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# SNPJ Farm hosting Music & Craft Festival in May

by DON SRNICK (158)  
SNPJ Region 3 Vice President  
SNPJ Farm Board Vice President

**KIRTLAND, Ohio** — Fraternal greetings, SNPJ Brothers and Sisters. Please join us at the SNPJ Farm, 10946 Heath Road in Kirtland, for our third annual Polka Music Festival and Craft Show on Saturday, May 20, sponsored by Monreal Srnick Funeral Home.

The gates at the SNPJ Farm will open at 11 a.m., the craft show is scheduled from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., and music will be performed from noon until 9 p.m. We have 16 polka bands scheduled to perform; visit my Facebook page

(Sue and Don Srnick) for the band schedule. More than 40 craft vendors will be displaying their items.

The ticket price is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. Guests age 10 and under will be admitted free of charge. The SNPJ Farm is a family-oriented picnic grounds offering a large playground for kids, three balina courts, and more.

This year, Bill Azman will be selling his award-winning Slovenian sausages, the Jilly Jeans food truck will be selling assorted festival foods, and our SNPJ Farm kitchen will be selling pork sandwiches and dinners. Nick

Tomba will return this year, selling his dry rub meats, and Ed Trebets will also be back, selling his Urban Vintner wines. The ice cream truck and kettle corn vendors are also returning this year.

Wojtila's Bakery will be joining the festival this year, selling all of their tasty baked goods. In addition, the SNPJ Heritage Center will have a table this year, selling SNPJ items, T-shirts, etc.

Overnight lodging is available at the Red Roof Inn, 4166 State Route 306, Willoughby,

SEE **SNPJ FARM FESTIVAL**  
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## briefly

### San Francisco Lodge 304 announces meeting dates

**SAN FRANCISCO** — SNPJ Lodge 304 members will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, May 17. Lodge meetings for the remainder of 2023 are scheduled Sept. 13 and Dec. 13 All Lodge members are welcome to attend.

**MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH**  
Lodge 304 Secretary

### SNPJ Lodge 776 slates a May 21 meeting date

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — SNPJ Lodge 776 members will hold their next meeting on Sunday, May 21, starting at 2 p.m. at the SNPJ Recreation Center. All Lodge members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**RICH DOMBROSKY**  
Lodge 776 Recording Secretary

### Strugglers Lodge 614 plans meeting on June 8

**CLEVELAND** — Strugglers Lodge 614 will be holding a meeting on Thursday, June 8, starting at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined. During this meeting we will discuss the future plans for the Lodge.

Any Lodge member wishing to attend or who has any questions is asked to contact Charles Shaver by phoning (440) 729-3568 (please leave a message), or by e-mailing [dirtycarman@yahoo.com](mailto:dirtycarman@yahoo.com). This way we can determine where to meet by the number who respond. Please try to attend this meeting. It will determine the future of Strugglers Lodge 614.

**CHARLES SHAVER**  
Lodge 614 President

## THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are June 1 and July 3. All material must be received by noon on Monday, May 8, for the June 1 issue, and by Monday, June 19, for the July 3 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).

# Miss SNPJ Pageant welcomes the first contestants

by COURTNEY KOENIG  
Fraternal Director

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — Greetings from the Fraternal Department! I am happy to announce that we have received our first two entrants for the 2023 Miss SNPJ Pageant, Cara Fabian (218) and Emi Perdan (604).

The pageant will be held July 7-9 during Slovenefest weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center. This year marks the 40th annual Slovenefest and the 65th Miss SNPJ Pageant. I know the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission is working hard on making this year very memorable for not only our contestants, but for our former Miss SNPJs and their families as well.

Our first contestant 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, specializing in tap dancing. 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; RamCatholic (a Catholic campus ministry organization); the Society of Biomedical Engineers; the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), where she is a board member for the Stick With SWE event; and works as a tour guide for the CSU admissions office. 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

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**CARA FABIAN**  
Lodge 218, Denver



**EMI PERDAN**  
Lodge 604, Cleveland

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

# A busy start to the new season for the SNPJ Heritage Center

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)  
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — The SNPJ Heritage Center Committee met via Zoom on April 1, starting our new four-year term as committee members were elected during the SNPJ National Board meeting held in March. All seven previous committee members returned, and we welcomed three new members to the committee.

SNPJ National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish presided over the election of officers as the following were unanimously elected to return: Director Kathy Paulenich, Secretary Joan Gaspersic, and Treasurer Ed Robich. The committee also includes members Tracey Bell, Patty Candela, Mary Jo Hartman, Kristina Hartman Lickert, Sarah Loudon, Sue Mals and Lynn Romeo. We have an excellent committee, and we're looking forward to meeting in person at the Heritage Center on Saturday, May 6.

Our plans are shaping up for a busy May, extending into the summer with activities planned at the SNPJ Recreation Center, and by attending festivals and picnics in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Just a reminder for SNPJ members in the Washington, D.C., area that the EU embassies will host their open houses on Saturday, May 13. Three Heritage Center Committee members – Patty Candela, Sue Mals and Ed Robich – will be at the Slovenian Embassy from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. displaying our traveling museum. They look forward to meeting visitors and sharing their love of Slovenia.

Anthony Culkar and Kathy Hlad will also be traveling with the committee members as Anthony, Kathy and Patty Candela will talk about their Slovenian heritage and play some tunes for the sixth-grade students at the Alice Deal Middle School in the Washington, D.C., area the day prior to the open house.

SEE **SNPJ HERITAGE CENTER**  
ON PAGE 4

# Fontana Lodge 723 donations benefit two worthy organizations

by PAMELA PANDZA  
Lodge 723 Vice President

**FONTANA, Calif.** — Upon the sale of the Fontana Slovene Hall, designated proceeds have been awarded to organizations that meet a set of criteria established by the Hall Sale Committee and approved by members at large.

Donations have gone out to SNPJ Lodges, SNPJ-sponsored funds, and authorized charitable organizations. In addition to commitment to fellow fraternal groups, the focus has been on funding organizations that support improvement in the health, welfare and education of citizens, concerns committed to environmental consciousness, entities bearing cultural significance, groups with a connection to early Slovene immigrant welfare, and institutions doing meaningful work in Slovenia.

In March and April of this year, members have had the honor of hand delivering checks to several of the selected recipients. This opportunity has personalized the Lodge mission to do good work within the community. It has also allowed us to share information about our part in supporting cultural and humanitarian endeavors, particularly those emanating from the Slovene Hall on Cypress in Fontana over its years of existence.

On March 14, Lodge 723 officers Sherri Black and Frank Rote joined Marcia Leathers on a visit to a beneficiary of our goodwill spirit, Mary's Mercy Center in San Bernardino, Calif. This organization is the largest homeless services provider in the Inland Empire region of Southern California. Its function is to reach out to the less fortunate in society and help people grow and develop into useful, affirmed citizens.

Three entities provide support through the organization. Mary's Table offers a soup kitchen, food baskets, a clothes closet, and basic necessities for children. Mary's Haven provides a home for needy pregnant women and struggling mothers with children. Mary's Village is a transitional home providing housing and services to assist men in breaking the cycle of drug abuse and homelessness.

The Lodge representatives were well received and found Mary's Mercy Center busy fulfilling its goal to improve lives in our community.

At our April 13 Lodge meeting, Marcia Leathers gave a detailed report of how the organization originated and continues to operate successfully in this environment of extreme

SEE **LODGE 723 DONATIONS**  
ON PAGE 7



**Bennett A. Rhyne**  
Born Aug. 2, 2018  
Midway, Pa., Lodge 89

SNPJ Lodge 89 welcomes new member Bennett Andrew Rhyne. Bennett, a sixth-generation SNPJ member, is the son of Dr. Amanda Just Rhyne (6) and Cody Rhyne, grandson of Donald S. (6) and Jamie Just, great-grandson of Donald J. (6) and Sally Just, great-great-grandson of the late John and Rose Penko Just (6), and great-great-great-grandson of the late John and Jane Likar Zust (89). We welcome Bennett to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.



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e-mail: [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com)

## May 7 membership campaign on the St. Marys Lodge 581 calendar

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI  
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

**ST. MARYS, Pa.** — The date of April 15 was a sunny day for the crowd that helped clean up Jackson Road and a two-mile portion of West Creek Road in the St. Mary's area. The group ranged in age from 8 to the late 70s.

Members of Cub Scout Troop 95 and their families participated for the first time, along with students from the local high schools, the Friends of Jackson Road, SNPJ Lodge 581 members, and members of the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters. For more than 20 years, the Troha family has shared their camp as a springboard for this event.

It was a great day, and no one complained about working. It was so much fun, with accordion music and food: hot dogs, klobase and sauerkraut, cakes and donuts, macaroni salad, and Mime Troha's chips and dip. We all learned how important it is to keep our country beautiful. When we work together, we really can accomplish anything.

The performance of Mollie B and Squeeze Box with Ted Lange was a super hit. The Polka Boosters sold over 300 tickets to attendees from across Pennsylvania, and to a family from Canada. Their children were dressed in national dress, and they had

the youngest polka dancer. This event was nearly a year in the planning — a great day!

The North Central Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters will sponsor two dances in May, on May 7 and on May 21. SNPJ Lodge 581 is hosting a membership campaign on May 7 during the Kersey Fireman's dance. SNPJ Marketing Manager Gina Wise will be on hand to explain SNPJ insurance products, annuities and benefits. Attend the dance to learn more about what SNPJ has to offer.

The second quarterly Lodge 581 meeting for 2023 will be held at the Wildwoods in St. Marys on Sunday, May 21, starting at 12:30 p.m. Attend the meeting and stay for the dance featuring music by the Bob Zolka Band.

In addition to polka dances and the roadway cleanup, Lodge 581 members will be working to earn money to support the Jerry Troha Scholarship fund. We will be parking cars at the airport-sponsored drag races scheduled on Father's Day, June 15, on July 23, and on Sept. 10. We could certainly use some help, and we invite volunteers to support Lodge 581 efforts and the St. Marys Airport. Contact Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 for more information.



