

Samsula Lodge 603 prepares for Florida SNPJ Days

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — It's time to make plans to head to the SNPJ Lodge 603 Hall in beautiful downtown Samsula to attend our two-day Florida SNPJ Days polka festival featuring the Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland.

The Lodge hall opens at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23; the band will perform from 5 to 8 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 24, the hall will open at noon and the music is scheduled until 5 p.m. Admission is \$15 each day; a special two-day admission is available for \$25.

SNPJ National Secretary Karen Pintar will

be our special guest for the weekend. Karen has been visiting our Lodge hall for a number of years, bringing us news from the SNPJ Home Office and National Board. She will be a guest speaker on Saturday afternoon during an orchestra break.

The kitchen will be open both days of the festival, with nationality and American foods available for purchase. The bar (cash bar only) will be serving your favorite libations. Ashley Benedict has volunteered to assist her mother in the kitchen. Lodge members are asked to lend a hand during the festival and for clean up.

Ruth Benedict is leading the strudel and cab-

bage roll making in preparation for the festival, planned for Sunday, Feb. 4, starting at 10 a.m. at the Lodge hall.

The most recent Lodge 603 business session was held Jan. 8. Barbara Benedict installed the officers for 2024; all officers remain the same.

President Connie Massey administered the pledge for new members who took the oath, including Brandon and Kimberly Schmidt, Hannah Jones, and our newest Lodge member, Christian Razpotnik. Christian drove from Kissimmee, Fla., to attend the meeting and plans

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briefly

Lodge 245 members tranferred to Lodge 6

IMPERIAL, Pa. — As of Dec. 20, 2023, all members of SNPJ Lodge 245 in Lawrence, Pa., have been transferred to SNPJ Lodge 6 in Sygan, Pa.

We thank the officers of Lodge 245 for their service to the members of their Lodge, and we thank the officers and members of Sygan Lodge 6 for agreeing to the transfer of Lodge 245 members.

KAREN A. PINTAR
SNPJ National Secretary/COO

Policy owners, register for the new SNPJ Portal

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Home Office staff encourages all SNPJ members and agents to register for access to the new online SNPJ Portal. The portal can be used by policy owners to review information about their SNPJ life insurance policies and annuities. Agents can use the portal to check on their existing business, pending policies and updates.

To register for the SNPJ Portal, you must access the SNPJ website, snpj.org, and click on any of the “SNPJ Portal” links. You must be a policy owner or an agent to access the portal. Once enrolled for the SNPJ Portal, members can access policy information that Home Office staff cannot provide over the phone.

We hope you enjoy your new SNPJ Portal experience!

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are March 1 and April 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, Feb. 19, for the March 1 issue, and by Monday, March 18, for the April 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.



Photo submitted by Barb Bogolin (31)

Recognition for Sharon Lodge 31 Members

Several membership anniversaries were celebrated during the SNPJ Lodge 31 annual dinner held Nov. 18, 2023. Members recognized included [from left] 70-year member **DON NOVAK**, 60-year members **GAIL CHURCH** and **ED ROBICH**, 70-year member **HERMINA JOY CHURCH**, and 50-year **JOHN NESPOR**. Congratulations on your many years of SNPJ membership!

An early June deadline for 2024 Miss SNPJ Pageant entries

by COURTNEY KOENIG
Fraternal Director

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The 41st Slovenefest and 66th Miss SNPJ Pageant will be held at the SNPJ Recreation Center the weekend of July 12-14 this year, and the SNPJ Fraternal Department and Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission are excited to invite all eligible SNPJ young ladies to become part of history by participating in this year's pageant. The Miss SNPJ Pageant provides the opportunity to showcase personality, talent, creativity, SNPJ involvement, cultural activity, and community service.

The pageant will follow a condensed schedule

that was implemented a couple of years ago: Contestants will check into the hotel, get to know one another, and practice for the pageant on Friday afternoon and evening. The pageant competition will be held Saturday, July 13, and the 2025 titleholders will be announced Sunday, July 14.

