



In This Issue

Slovenia from the Source	3
SNPJ Fraternal Sympathies	4-5
PROSVETA Crossword Puzzle	6
SNPJ Fraternal Honorees	6

Lodges can reap rewards in 2021 Bonus Program

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Despite the challenges we all faced throughout the course of the past year, the 2020 SNPJ Lodge Reward Program was again a success. We congratulate all of the Lodges that received New Member Bonus awards, as well as those that earned Gold and Silver Star designations for Lodge Activity.

The Lodge Reward Program continues in 2021. There are two ways to earn rewards in the Lodge Bonus Program: New Membership Enrollment and Lodge Activity.

In the New Membership Enrollment segment of the program, for every 10 new members the Lodge enrolls in 2021, the Lodge will receive a \$100 bonus.

In the Lodge Activity segment, a Lodge can qualify to be designated as a Gold Star Lodge, receiving a \$300 bonus, by sponsoring and reporting on four or more Lodge activities, at least one of which should be a community service or charitable benefit project; or as a Silver Star Lodge, receiving a \$200 bonus, by sponsoring and reporting on at least two Lodge activities.

The 2021 Lodge Reporting Forms, which

will be distributed to the Lodge secretaries later this year, must be completed and returned to the SNPJ Home Office by Jan. 15, 2022. The Lodge Reporting Form tells us which activities your Lodge hosted in 2021. Don't forget to continue submitting articles and photos to *PROSVETA* for verification of activities hosted in 2021.

The awards from the Lodge Bonus Program are made in addition to the regular Lodge and secretary awards, and will be paid out at the completion of the program. We wish all of our Lodges the very best as they attempt to reach their membership and activity goals for 2021.

And the winner is...

The \$100 winner of the fourth quarter drawing in the 2020 SNPJ Recommender Program is:

Cynthia Griswold, Lodge 603, Samsula, Fla.

Congratulations, and thank you for participating!



Lodge 153 virtual fall meeting includes election of 2021 officers

by WILMA VUKOVICH
Lodge 153 Recording Secretary

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — The Lodge 153 fall meeting was a virtual meeting. The primary purpose of the meeting was to elect Lodge officers and discuss plans for 2021.

I am pleased to announce our newly elected officers: President Michelle Phillips, Vice Pres-

ident Stanley P. Chermely, Secretary/Treasurer Diane L. Chermely Tanner, Sergeant-at-Arms Henry Vukovich, Recording Secretary/Reporter Wilma Vukovich, and auditors Stephen Pavlich, Joseph Pitko and Michelle Phillips.

Our biggest event of the year, the Lodge 153

SEE LODGE 153 ELECTION
ON PAGE 7

SNPJ mourns the passing of Recreation Center Director Bro. Kevin Richards

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — SNPJ mourns the sudden and unexpected passing of SNPJ Recreation Center Director and Fraternal Director Bro. Kevin Richards, age 54, on Dec. 9, 2020, at his home in Clinton, Pa.

Kevin was born Dec. 4, 1966, a son of the late Joseph Wayne Richards and Nida Josephine Rugel Richards Blair, and was raised in the small town of South Charleston, W.Va. Since his childhood, his grandparents, the late Anton and Josephine Rugel, both born in Slovenia, instilled in him the importance of his cultural heritage.

He was an award-winning drum major for Spring Hill Junior High and a 1985 graduate of South Charleston High School. He attended West Virginia University and later received a bachelor's degree in business management from West Virginia State College. In more recent years, through his brother Wayne, he became very active with WVU alumni, becoming acquainted with many of the university's head coaches.

Kevin's involvement in SNPJ began when SNPJ formed a Lodge in his hometown of South Charleston. He served as a delegate from his Lodge to the annual SNPJ Young Adult Conferences and was elected vice president of the former SNPJ Mountaineer Lodge 784.

In May 1993 he moved to Chicago to become SNPJ Fraternal Director, bringing a wealth of experience working with church camps and

youth programs. He made the move to Western Pennsylvania when the SNPJ Home Office relocated to Imperial in 1994 and had resided in Clinton since that time.

As Fraternal Director, Kevin coordinated with Lodge officers and directed national fraternal programs and outings. Kevin also administered all SNPJ Athletic Department activities as well as the Society's youth services.

The SNPJ was an integral part of Kevin's life. His dedication to his Slovenian heritage has made a huge impact on many young lives. Running the annual SNPJ Youth Roundup, Teens Experience Leadership Workshop and Young Adult Conferences, he gained many friends along the way. He also coordinated the Miss SNPJ Pageants held during Slovenefest weekends, and as he was ushering the young ladies around the SNPJ Campsite he would say, "It's a tough job, but someone has to do it!"

Following his move to Pennsylvania, Kevin served as vice president of SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial for many years. He was also one of the Imperial SNPJ Club leaders, serving on the club board for a number of years, and managing publicity and entertainment.

He was also active with the national and local fraternal industry trade associations. Kevin was active with the American Fraternal Alliance's Fraternal and Communications Section, serving as section president in 2008-2009. He regularly attended the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) meetings and events,



Bro. KEVIN RICHARDS (106)
• 1966–2020 •

including the FSGP-sponsored Kidz Bowling 4 Kidz benefiting Children's Hospital, for which he was an organizing member of the committee managing the program. He served as president of the FSGP in 2013.

His numerous years of managing SNPJ fraternal activities, many of which took place at the SNPJ Recreation Center, along with his wide network of SNPJ relationships, made the recent move to SNPJ Recreation Center Director a natural fit. Kevin became the Recreation

SEE BRO. KEVIN RICHARDS
ON PAGE 6

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

Society sympathies for Lodge 158 treasurer

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office has been notified of the Dec. 14, 2020, passing of Sis. Gina M. Volpe, treasurer of Loyalties Lodge 158 in Euclid, Ohio.

On behalf of the entire Society, the members of the Executive Committee and Home Office staff extend their condolences to Sis. Volpe's family and friends on their loss. A full obituary will run in a future issue.

Required Lodge report deadlines moved to June

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Due to the current state of the pandemic affecting the country, all Lodge reporting requirements will be postponed this year. The Election of Officers Report, Lodge Meeting Verification and Certification, Lodge Audit Report, and the Report of Local Unit Activity are all due into the SNPJ Home Office by June 1. Please disregard the original deadlines.

KAREN A. PINTAR
SNPJ National Secretary/COO

Home Office closed for the Society anniversary

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Monday, April 5, in observance of the Society's 117th anniversary, which we celebrate each year on April 6. Normal office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Tuesday, April 6.

Have you recommended a new member lately?

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Take advantage of SNPJ's Recommender Program which offers members an enhanced benefit for encouraging family, children, friends and acquaintances to join SNPJ. The recommender will receive \$10 for each valid referral, and every valid referral earns the recommender one entry in the quarterly drawing for a chance to win \$100. See page 8 for the Recommender coupon or pay a visit to the SNPJ website, snpj.org, to complete an online Recommender form and get a head start on your reward.

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are March 1 and April 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, Feb. 15, for the March 1 issue, and by Monday, March 15, for the April 1 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to prosveta@snpj.com or submit your material via the publications area of our website, snpj.org.

Lodge 1 shares holiday spirit through virtual toy drive

by MICHELLE HRIBAR-HERNANDEZ
Lodge 1 President

CHICAGO — SNPJ Slavija Lodge 1 members and friends attended a socially-distanced holiday gathering at the St. Mary's Christmas Festival of Lights on Dec. 19, 2020, arranged at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Ill. The grounds were beautifully lit up with lights throughout the grotto and the Stations of the Cross that surround a replica of Lake Bled.

In addition to the Lodge's annual donations to the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association, this

SEE LODGE 1 HOLIDAY SPIRIT
ON PAGE 7



Slavija Lodge 1 members enjoyed a socially-distanced holiday gathering held at the St. Mary's Christmas Festival of Lights, arranged at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Ill.



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SNPJ Recreation Center

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Toll-free: 1-877-767-5732
website: www.snpjrec.com
e-mail: snpj@snpjrec.com

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 () _____

Complete and return to:
PROSVETA
247 W. Allegheny Road
Imperial, PA 15126-9774
e-mail: prosveta@snpj.org

Lodge 449 members plan 2021 activity dates at annual meeting

by TINA RIGLER
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer

CICERO, Ill. — Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 held its annual meeting via Zoom on Nov. 15, 2020, with 10 members present. Secretary Tina Rigler read all communications received from the Home Office and gave a financial report. An annual audit will be scheduled before the next meeting.

As a notice to all Lodge members, Lodge 449 will be meeting four times in 2021. The meetings scheduled for 2021 will be held beginning at 1 p.m. at the home of Secretary Rigler, 1116 Berkley Lane in Lemont, on the following days: March 21 (hopefully the Covid pandemic will ease up so we can play card bingo after the meeting; please bring a \$1 gift), on June 20 (pending the status of the Covid pandemic, we will host an outdoor picnic), on Sept. 19, and on Nov. 21.

Election of officers was held with the following officers being elected: President Vince Rigler, Vice President Meredith Maresh, Recording Secretary Edward Dabrowski, Secretary/Trea-

surer Tina Rigler, Sergeant-at-Arms Jan Maresh, and auditors Justin Rigler, Lanie Maresh and Robert Rigler. Congratulations to all officers.

Lodge representatives to the Chicago District Federation include delegates Edward Dabrowski, Tina Rigler and Vince Rigler, and alternates Meredith Maresh, Justin Rigler and Lanie Maresh.

Lodge members decided on their four activities for 2021 to be held on the same day as the regularly scheduled meetings.

A motion was passed by the members to make a donation of gift cards to be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Chicago by our young adults to assist families in need.

I wish all members a happy and healthy 2021, and look forward to seeing our members at our next meeting which will be held Sunday, March 21, starting at 1 p.m. (don't forget your \$1 gift to play card bingo) via Zoom, phone conferencing, or at the Rigler home, 1116 Berkley Lane in Lemont. Please call (630) 257-5051 if you need directions.



Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 members held their November 2020 meeting remotely, electing officers and discussing Lodge activities planned for 2021.

Lodge 8 members pitch in for a traditional strudel-making session

by CARMELLA SMIDL
Lodge 8 Recording Secretary

CHICAGO — Lodge 8 members held their annual meeting, re-electing our 2020 Lodge officers. Due to COVID-19, in 2021 our meeting sites will be decided the day prior to our meetings.

Since the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had a hard time hosting outings and attending picnics, so Lodge members came up with the idea to make something that is traditional to Slovenia, and we decided

on apple strudel.