With the assistance of local residents and groups, SNPJ Lodge 581 members completed their annual cleanup of Jackson Road and a two-mile section of West Creek Road in the area near St. Mary's, Pa.



Photos by Barbara Liptak (729)

### Supporting the Local Anglers

SNPJ Silverstars Lodge 729 in Yukon, Pa., made a financial donation to help support the stocking of Sewickley Creek, which gives local residents, including area youth, the opportunity to fish and continue the interest in fishing for generations to come. The Lodge also contributed toward the local youth fishing tournament in May. [Pictured] Silverstars Lodge member **SAM LIPTAK** helped some younger residents stock Sewickley Creek.



## Lodge 449 schedules a barbecue and swim party in June

by TINA RIGLER  
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer

**CICERO, Ill.** — Lodge 449 members held their first meeting of the year on March 19 with all officers present. The installation of 2023 Lodge officers took place at the beginning of the meeting. Secretary Tina Rigler read all correspondence and gave the financial report. Audi-

tors Justin Rigler and Lanie Maresh gave the audit report, announcing that the Lodge books were in order.

During this meeting, Justin Rigler, Lanie Maresh, Robert Rigler and Jason Rigler were selected to attend the SNPJ Young Adult Conference June 16-18. As chairman for the upcoming conference, Justin Rigler gave a short report regarding plans for the

fundraising event to be held. He also reported that he planned to attend the SNPJ National Board meeting as the Young Adult representative.

Secretary Tina Rigler reported that the Lodge received the bonus award for reaching the Gold Level for Activity in the 2022 SNPJ Lodge Bonus Program. Lodge members approved a donation to the Young Adult

charity fundraiser.

After the meeting, members and guests enjoyed bowling — everyone had a great time!

The next Lodge meeting will be held June 11 starting at 1 p.m. at Justin Rigler's home. A barbecue and swimming will follow the June meeting. Contact Secretary Tina Rigler at (708) 257-8312 for directions.



At the conclusion of their March meeting, Lodge 449 members and guests enjoyed bowling a few games.

## Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- MAY 6-7 ..... SNPJ National Bowling Tournament at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. Games will be bowled at Colonial Lanes, New Castle, Pa.
- MAY 20 ..... Third annual Music Festival & Craft Show at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio.
- MAY 21 ..... Yukon, Pa., Lodge 729 Indoor Picnic at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, 2-6 p.m. Music by the Garrett Tatano Band. Admission \$10 per person; food and refreshments available for purchase. Benefits the Yukon Slovenian Hall.
- MAY 27 ..... CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Course, Huntsburg, Ohio. For information contact Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001 or (440) 773-3233.
- MAY 29 ..... Chicago District Federation Memorial Day services at Woodlawn Cemetery, 7750 Cermak Rd., Forest Park, Ill., starting at 11 a.m. For more information contact Tina Rigler at (708) 257-8312.
- JUNE 4 ..... Polka dance at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio, sponsored by the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission. Entertainment features the Garrett Tatano Band.
- JUNE 9-11 ..... 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 16-18 ... SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675.
- JUNE 18 ..... Annual Father's Day picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Hosted by Loyalties Lodge 158.
- JUNE 25 ..... Pretty In Pink fundraiser hosted by the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges; 2-6 p.m. at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa. Music by the Polka Classics. For details contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404.
- JULY 7-9 ..... The 40th Slovenefest and the 65th Miss SNPJ Pageant at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- JULY 16 ..... Cleveland Federation/SNPJ Farm Board picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio.
- JULY 30-AUG. 5 .... Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. 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. 19 ..... SNPJ Lodge 786 Polka Cruise from Newport Harbor, Calif. Includes a cruise around Newport Harbor on a privately chartered ship, lunch, beverages, and music provided by local talent. Reservations required by July 19. For more information contact Lodge 786 Secretary Teresa Koci at (949) 246-1983 or Fred Mlakar at (949) 654-8229.
- AUG. 20 ..... SNPJ Utopians Lodge 604 annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by The Zolkas. Homemade food, strudel and more. For details contact Gerri Trebets at (440) 796-5148.

### 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 (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to:  
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# We've Got You COVERED



by GINA WISE  
SNPJ Marketing Manager

## Red light, green light

Do you remember the game we used to enjoy on the playground? One child plays the traffic cop and stands on the finish line. When the cop says “green light,” the other children run forward. And when the cop says “red light,” the other children must freeze where they are. Those who move on the “red light” command must go back to the starting line, while the winner is the first child to reach the traffic cop.

My husband and I played a variation of this game recently where the IRS was the traffic cop. If you use Turbo Tax to prepare your taxes, you might know what I mean. At the top of the screen, you either see a Green Dollar Amount (your refund) or a Red Dollar Amount (what you owe). This amount is constantly being calculated and changes based on the information you are entering for each question.

- Wage information: Red light
- Tax withheld from wages: Green light
- Charitable deductions: Green light
- Untaxed casino winnings: **RED LIGHT!**

And it was right there that the number didn't just go red, it went red and grew into an amount that required a comma! I looked at my husband. He saw it too. His hands went to his face and he closed his eyes. I knew he regretted not having the casino withhold tax before paying him his winnings, but it was too late now. I asked him if he wanted me to continue entering additional information or freeze things here and finish our taxes closer to the middle of April. He didn't answer; he just shrugged, indicating to me that he wasn't sure.

With the hope of improving the outcome of this game of strategy, we both started going through the papers on our desk to see what else, if anything, still needed to be entered. At the same time, we both said “IRA”. I pulled my IRA contribution information out of the pile and went to the section of the tax software where these contributions can be entered. This would be our ace in the hole! It wasn't exactly the “green light” I had hoped for, but having IRA contributions did put a nice dent in the number we originally owed.

I felt like we were pulled over for speeding, but only received a warning instead of a ticket. I hated to owe, but it could have been worse. I realized that if I'd been a better saver in 2022 and put in the full amount I am allowed to contribute to my IRA, this probably would have been a wash. At this point we decided to keep going and file early, even though we were going to have to write a check. However, we both took away important lessons that we will carry into the next tax year and beyond.

How did your filing go this year? Do you need to fine tune some things in 2023? Has your tax preparer suggested that you open a Traditional IRA to help your current tax situation? Or have they recommended you open a Roth IRA to aid with a future tax burden?

Did you know that Whole Life insurance plans offer more tax advantages than an insurer paying your beneficiary the proceeds tax-free? A Whole Life plan's cash value accumulation is another a way for you to have tax-deferred savings which is not subject market volatility. Unlike 401k and IRA funds, where accessing cash before age 59½ can come with penalties, the cash value of a Whole Life policy is accessible to you at any age. Obtaining a Whole Life policy when you are young means you can take a tax-free loan from the policy's cash value to assist your children or grandchildren with the purchase of their first car or college tuition. And unlike a 401k loan, the policy loan would not come with fees and a strict re-payment schedule. (Do keep in mind that unpaid life insurance loans will reduce the death benefit of your policy.)

While SNPJ cannot provide you tax guidance or recommendations, we do offer solutions that you and your tax preparer are probably already discussing to ensure next year at tax time you'll be “in the green.”

To open an IRA or apply for an insurance policy, speak with your local SNPJ agent, or call the Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 to be put in touch with an agent near you.

SNPJ does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Consult with a tax, legal or accounting professional regarding your specific situation.



## Time to *Spring* into Action!

Contact the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 to open your SNPJ Loyalty Annuity TODAY and take advantage of these great rates!

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## Slovenia, U.S. renew nuclear safety accord

VIENNA (STA) — Representatives of the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission signed a new bilateral agreement in late March renewing the exchange of technical information and cooperation in research and training.

The agreement, which follows the first such adopted in 1993, was signed in Vienna by Igor Sirc, director of the Slovenian administration, and NRC Chairman Christopher T. Hanson, according to a Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning press release.

The agreement reaffirms the countries' commitment to exchange technical information, cooperate in nuclear safety research, provide training and experience for nuclear experts, and cooperate in potential emergency events.

The release notes that U.S. companies are suppliers for the reactor and related equipment at the Krško Nuclear Power Station (NEK), along with the research reactor at the Jožef Stefan Institute in Dol, near Ljubljana. The bilateral agreement is considered “exceptionally important for the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration, providing it with direct contact with the authority of the country of manufacture of the mentioned reactors and related systems.”

The agreement was signed as part of a review meeting of the parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The parties have committed to respect fundamental principles, thereby maintaining a high level of nuclear safety. Slovenia has been a party to the Convention since 1996.

## Slovenia, UNIDO extend cooperation agreement

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In mid-March, Slovenian Economy Minister Matjaž Han and Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Gerd Müller signed an agreement pledging extended cooperation. The goal of the agreement is to help Slovenian companies in their forays into foreign markets.

Slovenia and UNIDO have been cooperating for more than 30 years, and the cooperation agreement was in need of an update 18 years after the initial agreement was signed.

In 2011, Slovenia started to set up a special model to involve Slovenian companies, in addition to resources and know-how, in designated projects at the UNIDO level, thereby contributing to an international network of companies, according to a ministry press release.

“Slovenia is a great success story in terms of industrial development, and a model for successful economic transformation,” said Müller, who visited Slovenia in March. “Slovenian know-how, experience and technological capabilities are used in developing countries worldwide, thanks in part to the country's cooperation in UNIDO projects,” he added.

Minister Han said that support for joint technical projects indicated Slovenia's firm commitment to inclusive and sustainable industrial development. By implementing development cooperation projects, Slovenia addresses global challenges such as the climate and energy crises, protection of the environment, and biodiversity.

From 2005 through 2022, Slovenia allocated some EUR 7.3 million (\$7.75 million) in development aid to UNIDO projects. The priority regions of Slovenia's participation include the Western Balkans, European Neighborhood countries, and sub-Saharan Africa, the ministry noted.

“Slovenia is currently one of the largest donors per capita in UNIDO and is taking part in seven UNIDO projects at the moment,” Han said, adding that several more projects were planned.

## Researchers seeking to recycle rapid Covid tests

MARIBOR (STA) — The Maribor Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and UKC Maribor Hospital have presented a project that will allow the recycling of rapid antigen tests. The single-use Covid-19 tests are currently treated as hazardous waste and incinerated, wasting EUR 15,000 (\$16,165) in plastic and gold per one million discarded single-use test units.

