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briefly

Home Office closed
for the July 4th holiday

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4, in celebration of Independence Day. Regular office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Wednesday, July 5. We wish all SNPJ members and friends a happy and safe Independence Day.

Lodge 715 plans second
Slovenefest Polka Crawl

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Comets Lodge 715 members, please join us Saturday, July 8, at 3:30 p.m. for the second annual Lodge 715 Slovenefest Polka Crawl. We will meet in the Gostilna as our first stop to begin our dancing excursion, then travel as a group to our next two locations. Reminder details will be posted on our Facebook page.

Come join in on the fun and support your Lodge Brothers and Sisters. See you soon!

PATTI EVANISH
Lodge 715 Secretary

Your pageant donations
support SNPJ tradition

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund is accepting donations. There are numerous costs associated with the pageant, and your donations, both large and small, are truly appreciated to help defray those costs. Please make checks payable to SNPJ, noting “Miss SNPJ Pageant” on the memo line, and mail your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, Att’n. Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.

THE
DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are Aug. 1 and Sept. 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, July 17, for the Aug. 1 issue, and by Monday, Aug. 14, for the Sept. 1 issue. If you’re concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to prosveta@snpj.com or submit your material via the publications area of our website, snpj.org.

SNPJ Heritage Center sets its Slovenefest schedule

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Slovenefest 2023 has arrived! We’re all so excited to see our polka friends from near and far this weekend.

SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members invite you to visit our museum and gift shop. We will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 7, and from noon until 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, and Sunday, July 9.

We’ve purchased some new items for you to check out: two different coffee mugs, two different baby bibs, baseball caps, two new T-shirt designs, baby onesies, and toddler tees. We

have also restocked the large Slovenian flags and our supply of stuffed animals. Looking for noodles, wafer cookies, čevapčiči spice, tea, mixed candies or chocolate bars? You’ll find them on the shelf.

We also have the beautiful glassware – beer, wine and shot glasses – that was new for sale last year. Our cookbook from Slovenia is another popular item. Payment accepted by cash or check only. Do stop in!

On the Heritage Center patio you will be entertained by our “Closer Look at Slovenia” presenters who will enlighten you about the beautiful country of Slovenia. See page 10 for

the complete program. You might want to save the program and bring it with you to Slovenefest.

Heritage Center Weekend, held June 9-11, was a huge success. Patty C and The Guys drew a very nice crowd to the Gostilna on Friday night. Saturday started with a 10-team balina tournament, the winner of which was the team of Terry and Marlene Skovenski, and Butch and Linda Capaldi. Congratulations!

Sarah Loudon conducted a paint and sip in the Wine Room; the participants made signs, and everyone attending enjoyed this activity. There

SEE HERITAGE CENTER SCHEDULE
ON PAGE 2

Lodge 371 dedication in Cle Elum
Cemetery a tribute to immigrants

by KEN Kladnik
Lodge 371 President

CLE ELUM, Wash. — On Saturday, May 27, SNPJ Lodge 371 dedicated a kiosk in the SNPJ section of the Cle Elum Cemetery. The inscription includes information about immigrants working in the local coal mines and the need to start fraternal organizations for self-insurance purposes, extending cultural heritage, and the purchase of sections of cemeteries for burials.

A crowd of 25 people attended the event. Ken Kladnik – the current Lodge 371 president who follows his father, Ray Jr., and Raymond Sr. – spoke on the history of the Cle Elum SNPJ Lodge and the ownership lineage of the SNPJ section of the cemetery.

Lodge 371 in Cle Elum is the only active SNPJ Lodge in the state of Washington. The officers are Ken Kladnik, Shirley Petrich, Cheryl Maras and Melissa Singletary.



[Above] SNPJ Lodge 371 President **KEN Kladnik** spoke during the dedication event.

[Left] Lodge 371 members gathered for the dedication of a kiosk and plaque in the SNPJ section of Cle Elum Cemetery on May 27.



Young Adult Conference requests
donations for 2023 service project

by JUSTIN RIGLER (449)
2023 SNPJ Young Adult Conference Chairman

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The delegates to the 2023 SNPJ Young Adult Conference are contributing toward a donation to The WaterWheel Foundation.

The WaterWheel Foundation, an organization created by the touring band Phish in 1997, collects donations for local nonprofit organizations in the communities where the tour stops and selects beneficiaries from a wide sphere of causes, including those that work to protect the

environment, promote social justice, fight food insecurity, provide music education, register voters, help women and children, and assist the homeless and others in need.

Thanks to the generosity of those who have supported the organization, The WaterWheel Foundation has donated over \$9 million to 500-plus nonprofits over the past 25 years.

On behalf of the Young Adult Conference, we are asking that SNPJ Lodges consider a

SEE SERVICE PROJECT
ON PAGE 8

SNPJ Lodge 581 awards the Jerry
Troha Music Scholarships for 2023

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — Two outstanding students from St. Marys have been selected to receive the Jerry Troha Music Scholarship for the 2023 school year. Sarah Reedy, a graduate of Elk County Catholic High School, and Abigail Pociask, a St. Marys Area High School graduate, were both awarded \$250 to help with their college education.

Sara has plans to major in elementary education and minor in special education, and Abigail has plans to major in music education. Both have

extensive music backgrounds and are planning to use music in their future endeavors. The girls received recognition not only at their school awards assemblies, but also later at polka dances where they were joined by family members. They enjoyed the music and the dancing.

Congratulations to both girls from SNPJ Lodge 581, the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters, and the family of Jerry Troha.

The Lodge 581 car parking at St. Marys Airport has been canceled. Since the races have

SEE TROHA SCHOLARSHIPS
ON PAGE 6

Commission
preparing to
celebrate Miss
SNPJ Pageant
65th anniversary

by KARA MARUSZAK (142)
Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission

CLEVELAND — Summer is here, and the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission has been busy hosting a Family Fun Day picnic and getting ready for Slovenefest and the 65th anniversary of the Miss SNPJ Pageant.

In June, the commission hosted a carnival-themed Family Fun Day picnic at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, with all proceeds benefiting the Miss SNPJ Booster Fund. We had beautiful weather and a terrific turnout, with lots of families enjoying the amenities at the SNPJ Farm.

As soon as attendees arrived, they were impressed with the carnival-themed decorations organized by Miss SNPJ 2000 Chrissy Wojtila and her family. From a balloon arch and banners to popcorn-inspired flower centerpieces, the decorations set a festive tone for the day.

The kids in attendance enjoyed a variety of carnival-themed games, but they especially loved the bounce house sponsored by Miss SNPJ 1970 Patti Hlebak Miskulin. Many were having so much fun that they didn’t want to leave! The Garrett Tatano Band had our toes tapping throughout the day, and attendees enjoyed perusing the basket auction items organized by Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz Smrdel.

No event is complete without food and drink. Miss SNPJ 2020 Daniella Volpe did a fantastic job managing the bar with her team of volunteers and kept the drinks flowing. Maple Heights Catering and the SNPJ Farm Kitchen Ladies, led by Gerri Trebets, did a wonderful job keeping our bellies filled with delicious Slovenian food.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered at the picnic. While there are too many to name individually, please know that your

SEE PAGEANT 65TH YEAR
ON PAGE 9



Anthony C. Novak

Born Sept. 18, 2022
Universal, Pa., Lodge 715

SNPJ Comets Lodge 715 welcomes new member Anthony Conrad Novak. Anthony is the son of Jeffrey (715) and Jackie Novak, grandson of John and Holly Novak, and great-grandson of Alfred (715) and Audrey Novak. We welcome Anthony to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.



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Hard work of YAC delegates benefits the SNPJ Rec Center

by MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH (304)
2023 Young Adult Conference Secretary

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — This year's Young Adult Conference (YAC) was held the weekend of June 16-18, led by Conference Chairman Justin Rigler (449), whom we would like to thank for doing a wonderful job. A total of 27 young adults from SNPJ Lodges across the nation were in attendance.

Over the weekend, participants completed various work projects in order to beautify the grounds of the SNPJ Recreation Center. The projects included roadside cleanup, painting/sanding fences, filling in holes following tree removal, renovation of the wishing well, trimming the "SNPJ" hedge, and power washing the entrance of the pool area. The weekend also included a round of putt-putt golf and a trivia questions icebreaker on Friday night, followed by a luau-themed event on Saturday evening.

The charity that the YAC chose to sponsor this year was selected in memory of late SNPJ Fraternal Director Kevin Richards who shared a passion for music, outdoor recreation and working with others. This year we are supporting the WaterWheel Foundation, which collects donations for local nonprofit organizations and chooses beneficiaries from a wide sphere of causes, including those that work to protect the environment, promote social justice, fight food insecurity, provide music education, help women/children, assist the homeless, and aid others in need.

Monetary donations and checks can be mailed to the SNPJ Home Office, Att'n: YAC, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. Checks should be made payable to "SNPJ" noting "YAC Project" on the memo line.

YAC participants raised over \$400 on their own, and with the assistance of SNPJ Lodges and members we hope to donate even more!

Next year's Young Adult Conference is scheduled June 14-16, and the newly-elected chairperson is Daniella Volpe. We congratulate Daniella on her new position and are confident she will do great!

On behalf of the young adults, we are thankful for the great weekend we had and are excited to return again next year!



The projects completed by the Young Adult Conference delegates included a roadside cleanup, painting/sanding fences, a renovation of the wishing well, and power washing the entrance of the pool area. Following a long day of work, delegates were treated to a luau-themed event Saturday evening.



Take "A Closer Look at Slovenia," courtesy of the SNPJ Heritage Center, during Slovenefest

HERITAGE CENTER SCHEDULE

FROM PAGE 1

are several extra signs that Sarah has painted which will be available for purchase in the gift shop.

The dance on Sunday in the Heritage Pavilion was great fun; we welcomed so many of our polka friends. We started the day warm and humid, and ended the day rainy and cold. But that's Pennsylvania! We thank all of you for attending, donating to our admissions jar, purchasing 50/50 drawing tickets, and making purchases at our gift shop table – all very much appreciated.

I want to thank all Heritage Center Committee members for being present that day: Ed Robich and Joan Gaspersic at the admissions table; Sarah Loudon and Patty Candela with the 50/50 drawing; Tracey Belle, Sue Mals and Lynn Romeo at the gift shop table; and Mary Jo Hartman and Kristina Lickert with the children's table. The committee worked hard that day!

We're looking forward to SNPJ Family Week, July 30-Aug. 5; the annual Heritage Center wine and cheese hour is planned Wednesday, Aug. 2. We'll also open the museum and gift shop. It's our pleasure to extend this invitation to our friends during Family Week.

See you at Slovenefest!



The Paint & Sip conducted by Sarah Loudon (358) during Heritage Center Weekend, gave participants the opportunity to create wooden signs.

[Right] SNPJ National President **JOSEPH C. EVANISH** and his mother, former Heritage Center Committee member **ANN EVANISH** (715), joined in the Paint & Sip activity.



Keep your email address with SNPJ up to date

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Does the SNPJ have your current e-mail address?

