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# Miss SNPJ 2024 on the go as she begins her reign

by MORGAN SINAN (782)  
Miss SNPJ 2024

**GLENSHAW, Pa.** — July marked the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in my life – being crowned Miss SNPJ 2024. The honor hasn’t just been about the title, but the incredible experiences and connections I’ve made over the past few months. My journeys have taken me to the heart of Chicago, and across Western Pennsylvania and Ohio. So join me as I reflect on all the memorable events and share insights from my exceptional journey so far.

The first event I attended post-crowning was nothing

SEE MISS SNPJ 2024  
ON PAGE 8



[From left] SNPJ Region 4 Vice President **TINA RIGLER**, **CECILIA DOLGAN** (576), **JOE VALENCIC** (5) and Miss SNPJ 2024 **MORGAN SINAN** during the screening of Bro. Valencic’s film, “Stories of Slovenian Women in America,” in Chicago.

## The numbers tell the tale: Fraternal benefit societies still thriving

by KAREN A. PINTAR  
SNPJ National Secretary/COO

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The results are in from the American Fraternal Alliance concerning the collection of data from all fraternal benefit societies that belong to the Alliance – and the results are impressive!

The Alliance reported that there are 6,265,370 fraternal benefit society members across the United States. These individuals participated in 1,693,044 acts of community service, spending 41,580,622 hours doing so and contributing \$413,839,941 to their communities and to charitable and humanitarian

organizations.

In addition, there were 421,178 fraternal/local lodge events hosted by these members, representing 5,301,319 hours and funding \$81,643,636 for these events. Fraternal benefit societies hold a total of \$520,555,545,387 of life insurance in force (that’s \$520.5 billion, with a “b”), representing 7,439,233 policy holders.

So the next time someone asks you “What do fraternal benefit societies do?,” you can tell them how much time, support, and monies we give back to our communities and those in need, and how many people we represent across the country.

PERIODICAL MATERIAL



Lodge 723 President **SHERRI BLACK** [right] scores a goal on Vice President **PAMELA PANDZA** during a tour of the game room at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, Calif.

## Lodge 723 generosity extends to a local Ronald McDonald House

by PAMELA RICHTAR PANDZA  
Lodge 723 Recording Secretary

**FONTANA, Calif.** — SNPJ Lodge 723, originally based in Fontana, conducted an autumn meeting on Oct. 12 at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, Calif.

As a prelude to the meeting, Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Karen Hooper took time from her busy schedule to offer us a tour. We learned about the function of the large facility to support families with a child being treated for a serious medical condition. Family members may reside in a private room at no or an insignificant charge. This allows them to be near their child undergoing treatment.

Most of the clients at the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House are from the surrounding region of Southern California, and most of the children are being treated at the Loma Linda Medical Facility.

Our SNPJ group was amazed at the breadth of services and support available to the families. They have at their disposal a variety of rooms

and outdoor spaces for relaxation, play, to complete job and communication demands, to prepare meals, do laundry, and take advantage of supportive counseling and information.

Our own Marcia Leathers sat down at the piano located in the large living room area to play a few tunes to offer inspiration to guests.

The Ronald McDonald House is highly organized and very clean, staffed by employees, volunteers, and some folks gaining experience credits toward a particular education goal.

Various community groups help support the facility; in particular, the San Manuel Band of Indians in the area. Lodge 723 was pleased to make a recent donation of a significant amount as part of the Slovene Hall sale proceeds. There is an acknowledgment of that financial support in one of the rooms, and the Lodge has received notes from a number of the families who have used that particular room.

Our touring group was indeed proud to be part

SEE LODGE 723 SUPPORT  
ON PAGE 2

## The Recreation Center ready to welcome Santa during his visit

by SUSAN ZARELLA (277)  
SNPJ Recreation Center

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — Santa is coming! Santa will make his way to the SNPJ Recreation Center!

It’s true, it really is true. There is a Santa and he is coming to the SNPJ Recreation Center on Saturday, Dec. 2! The SNPJ Heritage Center and the Recreation Center are hosting the children’s Christmas party in The Alpine Room starting at noon. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. while we await the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Christmas party is for SNPJ members only this year, which means parents or grandparents may register for children age 10 and under to come see Santa. A donation of \$5 will admit adults.

The afternoon activities include music, balloons, crafts, and cookie making for the children to have fun with the elves while they await the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

We would like you to register your children before the deadline of Saturday, Nov. 18, so that Santa can have a gift for each child

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## THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are Dec. 1, 2023, and Jan. 1, 2024. All material must be received by noon on Monday, Nov. 13, for the Dec. 1 issue, and by Monday, Dec. 11, for the Jan. 1, 2024, issue. If you’re concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com) or submit your material via the publications area of our website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).



### Maeve Barnhart

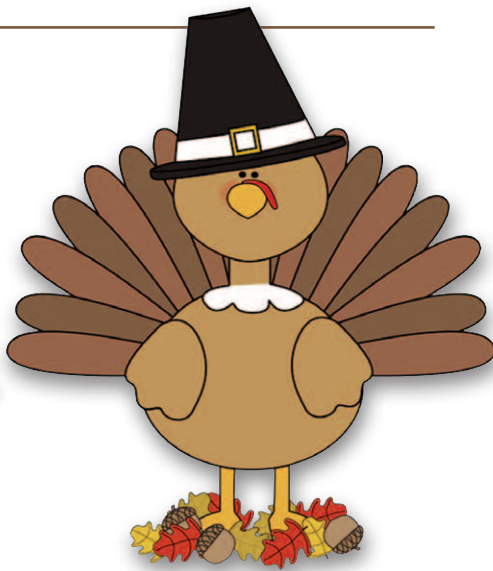
Born Feb. 21, 2023  
Youngstown, Ohio, Lodge 153

SNPJ Lodge 153 welcomes Maeve Louise Barnhart as the newest addition to the Lodge. Maeve is the daughter of Molly and David Barnhart (153), the granddaughter of David Kohler (153), and great-granddaughter of the late Mary Jean Kohler (153). We welcome Maeve to the Society and extend our best wishes to her entire family.

follow SNPJ on Facebook!

# Happy Thanksgiving

from the SNPJ Home Office staff





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## Have something for Up-and-Coming?

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

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

Site \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to:  
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# Utah Lodges celebrated the 41<sup>st</sup> Slovenian Day Picnic in August

by GAYE BABCOCK  
Lodge 689 Secretary/Treasurer

**HELPER, Utah** — The 41st Utah Slovenian Day Picnic was held at the Slovenian Home in Spring Glen, Utah, on Aug. 12.

The first picnic was held in 1981 at the Lagoon Amusement Park near Salt Lake City, organized by the former Murray Lodge. Beginning in 1982, the picnic was held at the Price City Washington Park, chaired by the late Grant and Lorraine Babcock of Helper Lodge 689. They chaired the event for the next 24 years.

Since 2006 the event has been chaired by Joanne Lessar, Price Lodge 757 secretary/treasurer (and the late Gene Lessar and Tony Lessar). In 2019 the location was changed to the Slovenian Home. Joanne is assisted by the members of Price Lodge

113 and Helper Lodge 689.

During the longevity of the picnic, only two years were missed – one due to the passing of co-chairman Tony Lessar in 2018, and the other in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Picnickers enjoyed polka music, conversation and, of course, the food! Klobase, cabbage rolls, stew, polenta, traditional potato salad, and our famous pickled eggs were served. Organizers baked dozens of cookies, potica loaves, and pans of apple strudel.

Lodge members spend countless hours making this event a success; many of those hours are spent in their own homes baking pastries and pickling eggs. All proceeds from food sales are donated to various charities.



[Above] The original Utah Slovenian Day Picnic chairpersons, the late **Grant and Lorraine Babcock**, in 2010.



[Right] Current Slovenian Day Picnic chairwoman **JOANNE LESSAR** and her brother-in-law, the late **Tony Lessar**, in 2016.

## Recent Lodge 723 donation benefits Ronald McDonald House

### LODGE 723 SUPPORT FROM PAGE 1

of community sponsors of the Ronald McDonald House. Lodge President Sherri Black had the opportunity to share some of our SNPJ story at a donor appreciation event several months ago at the House.

The Los Angeles Kings have been sponsors of this non-profit organization as well. To provide a special opportunity for patients and families, a play area has been constructed in the form of a hockey locker room. We shared with Ms. Hooper that the captain of the team, Anže Kopitar, is a Slovenian. Unexpected connections reveal themselves as we explore the world around us.

Without a hall, and with members living significant distances apart with jammed freeways before meeting time, we appreciated the opportunity to hold the meeting in a large and well appointed conference room at the Ronald McDonald House. Refreshments were provided by the Lodge after the tour, and member Bojan Savric treated us to his execution of a traditional Slovenian buckwheat cake (with *skuta*, or cottage cheese) which was still slightly warm from the oven. Attendees were most complimentary of Bojan's culinary contribution.

Touring, tasting and talking came to an end as President Sherri Black called the meeting to order. For three hours we went through the agenda, with significant time spent on the business issues of the Lodge which are in need of specific attention. President Sherri Black, Treasurer Frank Rote and Secretary Diana Rote have

been spending many hours working with professional assistance to resolve matters.