Antigen test units currently cannot be recycled since the two main materials, white plastics and nano-gold, cannot



be separated using existing technology. Plans on how to separate the two materials are now underway, according to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

After separation, nano-gold can be used to synthesize new nanoparticles, or be included in various cosmetics and optics products. Recycled plastic from the tests can be used for electrical installation casings.

A second challenge is how to eliminate the risk of virus contamination. The virus can be destroyed using heat; however, the project is exploring alternate options to avoid unnecessary waste of energy. A study made in cooperation with the Veterinary Faculty showed that the virus is destroyed after tests are quarantined for 20 days.

Additional partners participating in the project include the Faculty of Polymer Technology, the Institute of Metals and Technology, and the Plastika Skaza, Surovina, and Zlatarna Celje companies. Healthcare centers and individuals will be invited to participate at a later date to help collect used rapid antigen test units.

## Many events celebrate the Year of Ivan Tavčar

POLJANE NAD ŠKOFJO LOKO (STA) — Slovenia is planning a number of events throughout the year to honor writer, lawyer and politician Ivan Tavčar (1851-1923). The events will shed light on his legacy and the many fields that captured his interest.

Most of the events will take place in the Poljane Valley, northwest of Ljubljana, where Tavčar was born and raised, and where he is also buried. He loved returning to the area, and even purchased an impressive home there at the end of the 19th century.

The municipality of Gorenja vas Poljane, which led the Year of Ivan Tavčar campaign to mark the centennial of his death, would like to reacquire the general public with his work. Mayor Milan Čadež said that Tavčar's Visoko Mansion, where the author lived on and off for the last 30 years of his life and where he penned some of his works, has been renovated in the past decade, so it is ready for the year-long celebration.

Culture Ministry State Secretary Matevž Čelik Vidmar pointed out that Tavčar made a name for himself in many fields. In addition to being an author, he was also a politician, as well as the founder, president or an active member of several sports, cultural and legal organizations.

Tavčar served as mayor of Ljubljana between 1911 and 1921, and was considered a valued member of the community. “He was a very progressive man, and through his works and what he did in his life, he broke down certain taboos and pushed society forward,” Vidmar said.

“Tavčar's literary works will be at the heart of the events,” said Urška Perenič, who is in charge of the program. Confident that his works can speak to contemporary readers, Perenič is currently compiling a new book on the famous author that will be released in the fall.

Year of Ivan Tavčar events will include writing and art competitions, lectures, a symposium on Tavčar's legacy, literary and film presentations, photo exhibitions, and guided tours of Tavčar's and his wife's collections at the nearby Škofja Loka Museum and at the Visoko Mansion. The main event will be held in the nearby village of Gorenja Vas in late May.

Tavčar will be also honored at an event held in Vienna, Austria, where he served as a member of parliament during the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Tavčar's most famous works include “Visoška Kronika” (The Visoko Chronicle) and “Cvetje v Jeseni” (Blossoms in Autumn), which was adapted for film and musical theatre. Tavčar was also known for his penchant for novelties: He was the proud owner of the first grass tennis court in Slovenia, which he had laid out next to his country house in 1897.

His wife, Franja Tavčar, was one of the leaders of the Slovenian women's movement at the time and a generous patron of the arts.

## Slovenia partnering with NBA's Dallas Mavericks

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Slovenia's Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport intends to enter into a partner-

ship agreement with the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, whose star player is Slovenian Luka Dončić, to promote the “I Feel sLOVEenia” national tourism brand and utilize business opportunities in the U.S.

As a ministry representative explained, the United States was a priority market for Slovenia in terms of internationalization of the Slovenian economy, and in terms of investments and tourism. The partnership aims to present Slovenia and its economic and tourism opportunities while strengthening business cooperation between Slovenia and the U.S., in particular with the state of Texas.

“Key activities will include a promotional campaign through Dallas Mavericks channels from 2022-2027, a Slovenian tourism workshop, a business-investment conference, and Slovenian participation in the Mavs Ball 2023 charity event,” the ministry added. The partnership agreement will extend for two years and will be tied to Dončić's contract with the Mavericks.

The ministry noted that as of year-end 2021, the U.S. ranked third among foreign investors in Slovenia in terms of country of origin of the owner, 21st in terms of trade volume, and ninth in terms of exports of Slovenian services.

Many business opportunities are being observed on the U.S. market, including the automotive industry, healthcare/medical equipment, environmental protection equipment, computer hardware and software, information and communications technology, and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

As for tourism, the ministry said that the U.S. was a very attractive market for Slovenia, offering exceptional growth potential. The largest number of American tourists in Slovenia was recorded in 2019, and preliminary results for 2022 show U.S. tourists are returning to Slovenia following the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Slovenian ID card takes an international award

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Slovenia's biometric identity card claimed the award for best new national ID card in Europe, the Middle East and Africa at the 2023 High Security Printing EMEA Conference held in Abu Dhabi, the Slovenian Interior Ministry announced in early March.

Each year, the winning card is selected by a panel of international experts on ID and security documents. The award, conferred to the most high-tech IDs and travel documents, promotes best practices.

“The new ID is the result of joint efforts by the Interior Ministry, the Public Administration Ministry and the Cetus company, which designed and produced the cards,” the Interior Ministry wrote in a press release, adding that the award is “recognition for the collective work done in preparing a technically complex, state-of-the-art identification document.”

Slovenia started issuing the new biometric ID cards in March 2022; the previous cards had been in circulation for nearly 24 years.

“These ID cards are an important step toward modernizing digital services in Slovenia because they enable a safe and reliable electronic identification and signing of documents,” the Interior Ministry noted. The biometric ID cards feature recognizable symbols of Slovenian sports, history and culture, and include 34 security elements.

## Lake Bled makes the CNN beautiful places list

ATLANTA (STA) — Lake Bled, the idyllic lake with an island in the northwest of Slovenia, has been included in the list of the 25 Most Beautiful Places in the World published by CNN Travel, joining such destinations as the Svalbard Islands in Norway and the Lake District in the UK.

“It is no surprise that Lake Bled has developed into one of the hottest destinations in Europe in recent years,” CNN writes, describing the lake's “glistening blue water” and “soaring backdrop of the Julian Alps.” The article admits that Lake Bled attracts huge crowds in the summer, but adds that the crowds should not put off potential visitors. “Ripe for hiking and swimming adventures, this is a corner of Slovenia that demands to be explored,” the writers explain.

Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia, which also made the list, is only a three-hour drive from Lake Bled.

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



# Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission hosting Family Fun Day at the SNPJ Farm

by KARA MARUSZAK (142)  
Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission

**KIRTLAND, Ohio** — Summer is just around the corner, and that means polka picnics will be back in full swing!

On Sunday, June 4, the Miss SNPJ Commission is hosting a carnival-themed Family Fun Day at the SNPJ Farm in Kirt-

land, featuring a pig roast by Maple Heights Catering. The day will include music by the Garrett Tatano Band, kids activities, drawings/sideboards, and food.

Dinners provided by Maple Heights Catering are priced at \$40 and include roasted pig, breaded southern fried

chicken, garlic roasted potatoes, corn on the cob, garden salad, seasonal fruit with margarita dip, and dessert by Wojtila’s Bakery. Quite the feast! Admission to the SNPJ Farm is also included in the dinner ticket.

All dinner tickets must be purchased by May 24 and

are available through Eventbrite or by contacting Carol Maruszak at (440) 655-8776. Tickets will be distributed at the gate on the day of the picnic.

The doors will open at 1 p.m.; music is scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. Dinners will be served from 3 to 4 p.m. with

limited food options (hot dogs and chips) available throughout the day.

All former Miss SNPJs are invited to attend and will receive free admission. All proceeds benefit the Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets today!



## Festivals, annual picnic highlight the upcoming SNPJ Heritage Center season

**SNPJ HERITAGE CENTER**  
FROM PAGE 1

The following Saturday, May 20, Ed Robich, Patty Candela and Kathy Paulenich will set up a table of items from the Heritage Center Gift Shop to sell at the Music & Craft Festival hosted by the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. This is a fairly new event that has attracted a lot of participants and visitors. You don’t want to miss it!

The Heritage Center Museum and Gift Shop will be open for business on Saturday, May 27, from 1 to 5 p.m. The shelves will be restocked and we hope to have some new items available, including magnets, key chains, coffee cups,

long sleeve T-shirts, ball caps, and a new short sleeve T-shirt design. The Heritage Center will be open every Saturday in June, July and August; our last scheduled date for the season is Saturday, Sept. 2.

Following a busy start to the season with our May activities, we jump to June with the Heritage Center Weekend, scheduled June 9-11 at the Recreation Center.

We’ll open the weekend activity with music in the Gostilna performed by Patty C and The Guys from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 9. Saturday events include a balina tournament starting at 10 a.m. in the Balinarena organized by Denny Brand, an afternoon

Paint & Sip in the Barn led by Sarah Loudon, and bingo in the Gostilna starting at 8 p.m.

Our annual picnic will be held Sunday, June 11, in the Heritage Pavilion featuring the Frank Stanger Band and the Western Pa. Button Box Club alternating from 1 to 6 p.m. Although this is a free-admission dance, we will be collecting monetary donations at the door.

The picnic will offer a 50/50 drawing, along with items available for purchase from the Gift Shop. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the dance, as well as dinners in the Gostilna. Crafts and games will be offered for school-age children, so bring

the whole family!

The Simply Slavic Festival will be held in Youngstown, Ohio, on Friday evening, June 16, and throughout the day on Saturday, June 17. SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members will set up our traveling museum in the ethnic tent and will have items from our Gift Shop to sell at the Marketplace. This is always a great ethnic festival that gives committee members the opportunity to talk about the SNPJ Recreation Center and Slovenefest.

Speaking of upcoming events, my all-time favorite event of the year, Slovenefest, it is only a few months away. I hope you’ve made your plans to attend. Check out the

entertainment schedule online at [www.slovenefest.com](http://www.slovenefest.com). Heritage Center Committee members are working on their “Closer Look at Slovenia” program.

