

Young adults: Contact your Lodge secretary to participate in the 2022 Young Adult Conference

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — This year's SNPJ Young Adult Conference (YAC) is scheduled the weekend of June 10-12 at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

The Young Adult Conference is a weekend-long program designed for 18- to 30-year-old SNPJ members to learn about membership benefits, and to voice their ideas, opinions and

concerns regarding the Society. It is also an opportunity to participate in a volunteer project during the weekend.

YAC delegates are elected by their Lodges; those interested in attending the conference should contact their Lodge secretary. The Society will pay for delegate transportation, lodging and meals throughout the weekend. The 2022 conference will include a community service project, and a brief meeting is also scheduled.

The chairperson for this year's conference is Alyssa Urban (715).

Eligibility is based on birthdate. All Young Adult Conference delegates and surrogate delegates must have reached their 18th birthday by June 10, 2022, and can be no older than 30 as of June 12, 2022. Delegates and surrogates must be active SNPJ members with a life insurance

SEE 2022 YAC
ON PAGE 4

Wolverine Lodge 677 warms hands, hearts at day care center

by KAREN SCHNUELL-RUTH
Lodge 677 Secretary

DETROIT — SNPJ Wolverine Lodge 677 welcomes our new transfers from the former Lodge 459 in Flint, Mich. You should have received a letter by now with the most recent information regarding Lodge officers and activities. Please share your e-mail information with Lodge Secretary Karen Schnuell-Ruth (kschnuellruth@gmail.com) so we can keep in touch.

Many people are unaware of the needs of the unseen homeless mothers and children in Michigan. In the past, our Lodge had collected inexpensive gloves and mittens for shelter kids. Inexpensive Dollar Store gloves were often donated, but we found that they didn't dry in time for the children to wear home in the cold—or if they arrived with them wet, the gloves wouldn't dry in time for the children to use them at recess. Due to Covid, many corporate donation programs were affected. Volunteer and donation options were limited as well.

Wolverine Lodge 677 members and officers Ken Anderson, Tracey Anderson and Carol Roberts voted to provide much-needed, quality, new, waterproof mittens and gloves for the children who attend the Grace Centers of Hope Shelter Day Care Center in Pontiac, Mich. The waterproof hand coverings allow the girls and boys to play in our freezing temperatures and wet snow. And just in time, since the temperatures and windchill levels in mid-January fell to 10 degrees.

The pictures show the overflowing shopping cart that we wheeled to the checkout at Sportsman's Warehouse. Our thanks to the staff and managers at the Troy, Mich., store for their valuable assistance to find the correct sizes for the 50 children served, ranging in age



Courtesy of SNPJ Wolverine Lodge 677, new gloves and hats for these young ladies who attend the Grace Centers of Hope Shelter Day Care Center in Pontiac, Mich. And just in time for the coldest days of winter!



Last stop: the checkout line at Sportsman's Warehouse. In total, the Wolverine Lodge was able to provide new quality outerwear for 50 children.

SEE LODGE 677 GLOVES
ON PAGE 7

And the winner is...

The \$100 winner of the fourth quarter drawing in the 2021 SNPJ Recommender Program is:
Michelle A. Preisser, Lodge 715, Universal, Pa.
Congratulations, and thank you for participating!



June 8 entry deadline for the Miss SNPJ Pageant

by KRISTEN CUSHMAN BARNOT (138)
Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission

STRABANE, Pa. — The 39th Slovenefest and 64th Miss SNPJ Pageant will be held at the SNPJ Recreation Center the weekend of July 8-10 this year, and we're excited to invite all eligible SNPJ young ladies to become part of history by participating in the pageant.

The Miss SNPJ Pageant provides the opportunity to showcase personality, talent, creativity, SNPJ involvement, cultural activity, and community service. Compared to previous years, the pageant will follow a condensed schedule:

Contestants will check into the hotel, get to know one another, and practice for the pageant on Friday afternoon and evening. The pageant competition will be held on Saturday, July 9, and the 2023 titleholders will be announced on Sunday, July 10.

By Slovenefest weekend, entrants must be single females between the ages of 18 and 28, and an SNPJ member in good standing for at least three months. There is no limit to the number of entrants from any specific Lodge, and former contestants are encouraged to enter the pageant this year and/or again in the future.

The titles of SNPJ Miss Talent and SNPJ Miss Activity are not applicable if a young lady has already earned one of these titles in a previous pageant; however, the maximum number of points will still be awarded within each respective judging category.

The deadline to enter this year's Miss SNPJ Pageant is June 8, 2022; the entry form is available on the Miss SNPJ Pageant page of the SNPJ website, snpj.org. The members of the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission would be happy to

SEE PAGEANT DEADLINE
ON PAGE 2

Go **GREEN**...
and help SNPJ save \$\$

Did you know PROSVETA is available online? If you would prefer to read PROSVETA online and help SNPJ save on printing and postage costs, register for the e-mail notifications by sending an e-mail to pcushman@snpj.com.

In This Issue

Slovenia from the Source	3
SNPJ Fraternal Honorees	4
PROSVETA Crossword Puzzle	4
SNPJ Fraternal Sympathies	5-6
SNPJ National Bowl Entry Form	8

briefly

Society sympathies for Lodge 614 president

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office has been notified of the Feb. 5, 2022, passing of Bro. Joseph J. Blatnik, president of Lodge 614 in Cleveland.

On behalf of the entire Society, the members of the Executive Committee and Home Office staff extend their condolences to Bro. Blatnik's family and friends on their loss. A complete obituary will run in an upcoming issue.

Lodge 776 delegate elections set for March 13

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 776 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 April 1 and May 2. All material must be received by noon on Monday, March 14, for the April 1 issue, and by Monday, April 18, for the May 2 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.



Kason M. Curl
Born Oct. 8, 2020

Deegan J. Curl
Born Jan. 29, 2018
Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6

The members of Lodge 6 welcome brothers Kason M. Curl [left] and Deegan J. Curl as the newest additions to the Sygan Lodge. Kason and Deegan are the sons of Matthew (6) and Leah Curl; the grandsons of Gregory and Joni Curl (6), and Jeff and Jill Lane; and the great-grandsons of Robert and Judy (6) Bourg, and SNPJ Region 2 Vice President Jim Curl and Betty Curl (6). We welcome Kason and Deegan to the Society and extend our best wishes to their entire family.

PROSVETA

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EDITOR:
Jay Sedmak

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**270 Martin Road
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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

Bowling outing on the Lodge 142, Youth Circle 94 schedules

by CAROL MARUSZAK
Lodge 142 Youth Director

CLEVELAND — Lodge 142 and Youth Circle 94 have a busy upcoming spring planned! Please join us for one or all of our events.

Strike up some fun and join Lodge 142 and Youth Circle 94 members for an afternoon of bowling to help kick off Circle 94. The event will be held Saturday, April 2, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Wickliffe Lanes in Wickliffe, Ohio.

The cost to participate for adults and non-SNPJ members is \$15 per person. All Lodge 142 youth members up to age 18 can bowl for free. The cost includes unlimited bowling,

shoe rental, bumpers (if required) and lunch. All Lodge 142 members, regardless of whether they're bowling, are invited to attend and will receive a free lunch.

Lodge 142 is seeking delegates to this year's SNPJ Young Adult Conference (YAC). Have you served as a Lodge delegate to the Young Adult Conference, or would you like to? This is a great opportunity for activity in both the Society and the Lodge for those young adult members who receive an SNPJ scholarship.

The Young Adult Conference is scheduled June 10-12 at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa. If you are interested in repre-

senting Lodge 142, please e-mail snpj@lodge142@gmail.com by March 1. We'd love to have you represent our Lodge!

The SNPJ Young Adult Conference is a weekend-long program that offers all 18- to 30-year-old Society members the opportunity to learn about the benefits of SNPJ membership while giving them a chance to voice their ideas, opinions and concerns regarding the Society.

YAC delegates are elected by their Lodges; therefore, those interested in attending the conference must contact their Lodge secretary.

The Society pays for transportation, lodging and meals throughout

the weekend. Spend time with old friends or make new ones, get some sun, and enjoy the fantastic amenities offered at our beautiful SNPJ Recreation Center in picturesque Enon Valley.

The first Lodge 142 meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, March 8, in the Garfield Room at the Mentor Public Library starting at 6:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend in person, a conference/teams meeting login is offered. As always, member participation and feedback is important to us, and we hope to see you there.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Carol Maruszak at (440) 655-8776.

Lodge 581 announces second scholarship award for 2022

LODGE 581 SCHOLARSHIP FROM PAGE 1

Some of our other future projects include a scrapbook party, during which we will research all SNPJ Lodge 581 records and organize them in binders. The Lodge received its charter on May 27, 1926. We're also planning a Jackson Road cleanup, a Shade Tree Commission project, and a bus trip to Slovenefest in July.

We received news that Ljubljana, Slovenia, was recognized as Europe's

Best Destination for 2022. Check out the Lodge 581 Facebook page for pictures and a list of other top-20 destinations. Better yet, make a visit and see for yourself!

For information of upcoming Lodge events, follow our Facebook page, SNPJ Lodge 581, as well as NCP Slovenian Polka Boosters. For more information about SNPJ Lodge 581, contact Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 834-4914.



SNPJ Lodge 581 officers for 2022 [left to right] **MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI, BILL GROLEMUND, JOHN MOORE** and **PAT MOORE** were installed in January. Missing from photo: Lodge officer John Troha.

