held Aug. 21 at the Slovene Catholic Center in Lemont, Ill. Miss SNPJ 2017 Elizabeth Hartman (138) joined us and performed her talent of singing and playing the tamburiza. Great job! We were also happy to have Lodge 449 member Meredith Maresh, who was also a Miss SNPJ Pageant contestant and is co-Miss Talent 2017. Meredith demonstrated her skills as a seamstress by constructing

an authentic Slovenian woman's costume.

The wonderful dinner was followed by homemade desserts provided by members. Music was provided by Vince Rigler (449), with a special performance by Cecilia Dolgan (576) who sang a few Slovenian songs. Everyone had a great time at this event, and it was nice to have members of all Chicago area Lodges get together.

At the October Lodge 559 meeting, we conducted our fall food drive to collect donations for St. Mary's Church in Lemont. Lodge President Jean Cherway volunteered to deliver the collection of

food to the church.

We missed some of our regular attendees, and our best wishes go out to Otto Doerk, Betty Nadvornik and Helen Zacharsky.

The next Lodge 559 meeting will be held Dec. 9 at noon at the Czech Plaza Restaurant. This meeting will include elections for next year's officers. The meeting will be followed by socializing at our Christmas party. Please bring a \$5 grab bag gift if you'd like to participate in the gift exchange. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Badger Jabber

by BOB SMOLE
Lodge 584

MILWAUKEE — The regular Badger Lodge 584 meeting was held Nov. 10 at the Mary Queen of Heaven gym, as usual. This meeting was very sparsely attended for some reason. The attendance couldn't be blamed on the weather; it was 56 degrees and a beautiful night.

Bro. Donovan called the meeting to order at precisely 7 p.m. All officers were present with the exception of Recording Secretary Mary Donovan and Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Alpner.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of deceased member Sis. Gay Schweiger. The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read, as was the secretary/treasurer's report.

Under the Sunshine Fund report, it was noted that our good friend, Sis. Marie Kuznacic from Sheboygan, Wis., had fallen and broke her arm. Best wishes to Marie; we wish her a speedy recovery.

Congratulation wishes as well to Sis. Kuznacic on another newborn great-granddaughter, Evelyn Bartosik. Evelyn's proud grandmother, Sis. Sandra Krainz, who is Marie's

daughter, is helping mom out at home as she recuperates.

One official notice from the SNPJ Home Office regarding the Lodge annual meeting and report was read and placed on file.

Bro. Jeff Mlaker gave a report on the SNPJ Family Twosome Bowling Tournament held at Lucky lanes on Nov. 5. Bro. Mlaker indicated that 14 bowlers took part in the tournament, and that all the participants had a great time. Although there were some good scores bowled, Bro. Mlaker didn't have the particulars available. Sis. Mary Donovan, the event coordinator, will certainly have these available at the next meeting.

A discussion was held related to our annual Lodge Christmas party. It was decided that we would hold the party on the regular meeting date in December; that date will be Thursday, Dec. 8, starting with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a continuation of the meal and a gift exchange.

The Badger Lodge will purchase two \$10 gift certificates to be used as Christmas gift drawings. Members are encouraged to bring a gift (valued at no more than \$10) to exchange. If you bring a gift, you will receive a gift.

Sis. Mary Donovan will be coordinating the food for the party. Please

contact her to let her know what you will be bringing so she will know what is needed and what to purchase. Contact Sis. Donovan at (414) 405-0532. Please do that today since the party is very soon, on Dec. 8.

There were no birthdays to celebrate at the November meeting, so there was no need to sing. Brothers Don Lesar and Tim Donovan won the attendance awards. Since there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned and coffee and desserts were served.

I saw Sis. MaryCay Freiberg and her daughter the other evening, and she indicated that her husband Ray was at Linden Grove in New Berlin for rehab therapy. Ray suffered a heart attack and required quadruple bypass surgery. Sis. Freiberg stated that he was doing well, but she didn't know how long Ray would be in rehab. We wish Ray all the best and a speedy recovery. Keep us posted, MaryCay.