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

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

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

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- 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 15 SNPJ Lodge 643 Picnic in the Park, 1-3 p.m. at Tod Park, Girard, Ohio. Entertainment features Anthony Culkar; food provided. For more information phone Ray Kovac at (330) 824-2154 or Kathleen Seifert at (330) 883-2513.
- 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.
- JULY 30 SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by the Don Wojtila Band. Breaded pork chop dinners available from the kitchen. For more information contact Gerri Trebets at (440) 796-5148.
- AUG. 6 American Slovene Day hosted by the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges; 2-6 p.m. at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa. Music by the Skovenski Band. Food and refreshments available for purchase. For additional information contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404.
- 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.
- SEPT. 1-3 National SNPJ Days weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For details phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- SEPT. 4 Labor Day dance at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Entertainment by the Eddie Rodick Band and Frank Stanger Band, 1-7 p.m. Visit www.snpjfarmkirtland.com/summer-schedule for more information.
- OCT. 1 SNPJ Lodge 142 Clambake at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Entertainment by DJ Marcus Smith.

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

Keeping up with the Krajnces

Who would start the ball rolling? Who would be the first to set off what would become months of competition? Who would be the first to start their engine and commence this year's lawn wars?

On my street, this year's battle started in late March, and my husband was the first to engage. Now anytime someone's grass is a quarter-inch higher than an adjacent neighbor, there is a counter-attack. Occasionally you'll see a combatant standing along their front-line peering into a neighbor's territory trying to discern how they achieved such a lush lawn. At the peak, when things are fully involved, there is fervent fertilizing, extreme watering, and in the most desperate times, a change in lawn service. Just when you think a winner will be declared, an onslaught of hot, dry, late August days will force an unspoken white flag to be raised and these passionate warriors will retreat. In their bunkers, they will plan and research for next spring and calculate the collateral damage this year's ground fight did to their wallets.

Recently, I've seen several articles indicating that many people's retirement savings are far from adequate, and more and more people aren't feeling financially secure. It caused me to consider the different reasons why this could be the case. One thing that I uncovered was sometimes people try to match or surpass the lifestyle and possessions of their neighbors or peers. It's often driven by a sense of envy, insecurity or competition, and it can lead to overspending, debt, stress and dissatisfaction.

An important point to consider is the Krajnces – or whomever we might be trying to keep up with – aren't real. While they are actual beings, our idea of who they are is most likely only derived from idealized versions of them that we view on their social media feed or a quick chat over the fence. We don't know the full story behind their lives, struggles, sacrifices or regrets, and comparing ourselves to them is unrealistic because we're only seeing their front lawns.

We each have our own unique definition of success and happiness, and trying to copy someone else's life is a waste of your time and a betrayal of your authenticity. We need to follow our own path and pursue what matters to us. Not only might the Krajnces have different circumstances, goals and values than you, trying to keep up with the Krajnces can damage your finances, your happiness, and your identity.

If you think that you lack an appropriate retirement fund and aren't financially secure because you're trying to imitate a lifestyle that doesn't fit your budget or priorities, focus on improving yourself and your life according to your own standards and aspirations. Here are some things to consider:

- Set realistic and meaningful goals that align with your values and interests
- Track your progress and celebrate your achievements
- Express gratitude for what you have and who you are
- Cultivate positive relationships with people who support you and inspire you
- Give back to your community and help others in need

An important aspect of improving yourself and your life is ensuring that you have adequate financial security and stability. This means having enough income to cover your basic needs and wants, as well as saving for emergencies and future goals. It also means having life insurance and retirement funds that can protect you and your loved ones from unforeseen events and provide you with peace of mind.

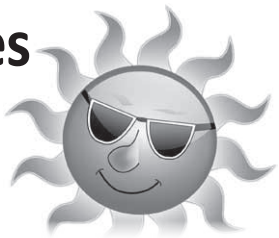
If you don't have life insurance or retirement funds yet, or if you want to review or update an existing policy, consult your local SNPJ agent, visit snpj.org, or call us at 1-800-THE-SNPJ to be put in touch with an agent near you.

And remember, the only person you need to keep up with is yourself!

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



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Slovenia elected to the UN Security Council

NEW YORK (STA) — On June 6, Slovenia was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2024-2025, tallying 153 votes in the first round of voting by UN members to top Belarus (38 votes) in the Eastern European group.

“Today is a great day for Slovenia,” Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon posted to Twitter, adding that she “was proud of the exceptional result.”

Slovenia will be a member of the Security Council from Jan. 1, 2024, through the end of 2025, and will preside over the council in September 2024 during the regular session of the UN General Assembly.

Slovenia launched its campaign for membership on the UN Security Council at the end of 2021 under the government of former Prime Minister Janez Janša, and the campaign intensified under the current Robert Golob government. Throughout the campaign, Foreign Minister Fajon and her team held talks with representatives from almost 190 countries.

Youth can join workshops to learn age-old crafts

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Teenagers will have an opportunity to learn traditional crafts such as glassmaking and pottery from master craftsmen in nine towns across Slovenia during their summer break. The three-day workshops, offered as part of the Slovenian Camp of Crafts, are designed to get the teens interested in crafts as a potential future profession.

The project is part of Ministry of the Economy and Tourism activities to preserve and further develop crafts, and was first organized by the Consortium of Craft Centres of Slovenia last year.

The initiative for the workshops, which will be offered free of charge, was headed by the ministry, which also provides full funding. Last February, the government adopted a bill to preserve crafts and the skills required to promote them as small businesses while protecting this cultural heritage from gradual extinction.

The workshops will be held in July for children ages 12 to 17 who prefer an active summer break while possibly deciding on their future profession. “Young people will be able to get to know the work of individual master craftsmen and create their own products with them,” according to the consortium.

The participants will work in small groups of six to 10. The first workshop started July 3 in Ribnica, where the students worked with a carpenter to make a tripod chair. Traditional and contemporary pottery will be the focus in Veržej, while the skills of glassmaking will be passed on in Rogatec.

Idrija will offer a workshop of bobbin-lace making and weaving, students will learn the art of wool making and felting in Moravče, participants in the Šmartno pri Litiji workshops will learn clay working techniques and jewelry making, and the series of workshops will conclude in Slovenj Gradec at the end of July with a workshop of ceramic design and screen printing.

The towns joining the project, along with Slovenska Bistrica and Skofja Loka, are the towns in which the Consortium of Craft Centres of Slovenia has regional centers.

A Google tech center coming to Ljubljana soon

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In late May, Higher Education, Science and Innovations Minister Igor Papič told the press that Google will be launching a quantum technologies center in Ljubljana. Doctoral students could start as early as this autumn or next year at the latest, the minister said. Several hundred engineers are expected to graduate annually.

Papič said he did not know the cost of the investment since that was in Google's hands. However, he did say that “the ministry has pledged to provide scholarships, training for students, and help with their residency permits. Google's plan to educate doctors in the field of quantum technologies in Slovenia is a recognition for the country and the Ljubljana [University] Mathematics and Physics Faculty.”

“The Mathematics and Physics Faculty, and professor Dragan Mihailović, are directly involved in the project,” Papič



said, adding that this “proved Slovenia was being recognized for its expertise in this niche field.”

The minister said that Google would bring a number of globally acclaimed experts to the country, while Slovenia would try to attract some to stay here because they are needed.

Tech company testing a four-day work week

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Visionect, a Slovenian tech company that develops electronic paper solutions and solutions for workplace management, recently completed a three-month testing period of a four-day work week for employees in their engineering department. The employees remained employed full-time and retained all of their benefits.

The company decided to launch the experiment after shorter work weeks became a trend abroad and research showed they reduce stress at work. Following initial research, the company worked with employees to prepare for the experiment by holding workshops and adjusting work processes.

The engineering department – a total of nine employees – was selected to take part in the experiment since there was sufficient data available on the amount of work performed to create a comparison. The goal is to complete in four days what was previously done in five without working overtime.

Visionect cofounder Luka Birsasaid that a four-day work week doesn't mean working Monday to Thursday; the schedule has to be adjusted to company processes and globalization. Some engineers were taking Mondays off, others Fridays, so that there was always someone available and customers weren't affected.

When asked whether they hope to expand the experiment to the entire company, Birsasaid responded that they have a culture of experimentation and that they mostly want to learn something from the experience. If the results are positive, they will consider broader implementation of the four-day work week.

The company, which employs 50 people, is “growing well,” selling their products to more than 100 countries, Birsasaid. But they are “fighting the difficult battle for talent” and hope the four-day work week can help attract employees.

Visionect has been developing electronic paper products since 2007, working with customers that include Microsoft, Virgin, Sony, Tesla, NASA, Amazon, Samsung, and Ikea.

Bee research project uncovers a new species

LJUBLJANA (STA) — A pilot research project monitoring the wild bee population in Slovenia found one previously unrecorded species and detected 239 of the previously known 575 wild bee species living in Slovenia.

Conducted by Slovenia's National Institute of Biology, the pilot project lasted three years and was carried out in five areas: around Celje, between Mengeš and Kranj, around Lake Cerknica, in the Ljubljana Marsh, and in Ljubljana proper.

Over 100 species of wild bees were detected in each area. The most species, 143, were found around Lake Cerknica. Interestingly, the one previously undetected species was found in Ljubljana. “This indicates that additional research would definitely result in additional previously undetected species,” project leader Danilo Bevk was quoted as saying by the Biology Institute. “What is more, additional research would show how many of the previously detected 575 species still live here,” Bevk said.

Pollinators are endangered by man-made environmental changes: food shortage, climate change, lack of nesting space, pesticides and disease, according to the National Institute of Biology.

Wild pollinators account for more than half of agricultural pollination, and their declining numbers are already having an impact on farming. A representative from the Agriculture Ministry said pollination by insects was estimated at EUR 153 billion (\$166 billion) per year worldwide, EUR 22 billion (\$23.9 billion) in the EU, and EUR 130 million (\$141 million) in Slovenia.

“As the human population increases, so does the need for pollination,” the Agriculture Ministry noted, adding that pollinators are significant indicators of biodiversity. According to the Agriculture Ministry, wild bees are often more effective pollinators than honey bees. Preserving biodiversity among pollinators is key for reliable pollination and stable production.

Agriculture Minister Irena Šinko said the ministry was [hoping to introduce] more research projects such as these and that the results be included in systemic solutions. “In the past decade, honey bees and wild bees have been sidelined somewhat; therefore, a step forward must be made,” she said.

Endangered species presented on beer cans

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The Slovenian microbrewery Bevog and the National Institute of Biology are raising awareness of endangered animal species by depicting animals at risk of extinction on beer cans. A Bevog donation to the institute will help support research of endangered grassland ecosystems.

As part of the “Extinction is Forever” project, eight grassland birds will appear on the beer cans. The first design, featuring the whinchat, a small migratory bird, is already available. The collection is limited, and once the cans featuring a certain design are sold, they will never be produced again.

“Once the beer is gone, it is gone forever. This symbolizes what happens to the animals portrayed on the cans – once they go extinct, they are gone,” said Bevog owner Vasja Golar during the introduction of the project, held in mid-May.

“Climate change, hunting for prestige and pleasure, and changing ecosystems are some of the reasons why animal species are becoming extinct,” Golar said.

“Every year, 2,000 species become extinct, which means five per day – with some estimates ranging as high as 200 species a day,” said National Institute of Biology representative Meta Virant Doberlet.

The Institute of Biology hopes that this innovative approach and the message of the project will increase awareness of the vulnerability of nature and encourage everyone to help solve the biodiversity crisis.

A dolphin research center opens in Piran

PIRAN (STA) — Morigenos, the Slovenian marine mammal association, opened a dolphin center in Piran in June, inviting visitors to learn about the life of dolphins in an interactive manner and get to know the marine world in more detail.