A group of dancers traveling from Slovenia will perform at the Heritage Pavilion each day of Slovenefest. Several of the dancers will speak about their costumes and perform in our tent. In a separate presentation, one of their members will share their love of Slovenia with us.

We are also honored to have Joey Miskulin tell us about his adventures with Riders in the Sky, and producing a CD in Slovenia. Sarah Loudon has planned a make it/take it

Slovenian craft, and Mary Jo Hartman will share her genealogy search of the archives in Maribor and Ljubljana.

Did you know that this year marks the 40th anniversary of Slovenefest? It’s been suggested by one of our committee members to gather 40 button box players together to perform a few tunes. Are you interested in performing? The day, time and location must still be set, but the wheels are in motion. Stay tuned for further details.

Let’s keep our heritage alive by attending as many dances, festivals and ethnic events that you can this summer. The music makes you happy, and that’s what life is all about!

# Lodge 749 schedules quarterly meetings in 2023

by EVELYN DIMPFL  
Lodge 749 Secretary

**JOHNSTOWN, Pa.** — Ahh... spring is in the air, and I guess it’s time to clear my brain and submit an article to *PROSVETA*, so here goes.

At our yearly meeting in December, all of our officers were retained for the coming year. Our president is James J. Vasilko, who is following in his father’s footsteps. Joe Vasilko had been the Lodge president since 1963, and because of health issues had to

give it up. The other officers retained are Treasurer Judith Edsall, Secretary/Recording Secretary Evelyn Dimpfl, Vice President Joanne Vasilko, and auditors Beatrice Edwards and Julie Wagner, all of whom have done a great job.

Also during the December meeting, it was approved to hold quarterly meetings rather than monthly meetings. So our meetings will be held in March, June, September and December.

Following the dissolution

of the Conemaugh Valley Federation last year and the disbursement of the Federation treasury to the member Lodges, our Lodge approved to make a \$225 donation to the Cabin Renovation Fund at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Hopefully, more updates will be coming in the very near future.

It is always sad to report on the deaths of members, and so condolences are sent to the families of Janice S. Hoffmeyer, Kathryn J. Butchko,

Wilbur L. Smith Jr., Mary A. Potts, Sylvia Latchney, and Diana L. Kowal.

The brighter news is that our Lodge has gained Frederick Smith as a new member. He is welcomed to the SNPJ.

I recently received the announcement for SNPJ Family Week 2023, and I plan to be in attendance once again. And I urge more families to take advantage of the opportunity to spend a great week at the beautiful SNPJ Recreation Center!

# Lodge 786 sets Aug. date for a polka cruise

by TERESA KOCI  
Lodge 786 Secretary/Treasurer

**ORANGE COUNTY, Calif.** — Orange Coast Lodge 786 is hosting a polka cruise on Saturday, Aug. 19, from Newport Harbor, Calif.

The cost to participate is \$40 per SNPJ member, \$50 for non-SNPJ members, \$20 for children ages 5 to 20; children ages 4 and under will cruise for free. These fees include a three- to four-hour cruise around Newport Har-

bor on a privately-chartered ship, lunch, beverages, and music provided by our own local talent.

Reservations are limited and are required by July 19, so reserve your spot on the ship now by sending a check made payable to “SNPJ Lodge 786” to Teresa Koci, Lodge 786 Secretary, 14 Dion, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Contact Teresa at (949) 246-1983 or Fred Mlakar at (949) 654-8229 with any questions.

# SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of February-March 2023

Proceeds from the 2023 Verbiick Memorial Bowling Tournament.....\$253.50  
SNPJ Westmoreland County Federation.....\$200  
SNPJ Badger Lodge 584, Milwaukee.....\$190  
*In memory of deceased members in 2022*  
SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. ....\$40  
*In memory of Thomas Greggs*  
SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. ....\$40  
*In memory of Peter Hamder*  
SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. ....\$40  
*In memory of David Germadnik*  
SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. ....\$40  
*In memory of Frances Hnida*

*The following donations were made in memory of Bro. Frank E. Gradisek (87)*  
Barbara E. Bloom, Greensburg, Pa.....\$100  
James A. Medved, Dover, Del.....\$100  
Don (87) & Irene Kranitz, Winston-Salem, N.C. ....\$50  
Shirley M. Shaw, Louisville, Ky.....\$50

Glenn & Janet Shoaf, Beggs, Okla.....\$50  
Mr. & Mrs. Rod Gisi, Trafford, Pa.....\$50  
Joe & Linda Medved, Madison, Pa.....\$30  
Phyllis Moler Jobses, Cortland, Ohio.....\$25  
Kevin & Lisa Litzinger, Level Green, Pa....\$25  
Annunziata R. Paolini, Ewing, N.J. ....\$20

## Music & Craft Festival returns to the SNPJ Farm

**SNPJ FARM FESTIVAL**  
FROM PAGE 1

OH 44094; phone (440) 946-9872. To receive a special discounted rate, you will need to inform them that you are attending the SNPJ Polka Music Festival and book your room before April 30. The Red Roof Inn is located seven miles, approximately 13 minutes, from the SNPJ Farm.

The SNPJ Farm is a cash-only venue. No ATMs are

available on the property, so plan accordingly.

The Polka Music Festival and Craft Show is the main fundraiser that helps keep our SNPJ Farm alive and well. We hope to see you all on Saturday, May 20, at the festival.

For more information and/or tickets, contact SNPJ Region 3 Vice President/ SNPJ Farm Board Vice President Don Srnick at (440) 283-9373.

# PROSVETA Crossword

## Mother’s Day (#0523) by StatePoint Media

- ACROSS**
- Wild onion
  - Standardized testing acronym
  - Accounting degree
  - Hunted by hunter
  - Don Johnson’s TV role, 1996-2001
  - Run \_\_\_\_ of the law
  - Bear the expenses of
  - Chemistry Nobelist Hahn
  - \*Deborah Guarino’s “Is Your Mama a \_\_\_\_?”
  - Manner of controlling yourself
  - Tiny bit
  - Willow twig
  - Nutcracker’s distinguishing feature
  - Like a longer route?
  - German white wine
  - \*Mom’s little one
  - Bear the expenses of
  - Knock about
  - Dodge
  - “\_\_\_\_ the fields we go”
  - Binary digits code
  - Bear den
  - Northern peat bog
  - Modern address
  - Analyst in a chemical lab
  - Smooth, as in surface of the lake
  - Gangster’s pistol
  - Eyelid infections
  - Wafting emanation
  - \*“Arrangement in Grey and Black, No. 1” portrays this artist’s mother
  - Evil one
  - Simmering feeling
  - Prepare for publication
  - Give benediction
  - Heston’s foes in 1968 sci-fi movie
  - Boundary
  - Communism or Taoism
  - P in #1 Down
  - Do like a model
- DOWN**
- Dashboard acronym
  - Kuwaiti or Saudi
  - \*Maman alternative
  - Kaa of “The Jungle Book”
  - French composer Erik Alfred Leslie \_\_\_\_
  - He made his fortune in fur trading
  - \*Jord is mom to this hammer-wielding mythic thunder god
  - Chesterfield or ulster
  - Feline-inspired shoe brand
  - \_\_\_\_ mode
  - Not quite a nun

- Spy’s cover
  - \*Popular Mother’s Day gift
  - Cast somebody there
  - Almond-induced state?
  - Type of monument
  - Pepsi and Coke
  - Tiny purses
  - Actor Wahlberg
  - Loci, sing.
  - #39 Across, pl.
  - \*Lorelai Gilmore’s mother
  - \*How many children does Queen Elizabeth have?
  - Hi-\_\_\_\_
  - \*Daenerys Targaryen’s “babies”
  - End of a shoelace
  - \*“How I \_\_\_\_ Your Mother”
  - Knights’ breastplates
  - Gridiron measure, pl.
  - In the Land of Nod
  - Guillermo del Toro’s “The \_\_\_\_ of Water”
  - \*Amy Chua’s “Battle Hymn of the \_\_\_\_ Mother”
  - Rembrandt’s paints
  - Regard
  - Sandwich alternative
  - Edible root of taro plant
  - Semis
  - Hoover’s agency
  - Casual attire
- The solution to puzzle #0523 will run in the June 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.

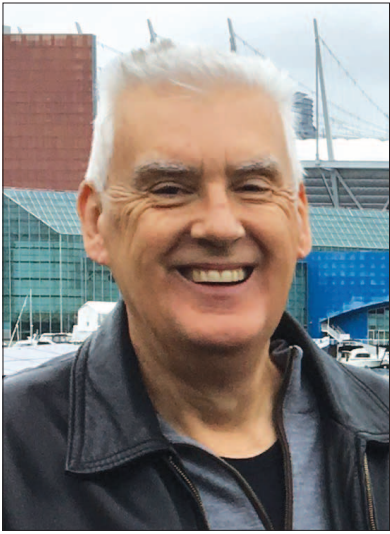
As a way to show respect and appreciation to our longtime and loyal members, we recognize mem-

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

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

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

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



Bro. RANDALL F. ZAVERTNIK (559)



Sis. DOLORES B. NOVOTNY (8)



Bro. BRAD GRANDOVIC (33)



Sis. KAREN F. LEHR (216)

• Chicago Lodge 559 member Bro. **RANDALL F. ZAVERTNIK** celebrated his 50-year SNPJ membership anniversary in February. He writes:

"Thank you for the 50-year membership recognition.

"I retired as corporate controller in 2018 after 33 years with TECO Energy, Inc., the holding company for the local electric utility in Tampa, Fla. I am originally from Chicago and moved to Tampa in the mid-1980s after working in public accounting.

"Retirement has offered the opportunity to do some independent accounting consulting work, and to stay active through pickleball at the local community centers and at the gym. I volunteer on the boards of ZooTampa at Lowry Park and the Financial Oversight Committee of the United States Dragon Boat Federation."

Bro. **RANDALL F. ZAVERTNIK**  
Chicago Lodge 559  
Lutz, FL

• Sis. **DOLORES B. NOVOTNY**, the current secretary/treasurer of Lodge 8 in Chicago, celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership anniversary in February. She writes:

"Many thanks to the SNPJ for awarding me with a beautiful blanket for my 70-year adult membership. As a juvenile, I also belonged to Perfect Circle 26 in Chicago. Many memories and friendships remain.

