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## briefly

### Lodge 321 and Lodge 31 to merge effective June 1

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — On June 1, 2022, SNPJ Lodge 321 in Warren, Ohio, will merge into SNPJ Lodge 31 in Sharon, Pa. All Lodge 321 members have been notified by letter of the Lodge vote to merge, and have been provided with the contact information for Lodge 31 Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Bogolin, 305 Sheridan St., Hermitage, PA 16148; along with Barbara's phone number.

We thank all of the officers of Lodge 321 for their hard work and dedication to the Lodge over the years. We also thank SNPJ Lodge 31 for accepting these members into their Lodge in the true fraternal spirit.

**KAREN A. PINTAR**  
SNPJ National Secretary/COO

### June brings annual picnic for Lodge 225 members

**GIRARD, Kan.** — SNPJ Lodge 225 will host its annual picnic on Sunday, June 12, starting at noon at the Arma American Legion. All Lodge members and their guests are welcome to attend.

**LINDA SCALES**  
Lodge 225 Secretary/Treasurer

### A mid-June meeting scheduled for Lodge 776

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — SNPJ Lodge 776 members will hold their regular meeting on Sunday, June 12, starting at 2 p.m. at the SNPJ Recreation Center. All members are urged to attend.

**VONNIE DOMBROSKY**  
Lodge 776 Recording Secretary

## THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are July 1 and Aug. 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, June 13, for the July 1 issue, and by Monday, July 18, for the Aug. 1 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com) or submit your material via the publications area of our website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).

## SNPJ donates to Ukraine relief

The SNPJ National Board has approved a Society donation in the amount of \$5,000 for Ukraine relief through the Brothers Brother Foundation. The Brothers Brother Foundation applies 100 percent of donations directly to support relief efforts, much of which is directed toward medical aid and humanitarian supplies.

SNPJ members and friends wishing to donate can do so online through the Brothers Brother Foundation, [brothersbrother.org](http://brothersbrother.org).



# Save the dates and join in the excitement of **Slovenefest** 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL July 8-10, 2022

hosted by the

## SNPJ Recreation Center

270 Martin Road • Enon Valley, PA 16120

Phone: 724-336-5180 • Toll-Free: 1-877-767-5732

e-mail: [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com) • online schedule: [www.slovenefest.com](http://www.slovenefest.com)

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"TOP 10 THINGS TO  
DO IN JULY"

Non-stop polka entertainment starting  
at 4 p.m. on Friday; noon on Saturday & Sunday  
**Food Trucks • Crafters Bazaar • Live Music**  
and featuring the  
**64<sup>th</sup> Miss SNPJ Pageant**

## And the winner is...

The \$100 winner of the first  
quarter drawing in the 2022  
SNPJ Recommender Program

**Edmond O. Pelino Jr.**  
Lodge 6, Sygan, Pa.

Congratulations, and  
thank you for participating!



PERIODICAL MATERIAL

## Two entrants launch the 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant

by COURTNEY PABIAN KOENIG (138)  
Miss SNPJ Pageant Director

**STRABANE, Pa.** — Greetings, Brothers and Sisters! The Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission is pleased to introduce the first two entrants in the 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant, Michelle Von Merta-Sustarich and Cara Fabian. The pageant will be held July 9-10 during Slovenefest weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

Our first contestant is Michelle Jessica Von Merta-Sustarich, and most people know her by her nickname, "Mije" (pronounced ME-gi). Michelle is a member of SNPJ Lodge 304 in San Francisco and is currently serving her third term as Lodge secretary. She is the daughter of Mark Sustarich and Linda Lou Von Merta, and the granddaughter of Virginia and Rudolph Sustarich and Robert and Barbara Von Merta. In the 1900s, Michelle's paternal great-grandparents emigrated from Slovenia, and from those early beginnings Michelle's family has been very involved in the Bay Area Slovenian community.

Since childhood, Michelle has been involved with the SNPJ Lodge 304 Pust festival, where she has helped with dinner preparations, event setup and cleanup, waitressing, and general festival activities. Over the years and within various Slovenian clubs, she has attended and contributed to Christmas parties, Mother's Day celebrations, and Grape Festivals.

In 2016, Michelle represented Slovenia in the Rumi Awards International Pageant, where women of all nationalities represent their ethnic background, and she was awarded the title



**MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH**  
Lodge 304, San Francisco

of Miss Slovenia. As a contestant in the 2019 Miss SNPJ Pageant she was awarded the title of runner-up to Miss Activity, and her experience was featured in the November 2021 issue of *PROSVETA*.

Michelle is a recent graduate of the University of California Berkeley, where she majored in molecular and cellular biology. Throughout her time at U.C. Berkeley, Michelle participated in an array of activities including tap dancing,



**CARA FABIAN**  
Lodge 218, Denver

Korean martial arts known as youngmudo (in which she received her upper yellow belt), and acting (where she performed as the mother in Frederico Garcia Lorca's play "Blood Wedding").

When she was 13 years old, Michelle was struck by a motor vehicle while crossing the street, and she sustained severe spinal and hip

SEE PAGEANT ENTRANTS  
ON PAGE 4

## You'll BEE happy with SNPJ Heritage Center events

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)  
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members have been busy as bees planning the summer season.

With the arrival of June, our thoughts are on our "Happy to BEE Slovenian" Heritage Center weekend scheduled June 10-12 at the Recreation Center. Our new T-shirt for this season will be available for purchase in the gift shop starting Memorial Day weekend. The T-shirt, which honors Slovenian Bee Day on May 20, is available in youth and adult sizes and would be a great tee to wear for family pictures.

We'll kick off "Happy to BEE Slovenian" at the weekend with a dance in the Gostilna on Friday,

June 10, from 8-11 p.m. featuring music by Patty C and The Guys. Come early for dinner and enjoy the evening.

Saturday will be a busy day, with a balina tournament starting at 10 a.m. in the Balinarena organized by Denny Brand. Sign up for the tournament in the Gostilna on Friday night. The Heritage Center museum and gift shop will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Paint, Pour and Sip, a new event we're trying this year, will be held in the Wine Room at 4 p.m., led by Sarah Loudon. The cost to participate is \$5; you must register in advance since there is a limit to the number of participants. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the Gostilna. This activity is open to

men and women; children under the age of 16 can participate if accompanied by an adult. The Heritage Center will provide refreshments and a cracker and cheese tray; a monetary donation would be appreciated.

Bingo is scheduled Saturday night in the Gostilna starting at 8 p.m. Prizes from the Heritage Center gift shop will be awarded to the bingo winners along with the monetary prize.

The Heritage Center annual picnic will be held Sunday, June 12, starting at 1 p.m. in the Heritage Pavilion with music by the Ron Likovic Band alternating with the Western Pa. Button Box Club. We will be asking for a monetary

SEE SNPJ HERITAGE CENTER  
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**Toll-Free:**  
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**e-mail: [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com)**  
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**EDITOR:**  
**Jay Sedmak**

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### SNPJ Recreation Center

**270 Martin Road  
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**(724) 336-5180 • fax (724) 336-6716**  
**Toll-free: 1-877-767-5732**  
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e-mail: [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com)

## Have something for Up-and-Coming?

Lodge/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_

If a concert or dance, who is  
performing? \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Who to contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to:  
**PROSVETA**  
247 W. Allegheny Road  
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e-mail: [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com)

# Cleveland Federation President Bro. Joe Valencic selected for induction into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame

submitted by Dan Hanson  
Cleveland Intl. Hall of Fame

**CLEVELAND** — On June 7, Bro. Joe Valencic, a member of SNPJ Lodge 5 who serves as president of the Cleveland Federation of SNPJ Lodges and is a well-known figure in the Slovenian-American community, will be inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame at Windows on the River in Cleveland's Flats.

The Cleveland International Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made valuable and lasting multicultural contributions to Cleveland and the region, and who inspire new generations of leaders.

Cleveland Bishop Edward Malecic will give the invocation and share his Slovenian-American heritage story. NBC-TV anchor Russ Mitchell will be the event emcee. Nine other individuals from Cleveland-area communities will also be inducted.

Joe joins six other Slovenian-American leaders whose efforts to build bridges with the city have been acknowledged by the Cleveland Inter-

national Hall of Fame: Hon. George V. Voinovich, Tony Petkovsek, Dick Russ, Vladimir Rus, August Pust, and Bishop A. Edward Pevec.

Joe is a creative and inspiring leader within the Slovenian-American scene – not only in the Cleveland area, but in communities across the United States. He is a founder and past president of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and directs the Museum and Archives. Since 1982 he has also been serving as president of the Cleveland Federation of SNPJ Lodges which operates the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio.

Each year, Joe organizes several Slovenian cultural events in the Cleveland area. His Saturday radio broadcast features music and news from Slovenia on WINT 1330 AM, 101.5 FM, and [247polkaheaven.com](http://247polkaheaven.com) in both English and Slovenian.

Joe documents the Slovenian-American experience in films, and through lectures and exhibitions. He has served as guest curator for exhibitions in the United States, Italy

and Slovenia; and has written or co-written documentaries for TV Slovenia, most notably “Polka! The Movie,” about Slovenian music and sausages in America, and “100% Slovenian,” the stories of Slovenian-American women, in addition to “Many Voices, One Heart,” which profiles the Slovenian St. Mary's Parish in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood. He also writes English subtitles for films from Slovenia.

Joe is a member of the international advisory board of Slovenia's Office for Slovenes Abroad, representing Slovenian communities in the United States. He has been invited to speak to Slovenian-American organizations in 13 states, as well as in Slovenia and Slovenian centers in Italy, Austria and Hungary.

Joe sees the commonalities and synergies between Slovenians here and in the homeland, and enables both groups to develop exchanges and celebrate their cultural identity.

SNPJ congratulates Bro. Joe Valencic on his induction into the



photo © Daniel Milner, 2020

Bro. **JOE VALENCIC** (5), longtime president of the Cleveland Federation of SNPJ Lodges, will be inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame on June 7.

Cleveland International Hall of Fame, and we extend our appreciation for his many contributions to promoting the Slovenian culture both at home in the United States and in Slovenia.



Photo submitted by Sis. Julie Milavec (218)

## Easter Goodies for Denver Lodge 218

On Easter Sunday, April 17 – a beautiful day in Colorado – Denver Lodge 218 members gathered for an Easter brunch and to plan their activities for the year. In attendance were Lodge President **BONNIE LEHNERZ**; Vice President **JULIE CHAMBERLIN**; Secretary **JULIE MILAVEC**; Treasurer **GREGG LEHNERZ**; auditors **DAVID CHAMBERLIN**, **DON TOMSIC** and **CAITLIN ZIMMERMANN**; Lodge members **ANN TOMSIC**, **BEAU TOMSIC**, **RYAN ZIMMERMANN**, **McKAILA CHAMBERLIN** and **RONON CHAMBERLIN**; and two guests, **Dan** and **Harper**.