By Slovenefest weekend, entrants must be single females between the ages of 18 and 28, and an SNPJ member in good standing for at least three months. There is no limit to the number of entrants from any specific Lodge, and former

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Photo © 2023 Tim Cimperman

The 2023 Miss SNPJ Pageant field: [from left] **MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH** (304), **MISS Talent 2024 ANNA MACK** (138), **MISS SNPJ 2024 and Miss Activity 2024 MORGAN SINAN** (782), **Miss Fraternalism 2024 CARA FABIAN** (218), and **EMI PERDAN** (604). The 2024 Miss SNPJ Pageant will be held during Slovenefest weekend, July 12-14, at the SNPJ Recreation Center. The pageant entry deadline is June 7.

And the winner is...

The \$100 winner of the third quarter drawing in the 2023 SNPJ Recommender Program is:

Susan Zarella, Lodge 277, Struthers, Ohio

Congratulations, and thank you for participating!

Gostilna Chef Dinner opens the Heritage Center season

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The SNPJ Heritage Center Committee held their first meeting of the year via teleconference on Jan. 20. We are excited for the upcoming year of events as we prepare for the first one of the year, the Gostilna Chef Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 29, at the SNPJ Lodge 106 Hall, 255 West Allegheny Rd. in Imperial, Pa. The doors will open at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served at 6:30. The cost is \$75 per person.

You will be welcomed at the door by our excellent toe-tapping button box players, Darryl Valencic, Frank Valencic and Dave Pendel. Along with your five-course dinner, a bottle of Slovenian red wine and a bottle of Slovenian white wine will be included at each table for you to enjoy.

Those of you who have attended a previous Gostilna Chef Dinner know what a wonderful experience this is. And why, you ask? Because the chef is from Slovenia!

This year we are honored to welcome Boštjan Volk as our chef. He is the 2023 champion of the European Young Chef Award competition. Boštjan, who is from the Velenje area in Slovenia, is an accomplished alumnus of the Vocational College of Hospitality and Tourism in Maribor (VSGT).

Boštjan's mentor, Mojca Polak, a professor at VSGT and lecturer for culinary classes, will serve as his assistant. Mojca hails from Gostilna Lešnik in Brezje, the oldest operating family-run inn. Sommelier Tristan Romih will also join the group. Tristan is also an alumnus of the VSGT and served as an Ambassador of Hospitality in 2022. He is renowned for his exceptional expertise in wines, beverages and outstanding service skills.

Be sure to RSVP to Heritage Center Committee member Kristina Hartman Lickert via e-mail to khartmanlickert@gmail.com or call/text (412) 862-0413. Our Pittsburgh-area

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Ryleigh J. Barnot Born Feb. 28, 2023 Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138

SNPJ Lodge 138 welcomes Ryleigh Jane Barnot as their newest member. Ryleigh is the daughter of Miss SNPJ 2013 Kristen (Cushman) and Zachary Barnot, and the granddaughter of SNPJ Executive Assistant Peggy Cushman and SNPJ Recreation Center Committee member David Cushman, all members of Lodge 138. We welcome Ryleigh to the Society and extend our best wishes to her entire family.



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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 () _____

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Complete and return to:
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Cabin renovations again underway at the Recreation Center

by DAVE SKRAJNER (142)
SNPJ Recreation Center Committee

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — If anyone has taken a recent drive to our beloved SNPJ Recreation Center, you may have noticed activity around cabin 15. A renovation of cabin 15 will be completed before next season. You might ask, “Why cabin 15?” Cabin 15 was designated by the Recreation Center as one of the cabins needing the most attention, both structurally and aesthetically.

It was decided by the SNPJ Recreation Center Committee, along with the contractor, that we start with the most challenging cabin to determine what unforeseen pitfalls we may encounter during the renovation process. Lessons learned here will translate into a more efficient process for future cabin renovations.

