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Call for candidates to the National Athletic Board

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Fraternal Department is currently accepting nominations for the SNPJ National Athletic Board. This is the body that regulates and manages the Society’s athletic programs, tournaments and related activities.

The National Athletic Board is a six-member body that meets twice each year, during a conference call in the weeks prior to the National Bowling Tournament, and during National SNPJ Days held over Labor Day weekend. The current SNPJ National Athletic Board includes

District 1 Director Jason Cadez, District 2 Director Den Brand, District 3 Director David Sankovich, District 4 Director Rick Gorjup, District 5 Director Ken Anderson, and District 6 Director Mary Donovan.

Candidates to the National Athletic Board must be a member of SNPJ in good standing for at least two years. He or she must also have a practical knowledge of the Society’s major athletic activities.

Athletic directors play an important role in our Society, are aware of athletic needs in their district, and encourage participation from youth and adults in all areas, from local to national

competition. They oversee all regional and national tournaments, and they report their activities at the two Athletic Board meetings.

SNPJ has six athletic districts, which are as follows:

DISTRICT 1: Cambria, Somerset, Luzerne, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland, Indiana, Elk, Warren and Armstrong counties in Pennsylvania; and the states of New York and Florida

DISTRICT 2: Allegheny and Beaver counties in Pennsylvania

SEE ATHLETIC BOARD
ON PAGE 2

briefly

Lodge 518 welcomes new transfers from Lodge 459

MELVINDALE, Mich. — SNPJ Lodge 518 welcomes new members from the former Lodge 459 in Flint, Mich. The next Lodge 518 meeting is scheduled March 6, followed by June 5, Sept. 11 and Dec. 4. All meetings start at 2 p.m and can be accessed by Zoom video and call in. Please contact Bill Krzysnik by e-mailing wkrzysnik@gmail.com or by phoning (248) 821-4821 to receive a meeting agenda/invitation.

BILL KRZYSNIK
Lodge 518 Secretary/Treasurer

And the winner is...

The \$100 winner of the third quarter drawing in the 2021 SNPJ Recommender Program is:

Susan Zarella, Lodge 277, Struthers, Ohio

Congratulations, and thank you for participating!

Region 2 Vice President Jim Curl retires as Sygan Lodge 6 secretary

by KAREN A. PINTAR
Lodge 6 President

SYGAN, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 6 held their annual meeting and election of officers for 2022 on Dec. 13, 2021. The following individuals were elected: President Karen Pintar; Vice President Vincent “Babe” Baselj; Secretary/Treasurer Frank Wright; Recording Secretary Ruth Wright; Sergeant-at-Arms Ken Pintar; Auditors Den Brand, Ross Snow and Nicole Wright; and Youth Director Bryn Snow.

SNPJ Lodge 6 meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the months of

January, April, May, September and December beginning at 7 p.m. You have the option of joining the meeting by phone by contacting one of the above officers.

We also wish to acknowledge our retired secretary/treasurer, Bro. Jim Curl, who devoted many years of service to Sygan Lodge 6 and our Society. Jim served as treasurer of SNPJ Lodge 6 from 1983-1987. In 1988 he became president of SNPJ Lodge 6 and served in this position from 1988-1992.

SEE BRO. CURL RETIRES
ON PAGE 2

Cleveland Lodge 142 soon forming Youth Circle 94

by CAROL MARUSZAK
Lodge 142 Youth Director

CLEVELAND — New year, new beginnings. SNPJ Lodge 142 in Cleveland is excited to announce that it is sponsoring Youth Circle 94. All Lodge 142 youth members up to the age of 18 in good standing are eligible for Circle 94 membership.

What is a Circle? A Circle is an organized group of youth members that holds activities and meetings throughout the year. Being in a Circle encourages activity in SNPJ at a young age, helps promote the Society and Slovenian culture, and introduces participants to other youth members within the SNPJ.

Circle membership also contributes to the activity requirement for obtaining a college scholarship from SNPJ and is the foundation for becoming an active Young Adult.

Finally, participating in a Youth Circle is also a great way to gain leadership experience as each Circle elects its own officers, and members conduct their own meetings following Robert’s Rules of Order.

But most importantly, SNPJ Youth Circle participants make lifelong friends!

Youth Circle 94 meetings and activities will be held in person and remotely (when feasible) in order to accommodate members

SEE YOUTH CIRCLE 94
ON PAGE 4



Photo submitted by Sis. Nancy Koutoulakis

Happy Ho-Ho-Holidays for Lodge 721 Members

In celebration of the holiday season, Aliquippa, Pa., Lodge 721 and Ambridge, Pa., Lodge 33 hosted a combined Christmas party on Dec. 11 at the SNPJ Lodge 106 Hall in Imperial. Sharing their Christmas wishes with Santa (aka Lodge 33 member Bro. **ED ROGINSKI**) are Lodge 721 youth members **VAYDA FABYANIC** (left), and **LILY** and **RORY CAMPBELL**.

Florida SNPJ Days back on schedule in February

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — SNPJ Lodge 603 in beautiful downtown Samsula is again hosting Florida SNPJ Days, our annual polka festival, the weekend of Feb. 25-26, and all of you are invited to join us.

On Friday, Feb. 25, the Lodge 603 Hall will open at 4 p.m. and the entertainment, featuring the music of the Brad Turk Orchestra, will

continue until 9 p.m. Food, including klobase from Cleveland and many other ethnic and American dishes, will be served from the Lodge 603 kitchen.

On Saturday, Feb. 26, the festival starts at noon and continues until 6 p.m., again featuring the Brad Turk Orchestra. Admission both days is \$15 per day; a two-day admission ticket is available for \$25. We look forward to seeing and being with you both days.

SNPJ National Secretary Karen Pintar and her husband Kenny will also be attending the festival, representing the SNPJ National Board.

If you have a musical instrument and would like to participate in a jam session or two, please know you will be welcomed.

For additional information, please leave a message on the Lodge 603 Hall answering

SEE FLORIDA SNPJ DAYS
ON PAGE 8

Lodge 776 slates delegate elections at March meeting

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 776 members will gather at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa., on Sunday, March 13, for their regular meeting. The meeting will start at 2 p.m. Delegates to the 32nd SNPJ Convention will be elected at this meeting. All Lodge members are urged to attend.

VONNIE DOMBROSKY
Lodge 518 Recording Secretary

Have you recommended a new member lately?

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Take advantage of SNPJ’s Recommender Program. Every valid referral earns the recommender \$10, plus an entry in the quarterly drawing for a chance to win \$100. 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. 14, for the March 1 issue, and by Monday, March 14, 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.



Hudson E. Schudel
Born March 31, 2021
Euclid, Ohio, Lodge 158

The members of SNPJ Loyalites Lodge 158 welcome Hudson Edward Schudel as their newest addition. Hudson is the son of Courtney (158) and Jeremy Schudel, and the grandson of Holli and Wesley Crane Jr. (158). We welcome Hudson to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.

Make snpj.org your first stop for SNPJ information on the go. Scan the code to get started.

PROSVETA

ENLIGHTENMENT

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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
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e-mail: prosveta@snpj.com

SNPJ bowling tournament, Kurentovanje festival next stops for Miss SNPJ Pageant promotion

by KRISTEN CUSHMAN BARNOT (138)
Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission

STRABANE, Pa. — We hope to see many “Easterners” at two exciting events that are taking place in Pennsylvania and Ohio this month: the SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament, and the 10th annual Cleveland Kurentovanje Festival.

Several former Miss SNPJs will be participating in the 2022 Winter Classic Tournament, which is co-sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 6 in Sygan and Lodge 138 in Strabane, and SNPJ Athletic Districts 1 and 2. The tournament will be rolled the weekend of Feb. 18-20 in Sygan and Strabane, and we can’t wait to celebrate 2022 with friends, family, bowling, and good

music. We hope to see you there!

On Saturday, Feb. 26, come “scare away winter” during the annual Cleveland Kurentovanje, which is a free, outdoor festival that promotes and celebrates Slovenian culture. All former Miss SNPJs are encouraged to participate in the parade beginning at noon; if you are interested in joining, please contact us by e-mailing missSNPJlegacy@gmail.com.

We also invite all SNPJ members to find us in the crowd of vendors, and to stop by to say hello before the festival ends at 6 p.m. The schedule and accommodation details can be found online at www.clevelandkurentovanje.com.

We’re looking forward to the 2022



Former Miss SNPJs participated in the 2018 SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament, and now look forward to making new memories during the 2022 tournament: [from left] Miss SNPJ 2002 **CARISSA BOYER** (138), Miss SNPJ 2004 **COURTNEY KOENIG** (138), Miss SNPJ 2006 **DARCY BIBLE** (6), Miss SNPJ 2012 **DANIELLE BRAND** (6), Miss SNPJ 2013 **KRISTEN BARNOT** (138), and Miss SNPJ 2015 **NICOLE VEHAR** (138).

pageant and would like to thank recent donors who generously contributed to the Pageant Booster Fund: SNPJ

Lodge 138 in Strabane, and the Hartman family (138). Your support is greatly appreciated!



Photos submitted by Sis. Carmella Smidl

A Splendid Summer for Lodge 8 Members

[Above] Lodge 8 members celebrated the summer at Sis. Carm Smidl's home. After a year of being stuck at home due the Covid pandemic, members enjoyed a get-together with fellow Lodge members, family and friends. The children enjoyed a nice swim, and the adults enjoyed the conversation and just being able to socialize. To feed the hungry crowd, the men manned the barbecue while the women supplied salads and desserts.

[Below] To further celebrate the summer, a number of Lodge 8 members attended the annual picnic in Lemont, Ill. The picnickers loved being able to enjoy some Slovenian food, especially the *ceviche*. The picnic also included an abundance of Slovenian baked goods.