Other business before the Lodge was generally lighter in topic. Our Lodge helped sponsor Orange County Lodge 786 member Garrett Jancich at the SNPJ Young Adult Conference. Our fraternal activities for the year were reviewed, with the hope that the canceled adventure to The Living Desert can be revived in the future. Bojan Savric has expanded the content and connections to the Lodge page on Facebook.

We also discussed how at some point we might pay homage here in the U.S. to the tradition of providing Slovenian school kids with a traditional Slovenian breakfast in school on one Tuesday in November. If not this year, perhaps a plan will develop for 2024.

The next meeting is scheduled Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m., again at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, 11365 Anderson St. Members are urged to attend and to keep up with Lodge affairs; more ideas contribute to better solutions.

Please bring a gift or donation for our Toys for Tots program, and save those pop tops and bring them in. We will have a selection of light snacks and drinks, and as always, a door prize for some lucky winner.

Election of Lodge officers is scheduled for the December meeting. You can run for an office or support others who are willing to do these jobs. Also on the agenda will be setting meeting dates for 2024. We plan four meetings and are discussing whether to schedule a few on Sundays.



Photo submitted by Kathleen Seifert (643)

### Polkas in the Park

Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643 members hosted their annual polka dance on July 15, but this year the Lodge changed things up a bit by holding the dance at the Tod Park pavilion. The Anthony Culkar Band filled the park with music, and everyone in the audience enjoyed the music and a fun afternoon. Lodge 643 members extend a thank you to President Ray Kovac for the delicious food he provided.

## Lodge 786 preparing for annual holiday festivities

by TERESA KOCI  
Lodge 786 Secretary/Treasurer

### ORANGE COUNTY, Calif.

—The SNPJ Lodge 786 Christmas party will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, starting at 11:30 a.m. at Marina Hills Clubhouse in Laguna Niguel, Calif.

The lunch will be catered, so please RSVP to Teresa Koci by Tuesday, Nov. 28. SNPJ members attend at no cost. Non-members must also RSVP by Nov. 28 with payment of \$10 per person for anyone age 12 and older. All non-members age 11 and younger will be admitted free.

If you are bringing a non-member youth no older than 17, feel free to bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$20 value and we will be happy to ar-

range Santa's delivery of your provided gift. Parents of SNPJ youth members are encouraged to RSVP to Youth Circle Director Krista Lawson via e-mail to [Learning\\_to\\_live616@yahoo.com](mailto:Learning_to_live616@yahoo.com) by Tuesday, Nov. 28, so Santa can prepare!

This year we will be supporting the St. Timothy's Food Pantry. St. Timothy's Catholic Church on Crown Valley Pkwy. in Laguna Niguel operates this food pantry and is always challenged to keep their shelves filled.

Please consider bringing canned goods, pinto beans, pasta, oatmeal, cereals, baby food, diapers, toilet paper or other items to support this pantry. Any cash donations will also be accepted.



[From left] Lodge 723 members **KRSTE PANDZA, FRANK ROTE, BOJAN SAVRIC** and **MARCIA LEATHERS** spot Anže Kopitar's name as captain of the Los Angeles Kings hockey team in a recreational room at the Ronald McDonald House.



Following a tour of the facility, Lodge 723 members met in the conference room of the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, Calif. The final Lodge 723 meeting for 2023 will be held at this facility on Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

# Up-and-Coming...

## A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- NOV. 5 .....Fall Dance hosted by the Westmoreland Federation of SNPJ Lodges at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa.; 2-6 p.m. Music by the Garrett Tatano Band. Contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404 for more information.

- NOV. 14 & NOV. 28.....Bingo at SNPJ Sygan Lodge 6 in the Sunshine Room. The doors open at 6 p.m.; games start at 7. Packs of 10 games sold prior to play for \$10; special cards sold individually.

- FEB. 16-18....SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament co-hosted by Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138. Entertainment is scheduled at both Lodge halls throughout the weekend.
- MAY 25 .....CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio. For details contact Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001.

## 2024

- JUNE 14-16 ... SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144, or e-mail [ckoenig@snpj.com](mailto:ckoenig@snpj.com).

- JULY 12-14.....The 41st Slovenefest and the 66th Miss SNPJ Pageant at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For additional information phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.





by GINA WISE  
SNPJ Marketing Manager

## The support of family

When trouble comes, it's the support of family that gets you through it. Throughout my life the support of family has not been a social construct, but rather an instinct.

Trouble came for my mom recently. For the past two years she has taken lunch to a friend in a nursing home to ensure that he has at least one meal a day that he enjoys. The staff are also appreciative because by her feeding him, it takes some of the load off them. Due to his tendency to roll out of bed, the facility has mats on the floor around his bed to cushion a potential fall. However, on a recent September day, the very thing that was there to protect him took mom down when she tripped over it. Funny how her life changed in an instant...

After an ambulance ride and hours in the emergency room, we learned she had fractured her left femur where it enters the hip joint. The required surgery was scheduled the following day. After spending a few days in the hospital, we were advised that her health insurer would not cover inpatient rehabilitation. She was being discharged to her home and would require assistance. While there were orders for in-home physical and occupational therapists to work with her throughout the upcoming weeks, there was no one assigned to provide her personal care. She needed family to support her. Fortunately, I was able to step in and provide her with the direct care and help she needed until she became more stable on her feet. Funny how my life changed in an instant...

There are ways to provide support and protect your family that don't require such active participation on your part, but can still provide those you hold dear with what is necessary to meet their immediate and long-term needs if life should change in an instant.

If you should pass away unexpectedly, an SNPJ Single Premium Whole Life insurance plan can help support your family financially as they get back on their feet. It's a great plan for people who want to create an immediate estate for their loved ones. As the insured on a single premium life insurance policy, you can make one lump-sum premium payment in exchange for a guaranteed death benefit. The single payment fully funds the policy, immediately guaranteeing a higher value, income tax-free death benefit to the beneficiary of your policy.

You can also support your family by purchasing an SNPJ Single Premium Whole Life plan on which they are the insured. This plan makes an excellent gift for children and grandchildren. By purchasing a plan on their lives, you are providing them with a lifetime of coverage via a single premium payment. Upon issue, their policy becomes paid up for life! Their policy builds cash and loan values over the years which are accessible to the policy's owner for assisting the insured with education expenses, their first car, a down payment on a home, and more. Obtaining a policy while the insured are young and healthy means that they won't run into insurability issues in the future. By being the insured on an SNPJ life insurance policy, you are making your family member a member of the SNPJ family and providing them with numerous educational, cultural and social opportunities!

SNPJ membership could provide your insured family member up to \$3,200 in scholarship funds, Miss SNPJ Pageant eligibility, Young Adult Conference qualification, Youth Circle opportunities, national athletic tournament participation, newborn benefits, local Lodge membership, a monthly newspaper subscription, SNPJ Recreation Center access, member recognition/awards, and community service options.

There is a Burmese proverb that states, "In times of test, family is best." Mom and I both found this to be true when dealing with her recent hospital stay and recovery. Whether you decide to support your family with a death benefit from a policy that you are the insured on, or support them by purchasing a policy that they are the insured on so they receive all the benefits that it provides, your SNPJ family will be here to support both of you.

Speak with your local SNPJ agent or call the Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 to be put in touch with an agent near you to purchase a Single Premium Whole Life plan or learn about other life insurance plans and annuity products we offer.

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 hoping to improve student nutrition

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Slovenia's National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) recently launched a campaign to help college students, many of whom eat out often, choose healthier and more balanced meal options.

The NIJZ indicates that a third of all students in Slovenia eat fast food once a week, which makes for a calorie-dense but nutritionally poor diet.

Slovenia has long had a meal subsidy policy in place for college students, through which students can eat for a reduced price in participating restaurants. "The problem is that the program subsidies go to restaurants, where financial viability is key, instead of public kitchens, which can follow healthy nutrition principles more easily," an NIJZ expert was quoted as saying in a press release.

The NIJZ has now developed a classification system in a project co-funded by the Health Ministry. Healthy options offered by restaurants in the subsidy program will be labeled "Right Choice" by the NIJZ and the Tourism and Hospitality Chamber. Restaurants that are not participating can also take part in the subsidy program.

As part of the project, dubbed "Bon Appetit, Student!," a workshop for restaurants was organized in Maribor in late September.

## Plečnik Auditorium reopens in Tivoli Park

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — In September, an open-air amphitheater originally designed by architect Jože Plečnik reopened in Ljubljana's Tivoli Park, serving as a new cultural venue following a reconstruction.

Situated in a clearing behind Tivoli Mansion, the Plečnik Auditorium was built in 1933 but was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair after the Second World War. Through the mid-1960s the venue hosted an open-air summer cinema, but the site became overgrown. The clearing is now surrounded by tall trees.

Following Plečnik's designs, wooden stairs that serve as seating, supported by a steel structure, were installed at the edge of the forest utilizing the natural slope of the terrain. At the bottom of the gently rising stairs is a lawn that serves as a stage overlooking the city, just as it did in Plečnik's design, with the exception that the master architect used gravel instead of grass.

The auditorium has been reconstructed by the Medprostor architectural firm. The lead architect said the team applied a minimal and reversible design to reinterpret the original amphitheater at its original location and within its original dimensions. In this way, the designers highlighted Plečnik's care for public space as one of the key values in his contribution to humanity's legacy.

A wooden footbridge and a pathway link the venue to the Švicarija Arts Centre and Tivoli Mansion, which is home to the International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC).