## SNPJ Heritage Center readies annual events

### SNPJ HERITAGE CENTER FROM PAGE 1

donation at the door to help cover some of the expenses.

Bryn Snow will organize games for children ages 3 to 13 in an area near the Heritage Pavilion from 10 a.m. until noon. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the picnic, and dinners will be available for purchase in the Gostilna.

The gift shop shelves will be fully stocked by our opening date of Saturday, May 28. Another new item we hope to have in stock before our Heritage Center weekend are shot glasses, wine glasses and beer pub glasses engraved with either “Živijo” or “Na Zdravje.” We're also working on ordering one or two more items that we hope to have in stock by Slovenefest in July.

Those in the Youngstown, Ohio, area should mark the dates of June 17-18 for the Simply Slavic Festival. SNPJ Heritage Center

Committee members will attend both days of the festival with our traveling museum and items from our gift shop for sale. This event has been canceled two years now, and the festival organizers are looking forward to a return of participants and a big crowd enjoying the event.

Another event that was canceled for two years and is returning this year is our very own Slovenefest, scheduled the weekend of July 8-10. The entertainment schedule is posted to the Slovenefest website, [www.slovenefest.com](http://www.slovenefest.com). Please note that the Miss SNPJ Pageant competition will be held the Saturday of Slovenefest weekend, and the crowning ceremonies on Sunday.

The Heritage Center museum and gift shop will be open Friday, July 8, from 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 9, from noon until 6 p.m.; and Sunday, July 10, from noon until 5 p.m.

We're also planning the

“Closer Look at Slovenia” program under the tent located on the patio outside the Heritage Center museum near the flagpole. We'll host a number of different speakers on Saturday and Sunday who will present a Slovenian subject or event of interest. We're still lining up the presenters, so I hope to have a list compiled for the July *PROSVETA* issue.

Several Heritage Center Committee members will be attending the American-Slovene Day Picnic on Sunday, Aug. 7, in Cheswick, Pa., with our traveling museum and items from the gift shop for sale. We always enjoy this event, seeing many of our Pittsburgh friends in attendance.

It will be a busy summer once again as we look forward to seeing our friends in SNPJ and both near and far. Let's keep our Slovenian heritage alive by attending as many events as possible, and volunteer to help at some since volunteers are always needed.

# Lodge 677 seeks member contacts

by KAREN SCHNUELL-RUTH  
Lodge 677 Secretary

**DETROIT** — Wolverine Lodge 677 has been surveying our members to see how they are holding up during the Covid lockdowns, and asking how the Lodge officers might better connect and serve their needs. We have received positive results.

Unfortunately, we also have incomplete addresses for some Lodge members.

If you have the addresses for the following members, we are asking that you please contact one of our Lodge officers, or me at [kschnuellruth@gmail.com](mailto:kschnuellruth@gmail.com); phone (313) 938-2981. Having the addresses will help us get relevant information to them in a timely fashion.

If you can, please help us contact the following members: Dina Tatangelo Archer, Charles Alexander, Amanda Bernick, Lisa Dickinson, Lisa Dougherty, Kurt Hutchens, Melissa Jaron-seski, Kendra Kapel, Tara Kapel, Travis Kapel, Kenneth Kowalski, Matthew Maisel, Muntasir Fremont Mitchell, Christopher Moorehouse, Nicholas Semanisin, Michael Walny, and the parents of James Anderson and Jack Anderson.

## Call for Candidates SNPJ Recreation Center Committee

This announcement serves as a call to all members interested in serving on the SNPJ Recreation Center Committee. Two positions for terms of three years each will be filled during the Aug. 14, 2022, SNPJ National Board meeting.

- Mileage reimbursement will only be paid up to a 100-mile radius of the SNPJ Recreation Center
- Compensation also includes a \$50 per diem

Resumes for these positions should be forwarded by Aug. 4, 2022, to:

### Slovene National Benefit Society

Joseph C. Evanish, National President/CEO  
247 West Allegheny Road  
Imperial, PA 15126  
e-mail: [pcushman@snpj.com](mailto:pcushman@snpj.com)

# Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).

- JUNE 11 ..... Western Pa./Lodge 138 Golf Tournament at Rolling Green Golf Course, Eighty Four, Pa.
- JUNE 26 ..... 11th annual Westmoreland County (Pa.) Federation of SNPJ Lodges “Pretty In Pink” fundraiser at the Yukon, Pa., Slovenian Hall; 2-6 p.m. Music by The Polka Classics, door prizes, 50/50 drawing, and a Chinese auction. For details contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404 or e-mail [hvala348@aol.com](mailto:hvala348@aol.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](mailto: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](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).
- AUG. 7 ..... SNPJ Spartans Lodge 576 picnic and the first annual Louis J. Novak Balina Tournament at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by Ron Likovic & Friends. For additional information and tournament registration, contact Karen Novak at (216) 965-3181.
- AUG. 15 ... The 32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention at the SNPJ Recreation Center.
- SEPT. 2-4 .... National SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For details phone the SNPJ Recreation Center at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).



# We've Got You COVERED



by DAVID C. ELY, CPA, FIC  
SNPJ National Sales & Marketing Director

## Be proactive with your life insurance portfolio

Life Insurance isn't really about life, it's about death, a topic most people are uncomfortable discussing. The only time a family benefits from your life insurance is upon your death. The fact that life insurance concepts can often be confusing only adds to the angst.

To help you answer some general questions you may have, like when to buy life insurance, as well as some more detailed questions, like how much should I get or what kind of policy would be best, read on.

The first question is *when* do you need life insurance? The following categories paint with a broad brush the general types of individuals who should be considering the purchase of new policies or taking advantage of our offer to review existing policies.

- You have dependents. Loss of income affects a family's ability to meet everyday obligations. This may include staying in the home, or even educational plans.
- You are married and have a non-working spouse. Again, this situation lends itself to the lifestyle a loved one is accustomed to. Even returning to the workplace may result in a lower standard of living for a spouse than when you were there.
- You have parents who need support, or perhaps even a special-needs brother or sister that you take care of.
- You carry a large mortgage.
- You have a large estate. In this case life insurance is used as an estate planning tool. The cash supplied can restore the estate that otherwise would be diminished by taxes.

Then you face the other question of how much is enough? The answer is quite simple, in fact. The correct amount is whatever allows beneficiaries to maintain their standard of living. There are a few quick methods to help determine this number:

1. Estimate that you would need about five to 10 times your average salary, net of taxes. For example, if you earned \$75,000 per year you would have a need for between \$375,000 and \$750,000. This is a good calculation, especially if you have little in the way of other financial assets already set aside.
2. Another estimate is to replace your income over a set number of years. So again, if you make \$75,000 and wanted to be sure that income was available for your spouse for the next 20 years, you will need \$1,500,000 of life insurance coverage.
3. The most detailed method would be to do an overall financial needs analysis. This takes into account various expenses that your income pays. Expenses may include, but are certainly not limited to the following:
  - a. Annualized living expenses
  - b. College or high school tuition
  - c. Mortgage payoff
  - d. Debt payoff
  - e. Future retirement needs for a surviving spouse
  - f. Long-term care potential needs
  - g. Special circumstances

This third approach takes a little more time and thought, but can be led by working with a life insurance professional. Life insurance is not for everyone, but for most people it is absolutely necessary as part of an overall financial plan. At SNPJ, our agents are available to help guide you through these questions and offer advice to help you make decisions that will allow you to rest easy at night. Please contact the SNPJ Home Office today at 1-800-843-7675 for a free life insurance needs review.



## SNPJ Loyalty Annuities

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

### Loyalty 8 Annuity

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

### Loyalty 5 Annuity

- 5-year surrender period
- 2.75% first-year **guarantee** rate for new money
- 2.50% in year two and after
- 3.25% first-year **guarantee** rate for conversions of existing SNPJ annuities

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

**Slovene National Benefit Society**  
247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA • 15126  
1-800-843-7675 • www.snpj.org



## Medal of Merit for two U.S. Slovenians

WASHINGTON, D.C. (STA) — Slovenia honored American-Slovenians Mark Ryavec and Stephen Antalics with the Medal of Merit for their efforts in the U.S. recognition of independent Slovenia during the early 1990s. Slovenian Ambassador to the United States Tone Kajzer presented the decorations on behalf of President Borut Pahor at the Slovenian Embassy on April 25.

Mark Ryavec, a member of SNPJ Lodge 786, in Orange County, Calif., who served as Slovenia's Honorary Consul in Los Angeles from 1996-2002, received the medal for his contribution to the country's recognition by the U.S. He has also contributed to the promotion of Slovenian culture and art in the U.S. For example, he organized a high-profile exhibition of Slovenian masterpieces at the Los Angeles Craft & Folk Art Museum in 2000.

Ryavec, whose grandfather left Slovenian lands near Trieste for the United States in 1908, is also credited with the city of Los Angeles recognizing Slovenia and Croatia in July 1991, which amounts to the first official documentation of Slovenia's recognition in the United States.

Stephen Antalics was honored for his efforts to preserve the Slovenian identity. Antalics, who only recently received Slovenian citizenship at the age of 93, is the founder of the Bethlehem, Pa., and Murska Sobota Twin Cities Association.

Antalics was born in Bethlehem to Slovenian parents who left a village near Murska Sobota, in Slovenia's Prekmurje region, prior to the First World War. Since Prekmurje was under Hungarian rule until the end of WWI, Hungarian churches in the U.S. managed to persuade many emigrants that they were the descendants of a Windish people. Many Slovenians accepted this narrative until Antalics thoroughly researched the matter at Lehigh University to prove they were Slovenians.

## Book traces Slovenia's independence year

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Publisher Družina and the Government Communication Office (UKOM) launched a monograph chronicling the events from Dec. 23, 1990, when Slovenians opted for independence in a referendum, and from Jan. 15, 1992, when Slovenia was recognized as an independent country by the European Community, the forerunner of the EU. At present, only a Slovenian language book is available.

The book, titled "Triumphant Year – Independence Story of Our State Slovenia," includes photos and articles from 21 authors, historians, journalists, commentators, political analysts and other experts.

The publication is a summary of contributions made during a project running from December 2020 and January 2022 in which the authors were seeking answers to questions about Slovenia's independence 30 years ago, such as who were the main players taking Slovenia onto the path of independence, and how Slovenians were coping with the challenges at the time.

For sources, the authors relied on domestic and foreign newspapers published at the time that reported on events in Slovenia, as well as literature discussing events related to the independence process. All contributions to the book include a QR code that allows the reader to view the contribution in its original form on the gov.si/slovenija30 website.