SNPJ National Athletic Board member elections slated in March

ATHLETIC BOARD FROM PAGE 1

DISTRICT 3: Borough of SNPJ, Butler and Mercer counties in Pennsylvania; and Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Belmont and Stark counties in Ohio

DISTRICT 4: Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Lake, Portage and Summit counties in Ohio

DISTRICT 5: The state of Michigan

DISTRICT 6: The states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin
SNPJ National Athletic Board members receive \$275 per year for their services. They also receive a \$275 per diem to attend the National SNPJ Days meeting, plus mileage.

Candidates to the National Athletic

Board can be nominated by any Lodge or Federation. The candidate need not be a member of the nominating Lodge, but they must be a member of a Lodge in the district they will be representing. Each Lodge or Federation may nominate only one candidate.

To nominate a candidate for the SNPJ National Athletic Board, the Lodge or Federation must submit the

candidate's name, address and Lodge number to SNPJ National President Joseph C. Evanish either via letter or e-mail to pcushman@snpj.com by March 11. The athletic directors will be elected by the National Board at the March 25 meeting.

If you have any questions, please call the Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 or e-mail snpj@snpj.com.

Election of SNPJ 32nd Quadrennial Convention delegates and alternates

*(SNPJ Lodges with less than 75
members eligible to unite for
Convention delegate elections)*

In order to assist the Lodges with less than 75 members to find a suitable Lodge or Lodges with which they may unite for the 32nd Quadrennial Convention, listed below are the Lodge numbers and the adult membership of each Lodge with less than 75 members. Lodges that find it difficult to unite may apply to the Executive Committee for assistance. It is requested that Lodges which unite to elect a delegate report immediately thereafter to the National President, stating the Lodges involved. This type of combination is not permanent as it relates only to delegate representation for the Convention and must be completed by March 1.

Lodge No.	City/State	Adult Members
Lodge 120.....	Gallup, N.M.	74
Lodge 165.....	Wickhaven, Pa.	68
Lodge 190.....	St. Michael, Pa.....	65
Lodge 198.....	Willard, Wis.	14
Lodge 321.....	Warren, Ohio	71
Lodge 719.....	Clairton, Pa.	57
Lodge 745.....	Grass Valley, Calif.....	68
Lodge 757.....	Price, Utah	30
Lodge A18	Baden, Pa.	20

Lodge 6 extends thanks to Bro. Jim Curl for service as secretary

BRO. CURL RETIRES FROM PAGE 1

In 1992, Jim became the director of the SNPJ Recreation Center. He returned to serve as Lodge 6 president again from 1994-1995, and then from 1996 to 2021 he served as Lodge secretary/treasurer.

During his service to the Lodge in these positions, Jim was also instrumental in much of the rebuilding of the SNPJ Lodge 6 Hall after the horrible fire of 1982. He worked as a caller for many of the Thursday night

bingos held at the Lodge hall. He was an effective sales representative for Sygan Lodge 6 for many years, recruiting many new members during his years as an SNPJ fraternal sales agent. Jim continues to serve SNPJ Region 2 as Vice President on the National Board.

We thank you, Bro. Curl, from the bottom of our hearts for your unwavering loyalty to the SNPJ, and for all of the contributions and hard work you put into making Sygan a great success story! *Hvala lepa!*

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

• FEB. 18-20.....SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament co-hosted by Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138. The entry deadline is Feb. 1.

• FEB. 25-26.....Florida SNPJ Days hosted by Lodge 603 in Samsula. The doors open at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25; and at noon on Saturday, Feb. 26. Weekend entertainment by Brad Turk. For details contact Cindy at (386) 689-9454.

• MAY 1Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643 Spring Dance at Rolling Mills Lounge (the former Kuzman's), 1025 S. State St. in Girard. Music by the Frank Stanger Band from 3-7 p.m. For more information contact Ray Kovac at (330) 824-2154.

• MAY 28 CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio. For information contact Tournament Secretary Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-4001.

• JUNE 4 SNPJ Golden Valley Lodge 745 Wine Tasting and Lunch at Pescatore Vineyard and Winery, 7055 Ridge Rd., New Castle, Calif., starting at 1 p.m. Music provided by John and Joe Mlakar. For more information contact Joe Mlakar at (916) 380-7722 or e-mail loskadolina@surewest.net.

• JUNE 10-12SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For details contact the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 or e-mail snpj@snpj.com.

We've Got You COVERED



DAVID C. ELY, CPIA
SNPJ Sales Director

Insure Your Love this Valentine's Day

With the dawn of February come the first signs of spring – love is in the air! Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and February is designated as "Insure Your Love" month!

The way you express your love each day, whether through words or actions, strengthens your relationships and makes those close to you feel valued. Love can be expressed in many ways: a knowing glance, a kind deed, shared memories, a thoughtful gift, or words of encouragement.

Getting life insurance is an expression of love that goes beyond words. It shows your loved ones, with certainty, that you care about protecting their future.

When a cherished love one passes, life goes on for those left behind – and life insurance allows us to reach down from "the next life" to make sure those still here are taken care of.

It's time to express love beyond words with life insurance. Contact the SNPJ Home Office today at 1-800-843-7675 and let's get you the coverage you need to *#InsureYourLove*. SNPJ can provide you with a comprehensive insurance analysis completed by one of our licensed agents to ensure you are doing the right things to insure your love!



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!

<u>Loyalty 8 Annuity</u>	<u>Loyalty 5 Annuity</u>
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* No fees attached to either Loyalty Annuity
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* 2.0% guaranteed minimum
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Membership Certificate Holders ANNUAL MEETING

Slovenian Society Home
20713 Recher Avenue
Euclid, OH 44119

Sunday, February 13, 2022, at 2 p.m.

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



A CENTURY in the making

Proud of your SNPJ membership? Then you owe it to yourself to delve deeper into SNPJ history through the pages of *An Inspired Journey — The SNPJ Story: The First One Hundred Years of the Slovene National Benefit Society*.

This richly-illustrated chronicle of SNPJ history compiled and written by SNPJ Publications Editor Jay Sedmak is available for purchase.

\$15.00 each — plus \$2.50 s/h
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Payment in full must accompany all orders. Make checks payable to **SNPJ**. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Slovenia, Google sign a cooperation agreement

LJUBLJANA (STA)—Representatives of the Slovenian government met with Google representatives in December to discuss the achievements of the Slovenian EU presidency in digital transformation and to sign a cooperation agreement through which Google will invest EUR 2.5 million (\$2.83 million) over the next two years to support Slovenia's digital transformation.

The meeting was attended by Digital Transformation Minister Mark Boris Andrijanič, Labor Minister Janez Cigler Kralj and Prime Minister Janez Janša; along with Annette Kroeber-Riel, Google's Senior Director of Public Policy and Government Relations for Europe; Rowan Barnett, the head of *Google.org* for Europe, the Middle East and Africa; and Marta Poslad, Google's Director of Public Policy for Central and Eastern Europe.

The participants focused on the achievements of the Slovenian EU presidency in digital transformation, Slovenia's competitive advantages and potential for investments in IT, and the development of artificial intelligence (AI).

Andrijanič, Kroeber-Riel, Barnett and Cigler Kralj spoke to the press after the signing, reiterating the importance of investment into digital transformation and the development of AI in Slovenia. "This is the largest investment of its kind in our history and will make a significant contribution to Slovenia's digital breakthrough," minister Andrijanič said.

According to the cooperation agreement, Google and *Google.org* will invest in Slovenian expertise in AI and in the development of social entrepreneurship, the importance of which was also highlighted by Google representative Rowan Barnett, particularly in the context of the post-pandemic recovery.

According to Annette Kroeber-Riel, Google was impressed by Slovenia's achievements in AI. "We are delighted to support the AI ecosystem in Slovenia and further accelerate the digital transformation of the country and the wider region," she said.

The recipients of the Google funding will include several leading Slovenian research, education and business institutions. Google will continue to support the Slovenian digital ecosystem in the future.

The importance of the cooperation agreement was underscored by Labor Minister Cigler Kralj. "The labor market must be responsive and inclusive, which has been one of our priorities since the beginning of this mandate," he explained. Cigler Kralj was also pleased that Google will offer free workshops, tools and programs, as well as dedicated consultations to current and future entrepreneurs, employees and job seekers.

"Today is a historic day for Slovenia's digital transformation. With the signing of this partnership agreement and the investment by Google, we are realizing the vision of Slovenia being progressive, modern and open to the world," Andrijanič added.



story in the race around Spain last year; and NBA superstar Luka Dončić of the Dallas Mavericks.

Dončić also led the Slovenian basketball team to a fourth-place finish in Tokyo, a result that earned the team the title of Team of the Year in the 2021 voting. The team finished 66 votes ahead of the runner-up men's volleyball team.

"Tadej Pogačar is so important a figure in the cycling world that he has earned a contract with the UAE team until 2027. We can understand his bosses. Without a sliver of doubt, he is currently the best cyclist in the world," the association wrote.

As for the basketball team, the association noted that the "semifinals of the Olympic tournament is an achievement that could be compared to the European champions title. We are convinced that this team will bring us many a joy in the future."

Brewers pledge calorie info on beer labels

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In December, members of the Slovenian Breweries Association signed a commitment to include more information on ingredients and caloric content to their beer packaging. As was said at the signing ceremony, the commitment should help to bring more information to consumers.

Nineteen Slovenian breweries, including the largest, signed the commitment to start indicating the caloric content of their beers on the labels, making good on several years of efforts. The brewers are convinced there is no reason why consumers shouldn't be provided with information on the ingredients and the caloric content of beer and soft drinks.

Agriculture and Food Minister Jože Podgoršek said that consumers are becoming increasingly well informed, and he also praised the cooperation pledged by the brewing sector. "By signing the agreement, the members of the Association of Slovenian Breweries commit to voluntarily indicate the caloric content of beer on all our products by the end of 2022," said association president Jernej Smolnikar.