“The association would like the Dolphin Education and Research Centre to become a meeting point of science and education on marine mammals,” said Morigenos founder and president Tilen Genov.

According to Genov, the center is intended for visitors from home and abroad, individuals and organized groups, including schools. The center will host workshops and meetings of scientists. “We'd like to create a center that offers a new opportunity in terms of science and conservation.

The center features multimedia content and exhibitions, and visitors will be able to use an interactive application to get a feel for dolphin research, as well as visit a sound room where recordings of the sea, vessels and dolphin calls will remind them of the importance of sound in the marine environment.

Morigenos is an organization that largely consists of volunteers who monitor and study dolphins in Slovenian and surrounding waters. For the past 20 years, their research has contributed to the understanding and protection of dolphins, and the conservation of marine ecosystems. Their scientific research has also been recognized worldwide. For example, they were the first to prove that dolphins can be identified by facial features.

Recalling the beginnings of Morigenos, Genov said that his ambition to monitor dolphins was met with doubt, as many argued there were no dolphins in the Slovenian sea. Now the dolphin population in the Gulf of Trieste is one of the most researched in the entire Mediterranean Sea.

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

SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary hosting July 30 picnic

by GERRI TREBETS (604)
SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary

KIRTLAND, Ohio — The Ladies Auxiliary of the SNPJ Farm cordially invites you to attend their annual picnic on Sunday, July 30.

The dinner special that day is a breaded pork chop dinner with all the fixings. In addition, we will have roast beef, Slovenian sausage, hot dogs, Slovenian potatoes, sauerkraut, salad, and those luscious homemade *krofe* available. You couldn't ask for a better menu.

After you have enjoyed your meal, sit back, relax and get ready for some fine, toe-tapping, melodious music brought to you by the Don Wojtila Band. Get out on that dance floor and swing your partner, or just listen and sing along.

The gates open at 1 p.m. with a gate fee of \$8 per person, serving starts at 2, and the music is scheduled from 3 to 7 p.m.

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than out at the SNPJ Farm? Our beautiful grounds are getting a lot of TLC from our fine crew; namely, Don Srnick, Greg Volpe, Dave Adams, Dan Horabik, Richard Tomsic, Marty Hulin and Wally Frank.

I can't forget to mention our fantastic caretakers, David and Jodi Preseren, who are out there constantly beautifying the grounds. They are such a personable, hardworking couple. Many improvements have been made or are in the process of being made.

Come out and meet your friends (or maybe make some new acquaintances), listen to

some great music, and enjoy some good homemade food. The SNPJ Farm also offers balinca, cornhole, horseshoes, and a great playground for the kiddies. It's a relaxing way to spend the day.

And what better way to keep the Slovenian heritage alive and well? Bring some friends, bring your family, bring your grandkids to enjoy our beautiful playground. It's so nice to see the young ones enjoying themselves.

I want to congratulate the Miss SNPJ Commission on their first successful picnic and pig roast, held June 4 with only advance-purchase tickets. Not knowing what to expect, they took hold of the reins and hosted a most delightful picnic. And I might add that their decorations were absolutely beautiful!

Their picnic was Family Fun Day, and it was so heartwarming to see so many young people in attendance. As I worked in the kitchen, I saw the kiddies running around, playing games and playing in the bouncy house and on the playground – my heart was full! That's what it's all about. And then, the great music by the Garrett Tatano Band... what a fabulous band they are, and such enjoyable music!

I hope you will find time during the season to attend the picnics at the SNPJ Farm. All the SNPJ Lodges and organizations need your support. We can't let go of our Slovenian heritage!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Stay healthy, and a speedy recovery to those who may be ailing. I hope to see you this season.



The members of Yukon Lodge 729 getting ready to try their luck at Live! Casino Pittsburgh in Greensburg, Pa.

Lodge 729 members try their luck at the casino

by JOANN KRANCE
Lodge 729 Secretary/Treasurer

YUKON, Pa. — The members of Silverstars Lodge 729 in Yukon tried their "luck" at Live! Casino Pittsburgh, located in Greensburg, Pa. Everyone, winners and losers alike, had a great day. In conjunction with this outing, members and friends enjoyed lunch/dinner at Applebees, which was part of a fundraiser

for the Lodge.

The Silverstars Lodge recently hosted a benefit Indoor Slovenian Picnic for "Nas Dom," the Yukon Slovenian Hall. Music was provided by the Garrett Tatano Band. People were dancing and toe tapping all afternoon long. The music was fantastic and the event was a big success. Our thanks to all who attended.

The Chicago Federation marks Memorial Day by hosting annual services

by MELANIE MATIASEK (559)
Chicago Federation

CHICAGO — I hope everyone is enjoying summer!

The Chicago Federation held its annual Memorial Day service at the Woodlawn Cemetery SNPJ section. Boy Scouts Troop 33 presented the flags, and Tina Rigler welcomed all to the service. Unfortunately, Federation President Dabrowski was ill and unable to attend.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Janez Vidmar, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, who gave a wonderful speech reminding us of the importance of this day and what it means to him personally. Thank you, Dr. Vidmar.

We all enjoyed the musical selections performed by the Zbor Spondov Slovenian men's choir. It's so nice to hear the Slovenian songs of our heritage. After the services, everyone was invited to join in a luncheon and socializing at the Olive Garden restaurant.

We look forward to seeing our members at the Aug. 13 picnic held at the Slovenian

Catholic Center in Lemont, Ill.; we always enjoy the roasted pork, chicken and lamb dinners. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the day – it's fun for all ages, with children's games and activities provided, along with Slovenian music.

The Federation will be hosting another cultural event on Aug. 20 at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. The program will begin at noon and lunch will be available. We will be showing another movie produced by Joe Valencic titled "Stories of Slovenian Women in America."

This film features interviews with Chicagoan Corinne Leskovar, and was filmed in Chicago; Cleveland; Washington, D.C.; and New York. Popcorn will be served; donations of baked goods will be accepted. Again, admission will be free, but donations would be appreciated. We hope to see many of you there!

From the Chicago Federation to all SNPJ Lodges, we wish you a happy and healthy summer season.



The Chicago Federation hosted its annual Memorial Day service at the SNPJ section of Woodlawn Cemetery, featuring a flag presentation; reflections on the importance of Memorial Day by guest speaker Dr. Janez Vidmar, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia; and a vocal performance by the Zbor Spondov Slovenian men's choir [below].



Submitted by Amy Mavrich (138)

FrankFest: Six Years of Fond Memories

On May 26, the sixth annual FrankFest was held at the SNPJ Recreation Center Tiki Bar in memory of my late husband, Frank Mavrich (138). Our daughter Katie made a heartwarming speech about her dad, and included Dolly, Lou and Michael Progar, Frank's best friends, all of whom have passed away. Michael, who passed away in April of this year, was the last of his immediate family. Everyone made a toast to Frank before we released heart-shaped balloons and ate pizza (one of Frank's favorite foods).

A great big thank you to SNPJ Recreation Center Director David Jones and to everyone who came to celebrate Frank, and to those who couldn't attend but posted a picture on Facebook raising your glass to Frank. It means a lot to us.

We will celebrate FrankFest again next year on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend; same time, same place. Mark your calendar and join us next year to remember Frank.

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of April-May 2023

Fontana Slovene Button Box Club, Fontana, Calif.	\$1,000	Judy Green, Houston, Pa.	\$50	Anonymous.....	\$50
Brooke Elias, Bradenton, Fla.	\$100	<i>In memory of John M. Enlow</i>		Mary Lou Flere (643), McDonald, Ohio	\$50
Mike & Karen Watt (665), Altoona, Pa.	\$100	<i>The following donations were made in memory of Frank E. Gradisek:</i>		Kurt & Nancy Morgan, Trafford, Pa.	\$25
<i>In memory of Anthony and Albina (Erzen) Sadar</i>		Marilyn M. Kroll, Charlotte, N.C.	\$100	George M. Szalewicz, Saegerstown, Pa.	\$25
SNPJ Lodge 782, Glenshaw, Pa.	\$50	Daniel & Susan (643) Pasqualucci, Wexford, Pa.	\$50	Jeffry & Jeanne Terzolino, Jeannette, Pa.	\$25

PROSVETA Crossword Fourth of July (#0723) by StatePoint Media

- ACROSS
1. Cutting the mustard

5. French vineyard

8. Expression of satisfaction

11. Chicago's Navy ____

12. Not that

13. Lock horns

15. Sound of pride

16. Tom Hanks' character had this in "Philadelphia"

17. Dre's headphones

18. *Handheld firework

20. Eurozone money

21. Chinese weight units

22. Campaigned

23. *Popular July Fourth salad

26. Ltd

30. A in I.P.A.

31. Type of embellished surface

34. Dunking treat

35. Potato state

37. Type of poem

38. Rabbit trap

39. "I, Claudius" role

40. As much as necessary

42. Opposite of trans- in chemistry

43. Bring into servitude

45. *Bottle ____

47. Ill temper

48. Olive branch
50. Campaign worker

52. *Declaration signer

55. Extinct Italic language

56. Forsaken or desolate

57. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver

59. Between Egypt and Algeria

60. Heed

61. At the summit

62. Beaver's construction

63. "I Thee ____"

64. *Liberty Bell did it to mark Declaration reading
- DOWN
1. Calendar abbr.

2. Life stories, for short

3. Faith jump?

4. Misprints

5. *Cooler purpose

6. *Fair attractions

7. CCCP, in English

8. Lab culture

9. Type of pilot

10. "For ____ a jolly..."

12. Hit '80s song "____ Me"

13. Crosswise, on a deck

14. *Popular type of July Fourth gathering
19. Two to one, e.g.

22. Antonym of keep

23. **"Common Sense" author

24. *Like the days of 1776

25. Crocodile ones are insincere

26. Place, in French

27. Race course

28. Causing fear

29. "That thou ____, do quickly"

32. Like a certain ranger

33. Fuss

36. *4th of July, e.g.

38. Sudden upset

40. The night before

41. Dad's mom

44. Gladiators' battlefield

46. Cold storage

48. Space exploration mission

49. Dog-____ pages

50. "Heat of the Moment" band

51. Intercontinental ballistic missile

52. Opposite of ebb

53. I, to a Greek

54. High part of day

55. Like Methuselah

58. Fuel economy acronym

The solution to puzzle #0723 will run in the Aug. 1 issue.

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Bro. ELI N. CROW Jr. (603)

BRO. ELI N. CROW JR.
• LODGE 603 •

SAMSULA, Fla. — The members of Lodge 603 sadly report the Nov. 14, 2022, passing of Bro. Eli Nelson Crow Jr., 83, at Advent Health Hospital, New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

Bro. Crow was born Aug. 30, 1939, in Dalton, Ga., the son of the late Eli and Ruby Crow. The family moved to Mims, Fla., in 1944.

Eli attended Titusville High School, and at the age of 17 he joined the U.S. Air Force. After being discharged from the service, he returned to Mims, later moving to Orlando, Fla.

Eli spent most of his life as a truck driver, retiring from Rodeway Trucking in Orlando. In addition to his SNPJ Lodge 603 membership, he was a 30-

year member of New Smyrna 149 F&AM.