MGLC will be responsible for the management of the new venue, as well as the program and coordination of events. As a rule, these will be admission-free events. The first event held to inaugurate the Plečnik Auditorium was the opening of the 35th Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts on Sept. 15.

The project to reconstruct the Plečnik Auditorium was launched in March 2022 and concluded in November 2022 at the price of EUR 376,000 (\$396,000).

## Slovenian radio stations join Radioplayer platform

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Most Slovenian radio stations will be joining Radioplayer, an international radio technology platform available in 20 countries. The announcement was made in early October at Audiofestival, an event celebrating podcasts and other audio media.

"Radioplayer is a platform that provides easier access to audio content, such as radio programs, podcasts and on-demand content using a phone, smart speaker or any smart device," said Mirko Štular, acting director of Radio Slovenija, Slovenia's public broadcaster. "Slovenia will be the 21st country worldwide and the 20th in Europe to join Radioplayer, which is expected to be available in Slovenia on Dec. 1," Štular added.

At the initiative of Radio Slovenija, more than 40 radio stations, which represent almost 90 percent of the radio



market in Slovenia, will be joining the platform. They are hoping to expand to include all radio stations.

"With the Radioplayer project, we are also gaining access to automotive partners that we, as the Slovenian market, which is absolutely too small, cannot access alone," Štular explained, adding that because of Radioplayer Worldwide's ability to negotiate, the technology will also be available to Slovenian users in modern vehicles with internet access.

The project was endorsed by the Media Chamber at Slovenia's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GZS) and the Culture Ministry. "[Ministry and chamber members] are aware of the importance of radio journalism and different radio genres and programs that all feature the spoken Slovenian language," said State Secretary Marko Rusjan.

## Ancient dugout found in the Mura after floods

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — The floods that wreaked havoc across Slovenia in early August have led to the discovery of a giant ancient dugout canoe in the northeast of the country. The 11-meter (36-foot) dugout was found on the bank of the Mura River. Experts say the vessel could date back to the late bronze and iron ages.

This assumption is based on the characteristics of the stern and the size of the dugout, which correspond to those of vessels used in Central and Western Europe in the late Bronze Age and Iron Age, when transportation needs increased due to demographic and economic jumps during the early first millennium B.C.

The dugout was discovered in mid-September by Ljubomir Zečevič, an expert on natural and cultural heritage in the Prekmurje region. "Zečevič immediately informed the director of the regional museum, archaeologist Branko Kerman, of the find," a representative from the Skupina Stik archaeology institute said. The dugout likely surfaced during the massive floods that hit the country in August and has been labeled a spectacular find.

Zečevič, Kerman, and a conservator from the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage visited the site to determine that the canoe was dug out of an oak tree with a hand tool. The find is said to be spectacular because of the length of the vessel — which is more than 11 meters — and an interesting and rare type of stern, ending in a massive vertical plank inserted into a groove.

The experts say that the original location of the dugout is difficult to determine, but it is almost certain that the floods couldn't have ripped the vessel out of the nearby plains. Rather, the dugout had probably rested in the sediments of the Mura riverbed upstream from the spot where it was discovered.

The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage ordered that the dugout be transferred to a safe location. Several history and archaeology institutes, including members of the Archaeology Department of the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, joined forces to free the vessel from the riverbank.

"The dugout was secured and fastened to a support platform, on which it was moved downstream along the Mura to a spot from where it was lifted. It was then transported to Murska Sobota Lake, where it is currently stored at the bottom of the lake pending a decision on further conservation procedures," the Skupina Stik representative explained.

## More remains of ancient Emona unearthed

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — In September, new pieces belonging to the jigsaw puzzle of the first- to sixth-century Roman city of Emona were discovered in Ljubljana during the renovation of the SNG Drama national theatre house. While the excavation work started in mid-August and is expected to be completed in February, archaeologists are already busy uncovering the remains of a residential building and a road dating back to the third and fourth centuries, respectively.

The Slovenian Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage said the architecture of the residential premises, named Insula XVIII, indicates the remains of a central heating system. Carved sandstone support pillars, upon which

rectangular stone slabs were mounted, were also discovered. At the time of use, warm air circulated underneath, thus providing subfloor heating.

A 14-meter (46-foot) wide road ran through the area. In the unearthed section, small personal objects lost by the inhabitants of Emona were discovered in the sediment, including a fibula (a brooch for fastening garments), a ring, and coins.

A representative from the Cultural Heritage Institute explained that archaeological research is presently being conducted within the walls of ancient Emona. Once completed at the current site, additional research will be conducted on several more residential buildings and roads.

The research is expected to provide additional insight into the urban development of the Roman city, especially its later phases of construction, thus providing information about life in Emona at the time of the decline of the Roman Empire, and in turn a better understanding of Roman life in the area of Slovenia.

## Northern bald ibis spotted near Lake Cerknica

**CERKNICA (STA)** — A northern bald ibis, a large migratory bird long considered extinct, was spotted near Lake Cerknica, according to information from the Notranjska Regional Park. The bird was bred in Austria as part of a repopulation project and equipped with a GPS tracker.

Photographer Zoran Vidrih described the bird's route: "[The ibis] traveled from Austria to Venice, to the Trieste Gulf, across Istria to Pula, crossing the Kvarner Gulf to Rijeka, and then over Ilirska Bistrica and the Javorniki Hills to our lake."

The bird, named Paride, is a five-year-old male. It likely stayed at the lake for a day or two, then headed for its wintering grounds in Calabria, Italy, or even further south, Vidrih said.

The northern bald ibis once inhabited the Near East, Northern Africa and South and Central Europe, including Slovenia, as evidenced by old church fresco paintings depicting the bird. It disappeared from Europe more than 400 years ago, the Notranjska Regional Park wrote in a press release.

A small population survived in Morocco, Algeria, Turkey and Syria. As part of the "Life+ Reason to Hope" project, the bird is being reintroduced in Europe, mainly in Austria and Italy.

## Exhibition recognizes production of Renault 4

**NOVO MESTO (STA)** — An exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the launch of production of the Renault 4, also known as the Quatrellé, opened in early October in the museum collection of former car manufacturer IMV in Novo Mesto, where the Renault 4 was produced from 1973 to 1992.

The legendary car was produced in the IMV plant and later in its successor, Revoz, also in Novo Mesto, with almost 576,000 units having been built.

The exhibition draws attention to a major part of Novo Mesto and Slovenian technical history, and to the collection of vehicles manufactured by the IMV company and its successors. The exhibition was arranged by the Dolenjska Museum in cooperation with the Novo Mesto municipality and Revoz, the car assembly plant that currently builds the Renault Clio 5 and the Renault Twingo.

According to the exhibition organizers, the first Quatrellé was produced in France in 1961. It went on to become a universal "people's car" with 8.14 million units produced over a period of 31 years and was the best-selling model in Renault's history.

The first Renault 4 was assembled in Novo Mesto in February 1973. Two years later a wheel production line was launched, and IMV also installed the equipment for assembling car bodies. IMV then secured the contract to produce and assemble the chassis. In 1976, IMV opened a mechanical processing plant, producing an average of 23 bodies per day. By 1979, more than 100,000 bodies for the Renault 4 had been produced.

The milestone 400,000th body was reached in 1988, and the last Quatrellé to be produced in Novo Mesto was taken from the assembly line on Dec. 22, 1992, since the car no longer met then-current safety and environmental standards.

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



# Samsula Lodge 603 holiday plans include the Christmas Tractor Parade

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY  
Lodge 603

**SAMSULA, Fla.** — The members of SNPJ Lodge 603 in beautiful downtown Samsula gathered at the Lodge hall on Oct. 2 for a covered dish dinner followed by a business session.

All officers were present except for Lodge Treasurer Rhonda Tesaro, who was on vacation, and Cindy Griswold, who is in New York caring for her mother. Rhonda sent her report, which was read at meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting and all treasury reports were read and approved.

Current Lodge President Connie Massey has graciously accepted the position of Lodge president for 2024. Nominations are open for officers and committee members; please contact the members of the

Nominating Committee – George Benedict, Shane Miller or Jeannette Humphrey – if you would like to serve.

The next business session is scheduled Monday, Nov. 6, starting with a covered dish dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting and election of 2024 officers at 7.

The Samsula Woman’s Club is holding its annual Christmas Craft Show on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The public is welcome. All vendor spaces inside the Lodge hall have been reserved; however, vendors are still welcome to set up outdoors. Contact Chairwoman Cindy Griswold at (386) 689-9454 for more information. The women will have breakfast and lunch available for purchase from the kitchen.

The fifth edition of the Samsula Woman’s Club Cookbook

has arrived; you can purchase a copy for \$10. Many thanks to all who contributed recipes and purchased ads.

The women of the local community are welcome to join this club, which was chartered in 1949. Open membership will be held during the first meeting of 2024, scheduled Jan. 10 starting at 6 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share.

The Daytona Beach Polish Club continues to meet at the Lodge 603 Hall for a social, meal and polka dancing. Club members will meet Nov. 12 and Nov. 19. The club enjoys a meal at 1 p.m., followed by dancing from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$25 per person for the dinner and dance; admission to the dance only is \$15. These dances are open to the public. Contact Hall Manager Cindy Griswold at (386) 689-9454 if you plan to

purchase a meal.