The association's mission is to address issues that are important to Slovenian breweries, and to raise public awareness of the role of brewers in the economy and in society in general.

Aleš Cantarutti, director general of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GZS), emphasized the importance of the brewing tradition in Slovenia and of brewing as an economic activity. "Responsible behavior toward consumers builds trust, ensures transparency, and advances the goals of sustainability and responsible drinking," he said.

Cantarutti added that another commitment was signed a few months ago by soft drink producers, who promised to reduce the sugar content in their drinks.

Athlete of the Year titles awarded for 2021

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Sport climber Janja Garnbret, cyclist Tadej Pogačar, and the Slovenian national men's basketball team secured the main accolades at the 2021 Athlete of the Year ceremony held in mid-December.

In the women's category, Garnbret convincingly won the poll, conducted by the Association of Sport Journalists among 115 reporters, for her third title as the Female Athlete of the Year, having previously secured the title in both 2018 and 2019.

The Tokyo Olympic gold medal winner collected 333 points, followed by judoka Tina Trstenjak, the silver medalist in the women's 63 kg category in Tokyo; and ski jumper Nika Križnar, the overall World Cup winner last season.

"Janja Garnbret is barely 22 years old, and she is already the most successful sport climber in history. She also moves milestones in scaling natural climbing sites. She is the best sport climber in the world," the association statement reads.

Pogačar, who won his second consecutive Tour de France last year and grabbed a bronze medal in the road race at the Summer Olympic Games, topped the voting in the men's category to earn his first Male Athlete of the Year title.

In the voting, Pogačar was followed by fellow cyclist Primož Roglič, who won the gold medal in Tokyo in the time trial and defended his 2020 vic-

Cankar's dramas now available in English

KRANJ (STA) — The dramatic canon of Ivan Cankar, considered to be Slovenia's greatest playwright, has been translated into English for the first time, allowing readers to discover a literary genius often compared to the likes of Henrik Ibsen.

Devised by the Prešeren Theatre of Kranj in collaboration with the Crane Creations Theatre Company in Canada, the project "Cankar Goes West" aims to present a major part of Slovenia's literary and dramatic canon to foreign audiences. In his plays, Cankar (1876-1918) explores topics such as political corruption and greed, morals, and the quest for truth, employing complex characters.

Cankar's dramatic oeuvre has been translated into English by Michael Biggins, Rawley Grau, Jason and Alenka Blake, Tina Mahkota, and Tom Priestly, who sought to preserve his style and language.

The plays "Romantic Souls," "Jakob Ruda," "Lackeys," "King of Betajnovi," "Beautiful Vida," "Depravity in St. Florian Valley," and "For the Good of the Nation" have been released in both physical and digital formats. A luxury collector's edition of 400 hardback copies is also planned.

Paperbacks and e-books will also be available on Amazon, a Prešeren Theatre representative announced, expressing

the hope that Cankar's plays will soon be staged abroad.

Launched during the 51st Week of Slovenian Drama festival last year, the "Cankar Goes West" project was supported by the Slovenian Culture Ministry and the EU as part of the Creative Europe program.

The plays are accompanied by a time line of historical events that influenced Cankar and his work, and those leading up to Slovenia's independence. They are also accompanied by photographs of various productions of his plays in Slovenian theaters.

The translation and publication of the books mark only the start of what the Kranj theater says is a long-term project aimed at stimulating foreign theaters to produce Cankar's plays. As part of the project's ongoing promotion, Cankar's plays were read on stage in London late last year.

Film traces climber's ascent to Olympic gold

LJUBLJANA (STA) — After winning gold at the Tokyo Summer Olympics, Slovenian sports climbing superstar Janja Garnbret will be paid a tribute with a documentary film that follows her training for the competition, along with three other climbers.

"The Wall – Climb for Gold," which is expected to be released this winter, follows Garnbret, Shauna Coxsey of the UK, Brooke Raboutou of the U.S., and Miho Nonaka of Japan over a two-year span as they prepared for the Olympics.

The documentary shows their grueling practice sessions as part of the qualifiers for an Olympic berth, the busy competition season, and the climax – the Tokyo Olympics, where Garnbret made history as winner of the first gold medal in sport climbing.

As the young women cope with mental and physical struggles on their way to Tokyo, the film provides an inspiring insight into what it means to be an Olympian, and ultimately, what it means to be human.

In December, a pre-premiere of the film for the Slovenian audience was presented in the Cukrna venue in Ljubljana.

Crocheters in pursuit of a Guinness record

SLOVENJ GRADEC (STA) — In January, a group of crocheters launched an attempt to get their craft immortalized in the Guinness Book of World Records. They are attempting to set a record of making 1,000 crocheted items, including coats of arms, to honor the 30th anniversary of Slovenia's independence. A total of 211 women and one man have joined forces in the group, named "Slovenia Crocheting," to secure Slovenia yet another Guinness world record.

The group started off by crocheting depictions of the coat of arms of 212 Slovenian municipalities, which they intend to present to the local communities on Culture Day, celebrated annually on Feb. 8. "We have started to work on a collection of a thousand products. Each of us makes four products related to Slovenia, on top of the coats of arms. There are some very interesting items coming, including a crocheted carnation, a potica, and portraits of poets," group member Jadranka Smiljić explained.

Smiljić, who led the initiative for the project, explained that the group is using the corner-to-corner crochet technique in this latest challenge, and the products were planned for completion by Jan. 28, when footage of the entire collection would be made and an application sent to the Guinness World Records.

When it comes to the coats of arms, the items are more than one meter (3.3 feet) in length and width. "Each product is unique, and each crocheter has put his own stamp on it," Smiljić said. To make one such coat of arms, one needs to put in a hundred hours of work on average.

The Heraldica Slovenica association has helped out the crafters, advising them on designing the coats of arms. "We've learned a lot about the coats of arms themselves, what they mean and from what times they originate," Smiljić added.

The project aims to contribute to efforts of bringing people together, promoting the traditions and history of Slovenia and its municipalities, and getting the public excited about crocheting.

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

The Age of Aquarius

by MARTY KUMER
Lodge 715 President

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — I was reflecting on the birthdays of three of some of the most prominent people I was blessed to have in my life: My wife, Gayle, born Jan. 21; daughter Holly on Jan. 27; and father Max, born Jan. 29. All Aquarians. All intelligent, focused, strong-willed, well read, and seeking truth and justice.

Those were the similarities. It's hard to believe there are only 12 kinds of people in this world based on which month they happen to be born. Everybody is unique no matter when they arrived.

My wife and I met at Penn State, were married secretly Aug. 31 after graduation, and lived 44 years of an eventful life together 'til colon cancer ended hers. It was

the saddest day of my life.

Our daughter Holly was adopted at the age of six months. Although it was fun trying, Gayle and I couldn't have children the usual way. We had some early concerns about Holly's future because unlike Ben Franklin's advice of "early to bed, early to rise," she was late to bed and late to rise.

But as a young lady, she really figured it out. She became amazing! Graduated from college, got a good job, married a good guy, became a good wife and mother, as well as a smart businesswoman. She has my love and pride.

About my father, Max Kumer... A great man by any measure. The son of two Slovenian immigrants from adjacent villages (farms) near Škofja Loka. At age 4 he followed his brother, John, age 6, to school and the teachers couldn't make him return home. His father had him leave school at age 12 to work on the railroad and bring some money back to help the family – something not unusual in those times.

He saved money and attended electrical

school; got a job as an electrical tester at the Westinghouse plant in East Pittsburgh.

Max was strong, athletic – he played sandlot baseball and football, had professional boxing matches, and became coach and manager of the Universal teams he played with.

He was an idealist, a champion of working men and women. As union steward at Westinghouse, he was offered a foreman management position and turned it down – not wanting to lean on the workers he represented.

Max and his cousin Henry Previc formed SNPJ English-Speaking Lodge 715 in Universal. For years he was recording secretary there. He was on the SNPJ National Board Finance Committee. Along with his brother Mike, who was also on the SNPJ National Board, he initiated the purchase of the land for SNPJ to establish the SNPJ Recreation Center. The SNPJ and its members were his extended family.

So, Aquarians: Holly, happy birthday! Gayle and dad, rest in peace knowing you were loved and remembered.

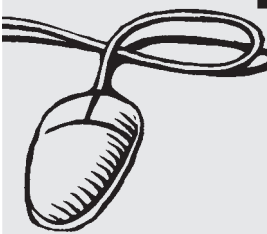
Lodge 142 relaunching SNPJ Youth Circle 94

YOUTH CIRCLE 94
FROM PAGE 1

who reside outside of Cleveland. Activities are currently being scheduled for the Circle and will be announced at upcoming Lodge 142 meetings, in *PROSVETA*, and on the Lodge 142 Facebook

page. Stay tuned for more information!

For more information or to enroll your children for SNPJ Youth Circle 94 membership, please contact Youth Circle 94 Director Carol Maruszak at (440) 655-8776 or e-mail snpjcircle94@gmail.com.



information at your fingertips

Looking for information on your SNPJ life insurance and annuity policies? Pay a visit to snpj.org, click the "PolicyView Login" link and follow the step-by-step instructions.