Enter by June 8 to compete in the 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant

PAGEANT DEADLINE FROM PAGE 1

address any and all questions, which can be e-mailed to missSNPJlegacy@gmail.com.

We're looking forward to the continued tradition of Slovenefest, the pageant, and the legacy of passing on the Miss SNPJ crown.

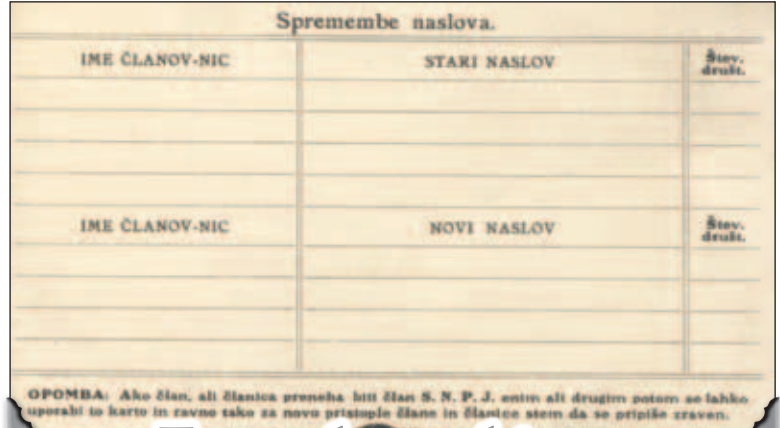
The Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund is currently accepting donations, and we thank the following Lodges for

their recent generous donations: SNPJ Loyalites Lodge 158, Euclid, Ohio; and SNPJ Lodge A02, Pittsburgh.

We appreciate any and all monetary donations, which will be used to help offset the costs to keep the pageant tradition alive. To donate, make checks payable to SNPJ with "Miss SNPJ Pageant" on the memo line and mail to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.



The titleholders from the 2019 Miss SNPJ Pageant: [from left] SNPJ Miss Talent and Miss Fraternalism 2020 **KRISTINA HARTMAN** (138), Miss SNPJ 2020 **DANIELLA VOLPE** (158), and SNPJ Miss Activity 2020 **MALLORY LAMOVEC** (158). The titleholders for 2023 will be selected at the 64th Miss SNPJ Pageant, scheduled July 8-10 during Slovenefest weekend.



From the archives

And all I got was a crummy postcard...

Remember the cheesy destination postcards, the ones that read "My parents vacationed in [insert name here] and all I got was this crummy postcard!"? Though not quite the same, the above sample from the PROSVETA archives pays tribute to the postcard in its various forms.

Displayed above are the front and rear of a postcard addressed to "Glasilo," the first newspaper published by SNPJ and the predecessor of PROSVETA. Although the postcard is undated, since *Glasilo* was published from January 1908 through June 1916, this postcard was only in use during that period. Note the address: Chicago, Ill. Real specific, no?

So why the postcard? Simple. When a *Glasilo* subscriber moved or his address was changed (which happened frequently back in the early 20th century, probably more often than you'd think), he completed the rear of the postcard, applied a one-cent stamp and dropped the card off at the post office for delivery to the *Glasilo* office... somewhere in Chicago. The postcard could also be used by new subscribers who, we're quite certain, would receive an invoice from *Glasilo* – sent from somewhere in Chicago, of course – before any issues were mailed.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- **APRIL 30-MAY 1**SNPJ National Bowling Tournament hosted by Loyalites Lodge 158 at Colonial Lanes, New Castle, Pa. All social events held at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information contact Tournament Secretary Gary Smrdel at (440) 655-7592 or e-mail garylodge158@roadrunner.com. The entry deadline is April 11.
- **MAY 1** Girard, 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 10-12** SNPJ 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.
- **JUNE 10-12** SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- **JULY 8-10** Slovenefest at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ (Enon Valley), Pa. For additional information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- **JULY 31-AUG. 6** ... SNPJ Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- **AUG. 15** ... The 32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention at the SNPJ Recreation Center.
- **SEPT. 2-4** National SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.

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DAVID C. ELY, CPIA
SNPJ Sales Director

SNPJ annuities take on inflation

Inflation is troubling for everyone, but when you are on a fixed income, it can really cause some additional issues. Food costs are the fastest growing expense for retired people, followed by housing and medical costs, and 45 percent have no retirement savings to augment their Social Security income. The national average gas price is up by more than 39 percent from just a year ago, and rents increased at a record 15.7 percent year-over-year in December. Medicare prescription drug premiums will also increase almost five percent this year. There is some good news. Social Security had a 5.9 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase that brings the average monthly retirement benefit of \$1,565 to about \$1,657. Unfortunately, a 14.5 percent increase in Medicare Part B premiums pushes the standard monthly premium from \$148.50 in 2021 to \$170.10 in 2022. Also, December CPI data showed that inflation through December 2021 was 7.8 percent. That's a full 1.9 percentage points higher than the Social Security cost of living adjustment. So what does all this mean? It means that an average retiree's benefit increased by just under \$93. But with current inflation of 7.8 percent, this means one's benefit would need to have increased by \$122 just to break even or keep up. This creates a shortfall of about \$30 a month – not a lot, but it adds up, especially over time – and even more for those on a fixed income. Many retirees rely on 401(k)s and IRAs, where there's no programmed adjustments to keep pace with inflation. In addition, many people nearing retirement often shift their savings to bank certificates of deposit and bonds that don't have inflation protections. One option is to use a fixed annuity to grow your savings a bit faster than traditional banking instruments. Currently, SNPJ 5-Year Annuities are offering an initial first-year rate of 2.75 percent, while the SNPJ 8-Year Annuity offers 3.25 percent. Over the past 30 years, the average annual inflation is about 2.46 percent, while the long-term average (1913-2020) is 3.10 percent. Inflation is cyclical and dependent on several geopolitical and economic issues. Utilizing a fixed annuity as a hedge can help to bridge the gap during the more trying times, like these, and help you rest easier at night. And keeping pace with inflation over the long term allows one to maintain their purchasing power. So contact us here at the SNPJ Home Office, 1-800-843-7675, for a free analysis or to determine if a fixed annuity could be right for you!



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3.75% first-year guarantee rate for conversions of existing SNPJ annuities	

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University, Škocjan Cave share a UNESCO chair

KOPER (STA) — The Faculty of Humanities at the University of Primorska has been awarded a UNESCO chair title in partnership with the Škocjan Cave Park, joining three other UNESCO chairs in Slovenia. The Škocjan Cave, a jewel of Slovenian natural heritage, has been on the UNESCO list of world heritage since 1986. “The main goal of the Chair for Interpretation and Education is to develop heritage interpretation and education for professionals and the general public through a comprehensive approach to heritage,” Primorska faculty dean and chair director Irena Lazar said at a news conference in Koper. The faculty serves as the educational institution in the field of heritage, and the park of the world-famous Škocjan Cave as a center of informal education for the general public, Lazar explained. She stressed that both participating institutions combine theory and practice, which she sees as a good basis for sustainable education. The four-year contract with UNESCO was signed in November, but the university would be happy to extend the cooperation beyond that. The application for the UNESCO chair was submitted in March 2020, and the university was notified that its bid was successful last August. The chair launched its activities in January, which included an international meeting held in February. “The UNESCO chairs program was launched in 1992 and now features 850 chairs in 117 countries,” said Gašper Hrastelj, secretary general of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO. The three other chairs in Slovenia are the Chair on Karst Education at the University of Nova Gorica, the Chair on Open Technologies for Open Educational Resources and Open Learning at the Jožef Stefan Institute, and the Chair on Water-Related Disaster Risk Education at the University of Ljubljana. “Even though UNESCO, a UN organization, does not finance the chairs, the very title brings opportunities for cooperation and for obtaining funds from other sources,” Hrastelj said.

Ljubljana third among Europe's green capitals

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Ljubljana is among the capital cities in Europe with the highest ratings in terms of urban tree cover and total green infrastructure, while it is sub-par in terms of public access to the city's abundant green spaces, according to a report published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in February. “High-quality public green and blue spaces, and infrastructure in cities – like parks, gardens, riverbanks and coastlines – are crucial for health and well-being,” the EEA briefing reads. The report also shows that access to such spaces differs in cities across Europe. Green infrastructure amounted to, on average, 42 percent of the city area in 38 EEA member countries, according to recent available data. In terms of the percentage of urban tree cover and total green infrastructure, Ljubljana ranked third among EEA member capital cities in both indicators, standing at 67 percent and 50 percent, respectively. The only cities with more urban tree cover were Oslo (72 percent) and Bern (53 percent), while only Oslo (77 percent) and Zagreb (74 percent) have more total green infrastructure. Data shows that average urban tree cover for cities in 38 EEA countries stands at roughly 30 percent, with cities in Finland and Norway having the highest proportion of tree cover, while cities in Cyprus, Iceland and Malta have the lowest. Meanwhile, publicly accessible green areas still constitute a relatively low proportion of total green space in capital cities, estimated at only three percent of the total city area, on average. Ljubljana ranked below the EEA average with just one percent.