You can now check Lodge 603 event dates on our new sign, which is lighted for nighttime display. The sign was donated by our Lodge and the Samsula Woman’s Club.

Shane Miller attended the Young Adult Conference in June at the SNPJ Recreation Center. He gave a report on the conference and how much work the young adults accomplished during the weekend. He also attended the National Polka Festival, reporting that it was a fun-filled weekend.

Congratulations to the 50-year members of SNPJ Lodge 603, Vicky Stewart of Largo, Fla., and Susan Newkirk of Daytona Beach, Fla. Congratulatory letters were sent from SNPJ National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish from the Home Office in Imperial, Pa. Congratulations as well to

John “Jack” Pleterski who was enrolled in SNPJ when he was 27 hours old. Jack celebrated his 85th birthday on Oct. 8 at his home in Samsula.

It was reported that Lodge 603 member Stanley Clements is recently deceased and not his sister, Shayne. My thanks to Stuart Hughes for phoning with this important correction. My apologies for the error.

The Lodge 603 Halloween party was held Oct. 21. Youth Circle 57, along with chairwoman Holli Pell, were in charge. The Halloween party is an annual event, and each child who was dressed in costume received \$1. Cash prizes were awarded to the winners in several age groups, including adults. Lodge 603 and the Samsula Woman’s Club provided the prize money.

Mark your calendar for Feb. 23-24, 2024, the dates of Flor-

ida SNPJ Days/Samsula Polka Festival. Entertainment will feature the Frank Moravcik Orchestra.

Ruth Benedict will be taking charge of making the strudels and cabbage rolls on Saturday, Feb. 10, starting at 9 a.m. Mark your calendar and plan to assist. More details on the festival will be reported as soon as they are received.

Lodge 603 will be hosting the annual Samsula Christmas Tractor Parade on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 2 to 5 p.m. This year’s theme is “Trees.” To participate in the parade, you will need to register online on our Lodge website. Nancy Bass, Rhee Carter Gorinea and Shane Miller have volunteered to take charge of the parade again this year.

Happy Thanksgiving! I’m looking forward to seeing you at the Lodge hall.

# Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame hosts 59<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Polka Weekend

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

**CLEVELAND** — Treat yourself to a spectacular festival of music and dancing at the 59th annual Thanksgiving Polka Weekend presented by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 24-25.

The Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence, Ohio, becomes America’s polka headquarters with the finest Cleveland-style entertainers, plus Denis Novato, the world diatonic accordion champion, in a rare U.S. appearance. The

high point is the 2023 Polka Music Awards Show in the Grand Ballroom on Nov. 25.

Denis Novato will thrill you with his virtuoso accordion playing. He has won more than 20 competitions, including the World Diatonic Championship. Of his many recordings, Novato, a Slovenian native of Trieste, Italy, is especially proud of his appearance on a Grammy-nominated album by Walter Ostanek, Canada’s Polka King, who will perform. Joey Miskulin, the Grammy-winning accordionist from Nashville’s Riders in the Sky,

will also perform.

Ten Cleveland-style and Slovenian-style orchestras and entertainers will play for two days of dancing. The lineup includes Linda Lee Brown, Hall of Famer Eddie Rodick, the Bill Bevec Band, the Polka Classics from Detroit, Clevelanders Fred Ziwich and Anthony Culkar, and Klancnik & Friends. Performances are scheduled Friday from 2 p.m. until midnight, and Saturday from 5 p.m. until midnight.

The curtain rises on the Polka Music Awards Show at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov.

25, with Denis Novato and spotlight tributes to the new Hall of Famers. A potica baking demonstration is planned Saturday at 10 a.m.

Dance admission on Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 is \$20 per person. Awards Show tickets are \$25 each. Save \$10 with a Weekend Polka Pass – admission to both dances and the Awards Show for \$55 per person. The Saturday Show and Dance Duo ticket is priced at \$35 each. Guests age 18 and under admitted free, and free parking is available.

For dance and show tickets, phone the Polka Hall of Fame

at (216) 261-FAME, toll-free at (866) 66-POLKA, or e-mail [PolkaShop@aol.com](mailto:PolkaShop@aol.com).

Thanksgiving Polka Weekend is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

Reserve rooms at a special reduced rate that includes free parking by phoning (216) 524-8050. The Holiday Inn Cleveland South is located at 6001 Rockside Road in Independence, Ohio, convenient to I-77 and I-480. Book flights and rentals with Kollander Travel, (216) 692-1000.



**Denis Novato** headlines the 59th annual Thanksgiving Polka Weekend hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame Nov. 24-25.

## Hodgepodge from the Reveliers Lodge

by CHRIS PETUKAUSKAS  
Lodge 33 Secretary/Treasurer

**AMBRIDGE, Pa.** — Hello, SNPJ friends. As the beauty of autumn surrounds us, take time to savor the breathtaking and colorful sights and sounds of beautiful fallen leaves crunching beneath our feet and the sensational smells of the season. Father Time waits for no one, and these seasons come and go so quickly!

As I write this, I’m in disbelief that Christmas displays are popping up and parties are being planned for the holiday. An appropriate greeting this time of year is “Happy Hal-Thank-Mas!”

SNPJ Lodge 33 is planning the annual

Christmas party that we celebrate with our Aliquippa friends. This joint Lodge 33 and Aliquippa Lodge 721 Christmas party will take place Saturday, Dec. 2, at a new location this year. We will gather at J.W. Hall’s Steak & Seafood Inn, 2284 Brodhead Road in Aliquippa, Pa., at 1 p.m. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the respective Lodge officers: Lodge 721 members, please e-mail Nancy Koutoulakis at [Inkout@comcast.net](mailto:Inkout@comcast.net); Lodge 33 members, please send a text to Irene Pendel at (412) 418-8704.

The deadline for all RSVPs is Wednesday, Nov. 22. Don’t forget to bring nonperishable items for our annual donation to the local food bank. We will have a 50/50 drawing and treats for the youth members.

When you RSVP, be sure to choose a luncheon selection from the following: (a) turkey devonshire, (b) grilled chicken salad, or (c) fish sandwich and fries.

We hope to see many of you in attendance to enjoy some camaraderie and holiday cheer. Along with musical merriment, you can count on a visit from the

jolly man in the red suit – but only for the list of good boys and girls!

We welcome Brandon Wargo as our newest Reveliers Lodge 33 member. He is already a familiar face since I had him as a student many years ago. What a small world! We’re looking forward to seeing him at an SNPJ event soon!

Positive thoughts are sent to any of our members who are under the weather. You are wished better days ahead and get well greetings.

Humor has been known to lower blood pressure, strengthen the immune system, relieve tension, stimulate the brain, relax muscles, and build relationships... and it’s free! Remember to add laughter to each new day.

Happy Thanksgiving! Be grateful for the blessings you’ve been given; the most valuable ones are gathered around your table. May your Christmas shine with joy and special memories, and as we welcome a new year, wishes for good health and all the hope your heart can hold!

I hope to see you at an SNPJ event soon!

## PROSVETA Crossword Thanksgiving (#1123) by StatePoint Media

### ACROSS

- Poet Angelou
- “Eureka!”
- \*Thanksgiving season
- Bug-eyed
- “Tiger Beat” centerfold
- New York’s \_\_\_\_ Island
- Simmering feeling
- Combustible rock
- Short for Charlotte
- \*Thanksgiving sauce source
- Singer Redding
- Old hat
- Bar in Ireland
- \*Macy’s tradition
- Gets ready for publication
- Dr. Cornelius of film, e.g.
- What’s good for the goose is good for the \_\_\_\_
- Paul Bunyan stories and such
- Parallelogram or heptagon
- Charged particle
- More cunning
- Ant construction
- Fluffy sweater material
- Cribbage piece
- Ancient Mesopotamian civilization
- Maltreat
- Sea, in Spain
- Fraternity K

### DOWN

- Hoodlum
- \*Massasoit’s people
- Do like QA
- Opposite of written
- Like watching paint dry
- Togetherness
- Move like sludge
- S squared, e.g.
- Eliza follower
- Placeholder surname
- Like hand-me-downs
- Painter Chagall
- Lab gel
- Hatha or bikram, e.g.
- “To do” list
- Be gaga over
- Squirrel away
- Comrade in arms
- \*Popular Thanksgiving TV entertainment
- Nay sayer
- “\_\_\_\_ Fall in Love” song
- Caustic substance
- Cold brew (2 words)
- Intangible storage
- “The Red \_\_\_\_ of Courage”
- A pop
- Turkish bigwig

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Brazilian coins
- Former U.S. Attorney General Janet
- a.k.a. nutria
- Elms
- Military uniform fabric
- Columbus’ vessel
- \*TV’s National \_\_\_\_ Show on Thanksgiving
- \*1621 celebration location
- Planktonic tunicate
- Lungful
- Small wave
- Gangly
- Popular carriage in royal procession
- Semi-desert region in South Africa
- Astonish
- DNA segment
- Final notice
- \*“Miracle on 34th Street” star
- Yours and mine
- Sheltered, nautically speaking
- Hefty competitor
- Give a nickname

The solution to puzzle #1123 will run in the Dec. 1 issue.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
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# Sharon Lodge 31 recognizing member anniversaries Nov. 18

by BARB BOGOLIN  
Lodge 31 Secretary/Treasurer

**SHARON, Pa.** — SNPJ Lodge 31 has 12 members celebrating anniversaries this year: 50-year members Frank Yukich, Gina Fromm, Thomas Mlakar, John Nespor, Ronald Ghizzoni, Carolyn Dobrozdravic and William Zuga; 60-year members Edward Robich, Gail Church and Timothy Sandor; and 70-year members Donald Novak and Hermina Joy Church.