## Tour of Slovenia attracting top cyclists

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The Tour of Slovenia, the largest road cycling event in the country, will run its 28th race in mid-June, this time with live spectators. Covering almost 800 kilometers (roughly 500 miles), the five-stage race will again attract the greatest names in the sport, including the world's top-ranked cyclist, Slovenian Tadej Pogacar.

The organizers have announced a technically demanding race which is, in a way, becoming a national cycling holiday given that Slovenia currently has three cyclists among the world's top five. "You can see that Slovenians have adopted this race as their own, so a strong, positive, national charge is expected," Tour of Slovenia Director Bogdan Fink told the press.

The race around Slovenia is increas-



ingly being promoted as a warm-up for the Tour de France, which is evident from the names of competitors who have registered. Four teams from the elite class are expected among the 22 teams that will take part.

Fink promised a route that offers an "exceptionally watchable race," adding that "the stages are set for up to four hours of racing, speeds will be high, and everybody will get their opportunity along the route."

The five-day race will start June 15 in Nova Gorica, with the first stage ending in Postojna. The second stage will take the competitors from Ptuj to Rogaska Slatina, and the third stage from Zalec to Celje, featuring a key climb. On the fourth day, June 18, the caravan will run from Laško to the Velika Planina plateau, passing Pogačar's native village of Klanec; the final stage will take the cyclists from Vrhnika to Novo Mesto.

While the race will be an opportunity to prove who is the best rider ahead of the Tour de France, the organizers also expect that Slovenia will be promoted as an exceptional host of international sporting events, as well as a green tourist destination.

In addition to public broadcaster RTV Slovenija, the race will again be broadcast live by the Eurosport international sports network for a total of 10 hours. The live broadcast will be available in 130 countries.

## Ljubljana a Tree City for the third straight year

LJUBLJANA (STA) — With 1,080 new trees having been planted in Ljubljana in 2021, and 230 more planted this spring, the Slovenian capital had no problems remaining on the list of Tree Cities of the World compiled by the Arbor Day Foundation and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

For the third year in a row Ljubljana has made the list, which includes 137 cities for 2021. Municipal representatives responded by pointing to the importance of trees for the city, society and individuals. "Ljubljana is part of an important global network that is paving the way when it comes to care for urban forests and trees in cities," the representatives wrote.

Investment in trees in the Slovenian capital increased by 25 percent in 2021 compared to the year prior.

A recent report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) ranks Ljubljana among the European capitals with the highest ratings in terms of urban tree cover and total green infrastructure. In terms of the percentage of urban tree cover and total green infrastructure, Ljubljana ranked third among the EEA member capital cities. The only European capital cities with more urban tree cover are Oslo, Norway, and Bern, Switzerland.

## Researchers can now dig deeper into diabetes

MARIBOR (STA) — In mid-April, the University of Maribor acquired a confocal laser scanning microscope that will enable researches to study intercellular changes in an effort to seek out new drug targets to treat or cure diabetes.

The unit, a Stellaris 8 Falcon DIVE, was acquired as part of the project to upgrade Slovenia's national research infrastructure. Andraž Stožer, a member of the university's Faculty of Medicine, said that this is "probably the most advanced confocal laser scanning microscope in the world."

The microscope will be available to a wide range of researchers, allowing them to study intracellular and intercellular processes in the pancreas, along with the mechanisms that lead to overactivity of the bladder.

Confocal microscopy is useful in recording the dynamics of intracellular changes in calcium concentration, which serve as a marker of cell function. It also allows for recording at the sub-cellular level and on a large number of cells within the organ that is being studied.

Stožer said it is key that the cells stay alive for a long time, and their responses are very similar to those of the entire organism, which gives researchers a key advantage and an opportunity to look for new drug targets based on insights into what goes wrong in cells.

## Orange wines take center stage in Izola

IZOLA (STA) — The Orange Wine Festival physically returned to Manzioli Square in Izola in late April, featuring 62 winemakers from Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Austria, Hungary, Greece and Georgia. The winemakers showcased roughly 200 wines.

Orange wines are sustainably produced white macerated wines involving minimal intervention by the winemaker, a process the festival organizers say is becoming an increasingly established style of production.

Both the winemakers and the organizers had been waiting – impatiently – for the annual festival to return in its standard, pre-Covid-19 format. Matej Zaro, one of the event hosts, noted that a similar iteration of the festival was held at the beginning of April in Verona, Italy, as part of the Vinitaly Festival, which showed that the fairs and exhibitions industry is fully back to business after the pandemic.

Speaking to the press, Zaro noted that the Orange Wine Festival was created to showcase winemakers who share the same mindset of sustainable, organic or biodynamic work in the vineyards. Orange wines account for a mere one to two percent of total wine production, which makes them "a niche segment, but one that has made its way into haute cuisine," according to Zaro.

These exclusive wines are increasingly sought after, and the region between the Alps and the Adriatic is recognized around the globe for its orange wines.

On the eve of the Orange Wine Festival, a documentary on the ancient wine tradition and its revival premiered at the Koper theatre. "Call It Amber" was filmed in several locations, including Georgia, Slovenia and Italy.

## Maribor launches its own bike sharing system

MARIBOR (STA) — In April the city of Maribor introduced a bicycle sharing system, Mbajk, which at present comprises 21 docking stations and 210 bicycles spread across the broader area of the city center. The system was officially launched May 3, following the May Day holidays.

The bikes are intended for single-ride hire, not for multi-hour or full-day hire. "This is a practical and environmentally-friendly addition to the public transportation system in the city," according to the Maribor municipality.

Users can rent a bike at any of the 21 stations, and return it to any of the stations as well. The bikes can be rented via a terminal at the station, or by using the Mbajk mobile app. Renters can also check the availability of free bikes and locks available at each station.

The annual registration fee costs EUR 3 (approx. \$3.15). The first hour of each rental is free for an unlimited number of rentals. The system will be operational 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Users can register for the system at [www.mbjk.si](http://www.mbjk.si).

According to Maribor Mayor Saša Arsenovič, the city plans to expand the sharing network in the future.

## The village of Štanjel welcomes new museum

ŠTANJEL (STA) — A new museum opened in the medieval village of Štanjel in mid-April. The museum's first exhibition, "Nature and Man in the Karst Region," offers an interactive experience of the Karst area and is mainly targeted toward families and schoolchildren.

Housed in the renovated Štanjel Castle, the museum will promote the region's cultural heritage and biotic diversity, and will advocate nature conservation.

Štanjel Castle had been in need of renovation for years. In 2010, the municipality failed to receive funding from the Culture Ministry to complete the renovation. "But the situation improved once the castle acquired the relevant status by becoming part of a ministry-sponsored project aimed at promoting and preserving biodiversity," Komen Mayor Erik Modic explained.

The EUR 900,000 (\$978,800) project marks the single largest investment in Štanjel Castle to date. Comprising some 400 square meters (43,000 square feet) of exhibit space, the museum hopes to boost local tourism.

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



# Treat dad on his day, Nashville style, at the Utopians Lodge annual picnic

by GERRI TREBETS  
Lodge 604 Secretary

**KIRTLAND, Ohio** — Are you ready for some lively music? Then the SNPJ Farm, located at 10946 Heath Road in Kirtland, is the place you'll want to be on Sunday, June 19, when SNPJ Utopians Lodge 604 hosts its annual picnic. Since this is the date of Father's Day, all fathers will receive a boutonniere. Bring dad out for a relaxing and fun-filled afternoon. Gate admission is \$8. It's been a number of years

since the father and son team of Ed Rodick Jr. and Eddie Rodick III, "E3," have played together at the SNPJ Farm, so we're in for a real treat! In addition, Lynn Marie Hrovat and the Nashville Polka Boys will be on stage to perform some of the best Nashville sounds with a polka twist! Music for your dancing and listening pleasure will run from 3 to 7 p.m. To satisfy those hunger pangs, the Farm is offering some great home-cooked food. Dinners are available for \$12

and include Slovenian sausage or roast beef served with two sides, krofe and coffee. Slovenian sausage, roast beef and pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, sauerkraut, Slovenian potatoes, salad or coleslaw will also be available throughout the afternoon. Serving starts at 2 p.m. Doesn't a root beer float sound refreshing? We will be offering regular or adult floats. Liquid refreshments will be available at the bar area. In addition to our side

board, the Utopians Lodge will be hosting a Lotto Tree drawing. All proceeds will be donated to "A Special Wish Cleveland – 24/24" event. The SNPJ Farm offers cornhole toss and horseshoes, and three balina courts are available. For the younger set, the Farm has a beautiful playground. The Utopians Lodge always likes to honor our 50-, 60- and 70-year members during our picnic. This year we'll honor 50-year members Laura J.

Hill, James L. Tidwell, Sandra L. Smith, Mary Lou Zampler, Janice L. Weiss and Sherrie S. Kubiak; 60-year members Diane Matuszewski and Patricia Delventhal; and 70-year member Veronica Beuley. Letters will be mailed to these honorees in the near future; I hope they are able to attend. The SNPJ Farm work team has been busy getting ready for the new season, and the Farm is really shaping up. Our grounds are beautiful – what a nice way to spend an afternoon!

We hope you'll mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. For more information, please contact Gerri Trebets at (440) 796-5148. Remember, other SNPJ Lodges and organizations hold events throughout the season at the SNPJ Farm, so I hope you come out to support them as well. The Farm has a great lineup in store for you this year. The SNPJ Farm can't survive without your support, so let's keep our Slovenian heritage alive and strong!

## "The Visoko Chronicle," an Ivan Tavčar classic, translated to English

Press Release

Central European University Press announces the release of an English translation of "The Visoko Chronicle," a classic of Slovene literature penned by Ivan Tavčar. The novel chronicles two generations on the Visoko estate in the Duchy of Carniola during the 17th century. Events and the fate of the estate owners are shaped by witchcraft persecutions, the mistreatment of Protestants, and the Thirty Years' War. These themes figure into the construction of a Slovene national identity, which was going through a decisive phase when

the novel was released in 1919; a time when most Slovenes had already left the Habsburg Crown for the newly-formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The novel was published as a serial, in Slovene, three times in PROSVETA. The translator, Timothy Pogačar, a member of SNPJ Lodge 142 in Cleveland, teaches at Bowling Green State University and edits the journal *Slovene Studies*. The book is available in hard copy and for Kindle download. For more information visit <https://ceupress.com/book/visoko-chronicle>.