Badger Lodge 584 members mourn the passing of member Sis. Gay Schweiger on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at the age of 73. Gay was the wife of the late Richard Schweiger; the dear mother of Keith (Theresa) Schweiger and Christine (Jeffery) Meyer; loving grandmother to Kyle, Alex, Brittany and Keara; the sister of Gary Radtke; and the sister-in-law of the late Bro. Gene Schweiger. She

was also survived by nieces, nephews, relatives and many friends. Visitation was held at the Bevssek-Verbick Funeral Home. Farewell, dear Sister. The pleasant memories with you will not be forgotten.

As in years past, I have been accepting donations to the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse (WBCS) in memory of our daughter Donna who died from breast cancer at the age of 37. In the past, we had our home and yard decorated in full Christmas seasonal display and solicited funds for the WBCS. Although we are no longer able to do that kind of thing because of our ages, we continue to accept tax-deductible donations to WBCS.

Each year as I post this notice, I receive many contributions for this worthy cause in the hopes of eradicating these horrible breast and prostate cancer diseases. Keeping with that tradition, anyone wishing to contribute to the WBCS can send a tax-deductible donation, made payable to WBCS, addressed to Bob Smole, 11445 N. Glenwood Dr., Mequon, WI 53097-3115. I will make sure that these dollars get to the right place. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed in the past and those who will contribute today.

You may have received a notice from Sis. Donovan regarding the SNPJ youth Christmas party that will

take place Saturday, Dec. 3, which is this weekend. Hopefully you have received word and have submitted your reply to Sis. Donovan. If not, give Sis. Donovan a call at (414) 405-0532 to see if she can squeeze you in. The party will be held at Mary Queen of Heaven gym, 2360 S. 106 St. in West Allis, starting at 1 p.m.

I received a call from Sis. Marge Adomat who is still living in her home and dealing with some health issues, but she is doing O.K. She cannot drive any longer, so she does miss attending the Badger Lodge meetings. Sis. Adomat reported that her son, Bro. Brian, is recuperating in a nursing home after suffering a stroke. Brian is showing some slow progress in his rehab, and has a long road ahead. Sis. Adomat wanted me to convey her best regards to all and wish everyone a good holiday season.

Want to enjoy a wonderful Christmas concert? Celebrate the season with traditional music and songs performed by the USPEH Chorus, along with the St. John's Chorus, the St. John's Bell Chorus and the Children's Chorus, on Sunday, Dec. 11, at St. John's the Evangelist Church, 84th and W. Cold Spring in Greenfield, Wis., starting at 2 p.m. Come on out and get into the Christmas spirit. This concert is free to all, so come and enjoy!

Indy Lodge 34 ready to serve Dec. 9 SNH dinner

by JERRY WATSON
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

INDIANAPOLIS — *Dober dan!* SNPJ Lodge 34 recently hosted a very successful dinner at the Slovenian National Home (SNH). Many thanks to Mary Dragan and her family for doing all the hard work. I, along with many others, had the pleasure of enjoying the dinner and it was outstanding! Please join us for our next SNH

dinner on Dec. 9.

Lodge 34 member Sis. Stella Valant Watson, my mom, celebrated her 80-year SNPJ membership anniversary and 98th birthday in November. Stella is happy to continue living in her own home, thanks to her family. She would like to send special thanks to the SNPJ Home Office for the beautiful gift they sent her in recognition of this honor.



Indianapolis
Lodge 34
Secretary/
Treasurer
JERRY WATSON
fills a plate after
working at the
Indy SNH dinner
hosted by Lodge
34 members in
November.

Celebrate the holidays at Samsula Lodge 603

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — The members of SNPJ Lodge 603 in beautiful Samsula in the great state of Florida met Nov. 1 for dinner followed by a business session. All officers were present, along with a good turnout of members. Ruth Benedict prepared a beef dinner for all to enjoy.