These members will be honored during the Lodge

dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18, starting at 2 p.m. The dinner will be held at Vey’s Pub & Grille, 3176 E. State St., Hermitage, PA 16148; phone (724) 308-6167. Members’ meals will be paid for by the Lodge; those attending will order from the menu.

During this annual meeting, election of officers will be held and meeting dates for 2024 will be set. Members interested in attending must contact Barb Bogolin by Sunday, Nov. 12, by phoning (724) 347-1197.

# Baking day on St. Marys Lodge 581 agenda in Dec.

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI  
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

**ST. MARYS, Pa.** — SNPJ Lodge 581 is planning a baking day on Tuesday, Dec. 12, starting at 11 a.m. at 311 West Creek Road. Bring your aprons and rolling pins – we plan to have a productive day. Phone (814) 335-4983 to make a reservation.

All poticas prepared during the baking day will be drawn off during the Dec. 17 Christmas party at the Kersey Fireman’s.

The next Lodge 581 meeting is scheduled Sunday, Nov. 19, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Wildwoods in St. Marys. We will be nominating officers during the meeting, so plan to attend.

A dance will follow the Nov. 19 meeting, featuring Larry Lewicki from Olean, N.Y. For more information about Lodge 581 activities, contact Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983.

Lodge 581 would like to recognize Bro. John Moore. John been an active Lodge 581 member for 25 years. He

serves as one of the Lodge auditors and attends every meeting, giving all of us support in whatever activity the Lodge plans.

John played accordion with Jerry Troha for many years, entertaining at nursing homes, during funerals, and for other activities. This year he added accordion music to our Jackson Road Cleanup, and helped his wife Pat prepare the lunch.

Each year he performs at the Johnny Appleseed Festival in Sheffield, Pa.; at the Ecumenical Home in Kane, Pa., on a monthly basis; and at birthday parties, family reunions, and wherever he can share his love of Slovenian polka music.

John and his friend, Joe Rolick, perform for the Polka Mass at St. Callistus in Kane. Three other bands in the area, the Portable John’s, Slick Nick, and Just Having Fun, are also grateful to have him join in the fun.

When Lodge 581 members bake potica, John is right there with his rolling pin – and his accordion! He and Pat also



Bro. **JOHN MOORE** serves as an auditor for SNPJ Lodge 581 in St. Marys, Pa., is the current president of the North Central Pennsylvania Slovene Polka Boosters, and enjoys playing accordion whenever possible to share his love of Slovenian polka music.

cook for the funeral dinners served at their church.

John entertained at the Historical Society when Lodge 581 volunteered for the St. Marys Festival. People walking by are always attracted by the music.

John is currently serving as

president of the North Central Pennsylvania Slovene Polka Boosters and gives his support in a special way: He is always ready to pitch-in if a polka band doesn’t show due to the weather.

Thank you, John, for all you do!

## SNPJ Membership Anniversaries November 2023

### 80-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
8	Mary Duich	723	Annie Davis
581	Arlene Piepon		

### 70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
158	Norma J. Kolm	559	John Vertnik
225	Clarice A. Dohanich	559	Lawrence A. Yenkolc
225	Domenic C. Bertoncino	584	Delores J. Matko
371	Robert D. Stalick		

### 60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
34	Renee Brouse	629	Ronald E. Odorcich
34	James A. Youngman	643	Shirley A. Povec
87	Dennis A. Olbrish	677	Malcolm S. Alestra
158	Lillian L. Danziger	721	Frederick E. Wanchock
584	William T. Coombe	776	Helen E. Boben
614	John P. Sajovec		

### 50-Year Members

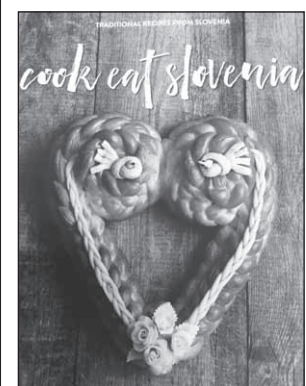
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Merle F. Borisek	218	Debra L. Ofstad-Seals
3	Joseph Kachik	223	Mary E. Holub
5	Cathy M. Wurm	274	Joanne M. Serre
5	Edward J. Udovich	559	Deborah L. Daniels
6	Cynthia A. Dolinar	562	Sandra M. Boyd
8	Frank C. Angotti	562	Joseph J. Tomlan
8	James A. Nedoff	564	Dianne Bilski
31	Carolyn M. Dobrozdravic	576	Roberta A. Haic
34	Mary A. Roshel	584	Suzanne E. Lien
34	Michael J. Jercinovic	584	Sandra F. Pintar
87	Cheryl A. Stajnrjajh	584	Robert S. Pintar
106	Thomas A. Groznik	603	Russell J. Vranicar
120	Nick V. Kezele	603	Susan C. Stritar
126	Loreen F. Rudd	603	Mark A. Dernovsek
138	Carol Harvey	643	Rose C. Lattro
138	Julia J. Sisul	721	Paula J. Russian
153	Linda T. Rogel	721	Daniel G. Suznevich
158	Laura Maniccia	723	Alan J. Sustarsic
158	Gail A. Hribar	749	Vincent Vitkovsky
174	Christy S. Gozdik	770	Sally J. Zorzi
174	Daniel D. Goga	770	Clement A. Gbur
174	Daniel F. Callahan	776	Michael A. Fiello
174	Jean M. Callahan	776	Sherry L. Soeder
174	Susan M. Allison		

## 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](http://www.snpjfarmkirtland.com) for schedule changes

Nov. 4	<b>Farm Board Harvest Masquerade Ball</b>	6-11
	The Stratford Hill Band	

No outside food or beverages permitted. The SNPJ Farm is a cash-only venue. There is no on-site ATM.



## cook eat slovenia

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# Loyalites Lodge donation supports the SNPJ Farm

by DANIELLA VOLPE  
Lodge 158 Treasurer

**EUCLID, Ohio** — How is it November already? Nonetheless, Loyalites Lodge 158 plans on making the most of the end of this year. We have lots of fun things happening that we want to tell you about!

First things first – we always have to shout-out our birthdays. Before announcing the upcoming birthdays, I have to make a correction from last month. Dave Adams’ birthday is Oct. 19, not Oct. 10; that’s the birthday of his son, Steve.

As for upcoming birthdays, we’ll be celebrating with Diane Horabik (Nov. 15), Derek Schlunt (Nov. 17), Cody Cleary (Nov. 23), and Colleen Kuhn (Nov. 28).

Something else to celebrate would be the recent nuptials of

member Nick Verch and his new wife, Jessica (Durigon) Verch. Congratulations, you two! We wish you the best of luck in your new marriage and for many more years to come!

We also want to celebrate people’s health. These last few years have been riddled with uncertainty when it comes to health due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are happy to report some good news, however: Lodge President Don Srnick recently had heart surgery and is doing well with his recovery. Don would like to say thank you to everyone for their prayers and well wishes.

In other health-related news, Gary Smrdel goes in for knee surgery on Nov. 13. We know Gary will do great because he’s a fighter, but we hope you can all send a few

extra thoughts and prayers his way for a successful surgery and a speedy recovery.

In other positive news, the Loyalites recently made a sizable donation to the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. The SNPJ Farm is a staple in the Cleveland area for our local SNPJ Lodges and other organizations.

However, the Farm is not immune to external problems like the pandemic and inflation. They need help for some larger projects, such as new equipment and replacing the well system, and we were happy to help ease some of that financial burden so we can hopefully continue to hold events there for years to come.

We encourage any other persons or Lodges who have some extra funds to consider

helping to keep this Slovenian institution alive.

The next event the Loyalites have coming up is our annual Christmas party, which will be held Sunday, Dec. 10, at the former Recher Hall in Euclid. The paperwork for gifts and tickets will be in the mail shortly, but if you have any questions please contact Diane Horabik via e-mail to [dianehorabik@att.net](mailto:dianehorabik@att.net). We encourage members from all Lodges to attend.

We know we aren’t the Kardashians, but if you would like to keep up with Lodge 158, remember to check *PROSVETA*, our Facebook page, and the Loyalites website.

Finally, we send our thoughts and prayers to all of our ailing and deceased members and their families during these difficult times.

## Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting

### Teleconference meeting held Oct. 27, 2022

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Chairman Clifford with Brothers Anderson, Hervol, Evanish and Lawrence in attendance.

A motion was made by Bro. Hervol, second by Bro. Anderson, to approve the minutes of the Aug. 11, 2022, meeting. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Bro. Anderson, second by Bro. Hervol, to approve the secretary’s (National Treasurer’s) report of bond purchases and disposals for the third quarter 2022.

Motion approved.

Reviewed the portfolio and transactions for the period.

Joined by phone conference at 2 p.m. with Wellington Management Company representatives Liz Kleinerman and Abigail Clare.

Discussion and questions on capital markets review by Liz Kleinerman.

The committee reviewed portfolio performance, outlook and strategy, and compliance issues.

The committee thanked the Wellington representatives for the presentation and ended the phone conference at 2:45 p.m.