He married Audrey Dianne Chisholm Morgan Crow, who survives, on July 7, 1977. They moved to Dianne’s family home in New Smyrna Beach in 1990. Together, the Crows raised their six children: Richard and Rodney Crow, and Nathan, Cayman, Darren and Audrey Morgan. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life for Bro. Crow will be held Saturday, July 8, at 1 p.m. at the SNPJ Lodge 603 Hall in Samsula. All relatives and friends are invited to attend. Burial of his remains will be scheduled at a later date.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 603 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Crow’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. EDWARD SPACAPAN
• LODGE 584 •

MILWAUKEE — The Spacapan family and the members of Lodge 584 sadly report the Jan. 11, 2023, passing of Bro. Edward Spacapan, 98, of Arlington Heights, Ill., formerly of North Chicago, surrounded by his family at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights.



Bro. EDWARD SPACAPAN (584)

Bro. Spacapan was born Feb. 5, 1924, in Waukegan, Ill., a son of the late Jerney and Marijana (Heraver) Spacapan, and grew up in North Chicago. During WWII, he crossed Europe as a staff sergeant in Patton’s Third Army. He was always humble about his service.

After the war, he earned his Illinois teaching certificate from Northern Illinois Teachers’ College and a master’s degree in mathematics from Northwestern University. He met his lifelong love, Shirley Capp, while riding the train to Northern. They married in 1950 and moved to Rolling Meadows, then to Arlington Heights where they raised their family.

Ed taught high school math and was an administrator in School District 214 for more than 30 years, ultimately serving as principal of Prospect High School. Ed coached the Arlington High golf team to a state championship and was a strong supporter of all the Prospect teams.

An 80-year SNPJ member, he was also a committed member of the Mount Prospect Rotary Club. Ed and Shirley faithfully attended church at Arlington Heights Evangelical Free Church (The Orchard Church). He often gave thanks for his wife and children.

Ed and Shirley enjoyed many winters on Marco Island, Fla., where they were often visited by family. He enjoyed rollicking Spacapan family gatherings, yet his own calm and quiet demeanor was always on display. Everything he did was logical, consistent and dependable—from his golf game to his family relationships. He was a patient and devoted father, and relished his role as grandfather, sharing his wisdom about math and life.

Ed is survived by his sons, Edward (Lise) Spacapan Jr., Keith (Renee) Spacapan, and Kevin (Gayle) Spacapan; his grandchildren, Molly (Jonathan) Huff, Mary, Margaret, Madeleine, Melissa, Ben (Casey) and John Spacapan, Kristin (Jim) Pasakarnis, and Kara (Matt) Zwirkoski; five great-grandchildren; and his son-in-law, Mike (Jane) Nichol, and his family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Capp Spacapan; his daughter, Shirlynn Spacapan; his brother, Jerry Spacapan; and two sisters, Christine Vencevich and Elsie Miller.

A memorial service for Bro. Spacapan was held Jan. 23 at The Orchard Evangelical Free Church, Arlington Heights. Interment followed in Mt. Olivet Memorial Park, Zion, Ill.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 584 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Spacapan’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JOHN M. ENLOW
• LODGE 223 •

GREENSBURG, Pa. — The members of Lodge 223 sadly report the April 13, 2023, passing of Bro. John M. “Pat” Enlow, 88, of Saxonburg, Pa., in Greensburg. He was a dedicated father, grandfather, and friend of many.

Bro. Enlow was born July 30, 1934, in Cincinnati, a son of the late John and Ruth Malloy Enlow. Pat spent his childhood in Canonsburg, Pa., and graduated from the former Canonsburg High School in 1953.

After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a radio technician and a Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor. He was incredibly proud of his service, often regaling stories from his service in Texas and of those he met in the military.

After four years in the Army, Pat continued his education at the University of Pittsburgh. He began his career as an accountant with the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in Pittsburgh. While in this position, Pat was introduced to his late wife and devoted partner of 58 years, Lorraine Green Enlow. They married in a snowstorm on Feb. 4, 1961, and created a family of three with the addition of their daughter, Melissa, in 1967.

Pat and Lorraine continued their careers together in New Jersey and Florida, with Pat finally retiring as purchasing director for the city of Venice, Fla.

He then returned to Greensburg, where he was a frequent visitor and member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and SNPJ clubs. He was an avid Pittsburgh sports fan, rarely missing a Steelers or Penguins game.

He enjoyed traveling throughout the continental U.S. and Europe. Most recently, he enjoyed a 12-day Western Caribbean cruise on his own, at the age of 88, and continued to make travel plans upon his return. He was a talented gardener, caring for herbs and vegetables well into his 80s, and a dedicated gambler.

Although incredibly saddened by the loss of Pat, his family is grateful that he was able to spend his final day doing what he loved most — playing table games at the casino and, more than likely, enjoying his favorite meal of a hamburger and a Pepsi.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by two brothers, William Enlow and Harold Enlow.

He will be greatly missed by his daughter, Melissa (Joe) Germovsek of Saxonburg; and two grandchildren, Patrick (Taylor Reese) Germovsek and Keeley (Kyle Merritt) Germovsek, who cherish the years they were able to spend with their grandfather.

Private interment was in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp., Pa.

The family suggests memorial donations to the SNPJ Scholarship Fund (in memory of John Enlow), 247 W. Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.

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

BRO. JOSEPH A. TONYA
• LODGE 776 •

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The members of Lodge 776 sadly report the May 8, 2023, passing of Bro. Joseph A. “Joe” Tonya, of New Middletown, Ohio.

Bro. Tonya was born March 18, 1929, in Bessemer, Pa., a son of Andrew and Jenny Slapnicher Tonya, and graduated from Bessemer High School. After graduation, he served two years in the Army in Germany. Following his return stateside he was employed by Bessemer Cement, retiring after 30 years.

He married the former Anne Crnarich on July 14, 1951; they would have celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. Joe was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Church in New Middletown and participated in the pierogi ministry for 25 years. He celebrated his Slovenian culture and heritage as a member of SNPJ Lodge 776 and the Bessemer Croatian Club. Joe attended Slovenefest every year, participated in the SNPJ athletic tournaments held during National SNPJ Days, and enjoyed attending other festivals held at the SNPJ



Bro. JOSEPH A. TONYA (776)

Recreation Center.

He also enjoyed hunting, gardening, cooking, making wine, smoking meats, playing bocce and pitching horseshoes. He won several first-place awards pitching horseshoes in the Senior Olympics and in SNPJ National Horseshoes Tournaments.

Joe leaves his wife, Anne; a daughter, Cathy Kalenits; a son, Stephen (Linda) Tonya; a daughter-in-law, Judy Tonya; and a sister, Amelia Deniakis. He also leaves four grandchildren, Justin (Amber) Tonya, Louise Crespo, Brandon (Nicole) Tonya, and Lauren (Stephen) Atwood; and six great-grandchildren, Mikayla (Ryan) Lutsch, Jackson and Jonathan Tonya, Ava, Zoe and Gia Crespo, and Melinda Tonya, due to arrive in June.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his mother-in-law and father-in-law; his son, David; two brothers, Mike and Paul; two sisters, Doris Lancy and Frances Juran; and Cathy’s husband, son-in-law Ernie Kalenits.

Private visitation and a Funeral Mass were held for the family.

The family suggests donations in memory of Joseph A. Tonya to the SNPJ Recreation Center Cabin Renovation Fund, addressed to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 W. Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. Make checks payable to “SNPJ.”

On behalf of the members of Lodge 776 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Tonya’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. LORRAINE KRIGER
• LODGE 106 •

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Kriger family and the members of Lodge 106 sadly report the May 19, 2023, passing of Sis. Lorraine “Lolly” Kriger, 89, of Robinson Twp., Pa.

She joins her late husband and best friend, Bernard “Bope” Kriger; her parents, John and Anna Pintar; and beloved son Bernie. She was the loving mother of David Kriger and the late Bernie (Linda) Kriger; cherished sister of Cindy (Ronald) Howe; and beloved grandmother of Nikki (Geoff) Metts, Melissa (James) Dixon, Holly (Mike) Fisher, Laura (Brandon) Kriger, and David “Butchy” (Hailey) Kriger. She is also survived by eight loving great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Lorraine worked 30 years for Gulf Oil Corp., Neville Island, Pa. In addition to her SNPJ membership, she was also a member of the Robinson Twp. AARP for many years.

Lolly loved playing bingo, going to the casino, and watching her beloved Pittsburgh Pirates. She spent many days and nights watching and cheering for her children and grandchildren during their sporting events. She also enjoyed viewing nature, especially flowers and birds, and was a supporter of the Boy Scouts.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Kriger on May 25 at Archangel Gabriel Parish, Holy Trinity Church, McKees Rocks, Pa. Entombment followed at Resurrection Cemetery, Coraopolis, Pa.

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



Sis. MARION KIERAS (1)

SIS. MARION KIERAS
• LODGE 1 •

CHICAGO — The Kieras family and the members of Lodge 1 sadly report the June 9, 2023, passing of Sis. Marion Patricia (Lopac) Kieras, 98, a longtime resident of Berwyn, Ill.

Sis. Kieras was born May 7, 1925, nine and a half months after Joe and Dorothy Lopac were married. She was the first born of the Lopac family. Four sisters and a brother, Joe, who died as an infant, followed.

Marion married her neighbor, Steve Kieras, in 1949. In keeping with the close-knit family tradition, Marion spent all (not some – *all!*) of her life caring for others. She raised four children and enjoyed her 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was employed as the executive secretary to the SNPJ National President, retiring in 1991 after working more than 26 years at the SNPJ Home Office in Chicago and Burr Ridge, Ill. She was a volunteer for many food kitchens, church charities and neighbors in need.

An 80-year SNPJ Lodge 1 member, she was also an active member of Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 32.

Marion’s greatest joy after she retired was spending virtually every weekend (and days in between) with her husband Steve; her sisters, Eleanor and Flo; and her brothers-in-law, Johnny and Steve. If she wasn’t out with them listening to live music, she constantly had music playing around the house. Marion was also known to be an excellent dancer. She and Steve also loved going to Las Vegas, seeing the shows and playing the slots.

Like all of the Lopac sisters, she learned to bake from mama. She made great apple strudel, but her specialty was *kolaczkis*. Her children can attest that although she cooked every meal for them while they were growing up, no one can ever recall her actually sitting down to eat. Later on when she would go out to a restaurant, she was famous for looking at others’ plates and saying, “I should have ordered that.”

Marion, mom, nana, great-nana was the matriarch of the Lopac family. She was the beloved wife of the late Steve W. Kieras; loving mother of Karen (Michael) Tiburtini, Stephen (Adele) Kieras, Richard Kieras, and Sandra Kieras (Ken Ramage); cherished nana of Julie, Stephanie (Joe), Kevin (Ashley), Kristin (Dave), Michael (Samantha), Marissa, Eric (Megan), Kaitlin (Jesse), Ryan and Tyler; proud great-nana of Mackenzie, Chase, Maya, Maura, Abby, Gwen, Mason, Ellis and Landon; dearest sister of Rose (the late Ken) Meier, Florence (Steve) Strand, Carole (Richard) Pietras, and the late Eleanor (the late John) Maycan; and the fond aunt and great-aunt of many.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Sis. Kieras on June 15 at St. Mary of Celle-St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds Parish, Berwyn. Interment followed in Resurrection Cemetery, Justice, Ill. A celebration of life event is planned in Berwyn at a date yet to be determined, sometime in the autumn.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 1 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Sis. Kieras’ family, relatives and friends on their loss.