New hall manager Cindy Griswold has been quite busy with her husband as they have completed several repairs to our hall and the pavilion after Hurricane Matthew left his mark. Lodge President George Benedict thanked them and all others who helped with several jobs at the hall.

Lodge 603 members and friends were stunned with the news that Bro. Ron Luznar had lost his life in an auto accident Oct. 20 at the age of 70. Many of you remember Ron as he played for most of our Florida SNPJ Days events as well our Sunday dances with his Polka Pals Band.

A funeral service on Oct. 26 was staged at the Lodge 603 Hall with more than 1,000 people passing by the casket. Rev. Mark Spivey officiated the service. President Benedict gave a brief history of the family, which was so interesting as he tied the Sopotnick and Luznar families together. At one time, Samsula had three taverns and all were owned and operated by Slovenians. He also mentioned that several taverns in New Smyrna Beach were owned and operated by Slovenians, and how everyone would come out to the Lodge

603 Hall on the weekends and for special events to enjoy the music and socialize.

Nearly 500 guests stayed for the meal that Ruth Benedict and I spent several days preparing. So many people brought dishes to share, and helped with service and cleanup.

Ronnie will be missed so much in our neighborhood, at our Lodge hall, and at his Sopotnick's Cabbage Patch Tavern. His sons, Ronnie Jr. and Roger Luznar, are taking over their father's business. Ronnie also had two grandsons, Travis and Michael. Travis put together a video of his grandfather, which played throughout the day along with Ronnie's polka music recordings.

Several tents were provided outside for everyone, and Daytona Beverages provided beer for the guests. Both Ron and his father, Frank Luznar Jr., were former Lodge 603 presidents who worked diligently to promote our Society. Ron and his brother, Frankie Luznar, helped their mother, Josephine Sopotnick Luznar, plant several of the beautiful oak trees on the Lodge grounds.

Donations for a scholarship in Ron's name may be made by sending your payment to SNPJ Lodge 603, P.O. Box 1078, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170.

President Benedict extended thanks to Toby Quinn for mowing the grounds so that there would be ample parking to accommodate guests at the Luznar funeral.

On Oct. 29, Ruth Benedict, her daughter Ashley and Nancy Bass took charge of the Lodge 603 Halloween party. Several



The Lodge 603 Halloween costume contest winners in the 9- to 15-year-old age group included **Emma Hahn, Tammy Slucher,** and **Joshua and Kyle Adkins.**

members assisted with food service, games, the costume contests, the haunted house and the cake walk.

Claire Johns, Gabbie, and brothers Hudson and Weston Bailey won in the 0- to 4-year-old group. James Wright, Sarah Viera and Ryder Johns took the 5- to 8-year-old group, while Tammy Slucher, Emma Hahn, and Joshua and Kyle Adkins won in the 9- to 15-year-old group. The adult winners were Nancy Bass, Janie Wright and Wayne Smith. Ruth and Ashley did a great job with Halloween this year. They even brought back apple bobbing, which was always a favorite.

Thursday night football game fun is offered at the Lodge starting at 7 p.m. This is open to the public, so come to the Lodge hall and join in.

The Lodge 603 Christmas program and party are set for Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Cookies and punch will be

provided following the program. Don't forget that Santa will make his annual visit and pass out goodie bags and gifts. Hope all will attend.

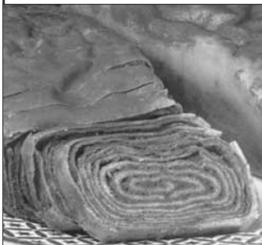
Hall manager Cindy Griswold is planning a New Year's Eve party at the Lodge starting at 9 p.m. Breakfast will be served right after we ring in New Year 2017. Do plan to attend and take part in our Lodge activities.