SNPJ Scholarship Award Program

A potential benefit of \$3,200 for Society members



ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for an SNPJ Scholarship, the student must meet the following requirements:

- Be an SNPJ member for at least two years
- Have a \$5,000 minimum permanent life insurance policy in place (\$2,000 if purchased prior to January 1996)
- Enroll as a full-time (at least 12 credit hours) or part-time (at least 6 credit hours) student at an accredited college, university or trade school

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS: All requirements **MUST** be satisfied in order to qualify for the following scholarships:

REGULAR:

- Member for at least 2 years
- \$5,000 permanent insurance (\$2,000 if purchased prior to 1996)
- 1040 Tax Form (*income level not to exceed \$20,000 per dependent/per family*)
- Maintain 2.5 GPA (out of 4.0) or above
- Annual SNPJ-Approved Activity

ACTIVITY (JOSEPH C. UMECK):

- Member for at least 2 years
- \$5,000 permanent insurance (\$2,000 if purchased prior to 1996)
- Extensive SNPJ Activity*
- Maintain 2.5 GPA (out of 4.0) or above
- Age 30 or under

ACADEMIC:

- Member for at least 2 years
- \$5,000 permanent insurance (\$2,000 if purchased prior to 1996)
- Maintain 3.2 GPA (out of 4.0) or above
- Age 30 or under
- Annual SNPJ-Approved Activity

Full-Time Student

- Attend school as a full-time student
- Minimum of 12 credit hours/semester

Part-Time Student

- Attend school as a part-time student
- Must declare a major (six to 11 credit hours/semester)

SNPJ Approved Activity: Participation at social and athletic events, attend the SNPJ Young Adult Conference, attendance or service at meetings and conferences, attend or volunteer at special Lodge events, write an article to be published in *PROSVETA*, participate in an SNPJ athletic tournament (bowling, golf, balina, bean bag toss, etc.), help organize a youth activity at your Lodge, hold an office in your Lodge, work as a counselor for Youth Roundup (must be interviewed and selected by Fraternal Department), volunteer to work during Slovenefest at the SNPJ Recreation Center, participate in an SNPJ-organized activity, perform community service on behalf of SNPJ (must be approved by Fraternal Department), recommend a new member to SNPJ.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Carefully review all SNPJ scholarship requirements.
2. Select the scholarship type for which you qualify.
3. Complete the scholarship application and deliver to your Lodge secretary for signatures.
4. Return the signed application, along with the following items, to the SNPJ Home Office by the August 1st deadline:

- Copy of your last grade report or transcript (Transcripts do not have to be originals, but must show student name, semester, GPA, and number of credit hours completed).
- Short essay about fraternalism, the principles of SNPJ, and how they work in our Society and its Lodges.
- Brief history of your life, high school accomplishments, past awards and achievements, and college plans.
- Copies of your parents' and your 1040 tax forms for the previous year (if applying for the SNPJ Regular Scholarship).
- Copy of the Lodge secretary's letter (if applying for the SNPJ Activity Scholarship).

Please make sure all of the applicable items listed above are included when mailing your application. Failure to provide all required information at one time may result in denial of your application.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- **Full-time Students:** Payments of \$400 each installment are made twice a year (first installment: February/March; second installment: August/September) totaling \$800 per year. Applicants will receive payments for not more than eight (8) installments which may include graduate school.
- **Part-Time Students:** Payments of \$200 each installment are made twice a year totaling \$400 per year. Part-time applicants who have declared a major shall receive payments equivalent to the TOTAL amount the full-time student receives for a maximum of 16 semesters.
- Selection of students to receive the scholarship awards will be based on evidence of the applicant's school record, personality, character, SNPJ Approved Activity, the applicant's need for financial aid or academic achievement, and on the recommendation of the local Lodge of which he/she is a member.

Applications, renewal forms and the SNPJ Scholarship Program brochure are available online at <https://snpj.org/membership/scholarships/>

Applications for SNPJ Scholarship Awards should be sent to the National President.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1 of each year. RENEWAL DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1 and AUGUST 1. Mail to:

Joseph C. Evanish, National President
SLOVENE NATIONAL BENEFIT SOCIETY Scholarship Committee
247 West Allegheny Rd. • Imperial, PA • 15126-9774.

PROSVETA Crossword

Valentine's Day (#0222) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

1. "You're the ____!"
5. Horse color
8. Interesting person, acr.
11. *Feeling of the heart
12. Nevada city
13. City in Belgium
15. Use a whisk
16. Greek H's
17. *Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
18. *"Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
20. Ballpark calls
21. Strong adhesive
22. Greek letter N, pl.
23. Lord's subordinate
26. Given to drinking
30. Ovine mom
31. Old storage medium
34. Fairy-tale beginning
35. Politician Pelosi
37. Tokyo, once
38. Bone hollows
39. Sky bear
40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
42. "Ever" to a poet
43. With more seeds
45. Attic
47. Summer sandwich?
48. Fraternity letter
50. Medieval headdress

52. *Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
56. Like blue sky
57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
58. Samoan money
59. *Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
60. Affirm
61. Give off
62. Plays for pay
63. *Color of Valentine's Day
64. *Lovers' reunion

DOWN

1. Cry like a baby
2. Canyon sound
3. Convict's weapon
4. Conical dwellings
5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
6. Opposite of binary
7. Like a gossipmonger
8. Exterminator's target
9. Change for a five
10. Part of T.G.I.F.
12. Like an abridged classic
13. Tiler's paste
14. *"I Will Always Love You" singer

19. Stupefied
22. Us, in Mexico
23. *Cupid's mother
24. In the know
25. Common thing?
26. Smoke plus fog
27. Lay to rest
28. Rocks at mountain base
29. *Symbol of Valentine's Day
32. Infantry's last row
33. Roulette bet
36. *Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
38. ____ apple
40. Risk something
41. Between egg and eggie
44. Feeling worse than before
46. Gave away
48. Thin piece
49. Annoyed
50. Russia's alternative to caesar
51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
52. Burn to a crisp
53. MADD member, colloquially
54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
55. Fill beyond full
56. Pharaoh's cobra

The solution to puzzle #0222 will run in the March 1 issue.

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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.

• Price, Utah, Lodge 113 member **Sis. ELIZABETH LOU BURCHARDI** celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership in September. In a note of appreciation addressed to SNPJ National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish, she writes:

"I received the lovely blanket honoring my 70 years of SNPJ membership. A generous, thoughtful gift, especially with fall and winter on the way.

"I always enjoy receiving *PROSVETA* as it keeps my interest in the many SNPJ events and celebrations across our country. And I still make potica for my family.

"Wishing you good health and good times in the days ahead. And again, thank you for the blanket."

Sis. ELIZABETH LOU BURCHARDI
Price, Utah, Lodge 113
Los Olivos, CA

• Bro. **JOSEPH G. REZIN Jr.**, a 70-year member of Lodge 225 in Girard, Kan., celebrated his SNPJ membership anniversary in September. He writes:

"I just celebrated my 88th birthday and live in San Diego, Calif., with my wife, Joyce, of 63 years and counting. We are fortunate that our three children live close enough that we can visit them often, and they, us.

"My oldest son, Michael, is in charge of the electronics laboratory at the University of California San Diego. My second oldest, William, is a pilot for American Airlines. My daughter, Valerie, is a school teacher. We have lived in San Diego since 1961 and enjoy the good weather, beaches and mountains.

"I have a younger brother, Bill, who lives in Lee's Summit, Mo. We drove out to visit him and his wife in 2017 and were able to witness the total solar eclipse.

"I still hold onto an SNPJ life insurance policy of \$500 just to maintain a connection. In Kansas City, Kan., my father was president of an SNPJ Lodge for many years. The Lodge held many polka dances at the Croatian-Slovenian National Hall on 5th Street. I well remember the wonderful times we had there in the late 1930s and '40s. Once, around 1946, they even had Frankie Yankovic and his Yanks come down from Cleveland for a two-night engagement.

"And yes, we subscribed to the *PROSVETA*!"

Bro. JOSEPH G. REZIN Jr.
Girard, Kan., Lodge 225
San Diego, CA

• Cleveland Lodge 5 member **Sis. PATRICIA F. BUCHNER** celebrated her 50-year SNPJ membership in August. In a note of appreciation, she writes:

"Having been born into a Slovenian family (grandparents of both mother and father were immigrants from Slovenia to Cleveland), I was aware of my heritage during my early years. There were picnics at the SNPJ

Sis. PATRICIA BUCHNER
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Farm in Kirtland, weddings, anniversary parties, and concerts at the Slovenian Homes of Recher in Euclid, Ohio, and in the old neighborhood of St. Clair.

"One summer during my college years I worked for Kollander World Travel in Euclid, known for their tours to Slovenia (and Yugoslavia). Being among other Slovenians and planning tours to Slovenia became very exciting, so I became a full-time associate. It was at Kollander World Travel that I met my husband, Ivan Buchner, who came from Slovenia for a few months to assist our agency in planning visits to Slovenia for tourists.

"During these years I became more involved in SNPJ and became a member of Spartans Lodge 576, enjoying all the benefits of SNPJ.

"Our children sang and toured with Circle 2 and Cecilia Dolgan. As a family, we journeyed several times to Slovenia to visit relatives, tour with Circle 2 and Zarja, and even assist Kollander passengers. We relished many years of Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa. Slovenefest, SNPJ Days and even weddings brought us back to the Campsite time and again.

"In 1996-1997, our daughter Elizabeth served as Miss SNPJ. Then in 2016, our granddaughter Rebecca participated in the Miss SNPJ Pageant. Our son Jon is an executive chef who is proud to incorporate Slovenian recipes into his menus with much success.

"Throughout the years, SNPJ has become that which unites us to our Slovenian heritage.

"I thank you for the recognition and pin that I received. I look forward to the enjoyment of Slovenia through the benefits of SNPJ."

Sis. PATRICIA F. BUCHNER
Cleveland Lodge 5
Conneaut, OH

• Bro. **MICHAEL J. FURIN**, a member of Lodge 643 in Girard, Ohio, celebrated his 50-year SNPJ membership anniversary in November. He writes:

"I was raised in Girard, Ohio, and growing up, went on many trips to the SNPJ Campsite in Pennsylvania with my family. I spent lots of time fishing there while my parents visited with friends. We attended many festivals there as well since it was less than an hour drive from home.