DEATHS REPORTED
For the month of May 2023

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01	Bertha E. Miller	03-21-2023	McKees Rocks, Pa.
A02	John Michael Condupi	10-21-2021	Cleveland, Ohio
A02	Arthur P. Muchow	02-04-2023	Freedom, Pa.
A02	James W Stapel	04-21-2023	Oakmont, Pa.
A02	Susan M. Merkner	04-29-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
5	Violet Heiden	09-25-2020	Litchfield, Ohio
6	Beatrice E. Galicic	01-28-2023	Cecil, Pa.
8	Audrey Fleming	10-17-2015	Gurnee, Ill.
8	Edward B. Young	01-07-2023	Belton, Ken.
87	Anna M. Moore	01-18-2023	Carmichaels, Pa.
106	Lorraine Kriger	05-19-2023	McKees Rocks, Pa.
138	Juanita J. Lloyd	10-12-2021	Strabane, Pa.
138	Henry R. Lavrich	03-23-2023	Washington, Pa.
138	Frank Gorup	03-30-2023	Canonsburg, Pa.
138	Joseph E. McGarry	04-03-2023	Canonsburg, Pa.
138	Linda L. Mahanay	04-06-2023	Palm Coast, Fla.
142	Irene E. Kovach	10-17-2022	Mentor, Ohio
158	Josephine Rotter	03-10-2023	Grand River, Ohio
218	Edith J. Faidiga	01-19-2023	Leadville, Colo.
223	John M. Enlow	04-13-2023	Saxonburg, Pa.
225	Lorraine E. Murray	03-03-2023	The Woodlands, Texas
254	John L. Kopler Jr.	04-16-2023	Johnstown, Pa.
257	Gloria C. Hollingsworth	12-18-2022	Clearwater, Fla.
277	Richard L. Kosek	04-06-2023	Poland, Ohio
371	Charlotte E. Balint	03-08-2023	Longview, Wash.
518	Victor J. Modic	01-07-2023	Lincoln Park, Mich.
559	Betty Nadvornik	06-16-2022	Braidwood, Ill.
559	Robin Marie Hall	01-25-2023	Gilbert, Ariz.
584	Helene M. Conrad	12-30-2022	Land O’ Lakes, Wis.
584	Barbara J. Loncaric	02-11-2023	Milwaukee, Wis.
584	Thomas J. Pirc	02-20-2023	Watertown, Wis.
584	Michael C. Mesich	04-04-2023	Montreal, Wis.
584	Elsie Jean Taramelli	04-12-2023	Duluth, Minn.
603	Latonya R. Brooks	04-02-2023	S. Daytona, Fla.
604	Eleanor Stupica	04-13-2023	Munson, Ohio
604	Rose Ann Bregar	04-17-2023	Chardon, Ohio
614	Ruth V. Tressler	01-26-2017	North Canton, Ohio
614	Barbara J. Cashin	04-16-2023	Orleans, Mass.
643	Edith B. Johnston	04-22-2023	Butler, Pa.
665	Dorothy Ferlan	10-30-2022	Gibsonia, Pa.
665	Ann O’Leary	04-13-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
715	Anthony J. Varlotta	06-03-2022	Wexford, Pa.
715	Frank Vinski	03-16-2023	Gibsonia, Pa.
749	Peter C. Kuharchek III	03-31-2023	Tampa, Fla.
749	Carol Kociban	04-17-2023	Windber, Pa.
770	Milan A. Zorinich	12-30-2022	Penn Valley, Calif.
776	Rose M. Potochnik	11-06-2022	Bessemer, Pa.
776	Raymond L. Cwynar	04-15-2023	New Castle, Pa.
782	Gregg L. Pompe	11-10-2022	Cheswick, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO



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slovenia

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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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Phone _____ Number of copies _____

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

Utopians Lodge 604 looking forward to Aug. picnic

by GERRI TREBETS
Lodge 604 Secretary

CLEVELAND — Well, it’s been a month of Sundays since this scribe has reported any activity from Ohio. I kind of got out of the writing mode as my schedule seems to constantly be jammed packed—as I’m sure everyone else’s is too!

We’re gearing up for the Utopians Lodge 604 picnic at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, on Aug. 20. The Farm crew has been working very hard inside and out of the pavilion, and their effort sure does show; the grounds look absolutely beautiful! So I hope everyone will come on out for our picnic. I would love to see some of our Utopians Lodge members as well!

The gates open at 1 p.m., serving starts at 2. We will be serving some great ethnic food, as well as homemade donuts (*krofe*) and strudel. The music, which begins at 3, will feature The Zolkas from the Youngstown, Ohio, area. I’ve heard quite a lot about this band, and I’m looking forward to hearing those melodious tunes permeating throughout the grounds!

We will be holding a booze

drawing, and all proceeds, along with a portion of our food sales, will benefit a charitable organization as they continue to seek a cure for horrible diseases. We will also be honoring our 50-, 60-, 70-, and 80-year members with dinner and free admission.

We are so pleased and honored to have one of our young adult members, the beautiful Emi Perdan—daughter of Beth Schroeder and Beth Perdan, and granddaughter of Rudy and Charlotte Perdan—running for Miss SNPJ this year.

Emi is a recent graduate, with honors, from Chatham University and is involved in many charitable organizations. We wish her well in her future endeavors and all the best as she participates in the Miss SNPJ Pageant.

The pageant is truly a memorable experience; one to remember for a very long time. Best of luck, Emi!

Looking back in time, since I had neglected my writing duties last year I wanted to touch on our June 19 picnic (Father’s Day) and send out a couple of kudos. We had a good number of attendees, and it was a beautiful day.



JAN KASTELIC WEISS, a 50-year member of Utopians Lodge 604 in 2022, attended last year’s Utopians Lodge picnic during which she was recognized by the Lodge.

One of the highlights of the picnic was the appearance of Ed Rodick “E3” and his dad, Ed Rodick Jr., as well as Lynn Marie Hrovat and the Nashville Polka Boys. What great entertainment, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there! Thanks to everyone, and especially E3 and his wife, Lynn Marie Hrovat, for traveling up from Nashville, Tenn.

We were pleased to have 50-year member Jan Kastelic Weiss in attendance, along with her fiancée, John Nevison. Jan had previously been a member of SNPJ Lodge 53 and became a member of Utopians Lodge 604 through a merger. She had visited the SNPJ Farm as a child, and enjoyed reconnecting with many people she hadn’t seen in years. I do

hope she continues to attend the picnics.

I hope everyone is enjoying good health after a couple of rough years with Covid. We look forward to seeing you at our picnic, as well as all the events held during the Farm picnic season.

Let’s keep polka music alive! There are many young adults performing in bands throughout the area, and I hope you will support them – they are the future of SNPJ!

Be safe in your travels and stay healthy. Remember, a kind word goes a long way.

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”
~ Princess Diana

HERITAGE CENTER WEEKEND BALINA BRAGGING RIGHTS



The team of [from left] **BUTCH CAPALDI**, **LINDA CAPALDI**, **MARLENE SKOVENSKI** and **TERRY SKOVENSKI**, all members of SNPJ Lodge 158, took top honors in the SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend balina tournament played June 10 at the SNPJ Recreation Center Balinarena.

PROSVETA Crossword GRADUATION (#0623) solution

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

St. Marys area students awarded Troha Scholarships

TROHA SCHOLARSHIPS

FROM PAGE 1

been canceled, we will have to find other activities to raise money for next year’s scholarships.

We continue to sell the collectable Zippo lighters to fund the scholarships; the entire purchase price of the lighters benefits this worthy cause. All lighters are of special interest to collectors, but they also make

wonderful gifts.

There are several lighter selections available: one with the word “Slovenia” and the Slovenian flag; one with “SNPJ” and the Society seal; a Polka Boosters version with a button box; a Polka Pal version; and a version featuring the Polka Hall of Fame. The price for each is \$30. Those interested in making a purchase should contact Marcia Bleggi at (814)

335-4983.

Anyone interested in a ride to Slovenefest at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa., on Saturday, July 8, should contact Pat or John Moore at (814) 837-9218.

The North Central Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters continue to host polka dances throughout the summer. Upcoming dances are scheduled on Sunday, July

9, at Kersey Fireman’s; and on Sunday, July 30, at Wildwoods in St. Marys.

SNPJ Marketing Manager Gina Wise is awaiting your call to purchase SNPJ life insurance or an annuity. Many polka dancers spoke with her in Kersey and received information about various SNPJ products. Gina is available by phone at (724) 695-1100, or in person at Slovenefest.



2023 Jerry Troha Music Scholarship recipient **Abigail Pociask** (center), pictured with St. Marys Lodge 581 members (from left) **JOHN MOORE**, **MARCIA BLEGGI**, **PAT MOORE** and **BILL GROLEMUND**.



2023 Jerry Troha Music Scholarship recipient **Sarah Reedy** (center), pictured with St. Marys Lodge 581 members (from left) **JOHN TROHA**, **MARCIA BLEGGI**, **PAT MOORE**, **JOHN MOORE** and **BILL GROLEMUND**.

CAL Don Gorjup Open launches SNPJ golf season

by RICK GORJUP (158)
CAL President

CLEVELAND — Congratulations, everyone, on another great CAL Don Gorjup Open! On Saturday, May 27, a total of 56 golfers competed at Rolling Greens Golf Course, and the weather couldn’t have been better, with temperatures in the 70s.

My son, Kevin, came all the way from Acton, Mass., to help me at the registration table, handing out scorecards and goodie bags.

This was the first time in nine years that I had the opportunity to golf in this

tournament too. It was extra-special to be able to golf with my son. My nephew, Brad Stroth, helped with the pin shot and long drive markers – thank you!

The winners of the CAL Open for 2023 were Steve Collins, Lodge 576 (low gross 72), and Rich Offak, Lodge 158 (low net 58) for the men. Congratulations to you both! Unfortunately, there were no women members participating this year.

Parked under the canopy were our great bartenders, Karen Novak and Erica Novak, who served beer, water and pop to the thirsty golfers. Lauren Sebusch and her

friend Brittany were on the course, driving beverages to golfers on both nines. Apple shots were also available.

The food at the turn and the dinner were handled by Linda Gorjup, Gerri Trebets and Erica Novak. Donna Sebusch and Karen Novak covered the drawings that offered many prizes to choose from.

It takes a lot of hands to make this outing successful. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes and at the course to make this such a fun event.

We’ll see you at the 58th CAL Open on May 25, 2024.