Discussion on annuity rates.

The next meeting will be scheduled.

Motion to adjourn at 2:55 p.m. by Bro. Anderson, second by Bro. Hervol. Motion approved.

**ROGER C. CLIFFORD** Chairman  
**ROBERT J. LAWRENCE** Secretary

### Report of the Secretary for the period July 1 through Sept. 30, 2022

#### Purchases:

Trade Date	Security Description	Coupon	Par Value	Cost	Maturity Date
7/13/2022	PCG 2022-B	5.212%	\$260,000	\$259,996	12/1/2047
8/16/2022	Cooperatieve	4.655%	360,000	359,899	8/22/2028
8/19/2022	ODFA 2022	4.714%	285,000	285,000	5/1/2052
9/19/2022	Nisource Fin Corp	5.800%	300,000	293,651	2/1/2042
9/19/2022	Northrop Grumman Crp	5.150%	290,000	287,434	5/1/2040
9/20/2022	Public Srvc Elec&Gas	3.650%	350,000	287,739	9/1/2042
9/20/2022	Sysco Corp	4.500%	330,000	283,972	4/1/2046
9/27/2022	AstraZeneca PLC	6.450%	310,000	334,258	9/15/2037

**ROBERT J. LAWRENCE**  
Secretary, Finance Committee

## Teleconference meeting held Nov. 9, 2022

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Chairman Clifford with Brothers Anderson, Hervol, Evanish and Lawrence all on the call. Also attending by phone are Sis. Tracey Anderson and Joe Steimla.

Discussion on the Society’s annuity crediting rates and guarantee rate.

Motion by Bro. Lawrence, second by Bro. Evanish, to set the guarantee rate on new annuities written beginning Jan. 1, 2023, at 3.0%. Motion approved.

Motion by Bro. Anderson, second by Bro Hervol, to adjust the crediting rates effective Jan. 1, 2023, as follows:  
Loyalty Series 8-Year Surrender, first year guarantee: 4.50%  
Loyalty Series 5-Year Surrender, first year guarantee: 4.00%

Loyalty Series 8-Year Surrender, year two and after: 3.50%  
Loyalty Series 5-Year Surrender, year two and after: 3.25%

Suspend the Conversion Series 8-Year Surrender, first year guarantee  
Suspend the Conversion Series 5-Year Surrender first year guarantee

Conversion Series 8-Year Surrender, year two and after: 3.50%  
Conversion Series 5-Year Surrender, year two and after: 3.25%

Century Series 8-Year Surrender with contract minimum rate of 1.25% - 3.50%  
Century Series 8-Year Surrender with contract minimum rate of 2.00% - 3.50%  
Century Series 5-Year Surrender with contract minimum rate of 1.25% - 3.25%

Century Series 5-Year Surrender with contract minimum rate of 2.00% - 3.25%

Motion approved.

Motion by Bro. Hervol, second by Bro. Anderson, to propose to Heritage Life to increase Century 3% Guarantee plans as follows:

Century Series 8-Year Surrender: 3.50%  
Century Series 5-Year Surrender: 3.25%  
Century Series 2-Year Surrender: 3.25%

Motion approved.

The committee thanked Bro. Ken Anderson for his service and contributions to the Finance Committee and the National Board through the years.

Motion to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. by Bro. Anderson, second by Bro. Hervol. Motion approved.

**ROGER C. CLIFFORD** Chairman  
**ROBERT J. LAWRENCE** Secretary



SNPJ fraternal sympathies

Sis. FRANCES S. ALES • LODGE 225 •

**GIRARD, Kan.** — The members of Lodge 225 sadly report the May 21, 2023, passing of Sis. Frances S. Ales, 94, of Arma, Kan., at Arma Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Sis. Ales was born Dec. 30, 1928, in Auburn, Ill., a daughter of Frank and Josephine Kastelc Slansek. She was raised in Franklin, Kan., and graduated from Arma High School with the class of 1946. She was a retired registered nurse who moved to Arma after retiring in 1987.

A 76-year SNPJ Lodge 225 member, she was also a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Arma.

Frances married Frank H. Ales on May 31, 1952, at St. Neri Catholic Church in Franklin. Frank preceded her in death on April 13, 2007.

Survivors include her caregivers, brother-in-law Jim Ales and wife Darlene of Arma; two sisters-in-law, Emma Louise Ales of Arma and Verna Hasselman of Kansas City, Mo.; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Frank; two sisters, Josephine Hosticha and Wilma Wiott; four brothers-in-law and six sisters-in-law.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Ales on May 26 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial followed in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Pittsburg, Kan.

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

Bro. NORMAN E. WATSON • LODGE 138 •

**STRABANE, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the July 27, 2023, passing of Bro. Norman E. Watson, 81, of The Villages, Fla., formerly of Lawrence, Pa., in The Villages Hospital.

Bro. Watson was born Aug. 16, 1941, in Wilkinsburg, Pa., a son of the late Huttson and Ruth Campbell Watson. After graduation, Norman attended Penn State University and became an electrical engineer who traveled extensively throughout the United States, working in Detroit, Chicago and Seattle.

He was a 33-year member of SNPJ Lodge 138, and enjoyed spending time with his very



Bro. NORMAN E. WATSON (138)

good friend, Clay, golfing, fishing and smoking cigars. A resident of The Villages for 17 years, Norman liked to go out for dinner; his favorite dish was salmon.

On July 1, 1989, he married Mary Fran Florgancic, who survives after 34 years of marriage.

Also left behind to cherish his memory are his sister, Ida Mae Frielinger of Seattle; his in-laws, Peggy and Mickey Ruffalo of Strabane; and an especially close niece, Kayla Ruffalo, among other nieces and nephews.

A Catholic blessing service for Bro. Watson was held Aug. 28 at Salandra Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc., Canonsburg, Pa. Private interment followed in St. Patrick Cemetery, Canonsburg.

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

Bro. JACK A. MARTZ • LODGE 776 •

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 776 sadly report the July 28, 2023, passing of Bro. Jack Anton Martz, 76, of Hillsville, Pa., with his loving family at his side.

Bro. Martz was born Oct. 17, 1946, in New Castle, Pa., a son of the late Frank and Alice Martz. After graduating from Mohawk High School, he served in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam, Japan, and the Philippines, and came home to work at General Motors, retiring in 2000.

Jack filled every day with family, friends and sports. He was a natural athlete who never lost his competitive spirit, playing softball, racquetball and tennis long after his high school football glory days and well into his golden years. He was an avid fisherman who knew the best spots on Lake

Erie, as well as local lakes and quarries.

The bonds he formed with his friends, whether racquetball partners, fishing buddies or neighbors, were priceless to him and were unbreakable to the very end. He was a fair, loyal, kind and loving man who never lost his sense of humor or his love of play, and his children and grandchildren hope to carry on that legacy.

A 43-year SNPJ member, he was also a lifetime member of the Mahoning Sportsman Association in Hillsville.

Jack is survived by his junior high school sweetheart and loving wife of 57 years, Lynda; two children, Lori (Geno Merolla) of Islamorada, Fla., and Jack (Tracy) of Canfield, Ohio; two grandchildren, Grayson and Cooper Martz; his sister, Christine (Joe) Paolini of New Castle, Pa.; and many nieces, nephews, special friends, and his Golden Retriever, Laney.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his older brother, Frank.

Services for Bro. Martz were held Aug. 3 at Cunningham Funeral Home, Bessemer, Pa. Military funeral rites were conducted graveside in Bessemer Cemetery.

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

Sis. DANICA S. SCOTT • LODGE 34 •

**INDIANAPOLIS** — The members of Lodge 34 sadly report the Aug. 14, 2023, passing of Sis. Danica Sylvia June (Stolfa) Scott, known by friends and family as Dani or Grani Dani, at the age of 93. She was a 73-year SNPJ Lodge 34 member.

Sis. Scott was born June 28, 1930, in Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of Leo and Antonia Stolfa. Her parents had immigrated from Slovenia in 1922. Dani attended Morrison Waite High School in Toledo, graduating at the age of 16. Her education included an associate degree in business administration.

Dani started her career as an X-ray technician. She retired as a receptionist with the Indiana State Fire Marshall's Office in 2004. In retirement, Dani enjoyed visiting lighthouses with her friends and collecting replicas of each lighthouse. She also loved animals, spending her time caring for and feeding

cats and birds.

Danica is survived by her children, Lee Ann (Calvin) Johnson and William Anthony "Tony" Scott II; and grandchildren Dustin Scott Johnson, Jasmine Christina Lee Johnson, and Chloe Johnson. Her family also includes stepdaughter Karen (Roger) Haveman and their children; and many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and step-grandchildren.

Graveside services for Sis. Scott were held Aug. 22 at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 34 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Scott's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. EDMUND J. MALONEY • LODGE 106 •

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 106 sadly report the Aug. 15, 2023, passing of Bro. Edmund J. "Ed" Maloney, 79, of Imperial, North Fayette Twp., Pa., at Encompass Health, Sewickley, Pa.

Bro. Maloney was born May 1, 1944, a son of the late Agnes and John Maloney. Ed was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and had previously worked at the 171st Air Refueling Wing at Greater Pittsburgh Airport. He retired from U.S. Airways as maintenance supervisor.

He was a longtime parishioner and usher at St. Columbkille Church, St. Isidore the Farmer Parish. Three core values of Ed's life were God, family and country.