Ljubljana a hub in carbon footprint project

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana is a partner in a European project that will allow citizens to take the initiative in the debate on climate change and reducing the carbon footprint. Ljubljana will thus become one of



five European hubs demonstrating how to transform the energy system. The project, dubbed “AURORA,” will allow 7,000 citizens in five locations – Denmark, England, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain – to join forces to become “near-zero emission” citizens, a faculty representative announced. As “citizen-scientists,” these communities will crowd-fund photovoltaic facilities locally to produce a total of roughly one megawatt of renewable energy. A mobile app developed for the project will allow the participants to monitor their own behavioral patterns of heating and cooling, transportation, and electricity usage. In return, they will receive tailored advice and concrete proposals on how they can reduce their energy consumption and costs. The project will also allow participants to become both energy producer and consumer, and will encourage local communities to use the most advanced photovoltaic technology to help transform the energy system to make it more fair and sustainable. Hubs for social innovation will be established on university campuses in four locations in continental Europe. A fifth demonstrator will be established in one of England's most economically deprived regions, where local authorities declared a state of climate emergency in December 2018. The University of Ljubljana will lead the portion of the project focusing on upgrading the existing social communities into energy communities. The university's main role is to coordinate the partners to successfully deploy the planned solar plants, to form energy communities, and to attract as many members of existing social communities as possible to join in. “In this way, individuals can start their own green transformation, and the University of Ljubljana is helping to bring the European Green Deal to life and to implement it at the local level,” Slovenian project manager Marko Topič was quoted as saying. Part of the EU's Horizon 2020 program, the AURORA project was launched in December 2021. Over the next three and a half years it will receive EUR 4.6 million (\$5.2 million) in funding. The project is coordinated by the Technical University of Madrid and comprises nine institutions from six countries.

“Carbon farming” a pillar of Slovenia's agriculture

BERLIN (STA) — Slovenian Agriculture Minister Jože Podgoršek took part in a conference in Berlin as part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2022, and in late January announced the implementation of a new business model, “carbon farming,” which will include additional financial incentives for farmers and foresters. Minister Podgoršek said that soil, as a non-renewable natural resource, has often been perceived as something permanent, immutable and taken for granted – which needs to change. “The soil is key for achieving the commitments of the new EU Green Deal because it plays an important role in the transition to sustainable food systems, while also being crucial for biodiversity,” he added. Slovenia welcomes the European Commission's initiative for a new EU Soil Strategy, Podgoršek said, while pointing out that Slovenia is already investing a lot of effort into obtaining comparable data on the state and quality of agricultural soils. Among the measures proposed are monitoring soil trends at the national level, and drawing up proposals and solutions to improve sustainable soil management, including a plan to implement a digital soil monitoring system. “We will also seek to implement the carbon farming business model based on the actual volume of carbon removal and the possibility of [setting a value on] this removal on the markets. Farmers and foresters will thus be further rewarded for storing carbon in the soil,” Podgoršek explained. The minister spoke at a ministerial conference that takes place every January in Berlin as part of the International Green Week. This year's topic was sustainable land use, with a focus on food security. “The key to this goal will be to support technologies to increase organic matter in the soil, improve fertility, optimize

fertilization and soil tillage techniques to retain water in the soil during dry periods, and to prevent erosion,” the Agriculture, Forestry and Food Ministry wrote in a press release.

Bled complex could become a luxury hotel

BLLED (STA) — The abandoned and decaying Pristava mansion in Bled, which has been used for a number of purposes in its history of almost 100 years, is being planned for renovation and converted into a top-quality hotel by Slovenian businessman Otmar Zorn, who has made several investments in the Bled area in recent years. The Pristava mansion in Bled was built between 1920 and 1940, primarily as an ancillary building for the Suvobor Manor, the predecessor of today's luxurious Vila Bled. In its early years, the Pristava complex – with its 15,000 square meters (3.7 acres), two atriums and a large garden – housed the manor's stables and staff. After the Second World War the complex was nationalized, partially renovated, and turned into an apartment building for working-class families. After that, the building fell into a state of disrepair. In 1987, Pristava was given to the Almira Radovljica trading company, which renovated the entire building and turned it into a department store complex. That didn't last long, however. In recent years there have been other attempts to revive Pristava, but the building has mostly stood abandoned. It was purchased in 2018 by Otmar Zorn, who also purchased the Bled Hotel Jelovica around the same time. Hotel Jelovica was renovated and reopened as Bled Rose Hotel in 2019, and now Zorn is looking toward new investments. But Pristava will represent a major challenge, according to architect Monika Fink Serša, since its archaeological site and cultural heritage will need to be taken into account. The cost of the investment hasn't yet been disclosed, but it is clear that it will be expensive since the building will require a thorough renovation.

Aquarium now part of Primorska University

PIRAN (STA) — The aquarium in the Slovenian coastal town of Piran is being run by the University of Primorska as of mid-January, when a contract on the transfer was signed. The Piran Aquarium could no longer be maintained by its former operator due to high costs, so the Education Ministry transferred it, free of charge, to the university. The largest aquarium in Slovenia will become part of the university's newly-established Science Centre, which will comprise four units: the aquarium, the Simon's Bay Archaeological Park, the House of Science, and the Education Centre. In the coming months, the aquarium will also host the university's marine research activities. “Despite additional research activities, the aquarium will continue to be open to the public under the current schedule,” Primorska University Chancellor Klavdija Kutnar said. “We will build on the current successful practices and programs within the marine biology content that we have been developing at the university for years,” Kutnar explained, adding that the aim was to “turn the aquarium into a science hub.” “The property itself, together with all the equipment, is worth just over EUR 2 million (\$2.27 million), and with the signing of the contract, the ministry has transferred it to the university free of charge,” Education Minister Simona Kustec said after the signing. “The decision made by the government to transfer the aquarium is a decision to support the University of Primorska Science Centre. It is the first such development-oriented science center in the country and it has our full support, as will other science centers,” Minister Kustec added. The Education Ministry included a five-year moratorium in the contract, which stipulates the return of the aquarium under the purview of the ministry if its management is determined to be inadequate. The aquarium, which was previously operated by the Piran Gymnasium, Electro and Maritime School, was founded in 1964 and showcases a collection of some 140 species. *The articles comprising this feature have been reprinted with permission from the Slovenian Press Agency (STA).*

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 mem-

bership 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.



Sis. MARY M. DRAGAN (34)



Bro. JAMES L. O'CONNOR (274)

Bro. **JAMES O'CONNOR**
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

FRATERNAL HONOREES
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

police and as an Army Intelligence Agent, receiving numerous decorations. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal (for saving another soldier's life overseas), the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He retired from the Army with the rank of Master Sergeant.

Jim served in law enforcement for 31 years, including city, state and federal service, and retired as a Special Agent for the U.S. Department of Justice. He received numerous Sustained Superior Performance Awards before retiring with 26 years of Federal service. After retirement, he was employed as a background investigator with the U.S. government.

Jim and his wife, Joann, have been married for 29 years, and together they have raised two sons, James and Sean.

Besides 50 years of SNPJ membership, Jim is also a member of the American Legion, the St. John's Catholic War Veterans in Maryland, the NRA, the National Federation of Federal Retirees, and AARP. His hobbies are playing pool, hunting, fishing, hiking, and traveling to national and state parks with his wife.

Bro. **JAMES L. O'CONNOR**
Dunlo, Pa., Lodge 274

FRATERNAL HONOREES
CONTINUE NEXT COLUMN

• Sis. **MARY M. DRAGAN**, a member of SNPJ Lodge 34 in Indianapolis, celebrated her 50-year membership anniversary in November 2021. She writes:

"Thank you for my 50-year certificate and pin.

"I am single. I have one daughter, Martina, who is active in our local Slovenian National Home. I also have two grandchildren, Angelina, who is 8 years old, and Michael, who is 5. They have been to the Slovenian National Home many times in their short lives.

"Both my daughter and I have been to Slovenia – such a beautiful country! We make potica for holidays and have many favorite Slovenian recipes that have been handed down to us.

"I am currently the president of SNPJ Lodge 34, and have served

Sis. **MARY DRAGAN**
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Bro. **JAMES O'CONNOR**
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

for several years as a Lodge officer. Our Lodge hosts a quarterly dinner at the Slovenian National Home, and I have made food and served numerous times!

"We try to keep our heritage alive. We offer lunches during our annual meeting, at which we elect Lodge officers.

"Thank you for all you do!"

Sis. **MARY M. DRAGAN**
Indianapolis Lodge 34
Indianapolis, IN

• Dunlo, Pa., Lodge 274 member Bro. **JAMES L. O'CONNOR** celebrated his 50-year SNPJ membership anniversary in Janu-

ary 2022.

Jim was born in Johnstown, Pa., a son of the late Robert and Pauline (Govaker) O'Connor. His mother and his brother, David, were SNPJ members, and his sister, Sharon O'Connor, is a member of Lodge 749 in Johnstown.

Jim graduated from Cone-maugh Twp. High School in Davidsville, Pa., in 1972, then graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in Indiana, Pa., in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in criminology.

After graduating from IUP, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1976, serving 27 years of active duty with the Army and Maryland Army National Guard in the military

Sis. **MARY DRAGAN**
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Bro. **JAMES O'CONNOR**
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Bro. **JAMES O'CONNOR**
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Don't miss out on the 2022 Young Adult Conference

2022 YAC
FROM PAGE 1

or annuity policy currently in force or paid-up with the SNPJ.

All delegates, both regular and surrogate, will receive room and board. However, surrogate delegates will receive one-half of the travel costs paid unless they bring another surrogate and/or delegate with them in their vehicle. The Society will not pay for rental vehicles for delegates driving to the conference.

The cost of airfare reimbursed to surrogate delegates

will be one-half of the ticket price. SNPJ Lodges and Federations have the opportunity to contribute toward surrogate delegates' expenses.