## June Is Bustin' Out...

by MARTY KUMER  
Lodge 715 President

**UNIVERSAL, Pa.** — The headline of this article is part of the title of a famous song from a Broadway play. I can't remember which... "State Fair?" "Oklahoma?" Anyway, it presents June as everything blooming – the flowers, trees, birds, bees, animals mating, and whatnot. *Editor's Note:* The full song title is "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel." June is known for romance and marriage, and our SNPJ Recreation Center is filled with reservations that are vital to support it. Consider a get-away at the SNPJ Rec Center: a quiet rural area between two metropolitan locations, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. The Rec Center is surrounded by golf courses, attractions, wineries, breweries and restaurants. McConnell's Mill State Park on Slippery Rock Creek is famous for its boulders and hiking trails; Moraine State Park is handy for boating.

The Rec Center is an ideal location for family get-togethers, large group round-ups, church retreats and other groups. Phone the Recreation Center at 1-877-767-5732 to inquire about special group rates. There are plenty of vacancies in the cabins, especially on week-days, at very reasonable rates. As I write, there are worrisome issues that beset us. Covid is easing up, but inflation is a problem – and we have a murderous dictator destroying a neighboring country and threatening nuclear war if we try to stop him. Inflation isn't good, especially for people like me on a fixed income. But the good news is, it resulted from the government giving us money for relief from the pandemic, resulting in creating more jobs and a booming economy. But businesses and suppliers figured to get that money and are gouging us. Hopefully inflation will ease – and sooner than later. As for the dictator, like Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin before him (I remember WWII), they ban free speech and run their own propaganda press. Beware of would-be leaders who lie and twist the news. Beware of leaders who promise freedom, yet try to suppress freedom for certain groups. Everyone loves *freedom*. But freedom without accountability and responsibility is not acceptable, and freedom to break laws is criminal.

## The Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission welcomes two entrants to the 2022 field

**PAGEANT ENTRANTS**  
FROM PAGE 1

injuries. This experience later compelled her to be involved in TRIO: Disabled Students Program, which helps students such as herself to pursue educational goals through academic accommodations, workshops and community-building activities. Currently, Michelle teaches Muay Thai at Barrios Martial Arts in San Francisco, is part of the World Team USA fight team, and works with clientele as a personal trainer. Through the National Academy of Sports Medicine, Michelle is certified as a personal trainer, nutrition coach, weight loss specialist, and corrective exercise specialist. Other professional activities that Michelle is passionate about include working as a model – she received a special recognition award from the U.S. Congress in Jackie Spierer's Congressional Art Competition and was a finalist as a model in Photographer's

Forum 36th Annual College and High School Photography Contest – and dancing in music videos. Our second pageant entrant is Cara Fabian, a member of SNPJ Lodge 218 in Denver who is currently a student at Colorado State University. Cara is the daughter of Lisa and Paul Fabian, and granddaughter of Agnes and Fred Fabian. In high school Cara was a member of the National Honor Society and received High Honor Roll recognition (GPA of 4.0 or higher) each year, was team captain on the volleyball team, served as president of the choir and the International Thespian Society (the honor society for high school theatre students), and was a senior dancer at her hometown dance studio. Cara received the Green and Gold Scholarship to Colorado State University, and earned a Leadership Scholarship from Chick-fil-A. At Colorado State, Cara is involved in choir, Ram

Catholic (a Catholic campus ministry organization), the Society of Biomedical Engineers, and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), where she is a board member for the Stick With SWE event. In the community near campus, Cara participates in a dance group and volunteers at a local theater. Within the community theater, Cara is an actor in adult shows and helps with children's shows by supporting younger generations with acting, singing and dancing. We welcome these young ladies to the 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant and wish them all the best. The pageant program will begin at noon in The Alpine Room on Saturday, July 9; everyone is invited to attend. The crowning of Miss SNPJ 2023 and her court will take place in The Alpine Room starting at noon on Sunday, July 10. We look forward to seeing everyone there to support this time-honored SNPJ tradition.

## Your sweetheart will simply adore an afternoon of polkas at the SNPJ Farm

by JOE VALENCIC (5)  
Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame

**KIRTLAND, Ohio** — Swing your sweetie to the tunes of the Polka Star of Tomorrow, Garrett Tatano, at the annual Sweetheart Dance on Sunday, June 26, hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame at the SNPJ Farm. The doors open at noon; music will be performed from 2 to 6 p.m. Sandwiches, beverages and sweet treats will be available. Your polka host, Sharon Staiduhar, has surprises in store for lovebirds – you may even go home a winner! Garrett Tatano arrives from the Pittsburgh area to perform

four hours of fine ballroom-style polka and waltz favorites ideal for a romantic afternoon. Last year, Garrett won the Polka Star of Tomorrow competition presented by the Polka Hall of Fame. You'll be won over by his danceable style. Sweetheart Dance tickets are available for \$12 in advance or \$15 the day of the event; guests 18 and under admitted free of charge. Order tickets from the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd St. in Euclid, Ohio; phone (216) 261-3263; or visit in person Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Reserve tables by calling (440) 679-1420.



**GARRETT TATANO**, the Polka Star of Tomorrow. The SNPJ Farm is located at 10946 Heath Road in Kirtland, off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306 and six miles west of Route 44.

## PROSVETA Crossword

### Gardening (#0622) by StatePoint Media

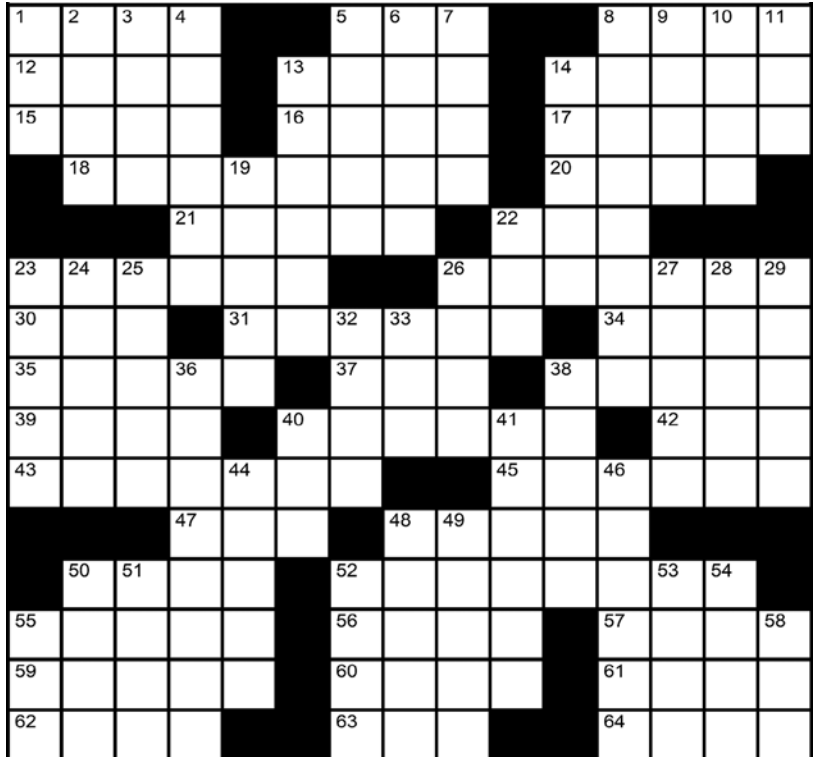
#### ACROSS

- Betting probability
- Once headed by J. Edgar Hoover
- Formally surrender
- Gravy holder
- Nile dweller, for short
- More certain
- Tiny bit
- a.k.a. Bruce Banner
- One who plies one's trade
- \*"Days to \_\_\_\_\_," on a seed packet
- Big-ticket \_\_\_\_\_
- Apartments, e.g.
- \*Plumerias are often used in this Hawaiian greeting
- Scrooge's visitors
- Digging into
- What Carl Lewis did
- Bestow
- Month before Nisan
- Dress with a flare
- Choler
- On a store tag
- Central points
- Paul Reubens' Herman
- Mother lode stuff
- African bloodsucking pests
- Salty dogs
- Current tense of #30 Across

#### DOWN

- Kimono closer
- Banish to Hades
- Crunched numbers
- Facebook's update feature
- \*Seed plant's harvest
- \*Goes to seed
- Rotten and stinky
- \*Plant variety
- Famous canal
- Hold as a conviction
- Make a blunder
- Church service oil
- Salesman's speech, e.g.

- Loosen laces
  - Tennis do-over
  - \*Splice, to a gardener
  - Nimbi on ikons
  - In the cooler (2 words)
  - Former Saint Brees
  - "Pulling my leg," e.g.
  - Mother-of-pearl
  - \*Kind of thumb
  - Pizzeria output, pl.
  - "\_\_\_\_\_ you kidding?"
  - \*N in N-P-K
  - Sneaked glances
  - Slammer
  - "The Shawshank Redemption" theme
  - Served raw
  - Isaac of science fiction
  - This Dogg can rap
  - What Elton John tickles, sing.
  - Street in Anytown, USA
  - Guesstimate phrase (two words)
  - Bodily disorders
  - Lope de \_\_\_\_\_, Spanish playwright
  - Building extensions
  - Nurses' org.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ time in golf
- The solution to puzzle #0622 will run in the July 1 issue.



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# SNPJ FRATERNAL HONOREES

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

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH  
SNPJ National President/CEO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Cleveland Lodge 142 member Sis. **SOPHIE M. MATUCH** celebrated her 80-year SNPJ membership in February. In a note of appreciation addressed to SNPJ National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish, she writes:

"Thank you for the beautiful afghan that I received as an 80-year member of SNPJ. It is a wonderful representation of our Slovenian culture, picturing Lake Bled and our traditional dress, along with the SNPJ Home Office and Recreation Center.

"My parents were born in Slovenia (my father immigrated to America and my mother followed) and along with my five siblings, three sisters and two brothers, we were surrounded by our ethnic culture, from our neighborhood to our food, our music and, of course, the Slovenian language. My father and mother, John and Jennie Kapel, instilled in all of us the importance of family and the significance of both our heritage and the SNPJ fraternal organization.

"I have such warm memories of SNPJ through the years. When my four daughters were growing up they belonged to MPZ Circle 3, the SNPJ youth singing group that practiced at Waterloo Hall in Cleveland. We were there every Friday night for years, practicing for the fall concerts and spring plays, as well as the Summer Circus at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio.

"Summers would always find me in the kitchen at the SNPJ Farm helping at my Lodge 142 picnic, as well as helping at the picnics for the other Cleveland SNPJ Lodges, while the polka bands filled the pavilion with beautiful music for the dancers. The SNPJ Farm was such a wonderful place where we would meet up with our friends and renew acquaintances.

"I have been to Slovenia more than 10 times, several times with the Jadran Singing Society, and the last time in 2013 with my four daughters and several members of my extended family. It was a two-week trip and we saw every part of the country—what beautiful memories!