He was the devoted husband of 39 years to Barbara Maloney; beloved father of Dawn (Lance) Dobrowski, Sean Maloney, and the late April Snyder (surviving husband Edward), who passed away July 11, 2008; cherished grandfather of Joshua Dobrowski, Hope Andrews, Jordan Dobrowski, Seana (Luke) Goozdich, and Riley Maloney; and adored great-grandfather of Grayson Goozdich. He is also survived by his first wife, friend, and the mother of his children, Mary Maloney.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Maloney on Aug. 22 at St. Columbkille Church, Imperial. Interment with military honors followed in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp., Pa.

On behalf of the members

of Lodge 106 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Maloney's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. RUDOLPH R. BERNICK • LODGE 677 •

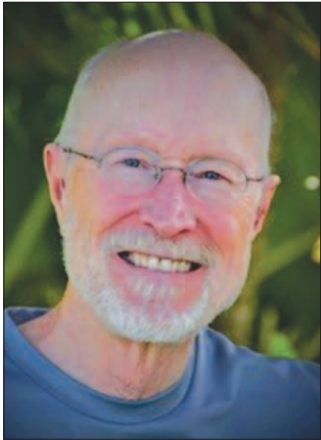
**DETROIT** — The Bernick family and the members of Lodge 677 sadly report the Sept. 22, 2023, passing of Bro. Rudolph R. Bernick at his home in Augusta Twp., Mich., after an heroic three-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a 71-year SNPJ Lodge 677 member.

Bro. Bernick was born June 12, 1936, in Dearborn, Mich., the first of two sons of Rudolph Sr. and Helen Bernick. Growing up in Dearborn, he graduated from Fordson High School in 1954. At Fordson, his athletic skills were displayed as a member of the varsity tennis team.

An exceptionally gifted jazz accordionist, Rudy served in the U.S. Army Band at Fort Leonard Wood, Kan., from 1955-1957. After his discharge from the Army, he attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., earning a bachelor's degree in special education from Eastern and two master's degrees from Oakland, one in remedial reading and one in educable disabled and emotionally impaired.

After completing his university studies he began a 32-year teaching career at Groves High School in Birmingham, Mich., retiring in 1997.

In 1964, while still a student at Eastern Michigan, Rudy met Dianne Pixley, who was to become his wife of 58 years. Following this special event were the births of their



Bro. RUDOLPH R. BERNICK (677)

daughter, Kendra, and their son, Darrow.

Rudy was a vibrant, outgoing individual with a ready wit and a generous nature. Whether as an attentive host at family gatherings or an appreciative guest when visiting others, he could always put people at their ease and bring smiles to their faces.

Rudy enjoyed hiking, fishing, musical jam sessions with his fellow musicians, and especially summer vacations camping with his family. After their kids had grown up, he and Dianne preferred winters in Florida and jazz-themed Caribbean cruises.

Rudy is survived by his wife, Dianne; his daughter, Kendra (Eric) Englund; his son, Darrow; three grandsons, Sawyer and Keaton Englund, and Rogan Bernick; and his brother, Tom Bernick.

Rudy died with courage, dignity and grace, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. As he did not want a formal funeral, a memorial celebration of his life will be scheduled early next year.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 677 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Bernick's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of September 2023

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01	Paul Thomas	07-31-2023	Leesburg, Fla.
A02	Hilda Dax	05-28-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
2	Gloria A. Linder	07-06-2022	Gilroy, Calif.
8	Edward P. Kovack	06-07-2022	Downers Grove, Ill.
31	James L. Bartholomew	02-10-2023	Sharpsville, Pa.
34	Danica S. Scott	08-14-2023	Indianapolis, Ind.
34	Mary A. Williams	01-07-2023	Speedway, Ind.
87	Lawrence J. Nemec Jr.	09-20-2020	Ruffsdale, Pa.
89	Daniel P. Lander	12-12-2021	Midway, Pa.
106	Edmund J. Maloney	08-15-2023	Imperial, Pa.
138	Norman E. Watson	07-27-2023	The Villages, Fla.
174	Mary A. Hess	08-01-2023	Bradenton, Fla.
223	A. James Seger	08-02-2023	Indiana, Pa.
225	Jake J. Hallacy	07-27-2014	Valley Center, Kan.
277	Arla Jean Seck	05-28-2023	Carrollton, Ohio
358	Michael G. Pahanish	06-20-2023	Leetonia, Ohio
559	Joyce M. Oblak Clark	02-20-2023	Blue Island, Ill.
564	Rita E. Hostnik	10-27-2020	Warren, Mich.
581	Jacob Turcan	08-10-2023	Harveys Lake, Pa.
604	Hubert E. Congo	06-24-2023	New Waterford, Ohio
604	Opal L. Pinasky	08-28-2023	Mentor, Ohio
604	Olga Rogell	10-31-2022	Mayfield Heights, Ohio
643	Angeline Dobrovec	09-03-2023	Hubbard, Ohio
721	William F. Rupnick	04-15-2023	East Palestine, Ohio
721	Robert F. Struble	08-18-2023	Westlake, Ohio
729	Florence Chesnick	04-08-2023	Hiller, Pa.
745	Rosemary H. Thomas	03-20-2023	Folsom, Calif.
749	Jessica T. Quimby	06-27-2023	Moreno Valley, Calif.
770	Annie P. Boyer	09-08-2022	Wampum, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR  
National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA Crossword  
HALLOWEEN (#1023) solution

E	L	M	S		B	A	T			C	O	V	E		
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PROSVETA 2023 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2023

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





Even the youngest members of Indy Lodge 34 are willing to lend a hand to assist with the annual Slovenski Fest.

## Lodge 34 offers a treat for Aug. Slovenski Fest

by JERRY WATSON  
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

**INDIANAPOLIS** — *Dober dan!* SNPJ Lodge 34 was the supplier of 200 krofe served during the Slovenski Fest, held Aug. 12 at the Slovenian National Home (SNH). Two of our youngest Lodge members, Mikaela and Jakob, were the proud servers.

The krofe were purchased from Hilligoss Bakery in Brownsburg, Ind. Their krofe is made only upon special request following a Slovenian recipe.

A box of krofe and a loaf of potica were also given to

the Sister Cities members for their meeting. Indianapolis is a sister city to Piran, Slovenia.

Slovenski Fest was enjoyed by many Lodge 34 members, and our members were actively involved in the festival's success.

Lodge 34 members held their third quarterly meeting on Sept. 15 at the SNH, 2717 W. 10th. St. At this meeting, it was decided to hold our fourth quarterly meeting on Friday, Dec. 8, at the SNH starting at 7 p.m. Our Lodge will donate the krofe for the SNH Christmas party. Please join us at our December meeting!

## Join the holiday fun at the SNPJ Recreation Center children's Christmas party

**REC CENTER CHRISTMAS**  
FROM PAGE 1

in attendance. There will be lots of fun for everyone, so be sure to call the Rec Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 for reservations.

We will also be accepting gift donations for Toys for Tots at the party. Please feel

free to bring an unwrapped gift with you so that we may donate some toys for children who are in need this year.

Please don't forget the deadline of Nov. 18 to register your child. Seating is limited, so it's first to call and register, first to see Santa. Merry Christmas, everyone!

## Lodge 518 members run, walk to support charities

by BILL KRZISNIK  
Lodge 518 Secretary/Treasurer

**MELVINDALE, Mich.** — The "Kovac Crew," composed of SNPJ Lodge 518 members, participated in the Bull Run 5K and the Walk 'n Roll 5K for ALS in remembrance of Franc Kovac. Franc lost his battle with ALS 10 years ago.

The Kovac Crew consists of Franc's wife, Irene; daughters Heidi and Katie; granddaughter Klaudia; and their significant others. The team raised over \$750 for ALS.

Franc, who was born in Slovenia, was a longtime member of Lodge 518, where he was known as the "Slovenian Prince." He is still loved by his family and missed by all

who knew him, myself included.

In addition, several Lodge 518 members took part in the Ronald McDonald House Walks for Lansing and Detroit; the Tom Izzo Walk, which supports several charities; the Hippy Hop Walk, supporting the Child Benefit Fund of Ingham County; Michael's Place of Traverse City Walk, which supports grieving families in northern Michigan; the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Walk, and the Ele's Place Walk, which benefits bereavement support for children, teens and young adults in the Detroit and Grand Rapids areas.

Mary Beth Krzisnik and Bill Krzisnik participated in the above listed walks.



[Above] Lodge 518 Secretary/Treasurer **BILL KRZISNIK**, displaying his walk medals, accompanied by his walking companion, George the Sheltie.



[Right] The Kovac Crew 5K team included Lodge 518 members **IRENE KOVAC, HEIDI and KATIE KOVAC, KLAUDIA KOVAC**, and their significant others.

## Happy Thanksgiving!

by MARTY KUMER  
Lodge 715

**UNIVERSAL, Pa.** — I am thankful for my SNPJ friends and family. And, if all goes well, I will travel with my son to my cousin Marlene (Kumer) Dean's home in Pittsburgh on Thanksgiving Day, and then to my daughter Holly (Kumer) Lazzaro's home in Philadelphia for an additional Saturday celebration. Double the Thanksgiving fun!