Ruth Benedict gave a report on the 2017 Florida SNPJ Days event, set to be staged at Lodge 603 March 3-4, 2017. Music will be provided by the Marc Bouchard Orchestra. Friday will begin at 4 p.m. with music from 5 to 9. Saturday will begin at noon with music until 6 p.m.; a program and drawing are scheduled from 2 to 3 p.m. Admission is \$15 for both days or \$10 each day. Ruth and Ashley are chairing the event.

Merry Christmas to all and a happy New Year 2017!

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the 17th book by Prof. Edward Gobetz, SNPJ #142.

The hardcover 408-page book, with numerous photos in color, has been hailed as a splendid, monumental accomplishment, as it shows how much Slovenians have contributed to the progress of America and the world, from the first pocket calculator to Boeing 747 planes that forever changed long distance travel.

Checks for \$50 made payable to Slovenian Research Center just barely cover the high printing costs per book and postage. Order this highly acclaimed book for yourself and, if you can, as gifts of lasting value for relatives, friends or libraries.

The author abdicated any and all royalties to facilitate the book's publication.

Lodge 564 members honored at annual Grape Dance

YA GRAPE DANCE
FROM PAGE 1

members were called up by table to get their food. Milka Martinicic cooked a delicious buffet of Slovenian specialties for all to enjoy, including chicken, klobase from Azman's Meat Market in Cleveland, sauerkraut, green beans, potatoes with bacon, salad, and rolls. Desserts were donated by SAC members. We had a large variety of pies, cakes and cookies that were sold with the proceeds benefiting the SAC.

After dinner we danced to The Good Times Band, headed by Herb Schroeder. They are a fabulous, full-of-energy band. Lodge 564 member Eddie Adamic was invited to join the band, playing accordion and singing beautiful Slovenian songs. Danica Hancock was invited to join Eddie in a song or two. As the evening progressed, many button box

players joined along as well. As is tradition, a group of SAC members sang "Dolini Tihi," also known as the national anthem of Slovenia. Little Lilli, from the SAC, danced all night with her dad, mom and sister Rosie. She even got Anthony Volpe to join her on the dance floor. Later, Anthony told me he was sweating as much as at hockey practice! Everyone enjoyed the evening, taking in the beautiful music and conversing with friends.

Throughout the night, guests were tempted to steal the bags of grapes from the basket alongside the dance floor. Joey Volpe acted as our policeman. He hid at first, catching his favorite couple, Phyllis and Bill Romanski, as they stole about four bags. A few others tried to get away with stealing grapes, but Joey swiftly caught them and sent them to Anthony Volpe, our

judge, who charged them with a cash fine. At the end of the evening, Anthony volunteered to take the remaining bagged grapes to each table, selling them at half price.

Sue Hellner and I collected for the 50/50 drawing. First place went to Shirley from the SAC. Second place went to Lodge 564 member Marlene Zornik, and third place went to Ann from the SAC.

We also honored those celebrating SNPJ membership anniversaries. I read the names of those who were unable to attend; Ermando Volpe was the only honoree in attendance. Eddie Adamic presented Ermando with a 50-year member award certificate, a wallet and a pin from the Home Office. Ermando said a few words of thanks, and noted that he didn't need recognition since he is happy and proud to be an SNPJ member. He may not be

Slovenian, but he's one of the best fraternalists around.

We were glad to see Rudy Zornik and Rafael Drensek at the dance. Both had been in the hospital, Rudy more recently, but as dedicated members they couldn't miss this event. Get well wishes are extended to both for a full and speedy recovery.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank everyone who helped before and during this event, including Eddie Adamic, Thomas Hostnik, Ermando Volpe, Anthony Volpe, Joey Volpe, Donald Harrison and Rudy Zornik. Anthony was a big help in getting down boxes from the closet, as well as setting up tables with his brother Joey. Besides collecting money at the door, Eddie Adamic helped find seats for our guests, cleared plates and served as our emcee for the evening. While the band played their last song



Lodge 564 member Bro. ERMANDO VOLPE [left] was presented with gifts from the SNPJ Home Office in recognition of his 50th year of SNPJ membership.

and a few of us cheered them on, Ruth Hostnik, Pat Hostnik, and Joyce and Don Harrison cleared the tables, while Tom Hostnik and Ermando took down the decorations.