"Looking back over the years, SNPJ has played a meaningful role in my life and the life of my family. I feel blessed to celebrate 80 years with SNPJ, and I thank you again for the lovely memento."

Sis. **SOPHIE M. MATUCH**  
Cleveland Lodge 142  
Mentor, OH

• Cleveland Lodge 614 member Bro. **RICHARD L. "Richie" VADNAL** celebrated his SNPJ 70-year membership anniversary in April. A retired Cleveland firefighter, artist and musician, he is patriarch of the well-known musical family.

Richie began studying the accordion at age 4; led an award-winning band as a high school student; traveled with America's Polka King Frankie Yankovic

in 1954; and went on to lead polka tours with his own band extensively throughout Europe, Mexico, Canada and the United States. He has recorded more than 10 albums, made regular appearances on televised "Polka Varieties" episodes, and was the subject of radio and television documentaries in Slovenia.

He was honored as the Collingwood Slovenian Musician of the Year in 1990 and was inducted into the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame in 1997.

Richie retired in 1982 at the age of 46 because of a stroke, and lost his beloved wife of 60 years, Elaine, in 2017. His interests today, at age 86, include painting, exercise, movies, and sorting through a lifetime of music memorabilia and memories. After two years of relative isolation due to the public health crisis, Richie hopes to return to the SNPJ picnic circuit this summer.

Richie remains active with his family as the proud father of three grown children and "Papa" to seven grandchildren.

Bro. **RICHARD L. VADNAL**  
Cleveland Lodge 614  
Euclid, OH

• Chicago Lodge 559 member Sis. **JOANNE R. JUNIS** celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership in April. In a note of appreciation, she writes:

"Thank you for the blanket to celebrate my 70-year membership.

"I am the daughter of John Rak and Frances Langerholc Rak, and was raised in Chicago. Back then the SNPJ headquarters was in a huge building on 27th and Lawndale Ave. The front was all the offices, with the printery in the basement. Some of the names from that office were Cainkar, Vider, Groser, Trojar, Godina, Zaitz, and many more.

"Also in that building were a meeting/dance hall, a kitchen, and a club room. On the second floor, in the rear, was an auditorium with a fully-equipped stage. We listened to the Prešeren and Sava groups sing, and saw Slovenian plays and all the Perfect Circle 26 programs. It was a really fun place.

"Circle members I remember include Ed Udovich, the Trojar and Andres sisters, the Zordani and Reven boys, Norman Sodnik, and, oh, so many more.

"I graduated from Illinois State University, worked for a short time as a second grade teacher, and married Fran Junis. We settled in Fremont, Ohio, and raised our three children — Phil, Pat and Chris — there while my husband worked for OSU. Now our kids live in three different states, as do our five grandchildren and one great-grandson. I'm proud to say all are college graduates and doing well.

"We have been retired for almost 20 years and moved to

Sis. **JOANNE JUNIS**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Indiana to be close to one of our daughters, who is a nurse. She keeps an eye on us 'old folks.'  
"Thanks again for recognizing my 70-year membership!"

Sis. **JOANNE R. JUNIS**  
Chicago Lodge 559  
Peru, IN

• Chicago Lodge 559 member Sis. **DOROTHY D. ADAMEK** celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership in March. In a note of appreciation, she writes:

"Thank you for the lovely blanket. I love it! Seventy years of being a member of the Slovene National Benefit Society is an honor.

"I am proud to be a Slovenian-American. I am so grateful for my wonderful parents who raised me and my four siblings in Chicago to be the person that I have become.

"I was married to a wonderful man. We were married for 58 years before I lost him. We were fortunate to have four great sons, John, Bob, Tom and David. They each have a beautiful wife and have blessed me with five grandchildren.

"I love to sew, read and spend time with my family. My life has been an amazing journey."

Sis. **DOROTHY D. ADAMEK**  
Chicago Lodge 559  
Longmont, CO

• Sis. **DONNA L. BAN**, a 50-year member of Lodge 223 in Greensburg, Pa., celebrated her SNPJ membership anniversary in May 2020. In a note of appreciation, she writes:

"Thank you for the certificate and pin.

"I must still work now. When I finally retire, I am going to enjoy attending the events at the SNPJ Club in Greensburg!

"I started taking accordion lessons at age 6 and was on stage in many recitals. I didn't know what stage fright was!

"I remember going with my wonderful grandparents, Frank and Rose Zitko, to the Sunday picnics at the picnic grounds and to the Greensburg SNPJ events."

Sis. **DONNA L. BAN**  
Greensburg, Pa., Lodge 223  
Latrobe, PA

• Sis. **JANICE A. BOLKA**, a 50-year member of Badger Lodge 584 in Milwaukee, celebrated her SNPJ membership anniversary in April. In a note of appreciation, she writes:

"I am proud to be a 50-year adult member of SNPJ.

"My Slovenian roots run deep, from both my grandparents and parents being of Slovenian descent (Bolka and Golob).

"When I was growing up, our family did a lot of volunteer work cleaning up grounds and working picnics at Arcadian Inn Park which was once run by my uncle



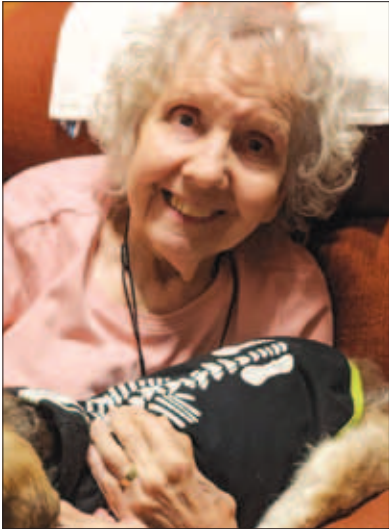
Sis. SOPHIE M. MATUCH (142)



Bro. RICHARD L. VADNAL (614)



Sis. JOANNE R. JUNIS (559)



Sis. DOROTHY D. ADAMEK (559)



Sis. JANICE A. BOLKA (584)



Sis. GEORGIANNE NICOLETTI (665)

Sis. **JANICE BOLKA**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Sis. **JANICE BOLKA**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

and aunt, Frank and Mimi Rezek of Girard, Ohio. Uncle Frank was also a wonderful scribe for PROSVETA.

"Balina has always been in our blood. My teammate and husband, Ron Pape, and I have been playing for many years in West Allis, Wis., competing against my son, Matt Bolka. The competition is fierce and fun. My parents, Olga and Frank Bolka, and uncle, Lou Lonkner, played before us, so we are lucky to carry on the tradition. My aunt, Marge Lonkner, was a loyal spectator.

"My son Matt is a member of the Fun-O-Leer Club and shares membership with some of the members who were in the club when his grandpa, Frank Bolka, and uncle, Lou Lonkner, were in the organization.

"I wish I would have paid more attention to the skills of making the fantastic Slovenian soups and dishes my mom made, or

Sis. **JANICE BOLKA**  
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

the strudel and potica my Aunt Marge made.

"My hope is that the younger generations keep all of our organizations alive and thriving.

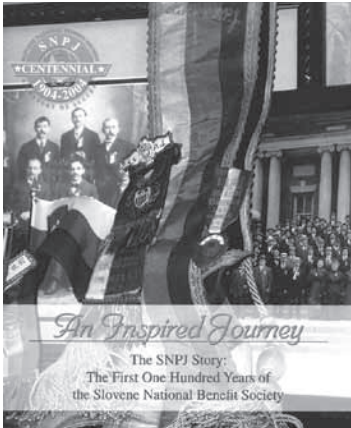
"I thank the SNPJ for this recognition, for the certificate, and for the pin."

Sis. **JANICE A. BOLKA**  
Milwaukee Lodge 584  
Waukesha, WI

• Sis. **GEORGIANNE NICOLETTI**, a 50-year member of Lodge 665 in Pittsburgh, celebrated her SNPJ membership anniversary in March.

Georgianne graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1970 and went on to become a state social worker. She married Stephen Nicoletti in 1987 and now has two grandchildren, Timmy, age 14; and Harper, age 12.

Sis. **GEORGIANNE NICOLETTI**  
Pittsburgh Lodge 665  
Allison Park, PA



## A CENTURY in the making

Proud of your SNPJ membership? Then you owe it to yourself to delve deeper into SNPJ history through the pages of *An Inspired Journey – The SNPJ Story: The First One Hundred Years of the Slovene National Benefit Society*. This richly-illustrated chronicle of SNPJ history compiled and written by SNPJ Publications Editor Jay Sedmak is available for purchase.

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Bro. **RICHARD VADNAL**  
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Sis. **JOANNE JUNIS**  
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Sis. **JANICE BOLKA**  
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN



SNPJ fraternal sympathies

Bro. ANGELO B. GALZARANO  
• LODGE A01 •

**SEWICKLEY, Pa.** — The members of Lodge A01 sadly report the Sept. 6, 2021, passing of Bro. Angelo B. “Tubby” Galzarano, 85, of Center Twp., Pa., at Heritage Valley, Beaver, Pa.

Bro. Galzarano was born March 24, 1936, in Aliquippa, Pa., a son of the late Angelo Galzarano and Esther (Pratt) Galzarano-DeSantis. In addition to his SNPJ membership, he was also a member of St. John’s Catholic Church in Monaca, Pa.

Angelo retired from the 30-inch wire mill of LTV Steel in Aliquippa and was the owner of Tubby’s Auto Electric in West Aliquippa. He was an avid car collector and was well known in the car cruise community.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Shirley (Shrum) Galzarano; an infant daughter, Nicole; and a brother, Dominick Galzarano.

He is survived by a daughter, Jayme Galzarano; a brother, John (Marie) Galzarano; two sisters, Doris (Jack) Meany and Gloria (Jeffrey) McKinney; and many loving nieces and nephews.

A blessing service was held for Bro. Galzarano on Sept. 9 at Tatalovich Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc., Aliquippa. Interment followed in Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery, Hopewell Twp., Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge A01 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Bro. Galzarano’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.



Bro. EDWARD P. STEINKE Jr. (153)

yearly Florida trips, downhill skiing, and snowmobiling.

He is survived by his wife and best friend of 42 years, Gail Steinke; a son, Edward (Wanessa) Steinke III of Dallas; two daughters, Christine (Ryan) Hashier of Kirtland, Ohio, and Jessica (Kenneth) Swiger of Madison on the Lake, Ohio; two grandsons, Felix Steinke and Milan Hashier; two granddaughters, Finley Hashier and Koraline Swiger; his mother, Antoinette Steinke of Lexington, Ky.; two sisters, Barb (Bob) Oakley of Kentucky and Carol (Bill) Walker of Florida; and two nieces, a nephew, and two great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edward Steinke Sr., in 2018.