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



2023 SNPJ CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Results

Tournament played May 27 at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio

Men’s Division

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Steve Collins	576	72	\$100
**Rich Offak	158	58	\$100
Greg Volpe	158	61	\$70
Craig Young	576	63	\$55
Joe Blatnik Jr.	614	63	\$55
Jason Cadez	138	64	\$40
Tom Rudd	126	65	\$30
Jim Cadez	138	65	\$30
John Kopcsó	576	66	\$20
Mike Jasinski	126	66	\$20
Kevin Gorjup	158	67	\$10
Don Bronkall	614	67	\$10

*Indicates Scratch Champion
**Indicates Net Champion

2023 CAL Flight Winners

Men’s Division

Flight #1: SNPJ Farm Board

	Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Gross	Tom Rudd	126	74	\$35
Net	Mike Jasinski	126	66	\$35
Long Drive	Steve Collins	158		\$5
Pin Shot	Greg Ostaneck	126		\$5

Flight #2: Cleveland Federation

	Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Gross	Jim Cadez	138	80	\$35
Net	John Kopcsó	576	66	\$35
Long Drive	Joe Novak	576		\$5
Pin Shot	Brad Stroth	576		\$5

Flight #3: Utopians Lodge 604

	Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Gross	Kevin Gorjup	158	86	\$35
Net	Jacob Young	576	68	\$35
Long Drive	Kevin Gorjup	158		\$5
Pin Shot	Max Provateare	158		\$5

Flight #4: Spartans Lodge 576

	Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Gross	Joe Blatnik Jr.	614	91	\$35
Net	Craig Young	576	63	\$35

Flight #5: Strugglers Lodge 614

	Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Gross	Grag Volpe	158	101	\$35
Net	Jason Cadez	138	64	\$35
Long Drive	Ken Daugert	158		\$5
Pin Shot	Phil Yan	158		\$5

Guests Division

Flight #6: Mirni Raj Lodge 142

	Name	Net Score	Prize
	Tanya Bodishbaugh	55	\$50
	Diana Clark	59	\$40
	Michael Boreave	64	\$35
	Jeff Clark	66	\$30
	Dan Trivisano	66	\$30
	Kevin Clemens	67	\$20
	Kyle Provateare	67	\$20



A CENTURY in the making

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

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Payment in full must accompany all orders. Make checks payable to **SNPJ**. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

85th SNPJ National Bowling Tournament Results

Tournament rolled May 6-7, 2023, hosted by Lodge 158 at the SNPJ Recreation Center

Men’s Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Ja. Cadez/J. Cadez	138	1,305	\$100
**J. Salizzoni/J. Zimbardi	6/715	1,409	\$100
G. Volpe/B. Frank	158	1,361	\$76
C. White/J. Kuisis	245/6	1,348	\$50
J. Baselj/G. Curl	6	1,309	\$44

Men’s Singles Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Jo. Watson	34	682	\$75
**S. Anderson	677	712	\$75
C. Wolfe	6	708	\$50
G. Curl	6	679	\$32
R. Miller	6	678	\$28
R. Walker	106	676	\$26
J. Evanish	106	668	\$24

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
J. Zimbardi	715	666	\$22
J. McNurlen	138	652	\$20
G. Volpe	158	650	\$16

Men’s Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Back to Back Champs	138	2,356	\$116
**OH-MI	158/677	2,738	\$116
Turkey & Beer Hunters	6	2,512	\$88
The Sandbaggers	6/138	2,511	\$74

Men’s All Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*J. Cadez	138	1,889	\$50
**S. Anderson	677	2,176	\$50
G. Volpe	158	2,075	\$35

Women’s Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*M. Graff/K. Almo	138	1,123	\$70
**P. Cushman/B. Snow	138/6	1,387	\$70
D. Volpe/T. Halaburda	158	1,296	\$34

Women’s Singles Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*K. Almo	138	591	\$48
**B. Snow	6	711	\$48
C. Koenig	138	661	\$30
P. Cushman	138	658	\$26
D. Volpe	158	651	\$20

Women’s Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Shut Up 'n Suck It	138	2,065	\$88
**Bowling Stones	158	2,501	\$88
Pin Pals	6/138/782	2,436	\$68

Women’s All Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*K. Almo	138	1,835	\$22
**B. Snow	6	2,099	\$22
D. Volpe	158	1,984	\$16

*Indicates Actual Champion
**Indicates Handicap Champion

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries July 2023

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
643	Louise R. Jacobs

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
34	Ronald G. Yurkovich	584	Rosemarie Kozel
138	Thomas Mikec	603	Mildred Meckes
265	Marlene M. Kencec		

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
218	Barbara A. Hallenbeck	715	Alice L. Sikora
518	Michael J. Dobrovic	723	Maureen K. LaGrange
518	Bruce S. Baloh	723	Mary L. Guerrero
564	Donna K. Valente	782	David J. Nisula
584	Mary Hamerski	A02	Erich K. Schmid
604	Barbara J. Trepal		

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Cynthia A. Hultine	576	Frank A. Millin
5	Jeffrey W. Schinko	584	Kenneth W. Jereb
5	Thomas G. Englehart	584	Anna M. Pollack
5	Frank T. Zobec	603	Stuart L. Sixma
8	James A. Susman	603	Joe A. Ledger
8	John H. Batzer	604	Brian R. Nank
33	Thomas A. Plese	604	Denise Gonsior
34	John F. Taylor	604	Jeffrey J. Mauw
41	Alan J. Helfer	629	Patricia Cheripka
87	Helen A. Leighty	629	John Cvetan
106	Francis J. Dermotta	643	Marilyn R. Janis
126	Sharon L. Flyter	643	Lucille R. Tascione
126	Joyce Prudic	643	Frank A. Cappella
138	Diane T. Markosky	677	Charles D. Alexander
174	Alan W. Thomas	715	James D. Colnar
216	Ramona M. Zelek	721	Wanda K. Yanchik
218	Kevin M. Kne	723	Mary J. Pompura
225	Delores R. Center	723	Howard G. Brown
304	Edward P. Krische	745	Lucille M. Mlakar
559	Dawn E. Vidmar	749	Bradley R. Baker
562	Cheryl J. Starowicz	782	Edilynn M. Dacheff
564	John C. Mather	786	Richard A. Lukezic
576	Dan R. Zupan		

79th SNPJ National Golf Tournament

at Bedford Trails Golf Course

713 Bedford Rd.
Coitsville, OH 44436
Phone: (330) 536-2234
www.bedfordtrails.com

Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023
8 a.m. Shotgun Start

Individual Event

Name	Lodge No.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Team Event

Name	Lodge No.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Entry fee for team and individual events is \$53 per member.
For individual event only, entry fee is \$48 per member.
Entry fee includes greens fees, golf cart, prize fund.

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
David Sankovich, SNPJ District 3 Athletic Director
P.O. Box 485, Bessemer, PA 16112
e-mail: david.sankovich@aol.com

Make checks payable to SNPJ

ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUG. 25, 2023

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

Car cruise season returns to Imperial Lodge 106

by JOHN TUIITE
Lodge 106

IMPERIAL, Pa. — *Zdravo!* I wanted to give you all an update on the happenings at our SNPJ Lodge 106 Club in Imperial.

The bingo season ended with a loud and large crowd. We’re looking forward to the upcoming season starting in September.

We’re holding a “Super/Purse” bingo on Sunday, July 23, in our newly renovated Imperial Room (more to come on that later). There will be no food service, so you can bring along something to snack on. If you bring a pet donation (such

as food, a toy, etc.) you will receive one free bingo card.

The Lodge 106 car cruise season has started, and our first car cruise was held May 21. It was a huge success with over 100 cars. Dash plaques were available and prizes awarded.

The car cruise schedule is as follows (all Sundays): July 9 with music by Ruff Creek 50/50, Aug. 13 with music by Cool Change Band, and Sept. 17 with music by Shades of Time.

Dancing Queen and Timothy Earl performed in the Imperial Room recently, and

the reviews were so great that we have asked them to return. The date for the Timothy Earl performance is yet to be determined.

Gino and Richard continue to provide top-notch barbecue burgers and other tasty treats. They open the kitchen Wednesdays through Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. Members rave about their food, saying it’s the best food to come out of that kitchen in a long time. Bring your family for a great meal and great company.

The Imperial Room renovation project is coming along faster than anticipated. The

room is looking great! New doors and windows were installed in May, and painting is now underway. The upgraded bar has been completed, and it looks chic and modern. Upon completion of the project, a series of before-and-after pictures will be available on our website and Facebook page.

Our annual golf tournament will be played at Beaver Creek Meadows on Aug. 27, and we’re in the beginning phase of planning our second First Responder Appreciation Day, shooting for a fall time frame. More information will follow in future articles.

PROSVETA 2023 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2023							MAY 2023							SEPTEMBER 2023						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30
FEBRUARY 2023							JUNE 2023							OCTOBER 2023						
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MARCH 2023							JULY 2023							NOVEMBER 2023						
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APRIL 2023							AUGUST 2023							DECEMBER 2023						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30							27	28	29	30	31			31						

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

SNPJ National Bean Bag Toss Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, starting at 3 p.m.
at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.

Select Entry Division:

Men’s/Co-ed ☐

Women’s ☐

Name	Lodge No.
1. (Team 1 captain)	
2.	
1. (Team 2 captain)	
2.	

Team 1 captain’s name, phone number & e-mail address:

Team 2 captain’s name, phone number & e-mail address:

Entry Fee: \$10 per two-man team

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
SNPJ Recreation Center
270 Martin Rd., Enon Valley, PA 16120
Phone: 1-877-767-5732

Make checks payable to SNPJ

Tournament Secretary:

Jason Cadez, SNPJ District 1 Athletic Director
e-mail: cadez138@gmail.com

The SNPJ Home Office will verify all memberships.

SNPJ National Balina Tournament

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 2-3, 2023
at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.

Name	Lodge Number
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

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

\$20 per team entry fee for men’s and women’s competition. ENTRY DEADLINE is Aug. 30, 2023

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
SNPJ Recreation Center
270 Martin Rd., Enon Valley, PA 16120
Phone: 1-877-767-5732

Make checks payable to SNPJ

Tournament Secretary:

Denny Brand, SNPJ District 2 Athletic Director
e-mail: dhbrand3517@gmail.com

The Home Office will verify all memberships.

Samsula hall activities keep Lodge 603 members busy through late spring

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla.—The SNPJ Lodge 603 Hall in beautiful downtown Samsula was quite active this spring hosting graduations, birthdays and anniversaries.

The Samsula Charter School, also known as Samsula Academy, hosted a special celebration for all alumni at our Lodge hall on May 20. The school honored 11 of the students who attended Samsula School through fifth grade and graduated from New Smyrna Beach High School in June.

The Samsula School Pride celebration was chaired by Amber Fisher Wood, assisted by parents and friends. Attendees also honored the memory of Cathy Weaver Ledger, to whom they referred as an awesome fifth grade teacher. Each of the 11 students displayed their grade school photos.

The Samsula Woman's Club is collecting recipes for a new cookbook to be published later this year. If you would like to submit a favorite recipe or two, please send them to Marcy

Galbreath, 3791 Parsley Ln., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168; or e-mail marcy.galbreath5@gmail.com. The club meets each second Wednesday of the month at our Lodge hall. The women of the community are welcome to join.

The Daytona Beach Polish Club continues to meet at our Lodge hall for a social, a meal, and polka dancing from 2 to 4:30 p.m. The next Polish Club event is scheduled July 23. The donation of \$25 per person includes dinner and dancing; admission is \$15 for the dance only. These events are open to the public. Contact Hall Manager Cindy Griswold at (386) 690-9454 if you'll be purchasing the meal.

The New Smyrna Beach High School graduating class of 1983 hosted their 40th reunion at our Lodge hall on June 10. Paulette Harper Smithmeyer served as chairwoman for the reunion, assisted by Kim Green Miller and Nicole Miller Morton. A Friday night social and a Sunday brunch were held at the home of Dale Tomazin in Samsula. Paulette, Kim, Nicole

and Dale are lifelong SNPJ Lodge 603 members.

The new roof at the Lodge hall was inspected and approved on June 9. Our thanks to all who donated, and especially to SNPJ Lodge 723 in Fontana, Calif., for the \$7,500 donation. The Lodge hall still has several repairs to be completed due to damage caused by Hurricane Ian. If you can help out, please contact Cindy Griswold.