"After college at Youngstown State, I moved south and have been happily married to Tracie, a native Floridian, for nearly 34 years and have two adult children, Richard and Angel, both of whom are married.

"I have just recently retired after 30 years as vice president at My Flooring America and will be moving to the Orlando, Fla., area to enjoy the 'golden years' with Tracie and my family.

"Having grown up near the Campsite, I miss the many activi-

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Bro. MICHAEL FURIN
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

ties with SNPJ. My parents and grandparents were members of SNPJ Lodge 643 for many, many years as well, and I still have a family home in Girard."

Bro. MICHAEL J. FURIN
Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643
LaPorte, TX

• **Sis. JACQUELINE SANDALA**, a member of Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138, celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership in November. In a note of appreciation, she writes:

"I would like to thank you for the 70-year membership blanket. I have been a member of the SNPJ for all my life, from the Juvenile Circle until I became a regular member.

"I attended the Lodge 138 banquet for 50-year members, and we also attended the Lodge 138 Duck Race every year and the Monday night button box club dances at the Lodge 138 Hall.

"My husband and I, and my son and daughter-in-law, went to Slovenia in September 2018. Just about all our family are members of the SNPJ.

"Thank you for the award for 70 years!"

Sis. JACQUELINE SANDALA
Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138
Pittsburgh, PA

• Universal, Pa., Lodge 715 member **Bro. ANDY RASPERGER** celebrated his 80-year SNPJ membership in November. In a note of appreciation, he writes:

"I wish to thank SNPJ for the beautiful afghan blanket. It sure will keep me warm this winter.

"I have a son and a daughter. I worked around coal mines for 37 years. My last 15 years I had to go underground. I didn't have any injuries. As I became the age of 62, I decided it was time to retire. I have a few pains, but other than that I feel fine.

"Again, I want to thank the SNPJ for the blanket as an 80-year member."

Bro. ANDY RASPERGER
Universal, Pa., Lodge 715
Slickville, PA

• Detroit Lodge 564 member **Bro. ROBERT F. OLINICK** celebrated his 70-year SNPJ membership in November. In a note of appreciation addressed to SNPJ National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish, he writes:

"What a pleasant surprise to have a package delivered. When it came I wondered why he came to the door because I hadn't ordered anything. I thank you for the beautiful blanket. It sure will come in handy in the coming months. Unfortunately, I am unable to send a recent photo as I've always been the photographer, not the one being photographed.

"Growing up just a few blocks

Bro. ROBERT OLINICK
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN



Bro. JOSEPH G. REZIN Jr. (225)



Sis. PATRICIA F. BUCHNER (5)



Bro. MICHAEL J. FURIN (643)



Sis. JACQUELINE SANDALA (138)



Sis. ANGELINE VOLK (8)



Sis. NORMA MERRILL (604)

Bro. ROBERT OLINICK
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

from the Slovenian Dom on John R in Detroit, I became involved with Circle 29 and participated in bowling and baseball until becoming an adult member. I also played in a small combo band that performed at dances and other festivities.

"My maternal grandparents, Joseph and Ursula Grum, were both from Slovenia and belonged to Lodge 564, as did my parents, Frank and Elsie Olinick. Most all of my other relatives, aunts, uncles, etc., also were members, as are we.

"It was in the Circle that I first met Doris Marie Beauprey. Her grandparents and mother were Slovenian. She attended most of my ball games and bowled with other girls from the Circle. We began dating in 1950 and married on July 11, 1953. We held our reception at the 'new' John R Hall in Detroit. Our 68-plus years of marriage has produced, so far, three daughters, seven granddaughters, one grandson, seven great-granddaughters and six great-grandsons. Another great-grandson is due early this year.

"I served four years in the U.S. Air Force, one of them in Korea. "Doris and I have lived in five different states. We love to travel, and have visited all 50 states and been on five continents. Long cruises have been our favorite way to go, but we've used other venues as well to do our exploring.

"I am in good health and play golf at least once a week, weather permitting. We currently live on 12-plus acres in rural south central Kentucky. We retired here in March of 1999 and have enjoyed all those past years down here. Maintaining our property keeps me very busy, especially during the warmer months. Doris has been experiencing some health issues the past three years, and we haven't been able to roam as much as we'd like. Of course, this Covid mess hasn't helped either!

"Our participation in Slovene activities has been very limited during our adult years as many of the places we've lived weren't near any Lodges. I do enjoy getting the online version of *PROSVETA* as it gives me news

Bro. ROBERT OLINICK
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

of people and events.

"Once again, thank you for the beautiful blanket. I can't wait to see what comes for my 80-year surprise."

Bro. ROBERT F. OLINICK
Detroit Lodge 564
Glasgow, KY

• **Sis. ANGELINE VOLK**, a member of Lodge 8 in Chicago, celebrated her 80-year SNPJ membership in November. Her daughter writes:

"My mother would like to thank you for the afghan – it is just beautiful! She is currently residing in an assisted living facility and doing well."

Sis. ANGELINE VOLK
Chicago Lodge 8
Huntley, IL

• **Sis. NORMA MERRILL**, a member of Utopians Lodge 604 in Cleveland, celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership in December. In correspondence addressed to National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish, she writes:

"Thank you for the lovely blanket commemorating my 70 years as a member of SNPJ Lodge 604. It will be a warm reminder of many happy days spent at the Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. Our four children, who are also members, remember the great Christmas parties at the Slovenski Dom.

"We have lived in the Columbus, Ohio, area since 1974, but still stay in touch with our Cleveland friends and family – and always bring back enough klobase for a party!"

Sis. NORMA MERRILL
Cleveland Lodge 604
Marysville, OH

celebrating your SNPJ anniversary?

Share your biography with *PROSVETA*. Send your material to the attention of SNPJ National President Joseph C. Evanish, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.

Sis. PATRICIA BUCHNER
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Bro. MICHAEL FURIN
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

SNPJ fraternal sympathies



Sis. EMMA MASLANIK (106)

Sis. EMMA MASLANIK
• LODGE 106 •

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Maslanik family and the members of Lodge 106 sadly report the Oct. 21, 2021, passing of Sis. Emma Maslanik, 97, of North Fayette Twp., Oakdale, Pa.

Sis. Maslanik was born March 15, 1924, a daughter of the late Mary (Prevanje) and Andrew Pogan.

She was the beloved wife of the late John Maslanik, who passed on May 28, 1991; devoted mother of John (Mary) Maslanik, James (Miriam) Maslanik, and Bonnie (Rich) DeBiasio; cherished grandmother of Michael (Samantha) Maslanik, Daniel (Samantha) Maslanik, Lauren (Rob) Weber, Emily DeBiasio (fiancé Peter DiCocco), and Katie DeBiasio; and adored great-grandmother of Lisa, Fiona, Veronica and Kira.

She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Nellie Maslanik; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by two brothers and four sisters.

Emma loved her family. She was a sweet, kind and loving soul who will be missed but forever remembered.

A 79-year member of SNPJ Lodge 106, she was also a lifelong member of St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church, and a member of the Cliff Mine Ladies Club. Emma also had a great love for birds and all of nature.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Maslanik on Oct. 25 at St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church, Imperial. Interment followed in St. Columbkille Cemetery.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 106 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Maslanik's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. JUDITH A. RISHER
• LODGE 6 •

SYGAN, Pa. — The members of Lodge 6 sadly report the Oct. 24, 2021, passing of Sis. Judith Anne (Volosky) Risher, 81, of Peters Twp., Pa., formerly of Bridgeville, Pa.

Sis. Risher was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Anne Kozlowski Volosky; and her husband, John W. Risher Sr.

She was the loving mother of John W. Risher Jr., Jeffrey Risher, Joseph (Darlene) Risher, and Jennifer (Muir) Anderson; and devoted grandmother to Justin, Zachary and Amanda Risher, Muir Anderson IV, Jessica (Justin) Gosnell, and Ashley (Nino) Pettinato. Her most recent joy in life was becoming a great-grandmother to Julianna Pettinato and Harper Gosnell.

She also leaves behind her brothers, Paul (the late Winifred) Volosky, and David (Janet) Volosky; and many nieces and nephews.

A 65-year SNPJ Lodge 6 member, Judy was also a long-time and active member of St. Benedict the Abbot Church, where she started the Ladies of Charity chapter. She served as a Eucharistic Minister and as a wedding coordinator, and was involved in many other organizations, including the South Hills Women's Club.

She enjoyed sewing, bowling and baking, especially pies. She was also an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan.

A Mass of Christian Burial

was celebrated for Sis. Risher on Oct. 30 at St. Benedict the Abbot Church, McMurray, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 6 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Risher's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JOHN D. VERHOLTZ
• LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Nov. 15, 2021, passing of Bro. John D. "Don" Verholtz, 94, of Canonsburg, Pa., in his home of 71 years, with his family by his side.

Bro. Verholtz was born April 12, 1927, in Canonsburg, a son of the late John J. and Josephine E. Tomsic Verholtz. Don grew up in the village of Strabane, attended Alexander Grade School, and was a 1945 Trinity High School graduate.

At age 17, he and four Trinity High School buddies decided in the high school lunch room to join the Navy to fight in World War II. Because of their age, they needed their parents' permission and to pass midterm exams to enlist. Bro. Verholtz proudly served as a corpsman at naval bases with the U.S. Navy, during World War II in San Diego, and during the Korean War in Philadelphia.

Don attended the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and then went on to work with HH Robertson Corporation for 40 years as an iron worker, retiring as a supervisor in 1986.

He was a faithful member St. Patrick Church of St. Oscar Romero Parish in Canonsburg and a member of the former St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church. He was a 70-year member of SNPJ Lodge 138 and a member of KSKJ St. Jerome Lodge 153, both of Strabane; VFW Post 191 of Canonsburg; American Legion Post 902 of Houston, Pa.; and the Houston Independent Club.