"My father, Matt Turk, was very active in the Society, serving as SNPJ Supreme Secretary from 1921-1927 and attending meetings, Conventions, etc. My husband Frank, now deceased, was

Sis. **DOLORES NOVOTNY**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

a Lodge president and was very attentive with many celebrations and tournaments.

"I now reside with my daughter, Sue, and son-in-law in Joliet, Ill. My daughter Linda Hine is employed and resides in Shelby, N.C. My dear and only grandchild, Andrew, is married and lives in Fort Myers, Fla.

"I enjoyed my 52-year career in banking, and being a Lodge secretary for decades, to the present time. Best wishes and regards to all!"

Sis. **DOLORES B. NOVOTNY**  
Chicago Lodge 8  
Joliet, IL

• Ambridge, Pa., Lodge 33 member Bro. **BRAD GRANDOVIC** celebrated his 70-year SNPJ membership anniversary in March. He writes:

"Thank you very much for the blanket. It's hard to believe that I have been a member for 70 years.

"I was born in Ambridge, Pa., to parents Tony and Katherine Grandovic. We were all members of Lodge 33. Both of my parents were longtime officers in the Lodge.

"Personally, I graduated from Penn State University in 1960 with a degree in industrial engineering and then worked for several steel companies during my career. I was commissioned a second lieutenant at Penn State and spent two years active duty in the U.S. Army.

"I remember many good times at the SND in Ambridge, and I am very proud of my Slovenian

Bro. **BRAD GRANDOVIC**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

heritage.

"I have two children, Gary and Sandra; and five grandchildren, Ryan, Jenna, Ashley, Nicole and Samantha. I now live in Florida with my wife, Audrey, and I miss the good ethnic food and Slovenian polkas. I play the accordion, and sometimes I serenade myself.

"Again, thank you for the blanket. It does get cold in Florida, and I will put it to good use."

Bro. **BRAD GRANDOVIC**  
Ambridge, Pa., Lodge 33  
Melbourne, FL

• Sis. **KAREN FLISEK LEHR**, a 50-year member of SNPJ Lodge 216 in Verona, Pa., as of March 2023, proudly proclaims that she is 100 percent Slovenian, all four of her grandparents being Slovenian. Her parents were the late Carl and Jennie Flisek of Oakmont, Pa.

Karen, now retired from a career in human resources, enjoys doing genealogy research on her family tree, which includes the Komatz, Flisek, Bozich and Potepan lines. She compiled documents, stories and photos in three books which she shared with family members. While conducting her research, she connected with Flisek cousins on the internet and went to Slovenia in 2016 to meet them in person. She writes:

"My cousins were so gracious and showered me with their legendary hospitality. They arranged a visit to the local castle, complete with an English-speaking guide; asked the priest to open the church that my grandfather attended; pro-

Sis. **KAREN FLISEK LEHR**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

vided access to my grandfather's boyhood home – uninhabited, but owned by a cousin; and took me to two church cemeteries where my great-grandparents are buried. "They also served a wonderful home-cooked meal with delicious ingredients from their farm, including very fresh chicken, vegetables, and honey from their own beehives. I was amazed when I tasted the beef stock soup – identical to what my grandmother made 50 years ago! It was a day I will never forget. I still keep in touch with my cousins in Slovenia by e-mail."

Sis. **KAREN F. LEHR**  
Verona, Pa., Lodge 216  
Gainesville, VA

• Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 member Sis. **MYRA L. SAMSA GLICK** celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership anniversary in April. She writes:

"Thank you for the lovely blanket. My sister Sonja (now deceased) and I were raised on a farm near West Middletown by Angie and Frank Samsa. We moved to Canonsburg, Pa., when the state took the farm for a park. We were members of Lodge 138 in Strabane.

"Sonja and I moved to Cleveland where we worked for AT&T; I as a commercial artist, and Sonja with computers.

"I married Merle Glick, a WWII veteran and math teacher. Over the years, we traveled a lot – to



Sis. MYRA L. SAMSA GLICK (138)

Sis. **MYRA SAMSA GLICK**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

China, Israel, Slovenia, through Europe, and all of Canada and the United States. We now live in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. If you want to see us nowadays, you can visit YouTube "Brooms and Bridges."

Sis. **MYRA L. SAMSA GLICK**  
Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138  
Cleveland Heights, OH



celebrating your SNPJ anniversary?

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

## SNPJ RECOMMENDER PROGRAM



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

### Recommender Benefits

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

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

I would like to introduce

for SNPJ membership

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Preferred Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional)

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Lodge Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## SNPJ Recreation Center 2023 Fraternal Events Schedule



May 6-7	<b>SNPJ National Bowling Tournament</b>
June 9-11	<b>SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend</b>
June 16-18	<b>SNPJ Young Adult Conference</b>
July 7-9	<b>SLOVENEFEEST 2023</b>
July 30-Aug. 5	<b>SNPJ Family Week</b>
Sept. 1-3	<b>National SNPJ Days</b>

For event information, contact the SNPJ Recreation Center by phoning 1-877-767-5732 or e-mailing [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).

## Important figures to consider...



29%... people who would purchase more life insurance if they were asked

62%... people who own coverage, but don't know what they have or why they have it

82%... people who are under-insured

If your coverage is over 5 years old, contact SNPJ for a policy review.

1-800-843-7675





SNPJ fraternal sympathies

Sis. MARJORIE ROTH • LODGE 2 •

**LA SALLE, Ill.** — The members of Lodge 2 sadly report the Feb. 9, 2023, passing of Sis. Amalija “Marjorie, Marge” Roth of Springfield, Ill., at Villas of Holly Brook, Chatham, Ill.

Sis. Roth was born June 27, 1927, in Krasnja, Slovenia, a daughter of the late Blass and Marija “Mary” Orajem Strukel. Marge emigrated from Slovenia to the United States in 1933 with her family.

She was a 1945 graduate of Lanphier High School, then attended Brown’s Business College. She also graduated from Marguerite Beauty School in 1961 and became a self-employed beautician for more than 50 years.

Marge loved her musical heritage and formed the “Slovene Strollers,” playing the button box alongside her sister, Josephine, and friend Dorie Ushman.

A 77-year SNPJ member, she was also a member of the POLKA Club, the Prairie State Polish Club, and the American Lithuanian Club.

On Aug. 21, 1974, she married Arthur E. Roth; he preceded her in death on Feb. 3, 1992.

She is survived by two daughters, Gayle (Stephen) Chrans of Chatham, and Charlene Churchill of Mundelein, Ill.; a son, Chuck (Kendra) Stockus of New Berlin, Ill.; six grandchildren, Gary Churchill, Christine Churchill, Kelly Chrans Allen, Kevin Chrans, Kayla Stockus and Ben Stockus; and a sister-in-law, Virginia Kmet Strukel.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, Frank Strukel; her sister, Josephine Sneckus; and her former husband, Charles Stockus.

A funeral service for Sis. Roth was held Feb. 13 at Staab Funeral Home, Springfield. Burial followed at Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield.

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

Sis. FRANCES HNIDA • LODGE 31 •

**SHARON, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 31 sadly report the Feb. 15, 2023, passing of Sis. Frances “Nancy” Hnida,

97. She had been a resident of Arizona since 1947, moving to Phoenix as a newlywed.

Sis. Hnida was a 79-year SNPJ Lodge 31 member. In her youth, Nancy was a founding member of the former SNPJ Juvenile (Youth) Circle 21 in Sharon, participating in social activities and plays, and performing with the Circle’s chorus and dance group. She maintained a love for the Slovenian culture her entire life.

She was employed as a secretary, in a childcare facility teaching nursery school, and as a salesperson in an antiques store and in several boutiques. She also did volunteer work in schools, at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, and as a lay member of Miles Jesu.

Nancy had a lifelong love of reading, antiques, and crossword puzzles. She kept up a dedicated correspondence with friends and relatives. She had a way of making people realize they mattered, and will be forever missed.

Survivors include her son, John A. (Mara Giles) Hnida; a granddaughter, Sofia Giles Hnida; a sister, Judy Torphy; and many nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Anna Stambal; her husband, John Hnida; a daughter, Donna Hnida; and two sisters, Betty Macek and Marie Minor.

A service celebrating Sis. Hnida’s life was held Feb. 23 at Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home, Phoenix. Private burial followed in St. Francis Catholic Cemetery, Phoenix.

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

Sis. PAULINE D. PETCOVIC • LODGE 715 •

**UNIVERSAL, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 715 sadly report the March 5, 2023, passing of Sis. Pauline Delores “Link” Petcovic, 91, of New Sewickley Twp., Pa., in Heritage Valley Beaver.

Sis. Petcovic was born May 22, 1931, in Neffs, Ohio, the 12th child of the late Stephen and Susie Phillips. She often told stories about growing up on the farm, and many of her family members reminisce about the family garden and house full of cousins.

In her younger years, Pauline worked at National Electric in Ambridge, Pa., as a

welder. It was during this time that she met Paul Petcovic, her beloved husband of 56 years who passed away in December 2013. For their first date, Paul pulled up with a new pink and gray Pontiac. As Pauline used to say, “It was killer.” She retired from Freedom Area Schools, where she worked in the cafeteria.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, she was a longtime and active member of St. Felix Roman Catholic Church in Freedom, Pa., where she was a Christian Mother. She was also a member of the Croatian Club in Conway, Pa.

She was an avid knitter and crocheter, and she loved polka music, Slavic foods, and playing cards and other games. Making friends came easy to her, and she kept an active social life into the ninth decade of her life. Truly, Pauline was an extraordinary mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Paul and Pauline loved unconditionally.