A celebration of life is planned July 8 starting at 1 p.m. at our Lodge hall for Lodge member Eli N. Crow Jr. who passed away Nov. 22, 2022, at Advent Health Hospital in New Smyrna Beach at age 83. Eli's wife of 46 years, Dianne, invites relatives and friends to the celebration.

Eli was a 10-year member of Lodge 603. The Crows celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and held several birthday celebrations at our Lodge hall.

Sympathy from the Lodge and the Samsula community is extended to Wallace and Kerrie Ringeisen on the May 22 passing of Linda Cogar

Ringeisen, 89. Linda was an active Lodge 603 member, and the Ringeisens visited the Lodge hall whenever possible.

Linda spent countless hours working at the hall, especially in the kitchen. Wally also helped and supported our Lodge, and Kerri is a lifelong Lodge 603 member who joined Youth Circle 57 as an infant. The Ringeisens were married Dec. 9, 1961, and resided in Samsula until they moved to Port Orange, Fla.

The family suggests donations to Hospice Care in Port Orange or the St. Jude Children's Research Center.

The Lodge 603 Mother's Day dinner was quite a success this year, with Brandon Schmidt serving as chairman, assisted by Clay and Bill Benedict and several ladies who helped decorate. The dinner was a sold-out affair, and the profits benefited the Lodge 603 Scholarship Fund.

Youth Circle 57 members conducted a drawing during the dinner, and the winner, Jon Perog, donated his winnings of \$206 to the scholarship fund.



CLAY BENEDICT, BRANDON SCHMIDT and BILL BENEDICT prepared the meal for the Mother's Day dinner served at the Lodge 603 Hall, the profits from which benefited the SNPJ Lodge 603 Scholarship Fund.

The Circle awarded plants and gifts to several other lucky drawing winners.

Best wishes for a successful 40th Slovenefest, scheduled July 7-9 at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa.

Our next Lodge meeting is set for Monday, Sept. 11, starting at 6:30 p.m. Members are reminded to bring a covered dish or two to share. Contact Cindy Griswold if you would like to book an event at the Lodge 603 Hall. See you at the Lodge hall!

Young Adults seek Lodge donations for service project

SERVICE PROJECT
FROM PAGE 1

donation in honor of or in memory of late Fraternal Director Kevin Richards. No amount is too small!

Kevin was an integral part of the SNPJ and truly fulfilled his role as Fraternal

Director by carrying out youth, teen and young adult programs. Kevin loved music, outdoor recreation, and getting together for fun – everything that this charity stands for and supports.

Monetary donations and checks can be dropped off or mailed to the SNPJ

Home Office, Att'n: YAC, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. Checks should be made payable to "SNPJ;" be sure to note "YAC Project" on the memo line.

Please make certain any and all donations arrive by Aug. 31.

Help SNPJ save by reading PROSVETA online

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.

The SNPJ Farm 2023 Picnic Schedule

SNPJ Farm, 10946 Heath Road, Kirtland, Ohio off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306 Visit www.snpjfarmkirtland.com for schedule changes		
July 4	Fourth of July Holiday Dance Klancnik & Friends and The Zolkas	1 to 7
July 16	Cleveland SNPJ Federation/ SNPJ Farm Board Picnic Jeff Pecon Orch. and Eddie Rodick Band	3 to 7
July 30	Ladies Auxiliary Picnic Don Wojtila Band	3 to 7
Aug. 13	SNPJ Spartans Lodge 576 Picnic and Lou Novak Balinca Tournament Ron Likovic & Friends	3 to 7
Aug. 20	SNPJ Utopians Lodge 604 Picnic The Zolkas	3 to 7
Sept. 4	Labor Day Holiday Dance Frank Stanger Band and Eddie Rodick Band	1 to 7
Sept. 13	Slovenian Sausage Festival hosted by the Polka Hall of Fame	noon to 8

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

SNPJ Scholarship Award Program

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

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

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

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

REGULAR:

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

ACTIVITY (JOSEPH C. UMECK):

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

ACADEMIC:

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

Full-Time Student

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

Part-Time Student

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

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

APPLICATION PROCESS:

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

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

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

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

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

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

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

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

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

Commission invites all to take part in the 65th anniversary Miss SNPJ Pageant

On June 4, several former Miss SNPJs attended the carnival-themed Family Fun Day picnic hosted by the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission at the SNPJ Farm.



PAGEANT 65TH YEAR FROM PAGE 1

contributions are greatly appreciated and that we could not have held such a successful event without you. As I bring this article to a close, I invite and encourage everyone to attend the 65th Miss SNPJ Pageant over Slovenefest weekend. The diligent work of the Miss SNPJ Commission throughout the year culminates in the pageant weekend, and we are especially excited to celebrate the 65th anniversary of this wonderful tradition. We have five lovely ladies vying to be our next Miss SNPJ, and they will demonstrate their poise, talent and

fraternal spirit throughout the weekend. The pageant competition will take place Saturday, July 8, starting at noon, followed by the crowning on Sunday, July 9, again starting at noon. Both events will take place in The Alpine Room. Prior to the crowning on Sunday, we invite you to join us for an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in the dining room where a meet-and-greet will be held with the pageant contestants and former Miss SNPJs from throughout the years. Breakfast will be served from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; the cost is \$10 per person. See you at Slovenefest!

Five contestants will compete for the title of Miss SNPJ 2024



CARA FABIAN
Lodge 218, Denver

by COURTNEY KOENIG
Fraternal Director

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Greetings from the Fraternal Department! It is my pleasure to introduce the contestants in the 2023 Miss SNPJ Pageant: Cara Fabian (218), Emi Perdan (604), Anna Mack (138), Morgan Sinan (782), and Michelle Von Merta-Sustarich (304).

CARA FABIAN is a member of SNPJ Lodge 218 in Denver and is currently a student at Colorado State University. She is the daughter of Lisa and Paul Fabian, and the 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, she 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 performances and helps with children's shows by supporting younger generations with acting, singing and dancing. 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.

EMI PERDAN, a member of SNPJ Lodge 604 in Cleveland, 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 Commit-



EMI PERDAN
Lodge 604, Cleveland

tee. She is also actively involved with Days for Girls, a nonprofit that works to eliminate the stigma and limitations associated with menstruation. Among her accomplishments, 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 serve as 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 Family Promise of Ontario County, an organization that helps homeless families with housing, food and professional resources.

ANNA MACK is a member of SNPJ Lodge 138 in Strabane, Pa. She is the daughter of Melissa Stanish and the late Ronald Mack, and the granddaughter of Stefani and Michael Stanish. A 2023 graduate of Canon-McMillan Senior High School with high honors, Anna has been involved in the Gay Straight Alliance and the National Art Honors Society, and served as treasurer of the Art Club. She has always been an aspiring artist, whether that be painting, drawing, writing, crocheting, and almost all other mediums in between. Anna has completed many hours of art-related community service over the past two years, including painting the windows at a local hospital, doing crafts with kids, and painting faces at various events.

While in high school, Anna was a member of the track and field team for the past two years and has flourished with her teammates. Even though she joined the team late in her high school career, she worked hard and made strides in her times, and was one of the top four sprinters to qualify for the outdoor WPIAL (Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League) championships. Anna runs the 100 and 200 sprints, and the 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400 relays. She was a member of the WPIAL championship 4x200 team during the 2023 indoor track season, earning several medals. This fall, Anna will be attending Chatham University to study mathematics with a minor in economics. After completing her dual math degree, she plans to take her certifications to attain an actuary license. As a result of her hard work and dedication during her high school track career, she has also signed on



ANNA MACK
Lodge 138, Strabane, Pa.

to the Chatham University women's track and field team. Anna has been a member of SNPJ Lodge 138 since 2017. She has participated in numerous activities over the years, including dressing as a duck for the Lodge 138 Fourth of July parade float and Annual Duck Race, and dressing as the Easter Bunny for the Youth Circle 19 Easter party. She has spent a lot of time participating in and assisting with Circle 19 activities. She has made costumes and props for the Circle Christmas shows, participated in bowling, worked at a snow cone booth during the Duck Race, set up for Circle parties, and helps serve during the Lodge's 200 Club. You can also find Anna working in the Lodge 138 kitchen.

MORGAN SINAN is a member of SNPJ Lodge 782 in Glenshaw, Pa. She is the daughter of Kathleen and Maurice Sinan (782), and the granddaughter of Angela "Fran" (87) and the late Maurice Sinan Sr., and Richard and Valerie (782) Kelly. She is the great-granddaughter of late former SNPJ National Board member Frank D. Gradisek (87). Morgan currently resides in Erie, Pa., where she is earning her bachelor of science degree in cybersecurity with a minor in innovation and creativity at Gannon University. At Gannon, Morgan is a member of the women's soccer team; the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC); the Cyber Defense Club, where she holds the position of vice president; and works with the University Advancement Office.

Morgan competes at the semi-professional level with the Erie Commodores UWS women's soccer team. As the starting goalkeeper, she helped the Commodores place third in the Eastern Conference during the team's inaugural season. Through the Commodores, she has had many opportunities to volunteer, including coaching a weekly clinic for children from the community. Morgan graduated from Seneca Valley High School in Harmony, Pa., with high honors and recognitions from the National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society. While at Seneca Valley, she was a member of the Key Club, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), Spark, and the Society of Women for Excellence in Engineering and Technology (SWEET). She was also a longtime member of the Seneca Valley Band, participating in the wind ensemble, jazz ensembles, and percussion ensemble. She also had the opportunity to participate in the Seneca Valley Architecture, Construction and Engineering externship, and was among the few students selected to help with the new elementary school



MORGAN SINAN
Lodge 782, Glenshaw, Pa.

development process. Throughout high school, Morgan earned soccer, basketball, and track and field accolades on the local and national stage. Personal honors include Big 56 First Team, All-Section, All-WPIAL, Tri-Athlete Award, and Tri-State Orthopedics Player of the Month recognition in November 2018 and October 2019. A lifetime SNPJ member, Morgan has been an active member of SNPJ and the Slovenian community. She attended her first Slovenefest, in 2002, in a stroller. Growing up, she participated in Youth Circle 36 bowling at SNPJ Lodge 6 in Sygan, numerous other Lodge and Circle activities, as well as the annual SNPJ Youth Roundup, Young Adult Conference and Family Weeks. During the 2022 Young Adult Conference, Morgan was elected alternate delegate to the 2022 SNPJ Quadrennial Convention. Growing up in a family of proud Slovenians, Morgan absorbed years of stories and knowledge about her family's Slovenian heritage. In 2018 and 2023 she had the opportunity to travel to Slovenia with her family to see Kamnik, the town the Gradiseks are from, and trace more of her Slovenian heritage with her family.

MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH (most people know her by her nickname, "Mije") is a third-generation Slovenian-American who is currently serving her fourth consecutive term as secretary of SNPJ Lodge 304 in San Francisco. She is the daughter of Mark Sustarich and Linda Lou Von Merta, and the granddaughter of Virginia and Rudolph Sustarich, and Robert and Barbara Von Merta.