He was a member of the Canon-McMillan School Board from 1963 through 1969.

Don enjoyed traveling, and most especially spending time with his family. He enjoyed polka dancing, was an avid golfer, and learned to snow ski at age 60. He truly liked to entertain at pool parties at his home. He loved his home, especially sitting on the back porch watching animals in his back yard and tooling around the neighborhood on his golf cart.

On April 15, 1950, he married Chesteria T. "Celine" Mals, who passed away Feb. 4, 1998, after 47 years of marriage.

Left behind to cherish his memory are his three daughters, Barbara Smith of Washington, Pa., Donna (David) Dittmar of Strabane, and Patti Burnside of North Strabane Twp.; his son, John "J.D." Verholtz of North Strabane Twp.; his beloved grandchildren, Patrick Smith, Brandon (Melanie) Dittmar, Christopher (Angie) Dittmar, Lauren Dittmar, Dylan K. Price and Matthew J. Verholtz; a great-granddaughter, Angela Dittmar, with three more Dittmar great-grandchildren on the way; a sister, Gertrude Zanin of Henderson, Nev.; a brother-in-law, Joseph Mals of Strabane; an aunt, Agnes Bostjancic of Washington; his lady friend, Mary Krese of Uniontown, Pa.; and many special nieces and nephews.

Deceased, in addition to his wife and parents, are his sister, Evelyn Frank; a daughter-in-law, Mary Beth Verholtz; and a son-in-law, Hal Smith.

Don had numerous friends and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He will be dearly missed.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Verholtz on Nov. 20 in St. Patrick Church of St. Oscar Romero Parish. Interment, with full military honors by the VFW Post 191 Honor Guard and the United States Navy, followed



Bro. JOHN D. "Don" VERHOLTZ (138)

in St. Patrick Cemetery.

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

Sis. MARY D. WILSON
• LODGE 225 •

GIRARD, Kan. — The members of Lodge 225 sadly report the Nov. 15, 2021, passing of Sis. Mary Dolores Wilson, 86, of Nevada, Mo., at Barones Memory Care Resident Center, Nevada.

Sis. Wilson was born Oct. 24, 1935, in Croweburg, Kan., the daughter of Louie Burrick and Dora Carzoli Brunick. She graduated from Arma High School in 1952 as valedictorian of her class. She began working for Southwestern Bell while in high school and continued this career until 1975, when she opened and operated Mary's Fabrics for 30 years on the square in Nevada.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, Mary held several leadership roles and was involved in many civic organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Nevada, 4-H, Soroptimist, the Dianas, and St. Mary's Alter Society. She was an avid bridge player and loved working in her garden.

Mary was united in marriage to Robert L. Wilson on Feb. 20, 1954. She retired in 2005, and she and Bob moved back to Mary's childhood farm in Croweburg.

She is survived by her children, Shirley (Bill) Rainey and Bob (Gail) Wilson, both of Nevada, and Pam (Doug) Warbinton of Webb City, Mo.; her grandchildren, Marissa (Michael) Steele, Taylor (Tessa) Rainey, Luke (Kristen) Rainey, Vince (Erika) Warbinton, R. Tanner Warbinton (fiancé Katie), Ben (Krysten) Wilson, and Amanda (Trishul) Rao; and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob, in 2009; by her parents; and by her little sister, Shirley.

Graveside services were held for Sis. Wilson on Nov. 18 at Mt. Olive Cemetery, Pittsburg, Kan.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 225 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Wilson's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. NORINE A. LAIRD
• LODGE 225 •

GIRARD, Kan. — The members of Lodge 225 sadly report a second recent loss with the Nov. 23, 2021, passing of Sis. Norine A. Laird, 92, of Franklin, Kan., at Vintage Park Assisted Living in Holton, Kan. She was a 59-year SNPJ Lodge 225 member.

Sis. Laird was born Nov. 15, 1929, in Ringo, Kan., the daughter of Mike and Lena Nepote. Norine lived

in Franklin most of her life. She was raised in Franklin, attended Franklin Grade School, and graduated from Arma High School in 1947. She had worked at the Crawford County Courthouse, then the U.S. Census Bureau, from 1965 until retiring in 1987.

After retirement, she served as Postmistress in Franklin, served on the Crawford County Election Board, Franklin Community Center Board, Franklin Park Board and Franklin Water Board, and delivered Meals on Wheels. She loved to polka dance, and she and her friends spent many Friday and Saturday nights at Barto's in Frontenac, Kan. She liked to bowl, gamble at the casinos, and play cards.

Norine married Lawrence Laird on May 28, 1949, in Frontenac. He preceded her in death on Sept. 21, 1984.

Survivors include two sons, Michael (Kathy) Laird of Topeka, Kan., and Kenny (Joan Poskin) Laird of Kansas City, Mo.; a granddaughter, Mandy Sharp; a great-granddaughter, Maggie Sharp; stepgrandsons Travis (Ashley) Rieschick and Aaron (Samantha) Rieschick; a brother, John Nepote of Franklin; a nephew, Richard (Valerie) Nepote; and a great-nephew, Brandon Nepote.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her sister-in-law, Colleen Nepote.

Funeral services for Sis. Laird were held Nov. 29 at Bedene Funeral Home, Arma. Burial followed in Pittsburg Garden of Memories Cemetery, Pittsburg, Kan.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 225 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Laird's family, relatives and friends on their loss.



Bro. DENNIS E. BRAHNEY (304)

BRO. DENNIS E. BRAHNEY
• LODGE 304 •

SAN FRANCISCO — The members of Lodge 304 sadly report the Dec. 20, 2021, passing of Bro. Dennis Edward Brahney at his home in Millbrae, Calif.

Bro. Brahney was born Sept. 7, 1939, in Youngstown, Ohio. The second oldest of 10 children, he was the son of the late Edward and Anne Brahney.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Diane Fabian Brahney; the father of Dennis (Amy), Patrick (Cindy) and Joseph; and adoring grandfather of Milan, Jack, Sophia and Christopher.

Dennis was active at the Slovenian Hall in San Francisco as a member of the board of directors. For many years he participated in the making of blood sausage for the annual Pust dinner, and lent his hand wherever needed at the Hall.

Having worked for 37 years in the stair building trade, he was an excellent craftsman. In addition to making fine pieces of furniture, he enjoyed wood

carving, sculpting, painting, golf, hunting and fishing.

A 47-year member of SNPJ Lodge 304, he was also a member of Carpenter's Union #22, the Educational and Dramatic Club Slovenia, and the Church of the Nativity in San Francisco. Although mainly of Irish and German descent, he was looked upon as an honorary Slovenian.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Bro. Brahney on Jan. 29 at the Church of the Nativity, San Francisco.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 304 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Brahney's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. JERALDINE I. STOCKMAN
• LODGE 5 •

CLEVELAND — The Stockman family and the members of Lodge 5 sadly report the Dec. 26, 2021, passing of Sis. Jeraldine Ivana "Jeri" Stockman, 80, with her family by her side in Zionville, N.C. She was a 64-year SNPJ member.

Sis. Stockman was born Feb. 2, 1941, in Cleveland to Anthony and Jennie Trennel. Her father was a jig bore operator, and her mother owned and operated a wedding catering business, primarily serving ethnic foods in the Slovenian community.

Jeri graduated from Col-linwood High School in 1959 and married Robert "Bob" Stockman in 1960. After graduation, Bob enlisted in the Marine Corps, and he and Jeri traveled to many different locations within the United States during his 20-year career. They had three children during their time in the Marine Corps. Bob and Jeri were happily married



Sis. JERALDINE I. STOCKMAN (5)

for 61 years.

Jeri worked at many different jobs over the years, and was specifically recognized for her professional contribution at the Boeing Company where she was employed as a program material controller. She was placed on medical leave in 1989 and fully retired in 2002.

Her interests included her family, cooking, sewing, quilting, and craft painting. She devoted much of her time and energy as a church secretary.

Jeri is survived by her husband, Robert Stockman; a son, Robert Stockman Jr., and his spouse, Frances; a daughter, Jennifer; a brother, Lawrence Trennel, and his wife, Bette; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Michele Greb; a brother, Anthony Trennel; and a sister, Elizabeth Trennel.

A memorial service for Sis. Stockman was held Dec. 31 at the family home in Zionville.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 5 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Sis. Stockman's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LOU "Dr. Slivo" NOVAK
AUGUST 11, 1947 – FEBRUARY 1, 2019



THREE 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.