Lodge secretaries received the Young Adult Conference delegate election forms in a recent mailing. There are some important deadline dates that Lodge secretaries and any members interested in attending this conference should be aware of.

Lodges must turn in their Young Adult Conference Delegate Election Forms by

April 30. Any eligible member interested in attending the Young Adult Conference must contact their Lodge secretary to ensure that their name is on the election form. Be sure to provide your e-mail address to your Lodge secretary; correspondence about the conference will be handled electronically as much as possible.

Once the election forms are received at the SNPJ Home Office, all delegates will receive an introductory packet via e-mail. This packet will

include a general information sheet, a tentative agenda for the weekend, and a Young Adult Delegate Registration Form.

The registration form must be completed by the delegate and returned to the SNPJ Home Office no later than May 15. Return of the registration form completes the YAC registration process.

All delegates must turn in a registration form by the deadline date; otherwise, they may be replaced by an alternate or surrogate delegate.

PROSVETA Crossword Singers & Songwriters (#0322) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

1. "_____ of time"
6. Federal Communications Commission
9. Frosh, next year
13. "Vamos a la _____"
14. *Don McLean: "A long, long time _____"
15. Par on a short golf hole
16. Whatsoever
17. Steadfast Soldier's material
18. Art class support
19. Classical music composition, pl.
21. *One of his hits is a stadium favorite
23. *Paul McCartney's 2013 album
24. Fat Man or Little Boy
25. Cul de _____
28. Prince of India
30. "I Will Always Love You" creator
35. "Goodness gracious!"
37. *Chuck Berry's "_____ Over Beethoven"
39. Bird-made fertilizer
40. Beginner
41. Interior designer's field
43. Come clean, with "up"
44. Meat jelly dish
46. Ad staple
47. What refugees do
48. *Best selling artist in 2000s in the U.S.

50. Type of tide
52. Pig pen
53. #34 Down, alt. spelling
55. Bird word
57. *King of Pop
61. *Bruce Springsteen
65. "Farewell" from Emmanuel Macron
66. Bonanza find
68. Cone shaped dwelling
69. Dust-related allergy trigger, pl.
70. "Days of _____ Lives"
71. *Soul singer-songwriter Hayes
72. Pavlova's pas
73. X
74. Smallest units of life

DOWN

1. Pampering places
2. Chorus member
3. Indian flatbread
4. *He's "Tangled Up in Blue"
5. Salt merchant
6. "_____" Domino
7. Computer-generated imagery
8. Urban dwelling
9. A fake in bed
10. Guesstimate phrase
11. Hammer part
12. Retained
15. Lipton package
20. Grammy, e.g.
22. Mischievous little rascal

24. Theater tier
25. Caterpillar hairs
26. Discrimination against seniors
27. Plural of carpus
29. *Piano man
31. 1600s neck wear
32. Chinese weight units
33. Beginning of illness
34. Offensively curious
36. "How you _____?"
38. Opera house box
42. House pest
45. Population count
49. Cow call
51. Kind of license
54. Condescending one
56. Falstaffian in body
57. Impromptu performances
58. Miners' passage
59. Give a quote
60. *Neil Young: "_____ on rockin' in the free world"
61. Type of seabird
62. October stone
63. *Kiss Young: "_____ singer-songwriter"
64. Abbreviated seconds
67. "The Murders in the _____ Morgue"

The solution to puzzle #0322 will run in the April 1 issue.

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.

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The solution to puzzle #0322 will run in the April 1 issue.

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SNPJ fraternal sympathies

Sis. MARY ANN BAKER • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Dec. 4, 2021, passing of Sis. Mary Ann Baker, 80, of Canonsburg, Pa., in her daughter's home, with her family by her side, following a brave battle with cancer.

Sis. Baker was born June 18, 1941, in Canonsburg, a daughter of the late Robert John and Mary E. Roker Royer. A graduate of the last class of Canonsburg High School in 1959, she was also a graduate of St. John's Nursing School in Pittsburgh, and was an office nurse for Dr. Hsu in McDonald, Pa., for many years prior to her retirement.

Mary Ann lived her entire life in Canonsburg, where she was a member of St. Patrick Church of St. Oscar Romero Parish, and the Christian Mothers and Guild. A 48-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member, she also belonged to the Canonsburg Coin Club. She enjoyed baking, liked to travel, and watch British period dramas and John Wayne movies. She most loved being with her grandchildren, sister, and many cousins.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her beloved daughters, Jeanette (Stephen) Sanders of Warrenton, Va., and Suzanne (Jeff) Wybranowski, with whom she made her home; three grandchildren, Lauren and Caitlyn Sanders, and Wyatt Wybranowski; her sister, Roberta Bowden of Pittsburgh; and a nephew, Daniel Bowden.

A Catholic blessing service was held for Sis. Baker on Dec. 8 in Salandra Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc., Canonsburg. Private interment followed in Jefferson Memorial Cemetery, Pittsburgh.

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

Sis. ELDORA G. BLAZE • LODGE 31 •

SHARON, Pa. — The members of Lodge 31 sadly report the Dec. 12, 2021, passing of Sis. Eldora G. Blaze, 100, at her residence in Mercer, Pa. She was recognized as an SNPJ Honorary (outlived) Member in August 2017.

Sis. Blaze was born Nov. 21, 1921, in Veblen, S.D., a daughter of Charles H. and Clara (Evenson) Green. Eldora married Chester A. Blaze on April 26, 1943. She was a dairy farmer with her husband, and she was also a secretary and buyer for General Services Administration.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, she was also a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Mercer.

Eldora loved all of her grandchildren. She enjoyed polka music, westerns, traveling, gardening and playing cards.

Surviving are three sons, Gary C. Blaze of Mercer, Jeffrey C. (Deborah) Blaze of Hermitage, Pa., and Walter Wick of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; nine grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Chester, on Nov. 29, 1993; one son, Ronald Blaze; one granddaughter, Renee Blaze; five sisters and one brother.

Funeral services for Sis. Blaze were held Dec. 14 at Cunningham Funeral Home, Inc., Mercer. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Hermitage, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 31 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Blaze's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. RONALD D. ELLIOTT II • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Dec. 12, 2021, pass-

ing of Bro. Ronald D. Elliott II, 46, of Houston, Pa., in Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh.

Bro. Elliott was born Feb. 23, 1975, in Washington, Pa., a son of the late Ronald D. and Denise Pintar Elliott. He was a 1993 graduate of Bethlehem-Center High School, and had attended PIA Truck Driving School and Western Area Vocational Technical School for auto mechanics.

A 30-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member, he was also a member of the Central Assembly of God Church in Houston.

On March 3, 2001, he married Lisa McAdams, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Shayla Elliott (D.J. Lloyd) and Brandie Elliott (Jerel McBride), both of Bentleyville, Pa.; two sons, Andrew Elliott of Bentleyville and Jacob Elliott of Houston; grandchildren Annabelle, Auraelya, Everleigh, Jeremiah, Jocelyn, and the expected arrival of Vaeda in March; a sister, Casey Caltuna of Houston; a brother, Jack Elliott of Amity, Pa.; two nieces and two nephews; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Deceased, in addition to his parents, are a brother-in-law, Nick Caltuna; his paternal grandparents, Francis "Red" and Mary Elliott; and his maternal grandparents, Frank and Josephine Pintar.

Services for Bro. Elliott were held Dec. 17, 2021, in McIlvaine-Speakman Funeral Home, Ltd., Houston. Private interment followed.

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

Sis. ROSEMARY WAGNER • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Dec. 13, 2021, passing of Sis. Rosemary "Rose" Lombardi Wagner, 72, of Strabane, following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's, with family by her side. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunt.

Sis. Wagner was born Jan. 26, 1949, a daughter of the late Louis Lombardi and Antonetta Lombardi Senay. After completing high school at Canon-McMillan, Rosie attended Pittsburgh Beauty Academy, but she found more joy in serving, cooking and entertaining her customers at The Hofbrau, AFW Club, and other establishments in the Canonsburg, Pa., area.

Rosemary married the love of her life, her high school sweetheart Robert P. Wagner Sr., who preceded her in death in 2017.

She was the mother of five and loved spending time with her family. She was a proud Italian-American who enjoyed cooking authentic Italian food. Some of her greatest moments were when pasta sauce turned out just right.

She was an avid New York Yankees fan, and enjoyed watching games with her late husband. She loved singing and dancing, and spent her later years with family, cheerfully watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren play sports.

She will be remembered as the strong-willed, outspoken and opinionated matriarch of the family — she would always tell it like it was, but still managed to be soft-hearted with those she loved.

Rosemary will be lovingly remembered by her five surviving children, Annette Matusky of Washington, Pa., Maria (Gregory) Binotto of Strabane, Bobbi (Timothy) DiClaudio of Bridgeville, Pa., Carla (Jay) Mankey of Strabane, and Robert Jr. (Kelly) Wagner of Mars, Pa.; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a brother, Anthony (Elizabeth) Lombardi of Canonsburg; a sister, Joyce (Richard) Lombardi Steven-

son; as well as several nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to her parents and spouse, she was preceded in death by her brother, Louis Lombardi.

A celebration of Sis. Wagner's life will be held in the future.

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

Bro. EMIL J. KUMER JR. • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Dec. 19, 2021, passing of Bro. Emil Joseph Kumer Jr., 84, in Melbourne, Fla.