She is survived by her three children, Mark (Julie) Petcovic of Rogers, Ohio, Monica Petcovic of Wilmington, N.C., and Steven (Sandy) Petcovic of Raccoon Twp., Pa.; four grandchildren, Hannah (Joe) Myers, Adam (Desirea) Petcovic, Forrest (Lexi) Petcovic, and Brooke (Joey) Petcovic; four step-grandchildren, Billy (Kirsten) Walls, Jesse (Lacey) Walls, Raquel Stasiowski and Scott Nail; five precious great-grandchildren; three siblings, Kathleen “Babe,” Mildred “Mick,” and Steve; and her special friend, Opie.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings: John, Frances, Louis, Joe, Paul, Sister Agnes, Susan “Hun,” Margaret, Josephine “Betty,” Marie and Anna.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Petcovic on March 10 at Our Lady of the Valley, St. Felix Church. Interment followed in Calvary Cemetery, Freedom.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 715 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Petcovic’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. JOANN M. BOGOLIN • LODGE 31 •

**SHARON, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 31 sadly report the March 17, 2023, passing of Sis. JoAnn Bogolin at her home in Hermitage, Pa.

Sis. Bogolin was born June

23, 1930, in Davenport, Iowa, to Lena (Westfall) and Jens Voss. On May 18, 1958, she married her husband, William Anthony Bogolin, who passed away Sept. 28, 1990.

A 64-year SNPJ member, JoAnn was a longtime auditor for Lodge 31. She was also a member of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Hermitage. She enjoyed polka dancing, attending Slovenefest, making potica, baking, gardening, golfing and bowling.

She is survived by her daughter, Barbara Ann Bogolin of Hermitage; sons Tony (Cathy) Bogolin of Orchard Park, N.Y., and John (Sheila) Bogolin of Newburgh, Ind.; grandchildren Allison, Amy (Blake), Owen, Sam (Todd), Joe, William, and Becca; a great-grandson, Finn; a sister, Shirley Doolittle of Iowa; and a brother, Gary Voss of California.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 31 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Bogolin’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. HENRY R. LAVRICH • LODGE 138 •

**STRABANE, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the March 23, 2023, passing of Bro. Henry R. Lavrich, 93, of Canonsburg, Pa., at Country Meadows of Bridgeville with his family by his side.

Bro. Lavrich was born Jan. 22, 1930, in Strabane, a son of the late Anton and Josephine Bobnar Lavrich. He graduated from Trinity High School in Washington, Pa., in 1948 and worked at the W.S. George Pottery from 1946-1951. In 1949 he started the Henry Lavrich Orchestra, then enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving from 1951-1953. He was stationed in Germany as a motor pool sergeant.

When he returned from the service he began playing the tri-state area with his band until 1974. He was an accomplished accordion player and musician.

Henry was also employed as a cabinet maker for General Wood Crafting in Canonsburg, and at Cooper Industries, Canonsburg, as a carpenter in the shipping department until his retirement in 1991 after 30 years of service. He was a member of the United Steel Workers of America.

During his retirement, Henry enjoyed several hobbies such as woodworking and

refinishing, and gardening. He was an avid bowler at the Strabane SNPJ Lanes in his younger years, and attended polka dances with his wife. He also enjoyed donating his time to shut-ins by entertaining them with his musical talents and treating them to his homemade goodies.

A 76-year member of SNPJ Lodge 138, he was a faithful member of St. Oscar Romero Parish, St. Patrick’s Church in Canonsburg. He was also a member of KSKJ St. Jerome Lodge 153 in Strabane, VFW Post 191 in Canonsburg, and American Legion Post 902 in Houston, Pa.

On April 18, 1959, he married Angeline Kunic Lavrich, who survives after 63 years of marriage. Also left behind to cherish his memory are his son, Don Lavrich (companion Ellie Wilkes) of Washington, Pa.; a daughter, Kathy Yeakel (companion Curtis Treadway) of Georgia; his beloved grand-

children, Lexi Lavrich of Canonsburg, and Winston Stanley and Bud Orr of Georgia; one great-grandchild, Tommy; his brother, James Lavrich of Indiana; his sisters, Agnes D’Arrigo of Canonsburg and Joan (Donald “Ace”) Zelensky of Strabane; and several nieces and nephews.


Deceased, in addition to his parents, are two siblings, Josephine Lavrich Marsek and Anthony Lavrich.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Lavrich on March 28 in St. Oscar Romero Parish, St. Patrick Church. Full Military Rites were accorded by the VFW Post 191 Honor Guard and the United States Army. Entombment was in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh.

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

In loving remembrance of

Rose Cadez



B: JAN. 25, 1927  
D: MAY 18, 2014

STRABANE, PA.  
LODGE 138


Sons Jim, Ronald (“Buzz”) & Jeffrey and their families.

In Loving Memory

W. Daniel Bearman

Dec. 11, 1935 — May 26, 1994

Those we love remain with us,  
for love itself lives on.  
And cherished memories never fade  
because a loved one’s gone.  
Those we love can never be  
more than a thought apart,  
for as long as there is a memory  
they’ll live on within our heart.



Sadly missed by his wife Esther; daughter Susan (Jay) Sedmak; sons Fred (Brenda) and Dennis (the late Joyce); grandchildren Katie (Chris), Stephanie, Sam and Christine; and great-grandson Michael.

BRIDGEVILLE, PA

DEATHS REPORTED			
For the month of March 2023			
LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A02	LaVerne M. Unger	10-20-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
2	Marjorie Roth	02-09-2023	Chatham, Ill.
5	Catherine A. Schneider	04-04-2020	Chardon, Ohio
6	Lawrence E. Zani	11-22-2022	Lancaster, Ohio
6	Patricia L. Urbanic	12-09-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6	Mary L. Petrocelli	11-29-2022	Bridgeville, Pa.
6	Lorraine Walsh	03-12-2023	Mooresville, N.C.
8	Louise B. Kure	02-09-2023	Bradenton, Fla.
31	Frances Hnida	02-15-2023	Phoenix, Ariz.
34	Kenneth E. Burgherr	01-05-2023	St. Louis, Mo.
34	Dolores S. Boggs	01-23-2023	La Salle, Mich.
34	JoAnn Banich	02-21-2023	Indianapolis, Ind.
41	Marian D. Bortot	01-28-2021	Delmont, Pa.
41	Beverly L. Visnic	01-25-2023	Jeannette, Pa.
89	Frank J. Urbanic	10-13-2022	Chesterfield, Va.
106	Dennis E. Phillips	02-02-2023	Chester, W.Va.
106	Margaret M. Ward	02-14-2023	Imperial, Pa.
106	Eileen K. Leopold	01-09-2023	Baden, Pa.
142	Phillip Lunchar	02-10-2023	Finleyville, Pa.
158	Frank Okicki	01-26-2023	Mentor, Ohio
158	Alex Donald Spike	01-25-2023	Willoughby Hills, Ohio
174	Violet Mesaros	02-06-2023	Encinitas, Calif.
207	Anne F. Walker	01-19-2023	San Diego, Calif.
223	Joseph A. Dorko	12-14-2022	Latrobe, Pa.
225	Earl R. Slapar	05-14-2022	Girard, Kan.
265	Joanne P. Hixenbaugh	01-28-2023	West Palm Beach, Fla.
358	Gerald J. Arendas	01-17-2023	Lowellville, Ohio
371	Mathew E. Balint	01-17-2023	Longview, Wash.
559	James L. Cainkar	12-19-2022	Burr Ridge, Ill.
559	Betty Nadvornik	06-16-2022	Braidwood, Ill.
562	Sharon A. Kachur	02-15-2023	Tallmadge, Ohio
603	Howard L. McAllister	01-27-2023	Titusville, Fla.
604	Gloria Kramer Dawson	09-18-2022	N. Royalton, Ohio
715	Pauline D. Petcovic	03-05-2023	Freedom, Pa.
721	Daisy Vucinich	12-31-2021	Midland, Pa.
723	Constance L. Yannacone	01-01-2023	San Francisco, Calif.
723	Joan R. Roncevich	01-20-2023	Gig Harbor, Wash.
723	Gary F. Kiren	02-03-2023	Cheyenne, Wyo.
749	Diana L. Kowal	11-23-2022	Ravenna, Ohio
749	Theresa Travnikar	10-11-2022	Shelby Twp., Mich.
749	Janice S. Hoffmeyer	01-05-2023	South Riding, Va.
771	Irene L. Ryczaj	11-15-2022	New Castle, Pa.
776	Rose M. Potochnik	11-06-2022	Bessemer, Pa.
776	Wilma Gray	09-15-2022	Darlington, Pa.
776	Charles L. Gumley	01-13-2023	New Castle, Pa.
782	Paul E. McDowell	03-15-2023	New Castle, Pa.
KAREN A. PINTAR National Secretary/COO			

PROSVETA 2023 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2023

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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31							

Publication dates are highlighted in black boxes; deadline dates are circled. The deadline for submissions is noon on the dates circled above. Submissions may be mailed to PROSVETA, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126; faxed to (724) 695-1555; e-mailed to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com); or submitted via the Publications section of the SNPJ website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).



# Fontana Lodge 723 members make meaningful visits to worthy organizations

## LODGE 723 DONATIONS

FROM PAGE 1

need under the direction of Executive Director Dan Flores, and founder and President Fr. Michael Barry.

On April 13, our four Lodge officers were joined by members Frances Ooms, Maria Sego, Krste Pandza and several guests on an excursion to the Entomology Department of the University of California at Riverside. There, we were warmly received by professors Boris Baer and Barbara Baer-Imhoof and their team of researchers and graduate students at the Center for Integrative Bee Research (CIBER). Their mission is to safeguard bees and secure human food

production.

The Baers, who have done bee research in their native Switzerland, Denmark and Australia, described to us the value of natural bee colonies, termed “survivor bees,” living in our area of Southern California. This variety may be key players in establishing a type of bee adapted to our climate challenges: resistant to the Varroa mite and other parasites, able to avoid pesticide dangers, and capable of diluting the strains of aggressive bees that began infiltrating the Southwest a generation ago.

Each of the graduate students present described his/her own specific research methodology in support of the research

mission. We were fascinated by their explanations.

The Baers relate the social lives of bees to the need for humans to cooperate and foster positive energy to survive in this world. The couple creates a warm and supportive environment in which their work is conducted.

Our group arrived to Barbara’s freshly-baked bread with honey, which we were invited to scrape directly from the honeycomb set on the table. The friendly atmosphere continued to embrace us throughout our visit.