After the meeting, I taught our members how to make apple strudel from my great-grandmother's, Mary Suglich's, recipe. Ed Kovack, Dom Eorio, Eddie Kovack and Kevin Kovack did the peeling and slicing, Anelle Eorio cut the apples slices in half, and Dolores Novotny and I made the dough.

Everyone pitched in as we rolled out the dough and added the apples, and everyone took a tray of strudel home to bake or to freeze for baking in the future.



The Lodge 8 strudel-making process began with peeling and preparing the apples, [above] and making the dough. For their efforts, Lodge 8 members each received a tray of strudel to bake at home [below].



Help the SNPJ Home Office by updating your e-mail address

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Have you changed your e-mail address recently? And if so, does the SNPJ have your current e-mail address?

The SNPJ Home Office periodically sends out e-mails to advertise the many benefits we offer. You can also receive information about fraternal programs, events at the SNPJ Recreation Center, athletic tournaments, and product and annuity updates through e-mail communication.

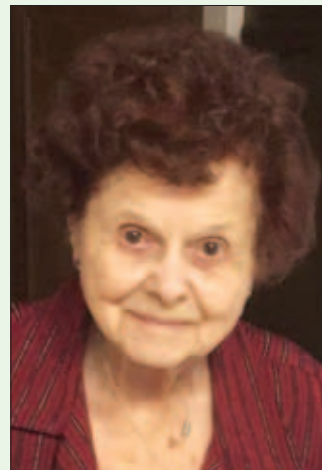
In order to receive this information, we need your current e-mail address. If we don't have your e-mail address, we ask that you send an e-mail to the Home Office addressed to snpj@snpj.com. We will then be able to update your contact information.

We try to keep in touch with all of our members as often as possible, and e-mail is a very cost-efficient and timely way to deliver information.

best wishes to our

Outlived Members

Lodge 689 member compiled life's story



Sis. ALDENE THOMAS (689)
Photo: ETV News

HELPER, Utah — Sis. Aldene Thomas, an 83-year member of Lodge 689 in Helper, outlived her SNPJ life insurance policy in December 2020.

Aldene (Čadež) Thomas was born in December 1919 in Lark, Utah, a daughter of Joseph and Sophie (Subic) Čadež, both of whom had emigrated from Slovenia. She is the youngest child in the family, and survives two brothers and one sister. She grew up in Spring Canyon, Utah, which at the time contained a number of thriving coal mining camps. Today, those camps are ghost towns where only a few foundations remain as testament to once-vibrant communities.

She also lived in the coal mining camps of Rains and Standardville, Utah, in her early years. She idolized her father during the short time she had with him. He died of complications from diabetes in 1925, just before her sixth birthday and only one year before insulin was discovered.

Aldene started school in the first grade in 1924 at the age of 5. While attending high school she would walk three miles to catch the school bus, which transported her and her classmates some 14 miles to school. She graduated from Carbon High School in Price, Utah, and years later graduated from Carbon College as a licensed practical nurse (LPN). She worked at Price Hospital for many years, finally retiring to care for her mother who lived to age 95.

Aldene met and then married Melvin Thomas in the spring of 1937. The Thomases moved to Carbonville, Utah, in 1945, and Aldene lives in that same house today, albeit remodeled and expanded several times over the years. Mel and Aldene raised two sons, Lynn and Max, and she has many fond memories of their lives together over the years. Her family has grown to include nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She volunteered at the Helper Railroad and Mining Museum for 25 years, and is proud of the recognition and awards she has received from the museum, from the Helper City mayor, and from the Governor of the State of Utah for her volunteer service at the museum.


Aldene started writing her life's story in 1977. She did so in bits and pieces, putting it away, unfinished, many times. Her sons converted her written pages to electronic format, and in 2006 her 161-page "Life's Story" was published, printed copies of which were distributed to family members and a few close friends.

Aldene's story is a comprehensive account of her life's events and memories, including many pictures. Her story opens with this quote: "I am thankful for the hard times, as they made me appreciate the good times; for the worries along the way, as they made me pray more; for the good health that I have had; for the many friends I've made along the way; for having caring relatives. But most of all, I am thankful for my wonderful family. It is to them that I dedicate 'My Story.'"

Aldene has witnessed many changes in her lifetime, from the first radios and telephones in Spring Canyon to man's first walk on the moon. She wonders what the world will look like in another 100 years. She has been active all of her life, and loved to participate in line dancing at the local senior center two or three times a week. Recent surgery on her leg has since limited that activity. She attributes her health and longevity to good genes, clean living and healthy eating habits.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 689 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend best wishes to Sis. Thomas for continued health and happiness.

We've Got You COVERED



DAVID C. ELY, CPIA
SNPJ Sales Director

The rearview mirror and the windshield

Now that we're a year into the pandemic, people have had time to adjust, develop new routines and implement changes. Some of these might not be habits per se, but they can still have a long-term impact. Much of what holds people back is that they think there's all the time in the world to get things done, then the reality hits – it ignites people to act! Many are finally crossing things off their financial to-do list, such as getting life insurance or writing up a will. A survey from October 2020 offers more insight into what types of financial habits may be changing:

- Most people are cutting back on discretionary spending.
- About 25 percent of people recently started using food or grocery delivery services for the first time, or are using them more often. Of those, over half plan to continue using these services after the Coronavirus subsidies.
- A small group, roughly 15 percent, is trying curbside store and restaurant pickup for the first time, and about half of that group plans to continue using curbside pickup.
- More than two-thirds of people are trying new shopping methods, brands or stores. Many are “trading down” to find cheaper brands and retailers.
- The increased use of social media, wellness apps, online streaming and online fitness programs may continue post-pandemic.
- Topping the list of changes, there could be a lasting impact on people's relationships with their work and finances.

Even before the pandemic, the American Psychological Association's annual “Stress in America” survey from 2019 found that most people listed work and money as their most significant sources of stress. The pandemic and resulting layoffs have only exacerbated those stressors. There's no single answer to how this will play out. The pandemic is affecting households in drastically different ways, and even those who are impacted in similar ways may have different responses. However, while the pandemic can cast a shadow over everything, if people can get out of crisis mode, it can also be a significant opportunity to stop procrastinating, rethink their lives and address the habits they want to change. We here at the SNPJ Home Office can be a valuable resource during these uncertain times. If you're in the market for affordable life insurance, an annuity or an IRA, call us today at 1-800-843-7675 for a personalized review of your needs.



Membership Certificate Holders ANNUAL MEETING

Slovenian Society Home
20713 Recher Avenue
Euclid, OH 44119

Sunday, February 14, 2021, at 2 p.m.

The Board of Directors invites all certificate holders and Lodge & Club representatives to attend.

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!

Loyalty 8 Annuity	Loyalty 5 Annuity
8-year surrender period	5-year surrender period
3.25% first-year guarantee rate for new money	2.75% first-year guarantee rate for new money
2.75% in years two through eight	2.50% in year two and after
2.50% in year nine and after	3.25% first-year guarantee rate for conversions of existing SNPJ annuities
3.75% first-year guarantee rate for conversions of existing SNPJ annuities	

* No fees attached to either Loyalty Annuity
* Rates not guaranteed after the first year
* 2.0% guaranteed minimum
* IRAs/Roth IRA / non-qualified eligible

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Slovenia introducing biometric ID cards

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Slovenia will introduce biometric identity cards according to the terms of amendments adopted by the government in December 2020 which implement the EU requirement that all member states start issuing biometric IDs by August 2021. Under the amendments to the Act on Identity Cards, the new cards will have a chip containing the images of two fingerprints and a photo of the card holder. The biometric data on the chip can only be used to verify the authenticity of the card or the identity of the card holder when they cross the border. Since the EU regulation makes it possible to use identity cards as a means of electronic identification, the new cards will also contain a digital signature certificate. The cards will merely be the medium for this feature; their practical use will be determined by the Slovenian Public Administration Ministry under a separate law. Slovenia has been issuing biometric passports since 2006, and the main features of the amendments follow the provisions of the Act on Passports, according to the Government Communications Office.

Researchers model the spread of the pandemic

LJUBLJANA (STA) — A team of researchers led by Slovenian Jure Leskovec, a Stanford computer scientist, has created a computer model to predict the spread of COVID-19 based on people's travel habits and daily movements. The researchers published their article in the journal *Nature*. The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the way people behave and their mobility patterns; however, epidemiological models can accurately predict the spread of the Coronavirus based on people's mobility patterns where lockdown restrictions do not exist. This is why the team developed an epidemiological model to predict the spread of Coronavirus based on travel habits and movements. They created the model based on data from mobile phone locations, capturing the movement of almost 100 million people in 10 major U.S. cities. The team accurately predicted the spread of COVID-19 this spring by analyzing three factors that drive infection risk: where people go during the course of a day, how long they stay there, and how many other people are visiting the same location at the same time. Their approach can assess the mobility network every hour of the day, determine how many people from each neighborhood visit various locations – such as restaurants, stores, gyms, churches or schools – and provide an estimate for how long the visits last. The researchers found that without any Coronavirus mitigation measures, a third of the U.S. population would be infected within a month, and they also established the existence of superspreader sites, roughly 10 percent of locations where more than 85 percent of all virus transmissions occur. Through their approach, they also explained why socially-deprived people are more likely to catch the virus, because they tended to stay at home less frequently and they moved among more diverse locations. The researchers say their model could serve as a tool for government officials as they weigh decisions to modify social restrictions.

New scrutiny of prime time food advertising

LJUBLJANA (STA) — A recent study conducted by Slovenia's Nutrition Institute shows that the number of ads for less healthy or unhealthy foods has decreased during children's programming on television, while such ads are becoming more frequent in prime time. The study included more than 6,000 televised ads for foods on the five channels most popular among children between the ages of 4 and 9. In 2017, guidelines were adopted on the basis of the Audio-visual Media Services Act indicating which foods could be advertised during children's programming based on their composition. The institute researched the impact of the guidelines, taking into consideration the year before the guidelines



were implemented, the year when the guidelines took effect, and the year following. What is concerning is that such ads remain constant, or have become even more frequent, during prime time when children are also very likely to be watching television. In all three years of the study, 2016, 2017 and 2018, television foods ads most often promoted sweets, food supplements and beverages. The Nutrition Institute noted that childhood obesity has become a global public health challenge, asserting that ads promoting less healthy foods are an important factor that may have a long-term impact on children's food preferences, as well as their attitudes toward food and eating habits. Nutrition Institute representative Igor Pravst believes that the guidelines should be implemented in other areas as well, not only during children's programming; however, EU law and the free market economy restrict those additional measures. Nevertheless, “... steps should be taken to enhance the protection of children and restrict such ads on communications channels,” Pravst was quoted in a press release.