All services and interment at Williams Cemetery, Leroy, Ohio, were private.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 153 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Steinke’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. JOAN F. BADALAMENT  
• LODGE 518 •

**MELVINDALE, Mich.** — The members of Lodge 518 sadly report the Feb. 28, 2022, passing of Sis. Joan Freda Badalament. She was a 69-year SNPJ Lodge 518 member.

Sis. Badalament was born Feb. 6, 1935, a daughter of the late Amelia and Joseph Devyak. Joan grew up in Dearborn, Mich., and loved to share stories of her childhood with her brothers, sister, and countless aunts, uncles, cousins and neighbors. She was very proud of her Slovenian heritage; her high school alma mater, Fordson, class of 1953; and her career as an executive assistant on “Mahogany Row” at the Ford Motor Company.

She loved crafting, including sewing, cross-stitch, needlepoint, knitting, macrame, and whatever craft *du jour* was in vogue at the time.



Sis. JOAN F. BADALAMENT (518)

Her home on Middleboro in Livonia, Mich., and more recently her condo in Commerce Twp., Mich., were lovingly decorated with her meticulous handiwork.

Joan joined the Catholic Church upon her marriage to her husband, Anthony, and embraced her faith. She loved being an active part of her neighborhood church, St. Maurice, and could often be found there socializing with the Women’s Guild and helping with various activities.

Her greatest source of pride was her family. She humbly celebrated the successes of her family, and she provided heartfelt guidance, encouragement and support. She was a loving, devoted grandmother who cherished her four grandchildren and was their biggest champion.

Joan is survived by her son, Michael (Jennifer); her daughter, Lisa (Patrick) Hurley; and her grandchildren, Kevin and Mary Beth Hurley, and Peter and Mark Badalament. She will also be missed by her twin brother, Joe (Dolores) Devyak, sister Margaret (the

late John) Kirar, brother Robert Devyak, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Anthony; and her mother and father, Amelia and Joseph Devyak.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Sis. Badalament on March 4 at St. Genevieve Catholic Parish, Livonia, Mich.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 518 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Badalament’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. DOLORES H. POZNAK  
• LODGE 89 •

**MIDWAY, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 89 sadly report the April 29, 2022, passing of Sis. Dolores “Dolly” Romestan Poznak, 91, of Midway, with her family by her side in Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh.

Sis. Poznak was born Jan. 4, 1931, in McDonald, Pa., a daughter of the late Louis and Germaine LeFebvre Romestan. A 57-year SNPJ Lodge 89 member, she was also a member of St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church in McDonald.

Dolly married the love of her life, the late Theodore “Ted” Poznak, and together they raised a beautiful family. She was so proud of her kids; being a homemaker all her life she was able to spend many hours with them. She enjoyed taking care of her family, but always made sure they knew how to care for themselves, especially in the kitchen.

Dolly loved to cook. She was constantly in the kitchen, and with a family as big as

hers there was always enough to feed a small village. Most famously, Dolly was known for her homemade gullets. She spent hours every year preparing gullets to give to all her friends and family.

Dolly was the most caring, loving and thoughtful woman you could ever find. She took care of everyone who walked through her door. And when it was time to go, Dolly sent you off with a hug, a “love you,” and hopefully a bag of gullets.

Surviving are her children; Judy (Mark) Kramer, Sandy (the late Bill) Wauthier, Mary (Dom) Pulice, Bonnie (Ken) McLain, Gloria (Bob) Trolley, Peggy Albert, Cathy (Larry) Clark, and Teddy (Rosemary) Poznak; 14 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grand-

daughter.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Theodore “Ted” Poznak, in 2014; a son-in-law, William Wauthier; a grandson, Andrew Trolley; and her siblings, Lois Snatchko, Donna Mae Brookshire, and Jules, Alfred R., Melvin, Elmer, Marcel, Ralph, Louis, Billy, and George Romestan.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Sis. Poznak on May 6 at St. Alphonsus Church, St. Isidore the Farmer Parish. Interment followed in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp., Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 89 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Sis. Poznak’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

In Loving Memory  
**BABCOCK**  
**GRANT**  
April 10, 1929 – July 10, 2016  
**LORRAINE**  
January 26, 1930 – May 27, 2018



Former President & Secretary of Lodge 689

So very loved and deeply missed  
by Shelly, Dave, Gaye and families

DEATHS REPORTED  
For the month of April 2022

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A02	Dorothy Mae Borza	02-15-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
A02	William A. Rothert	03-30-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
2	Frances Zaverl	02-17-2022	Fort Atkinson, Wis.
2	Betty J. Klasinz	10-28-2021	Athens, Ill.
5	Robert Mramor	03-24-2022	Euclid, Ohio
6	Frederick P. Thorpe	11-30-2021	McDonald, Pa.
8	Charles E. Aupke	09-19-2021	Lombard, Ill.
8	Jacqueline T. Yndestad	04-02-2022	Naperville, Ill.
87	Arliiss W. Sturges	04-05-2021	Orange, Texas
87	Catherine M. Kramer	04-05-2022	New Stanton, Pa.
87	Lillian H. Bencloski	03-26-2022	Hermie, Pa.
107	Dolores E. Harizal	03-11-2022	Pleasanton, Calif.
113	Kenneth S. Hufford	03-09-2022	Reedsport, Ore.
138	Veronica B. Progar	02-24-2022	Houston, Pa.
138	Edmund P. Likar	11-10-2021	Bridgeville, Pa.
138	April J. Ruse	02-15-2022	Nanticoke, Pa.
138	Walter H. Gibson	02-22-2022	Bulger, Pa.
153	Robert T. Okolish	01-29-2022	Norton, Ohio
153	Kathleen R. Okolish	03-05-2022	Norton, Ohio
158	Frank E. Shemik Jr.	11-02-2021	Cleveland, Ohio
207	Joseph R. Tebeau	09-04-2021	Billings, Mont.
218	Virginia L. Novak	01-09-2022	Durango, Colo.
218	Louis C. Curran	01-21-2022	Pueblo, Colo.
218	Frank A. Shry	11-05-2021	Durango, Colo.
223	Audrey J. Skergan	02-14-2022	Greensburg, Pa.
223	Edward D. Pike Jr.	03-28-2022	Export, Pa.
223	Mildred A. Zeoli	03-24-2022	Greensburg, Pa.
225	Joseph E. Maghe	01-17-2022	Riverton, Kan.
254	Marie Barach	03-17-2022	Windber, Pa.
277	Larry F. Meenachan	12-19-2021	Struthers, Ohio
277	Justina A. Zidansek	04-06-2022	Greensburg, Pa.
304	Dennis E. Brahney	12-20-2021	Millbrae, Calif.
304	Barton D. Hrast	07-21-2016	Hana, Hawaii
559	Thom J. Culkar	03-24-2022	Fern Park, Fla.
562	Michael Gunto	03-11-2022	Moundsville, W. Va.
564	Betty Sklar	11-23-2021	Northville, Mich.
576	Kenneth A. Kuk	02-14-2022	Parma, Ohio
581	Anne M. Orzechowski	03-30-2022	Kane, Pa.
603	Robert Klucik	02-25-2022	Ave Maria, Fla.
614	Joseph J. Blatnik	02-05-2022	Wickliffe, Ohio
643	Delbert Rezek	01-14-2022	Girard, Ohio
643	John M. Majovsky	03-22-2022	Mineral Ridge, Ohio
715	Warren D. Fitzroy	01-07-2022	Verona, Pa.
721	Thomas W. Thompson	03-25-2022	Toronto, Ohio
729	Eugene R. DeBernardo	03-30-2022	Yukon, Pa.
770	Janel Beaulieu	01-12-2022	New Middletown, Ohio
776	Priscilla A. Tomon	03-18-2022	Ellwood City, Pa.
786	Lawrence J. Kwasnicki	02-17-2022	Culver City, Calif.

KAREN A. PINTAR  
National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA 2022 Publication Dates

JANUARY 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](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com); or submitted via the Publications section of the SNPJ website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).



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# Thirty years of the U.S., Slovenia and SNPJ

by JOE VALENCIC  
Lodge 5

**CLEVELAND —** Thirty years ago, on April 7, 1992, Slovenian-Americans across the country had reason to celebrate: The White House had finally recognized Slovenia as an independent nation. After nine months of letters, petitions, postcards and phone calls to President George H. W. Bush, the unified, grass-roots efforts of Slovenians in the United States had achieved the validation crucial to the survival of the fledgling democracy. The Slovene National Benefit Society played a role in that process.

On that day of recognition, the United Americans for Slovenia (UAS), the group that brought together Slovenian-American organizations, called a press conference and raised the flags of the United States and Slovenia in front of their Cleveland headquarters, the offices of American Mutual Life Association (AMLA). Three days after U.S. recognition, the UAS hosted a gala event in Cleveland's Slovenian National Home ballroom. Slovenia was finally accepted as a sovereign nation, equal to all others on the world stage.

Today's headlines remind us of what was at stake in Slovenia. In June 1991 we watched in horror as Slovenia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia was met with violence. Tanks rolled into Ljubljana, the picturesque capital. Communications towers and Brnik airport were bombed. Lives were lost. Slovenians resisted. Slovenian-Americans quickly rallied to assist the homeland.

On June 30, representatives from Slovenian-American organizations met at the Slovenian National Home to strategize. Edmund J. Turk, past president of the

Cleveland City Council and a former district judge, was chosen to chair a new endeavor, United Americans for Slovenia. Representatives of leading Slovenian-American fraternal societies, parishes, lodges and cultural groups worked through the UAS to appeal to the White House and government leaders to recognize Slovenia as an independent democracy. SNPJ Lodge 5 member Joe Valencic directed the communications and public relations. Regional Vice President Betty Rotar represented the SNPJ.

For the next nine months, volunteers from these groups implemented communications strategies and created events to call attention to Slovenia's independence and the importance of U.S. recognition. Community media, such as the SNPJ *PROSVETA*, *American Home*, fraternal newspapers and radio shows, reported on UAS activities and events in Slovenia. The UAS grew to include 659 Slovenian-American organizations and institutions – the greatest unified effort to help Slovenia since World War II. Many SNPJ volunteers were involved.

Government leaders, including Ohio Senator John Glenn and Ohio Congressman Dennis Eckart, a member of SNPJ Lodge 5, met with UAS representatives to discuss U.S. recognition, as did visiting officials from the new government of Slovenia, including Dimitrij Rupel, Zoran Thaler and Ernest Petrič.

"We sent 50,000 postcards to President Bush, asking him to recognize Slovenia, as well as petitions with thousands of signatures," recalls Edmund Turk. "The United Americans for Slovenia proved that when Slovenian-Americans pull together, they can move mountains."