It's fall; a great season for those of us who love football. I like to talk about some of the amazing players and plays I've seen in my life. I remember once, when visiting my uncle's home in Pittsburgh

for Thanksgiving and watching football together with cousins (as many families do), we were comparing favorite players.

Somebody mentioned what a great fullback Jim Brown was for the Cleveland Browns (1957 to '65), which he was. I agreed, but I added that I thought Lenny Moore was even more amazing.

While I was a student at Penn State in the 1950s, Lenny Moore was my favorite football player there. He later went on to play with the Baltimore Colts ('56-'67) with some of the old greats, like quarterback Johnny Unitas. Lenny Moore ended up in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1975.

I told the family what I had witnessed at the college football games I attended. I watched Lenny Moore play against Jim Brown. I even saw the infamous 1954 game when Moore's PSU beat Jim Brown's Syracuse, 21-20! But I couldn't convince everyone about Lenny Moore's abilities. They were all sold on Jim Brown.

It was fun how we loved to talk football and tried to convince each other of our favorites. One of my younger cousins there listening was Tom Flynn, who played first for the University of Pittsburgh, and later went on to play with the Green Bay Packers and New York Giants.

At your Thanksgiving gatherings, I encourage you to tell your family about the good and memorable things you've witnessed in life – not limited to football, of course. Maybe you can include sharing a way SNPJ members and activities have been meaningful to you over the years. You never know who is listening. A future SNPJ member in the making?

At my Thanksgiving dinners this year, I might even throw out the name "Lenny Moore" to see if anyone remembers this guy. It will be my pleasure to tell folks about a great player I admired so he won't be forgotten. Impressive people, places and things deserve to be remembered!

# 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.**



# Sygan Lodge 6 hosts inaugural Jim Curl Memorial No-Tap Tournament

by KAREN A. PINTAR  
Lodge 6 President

**SYGAN, Pa.**—The inaugural Jim Curl Memorial No-Tap Bowling Tournament was held Sept. 30 at the Sygan Bowling Center. A total of 79 bowlers participated, along with many others who just came out to enjoy the day.

Thanks to the efforts of Greg and Joni Curl, John and Nicki Baselj, all of the individuals and organizations that donated baskets to be drawn off, individual donors, and volunteers who assisted throughout the day, the tournament raised \$4,000 to be used toward much-needed improvements at the Sygan

Bowling Center.

The late Bro. Jim Curl, who served as SNPJ Region 2 Vice President, held many no-tap tournaments at the Sygan Bowling Center as his regional activity. His son, Greg Curl, and family, and John Baselj and his family, decided to create this memorial tournament in honor of and in memory of Jim, with the added bonus of raising funds to help Lodge 6 with the improvements.

On behalf of the Curl and Baselj families and SNPJ Lodge 6, we extend a sincere thank you to all who came out, donated, and/or helped in any way to make this day such a huge success!



[From left] SNPJ National Secretary/COO and Lodge 6 President **KAREN PINTAR**, tournament organizers **GREG CURL** and **JOHN BASELJ**, and SNPJ Region 2 Vice President **JASON CADEZ** at the inaugural Jim Curl Memorial No-Tap Bowling Tournament.



A total of 79 bowlers participated in the inaugural Jim Curl Memorial No-Tap Bowling Tournament, rolled Sept. 30 at the Sygan SNPJ Lodge 6 Bowling Center.

## SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of August & September 2023

SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. .... \$40 In memory of Clifford Toth	SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan. .... \$30 In memory of Madeline M. Yartz	William J. Kovacic (225), Arma, Kan. .... \$25 In memory of Louise M. and William G. Kovacic
SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. .... \$40 In memory of James L. Bartholomew		

## Miss SNPJ opens her reign with visits to Chicago, Cleveland, Western Pennsylvania

**MISS SNPJ 2024**  
FROM PAGE 1

short of fun. Picture a flock of rubber ducks racing down a creek, each carrying the hopes and bets of spectators. However, the Strabane Lodge 138 Duck Race wasn't just about fun competition; the event brought together the SNPJ community.

The Duck Race was a fantastic event with families gathering, polkas playing, and everyone cheering for their ducks. I had so much fun selling tickets and making memories with Miss Talent 2024 Anna Mack (138). Thank you to Lodge 138 for the invitation and the warm welcome.

The next event I attended was the 79th American Slovene Day held at the Yukon Slovenian Hall in the beginning of August. I embraced my Slovenian heritage

through polkas, klobase, and many sweet Slovenian treats! My personal favorite was the *kremšnita*! Celebrating American Slovene Day with so many people from different Lodges across the region was heartwarming.

I thank the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges, the Yukon Slovenian Hall and Silverstars Lodge 729 in Yukon. Being able to embrace my Slovenian heritage at events like these has always been a source of pride for me, and attending as Miss SNPJ 2024 just made it that much more meaningful!

My third event was in Chicago, the Windy City. It felt like two events in one! My weekend started with a fantastic tour of the city. I had the best tour guides one could ask for: Tina Rigler, Jason Rigler, Robert Rigler and Edward Dabrowski.

From the towering skyscrapers to the buzzing streets, I had the chance to see beautiful landmarks in Chicago—and eat some even better pizza!

On my second day in Chicago, I was honored to attend the showing of “Stories of Slovenian Women in America.” The film gave me a more profound cultural appreciation and great connections in the Chicago Slovenian community.

Thank you to the Chicago Federation of SNPJ Lodges; Cicero, Ill., Lodge 449; and, of course, the best tour guides ever! Your dedication to the SNPJ inspires me, and I couldn't be more grateful for everything you have done.

The fourth event I attended was National SNPJ Days in the beginning of September. Held at the SNPJ Recreation Center, it was my busiest event to date. I watched some intense balina

games during the men's tournament, sold plenty of drawing tickets, polka danced until I dropped, and met and connected with many outstanding people. I was also honored to have had the chance to briefly speak about the importance of unity, heritage and community in our Society.

My gratitude is extended to the SNPJ Recreation Center and the SNPJ National Board for their unwavering support and for organizing such a memorable National SNPJ Days.

Ending my journey on a delicious note, the most recent event I attended was a food lover's dream come true: the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame Sausage Festival held at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. The Sausage Festival was a delightful mix of Slovenian-style foods, where

various sausages representing different traditions and flavors took center stage.

I was honored to have been chosen as one of the judges to select the event winner. Apart from indulging in some great food, the day was filled with many polkas and new friends.

I would like to thank the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and all the vendors for a delicious and memorable time. This was a very fitting conclusion to an eventful first few months!

Amidst all these events, my life outside of SNPJ has been equally bustling and rewarding. Currently in my senior year at Gannon University, I was delighted to transition into a cybersecurity training internship at Widget Finan-

cial after working with them throughout the summer. This hands-on experience has given me a fresh perspective on my field of study and future career.

Furthermore, after being named one of the soccer team captains, I've also been able to embrace leadership on and off the field, making every moment count.

In conclusion, the past few months have been a whirlwind of emotions, experiences and connections. Each event offered a unique perspective, a new lesson, and countless memories. As I continue my journey as Miss SNPJ 2024, I carry with me the heartwarming moments, the lessons learned, and the promise of many more enriching experiences to come.



During their September meeting, Slavija Lodge 1 members celebrated Recording Secretary **MARIANNE MURRAY's** 90th birthday.

## Slavija Lodge 1 sets their holiday schedule

by MICHELLE HRIBAR-HERNANDEZ  
Lodge 1 President

**CHICAGO**—Slavija Lodge 1 members celebrated Recording Secretary Marianne Murray's 90th birthday at our Sept. 11 meeting.

Sis. Caitlyn Conroy recently served as a delegate to the Young Adult Conference, while Sis. Julianna Conroy was a surrogate delegate. Caitlyn and Julianna reported the accomplishments of the conference and highlighted memorable experiences.

The Lodge confirmed social activities for the balance of the year, which include the Chicago Federation Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Lemont Slovenian Cultural Center; the Slavija Lodge Christmas party starting at noon on Sunday, Dec. 10, at President Michelle

Hribar-Hernandez's home; and the Slovenian Cultural Center Festival of Lights, date to be determined pending a published schedule.

Our Lodge mourns the loss of Sisters Marion Kieras and Denise Messenger. Sis. Kieras served as Lodge recording secretary for many years and was executive secretary to late SNPJ National President Edward R. Hribar Sr. when the SNPJ Home Office was located in Burr Ridge, Ill.

During our December meeting, we'll hold elections of 2024 Lodge officers.

For more information about the upcoming meeting or our scheduled activities, please contact Secretary Janina Hribar at (708) 598-2570. Have a wonderful holiday season!

## SNPJ RECOMMENDER PROGRAM

**Recommending a new SNPJ member could be worth a total of \$110\***

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

### Recommender Benefits

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

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

### I would like to introduce

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### for SNPJ membership

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Complete this coupon and return to**  
**Slovene National Benefit Society**  
**Att'n: Marketing Department**  
**247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA 15126**



Miss SNPJ 2024 **MORGAN SINAN**, Miss Talent 2024 **ANNA MACK** (138), and SNPJ Fraternal Director **COURTNEY KOENIG** at the Strabane Lodge 138 Duck Race in July.



Miss SNPJ 2024 **MORGAN SINAN** with retired PROSVETA Slovenian Editor **VIDA KOSIR** (106) during the 79th American Slovene Day held at the Yukon, Pa., Slovenian Hall.