Coins mark 30 years of Slovenia's independence

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Slovenia's central bank recently issued a series of collectible coins to commemorate the country's 30th year of independence, as well as a series of commemorative coins to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of Adam Bohorič, the author of the first Slovenian grammar book. The coins were available for purchase as of Dec. 23, 2020. Banka Slovenije brought into circulation a total of 500 gold coins marking the independence anniversary at a price of EUR 420 each, along with 1,000 silver 50-euro coins, 40,000 bicolored regular three-euro coins, and 750 bicolored BU (brilliant, uncirculated) three-euro coins at a price of EUR 16 each. The bank also presented a collection of Adam Bohorič coins, releasing 990,500 regular two-euro commemorative coins, and 2,000 BU coins at a price of EUR 15 each. The commemorative coins are legal tender in all Eurozone countries; however, the collectible coins can be used as a means of payment only in Slovenia. In 2022, Slovenia's commemorative coins will mark the 200th anniversary of the predecessor of the National Museum, and the collectible coins will commemorate the 300th anniversary of the “Škofja Loka Passion,” an early 18th-century play.

Vote confirms tower plans in Rogaška Slatina

ROGAŠKA SLATINA (STA) — Voters in Rogaška Slatina have confirmed plans by the local government to erect the tallest observation tower in Slovenia. Estimated at a cost of more than EUR 2 million (\$2.4 million), the 106-meter (348-foot) tower is designed to become one of the landmarks in a community best known for its spa tourism. Some 56 percent of voters endorsed the plan through a referendum vote held Dec. 13, 2020. Rogaška Slatina Mayor Branko Kidric said he was glad the residents recognized that building the tallest tower in the country was important for the development of the municipality and the additional benefits it will bring. Municipal representatives said the tower, named “Crystal” in honor of the region's extensive history of glassmaking, will help drive tourism figures. They believe tower visits will result in EUR 300,000 (\$365,000) of additional local government revenue per year. The project was bitterly contested from the very start, and the December referendum was held despite the National Institute of Public Health issuing a negative opinion due to the ongoing Coronavirus epidemic. The Slovenian government indicated that the referendum could be held as long as all public health guidelines were followed. Slovenia has seen a frenzy of tower construction in recent years following the success of the Vinarium Tower in Lendava, which has attracted tens of thousands of tourists to the region.

Nova Gorica the Capital of Culture in 2025

NOVA GORICA (STA) — The European Capitals of Culture expert panel has recommended the Slovenian border city of Nova Gorica to be the European Capital of Culture 2025, along with Chemnitz, Germany. Nova Gorica bid for the title together with Gorizia on the Italian side of the border. Announcing the decision, panel chairperson Cristina Farinha noted how the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of culture in people's lives, in particular during periods of lockdown. However, Farinha also pointed out that the culture segment of the economy has been one of the hardest hit throughout the pandemic, presenting the European Capital of Culture as a major opportunity to stimulate the segment. Nova Gorica representatives expressed their gratitude for being recommended for the title, and the organizers pledged their readiness and commitment to fulfill all of their promises. They believe they were awarded the title because their bid grew out of long-running, lively cooperation between both cities and the region; and because of this, had undivided political support from both cities, as well as from the Northern Primorska region in Slovenia and the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region in Italy. Nova Gorica is planning to sponsor more than 600 cultural events and some 60 projects in 2025, bringing together over 250 partners from Slovenia and 34 other countries. The cities' residents and municipal officials awaited the announcement in Europe Square, situated between the two; the exact location where they had welcomed Slovenia's EU membership in 2004. In 2012, Maribor was the first Slovenian city to host the European Capital of Culture.

Visit “Taste Slovenia” to order delicacies abroad

LJUBLJANA (STA) — “Taste Slovenia,” a website devoted to Slovenia's rich gastronomic offerings, has gone from a gateway for “foodies” to a place where foreigners can find prepared foods and ingredients that can be shipped abroad. A bilingual Slovenian-English website, www.tasteslovenia.si recently added the section “Order the Best from Slovenia” which includes links to providers who host online shops in English and ship abroad. Foreigners can order wines from more than a dozen wineries across Slovenia, as well as gourmet products such as salami, pumpkin seed oil and olive oil, and delicacies including desserts, honey products, tea – and even potica. The site was launched in June 2020 as a go-to shop for foodies, presenting Slovenia's gastronomical tradition, the creations of Slovenia's best chefs, gastronomy experiences, culinary events, and stories of chefs and growers.

A Slovenian is the WBF top female boxer

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The World Boxing Federation (WBF) named Slovenian Ema Kozin the top WBF woman boxer for 2020 and her coach, Rudi Pavlin, the WBF best coach of 2020. This is the second 2020 WBF award for Kozin, who also took honors for the women's fight of the year. A win in mid-October brought Kozin the accolade and helped her succeed Nicole Wesner of Germany as the WBF top female boxer. With the victory, Kozin retained the WBF and WIBA middleweight World Champion titles, and won the vacant WBC interim middleweight title. Coach Rudi Pavlin succeeds U.S. coach Thomas Hanshaw as WBF coach of the year. “This is a nice recognition for our small team. This provides you with new momentum and motivation, which is very important after 2020, which was special because of the Coronavirus,” Pavlin said of the award. With a professional record of 20 wins, no losses and one draw, Kozin is going strong into the new year. “A path to the United States is opening up, and we also have offers for fights in Panama, but the things related to the pandemic need to be sorted out first,” Pavlin said. *The articles comprising this feature have been reprinted with permission from the Slovenian Press Agency (STA).*

SNPJ fraternal sympathies

BRO. RONALD J. TASZ
• LODGE 89 •

MIDWAY, Pa. — The members of Lodge 89 sadly report the Oct. 27, 2020, passing of Bro. Ronald J. Tasz, 79, of McDonald, Pa., in his home. He was a lifelong member of SNPJ Lodge 89 in Midway.

Bro. Tasz was born July 18, 1941, in Pittsburgh, a son of the late Joseph and Mary Gratchen Tasz. A graduate of Union High School, he was the former owner of RJ Tasz Construction.

Surviving are his children, Ronald Tasz of McDonald, Mike (Shannon) Tasz of Joffre, Pa., Edward (Debbie) Tasz of Slovan, Pa., and Alicia Tasz of Virginia Beach, Va.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and two siblings, John (Karen) Tasz of Cecil, Pa., and Mary Ann (William) Gilbert of Washington, Pa.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife, Audrey Tasz.

A blessing service for Bro. Tasz was held Nov. 10 in Center Cemetery Chapel, Midway.

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



Sis. LUCILLE WILLIAMS (138)

SIS. LUCILLE WILLIAMS
• LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Nov. 13, 2020, passing of Sis. Lucille Williams, 92, following an extended stay at TownView Health and Rehabilitation Center in Canonsburg, Pa.

Sis. Williams was born June 1, 1928, in Washington, Pa., a daughter of the late Lemuel and Margaret Porter Mumbower. She worked as a housekeeper for several area doctors. Prior to that, she was a cook in a number of restaurants around Canonsburg, including Babins and The Buono Vita Lounge.

An active 40-year member of SNPJ Lodge 138 in Strabane, she enjoyed bowling in the SNPJ leagues and often participated in out-of-state SNPJ bowling tournaments.

She was an avid bingo player and loved her seat at the Meadows Casino in front of the Jolly Rodger slot machine. She also enjoyed reading and the time she spent with her cat, Princess, that she so loved.

She is survived by two sons, Keith (Michelle) Lebon and Ted (Cathy) Lebon; two daughters, Karen (Harry) Simpson and Kandy (Ralph) George; six grandchildren, Frank and Donald Lebon, Tammy Dubois, Lisa Rucinski, Daniel George, and Yvette Boule; eight great-grandchildren, Ashley, Emmaleigh, Ashleigh, Kaitlyn, Kerstan, Alexander, Jacob and Dylan; one great-great-granddaughter, Skylar Rose; and a brother, John Mumbower.

Deceased, in addition to her two husbands, Ted Lebon and Andy Williams, are a daughter, Kathy Lebon; a granddaughter, Leslie Whitaker; and a great-granddaughter, Courtney Johnson.

At Sis. Williams' request, all services were private. She will rest in peace at her favorite place, in Sanbornton, N.H., at her son's summer home which her declining health had prevented her from visiting the past four years.

On behalf of the members

of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Williams' family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. ROMAN POSSEDI
• LODGE 8 •

CHICAGO — The Posedi family and the members of Lodge 8 sadly report the Nov. 15, 2020, passing of Bro. Roman Posedi.

Bro. Posedi was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and had retired from the railroad. He was a 47-year SNPJ member.

A very talented musician and songwriter, he was most noted for his accomplishments and awards for the many songs he wrote. The last award he earned was in November 2019 for the "Windy City Polka," which he wrote in 1988. He was so proud to receive that news.

He definitely had a fondness for Cleveland Slovenian-style polka music, and was once ranked 48th of the top 100 men in the accordion world.

Roman traveled the world and brought much joy to everyone who listened as he played his accordion and button box. He always kept in touch with his fellow musicians and polka fans.

He is survived by his sister, Rose (Victor) Ceferin; and his brother, John (Carol) Posedi. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roman and Eva Posedi; and by his only daughter, Romaine.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 8 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Posedi's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JOHN SPOLARICH
• LODGE 2 •

LA SALLE, Ill. — The members of Lodge 2 sadly report the Nov. 17, 2020, passing of Bro. John Spolarich, 100, of DePue, Ill., at the Illinois Veterans Home in La Salle.

Bro. Spolarich was born to George and Franciska (Zagar) Spoljaric on Aug. 7, 1920, in Hrv. Kostajnica, Croatia. He emigrated to the United States in 1938, making his home with the Grbac family in DePue. He was employed by the Grbac Dairy until its closing in 1969.

He received his GED high school diploma in 1967. From 1970, he was employed by the Fred. J. Rauh Telephone Co. until his retirement in 1985, at which point he was able to make his third trip to his birthplace in Croatia to see his family.

John served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945, the first six months as a non-citizen. He served with the 3886 Truck Company with the rank of T/5 for two years in the European Theater of Operations. He traveled from England to Normandy, France, landing on July 6, with 12 detached trucks from his Company carrying French currency, delivering the first payroll for U.S. troops.

John drove on the famous Red Ball Express route from beginning to end. While involved in the Battle of the Bulge, he transported pon-toons and wooden planks to be used as a floating bridge for the crossing of the Rhine River from Paris to Worms, Germany.

John received Battle & Campaign Medals for Normandy, Northern France Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. Decorations received include one Service Stripe, three Overseas Service Bars, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one Silver Battle Star, and Good Conduct and WWII Victory medals.