Born in Cecil, Pa., in 1937, Bro. Kumer was best known as "EJ" by his loving family and many friends and associates during his distinguished military and successful business careers. He was a gifted musician, performing in a local band in high school, the Anton Kay Band, and performing in the Air Force Band. He especially enjoyed entertaining his family and friends by playing his accordion.

In addition to his SNPJ Lodge 138 membership, he was also a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, CMAA, and the American Legion.

Bro. Kumer is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Ceravolo Kumer; his daughter, Kelly Liane Kumer (Johnathan) Fort; his grandchildren, Dylan Fort, Castor Pulliam, Michael Fort, Emil Johnathan "EJ" Fort, and Kristopher Oliveria; a brother, David Kumer; and a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ann Kumer and James Zullo.

He was predeceased by his parents, Emil Joseph and Anna Sakely Kumer; his sister and brother-in-law, Rose Kumer and Gerald Helmick; and a sister-in-law, Faye Kumer.

A memorial service for Bro. Kumer was held Jan. 29 in Eau Gallie First Baptist Church, Melbourne.

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



Sis. SOPHIE GIGLIOTTI (87)

Sis. SOPHIE GIGLIOTTI • LODGE 87 •

HERMINIE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 87 sadly report the Dec. 25, 2021, passing of Sis. Sophie (Batis) Gigliotti of Plum, Pa., everyone's favorite "Aunt Soph," at the age of 100. An 83-year SNPJ member, she was recognized as an SNPJ Honorary (outlived) Member in September 2021.

Sis. Gigliotti was born April 29, 1921, and enjoyed more than 68 years of marriage to her beloved Ernie before his passing in 2009. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Teresa Batis; brothers Joseph and John; and sisters Rose and Mary "Mitzy."

She will be missed by her children, Peggy (George) Matas and Ernie (Julie) Gigliotti; the nephews and niece she raised from childhood, Gary (Krista), Rick (Karen) and the late Donna, and their children and grandchildren; her own four grandchildren; her great-grandchildren; and myriad others who were nurtured by her over many decades.

Sophie left a legacy of food, fun and love to her family,

neighbors, friends and her church. She volunteered in her church and community, and spent years working the polls for elections. She loved to read, and enjoyed playing cards with friends, traveling, listening to music and bird watching.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Gigliotti on Dec. 29 at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church of Holy Family Parish, Plum. Interment followed in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Penn Hills, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 87 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Gigliotti's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. JOE WARGA • LODGE 776 •

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The members of Lodge 776 sadly report the Dec. 26, 2021, passing of Bro. Joe "Yoshi" Warga of Conway, Pa., just days away from his 92nd birthday. Joe spent his last few years in assisted living, but his heart never left his beloved home in Conway.

Bro. Warga is survived by daughters Carol Herrick, Mary Grace DiGiovine and Jeannie Dimerling; sons Mike and John Warga; grandchildren Adam Bonzo, Summer Humbert, Luke Dimerling, Serena Fields and Debi Schlabach; and several great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Jean; son, Joseph; sister, Anne; and brothers John, Adolph, Mike and Steve.

The family wishes to thank Barb DeSalvo for the many years she and our dad enjoyed a friendship that revolved around a shared love of polka music, dancing and good food. We also want to thank the compassionate healthcare workers who tended to our dad's needs. We love you, Dad; rest in peace.

Bro. Warga was laid to rest in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp., Pa., where he wished to be interred near his son. Arrangements were private.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 776 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Warga's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. RALPH MITCHELL • LODGE 33 •

AMBRIDGE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 33 sadly report the Dec. 28, 2021, passing of Bro. Ralph Joseph Mitchell, 97, formerly of Chippewa Twp., Pa., at St. Barnabas-Beaver Meadows.

Born Sept. 30, 1924, in Beaver Falls, Pa., to the late Joseph and Francis Mitchell, Bro. Mitchell was the longtime owner of K&M Auto Electric located in Beaver Falls. He was a past parishioner of St. Philomena Roman Catholic Church, and presently of St. Monica Roman Catholic Parish in Chippewa Twp. Above all, he was a devoted husband and a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He was a veteran, who at 18 years old served in the U.S. Army during WWII, surviving the Battle of the Bulge and earning a battlefield promotion.

His wife of 63 years, Carmella Theresa Mitchell, preceded him in death in 2012.

Surviving are his three daughters, Sherry (Frederick) Arnold of White Twp., Pa., Patricia (John) Mihalcin of Buckeye, Ariz., and Deborah (Bill) Barley of Hudson, Ohio; his son, Ralph (Barbara) Mitchell of Patterson Twp., Pa.; eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Mamie Mitchell of Kissimmee, Fla.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Sam, Tony and John Mitchell; several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial

was celebrated for Bro. Mitchell on Dec. 31 at St. Monica Church, Chippewa. Entombment followed in the Beaver Falls Cemetery Mausoleum, where members of the Beaver County Special Unit conducted full military honors.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 33 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Mitchell's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. FRED RAY RAMSEY • LODGE A18 •

BADEN, Pa. — The members of Lodge A18 sadly report the Jan. 2, 2022, passing of Bro. Fred Ray Ramsey, 72, of Baden, at Brighton Rehabilitation & Wellness Center, Beaver, Pa. He was a 36-year SNPJ Lodge A18 member.

Bro. Ramsey was born Oct. 13, 1949, in Rochester, Pa., the son of the late Donald Earl and Vivian Rowe Ramsey. He was a free spirit who lived for his community and found love no matter where he went. Fred was happiest when he was at home with his loving wife, Susan, but enjoyed doing odd jobs around town.

Fred was a member of the Baden United Methodist Church and was completely driven by his faith in everything he did. He was also a member of the Baden Fire Department for more than 50 years.

Surviving are his loving wife, Susan Pfeiffer Ramsey, who currently serves as president of SNPJ Lodge A18; and many cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Carol Ramsey.

At Bro. Ramsey's request, all services were private.

On behalf of the members of Lodge A18 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Ramsey's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. FRANK W. STRNISA • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Jan. 8, 2022, passing of Bro. Frank Strnisa, 64, at UMPC Presbyterian Hospital, Pittsburgh, with his family by his side. He was a 46-year SNPJ member.

Bro. Strnisa was born May 14, 1957, in Canonsburg, Pa., a son of the late Frank A. and Elizabeth Borza Strnisa. A graduate of Penn Technical Institute in Pittsburgh with a degree in specialized technology, Frank had over three decades of experience in the emissions monitoring field, with both ambient and continuous emissions monitoring. Frank maintained monitoring systems on numerous EPA-sponsored projects.

His expertise was in successful field design and implementation. Interfacing with both customers and regulatory agencies, he had overseen equipment installation and start-up, following through to the certification process. He trained customers' personnel

in maintenance and quality assurance issues to assure the continued long-term performance of their equipment.

Prior to founding Environmental Consultants & Services, Inc., in 1994, Frank had been involved with the development and operation of several service departments, most notably with KVB as the Eastern Regional Service Manager, and with Wheelabrator Clean Air Groups/Altech Systems Division as National Service Manager. Frank's experience spanned the spectrum of installations and certifications of systems, including utility, cement, cogeneration, municipal solid waste, hospital waste, hazardous waste, and petroleum plants.

He held positions on the board of directors for both Hog Heaven Rescue Farm and Tri-State Christian Academy. In addition, he held many positions at both Hickory United Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Hickory, Pa., and Cross Creek Church in Burgettstown, Pa.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce.

Surviving are his wife, Sherry Hannah Strnisa; his sons, Joshua (Ashley), Zachary (Lexus), and Scott (Victoria); six grandchildren, Hannah, Zechariah, Elsie, Luke, Caleb and Levi; two brothers, Ron (Lori) Strnisa, and Chris (Lisa) Strnisa; and many nieces and nephews.

Frank and Sherry shared a wonderful 38 years of marriage. No one could have known a chance meeting on a bus ride would turn into a life full of adventures and memories. They worked side by side building a family, a business, a farm, their faith, and countless things in between.

To his sons, he was a tender warrior — and he encouraged them to be as well, sharing a special bond with each. Joshua and Frank enjoyed solving the world's problems, Zachary and Frank always spent time together working on farm equipment, while Scott and Frank always enjoyed football and the farm life. Frank loved all three daughters-in-law like they were his own.

His most cherished titles were Bapa, Bops, Boppy, Chopped Liver, Papa and Dr. Bapa. He enjoyed singing silly songs, making funny faces, playing dinosaurs and Barbies, and most importantly making sure all his grandchildren knew they were loved. His legacy will live on through them.

To the youth groups over the years, he was known as Uncle Frank. In 2012, Frank helped start Upwards Basketball at the church which has now grown to over 100 players who not only play with passion, but with a purpose.

A service celebrating Bro. Strnisa's life was held Jan. 15 at Hickory United Evangelical Presbyterian Church.


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

FRATERNAL SYMPATHIES
CONTINUE NEXT PAGE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JUDY A. DeBONE

AUG. 9, 1940 – SEPT. 30, 2021



We'll always remember that beautiful smile, the infectious laugh, and your amazing sense of humor...

SADLY MISSED BY HER HUSBAND, BILL DeBONE; HER CHILDREN, DINA THOMPSON & DON (MAUREEN) DeBONE; AND HER GRANDCHILDREN, MARY, CAROLINE, LILY, ANNIE & MATTHEW
ALL LOCATED IN THE GREATER INDIANAPOLIS AREA AND FORMERLY WITH SNPJ LODGE 6



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 fraternal sympathies

FRATERNAL SYMPATHIES
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



Bro. DELBERT REZEK (643)

**BRO. DELBERT REZEK
• LODGE 643 •**

GIRARD, Ohio—The Rezek family and the members of Lodge 643 sadly report the Jan. 14, 2022, passing of Bro. Delbert L. Rezek, 89, at his home in Girard.