This was the last dance held at SAC, and the building will be vacated on Dec. 1. It was a successful party of 100 people

or more, and a fun time. Our next local SNPJ event is the Youth Circle 29 Christmas pizza party and bowling social at 5 Star Lanes on Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. All SNPJ members are invited to attend.

I'd like to wish everyone in SNPJland near and far a happy holiday season. *Na svedenje!*

California Federation Vinska Trgatev draws a crowd to Fontana Slovene Hall

CALIFORNIA HARVEST
FROM PAGE 1

Four wonderful baskets from the four Lodges were offered. There was also an additional basket, donated by the Leathers family, as well as a bottle of wine donated by Helen Spencer (our in-house Swiss charmer). All of the money collected from the basket drawings was donated to the SNPJ Scholarship Fund, in addition to 50 percent of the net profit from the event.

We thank all of the "thieves" who contributed to the "village treasury" by stealing from the arbor and having someone bail them out of the *ječa*. We are especially grateful to Maria and Robert, who quickly grabbed the valuable *krona* and gave a very generous donation for the coveted prize, making them an honored couple in the village.

This was very appropriate, since last year Maria and Robert served as *župan* and *županja* of this harvest event. This year we congratulate Skip and Suzan for serving in these official positions. They looked great in their costumes and had some very inspiring things to say as our gracious hosts. We especially appreciated their toast so that we could finally drink some of the wine that had been poured a

while before!

Guests enjoyed the tasty treats that were provided on the tables, including cheeses, crackers, salami and grapes; typical snack foods for a celebration such as this. After the toast, the first dance followed and everyone was invited to the dance floor. Music was provided by the Fred Mlakar Band, including Skip on his giant tuba, Papa Joe Mlakar on the button box and Frank Zaitz on the drums. Their great Slovenian music became a little more diverse as the evening progressed. People were dancing until the very end, and no one was in a hurry to go home. Many moved into the bar area while other musicians continued on.

Thanks to Frank Rote for leading the procession of harvesters and villagers at the beginning of the pageant, giving Fred and Joe Mlakar a break to do their other leadership duties. This year we had a number of native Slovenians singing along, which really made the old songs come to life. We thank them for keeping the rest of us on the right track, as well as the number of folks who dressed in costume. *Hvala lepa!* Jesse Leathers was a superb night watchman. Acting must run in the family because Phyllis was an impressive judge who didn't

mess around with anyone. Everyone had to pay the price!

Thanks to Eric Wood in the kitchen and Julianne Wood for helping her dad with the food service. Eric presented a very tasty goulash and noodles, as well as klobase sandwiches with sauerkraut, potica and strudel. Our guests really enjoy these tasty meals. The menu changes with each different event, so there's always something good to eat! Phyllis Wood was also on hand, doing all she could to help. The Wood family is the stronghold of this hall, so we appreciate what they have done to keep this place going and the improvements being made year after year.

My personal thanks to the many Orange Coast Lodge 786 members who helped throughout the day. Al Suhajda arrived early with us and hung all the candy from the arbor. Teresa Koci, Ellie Koci and Carol Jancich filled and distributed the snack bowls. Marie Bajc poured most of the wine while several others helped pass out the cups of wine and juice. Mike Bajc did a wonderful job taking photos, catching almost all 120 of us in action as we enjoyed the day. Thanks so much, Mike!

Of course, Rosemary Mlakar and Fred are also Orange Coast Lodge 786

members. Don Milek was the head jailer along with Paul, his sidekick. Not much got by them. Arnie Koci was at the attendance desk from start to finish. He's also very good at promoting the main purpose of this event, the scholarship fund!