In addition to 82 years of SNPJ membership, he was a parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church in DePue, and a member of St. Mary's By the Lake Knights of Colum-



Bro. JOHN SPOLARICH (2)

bus, Citizens League, DePue Booster Club, VFW, and the DePue Men's Club.

He is survived by two sisters, Stefania Racic of Kostajnica, Croatia, and Maria Uremovic of Willow Springs, Ill., and their families; along with nieces, nephews and cousins in the United States and Croatia. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and three brothers.

A memorial Mass was celebrated for Bro. Spolarich on Nov. 25 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, DePue.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 2 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Spolarich's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. ELSIE F. STONE
• LODGE 2 •

LA SALLE, Ill. — The members of Lodge 2 sadly report a second recent loss with the Dec. 2, 2020, passing of Sis. Elsie F. Stone, 97, of Ottawa, Ill., at the Ottawa Pavilion Nursing and Rehab Center.

Sis. Stone was born Nov. 20, 1923, in Oglesby, Ill., a daughter of Frank and Sophie (Perschuk) Frank. She was a graduate of Oglesby Public Grade School, LaSalle-Peru High School, and Brown Business School. She was employed at LaSalle-Peru High School as a bookkeeper until her retirement.

Elsie married Ken Peacock in 1966. Ken passed away on Dec. 9, 1979. She married Harold O. Stone on Dec. 16, 1981. Harold passed away on May 11, 2004.

In addition to 76 years of SNPJ membership, she was also a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Francis Altar and Rosary, Holy Family Altar and Rosary, the Daughters of Isabella, the Catholic Daughters of America, and the Dayton Homemakers.

Surviving are two step-daughters, Janice (Ed) Goetz and Debbie (Russ) Kleckner, and a stepson, Michael (Lori) Stone, all of Ottawa; two sisters, Frances (Doug) Hunter of Huntington Beach, Calif., and Darlene Wasielewski of Oglesby; seven grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Ken Peacock and Harold Stone; two brothers, Frank "Tush" Frank and Charles "Chuck" Frank; and a sister, Marian "Mitzi" July.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a private family funeral was held Dec. 8. Burial followed in Oakwood Memorial Park, Ottawa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 2 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Stone's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JEROME J. TROHA
• LODGE 581 SEC./TREAS. •

ST. MARYS, Pa. — The members of Lodge 581 sadly report the Dec. 2, 2020, passing of Bro. Jerome J. "Jerry" Troha, 75, of St. Marys, at Penn Highlands DuBois due to complications of COVID-19.

Bro. Troha was born Sept. 20, 1945, at Andrew Kaul Memorial Hospital to Katrina



Bro. JEROME J. TROHA (581)

Kadak, who was from Vrhovak, Croatia, and immigrated to America in 1921 at the age of 13, and John Troha, who was from Babno Polje, Slovenia, and immigrated to America in 1913 at the age of 5. A lifelong resident of the area, Jerry attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and was a graduate of Elk County Christian High School (ECCHS), class of 1963.

He earned an associate degree in machining technology from North Central in Ridgway, Pa., and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tri-State College in Angola, Ind. For more than 30 years, Jerry was employed as lead plant maintenance engineer at Speer Carbon, and was a retired employee of Temple-Inland, Inc.

On Sept. 25, 1971, in St. Leo's Church in Ridgway, Jerry married the former Suzanne Fabiano, who survives. Also surviving are two sons: Dan Troha and wife Stacy of Kersey, Pa., and Daryl Troha of Pittsburgh; two grandchildren, Mitchell and Madalynn Troha; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by a daughter, Pamela Susan Troha, at birth; and two brothers, James F. Troha and Robert J. Troha. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

A lifelong member of SNPJ Lodge 581, for which he served as Lodge president from 1991-2007 and again from 2015-2016, and as Lodge secretary/treasurer from 2017 until his passing, Jerry was also a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus.

As a member of the The Friday Nighters Polka Band and the Polka Boosters, Jerry often volunteered his time playing accordion for the residents of the Elk Haven Nursing Home, Pinecrest Manor, and Ridgmont Assisted Living, as well as parties, parades, Polka Masses, or in anyone's kitchen at any given time.

Jerry had infinite love and respect for his parents, grandparents and their heritage, and carried their values throughout his life. He was an accomplished accordion musician, beginning when he was 12 years old, and played throughout his life until his passing. At any given time he could light up a room with his smile and his jovial spirit.

Jerry enjoyed antiquing, hunting, fishing, playing cards and going down to "the camp" in Swisshmont. He also enjoyed tinkering and working with his hands; he was able to fix almost anything. Jerry was instrumental in organizing the annual garbage cleanups along Jackson and West Creek Roads.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Troha on Dec. 5 at Sacred Heart Church. Burial followed in St. Mary's Cemetery.

The family suggests donations to Elk County Humane Society, 1029 East Eschbach Rd., St. Marys, PA 15857; or to Marcia Klancer Bleggi, Lodge 581 secretary/treasurer, 311 West Creek Rd., St. Marys, PA 15857, which will then be forwarded to the SNPJ Recreation Center Cabin Renovation Fund in Jerry's name.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 581 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Troha's family, relatives and friends on their loss.



Bro. ANTHONY M. CELIN (581)

BRO. ANTHONY M. CELIN
• LODGE 581 •

ST. MARYS, Pa. — The members of Lodge 581 sadly report a second recent loss with the Dec. 7, 2020, passing of Bro. Anthony M. "Tony" Celin Jr., 88, of St. Marys, at Penn Highlands Elk following complications of COVID-19.

Bro. Celin was born March 29, 1932, in St. Marys, a son of the late Anthony and Mary Bryan Celin. Tony was a graduate of St. Marys High School and had retired in 1994 from Keystone Carbon Company after many years of service. Following in his father's footsteps, Tony repaired shoes for many years at Celin Shoe Repair. He continued the family business after his father retired, and enjoyed both the trade as well as his customers.

A 71-year SNPJ Lodge 581 member, he was a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Church, where he volunteered his time as an usher, a bingo worker, and on the Bereavement Committee. He was also active with the Prayer Chain Committee and was instrumental in the formation of the Care and Concern church group.

Over the years, he served on Borough Council and recently retired from the Police Civil Service Commission. He was also part of the inaugural committee that helped form and build the St. Marys Ambulance building. He also belonged to the St. Marys Elks, Sportsmen's Club, Quarterback Club, and the Slavic-Ethnic Picnic Committee.

Tony liked hunting and fishing, and greatly enjoyed the friendships and memories he made with his friends in the Galeton Fishing Club. He was an avid Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers fan, as well as a Penn State football fan. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family and holding his great-grandbabies.

On Oct. 24, 1953, in St. Marys Church, he married the former Doris A. Sorg. She preceded him in death on May 31, 2012.

He is survived by a son, Joseph (Vickie) Celin of Emmaus, Pa.; a daughter, Amy (Ron "Butch") Meier of St. Marys; five grandchildren, Kristin (Steve) Plunkett, Tony (Jill) Celin, Sara (Ian) Pater-

son, Donnie (Kelsey) Meier, and Aaron Meier; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by a daughter; Antoinette "Toni" Celin.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, services for Bro. Celin were held for the immediate family on Dec. 11. Interment will be in St. Marys Catholic Cemetery. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial has been scheduled sometime in 2021 at Sacred Heart Church.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 581 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Celin's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. RAYMOND E. CRACRAFT
• LODGE 771 •

HILLSVILLE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 771 sadly report the Dec. 9, 2020, passing of Bro. Raymond E. "Gene" Cracraft, 84, of Bessemer, Pa., at Heritage Valley Beaver Medical Center.

Bro. Cracraft was born June 27, 1936, in Hillsville, a son of the late Naaman and Frances (Penwell) Cracraft. Gene worked at Youngstown Sheet and Tube for 35 years and at Jameson Hospital for 10 years.

In addition to 55 years of SNPJ membership, during which he served as Lodge 771 vice president from 2014 until his passing and as an auditor for many years, Gene was a member of the United Presbyterian Church in Bessemer and the Mahoning Sportsman's Club.

He enjoyed all the time he spent with family and friends, especially time spent with his grandchildren, Max and Kate. He will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Louise (Berendt) Cracraft; a daughter, Johanna Cracraft of Ellwood City, Pa.; a son, Michael (Nicole) Cracraft of Boardman, Ohio; grandchildren Max Cracraft and Kate Cracraft; a brother, Russell (Violet) Cracraft of Bessemer; a sister, Dorothy (Paul) Hawkins of Poland, Ohio; and a stepbrother, John Chiaro of Poland.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepmother, Catherine Cracraft; a sister, Rachel Shuluga; a brother, Donnie Cracraft; and a stepbrother, Patsy Chiaro.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, graveside services were private with the Rev. Russel Shuluga officiating. Interment followed in Locust Grove Cemetery, Ellwood City.


On behalf of the members of Lodge 771 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Cracraft's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

FRATERNAL SYMPATHIES
CONTINUE NEXT PAGE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

LOU "Dr. Slivo" NOVAK


AUGUST 11, 1947 – FEBRUARY 1, 2019



TWO YEARS AGO OUR
HEARTS BROKE, BUT
WE REMEMBER ALL
THAT YOU LEFT WITH US:
A KIND HEART,
A WARM FAMILY,
AND A GREAT LEGACY.

YOU ARE DEEPLY MISSED BY **PAT, KAREN, TONI, LOUIE,
CHARLIE, ERICA, CHRISTIAN, GABBY, JACK, COOPER,
AND ALL OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

Uncle Sam wants your
money... and it's up to you whether
you pay now or pay later.



SNPJ offers **Roth IRAs** in addition to our regular IRAs and annuities to help build a safe financial future for you and your family. We've helped build secure futures for our members for over a century. Phone **1-800-843-7675** and we'll be happy to help you too.

FRATERNAL SYMPATHIES
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

**BRO. GILES E. GOBETZ
(DR. EDWARD GOBETZ)
• LODGE 142 •**

CLEVELAND — The members of Lodge 142 and the Slovenian Consulate General in Cleveland sadly announce the Dec. 12, 2020, passing of Dr. Giles E. “Edward,” “Edi” Gobetz, 94, in his home surrounded by his family.

Dr. Gobetz was born July 25, 1926, in Celje, Slovenia. He attended classical gymnasium until captured into a forced labor camp as a young teen. He became a courageous saboteur of the Nazis by collaborating with the French resistance. After escaping the camp, he enlisted in the British army. He worked as a translator, facilitating immigrations for many Jewish survivors and Slovenian refugees.