For our part, we presented an enlarged replica of our donation check and shared a brief history of our organization. Boris and Barbara were familiar with Slovenia’s culture of beekeeping and honey production. We reinforced that knowledge with a gift of a replica painted wooden panel from an 1890 Slovenian beekeeper’s hive.

Lodge 723 Treasurer Frank Rote elicited sighs of wonder from the research team when he lifted his 99-year-old Stara harmonika from its case, and smiles grew bigger when he played the Lojze Slak tune “Stari Cebular” (The Old Beekeeper). We all felt the power of science, friendship and cultural awareness. Frank “put the honey on the cake” when he explained that beeswax is used to coat the reeds on the folk accordions.

The survival of bees is critical among the work ahead to save the world. The Baers inform us that “every third bite of food we eat has been



Professors, graduate students, researchers and Lodge 723 members attended the April check presentation to the UCR Center for Integrative Bee Research (CIBER).

pollinated by a bee. Bees save human lives; the crops they pollinate provide vitamins and other chemical compounds we need to be healthy. Without bees, we will lose people to health issues. It’s more than nutrition; it’s human well-being that’s at stake.”

That revelation gave us a very good feeling that we of Lodge 723 could do some small part to support ongoing research promoting the successful work of beekeepers worldwide to ensure global food security. Here in Southern California, together: bees in nature with the ability to improve the strength of the apia industry, scientists with the knowledge and skills to facilitate that goal, and SNPJ members choosing to give an edge to that mission.



Dr. Boris Baer and Dr. Barbara Baer-Imhoof with Lodge 723 Treasurer and musician FRANK ROTE at the UCR Center for Integrative Bee Research.



Lodge 723 members presented a donation to the Mary's Mercy Center during a March visit. [From left] Mary's Mercy Center Executive Director **Dan Flores**, SNPJ Lodge 723 Treasurer **FRANK ROTE**, Mary's Mercy Center's founder and President **Fr. Michael Barry**, Lodge 723 member **MARCIA LEATHERS** (holding a photo of the former Fontana Slovene Hall), and Lodge 723 President **SHERRI BLACK**.

## PROSVETA Crossword

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (#0423) solution

D	O	G	M	A		O	N	E			H	O	O	P	
A	P	R	I	L		G	O	V			T	E	R	R	A
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C	O	H	O			S	A	T			R	E	E	L	S

WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
FEDERATION OF SNPJ LODGES  
PRESENTS...

**Pretty In Pink**

SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023  
2 PM to 6 PM

YUKON SLOVENIAN HALL  
YUKON, PA

**Benefit Dance**  
Music by “Polka Classics”

Food, Beverages, Chinese Auction, and Door Prizes!

Contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404  
for more information.  
All proceeds benefit  
local cancer patients.

cook eat slovenia

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

**\$37<sup>00</sup> each**  
includes postage

Return completed order form with full payment to:  
**SNPJ Heritage Center • 270 Martin Road • Enon Valley, PA 16120**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to **SNPJ Heritage Center**

## Two contestants join the 2023 Miss SNPJ Pageant field

### 2023 PAGEANT ENTRANTS

FROM PAGE 1

and helps with children’s shows by supporting younger generations with acting, singing and dancing.

As a contestant in the 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant, Cara was awarded the title of Miss Fraternalism 2023. She is very grateful for the warm welcome she received at her first Slovenefest and is very excited to be part of the Miss SNPJ Pageant for a second year.

Our second pageant entrant is Emi Perdan, a member of SNPJ Lodge 604 in Cleveland. Emi is the daughter of Beth Perdan and Beth Schroeder, and the granddaughter of Rudy and Charlotte Perdan.

Emi recently graduated with honors from Chatham University. As a member of Sigma Beta Delta, an honor society for students in business, management and administration, she earned a bachelor’s degree in business management, a minor in applied data science analytics, and a Women’s Leadership certificate.

Emi was heavily involved with student government, serving as the Vice President of Finance and chair of the Undergraduate Budget Committee. She is also actively involved with Days for Girls, a nonprofit that works to eliminate the stigma and limitations associated with menstruation. Among her accomplish-

ments, Emi won the Chatham University Outstanding Undergraduate Student Leader Award, and the School of Arts, Science and Business (SASB) Outstanding Student Achievement Award. She also had the opportunity to be a student representative on the university’s Presidential Search Committee.

Currently, Emi works for the university’s Office of Student Engagement, and she plans to complete her MBA in April 2024.

Through her family and church activities, she has been involved with the Parkinson’s Foundation in Cleveland, the Alzheimer’s Association, and the Family Promise of

Ontario County, which is an organization that helps homeless families with housing, food and professional resources

We welcome Cara and Emi to the 2023 Miss SNPJ Pageant, and wish them all the best. We encourage all eligible single females between the ages of 18 and 28 who are SNPJ members in good standing for at least three months to enter this year’s pageant. The deadline to enter the 2023 Miss SNPJ Pageant is June 7.

Who will Miss SNPJ 2024 be? Will it be a young lady reading this right now, who has dreamt of this moment since she was a little girl? I can’t wait to find out, and I can’t wait to see you all at Slovenefest!

## What have you done for SNPJ lately?

by MARTY KUMER  
Lodge 715

**UNIVERSAL, Pa.** — My headline? A fair question. During my farewell talk at the last Convention, I paraphrased the late John F. Kennedy: “Ask not what the SNPJ can do for you. Ask what you can do for the SNPJ!”

This great organization, our SNPJ, was built on that premise: Rather than seeking fame and fortune at the expense of our membership, we are blessed with countless members, past and present, who have given their time and talents to

enrich — socially and financially — their fellow members. This can be done many ways: attending Lodge and Federation meetings; becoming involved and running for office; volunteering to help at an SNPJ Lodge, Federation, regional or national event; and — just as important — attending these events!

Another saying: “You get *more* when you put *more* into it” (your heart, your enthusiasm, your talents, your knowledge), or something like that...

So, summer is coming and we have many opportunities to participate in SNPJ events such as Lodge picnics, parties, banquets, dances, and an array of national and regional get-togethers. The Cleveland SNPJ Farm holds a dance and picnic practically every weekend in the summer. The food and dancing are great — I’ve been there!

And this year, Slovenefest is marking a 40th anniversary, and it promises to be the best ever! Some of my relatives are com-

ing from Slovenia to attend Slovenefest and hope to meet with you and provide a genuine Slovenian experience. And who will be the next Miss SNPJ?

SNPJ Family Week will be coming up again, and many of my relatives will be there from faraway places, including California and Washington State, as well as from nearby Ohio and all over Pennsylvania. More of you would really enjoy the Family Week experience.

And then there are National SNPJ Days, and the national golf and balina tournaments. The SNPJ CAL Golf Tournament was one of my favorites when I could play — always one of the best tournaments of the year, run by the late Don Gorjup, and now run by his kids.

So now you see what the SNPJ can do for you. What can you do for the SNPJ? Participate, help out, attend the activities — or just be there and enjoy, enjoy, enjoy! That’s what you can do for the SNPJ... and for yourself!

## Polka Hall of Fame presents a Spring Fling in May

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

**CLEVELAND** — Put a spring in your step at the Spring Fling hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame on Friday, May 12.

Join Wayne Tomsic and his orchestra for a spirited evening of bouncy polkas and dreamy waltzes at the Holy Spirit Party Center, a new polka spot for members and friends to discover. Enjoy dancing from 6 to 10 p.m. The Wayne Tomsic sound features his captivating accordion and extensive rep-

ertoire of ballroom favorites.

Sandwiches and nationality treats will be provided by the Holy Spirit party people. Your polka hostess, Sharon Staiduhar, will spring a few surprises on you to test your luck.

The Holy Spirit Party Center is located at 5500 West 54th Street in Parma, Ohio. From I-480 East, exit south (left) on State Road, turn west (right) on Brookpark and then south (left) on West 54th, and travel six blocks. From I-480 West, exit south (right) on Ridge Road, turn east (left) on Brookpark

and then south (right) on West 54th, and travel six blocks.

Admission is \$15 at the door; guests age 18 and under admitted free of charge. Save \$3 with an advance ticket, available for \$12 through the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio, next to Euclid City Hall. To reserve a table, call (440) 679-1420.

The Polka Hall of Fame is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Phone (216) 261-FAME or e-mail [PolkaShop@aol.com](mailto:PolkaShop@aol.com).



Wayne Tomsic will entertain for the Spring Fling hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame on May 12 at the Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, Ohio.





Volunteers from the town of Yukon, the Yukon Lions Club, the Yukon Fire Department, and the Yukon Miners Baseball Club joined with the members of SNPJ Lodge 729 to participate in the ninth annual Yukon Spring Cleanup on March 18.

## March brings annual cleanup for Yukon Lodge 729

by JOANN KRANCE  
Lodge 729 Secretary/Treasurer

**YUKON, Pa.** — Despite temperatures in the low 30s, a group of 40-plus volunteers met at the Yukon Slovenian Hall to participate in the ninth annual Yukon Spring Cleanup, which was sponsored by SNPJ Silverstars Lodge 729 on Saturday, March 18. Hot coffee and pastries got everyone off to a warm start.

The cleanup was registered with “Pick Up Pennsylvania.”

This yearly Lodge-sponsored cleanup event has brought our little community together. Besides members of our Lodge, volunteers from town, as well as from the Yukon Lions Club, Yukon Fire Department and Yukon Miners Baseball Club, were among the group.

Lions Club member Charles Baker gave an invocation before the volunteers got started. The Yukon Fire Department Squad Truck patrolled the streets of town, which kept the volunteers safer. MAX

Environmental took charge of disposing all the old tires and electronics collected. As in previous years, our Lodge hosted a lunch of pizza, salad, cookies and refreshments.

Our Lodge takes pride in sponsoring this cleanup year after year. Volunteers look forward to cleaning up their hometown streets. Everyone goes home with a good feeling of accomplishment.

Besides all the volunteers, our Lodge would like to thank Frank and Barb Liptak who chaired this event again. Great job!