Mije recently graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in molecular and cellular biology-biochemistry. She is proud to announce that through the American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF), she has accepted a summer-long fellowship through which she will be participating in cancer research at the National Institute of Biology in Ljubljana, Slovenia — only returning to the U.S. this summer to compete in the Miss SNPJ Pageant. In addition to serving as the secretary of SNPJ Lodge 304, Mije has volunteered for the Lodge 304 annual Pust (blood sausage) dinner since she was a child, and this year she helped organize the first Pust dinner held since the Covid lockdown, which attracted a turnout of more than 150 attendees. She also helped arrange a "Slovenian" NBA basketball night for Lodge 304, contributed articles to PROSVETA, served as a delegate to the SNPJ Young Adult Conference,



MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH
Lodge 304, San Francisco

and participated in Slovenefest as a contestant in the 2019 and 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageants. She was recognized as runner-up to Miss Activity in the 2019 Miss SNPJ Pageant. Mije is also a member of the Slovenian Progressive Home of San Francisco. Through Club Slovenia, she is currently enrolled in Slovenian language courses, and has a long history of attending Slovenian Mother's Day celebrations, teas, Christmas parties, Slovenian Statehood Day celebrations, and other Slovenian get-togethers. Aside from her educational and cultural pursuits, Mije is literally a fighter and personal trainer. She has been competing in the martial arts of Muay Thai for more than 12 years with World Team USA, holds accreditation from the Thailand Ministry of Education for her accomplishments in the sport of Muay Thai, and currently holds the title of "Kru." She is also a multi-certified personal trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine, holding numerous certifications. Mije's passion for fitness has led to various jobs working as a fitness model for brands such as the National Academy of Sports Medicine, FitBit and Gatorade. Throughout her eight-plus years of modeling, her work has expanded to include acting and allowed her to become an internationally published, national award-winning cover girl for publications that include *Isabella Magazine*, *Malvie*, *Edith Magazine*, *Like a Lion Magazine*, *Intra Mag*, *Elan Vital Magazine*, *Ethereal Magazine*, and several others.

Please join us in welcoming these young ladies and wishing them all the best in the 2023 Miss SNPJ Pageant. We are so excited to see their personalities and talents shine on stage! This year marks the 40th annual Slovenefest and the 65th Miss SNPJ Pageant. The Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission has been hard at work to make this year's pageant very memorable not only for our contestants, but for our former Miss SNPJs and their families as well. The commission has planned a meet-and-greet on Saturday morning to reminisce about their time as Miss SNPJ with our contestants. On Sunday morning, a pancake breakfast has been arranged for the contestants, their families, and former Miss SNPJs. The pageant program will begin at noon in The Alpine Room on Saturday, July 8; everyone is invited to attend. Be sure to return to The Alpine Room on Sunday, July 9, at noon to see the crowning of Miss SNPJ 2024 and her court — you won't want to miss it. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Catch the polka double-header at the SNPJ Farm

by JOE VALENCIC (5)
Cleveland Federation President

KIRTLAND, Ohio — Double your polka pleasure with two bands to dance to at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland on Sunday, July 16.

Enjoy six hours of live music, plus down-home cooking and balina. Eddie Rodick and Jeff Pecon, both Polka Hall of Fame legends, will entertain with favorite polka and waltz tunes from 1 to 7 p.m.

It's a rare tag-team polka pairing with orchestras led by Jeff Pecon and Eddie Rodick alternating on the pavilion stage. Jeff continues the classic ballroom polka sound pioneered by his father, Johnny Pecon. Eddie rocks out with rollicking renditions sure to get you hopping and gliding across the dance floor.

The gates open at noon, with the kitchen serving from 1 p.m. on. Choose from dinners or

sandwiches featuring smoked Slovenian sausage and kraut or savory roast beef with home-style oven potatoes.

The day's special is Chef Dean's mile-high fried bologna sandwiches with pepper-jack cheese, onion, tomato and lettuce.

Enjoy a game of balina on the clay courts. Your hosts are the members and friends of the Cleveland Federation of SNPJ Lodges and the SNPJ Farm,

a summer polka destination since 1939.

The SNPJ Farm is located at 10945 Heath Road in Kirtland, off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306 and six miles west of Route 44. Admission for the dance is \$10; guests 18 and under admitted free of charge. The event sponsor is Monreal Srnick Funerals and Cremations. For more information, phone (440) 256-3423.

Local events on the Lodge 559 summer schedule

by KAITLYN CHIAPETTA
Lodge 559 President

CHICAGO — Happy summer! We hope everyone is loving the weather so far, just as we have been. This year has been enjoyable so far, with even more fun to come.

Lodge 559 members conducted two meetings so far this year, during which we held food drives and donated the items collected to St. Cletus, a local church. It was so great that Frank Michalek was able to join us again since he has been so busy. Anne Cretnik has also been able to make it to the meetings despite having had hip surgery earlier this year.

We are glad the Young Adult Conference was able to be held again this year. Our Lodge was able to nominate Lodge 449 members Jason and Robert Rigler to serve as our Young Adult delegates for this year's conference. The

nomination is thanks to the new rules approved by the Convention last August. We can't wait to hear how it went!

We also hope everyone attending Slovenefest has a great time – fingers crossed for good weather!

Here in the Chicago area, the Chicago Federation hosted the annual Memorial Day services as usual at Woodlawn Cemetery. The Boy Scouts presented the flags, and we enjoyed the singing of Zbor Spendov, the Slovenian men's chorus. We also enjoyed lunch at Olive Garden and socializing afterward.

On Aug. 13 we will be attending the Slovenian Catholic Center annual picnic as a Lodge 559 event. We invite everyone to join us, along with any guests. The event is open to the public, and always serves up great food and fun.

The following weekend,



Lodge 559 members have met twice this year, and the Lodge has donated items collected through food drives held at both meetings to a local church.

Aug. 20, the Chicago Federation will be hosting a cultural event that we all look forward to attending as well. Guests are welcome!

The next Lodge 559 meeting will be held Friday, Sept. 8, starting at noon at the McCook Family Restaurant. Check our Facebook page for current updates, @SNPJLODGE559.

Our final Lodge meeting of the year will be held Nov. 11, during which we will be hosting a toy drive for the LaGrange VFW Toys for Tots program. We ask Lodge members to attend the meeting and bring a toy donation in person, or to contact Lodge Secretary Melanie Matiassek to contribute a monetary donation.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

A Closer Look at Slovenia

hosted by the
SNPJ Heritage Center during Slovenefest, July 7-9, at the SNPJ Recreation Center

SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

Saturday, July 8

- Noon: Aleš Šturm from Slovenia explains the male and female Slovenian costumes worn during the weekend
- 1 p.m. Heritage Center Committee member Mary Jo Hartman shares her knowledge of finding your Slovenian roots through church records in Slovenia
- 2 p.m. Joey Miskulin, the CowPolka King of Riders In the Sky fame, shares his musical talents and the production of a CD in Slovenia
- 3 p.m. Aleš Šturm teaches you some Slovenian words and phrases you'll need when traveling to Slovenia
- 4 p.m. Alenka Jerak, Slovenian Consul General from Cleveland, speaks about her wonderful country of Slovenia – come and meet her!

Sunday, July 9

- 1 p.m. Heritage Center Committee member Sarah Loudon hosts a Make It/Take It Workshop for participants of all ages
- 2 p.m. Jeff Dormish, president of the Slovenian Genealogy Society, distributes information about joining the group and searching Slovenian archives online
- 3 p.m. Aleš Šturm, a travel agent in Slovenia, shares his love of Slovenia and the best places to visit
- 4 p.m. Julie Bartolone, a local beekeeper, brings her enclosed observation beehive (completely safe) and speaks about the importance of bees

Plan now to attend the **40TH ANNIVERSARY** of

**Slovenefest**[®]

July 7-9, 2023

Slovenefest is held annually at the

SNPJ Recreation Center

270 Martin Road
Borough of SNPJ (Enon Valley), PA 16120
(724) 336-5180 • Toll-free: 1-877-767-5732
website: www.slovenefest.com • email: snpj@snpjrec.com
Admission: \$10 Friday/\$15 Saturday/\$10 Sunday/Three-day Pass: \$30
Children ages 16 and under admitted FREE

Friday, July 7

Outside Stage

Sponsored by Slovenian Savings & Loan Assoc.

4 to 6 p.m. Garrett Tatano Band
6 to 8 p.m. Don Wojtila Band
8 to 10 p.m. Garrett Tatano Band
10 p.m. to Midnight Don Wojtila Band

Heritage Pavilion

Sponsored by The Cvetas Family

5:30 to 7 p.m. Slovenian Folklore Group Sovodenj
Folklore Dance: 5:30 to 6:15/Ansamble Band: 6:15 to 7
8 to 11 p.m. The Wrangler Band

Gostilna

Sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 138

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mikey Dee
9 p.m. to Midnight KTB Band

Outside Food & Jam Tent

Sponsored by Heritage Life Insurance Company

4 p.m. to Midnight Day-long Button Box Jam

Crafters Bazaar

5 to 9 p.m. Located near the main building

Featuring the 65th

Miss SNPJ

Pageant!

July 8-9

Saturday, July 8

Alpine Room

Miss SNPJ Pageant Competition
Frank Stanger Orchestra

Outside Stage

Sponsored by Slovenian Savings & Loan Assoc.

Neon to 4 p.m. Bob Zolka Band
4 to 6 p.m. Ron Likovic Band
6 to 8 p.m. Klancnik & Friends
8 to 10 p.m. Ron Likovic Band
10 p.m. to Midnight Klancnik & Friends

Heritage Pavilion

Sponsored by The Cvetas Family

Neon to 1:30 p.m. Veseli Godci
1:30 to 3 p.m. Slovenian Folklore Group Sovodenj
Folklore Dance: 1:30 to 2:15/Ansamble Band: 2:15 to 3
3 to 4:30 p.m. Veseli Godci
4:30 to 6 p.m. Slovenian Folklore Group Sovodenj
Folklore Dance: 4:30 to 5:15/Ansamble Band: 5:15 to 6
8 to 11 p.m. Vintage Vinyl

Gostilna

Sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 138

1 to 2:30 p.m. Polka Playmates
3 to 4:30 p.m. Western Pa. Button Box Club
5 to 6:30 p.m. Fairport Jammers
7 to 8:30 p.m. Vince Rigler & His Polka Pals
9 p.m. to Midnight Patty C & The Guys

Outside Food & Jam Tent

Sponsored by Heritage Life Insurance Company

2 p.m. to Midnight Day-long Button Box Jam

Crafters Bazaar

Neon to 7 p.m. Located near the main building

Sunday, July 9

Alpine Room

Miss SNPJ Pageant Crowning

Outside Stage

Sponsored by Slovenian Savings & Loan Assoc.

1 to 3 p.m. Frank Moravcik Orchestra
3 to 5 p.m. Polka Classics
5 to 7 p.m. Frank Moravcik Orchestra
7 to 9 p.m. Polka Classics

Heritage Pavilion

Sponsored by The Cvetas Family

Neon to 1:30 p.m. Joe Grkman Orchestra
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Slovenian Folklore Group Sovodenj
2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Veseli Fantje
Darryl & Frank Valencic, and Dave Pendel
4:30 to 6 p.m. Joe Grkman Orchestra

Gostilna

Sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 138

1 to 2:30 p.m. Ron Pivovar
3 to 4:30 p.m. Matt Sepesy & Pravi Rojaki
5 to 8 p.m. Culkar-Golob Band

Outside Food & Jam Tent

Sponsored by Heritage Life Insurance Company

2 to 10 p.m. Day-long Button Box Jam

Crafters Bazaar

Neon to 5 p.m. Located near the main building

Information and complete performance schedule online at www.slovenefest.com

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