Edi studied modern languages in Naples, Italy, then came to America on a college scholarship. He worked as a laborer to earn a doctorate from Ohio State University. He was a professor of sociology and anthropology at Ohio State, the University of Maryland and Kent State University until his retirement. He published over 20 books and 500 articles.

Edi served on editorial boards, lectured internationally, was named Outstanding Educator of America in 1972, was a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, and served as vice president for both the National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups and The International Social Science Honor Society.

He founded the Slovenian Research Center of America (SRCa) to highlight Slovenian contributions to the world, and recently received an award for his service from the Slovenian

government.

He was a proud Slovenian and a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He accomplished many important things in his life, but realized that treating every human being as if they were important held the greater value. He will be greatly missed by many, but his legacy will live on in his writings and in those he influenced.

He is survived by his beloved and cherished wife of 54 years, Milena (Osenar) Gobetz; his daughters, Emily Milica Stupica, Maria Mojca Prayner and Maggie Metka Gobetz; his grandchildren, Sarah, Maja, Nicholas “Miklavz,” Niko, Luka, Abby and Nadia; and by many friends and extended family members.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all services were private. A celebration of his life will take place when it is safe for all to be included.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 142 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Dr. Gobetz’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

**BRO. ROBERT O’HARE SR.
• LODGE 138 •**

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report a second recent loss with the Dec. 16, 2020, passing of Bro. Robert G. “Loggy” O’Hare, 83, of Canonsburg, Pa., formerly of Muse, Pa., at home surrounded by his family.

Bro. O’Hare was born June 28, 1937, in Muse, a son of the late John Sr. and Viola Meir O’Hare. Loggy was raised in Muse, the youngest of 10, living most of his life there until moving to Canonsburg in 1985. He

worked as an electrical finisher for Cooper Industries, formerly known as McGraw Edison, for 35 years, and as an usher at The Meadows for 32 years.

Loggy was a huge football fan, mainly rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and in his younger years he played for the Washington Generals and the Pennsylvania Mustangs.

One of his greatest joys in life was cooking breakfast for his great-grandchildren and spending time with his family. He enjoyed bowling, playing softball, golfing and camping in his trailer at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

In addition to his SNPJ membership, he was also a member of the Muse Italian Club, VFW 191 and the White Eagles.

Left behind to cherish his memory are his life partner and faithful companion of 30 years, Judy Alderson of Canonsburg; a son, Robert (Jeannie) O’Hare Jr. of Muse; five daughters, Denise Wester of Strabane, Marsha O’Hare of Washington, Pa., Mary Catherine (Raymond) Szalanski of Canonsburg, Margaret O’Hare of Canonsburg, and Kristina (Randy) Thomson of Rochester, N.Y.; 14 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Also surviving are his brother, William “Weezer” O’Hare of Muse; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Deceased, in addition to his parents, are the mother of his children, Joan M. Slovian O’Hare; five brothers, Patrick, John Jr. “Hoss,” James, Donald “Grit,” and Leo O’Hare; and three sisters, Delores “Anna Louise” Marinelli, Ellen “Sis”

Howe and Mary Catherine O’Hare.

Funeral services for Bro. O’Hare were held Dec. 19 at Sandra Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc., Canonsburg. Burial followed in Oak Spring Cemetery, Canonsburg.

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

**SIS. FRANCES Z. PETERNEL
• LODGE 138 •**

STRABANE, Pa. — The Peternel family and the members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Dec. 27, 2020, passing of Sis. Frances Zele Peternel, 95, of Bethel Park, Pa.

A daughter of the late Frank and Frances Tomsic Zele, Sis. Peternel was born Feb. 8, 1925, in Coritenza, Italy, which is now in Slovenia. She sailed to the United States at the age of 6, and her family settled in Strabane.

She was a former editor of the Canonsburg *Daily Notes* newspaper, a founder of the Canonsburg Chamber of Commerce, and a former director of the Slovenian Savings Loan Association in Strabane.

Frances was the widow of the late Arthur F. Peternel, a World War II veteran who liberated the concentration camps at Dachau, Germany. He later became the public works director and engineer for the municipality of Bethel Park. They settled in Bethel Park in 1958 and remained there since.

A 77-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member, she was also a member of St. Valentine’s Roman Catholic Church and Seniors Club, the Gold Card Club of



Sis. FRANCES Z. PETERNEL (138)

Bethel Park, and the former American Fraternal Union. She enjoyed traveling, baking, reading, politics, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her children, Arthur (Martha) Peternel of Franklin Park, Pa., and Frances Manning (the late Timothy) of Willoughby Hills, Ohio; and her grandsons, Steven and Andrew. She was also a well-loved and admired aunt to many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Arthur Peternel; her son-in-law, Timothy Manning; and her brothers and sisters-in-law, William and Agnes Peternel, Sylvan and Jane Peternel, Albert Peternel, Elsie McQuillis, Elvira and James Irwin, Colette Beckman and Frank Charles Peternel.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Peternel on Dec. 30 in St. Valentine Catholic Church, Bethel Park. Interment followed in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Peternel’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

DEATHS REPORTED

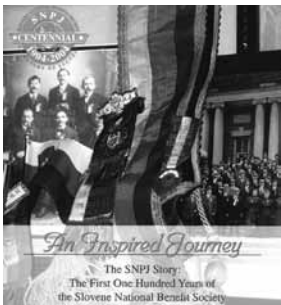
For the month of December 2020

LODGE NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
1 Andrea L. Potokar	11-03-2020	Green Bay, Wis.
2 John Spolarich	11-17-2020	La Salle, Ill.
2 Glenda J. Wise	11-16-2020	Silvis, Ill.
3 William R. Gorentz	12-02-2020	Verona, Pa.
6 David N. Rennick	07-05-2020	McDonald, Pa.
6 Eleanor J. Beck	10-01-2017	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6 George Danilo	10-26-2020	Bridgeville, Pa.
8 Mary Ann Dandurand	11-02-2020	Thornton, Ill.
8 Gilbert W. Fleischhacker	06-23-2018	Chicago, Ill.
31 William L. Sham	10-01-2020	Sharon, Pa.
107 Kathleen O. Zvanut	09-16-2020	Ellisville, Mo.
138 Lucille Williams	11-13-2020	Washington, Pa.
142 Frank V. Pajek Sr.	06-06-2020	Maple Hgts., Ohio
142 Anne S. Jelenic	09-23-2020	Chesterland, Ohio
190 James Yakicic	11-23-2020	Edison, N.J.
225 Timmy Joe Tewell	11-12-2020	Arma, Kan.
254 Anna M. Percinsky	11-03-2020	Johnstown, Pa.
355 LeRoy G. Jackopin	11-13-2020	Wickliffe, Ohio
371 Matt Kapovich	10-30-2020	Puyallup, Wash.
518 Jean L. Markovich	08-18-2020	Paw Paw, Mich.
518 Nancy Ann Cowan	11-30-2020	Howell, Mich.
559 Audrey J. Kastl	11-01-2020	Carol Stream, Ill.
559 Dolores Kuban	11-10-2020	Lockport, Ill.
564 Rita E. Hostnik	10-27-2020	Warren, Mich.
564 David F. Jurkowski	11-10-2020	Sterling Heights, Mich.
581 Jerome J. Troha	12-02-2020	St. Marys, Pa.
584 Mary Ann Chuck	11-17-2020	Oconomowoc, Wis.
584 Richard Arko	11-18-2020	Keewatin, Minn.
584 Shirley A. Mlynczak	10-28-2020	W. Milwaukee, Wis.
715 Michael W. Rosignoli	10-24-2020	Pittsburgh, Pa.
715 Jennie Durkt	12-03-2020	Cheswick, Pa.
723 Louise A. Kosmach	11-24-2019	DeWitt, Iowa
729 Michael S. Lang	10-02-2020	Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
745 Suzanne M. Buse	10-16-2020	Auburn, Calif.
776 John Crist	11-04-2020	New Castle, Pa.
786 Clarence A. Maas	11-08-2017	Fountain Valley, Calif.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

SNPJ Crossword
CIVICS 101 (#0121) solution

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In Memory: A Tribute

**BRO. MICHAEL W.
“BILL” ROSIGNOLI
• LODGE 715 •**

It was sad to learn of Bill Rosignoli’s passing last fall. It seemed no one knew ’til weeks later. He was missing at our Lodge meeting in October. Strange, because he faithfully attended every meeting.

It was only a week later we heard the news: He died alone, had lived alone, had no brothers or sisters, we saw no obituary, knew of no services — apparently some distant cousins arranged his burial. Seems he deserved a better goodbye.

How to describe Billy. He was different — not different in a bad way. I knew him from childhood as neighbors in Universal and thought he was

different then. Nobody had heard of autism in those days, but in retrospect he had that behavior we couldn’t name or wasn’t named yet. In short, he was socially challenged.

He was intelligent enough — finished high school, held a job as a letter carrier. He had common sense, and was honest, reliable, frugal, non-confrontational.

If anything, he was sometimes befuddled. His favorite (or most used) saying was “I don’t understand.” Well, Billy, there’s much in this world that’s difficult to understand. Better to not understand than being like some who “know it all.”

Billy had difficulty relating with the opposite sex, never marrying or known to have a girlfriend. But how many of

us know how to relate, given the divorce rate of about 50 percent? He was definitely not a “sweetie!” Or womanizer.

Physically, Billy was among the best. He was a scratch golfer, always finishing high in SNPJ golf tournaments; was a team captain in our Comets Club Shuffleboard League; was good at darts, bowling, shooting pool — he had great hand-eye coordination.

Billy was a lifelong member of SNPJ Lodge 715 in Universal, Pa. A son of Mike and Helen Rosignoli, also Lodge 715 members, they lived on Reiter Road among many other SNPJ members. After Mike and Helen died, Billy lived in the same house — alone — for many years before his death.

But Billy was not alone. He was part of the SNPJ family. In that sense, he had thousands of Brothers and Sisters because that’s what we call our fellow SNPJ members.

He attended every Lodge meeting — he was a Lodge auditor for 40-plus years. When we had a club, he and I did the bar inventory every month — he was good at math. He embodied the mission of SNPJ membership that makes us superior to just another insurance company: it’s the *fraternalism* — that we care about each other. That we are Brothers and Sisters.

Billy, you did not die alone, or unnoticed, or not mourned. Rest in peace, Brother.

Submitted by
MARTY KUMER
Lodge 715 President

PROSVETA 2021 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2021	MAY 2021	SEPTEMBER 2021
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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MARCH 2021	JULY 2021	NOVEMBER 2021
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Publication dates are highlighted in black boxes; deadline dates are circled. The deadline for submissions is noon on the dates circled above. Submissions may be mailed to PROSVETA, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126; faxed to (724) 695-1555; e-mailed to prosveta@snpj.com; or submitted via the Publications section of the SNPJ website, snpj.org.