Bro. Rezek was born April 24, 1932, in Girard to Slovenian parents Frank Sr. and Frances Rezek, and was very proud of his Slovenian heritage.

At the age of 10 he began taking accordion lessons from the late Isabel Irwin, a well-known accordion instructor in Youngstown, Ohio. After graduating from high school, he joined the Dick DeLost Band. His playing days were suspended from 1952-54 while he proudly served in the U.S. Army as part of the unit that monitored radiation levels in the Nevada desert during the testing of atomic bombs.

In 1955, Del and his good friend Augie Simone decided to form their own band, the Del Rezek Orchestra, and they played together for the next 54 years. The band performed for numerous polka dances, festivals and weddings throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan.

Del had a great passion for polka music and loved bringing joy to people through his music. In 1986, Del's band recorded their first album, titled "At Last." This was followed by two more releases in the 1990s, "Polkas and Waltzes in Your Own Backyard" and "Making Polka Memories." Both recordings were nominated by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame for best polka recording of the year.

Del was proud to be a charter member of the Penn-Ohio Polka Pals; he served as the group's secretary for many years and in 2002 was honored as their Man of the Year. Since 1952 he was a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local #86-242.

By trade, Del was a machinist at U.S. Steel for 31 years and also worked at Brainard Rivet and Winkle Electric. He could fix anything. He loved woodworking, and his family was the recipient of his many projects, such as birdhouses and Santa signs.

A lifetime active member of SNPJ Lodge 643, Del and his orchestra often performed at Slovenefest. He was also a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Girard.

Del married his soul mate, Millie Janosov, on Oct. 15, 1955. He and Millie enjoyed 65 years together until her passing on Dec. 29, 2020.

He leaves to cherish his memory his daughters, Susan M. (Dan) Pasqualucci of Wexford, Pa., and Sally A. Jones of Canfield, Ohio; and his five loving granddaughters, Isabella and Gabriella Pasqualucci, and Samantha, Allison and Lindsay Jones. He was so proud of his girls. He also leaves a sister-in-law, Sylvia Janosov; niece Mary Miller; and great-nephews Paxton and Zander Miller.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by his brother, Frank Rezek Jr.; and his sister, Betty Batrin.

To know Del was to love him. He was truly a most devoted and giving husband, father and grandfather. His family knows he is now reunited with his beloved Millie, listening to those heavenly polkas.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Rezek on Jan. 21 at St. Rose Church. He was laid to rest in Girard City Cemetery next to his beloved wife.

The family suggests donations be made to the SNPJ Scholarship Fund in Del's memory.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 643 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Rezek's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

**SIS. MARIAN H. DORN
• LODGE 138 •**

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Jan. 22, 2022, passing of Sis. Marian H. Dorn, 87, of Lawrence, Pa., in her home.

Sis. Dorn was born May 24, 1934, in Lawrence, a daughter of the late John F. and Laura Simpson Hutchison.

Marian retired as a teacher with Hillcrest Christian Academy in Bethel Park, Pa., and worked most of her career with Faith Community Christian School.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, she was also a member of Nottingham Christian Center, Eighty Four, Pa. She enjoyed exercising, book club, ministry and quilting. Her greatest joy was serving 15 years as a missionary to the Congo.

Surviving are two brothers, John (Jean) Hutchison and Robert (Ruth) Hutchison; two sisters, Jean Macik and Diane (Gary) Hartt; and many nieces and nephews.

Deceased are her husband, Kirk Dorn; and three sisters, Thelma Jackson, Phyllis Kroll and Norma Koza.

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

**BRO. GUTRIE TABONI
• LODGE 6 •**

SYGAN, Pa. — The members of Lodge 6 sadly report the Jan. 22, 2022, passing of Bro. Gutrie "Getto" Taboni of Chartiers Bend Retirement Community, Bridgeville, Pa., formerly of Southpointe and South Park, Pa., at age 103.

Bro. Taboni was born April



Bro. GUTRIE TABONI (6)

7, 1918. He grew up in Snowden (South Park) Twp., with his Italian-speaking parents, Andrea Taboni and Sara Bastianini, and remained fluent in Italian. Along with his brother, he served in the Army Air Corps at Camp Pinedale, near Fresno, Calif., during World War II. He was well known for playing the accordion for the officers' club events.

After four years in the service, he worked in his parent's bar and restaurant, the Piney Fork Tavern, and played all over Pennsylvania and West Virginia in a four-piece band named "Hot and Tots." After his father's death, he maintained ownership of the bar with his mother until her death, then his retirement.

Bro. Taboni was recognized as an SNPJ Honorary (outlived) Member in January 2014. He was also a longtime member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Library, Pa., and the Library Lions Club.

Getto was an avid golfer and enjoyed traveling with his wife and friends to Italy, Europe and other countries. He was an active member of Monongahela Golf Club for many years until joining Southpointe Golf Club in 1999 as a charter member.

Always quick with a joke or story, Getto was loved by all. He celebrated his 103rd birthday in April 2021 with many friends at Chartiers Bend, saying, "You can't beat it; a lively little party."

On Nov. 5, 1966, he married Viola "Vi" Georgiana Gualazzi. They shared the same birth date, but Vi was 10 years younger. They were married for 53 years until Vi's passing on May 20, 2020. They were the couple that everyone wanted to emulate.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Angeline (Dominick) Taboni; his brother-in-law, Robert (Nancy) Gualazzi; nieces Andrea (Dave) Schmitt and Renée (Jeff) Modrak; great-niece Darcy (Sam) Templeton; and many godchildren and close cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Taboni on Jan. 26 at St. Joan of Arc Church.

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

**BRO. ROBERT M. MAVRICH
• LODGE 138 •**

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Jan. 27, 2022, passing of Bro. Robert "Bob" Mavrich, 73, of Bethel Park, Pa. He was a 57-year SNPJ Lodge 138



Bro. ROBERT M. MAVRICH (138)

member.

Bro. Mavrich was born April 19, 1948, in Strabane to the late Henry and Marcella Mavrich. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Teresa (Mesko); their daughter, Natalie (Joseph) Glasser; and their son, Jason (Amy) Mavrich. He was "Pappy" to his six fantastic grandchildren, Tessa, Michael, Alyssa, Cole, Rylan and Mady.

He is also survived by his sisters, Carole (the late John) Pankas and Debbie (Drew) Gasper; his brother, Tim (Patti) Mavrich; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Denny (Maxine) Rusiewski.

Bob had a passion for golf and wrestling. He coached wrestling and baseball for many years. When not coaching, he was refereeing wrestling or yelling at the Steelers game. He was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame with his 1966 Canon-McMillan wrestling team. He enjoyed his golf buddies and drinking a beer with them after a round of golf.

Bob always made sure his voice was heard as he worked at the St. Valentine's Fish Fry and Festival. He was known for his dry sense of humor, for telling and re-telling his favorite jokes and movie lines, and for his cooking abilities, especially fried chicken and mashed potatoes. Often called "Bob-arazzi," he was never far from his camera.

Bob and Teresa were approaching their 44th wedding anniversary in April. They always enjoyed spending time hiking, riding bikes, and being in nature together. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Bro. Mavrich on Feb. 7 at St. Valentine Church, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Bethel Park.

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

**SIS. CHRISTINE ROKAVEC
• LODGE 254 •**

BON AIR, Pa. — The Rokavec family and the members of Lodge 254 sadly report the Feb. 3, 2022, passing of Sis. Christine T. Rokavec, of Windber, Pa.

Sis. Rokavec was born in Lloydell, Pa., a daughter of the late Frank and Teresa-Rose (Onusic) DeMoizes.

Christine enjoyed being outdoors and tending to her

vegetable and flower gardens. She loved all types of flowers, but especially roses. She spent much time in the garden, and canned her vegetables and fruits. She also enjoyed cooking and baking, was an avid reader, and she loved music, singing and dancing.

A devoted wife and loving mother, Christine appreciated visits with her family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. When her husband retired, they took pleasure in travel and well-deserved vacations. Both were active in Slovenian affairs, and they loved to polka!

An 84-year SNPJ member, Sis. Rokavec was recognized as an SNPJ Honorary (outlived) Member in November 2020. She was also a member of the former Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Scalp Level, Pa., that merged with other Lutheran churches in Windber and was renamed Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Her church activities included teaching Sunday School, performing as a choir member, assisting with youth activities and in the kitchen, and quilting.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Stanley L. Rokavec, in 2006; a son, David Rokavec, in 1997; her brothers, Frank and Joseph; and her sisters, Rose DeMoizes



Sis. CHRISTINE ROKAVEC (254)

and Anna Bogovich. Christine was the last surviving member of her family.

She is survived by her sons, Stanley F. (Cecelia Westrick), Kevin (Kathleen Janas), and Jack (Harriet Dagostino); five grandchildren, Christina, Melissa, Gregg, Justin and Caitlin; and four great-grandchildren, Evan, Lindsey, Cody and Luke.