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of December 2021

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01	Richard P. Whalen	11-22-2021	Pittsburgh, Pa.
A02	Bernadette Genser	11-19-2021	Slippery Rock, Pa.
2	Darrell F. Furar	11-30-2021	Compton, Ill.
5	Marianne Page	10-23-2021	Chardon, Ohio
6	Michael E. Hart	11-08-2021	McDonald, Pa.
6	Albert T. Oblock	10-21-2021	McDonald, Pa.
6	John J. Lewis	11-17-2021	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6	John L. Milavec	11-01-2021	McMurray, Pa.
6	Judith A. Risher	10-24-2021	McMurray, Pa.
33	William Paul Yerzyk	03-23-2021	Claremont, Calif.
34	Angeline Devitt	11-12-2021	Indianapolis, Ind.
87	Alice Dukich	11-08-2021	Somerset, Pa.
89	Matilda Giusto	10-13-2021	Steubenville, Ohio
106	Henry A. DeLouis	11-09-2021	McKees Rocks, Pa.
106	Rose Marie DeLouis	11-15-2021	McKees Rocks, Pa.
138	John D. Verholtz	11-15-2021	Canonsburg, Pa.
138	Ronald D. Elliott II	12-12-2021	Houston, Pa.
153	Helen V. Mager	09-17-2021	Canfield, Ohio
153	Edward P. Steinke Jr.	11-21-2021	Painesville, Ohio
207	Donna M. Gornick	10-11-2021	Jefferson City, Mont.
225	Mary D. Wilson	11-15-2021	Nevada, Mo.
254	Richard F. Torok	08-12-2021	Johnstown, Pa.
257	Doris Ann Matuszak	10-07-2021	Clayton, N.C.
274	Carolann Yunetz	11-19-2021	Summerhill, Pa.
371	Stephen J. Balint	11-15-2021	Highlands Ranch, Colo.
559	Kathleen Longnecker	10-12-2021	Joliet, Ill.
576	Richard A. Krajec	08-26-2020	Lawrenceville, Ga.
604	Francis G. Winton	11-18-2021	Euclid, Ohio
604	Mary J. Clements	10-29-2021	Wickliffe, Ohio
604	Louis J. Thomas	11-01-2021	Highland Hgts., Ohio
629	Catherine A. Wilber	12-07-2021	Oberlin, Ohio
643	Janice E. Gerzina	10-11-2021	Uniontown, Ohio
677	Angeline Bernick	11-23-2021	Troy, Mich.
677	Sharon Bernick	11-17-2021	Rochester Hills, Mich.
677	Judith L. Nagy	06-22-2020	Livonia, Mich.
723	Karen M. Spears	10-17-2021	Kemmerer, Wyo.
749	Annette L. Cosgrove	09-04-2021	Johnstown, Pa.
782	Frank T. Vertosick	03-04-2021	Natrona Hgts., Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

FOR SALE
2 CEMETERY LOTS

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL PARK
on Curry Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, in the
"Trinity Garden" (block 35, lot 157-D, spaces 3 & 4)
Beautiful, elevated location. \$2,500⁰⁰ for both.
CONTACT SYLVIA: (760) 831-0987

Loyalites Lodge sets plans for SNPJ National Bowl

by DANIELLA VOLPE
Lodge 158 Treasurer

EUCLID, Ohio — Hello, everyone, and happy New Year! We hope your holidays were filled with lots of love and family.

We want to take the time to thank everyone who attended the Loyalites Lodge 158 annual Christmas party. The day was filled with lots of food, fun and Christmas joy. The day couldn't have gone any better, and it's all thanks to every single person who helped out – we couldn't have done it without you!

While the holidays may be over, we still have things to celebrate. First up are some

belated happy birthdays: Jan Smrdel on Dec. 25, David Srnick on Dec. 31, and Gary Smrdel on Jan. 21. Then we have some of our favorite couples celebrating: Gary and Jan Smrdel shared their wedding anniversary on Jan. 28, and coming up we have Jim and Colleen Kuhn celebrating their anniversary on Feb. 14.

The new year means new events; well, the same events, but they feel new after not holding them for two years. First up is the Slo-Ish tournament on April 9. We must try to win back our title from the Irish, so we need lots of bowlers. For all inquiries, please phone Colleen Kuhn at (216) 347-3205.

Immediately after that, the Loyalites are hosting the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament. This year's tournament will be held April 30-May 1. A bus will be available to transport bowlers to and from the SNPJ Recreation Center to the lanes.

We will also be selling ads for a program book to cover some of the costs of the tournament. Ad space is offered as follows: full-page ad, \$100; half-page ad, \$50; quarter-page ad, \$25; and a business card size ad, \$10.

For all questions about the tournament or the program book, contact Lodge Secretary Gary Smrdel by phone at (440) 655-7592 or e-mail

garylodge158@roadrunner.com. We hope you're ready to rock n' bowl!

Looking forward all the way into summer, the SNPJ Young Adult Conference is scheduled June 10-12. If you would like to be considered for a Lodge 158 delegate position, please send your letter of interest to Gary Smrdel, garylodge158@roadrunner.com.

The next Loyalites Lodge meeting will be held Feb. 10 starting at 7 p.m. at Recher Hall in Euclid.

As always, we send our thoughts and prayers to our ailing and deceased members and their families during these difficult times.



Lodge 745 youth and adult members had a blast at the Halloween costume party organized by Sis. Connie Walker.

Even with a late start, Lodge 745 stays active

by JOHN MŁAKAR
Lodge 745 Secretary/Treasurer

SACRAMENTO — Lodge 745 was finally able to start being active again in the month of June. The Lodge sponsored an afternoon out at Oakland Stadium, enjoying a major league baseball game as we watched the Oakland Athletics triumph over the Kansas City Royals.

The children so look forward to this event. It is met with so much excitement. Their excitement and laughter was contagious to those of us watching. Every year their skating skills improve. The older kids help the younger ones find their "skate legs." Lots of fun and laughter – and eventually exhaustion – were shared. We finished in the late afternoon with a pizza party at a local pizza parlor. Teresa Młakar did the shopping for the Lodge, providing "goodie" gift bags for the youth.

October was a busy month as we were surprised to learn that Joey Miskulin and Riders In The Sky were performing in our hometown of Auburn, Calif., on Oct. 16. Several Lodge members attended the show. Joey acknowledged us on the stage, and we were able to visit and discuss our Slovenian roots after their delightfully entertaining performance.

On a separate note, my wife Lucille and I met up with my brother, Fred Młakar, and my sister and brother-in-law, Teresa and Ken Koci, in Ohio when we attended the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame festivities in Cleveland. My wife and I were attending for the first time. We met so many new Slovenian friends and were reacquainted with many others. The music and dancing were fantastic!

Later in October, Connie Walker was again able to organize her annual Halloween costume party. This gave a chance for our younger members to enjoy an evening of fun, games and food, and to enjoy each other's costumes. Many adults came in costume as well.

Afterward, we were able to spend a few days touring the city. One of the highlights of our trip was to see the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame where our father, Joe Młakar, is enshrined.

The Lodge ended the year by getting back on track with our annual Christmas ice skating party in Historic Old Town Folsom. Our youth members, a few potential new youth members, and some adults skated for close to 90 minutes, or until their noses and ears turned red from the cold weather.

Mark your calendars for June 4 when Lodge 745 will be hosting a wine tasting event at Pescatore Vineyards in Newcastle, Calif. Lunch and music will be provided.



[Left] Maren Miller and Angelyn Walker held onto each other for support while they circled the ice during the Lodge 745 ice skating party.

Taking the route to become an SNPJ sales agent

by KARA MARUSZAK
Lodge 142

CLEVELAND — Like many others in the SNPJ, my grandparents purchased a life insurance policy for me when I was born. They viewed the policy as a way to instill Slovenian culture and SNPJ fraternalism while providing financial protection. Although I am a lifelong, fourth-generation SNPJ member, I never gave much thought to buying or selling SNPJ life insurance or annuity products. That all changed when I got married in June 2021.

were different types of SNPJ agents and that I needed to purchase from an agent who was specially licensed to sell annuities. During this process, I was surprised at how few agents were able to sell annuities. The next thing I knew, I was talking to SNPJ National Sales Director David Ely and Marketing Manager Gina Wise about how to become an SNPJ agent.

for a number of different insurance agencies.

them create financial security for themselves and their family while earning extra income. I would also like to thank Dave and Gina for their support and encouragement. They quickly and patiently answered all my questions (there were a lot!), and provided me with a catalog of materials so I could hit the ground running.

After getting married, it was important to me that my husband continue my family's strong SNPJ tradition and join the Society. My husband already had ample life insurance through his position as a Captain in the U.S. Army, so we wanted to purchase an annuity.

Dave and Gina explained SNPJ had three types of agents. At the basic level is a fraternal agent – someone authorized by SNPJ to only sell life insurance. Many SNPJ Lodge officers and National Board members are fraternal agents.

Dave and Gina explained that SNPJ pays all fees (licensing, continuing education, etc.) associated with being an exclusive agent. I couldn't believe it! With just a little time, and at no cost to me, I could become an exclusive agent!

If you are looking for extra income or ways to meet new people, grow your Lodge and support the Society, then I encourage you to become an SNPJ agent today! If you have questions about becoming an agent or are interested in an SNPJ product, do not hesitate to contact me at kmmaruszak@gmail.com.

When I contacted several Lodge officers and the SNPJ Home Office, I learned there

Next is an exclusive agent – someone licensed with their home state and authorized by SNPJ to sell life insurance and annuities exclusively for the Society.

On average, it takes one to two months to become an exclusive agent. The process involves completing a study course and other minor training classes, passing your state's insurance exam and receiving state licensure, and SNPJ appointment as an agent. I started my agent journey in September, and by November I was licensed and authorized to sell SNPJ products in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For additional information on the process of becoming an SNPJ sales agent, e-mail Dave Ely at dely@snpj.com or Gina Wise at gwise@snpj.com, or phone the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675.

Through this process, I met wonderful people and helped

PROSVETA Crossword TV THEME SONGS (#0122) solution

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

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — Members of Lodge 581 are planning a strudel-baking class on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 311 West Creek Road in St. Marys.

Call Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 or Lodge President Pat Moore at (814) 837-9218 to register.

The Lodge is accepting 10 participants, charging each \$10. Each baker will take home a strudel. Previous bakers will provide guidance and, of course, we will have a lunch. John Moore will provide accordion music. Since we are elderly, we ask that all participants have been fully vaccinated against Covid.

On Sunday, Feb. 13, from 2 to 5 p.m., the North Central Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters will sponsor a polka dance at the Kersey Fireman's Club featuring the Rex Taneri Band. St. Marys has plenty of places to stay if you come for both events.

For information on future events, you can find both groups on Facebook: SNPJ Lodge 581 St. Marys, or NCP Slovenian Polka Boosters.