SNPJ FRATERNAL HONOREES

Members celebrating 50, 60, 70 and 80 years with the Slovene National Benefit Society

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

Of the 2,000 life insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies operating in the United States, fewer than 100 have been in existence as long as the SNPJ. As a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, we have successfully provided life insurance to our members since 1904, along with a full package of social, athletic and cultural programs, scholarships, community service projects, and much more. SNPJ also offers annuities that can be used for IRAs and Roth IRAs.

Our more than 115 years of longevity and success have been made possible by the loyalty and dedication of our members. The SNPJ's engine may have been built and its direction set by its founders and subsequent leaders, but its path has been traveled, cleared and paved by our dedicated members.

As a way to show respect and appreciation to our longtime and loyal members, we recognize

membership milestones with a custom gift. The years of membership are counted in terms of adult membership years, not including youth enrollment years. These milestones of recognition include 50, 60, 70 and 80 years of adult membership.

We ask our Fraternal Honorees, once they have received their awards from the Society, to submit a short report on their past and present lifestyle, including their Lodge affiliation, hobbies and any other information that might be of interest to our readers.

In acknowledging these dedicated members, it is our privilege to show respect for these honorees by offering our thanks and appreciation for the loyalty they have shown the SNPJ for so many years. In this small way, through our official SNPJ publication, we can etch their names even deeper into the archives of the Slovene National Benefit Society.

On behalf of the entire membership, we extend our congratulations to those members reaching these anniversary milestones.



Bro. NORMAN E. VIDEGAR (2)



Bro. VICTOR R. HOICHEVAR (257)

Bro. VICTOR HOICEVAR
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

years to his 'sweetie,' Joanne. They have four children, Alan, Brenda, Brian and Leeann; and five grandkids, the oldest being a junior in high school and the youngest is an eighth grader. They keep their 'Paw' young!

"Vic still enjoys the curiosity of how things work, especially while taking those said items apart while scrapping for recycling.

"Last, but certainly not least, Vic still enjoys a refreshing 'cold one.'

"Thank you for remembering Vic as a 70-year member with that warm, cozy blanket which he is enjoying."

Bro. VICTOR R. HOICHEVAR
Cleveland Lodge 257
Parma, OH



Bro. EDWARD M. KAVICK (142)
pictured with his son, Martin

Bro. DENNIS LONCARIC
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

this organization for many years to come."

Bro. DENNIS J. LONCARIC
St. Louis Lodge 107
Weldon Spring, MO

• Bro. VICTOR R. HOICHEVAR, a member of Lodge 257 in Cleveland, was recognized as a 70-year SNPJ member in October 2020. In a note of appreciation, his daughter, Leeann Hochevar, writes:

"Victor is a 70-year SNPJ member of Lodge 257 in Cleveland. Vic enjoyed going to Lodge 257 dinner meetings for many years until he started to 'slow down' a bit.

"Vic has been married for 57

Bro. VICTOR HOICEVAR
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

• La Salle, Ill., Lodge 2 member Bro. NORMAN E. VIDEGAR, celebrated his 60-year SNPJ membership in January. In a note of appreciation, he writes:

"I want to thank you for the nice 60-year membership pen I received.

"Wow... 60 years of SNPJ! My parents, Frank and Antionette Videgar of La Salle, Ill., started me on this, along with my three brothers. My parents ran the Slovenian Dom in La Salle for some time, and we all enjoyed the Slovenian clubs and entertainment that came there. Unfortunately, all these wonderful things had come to an end.

"I have been married to my wonderful wife, Holly, for 41 years. We have a daughter in Ankeny, Iowa, and a son in Oglesby, Ill. I am blessed with three wonderful grandkids.

"I grew up in La Salle, got married and moved to Waltham Township in Utica, Ill. I retired from the sheet metal trade to which I

Bro. NORMAN VIDEGAR
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

still belong, going on 57 years.

"Once my wife retired from teaching after 34 years, we moved to Largo, Fla., in 2013 and have been enjoying it ever since. I spend my time enjoying the warm weather, the beaches, the wonderful seafood dining, and whatever comes along here.

"I spend some time on a hobby of mine, making golf ball and bowling ball crafts – not to make any money, but for the enjoyment of crafting them into different creatures.

"As for any SNPJ activities, I'm sorry to say I have none. My age now has slowed things down, and what SNPJ activity is around this area, I'm not sure.

"Thank you again for the 60-year pen!"

Bro. NORMAN E. VIDEGAR
La Salle, Ill., Lodge 2
Largo, FL

FRATERNAL HONOREES
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

• Bro. DENNIS J. LONCARIC was recognized as a 60-year member of St. Louis Lodge 107 in December 2020. In his note of appreciation addressed to SNPJ National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish, he writes:

"I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the 60-year membership pen. The pen is a testament to my parents who recognized the importance of making me a Slovene National Benefit Society member at a young age and to ensure the organization continues to the next generation.

"I appreciate the posting of my 60-year membership in your recent publication and feel it highlights one of the great milestones that I have achieved.

"Thank you for your work in the Slovene National Benefit Society as it plays a pivotal role in making sure the success of

Bro. DENNIS LONCARIC
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Bro. NORMAN VIDEGAR
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

FRATERNAL HONOREES
CONTINUE NEXT COLUMN

The Society suffers the loss of Recreation Center Director Bro. Kevin Richards

BRO. KEVIN RICHARDS
FROM PAGE 1

Center Director in May 2020 while continuing to maintain oversight of the Society's fraternal programs.

He took on this new role with great enthusiasm and energy. His presence and management were well received by the staff and the members who frequent the SNPJ Recreation Center. Kevin was very well liked, respected and beloved. He will be missed by many.

Kevin was also a wonderful musician. He started playing the saxophone at an early age and was a self-taught guitarist and drummer. Many have been entertained by his renditions of "Friends in Low Places," "Tony Lama Boots" and many more. He loved to sing with his sister Kelli, and together they would make beautiful harmonies.

Kevin loved to hunt and be out in the wilderness. Some of his most enjoyable times were spent at his brother and

sister-in-law's cabin in Hinton, W.Va. Whether he was at a formal event or spending time with family, Kevin always had a smile on his face and was always good for a quick joke. He was the life of the party and often laughed more at his own jokes than others did, sometimes before he had even reached the punch line. He had an incredible knack for being able to brighten anyone's day with his delivery of stories and jokes, or just with his in-

fectious smile. He was one of the most positive people you could know.

He was preceded in death by both sets of grandparents; his father, Joseph Wayne Richards; his mother, Nida Josephine Rugel Richards Blair; and his stepfather, Abel William "Bill" Blair.

He is survived by his siblings, Sandy Richards (Joe) Burghardt, Wayne (Kathy) Richards, Lea Ann Richards (Rich) Mallory, and Miss

SNPJ 1999 Kelli Blair (Todd) Hughes. He also had several adoring nieces and nephews, two new great-nieces, and one great-nephew. He was a wonderful son, brother, uncle, colleague and friend.

A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Richards on Dec. 19 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in South Charleston. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the funeral service was open to immediate family members only.

The family and SNPJ will plan a public memorial tribute for Kevin at the SNPJ Recreation Center at a date to be announced during the summer season.

Donations will be accepted in Kevin's name to the SNPJ Recreation Center, 270 Martin Rd., Enon Valley, PA 16120.

On behalf of the entire Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Richards' family, relatives and many friends on their loss. Rest in peace, dear friend.

PROSVETA Crossword Be My Valentine (#0221) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- *Abélard to Héloïse
- C.E.O.'s degree
- a.k.a. Snowmobile
- Make amends
- Over, poetically
- Garlic unit
- ____ lazuli
- New, prefix
- Bumpkin
- *St. Valentine's Day
- Massacre city
- James Bond's drink of choice
- Building annex
- Galsworthy's "The Forsyte ____"
- MD, familiarly
- Land of Nod, in relation to Eden
- Hire for work
- Part of an eye
- Feudal laborer
- Request from Amazon
- Waterproofed canvas
- Bunch of bees
- Black cat, e.g.
- Apollo of "Rocky"
- Roofed colonnade
- X in a letter
- Medicinal herb
- Tangerine-grapefruit hybrid
- Tennis barrier

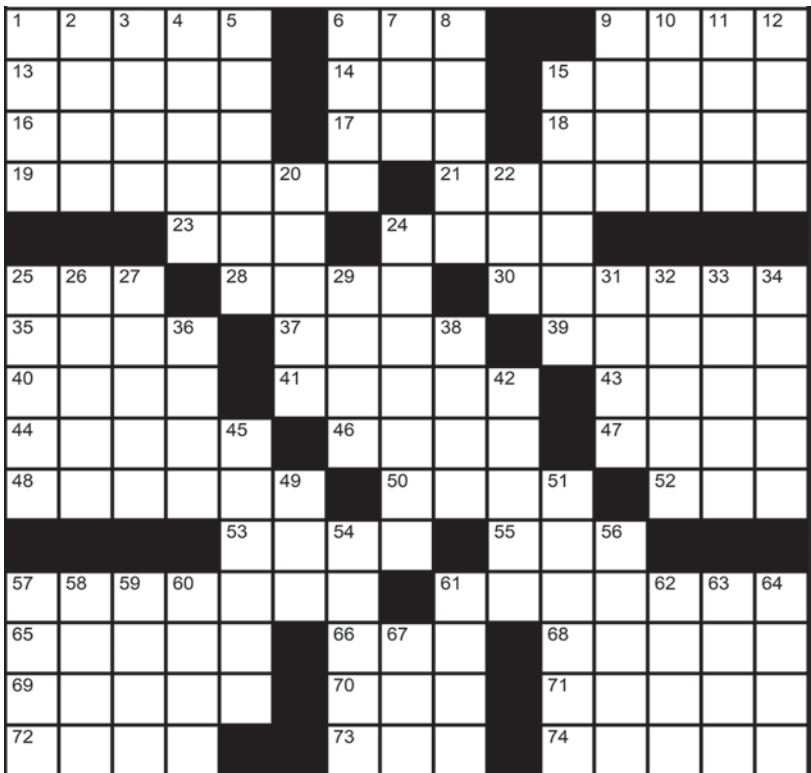
- Hold as a conviction
- End of a fuse?
- *____ Valentine, a.k.a. humorous Valentine
- *One of star-crossed lovers
- Beyond's occasional partner
- E.T. transporter
- Wombs
- Hansen's disease patient
- Young canine
- *Flirt
- *They used to be each other's Valentines
- Attempt
- Passover meal

DOWN

- Barber's supply
- Arizona's neighbor
- Serengeti antelope
- *Like a bottle of champagne
- "Goodwill Industries" business
- *Unfortunate consequence of kissing?
- Busy as a what?
- *Pleasant bouquet smell
- Vegas bandit
- Mischievous Norse deity
- ____-tempered
- Sub station
- *Roxane's pen pal
- "Heart of ____," Blondie's hit

- Well-kept secret, for some
- Strata, sing.
- *Go ____, or split the cost of a date
- Estrogen maker
- The smallest dwarf planet
- Uses a Singer
- Get the picture
- Short for administrator
- Goslings, when they grow up
- *German artist or Young's partner
- "Singes" in "La Planète des Singes"
- *Mr. Right, pre-kiss
- Tiny European republic
- Jackie Robinson, e.g.
- Princess tester
- "My two cents," pl.
- Do like Vesuvius
- *Héloïse to Abélard
- Wide river valley
- Wild goat
- Uh-uh
- "The Three Faces of ____," pl.
- Printer button
- Old paint hazard
- Gaelic tongue
- *Wedding cake layer
- *____ Elise"

The solution to puzzle #0221 will run in the March 1 issue.