A memorial service for Sis. Rokavec was held Feb. 7 at the William Kiesel Funeral Home, Windber. Christine will rest in peace beside her husband in Richland Cemetery, Johnstown, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 254 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Rokavec's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

DEATHS REPORTED
For the month of January 2022

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01	Elizabeth Dellemonache	12-11-2021	Pittsburgh, Pa.
3	Linda Gindlesperger	12-08-2021	Meyersdale, Pa.
3	Elizabeth J. Gorentz	12-07-2021	Natrona Hgts., Pa.
6	Francis C. Lutch	11-25-2021	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6	Jody Lytle	09-21-2021	Bridgeville, Pa.
6	Walter J. Bielecki	12-02-2021	Carnegie, Pa.
31	Dolores R. Toth	12-16-2021	Hermitage, Pa.
34	Angeline Devitt	11-12-2021	Indianapolis, Ind.
87	Carl H. Shellgren	12-09-2021	North Huntingdon, Pa.
87	Ella M. Filmore	12-11-2021	Bonita Springs, Fla.
138	Rosemary Wagner	12-13-2021	Bridgeville, Pa.
138	Robert E. Patrene	11-17-2021	Canonsburg, Pa.
174	Carolyn F. Zimmerman	12-20-2021	Central City, Pa.
216	Joseph A. Bergoich	08-18-2021	Oakmont, Pa.
216	Helen P. Sucheovich	12-14-2021	Verona, Pa.
254	Ellen E. Knox	04-13-2021	Longview, Texas
254	Charlotte L. Sedlmyer	12-21-2021	Johnstown, Pa.
321	Thomas Scibiur Jr.	12-19-2021	Ravenna, Ohio
449	John H. Schulz	05-10-2021	Osage Beach, Mo.
559	Robert A. Bebar	01-11-2014	Lockport, Ill.
564	Sandra C. Bauman	11-20-2021	Sturgis, Mich.
564	Rafael Drensek	12-07-2021	Sterling Hgts., Mich.
584	Marlene K. Joyal	11-20-2021	Sheboygan Falls, Wis.
643	Rose M. Zaubi	01-16-2021	Mineral Ridge, Ohio
677	Donald F. Fritz	12-15-2021	Traverse City, Mich.
715	Michael W. Rosignoli	10-24-2020	Pittsburgh, Pa.
715	Robert A. Stuchell Jr.	02-22-2016	Pittsburgh, Pa.
721	Carol M. Ciccone	10-07-2021	West Aliquippa, Pa.
745	John C. Pozar	09-29-2021	Stockton, Calif.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

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

82%... people who are under-insured

If your coverage is over 5 years old, contact SNPJ for a policy review.
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Tamburitzans perform in Ellwood City in March

submitted by PETER KUCAN
Lodge 776

ELLWOOD CITY, Pa. — The Tamburitzans (formerly, the Duquesne University Tamburitzans) will perform their new production, "SYMBOLS – The Awakening," on Sunday, March 27, at the Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School, 501 Crescent Ave. in Ellwood City, at 3 p.m.

Now in their 85th season, the Tamburitzans will weave a tapestry of music, songs and dances of Croatian, Georgian, Nordic, Serbian, Polish, Italian and Bulgarian cultures. Audiences will be transported to folk celebrations

through intricate choreography, mesmerizing music and unique voices.

The concert is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ellwood City Scholarship Fund. Adult advanced reserved tickets can be purchased online at ellwoodtams.eventbrite.com for \$25. Tickets purchased at the door on the day of the performance will be \$30; student tickets are priced at \$15.

Additionally, face-to-face ticket sales will be conducted at the Ellwood City Library, 415 Lawrence Ave., on Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., and on Friday, March 18, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.



The Tamburitzans will perform "SYMBOLS – The Awakening" at Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School in Ellwood City, Pa., on March 27.



Lodge 677 officers purchased a full cart of winter gear from the Sportsman’s Warehouse store in Troy, Mich., where the managers and staff assisted with the sizing and selections.

Day care children benefit from Lodge 677 generosity

LODGE 677 GLOVES
FROM PAGE 1

from infants, toddlers, and 3- and 4-year-olds, to school-aged children. Since we were able to work within the budget of the Lodge donation and a private gift, we provided some hats as well.

One school-aged girl had very chapped, red, severely irritated hands that hurt when she tried on the gloves. “They are so soft and warm, but my fingers hurt in the gloves,” she said. We found a pair of mittens in a larger size that fit perfectly – easy on,

easy off. Her smile melted our hearts.

Said another young lady, “Thank you for the gloves; they fit perfect. But could I keep the hat? My jacket doesn’t have a hood, and my ears get cold. “Yes, sweetie. If that pretty hat fits, you keep that, too! If not, we will find one that does fit,” her mom said. She wiped away happy tears as they left.

We thank Ms. Cunningham, the director of the center, for allowing us to come in and have our hearts warmed and filled to overflowing.

Slovene National Benefit Society Privacy Policy

We value you as a member of the Slovene National Benefit Society and we take your personal privacy seriously. We will inform you of our policies for collecting, using, securing and sharing non-public personal information the first time we do business and every year that you are an SNPJ member.

You have provided SNPJ with certain non-public personal information, such as your name, age, residence, marital status and social security number. When you applied for life insurance you may have also provided us with employment and medical information and authorized us to obtain further information concerning your health history, mode of living, avocations and other personal characteristics. Based on this authorization, only the minimum amount of information necessary to underwrite your application has been collected. We may obtain other information from your transactions with us, such as your payment history and claim documentation.

We maintain the highest level of confidentiality concerning your non-public personal information. The employees at the SNPJ Home Office have been trained in the careful handling and protection of such information. Oversight of these matters is rigorous, and our employees understand that improper disclosure of non-public personal information is a serious matter with severe consequences.

We are a fraternal benefit society which has always been committed to protecting the privacy of our members. There are no affiliated financial institutions or third-party non-affiliates which have access to your non-public personal information, except pursuant to your written authorization. We never sell lists of our members’ names and addresses to any goods or services vendor.

Access to your records is limited to those Home Office employees who are working with your file. Should we be required to disclose information in connection with civil or criminal litigation we must comply; however, such instances are very rare. Our policy of protecting the security of non-public personal information also extends to potential insureds and former insureds who no longer maintain coverage with us.

PROSVETA Crossword VALENTINE’S DAY (#0222) solution

B	E	S	T			D	U	N				P	O	I			
A	C	H	E			R	E	N	O			G	H	E	N	T	
W	H	I	P			E	T	A	S			R	O	S	E	S	
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V	A	S	S	A	L				S	O	T	T	I	S	H		
E	W	E		C	D	R	O	M	S			O	N	C	E		
N	A	N	C	Y		E	D	O			A	N	T	R	A		
U	R	S	A		B	A	D	G	E	D			E	E	R		
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Spartans Lodge, CAL partner for balina tourney

by TONI THOMEY
Lodge 576 Recording Secretary

CLEVELAND — Greetings to all Spartans Lodge members. I hope that all of you are staying warm. This winter has certainly been brutal!

The end of January/early February was a busy time for Spartans members. We celebrated many birthdays, some got to escape to better

weather, and a few of us made plans to enjoy the Cleveland Kurentovanje activities to chase winter away.

Our Lodge met Feb. 21 at Dino’s to discuss the year ahead. Our annual picnic is scheduled Sunday, Aug. 7, at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. This year we will partner with CAL to hold the first annual Louis Novak Balina

Tournament. Please stay tuned for further information about this event.

We’re also looking for any members who would like to participate on the tournament sub-committee. Please reach out to Lodge President Karen Novak if you are interested. We would love your help!

We’re hoping to hold our next meeting on Monday,

March 21, starting at 6 p.m. We will be sending e-mails, texts and posts on the meeting location.

For future articles, please reach out to our new scribe for 2022, Charles Thomey, by e-mailing charlesthomey@yahoo.com if you have any important news or events to share. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lodge 749 provides support with 2021 donations

by EVELYN DIMPFL
Lodge 749 Secretary

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — It has really been a long time since I have submitted an article to *PROSVETA*, but I read every issue from cover to cover and enjoy keeping up with the goings-on in other Lodges.

Lodge 749 held its election of officers, all of whom were retained except for the president and vice president. Joseph Vasilko had served as Lodge president since 1963, but due to a health issue found it difficult to attend and conduct the meet-

ings. Therefore, his son James Vasilko was elected to replace him, and Joanne Vasilko was elected vice president to replace James Vasilko. Our other officers are Treasurer Judith Edsall, Secretary/Recording Secretary Evelyn Dimpfl, and auditors Beatrice Edwards and Julie Wagner.

We have lost several members recently, and we express our sympathies to their families. Amelia Frick passed away in the late fall of 2021, as did Annette Cosgrove. To their families, you have our condo-

lences on your loss.

Matilda Pavlik died Dec. 3, 2021, and is mourned by her sons, David and Richard; as well as four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and her brother, John Stusek.

Member Charlotte Ruparcic passed away on Jan. 10, 2022. She is survived by her children, Joseph, Kimberly and Terry, and their families. Deepest sympathies to all who mourn the loss of a family member.

Lodge 749 continues to make donations to worthwhile causes, and in the past year

we have donated to Saturday’s Kitchen; the Slavic Fest, which is held during the month of September here in Johnstown; and to the SNPJ Recreation Center Cabin Renovation Fund in memory of late SNPJ Fraternal Director Kevin Richards.

We welcome new members, perhaps a new baby or a spouse who is not yet a member of the SNPJ. And, of course, don’t forget to check your insurance policies to update beneficiary names, addresses and other necessary information.

Happy spring!