Two of the most effective UAS strategies were White House phone-in marathons on Oct. 7, 1991, and Feb. 12, 1992, hosted by the late Tony Petkovsek (604) through his Slovenian-American radio show. The UAS also placed an open letter to President Bush in *The Washington Post*. Donations and fund-raisers made these efforts possible.

UAS representatives met frequently for planning, updates, and news from Slovenia and Washington, D.C., as well as to stuff envelopes for mailings. By April 1992 it was clear that the hard work was paying off and recognition was near. On the morning of April 7, the board received word that the United States had officially accepted Slovenia's nationhood.

It was sunny that afternoon when we gathered in front of the AMLA building to hoist the flags. We were exhilarated as we posed for photos to commemorate the historic occasion. As soon as that moment passed we got busy again; we had only a couple of days to bring the Slovenian community and its friends together for a grand tribute to the new Slovenia.

On April 10, the UAS hosted a celebration in Cleveland's Slovenian National Home ballroom. The United Slovenian Society marching band performed under the baton of Norman Novak. The crowd of 800 stood as a hundred members from the area's Slovenian choruses sang the anthems, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Zdravljica," led by Cecilia Dolgan (576). Fr. Joseph Boznar, pastor of St. Vitus Church, gave a blessing. Edmund Turk addressed the crowd, as did Dr. Karl Bonutti (5), soon to become one of Slovenia's first honorary consuls. The featured speaker was Ohio Governor George

Voinovich (604), who was visibly moved by the occasion. Local television and news reports captured the excitement of the evening.

Within weeks, Slovenia was welcomed into the United Nations. By August, the U.S. opened a new embassy in Ljubljana, and the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia was dedicated in Washington, D.C.

The United States has become Slovenia's largest non-European trading partner. Slovenian and U.S. heads of state have exchanged visits. Bilateral cooperation includes political, economic, commercial, defense and security, educational, and exchange activities as the U.S. seeks to help Slovenia maintain its position as a positive and stabilizing influence in that part of Europe.

The United Americans for Slovenia redirected its attention with a new campaign to influence U.S. acceptance of Slovenia as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A new communications strategy was formulated with mailings, articles and a radio marathon. Members of the UAS, including SNPJ National President Joe Evanish, were invited to the White House for a discussion – a first for the Slovenian-American community. The United States supported Slovenia's accession to NATO in March 2004. Slovenia joined the European Union that May, and the Eurozone in 2007. Slovenia completed its second six-month presidency of the EU in December 2021.

Slovenia has proved itself to be one of the world's most successful new nations. With Slovenia secure in its independence and U.S. and international recognition, United Americans for Slovenia completed their mission in 2006.



On April 7, 1992, the day the United States recognized Slovenia, members of the United Americans for Slovenia (UAS) raised the Slovenian and U.S. flags in front of the offices of the American Mutual Life Association in Cleveland, where the group held its meetings. *From left:* John Pestotnik, Chairman Edmund Turk, Fr. Joseph Boznar, Edwin Polsak, Cirila Kermavner, Stan Zihelr, Betty Rotar, Joe Valencic, Frances Maurich, Ann Opeka, Rudolph Susel, James Debevec, Joyce Plemel, Gene Kogovsek, Karl Bonutti, Tony Hiti, Genevieve Drobnic and Joe Petric. The SNPJ was represented by Betty Rotar.



On April 10, 1992, a crowd of 800 attended the celebration for United States recognition of Slovenia as an independent nation. On the stage of the Slovenian National Home, a hundred singers from 10 Slovenian choruses performed the U.S. anthem and the new Slovenian national anthem together for the first time, under the direction of Cecilia Dolgan.



Ohio Governor George Voinovich shows off the new flag of Slovenia among singers at the celebration for U.S. recognition of Slovenia as an independent nation, hosted by UAS at the Slovenian National Home on April 10, 1992.

## United Americans for Slovenia: A timeline of the nine months from independence to U.S. recognition

**1991**  
**June 25**  
Slovenia declares independence from Yugoslavia, six months after Slovenians vote for secession in a democratically-held plebiscite vote.

**June 26**  
The Yugoslav Army attacks Slovenia, closing border posts and halting communications with the outside world. Slovenian-Americans and their organizations first express concern to U.S. President George H. W. Bush and officials, and then begin war relief efforts.

**June 30**  
Attorney Charles Ipavec and Cleveland Yugoslav Consul General Matjaž Jančar call an emergency meeting of community leaders at Cleveland's Slovenian National Home. Representatives of the country's leading Slovenian-American fraternal societies, parishes, cultural groups and action committees are chosen to serve on a special board – led by attorney, former judge and head of Cleveland City Council Edmund Turk – to call United States' attention to the situation in the homeland.

**July 1**  
The United Americans for Slovenia (UAS) is established to unite America's Slovenian organizations to seek U.S. recognition of Slovenia's declaration of independence and establishment of full diplomatic relations. Stanley Zihelr, president of the American Mutual Life Association (AMLA), offers his offices for meetings. A letter is drafted to President Bush and members of Congress to recognize Slovenia. UAS representatives meet weekly.

**July 4**  
UAS volunteers send letters and information packages to President Bush, senators and congress members, along with special editions of the *American Home* newspaper prepared by publisher James Debevec and editor Rudolph Susel. Mailings to Slovenian-American organizations, clubs and parishes distribute thousands of pre-printed postcards and petitions asking President Bush to accept Slovenia. Joseph Valencic directs all communications and publicity. John Pestotnik coordinates mailings and special projects.

**July 5**  
Matjaž Jančar is the first Yugoslav diplomat to declare allegiance to Slovenia and becomes the first representative to the United States from the new nation. Without accreditation, he must soon return to Slovenia.

**July 27**  
Ohio Congressman Dennis Eckart announces support for Slovenia at a UAS session.

**August**  
The UAS continues mailings to U.S. officials and monitors recognition efforts in Washington and Ljubljana. Similar overseas organizations are in contact with the UAS. American and Slovenian community leaders meet

with the UAS. *The American Home* (*Ameriška domovina*) and Slovenian-American fraternal publications promote UAS recognition efforts nationally to members and subscribers.

**August 3**  
A radio marathon, hosted by Tony Petkovsek and the American Slovene Radio Club from his studio at the Kollander Travel offices, generates 600 donations to fund UAS actions. The four-hour broadcast on Ohio station WELW receives calls from around the country, London and Ljubljana.

**August 5**  
Ohio Senator John Glenn announces support for recognition of Slovenia at a UAS press conference. Glenn and Eckart send a joint statement to President Bush to recognize Slovenia.

**September**  
The last Yugoslav Army troops withdraw from Slovenia. Slovenia opens an office in Washington, D.C., headed by Dr. Ernest Petrič.

**September 13**  
Each day through Oct. 8, the UAS sends petitions with 500 names to the White House asking President Bush's acceptance of Slovenia as a democratic nation.

**October 7**  
Thousands call the White House in a UAS-sponsored phone-in. The UAS prints postcards asking President Bush for U.S. recognition. The President eventually receives 50,000 postcards from Americans and UAS-member societies from coast to coast.

**November**  
UAS members monitor resolutions being drafted in Congress for U.S. recognition of Slovenia.

**November 2**  
Dr. Ernest Petrič and Janez Dular of the Slovenian Foreign Ministry meet with the UAS. Both express Slovenia's gratitude for the recognition efforts by Americans. Slovenian newspapers, television and radio report on UAS activities and efforts.

**December**  
Editors of Slovenian-American fraternal society newspapers follow the lead by the UAS and step-up White House contact efforts by their members.

**December 6**  
President Bush imposes economic sanctions against Slovenia, Yugoslavia and former republics, canceling aid and trade benefits.

**December 17**  
The UAS publishes an advertisement on the Federal Page of *The Washington Post* newspaper appealing to President Bush and Congress to recognize Slovenia. Dr. Petrič and UAS Chairman Edmund Turk receive many calls and letters of support.

**December 18**  
The European Community announces plans to recognize Slovenia.

**1992**  
**January**  
The UAS contacts members of Congress to support Kansas Senator Robert Dole's resolution for recognition of Slovenia.

**January 15**  
The European Community recognizes Slovenia. Canada, Australia, Japan and many other countries soon follow.

**February 12**  
A second national White House phone-in is organized by the UAS. Busy phone lines extend the phone-in two more days.

**March**  
The UAS tracks rumors of impending U.S. recognition.

**April 7**  
President Bush recognizes Slovenia as an independent, democratic nation and lifts sanctions. Slovenia now can be considered for membership in the United States and World Bank. The UAS holds a press conference with Zoran Thaler, visiting from the Slovenian Foreign Ministry. UAS representatives raise the flags of the United States and Slovenia in front of the AMLA building.

**April 10**  
The UAS hosts a celebration at Cleveland's Slovenian National Home with guest speakers, including Ohio Governor George Voinovich. More than 100 singers from 10 local Slovenian choruses sing the United States anthem and debut "Zdravljica," the national anthem of Slovenia, for the 800-plus audience.

**April 21**  
The UAS recognizes Dole, Eckart and Glenn with plaques at a Washington reception in honor of Slovenia.

**August 6**  
President Bush grants full diplomatic relations between the United States and Slovenia.

**August 21**  
The Republic of Slovenia opens an embassy in Washington, D.C.

**August 25**  
The United States opens an embassy in Ljubljana.

**September 7**  
The UAS delivers an American-made flag of Slovenia to President Bush in gratitude for his full acceptance of Slovenia as an independent, democratic nation.



# 84th SNPJ National Bowling Tournament Results

Tournament rolled April 30-May 1, 2022, hosted by Lodge 158 at the SNPJ Recreation Center

## Men’s Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*C. White/J. Kuisis	245/6	1,298	\$92
**E. Lorenzato/C. Cleary	6/158	1,442	\$92
Jer.Watson/Jo. Watson	34	1,381	\$66
D. Sankovich/D. Prejsnar	770	1,323	\$40
G. Spoharski/C. Wolff	6	1,297	\$35

## Men’s Singles Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*J. McNurlen	138	735	\$70
**J. Kuisis	6	750	\$70
C. Kocin	158	696	\$50
R. Snow	6	685	\$33
D. Sankovich	770	673	\$24
C. Wolff	6	673	\$24
G. Spoharski	6	667	\$19

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
J. Graff	138	667	\$19
C. White	245	666	\$16

## Men’s Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*C'mon Craig	138	2,802	\$100
**Lodge 6 Misfits	6	2,591	\$100
Martay's Party	6	2,552	\$78

## Men’s All Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*J. McNurlen	138	2,014	\$38
**E. Lorenzato	6	2,150	\$38
C. Kocin	158	2,052	\$24

## Women’s Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
* K. Almo/M. Graff	138	1,346	\$80
**J. Hudson/L. Strickland	6/677	1,380	\$80
S. Skowvron/S. Srnick	715/158	1,333	\$60
P. Smith/D. Magdich	6	1,326	\$46
C. Koenig/S. Muraco	138	1,320	\$35

## Women’s Singles Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*K. Almo	138	701	\$65
**P. Maynard	158	756	\$65
B. Snow	6	713	\$50
R. Elam	158	706	\$35
B. Bozicevich	6	692	\$28
D. Magdich	6	683	\$23
J. Smrdel	158	679	\$19

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
P. Smith	6	669	\$16

## Women’s Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Shut Up and Suck It	138	2,033	\$100
**Tri-State Ladies	6/677	2,634	\$100
Kiss My Average	6/138	2,591	\$68
Bowling Stones	158	2,531	\$58

## Women’s All Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*M. Graff	138	1,764	\$39
**L. Strickland	677	2,186	\$39
P. Maynard	158	2,148	\$27

\*Indicates Actual Champion  
\*\*Indicates Handicap Champion

## Plenty of dough, family and friends combine for a Good Friday tradition

by EVELYN DIMPFL  
Lodge 749 Secretary

**JOHNSTOWN, Pa.** — For several years, sisters Joanne Vasilko and Evelyn Dimpfl have prepared Slovenian dishes for family and friends on Good Friday, and as many as 24 people have been invited.