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ALLIANCE

Strangers to Paradise

by JAY SEDMAK
SNPJ Publications Editor/Manager
Part 2, continued from the Jan. 1 issue
AUTHOR'S NOTE – *Credit where credit is due: The vast majority of the material compiled for this article was researched and written by Polonca Cesar-Nedzbala and published, in Slovenian, in Dve Domovini, Vol. 1/1990 (translation by Google Translate, which did an admirable job). Additional sources include Slovene Immigrant History, 1900-1950, Autobiographical Sketches, by Ivan Molek, translated by Mary Molek, published by M. Molek, Inc., 1979; The Slovenes of Northern California, 1860-2001, by Donald Kambic, published 2001; and columns from various newspapers, all of which have been identified throughout the text.*

A New Home

By late February 1896, Jeram had managed to collect the sum of \$25,000 from his investors and used these funds as the initial installment promised on the purchase. The bank in Ukiah had accepted his offer of \$75,000, the terms of which required \$25,000 up front, and the remaining \$50,000 payable in installments at six percent interest within a period of five years. The very same day the purchase was completed, Feb. 20, 1896, Jeram and a group of some 50 settlers – who, at Jeram’s urging, brought very few possessions with them, only the most basic necessities – boarded a train in San Francisco bound for Ukiah, then proceeded on foot to the property in Eden Valley.

The new settlement attracted the public’s attention immediately, as evidenced by an article published in *The San Francisco Call* that described the colony’s formation: “Forty members of [a] new settlement left San Francisco Thursday [Feb. 20, 1896] for Eden Valley; 11 of them had been living in California, the rest having come from the East. Their home has been called the California-Slavonian [sic] colony and their first settlement, Jeramville. More colonists are expected to arrive here from different points in the East just as soon as the colony is ready for them.

“The colony is said to be in a sound financial condition. Its members have among them men of various trades who can build houses and other structures, and perform all the work required on a ranch. A large part of the work of the colony will consist of stock raising, dairying, etc., in which these people are experts. They are industrious, thrifty and ambitious of success in their new field.

“...There will be no rush of people to the colony, as colonists will be received only as

homes can be prepared for them and the colony [can] take care of the newcomers. Those now in Eden Valley will begin at once to build proper houses, farm buildings, stores and a Catholic church.”

Though the number of that initial group varies from account to account, 44 people were listed among the original settlers in Eden Valley. The group that left San Francisco in February 1896 did in fact number more than 50, but upon arrival at Eden Valley several men assessed the area and the task that lay before them, then immediately left the colony and returned to their homes. According to the terms of their investment contracts, those who decided to leave the colony would forfeit both their invested funds and any future claims to the property.

When he developed his plans for the colony, Jeram estimated that the Eden Valley settlement would eventually expand 50-fold, becoming the home to 400 families or roughly 2,000 individuals. His plans also included the construction of a large residence hall (of sufficient capacity to house 100 or so people, at least temporarily); individual family homes would be built later. With the arrival of new settlers and the construction of more homes, the land would be divided and the properties offered for purchase to individual families. Initially, the colonists would work the land communally, sharing both the workload and the profits made on sales of produce and livestock. To complete the settlement and ensure the future of Eden Valley, the residents would build a school and a Catholic church, and start a cooperative retail store.

The Eden Valley settlement did in fact experience growth during the ensuing months. A column in the March 21, 1896, issue of *The San Francisco Call* reports that 102 new settlers—43 men, 25 women and 34 children “of German, Slavonian and Austrian extraction” – arrived at the colony from San Francisco on March 20, accompanied by Fr. Jeram. In the column, Jeram estimated that new arrivals would amount to “about 125 on Sunday [the day following the issue date], and after that they will come along by [the] hundreds. There will be many thousand colonists before we complete our work. Fully 3,000 will be in the valley before the end of the year.”

An article in the March 27, 1896, issue of *The Ukiah Daily Journal* provides further details on the Eden Valley colony and its new wave of colonists. The group who arrived on March 20, as reported in *The San Francisco Call*, started their journey in Chicago and was led to Eden Valley via San Francisco by Fr. Jeram himself. The settlement comprised 12,000 acres at the time and, according to Jeram, had “an option on 10,000 more acres of land in the immediate vicinity.”

Jeram also outlined in detail the division of property: “...The members of the colony will share the profits according to their holdings of stock. A person holding 20 shares is entitled to become a member of the colony, and a person

holding 50 shares is given a piece of land on which to raise farm products for the better comfort and enjoyment of his family.”

In the same article, Jeram corrected prior reports in which the colonists were referred to as “Slavonian,” saying: “You must know in the first place that these people are not Slavonians. They are Slavinians [sic], the smallest among the Slavic nation[s], numbering about 1,500,000 in Europe. They speak the most ancient and purest among the Slavic tongues... and have possessed the greatest percentage of intelligence of Austria for hundreds of years... . In Austria they are mere slaves; the only liberty they enjoy being the privilege of paying exorbitant taxes and sending their best sons to the army. These people are my countrymen, and to bring them together in a colony where they may live in happiness and prosperity has been my great aim in life for [the past] eleven years.”

The Turning Point

Some 200 people were residing in the colony by May 1896, the vast majority having arrived in March 1896, as previously described. In his effort to make Eden Valley a true community, in April 1896 Jeram formed a committee to govern the colony, naming himself as president and treasurer, and selecting a number of assistants who included a vice president, a secretary, a postmaster, and several council members.

At the time, however, the colony was far from resembling the biblical garden for which it was named. Just a few months after the first large wave of settlers had arrived, Jeram announced his plan to ensure that the colony would remain communal for a period of 50 years. No longer could the settlers expect their hard work to be rewarded with individual property ownership in only a few years; on the contrary, they would be forced to work toward the common good of the colony for a period that would equate to the rest of their lives.

The settlers viewed the revised contracts as a “Communist arrangement,” and Jeram was labeled a tyrant and dictator who used the colony council to force the settlers into compliance. And with their life’s savings tied-up in the Eden Valley colony, the settlers had little choice: They could either accept Jeram’s new terms, or leave the settlement, forfeit their investments and head back to the cities where they would most certainly face discrimination, long periods of unemployment, and perhaps even starvation.

By June 1896, some 30 residents had left the colony, and few of the original settlers remained. Those who did stay in Eden Valley grew extremely dissatisfied with their living conditions: the work was difficult and demanding, the food was of very poor quality, and housing was in short supply – in some cases, four or more families were forced to live together under one roof.

Even worse, the usable area in which the colony was situated was barely large enough for

10 families; not nearly enough to accommodate 250 or more. Individual property ownership wasn’t assigned – the entire property was recorded only in Jeram’s name – so the rights of the investors were never insured. The Eden Valley settlement had become a commune, replete with “holy images and other pious words with which [priests from all over the United States] have spiritually flooded the colony,” as one resident wrote in an article published in *Amerikanski-Slovenec*.

Among the many disgruntled Eden Valley residents was a young man by the name of Martin Konda, from Semič in Slovenia, who had invested \$300 (and perhaps as much as \$500, according to one source) in the colony. Those who are familiar with SNPJ history are no doubt aware that Konda was the principal founder of the Slovene National Benefit Society and the owner/publisher of the Society’s first newspaper, *Glas Svobode*.

Throughout SNPJ history, Konda has always been described as a “progressive” Slovenian immigrant—he championed free thought, workers’ rights and organized labor – and he had a strong dislike of “clerics;” not necessarily the religious leaders themselves, but more so those who supported the restrictive policies advanced by the religious fraternal benefit societies that were in operation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Though somewhat surprising, given his secular bent, the fact that Martin Konda was an Eden Valley settler is indisputable, and his time spent in the colony helps to explain exactly why, in later years, he was so critical of organized religious groups.


According to former SNPJ editor/historian Ivan Molek, “Martin Konda was herding sheep on his brother’s ranch in California when the young Slovene settlements in America were [becoming] greatly excited about Eden Valley.” Konda was the first person to greet Fr. Jeram when he arrived by train to Porterville, Calif., in 1895, and he introduced Jeram to several local Slovenian farmers and ranchers during his visit. Within a year, Konda had made an investment with Fr. Jeram and moved from Porterville to Eden Valley.

Of Konda’s time in the colony and his relationship with Jeram, Molek writes, “When Martin Konda came to the new settlement in the spring of 1896, he found about two hundred countrymen clearing the forests, leveling the land and building emergency hovels. ...It is very likely that Jeram bestowed some official position on Martin as he had, for instance, been influential in making Anton Murnik (former editor of *Amerikanski-Slovenec*) the postmaster of Eden Valley. Chance would have it, however, that both Jeram and Konda were equally hot-headed, stubborn and ‘bossy.’ Jeram, naturally, would not tolerate any superior, and so they soon came to loggerheads.”

This feature will continue in the March 1 issue.

ANNOUNCE IT

A happy 99th birthday for Lodge 6 member



SYGAN, Pa. — Bro. Henry Ursitz, an 81-year member of SNPJ Lodge 6 in Sygan, Pa., celebrated his 99th birthday with family on Thanksgiving Day 2020.

Henry was born on Nov. 29, 1921, at Sygan Hill, near Bridgeville, Pa. He graduated from South Fayette High School in 1939 and served in the U.S. Navy Seabees construction unit, where he learned his life career of carpentry.

Henry and his wife, the former Ann Dohanich, were married for 73 years until her passing in 2017. Henry has two children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the SNPJ, we wish Bro. Ursitz a belated happy birthday!