We were happy to welcome several new families who brought their adult children and grandchildren so they could learn a bit about our ethnic traditions and music. It was good to meet these new folks, some of whom traveled more than 100 miles one way from places like Ojai, near Santa Barbara, Northridge and Palm Springs. Our dear friends Mary Lou and Paul

Jensen traveled from Victorville, and Veronica Dimnik's mother was here from Argentina. I think she gets the "longest distance traveled" award! She most likely didn't make the trip just for this event, but it was great having her with us either way. *Dobrodošli!*

We also had the Leathers and Tomazin families who aren't new to this event, but always take part in one way or another. They seem to be drawn to the jail somehow!

I'm grateful for all the appreciation we received at the end of the evening and in the days that followed. It makes all the work worthwhile. *Najlepši hvala!*



Last year's *županja*, MARIA SEGO (723), pictured with DON MILEK (786), was caught with the *Krona* and had to pay a hefty fine for "stealing" the coveted prize.

Več vina, prosim! A love affair with Slovenian wine

Part 2 of a two-part series.
Continued from the Nov. 1 issue.

by Suzanne Lanham
submitted by Katy Bendel (786)

SAN DIEGO—So how do you start your tasting journey?

Tasting wines from multiple regions and styles is a great way to experience the breadth and quality of these wines. Good Slovenian wines can be found in the United States, but not always available at your local wine shop. We recommend starting with an importer/distributor such as Old World Vines or Premium Slovenian Wines. These distributors will ship direct to most states, or recommend a wine shop in your area. There's also an online Slovenian market that carries some nice wines and other delicacies: www.sloveniafood.com. This is an easy way to start your wine tasting journey, in the comfort of your home. Of course, reaching out to friends in your local Slovenian community can provide great insight.

To start your tasting adventure, select the type of wine you like: red or white? Then select a style: light and fresh, big and bold, the list goes on. Winemakers generally provide a description of the style of the wine, and this can help you select one to try.

Here are a few recommendations to get you started:

If you enjoy whites that are crisp and bright, try whites aged in stainless steel (no oak) from the Podravje region, such as Jeruzalem. Here, Kupljen Winery produces a distinct and delicious Sivi Pinot (Pinot Gris) that won Best Slovenian Pinot Gris Producer in 2015 at the New York International Wine Competition.

Maybe you prefer whites that are round and fully bodied? Try Rebula from the Brda region. We love Erzetič Winery's fresh Rebula, and Blažič Winery's Orange Rebula. Orange wines get their name from the copper color of the wine. This is achieved by letting the juice of the white wine sit on the skins of the grapes. The antioxidants and color of the skin is extracted into the juice which helps pre-

serve the wine; an ancient technique that has been refined with modern oenology.

Do you enjoy reds that are big and fruity? Try Refošk in the Koper area. Bordon Winery makes a fabulous Refošk. Like your reds big and bold? Try an Amphora-style Cabernet Sauvignon by Erzetič in the Brda region, or a Cabernet Franc from Batič Winery in the Vipava Valley. Just remember, once you enjoy a glass of these remarkable wines, you'll long for more!

If you want to fall in love with Slovenian wine, go to Slovenia and expose all of your senses to her charms. A good place to start your wine-tasting journey is an *enoteca* (wine bar). The proprietors are very knowledgeable of the wines from each reach and are happy to share the information of each wine. You'll find *enotecas* and tasting rooms throughout the country. In Ljubljana, you can find multiple wine bars that feature gems from the various regions and districts. This is a great way to taste many of the unique styles and select a bottle or two of your favorite.

Some wineries, such as Movia, have their own tasting rooms in Ljubljana. This is a great way to try the wine before you venture out to the winery. Once you've identified a favorite style or vintner, visit the source, but be sure to call ahead and see if they'll provide a tasting for you.