## Q&A Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig talks pageantry with Miss SNPJ Madison Sinan

by COURTNEY KOENIG  
Fraternal Director

I recently spoke with Miss SNPJ 2023 Madison Sinan. We thought it would be a great idea to do a brief Q&A so that our members can get the inside scoop on her thoughts about the Miss SNPJ Pageant and what being Miss SNPJ means to her. Our hope is to also encourage those thinking about entering this year’s pageant, and/or future pageants.

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**Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig (FD Koenig): What is your first memory of the Miss SNPJ Pageant?**

**Miss SNPJ Madison Sinan (MSinan):** I remember attending every pageant as a young kid, excited to admire the speaking skills and talents of those running that year. My first specific memory was when I was 7 years old, watching my older sister, Megan, run for Miss SNPJ 2006.

**(FDKoenig): What made you want to be a contestant in the pageant?**

**(MSinan):** Many of the Youth Roundup and TEL conference counselors I had growing up competed in the pageant, and many were Miss SNPJs. Their love and commitment to SNPJ was inspiring to me as a kid, and shaped the way I would grow in my involvement.

**(FDKoenig): What is your most memorable moment from Slovenefest 2022?**

**(MSinan):** My most memorable moment from Slovenefest 2022 was actually sharing my trumpet playing and aspirations in the talent portion of the pageant. Many of my SNPJ friends and neighbors hadn’t heard me play trumpet since I was in early high school — I am quite a lot better now than I was then. I loved sharing an updated version of my craft with everyone, and sharing the kinds of playing opportunities there are as a professional trumpet player.

**(FDKoenig): What was running through your mind as they were getting ready to announce the new Miss SNPJ?**

**(MSinan):** My excitement for the legacy to continue — accompanied by many excited butterflies in my stomach!

**(FDKoenig): How would you describe the pageant experience for anyone thinking of entering as a contestant?**

**(MSinan):** The pageant experience, overall, is fun and unforgettable! It can feel fast-paced up front as you get the lay of the land for the pageant, especially if you have never run for Miss SNPJ before. We are all in it together, helping each other with everything from hair to encouragement. Everyone is supportive of one another throughout the rehearsals, pageant and the entire weekend, and it makes for an incredibly meaningful experience. You also become a bit of a celebrity for the weekend, so expect people to ask for a polka dance!

**(FDKoenig): What advice would you give to any young woman thinking about entering the Miss SNPJ Pageant?**

**(MSinan):** It isn’t nearly as intimidating as it looks! The interviews, talent and question portions are all about showing who you are, and no one knows yourself more than you. Share what inspires you and be true to yourself.

The majority of young women who enter this pageant also don’t have pageant experience — I certainly did not! The current Miss SNPJ and former Miss SNPJs will walk you through what you need to know. There’s plenty of rehearsal time together to make sure we are all comfortable and know what we’re doing. If you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to reach out!

**(FDKoenig): What is your most memorable moment being Miss SNPJ 2023?**

**(MSinan):** Narrowing it down to just one moment is hard, so I will share two. One memorable moment was performing on the finale of the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show. To be playing my favorite music with kind, high-level musicians was unforgettable! I also loved my time at Florida SNPJ Days at Samsula Lodge 603. The youth there are awesome, and I am so grateful I had the opportunity to meet them.

**(FDKoenig): What are you most looking forward to about entering the “sisterhood” of former Miss SNPJs?**

**(MSinan):** I am looking forward to being more active in continuing the legacy for future Miss SNPJs, and continuing to share the experiences of my reign with my sisters and SNPJ young women.



Miss SNPJ 2023 **MADISON SINAN** and SNPJ Fraternal Director (and Miss SNPJ 2004) **COURTNEY KOENIG**.

**(FDKoenig): What does earning the title of Miss SNPJ mean to you?**

**(MSinan):** Earning the title of Miss SNPJ has been an honor and privilege. I have loved being an ambassador for SNPJ and my Slovenian heritage. My reign has given me unforgettable opportunities to meaningfully engage across SNPJ I would have never had otherwise, and will hold a special place in my heart for the rest of my life.

**(FDKoenig): Any final thoughts?**

**(MSinan):** Participation in the Miss SNPJ Pageant is a great experience, and I encourage any and all young women to do it at least once! The experience will leave you with meaningful memories and relationships that will last a lifetime. I am so grateful for the privilege of serving as Miss SNPJ 2023, and I cannot wait to be inspired by future generations of contestants and Miss SNPJs!

**(FDKoenig):** Madison, thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer these questions.

I hope this inspires our young women to consider entering the Miss SNPJ Pageant. Madison’s sentiments, I know, ring true for me as a former Miss SNPJ, and I’m sure they will hold true for the rest of our former Miss SNPJs.

The deadline to enter this year’s pageant is June 7. I can’t wait to see you all at Slovenefest!

## Enter now to compete in the 57<sup>th</sup> CAL Gorjup Open

by RICK GORJUP (158)  
Cleveland Athletic League President

**CLEVELAND** — This year marks the 57th year of the Cleveland Athletic League (CAL) hosting a golf tournament, so don’t miss out on a great day of fun and fraternalism!

We always have a great bunch of golfers, and with our CAL representatives, friends and volunteers, this year’s outing should be among the best. The tournament is less than a month away now, and we’re hoping to draw a record crowd.

This year’s CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament will be played at Rolling Green Golf Course in Huntsburg, Ohio, on Saturday, May 27. With a 9 a.m. shotgun start, we ask that you arrive at the course by 8:15 a.m. for check-in at the pavilion. Here’s where you’ll pick up your goodie bags and scorecards before heading out on the links. Hot dogs and pivo will be available at the turn, and a great dinner awaits at the 19th hole.

This is always a fun day, meeting old friends and making

new ones. And remember, this year the beer, pop and bottled water are free — all day long!

The entry fee of \$90 for adults (\$80 for youth) includes green fees, cart rental, prizes, a goodie bag, dinner, and a sandwich and beverage at the turn. Your friendly hostesses will again be stationed on the course to provide some libation and a toast to Don.

Since 2023 is our 57th year hosting the tournament, we’ll have some extras to commemorate this anniversary. We hope to see you this year,

with all expectations of a great time for all.

The tournament entry form is published at right. Please be sure to include your phone number and e-mail address on all entries in case we need to contact you.

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

We hope to see you on a beautiful, sunny and warm Saturday, May 27.

## Reading PROSVETA online helps SNPJ save

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — In an effort to curb continually escalating postage rates, *PROSVETA* is asking all SNPJ members to evaluate the need of receiving the newspaper in its printed format. We’re also asking all members to provide us with an active e-mail address, and to consider receiving an e-mail link to the online *PROSVETA* issues.

There are numerous benefits to receiving *PROSVETA* online. First of all, the issues are posted to the SNPJ website, *snpj.org*, a week or so prior to the publication date — no more waiting around for delivery.

Secondly, archived issues are also available on the website. Click on the *PROSVETA* archive link and you’ll have

years worth of *PROSVETA* issues at your fingertips.

Third, and most importantly, by selecting to receive a *PROSVETA* e-mail reminder, you can help SNPJ save thousands of dollars in postage and printing expenses each year.

So what’s your first step to helping *PROSVETA* whittle away at mounting expenses? Send us your e-mail address. Simply e-mail *pcushman@snpj.com* and include your name and the e-mail address at which you would like to receive the online issue reminder.

Still not sure? Do yourself a favor: Pay a visit to <https://snpj.org/membership/prosveta-publication/> and see for yourself the conveniences offered by the online *PROSVETA* issues.



### information at your fingertips

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

### SNPJ Membership Anniversaries May 2023

#### 80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
1	Marion Kieras
41	Ernest Srebrnak

#### 70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
34	Frank L. Turk	603	Anna J. Williams
89	Arlene K. Maidment	782	George Kranker

#### 60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	Linda Colman	142	Sonja M. Jerkic
5	Marilyn J. Bilicic	158	Richard C. Miklaucic
5	Mary T. Ivanc	257	Helen M. Storm
6	Bruce C. Beloy	265	William F. Valek
8	Janice M. Sellards	562	Ronald K. Zambori
8	Thomas E. Mysker	564	Robert Stefanich
31	Gail F. Church	715	Daniel G. Slavek
87	Robert Ross	715	James M. Balson
106	Nancy D. Fisher	729	Rose A. Kovacic
138	Patricia A. Brown	749	Eleanor F. Tercek

#### 50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
3	Jeanne M. Susko	254	Andrew J. Percinsky
5	Robert J. Adamich	257	Laurie L. Goyetche
5	Marla J. Rupena	371	Robert Gabriel
6	Gary D. Dalby	518	John S. Modetz
6	Nancy R. Krek	564	Kim R. Potochnik
34	Greg E. Petrich	576	Mary J. Zelenak
34	Richard T. Sekermestrovich	576	Jeffrey A. Nypaver
87	Samuel A. Oliverio	584	Linda E. Abbott
89	Joanne A. Shergi	584	Karen J. Lensing
106	Debra F. Skafar	584	Elizabeth J. Biondich
106	Patricia R. Bradley	614	Joanne Carmical
106	Carole E. Weldon	665	Francis M. Magister
117	Michelle L. Kuzman	689	Joseph C. Kochevar
138	Barbara A. Small	715	Marla A. Baskovich
158	Denise M. Lay	715	Will J. Demshar
218	Mae L. Nezvinsky	721	Margaret I. Andrews
225	Craig A. Susnik	721	Donald G. Ursich
225	Kathy A. Anselmi	723	Debra M. Bytendorp
		749	Janice M. Husser

### 57<sup>th</sup> CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament May 27, 2023 at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio 9 a.m. Shotgun Start

Check Entry:			
Men <input type="checkbox"/>	Ladies <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name	Lodge	Phone	Hdcp.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

The \$90 entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes, dinner, and sandwich and beverage at the turn. Youth entry fee is \$80.

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:

Rick Gorjup  
7180 Kory Ct., Concord, OH 44077-2221  
Phone: (440) 354-5001 [Home] or (440) 773-3233 [Cell]

Make checks payable to  
SNPJ Cleveland Athletic League (CAL)  
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 21, 2023

The Home Office will verify all memberships. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126