Bro. HENRY URSITZ, an 81-year member of Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6, celebrated his 99th birthday with family on Thanksgiving Day 2020.

After a December feast, Lodge 34 looks forward to the March SNH dinner

by JERRY WATSON
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

INDIANAPOLIS — *Dober dan!* Lodge 34 members held their fourth quarterly meeting of 2020 on Dec. 11 at the Indianapolis Slovenian National Home (SNH). Our 2020 officers were re-elected for another year of service.

Lodge members served the Friday night dinner of chili and krofe; all proceeds were donated to the SNH.

Several Lodge 34 members

are scheduled to receive their first Covid vaccinations in late January and early February – **THANK GOODNESS!**


The Lodge 34 first quarterly meeting of 2021 is planned for Friday, March 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the SNH. Our Lodge will again be in charge of the Friday night dinner; we will be serving tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and krofe. Please try to attend.

Be safe, and stay healthy!



Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer **JERRY WATSON** prepares to serve the krofe to the Indianapolis SNH dinner crowd.

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Lodge 153 holds election during fall virtual meeting

LODGE 153 ELECTION
FROM PAGE 1


Christmas party, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Condolences go out to the family of Thomas Pavlich, who passed away Aug. 9, 2020, at the age of 66, and to the family of Thomas M. Markovich, who passed away Sept. 29, 2020.

Happy birthday wishes are extended to all members celebrating birthdays in November, December, January and February.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming meetings in 2021. The meetings will be held at the Shepherd of the Valley club room in Poland, Ohio, on March 16, May 18, Aug. 10 and Nov. 16. The meetings will begin at 7 p.m. All Lodge members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. Please stay safe!



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Looking for information on your SNPJ life insurance and annuity policies? Visit snpj.org, click the PolicyView link, then follow the step-by-step instructions.



During their visit to the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Ill., Slavija Lodge 1 members enjoyed seeing the replica of Lake Bled decorated for the holiday season.

Slavija Lodge 1 celebrates a bright holiday season

LODGE 1 HOLIDAY SPIRIT
FROM PAGE 1

year Lodge members decided to host a virtual toy drive for the Toys for Tots program. Members shared their selfies as they made their donations

for the children.

We're sad to report the passing of Sis. Andrea Potokar. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

May you have a happy and healthy 2021!

St. Marys Lodge 581 schedules 2021 meeting dates

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — Lodge 581 members elected officers during their meeting held Dec. 10, 2020, at St. Callistus Catholic Church in Kane, Pa. Due to the recent passing of Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Troha, John Troha read the minutes of the Aug. 20 Lodge meeting.

New officers were elected and sworn-in for 2021, including President Patricia Moore, Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer Bleggi, and three auditors: Bill Grolemund, John Moore and John Troha.

The schedule of meeting dates for 2021 includes Feb. 14, May 16, Sept. 19 and Nov. 7. All Lodge members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Lodge 581 mourns the loss of 71-year member Bro. Anthony M. Celin Jr. of St. Marys on Dec. 7, 2020, of COVID-19. Tony was an invaluable asset in 2019 when we were researching Curry Ave., where many Slovenians lived from the 1920s through the 1950s. Tony and Bro. Alphonse Bon, who

also died in 2020, were able to share their memories and add to the history of SNPJ and the Slovenian immigrants for the Historical Society in St. Marys.

Lodge 581 has made a monetary donation to the North Central Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters in memory of Brothers Jerry Troha and Anthony Celin Jr.

Lodge 581 continued their support of the Historical Society of St. Marys and Benzinger

Township by participating in a clean-up and by dismantling the display of wedding gowns, which was a three-day job.

The Lodge also continues to support the North Central Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters, which will hold dances on Feb. 14, Feb. 28, March 14 and March 28. Because of the Coronavirus, dance dates and locations should be verified by calling Pat Moore at (814) 837-9218.

The dances are currently planned in Ridgway, Pa., and in St. Marys. Hopefully, the annual picnic sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 581, scheduled Aug. 22, will be held as usual at the Johnsonburg Fire Hall.

For additional information about SNPJ Lodge 581, contact Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 or e-mail marcia.and.don@gmail.com, or check our Facebook page, *St. Marys SNPJ Lodge 581*.



St. Marys Lodge 581 officers [from left] **JOHN R. TROHA, MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI, PATRICIA MOORE, BILL GROLEMUND** and **JOHN MOORE** were elected to serve in 2021 and installed during the December 2020 Lodge meeting.



Longing for a taste of home, Irwin, Pa., SNPJ Lodge 41 member **AUSTIN WILLIAMS-AYERS** [holding puppy] treated several of his friends at Auburn University in Alabama to a taste of Slovenefest, complete with Slovenian-style klobase and pierogies.

Sampling Slovenefest at Auburn University

by AUSTIN WILLIAMS-AYERS
Lodge 41

AUBURN, Ala. — It was fall in the South, but still 90 degrees. As a student at Auburn University in Alabama, I started thinking about the Oktoberfest activities at home in Pennsylvania, including a good Slovenian-style klobase sandwich.

I suggested to a few of my friends that we have an Oktoberfest dinner and was shocked

to find that none of them had ever heard of or attended any type of Oktoberfest celebration. Worse, they had never eaten klobase or pierogies!

I knew what I had to do. I prepared klobase sandwiches and pierogies, iced a few *pi-vos*, turned on some polkas and introduced my Alabama friends to our own Slovenefest, Auburn-style.

As you can imagine, a good time was had by all!

Support the Rec Center Cabin Renovation Project



by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — For many years, SNPJ members have enjoyed the unique and truly remarkable facility that is the SNPJ Recreation Center. The experiences and countless memories that have been made there are treasured by thousands. The Recreation Center is now more than 50 years old and, as with so many things, time, along with wear and tear, have taken their toll.

The large upper cabins, situated opposite the lake along Martin Road, are some of the first structures that were built on the property. Cabins #1 and #2 have already been completed. The budgeted cost to complete one cabin was \$28,000. There are a total of 24 large cabins and 12 motel units as part of this project. It will take a significant amount of capital to finish this project, and will likely take years to complete. The more donations we receive, the quicker we can complete the project. Since this is not a cultural or educational (scholarship) cause, but

rather, recreational in nature, contributions are not considered tax deductible.

We encourage Lodges, Federations, members, friends and other organizations to contribute. Several have already contributed. While we do offer “Club Level” recognition, all donations will be listed in *PROSVETA*.

Donors at the following Club Levels will receive their name on a plaque inside the corresponding cabin: Bronze Level, \$1,000; Silver Level, \$5,000; Gold Level, \$10,000; and Platinum Level, \$25,000.

Donation checks can be made payable to “SNPJ.” Please indicate “Cabin Renovation” in the memo area. Provide your name and address, and the acknowledgment name and address if the donation is made in memory of someone.

Send your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the month of December 2020

David T. DiPiazza (715), Pittsburgh \$500
In memory of Max Kumer Jr. and Bill Rosignoli

John F. & Margaret E. Bizyak (218), Kingman, Ariz. \$500

Patti & Jamie Evanish (715), Oakdale, Pa. \$25
In memory of Max Kumer Jr.

Patti & Jamie Evanish (715), Oakdale, Pa. \$25
In memory of Dolly Davis

Patti & Jamie Evanish (715), Oakdale, Pa. \$25
In memory of Marion Volpe

Patti & Jamie Evanish (715), Oakdale, Pa. \$25
In memory of Bob Turcola

Patti & Jamie Evanish (715), Oakdale, Pa. \$25
In memory of Sonny Jurkowski

Patti & Jamie Evanish (715), Oakdale, Pa. \$25
In memory of Bill Rosignoli

SNPJ RECOMMENDER PROGRAM



The SNPJ Recommender Program provides an opportunity for adult members to encourage family, friends, children and acquaintances to join the Slovene National Benefit Society and take advantage of SNPJ's competitive products and numerous fraternal benefits. Not only will you be helping a friend and strengthening our Society, you'll also be receiving benefits yourself.

Recommender Benefits

- Receive \$10 for each valid referral submitted.
- Every valid referral earns the recommender one chance in the Quarterly Drawing for an opportunity to win \$100.

By submitting one valid referral, you have the opportunity to earn a total of \$110 in cash prizes!

I would like to introduce

for SNPJ membership

Please contact: _____
(Parent or guardian if under age 18)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Indicate Preferred Agent _____
(Optional)

My Name: _____

My Lodge Number: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

e-mail _____

Each individual must be informed that an agent will contact him/her and the referral must have some interest in SNPJ in order for the recommender to be considered valid.

Complete this coupon and return to
Slovene National Benefit Society
Att'n: Marketing Department

247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA 15126

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries February 2021

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
584	Florence R. Telich

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
3	Elizabeth Weaver	158	Caroline E. Frank
6	Joan Berty	584	Marie O. Kuznacik
87	Marie Yex		

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Jean M. Baiz	564	Sandra C. Bauman
5	Jeanette Feiklowicz	584	Robert Yuzna
87	Bertha K. Whetsel	584	Rosemary H. Zlimer
138	Andrew J. Sluciak	604	Rudolph J. Perdan
158	Gail F. Price	614	Rose M. Gattozzi
158	John F. Semenic	643	Dorothy A. Maholtz
225	Phyllis Y. Murtha	715	Mary K. McLaughlin
257	Carol J. Kapalin	715	Lois J. Roberts
304	Margaret M. Lockwood	721	William Palliotte
559	William G. Dedic		

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Michael J. Resetich	254	Albert J. Remz
6	Kathryn J. Dolinar	257	Michael Kish
8	Patricia A. Kosich	355	Domenico DiDomenico
31	Richard S. Clevenger	518	Gary M. Krzysnik
33	Robert A. Strano	584	Thomas R. Bizjak
33	Edward F. Roginski	584	Joan E. Grzesiak
41	Darlene C. Herholz	603	Clement E. Vericker
41	Karen M. Bowan	603	Ellen L. Walker
53	Joseph J. Sterle	629	Edward A. Ristway
89	Michael L. Schultz	677	Reenlee P. Korach
89	Jean C. Hannan	689	John E. O'Green
138	Suzanne E. Shuba	715	Anthony J. Males
138	Rhonda J. McDonald	749	Alexandria Marguccio
142	Jane H. Murray	749	Mary J. Zupan
174	Karen E. Burick	749	Kathleen E. Barry
190	Michael S. Pierce	776	Joyce B. White
207	Diane L. Ayers	782	Barbara L. Ball
218	James B. Poeter	FD4	Linda R. Lopez



cook eat slovenia

This new, keepsake Slovenian cookbook, published in English, is available for purchase through the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center

\$30⁰⁰ each
plus \$5 shipping/handling

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