Joanne puts together *žlikrofe* as she was taught by our mother, Ann Glovach, many years ago. The *žlikrofe* are little pierogi-style dumplings, but are filled with cubes of bread which have been covered with egg, fried, then put into the dough and boiled. When done, buttered and browned buttered bread cubes are poured over the top.

Evelyn prepares *štruklji*, also made with dough that is rolled out to a large square, very thin, and covered with a cottage cheese mixed with egg, sugar and buttered bread crumbs; then rolled into a dampened white cloth, tied

with string and placed into a large pot of boiling water and cooked for 45 minutes. When done, the *štruklji* is rolled onto a serving plate and also covered with browned buttered bread crumbs.

Jim Vasilko, Joanne’s son, brought *haluski* to the dinner; and Joanne’s daughter, Judy Edsall, prepared the pierogies. Good friends Marian and Charlie Bartosh provided Slovenian-style coleslaw for all to enjoy.

Those in attendance at this traditional dinner were 99 percent SNPJ members, including Joanne’s grandchildren, great-grandchildren, in-laws, and Tom and Cheryl Gross.

Due to the Covid situation, it was decided to cut down on the number of invited guests, and for the past two years Joanne and Evelyn served only 10 family members and friends – but everyone has a good time!



**JOANNE VASILKO** [left] makes *žlikrofe* and **EVELYN DIMPFL** prepares *štruklji*, two traditional Slovenian dishes, for family and friends to enjoy on Good Friday.

## Spartans prepare for the Lou Novak Balina Tourney

by TONI THOMEY  
Lodge 576 Recording Secretary

**CLEVELAND** — I hope everyone is gearing up for all the upcoming summer fun! Spartans Lodge 576 members have been attending and planning many events.

The season opened with the second annual Music Festival & Craft Show at the SNPJ Farm. This was such a big hit last year, and it was great to see the festival return for another year. This past Memorial Day weekend, many Spartans Lodge members volunteered

or participated in the annual CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament. This is always such a fun event!

We also are celebrating one of our young adult members, Gabby Thomey. Gabby graduated with honors from Beaumont High School in Shaker and is off to study business in the fall at the University of Dayton. Congratulations, Gabby – we are all so proud of you (especially your parents!).

Our focus in the coming months will be putting the final touches on plans for the

first annual Lou Novak Balina Tournament. This event will share the day with the Spartans Lodge annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio.

We need all hands on deck to help with the tournament, and we need teams to participate. Please contact Lodge President Karen Novak at (216) 965-3181 or Secretary/Treasurer Linda Gorjup at (216) 650-1279 if you are interested in volunteering or participating.

An entry flyer will be available at all Cleveland SNPJ events leading up to the big

day. The entry fee is \$20 per team (SNPJ Farm gate fee not included). Please enter by the deadline of July 23.

Our next Lodge meetings will be held Monday, June 20, and Monday, July 18; both starting at 6 p.m. The meeting sites are yet to be determined. We will notify all members via e-mail, phone or Facebook once we’ve secured the locations. If you are planning to volunteer for the balina tournament, please plan to attend or call into the meetings.

I hope to see you all soon!

## Entry deadline nears for the Miss SNPJ Pageant

by ELIZABETH HARTMAN (138)  
Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission

**STRABANE, Pa.** — While waiting for spring to finally kick into action, the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission got rolling on some SNPJ fun. The former pageant queens and pageant participants got together to bowl in the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament. Former Miss SNPJs in attendance included Courtney Koenig (138), Shannon Muraco (138), Kara Maruszak (142), Elizabeth Hartman (138), Elizabeth Smrdel (158), and Daniella Volpe (158).

Daniella Volpe was able to exercise some of her queenly duties and throw out the first ball of the tournament. Everyone had fun while bowling the doubles and singles events – there was even some impromptu polka dancing in the middle of the bowling alley!

The former Miss SNPJs were also able to sell some goodies to raise money for the upcoming Miss SNPJ Pageant. We greatly appreciate all of the support from Loyalites Lodge 158 for allowing us

to fund-raise at the bowling tournament.

For the team event, some former queens and pageant participants put together a winning team. Well, maybe not a winning team in terms of scores, but a winning team in terms of fun! The Queen Rollers team included Courtney Koenig (138), Kara Maruszak (142), Elizabeth Hartman (138) and Kristina Hartman (138).

We’re looking forward to a great summer as things begin to heat up at the SNPJ Recreation Center. That being said, the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission is looking for any volunteers to help us run our booths at Slovenefest in July. Please note that you don’t have to be a former queen to be part of the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission; we’re looking for volunteers who have a passion for SNPJ tradition.

Reach out to the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission via e-mail, [misssnpjlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:misssnpjlegacy@gmail.com), or via social media for more information.

And to all eligible female



Former Miss SNPJs [from left] **SHANNON MURACO** (138), **ELIZABETH HARTMAN** (138), **DANIELLA VOLPE** (158), **COURTNEY KOENIG** (138), **KARA MARUSZAK** (142) and **ELIZABETH SMRDEL** (158) competed in the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament the weekend of April 30-May 1.

members, please become part of history and submit your entry by the June 8 deadline to become a contestant in the Miss SNPJ Pageant. If you have any questions, please e-mail [misssnpjlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:misssnpjlegacy@gmail.com).

The Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission would like to

thank the following donors who recently contributed to the Pageant Booster Fund: SNPJ Lodge 254 in Bon Air, Pa.; SNPJ Lodge 576 in Cleveland; SNPJ Lodge 31 in Sharon, Pa.; and SNPJ Lodge 564 in Detroit. We truly appreciate your support!

### SNPJ Membership Anniversaries

June 2022

80-Year Members			
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
31	Josephine Yusko	584	Margaret L. Goldmann
584	Shirley Balach	715	Alice Klemenc

70-Year Members			
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Anne Retel	584	Rosemary A. McCoy
41	Janet J. Ragsdale	677	Rudolph R. Bernick
142	Marie F. Alex	689	Martha A. Bero
218	Carol Spagnola	721	Anna M. Vidic

60-Year Members			
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Walter E. Piper	138	Marilyn Y. Dotson
6	Edward G. Dolinar	138	Philip Withum
6	Lois A. Checca	142	Diane M. Mester
8	Adrienne Childress	158	Patricia L. Poderis
31	Albin J. Cvelbar	564	Joanne E. Beauchamp
41	Jerry J. Bohinc	584	Andrea J. Enquist
89	Helene P. Holoden	584	Patricia M. Picconatto
89	John A. Gilbert	584	Terrence J. Hodnik
89	Judith A. Prado	677	John A. Yellich
126	Marilyn M. Markiewicz	749	Eugene J. Kramer
138	John L. Progar	749	Judith B. Severn
138	Sylvia A. Burke	749	Sandra C. Johnson

50-Year Members			
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Sandi L. Grubich	158	Elaine D. Apanaites
6	Raymond A. Galicic	158	Richard J. Apanaites
6	Florence Pintar	158	Barbara J. Wojtila
6	Janice M. Doeringer	218	Debra E. Ives
6	Maria S. Stepanovich	254	Frank J. Smith
6	Rayna A. Perpetua	321	Mary E. Rogers
8	Rudolph Schweiger	576	John Paulich
87	Karen M. Kress	581	Angeline A. Strenfel
87	Linda J. Kois	584	Mary M. Johnson
87	James A. Powney	603	Franklin F. Scofield
106	Carl D. Butya	614	Sandra L. DiKowicz
126	Nicholas A. Germano	721	William F. Rupnick
138	Cynthia Snow	721	Suzanne Pavkovic
138	Bruce A. Mazza	723	Sheryl J. Gula
138	Judy Ann Pavcic	723	Jean M. Brunz
138	John W. Pavcic	729	Stephen E. Bacan
138	JoAnn C. Wolff	749	John Rosa
142	Gary L. Hoffert	782	Judy S. Brackin
153	Judith A. Pizzoferrato	A01	John J. Podnar

### SNPJ Recreation Center

### 2022 Fraternal Events

### Schedule

June 10-12	<b>SNPJ Young Adult Conference</b>
June 10-12	<b>SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend</b> <b>“Happy to BEE Slovenian”</b>
July 8-10	<b>SLOVENEFEEST 2022</b>
July 31-Aug. 6	<b>SNPJ Family Week</b>
Aug. 15	<b>32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention</b>
Sept. 2-4	<b>National SNPJ Days</b>

### The SNPJ Farm

### 2022 Picnic Schedule

**SNPJ Farm, 10946 Heath Road, Kirtland, Ohio**  
off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306  
Visit [www.snpjfarmkirtland.com](http://www.snpjfarmkirtland.com) for schedule changes

June 19	<b>SNPJ Utopians Lodge 604 Picnic</b>	3 to 7
	E3 & LynnMarie and Eddie Rodick Band	
June 26	<b>Polka Hall of Fame Sweetheart Dance</b>	3 to 7
	Garrett Tatano Band	
July 4	<b>4th of July Holiday Dance</b>	1 to 7
	Klancnik & Friends and the Zolka Band	
July 17	<b>Joey Tomsick &amp; The Lake County Council on Aging Fundraiser</b>	3 to 7
	Eddie Rodick Band	

Gates open at 1 p.m. rain or shine. Dinners served every Sunday starting at 2 p.m. Sunday music and dancing from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday picnic admission is \$8 per person. No outside food or beverages permitted. The SNPJ Farm is a cash-only venue – no ATM on the grounds.