PROSVETA 2022 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2022	MAY 2022	SEPTEMBER 2022
1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30
30 31		
FEBRUARY 2022	JUNE 2022	OCTOBER 2022
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4	1
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
27 28	26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
		30 31
MARCH 2022	JULY 2022	NOVEMBER 2022
1 2 3 4 5	1 2	1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	27 28 29 30
	31	
APRIL 2022	AUGUST 2022	DECEMBER 2022
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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.



MATT MŁAKAR coached his daughter, BERNADETTE, as they made their way around the rink in Old Town Folsom.

Milwaukee bowlers compete in the Verbick Fraternal Memorial tournament

by MARY DONOVAN (584)
SNPJ District 6 Athletic Director

MILWAUKEE — The Verbick Fraternal Memorial Bowling Tournament is back! It was a fantastic feeling to resurrect this fine fraternal event after taking a year off. This was our 28th year of hosting the tournament.

We had a total of eight teams competing this year, comprised

of members from SNPJ, Sloga, CFU and KSKJ. The smiles on everyone's faces and the joy of seeing each other was overwhelming. The generosity of the participants in support of this event was unmatched.

Lucky Lanes owner Tom Schweiger did a great job preparing the lanes and making sure that we had Slovenian sausages available to dine on.

The conversations, the jokes and, of course, the golden ale were flowing.

This year we decided to change the tournament to a 9-pin tap format. The suggestion came up two years ago for us to give more money to the scholarship funds. After much discussion, it was decided we would make the switch. Instead of giving out prize

monies, we now give more to the four organizations' scholarship funds – it's time to fund the future!

There were some high scores rolled, but no 300 games. Craig Frohna did roll a 298, and all eyes were on him as he rolled the last ball. So close! Everyone was there for the fun, and not necessarily for the scores.

We held a 50/50 drawing, and door prize drawings were available to both bowlers and spectators. A huge thank you to all who donated. We had over 40 prizes available to the lucky ticket holders.

The drawings couldn't have been a success without help from Debbie Taylor, Jane Lynch and two of our SNPJ Scholarship recipients,

Brianna Lynch and Andrew Lynch. Much thanks to all of you!

In conclusion, it was so nice to try to get back to "normal." We are truly looking forward to next year, and the year after that. Great bowling everyone! Thanks to all for your support and help to make this tournament a success. A good time was had by all!

Hodgepodge from the Reveliers Lodge

by CHRISTINE PETUKAUSKAS
Lodge 33 Secretary/Treasurer

AMBRIDGE, Pa. — Hello, SNPJ members. Greetings as we embark on a fresh start to a new year! Let's focus on the positive and hope for the best since we have an opportunity to clear our slates and make new memories in 2022.

Thanks to all who took part in the merriment of our combined Christmas party with our friends from Aliquippa, Pa., Lodge 721. It was nice to celebrate together with our dear, jolly Santa; enjoy the delicious food; participate to win an array of silent auction items; and listen to our Lodge president, Dave Pendel, entertain us on the button box.

The photo was taken in honor of our special guests, the 50-year members. What a milestone! They were gifted with wine and chocolates, and all of them enjoyed the festivities. We were truly glad they were able to join us. Gratitude to all those who



Pictured [from left]: Lodge 33 Secretary/Treasurer **CHRISTINE PETUKAUSKAS**; Lodge 33 50-year honorees **ED ROGINSKI**, **BOB STRANO**, **CAROL MOLCHEN** and **CARL MOUROVIC**; and Lodge 33 President **DAVID PENDEL**.

helped make this a delightful afternoon of camaraderie and fun.

A warm Lodge 33 welcome to the following newest members to come on board with us. We are happy to have Katina Eliou and Aurora Slovensky. When we're able to gather safely for our upcoming meetings, we would love to see you!

Happy Valentine's Day! May your heart smile when you think of all those who love you.

For our members who may be "under the weather," we wish you well to find strength in each new day. Stay safe, stay warm and stay healthy... until we meet again!

Spartans Lodge discusses balinca court renovation

by TONI THOMEY
Lodge 576 Recording Secretary

CLEVELAND — Happy New Year 2022 to all Spartans Lodge members! We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season, and are staying happy and healthy during this crazy time.

Unfortunately, due to the quick spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and the horrible winter storm we had in January, we were unable to meet for our annual post-holiday get-together.

However, we were able to meet at the Thomey residence

for a potluck brunch in November. During this meeting we spoke of the plans to reach our goal of renovating the balinca courts at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, in honor of Louis J. Novak. In upcoming meetings we will discuss fundraising, blueprints and costs associated with this undertaking. Stay tuned for future articles, e-mails or Facebook posts on how you can help.

During our November meeting, we had the pleasure of electing Lodge officers who will serve in 2022. Congratulations to President Karen

Novak, Vice President Donna Sebusch, Secretary/Treasurer Linda Gorjup, and Recording Secretary Toni Thomey. We know you will continue to lead us during this year. I look forward to working with all of you on great initiatives.

On behalf of the members and officers of the Spartans Lodge, I would like to offer our deepest condolences to the Azman family on the passing of our dear friend, Frank. We will miss him very much and appreciate all that he did to help our Lodge on so many occasions, especially our summer

picnics. The Azman family continues to be in our prayers at this difficult time.

We are hoping to hold our next meeting at Dino's Restaurant in Willowick, Ohio, starting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 21. Please contact me at (216) 744-4710 if you are able to attend.

For future articles, please reach out to our new scribe for 2022, Charles Thomey, at charlesthomey@yahoo.com if you have any important news or events to share in our articles.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Year-end meeting, events propel Lodge 1 into 2022

by MICHELLE HRIBAR-HERNANDEZ
Lodge 1 President

CHICAGO — Slavija Lodge 1 is excited to start the year with the announcement of two new numbers: Gary Warlick in the adult department, and Amber Potter in the youth department.

We are fortunate that we were able to gather several times during the tail end of 2021. On Nov. 14, members and friends attended a Frank Sinatra tribute dinner and show at Orland Chateau in Orland Park, Ill. The event was organized by and helped support the Grand Lodge of Illinois and Wisconsin Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Brothers and Sisters of Italy. Jim Bulanda, the vocalist, delighted the audience with Frank Sinatra favorites, as well as Dean Martin and Tony Bennett songs.

For the first time since the pandemic began, we held our annual meeting, elections and holiday party in-person on Dec. 4 at Pin Stripes, 7 Oakbrook Center in Oak Brook, Ill. Secretary Hribar read all communications received from the Home Office and presented the financial report.

We held our annual election, and congratulate the 2022 officers and auditors who were reelected by acclamation: President Michelle Hribar-Hernandez, Secretary/Treasurer Janina Hribar, Recording Secretary/Sergeant-at-Arms Maryann

Murray, President of the Auditing Committee Chuck O'Connell, and auditors Edward Hribar Jr. and David Hernandez.

Members decided to see the musical production of "Evita" in January at Drury Lane Theatre in Oak Brook Terrace, Ill. We enjoyed a fantastic buffet lunch after the meeting.

The following weekend, members and friends attended the Annual Lights Festival at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont, Ill. We enjoyed a lovely evening walking through the grotto and Stations of the Cross, and seeing the replica of Lake Bled.

Our 2022 meetings will be held Sundays starting at noon (Central) on March 13, June 12, Sept. 11 and Dec. 11. The meetings will be accessible via Zoom [<https://zoom.us/j/2637569283>; Meeting ID: 263 756 9283; Mobile: (312) 626-6799].

As we close the year together, we extend a huge thank you and congratulations to Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Janina Hribar for 40 years of service to Slavija Lodge 1. Sis. Hribar's contributions to our Lodge extend far beyond her elected duties. We appreciate her dedication and fraternalism over the past four decades, and thank Sis. Hribar for her continued commitment to Lodge 1.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Closing out their activities for 2021, Slavija Lodge 1 members attended a Frank Sinatra Tribute performance in November [above], and in December held their annual meeting and elections [below], and enjoyed the Annual Lights Festival in Lemont, Ill. [left].

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries February 2022

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
142	Sophie M. Matuch	584	Edward Spacapan
158	Mary A. Craig	584	Albina J. Opeka
581	Victoria Stefko		

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	Theresa Ostroske	8	Frank Kure
5	Lillian J. Cendrowski	34	Carol A. Bohdan
6	Gertrude A. Hale		

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Gloria A. Linder	223	Dolores A. Pike
41	Frances Myers	254	Catherine B. Edwards
87	Janet Fenus	584	Edward J. Bernik
138	Joseph A. Volk	603	Jeane P. Novotny
138	Eugene Cargnoni	715	Judith M. Tatusko
158	Frank A. Celigoj	723	Anthony M. Ursich
158	Randolph A. Adams	782	Mildred Tubesing
218	Michael DiLuzio		

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Sharon J. Ebener	257	Barbara A. Lee
3	Barbara J. McWhirter	257	Dianne C. Swinderman
6	Wayne A. Milavec	257	Eleonora Grmek
6	Patricia G. Zaccarino	265	Roxanne M. Dessify
31	Frank L. Godina	564	Gary L. Mrak
33	William M. Kouvol	564	Katherine P. Adamic
87	Susan M. Guerrieri	576	Elizabeth J. Young
87	Greg R. Tekavec	576	M J. Bolden
106	Jay P. Morgan	603	Deborah P. Wiggins
106	Rudolph R. Usenick	603	James E. Luznar
106	Sandra L. Nimpher	715	Rebecca L. Taylor
107	Janine A. Marcacci	715	Judith A. Kelly
174	Mary E. Zaluski	749	Kathryn J. Butchko
218	Judith K. Milavec	771	Cynthia A. Goss
223	Paul M. Barr	782	Rita A. Wolfe
223	Janice L. Kochman	A01	Patricia Engel
254	Barbara A. Bozic		

Important figures to consider...

!	29%... people who would purchase more life insurance if they were asked
	62%... people who own coverage, but don't know what they have or why they have it
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