If you decide to venture into the wine country, you'll be amazed at the beauty of the countryside and the friendliness of the winemakers and their staff. Here you'll experience firsthand the flavors and aromas that will fill your heart and leave you with fond memories for a lifetime.

Many local agencies offer guided group day-trips to wineries, and they depart Ljubljana regularly. If you're not comfortable driving, this is a good way to get out of the city, see the countryside and try the wines.

For the more adventuresome, rent a car and enjoy a self-guided driving tour. Getting around Slovenia by car is easy, and the roads are well maintained and the signage good. However, in the smaller villages it can be a little challenging to find smaller wineries. Be sure to call ahead to



The vineyards of the Kupljen Winery in Jeruzalem, Slovenia.



the smaller wineries to see if they offer tastings; also double-check the directions with the winery, and take your cell phone. Some of the wineries offer accommodations. This is a relaxing and charming way to experience the wine. Waking up in a vineyard is amazing!

If you want to relax and have someone else do all the planning, driving and reservation-making, try a multi-day, small-group tour. We recommend small group tours if you enjoy off-the-beaten-path experiences such as private tastings, gourmet meals with the winemaker, and stops at hidden castles or small villages along the way. This affords you time to relax and take it all in, without the stress of planning and working out the details.

There's plenty of information about Slovenian wine and wine tourism on the internet. A good place to start is the official Slovenian website, www.slovenia.info, which is full of great information about traveling throughout Slovenia and has a section dedicated to the wines of the various regions.

Wines from Slovenia are like no other wines: they have elegance, sincerity and the complexities of the soul all bottled up and waiting to evolve in your glass. So don't be shy; try some Slovenian wine and fall in love. *Več vina, prosim!*

SNPJ Farm • Kirtland, Ohio CARETAKER WANTED

For details contact
Louis Novak
6308 Highland Rd., Highland Heights, OH 44143
e-mail: drslivo@hotmail.com

50-Year Members December 2016

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
A02	Edward F. Windisch	566	James L. Paul
3	Linda Gindlesperger	566	Joann A. Smith
6	Barbara L. Stein	576	Diane J. Dickson
6	Walter D. Stein	576	Karen L. Ristau
6	Shirlee Ross	577	Beverly Y. Tezak
8	Carolyn A. Spelich	581	James A. Pike
53	John A. Kerns	581	Janet A. Lowe
87	Robert D. Crossland	584	Margaret A. Germ
89	Ronald C. Lukan	584	Gail N. Berczyk
89	Suellyn Lukan	715	Edward A. Rasperger
113	Wendelyn A. Short	721	Roberta M. Puckey
113	Cathryn A. McCourt	723	Timothy G. Tomlinson
120	Joanne M. Mrkonjich	729	Dana M. Kubik
138	Patricia J. Mikitin	771	Frances M. Spalvieri
142	Lyn M. Traven	771	Jane A. Fishovitz
207	Carol J. Burgett	771	Marylou Draper
245	Craig Fonte	771	Mary V. Markovich
265	Linda A. Feathers	776	Ann P. Tonya
304	William Tezak Jr.	776	Joseph A. Tonya
559	David M. Sullivan		

60-Year Members December 2016

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Rita A. Ossola	564	Louise Zehel
31	Donna Mae Gereb	715	Michael W. Rosignoli
41	Charlotte Jennie Benya	715	Carol A. Higgins
138	Marlynn Wilson Donaldson	757	Millie Tomac
459	Bethany Ann Lenhart	786	Vicky Gene Derieg

70-Year Members December 2016

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
FD4	Edward G. Mahr	576	Edward J. Rupena
6	Ronald S. Udovich	577	William H. Sustrich
138	Frank A. Kern	604	Opal L. Pinasky
138	Henry R. Lavrich	643	Helen Olga Milaves
225	Frances S. Ales	729	William Wallencheck
518	Jean L. Markovich	749	Mary A. Kelley
518	Frank J. Tehovnik		