The Ides of March

by MARTY KUMER
Lodge 715 President

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — The Ides of March refers to March 15 and the death of Julius Caesar, stabbed by disgruntled Roman senators.

A famous play by William Shakespeare tells the story, with epic lines like “Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look” (naked ambition); “Et tu, Brute?” (said Caesar to one of his most trusted senators who joined the stabbing); and “...I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him” (part of the famous speech made by Marc Antony

at Caesar’s funeral).

The Roman Empire was widespread, stretching from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea well into the regions of Europe and east to the Holy lands.

An important route to the East was around the bend at the north of the Adriatic Sea, through what is today the city of Trieste and on through Slovenia. And as armies moved, the Roman centurions spread their genes among the Slovenian populace.

So, we of Slovenian descent get some Roman genes, as well as genes from Germanic and Slavic ancestors who likely came with the Mongolian migration west through Russia. (My grandfather Martin, it seemed to me, looked like Genghis Khan!)

The Romans brought back Christians to be slaves and to be fed to the lions

at the Colosseum. But many Christians survived, and the Roman Catholic Church flourished.

At the SNPJ Recreation Center, March also colors the grass green. Forsythia bushes burst with golden blossoms, promising more blossoms and flowers to come in April and May. And promising activities. I love to visit the Recreation Center in the summer: Family Week, Brew & Bean, Wine & Sausage. Gosh, I hope we have Slovenefest this year – I missed it the past two years!

And dancing! It’s part of being an SNPJ member; it’s what makes us a fraternity and not an ordinary life insurance company.

Let’s do what it takes. Let’s get together to see what we can do together. Let’s make it happen!

By the way, my brother Max’s birthday was March 15. Rest in peace, bro.

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of December 2021-January 2022

Christopher G. & Doreen J. Van Ellis, Greendale, Wis. \$300 <i>In memory of Antonia Vodnik</i>	Olga Slenska (749), Johnstown, Pa. \$50 <i>In memory of Dorothy Ujic Pietro</i>	Phyllis Jobes, Cortland, Ohio \$30 <i>In memory of Delbert Rezek</i>
Randall W. (138) & Cheryl A. Casciola \$250	Donald W. (87) Kranitz & Irene L. Kranitz, Winston-Salem, N.C. \$50 <i>In memory of Delbert Rezek</i>	Elmer F. Gasper (6), Carnegie, Pa. \$25
SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan. \$250	SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. \$40 <i>In memory of Gerald Scarmack</i>	Cheryl & Ken Vogrig (138), Canonsburg, Pa. \$25 <i>In memory of Angie Bernick</i>
SNPJ Lodge 174, Krayn, Pa. \$100	SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan. \$30 <i>In memory of Mary Wilson</i>	Jean & Ray Morello, McDonald, Ohio \$25 <i>In memory of Delbert Rezek</i>
Ken & Karen Zakraysek (174), Elton, Pa. \$100	SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan. \$30 <i>In memory of Norine A. Laird</i>	Edward Engel family (138), Canonsburg, Pa. \$20 <i>In memory of Donald Verholtz</i>
Theresa Z. Sampietro, Wexford, Pa. \$100 <i>In memory of Amelia Pecman Bunder</i>		SNPJ Lodge 265, Southview, Pa. \$10 <i>In memory of Linda L. Slugo</i>
Lawrence A. Moler (31), Masury, Ohio \$100 <i>In memory of Delbert Rezek</i>		

PROSVETA 2022 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2022	MAY 2022	SEPTEMBER 2022
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
FEBRUARY 2022	JUNE 2022	OCTOBER 2022
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MARCH 2022	JULY 2022	NOVEMBER 2022
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APRIL 2022	AUGUST 2022	DECEMBER 2022
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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 .		

Athletic Board member elections slated for March National Board meeting

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; they 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 Penn-

sylvania; and the states of New York and Florida

DISTRICT 2: Allegheny and Beaver counties in Pennsylvania

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.

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 months of August 2021-January 2022

Thomas J. Sorrentino (715), Englewood, Fla.... \$100
In memory of Georgette Remezo Sorrentino

Janice & Bob Rockwell (138), Middletown, Md. \$100
In memory of Robert Turcola

Janice & Bob Rockwell (138), Middletown, Md. \$100
In memory of Kevin S. Richards

SNPJ Lodge 2, LaSalle, Ill..... \$100

Kathie & Pat Rheam (138), Washington, Pa.; Patti & Tom Eckert (138), Bethel Park, Pa.; and Linda & J.T. Tague (138), Freeport, Pa..... \$100
In memory of Donald Verholtz

Ken & Kim Zakraysek (174), Elton, Pa. \$100

Barbara V. Smith (138), Washington, Pa. \$50
In memory of Donald Verholtz

David A. & Donna M. Dittmar (138), Strabane, Pa..... \$50
In memory of Donald Verholtz

Michael G. (158) and Christine M. (33) Petukauskas, Conway, Pa..... \$30
In memory of Sonny Jurkowski

Michael G. (158) and Christine M. (33) Petukauskas, Conway, Pa..... \$30
In memory of Kevin S. Richards

Deborah K. & Andrew P. Gasper (138), Strabane, Pa..... \$20
In memory of Donald Verholtz

After two cancellations, the CAL Gorjup Open Tournament launching the 2022 SNPJ golf season

by RICK GORJUP (158)
Cleveland Athletic League President

CLEVELAND — This year marks the 56th year of the Cleveland Athletic League (CAL) hosting a golf tournament, so don’t miss out on a great day of fun and fraternalism!

We always have a great bunch of golfers, and with our CAL representatives, friends and volunteers, this year’s outing should be among the best. The tournament is about 88 days away now, and we’re hoping to draw a record crowd. The winter has been very snowy and very cold, but hopefully spring is right around the corner!

This year’s CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament will be played at Rolling Green Golf Course in Huntsburg, Ohio, on Saturday, May 28. With a 9 a.m. shotgun start, we ask

that you arrive at the course by 8:15 a.m. for check-in at the pavilion. Here’s where you’ll pick up your goodie bags and scorecards before heading out on the links. Hot dogs and pivo will be available at the turn, and a great steak dinner awaits at the 19th hole.

This is always a fun day, meeting old friends and making new ones. And remember, this year the beer, pop and bottled water are free – all day long!

The entry fee of \$90 for adults (\$80 for youth) includes green fees, cart, prizes, a goodie bag, dinner, and a sandwich and beverage at the turn. Your friendly hostesses will again be stationed on the course to provide some libation and a toast to Don. Since 2022 is our 56th year hosting the tournament, we’ll have some

extras to commemorate this anniversary.

The past two years, 2020 and 2021, were anything but usual, with the pandemic and weather canceling our last two tournaments. We hope to see you this year, with all expectations of a great time for all.

The tournament entry form is published below. Please be sure to include your phone

number and e-mail address on all entries in case we need to contact you.

Donations are coming in for our drawings, and we’re planning a few surprises this year. So contact your golf buddies and enter early. As always, guests are welcome.

We hope to see you on a beautiful, sunny and warm Saturday, May 28.

56th CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament May 28, 2022 at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, OH 9 a.m. Shotgun Start

Check Entry:
Men ☐ Ladies ☐ Youth ☐

	Name	Lodge	Phone	Hdcp.
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Contact name: _____
e-mail: _____

The \$90 entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes, dinner, and sandwich and beverage at the turn. Youth entry fee is \$80.
Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Rick Gorjup
7180 Kory Ct., Concord, OH 44077-2221
Phone: (440) 354-5001 [Home] or (440) 773-3233 [Cell]
Make checks payable to
SNPJ Cleveland Athletic League (CAL)
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 22, 2022
The Home Office will verify all memberships. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.

SNPJ 84th National Bowling Tournament April 30-May 1, 2022

Colonial Lanes

3210 Wilmington Rd.
New Castle, PA 16105
Phone: (724) 654-5000
www.coloniallanesbowling.com

Doubles & Singles

Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m.

Team Event

Sunday, May 1, 11 a.m.

Doubles & Singles Events	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2020-21	All-Events \$5 per person YES/NO
Entry fee \$30 per person Saturday Only			
1.			
2.			
1.			
2.			

Submit bowlers’ names by position in lineup

Four-Person Team Event	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2020-21
Entry fee \$60 per team Sunday Only		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Team name _____
Team captain’s name, phone number & e-mail address: _____

The entry fee in each event is \$15 per bowler, \$4.80 of which shall be used for prizes, and \$10.20 for bowling. An extra \$5 is charged to all who desire to compete for handicap all-events prizes.

Return form, along with fees of \$15 per person, per event, to:

Gary Smrdel
4251 Oregon St., Perry, OH 44081
(440) 655-7592

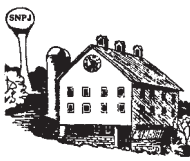
e-mail: garylodge158@roadrunner.com

Make checks payable to SNPJ Lodge 158

ENTRY DEADLINE IS APRIL 11, 2022

All memberships will be verified at the SNPJ Home Office.
Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.
Schedule of entries will be posted online at snpj.org.

SNPJ Recreation Center 2022 Fraternal Events Schedule



April 30-May 1 **SNPJ National Bowling Tournament**

June 10-12 **SNPJ Young Adult Conference**

June 10-12 **SNPJ Heritage Center Heritage Weekend**

July 8-10 **SLOVENE FEST 2022**

July 31-Aug. 6 **SNPJ Family Week**

Aug. 15 **32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention**

Sept. 2-4 **National SNPJ Days**