Who is doing the renovation? Simplistic Interiors, LLC, is contracted to do the work. We reached out to multiple contractors and companies, and looked into everything from total demolition and rebuild to renovations of the existing cabins. The option that best met our goals was renovation of the existing structures; it gave us the most cost-efficient use of the generous donations made to the Cabin Renovation Fund.

What exactly is being done

to the cabins? Once the existing structure has been stabilized, the exterior is being wrapped in a vapor barrier. The cabins will be vinyl sided to prevent carpenter bee and other pest infestations. The siding will also provide for less needed maintenance. New windows will be installed, along with new doors and an entry stoop.

On the interior, new flooring will be installed throughout the cabin. The bathrooms will have new, larger showers, and the toilets and sinks will be replaced. The kitchen sink area will be redesigned and the sinks will be replaced. A power vent will be installed near the roofline to draw out the heat from the ceiling. And best of all, wall air conditioner units will be installed for those hot, 90-degree summer days.

None of this would be possible without your generous donations to the SNPJ Recreation Center Cabin Renovation Fund. It is our intention to complete five more cabins before the 2024 camping season.

We are determined to be good stewards of your donations, and will continue the renovation project based on available funds and donations. Much more in the way of donations are needed as there will still be 16 large cabins that need renovated.



Cabin #15: The exterior of the newly renovated cabin features vertical vinyl siding, roofline venting, new doors, and a redesigned entry stoop.

The interior includes new flooring throughout the cabin; a redesigned bathroom with new, larger showers, new toilets and new sinks; along with a redesigned kitchen sink area and new kitchen sinks.



Photo submitted by Julie Milavec (218)

Winter Warmth, Courtesy of Lodge 218

Denver Lodge 218 members decided to do something a little different this year. Instead of a donation of food or hygiene products, we decided to make blankets. This may become our first annual blanket making event. Participants in the blanket making included President **BONNIE LEHNERZ**; Treasurer **GREGG LEHNERZ**; Secretary **JULIE MILAVEC**; Vice President **JULIE CHAMBERLIN**; auditors **DAVID CHAMBERLIN**, **DON TOMSIC** and **CAITLIN ZIMMERMANN**; and Lodge members **RYAN ZIMMERMANN**, **ANN TOMSIC**, **BEAU TOMSIC**, **McKAILA CHAMBERLIN**, **RONON CHAMBERLIN** and **HARPER ZIMMERMANN**.



SNPJ Heritage Center hosting Feb. Gostilna Chef Dinner at Lodge 106

CHEF DINNER
FROM PAGE 1

committee members – Tracey Belle, Joan Gaspersic, Mary Jo Hartman, Kristina Hartman Lickert and Sue Mals – are organizing this dinner and are looking forward to seeing you that night.

We thank Jure Zmauc, president of Slovenian American Business Association (SABA) for making the contacts in Slovenia. We also thank SNPJ Lodge 106 President Joe Evanish and hall manager Hannah Chauvet for all their help in final preparations. Don't miss out on this celebration of our Slovenian heritage!

Keep in mind that the Kurentovanje parade and celebration in Cleveland takes place Saturday, Feb. 10. The festivities are held at the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave. Check out the entertainment schedule and events on Facebook and/or online.

For all you snowbirds in Florida, travel to the east coast and attend Florida SNPJ Days in Samsula at the Lodge 603 Hall. Florida SNPJ Days are scheduled Friday night, Feb. 23, and Saturday afternoon, Feb. 24.

A few more dates to mark on your calendar for events in which SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members will be par-



Sommelier **Tristan Romih** [left] and chef **Boštjan Volk** will be joined by Mojca Polak for the Feb. 29 Gostilna Chef Dinner hosted by the SNPJ Heritage Center at the SNPJ Lodge 106 Hall in Imperial.

ticipating: Saturday, May 11, for the European Union Open House at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.; Saturday, May 18, for the Music & Craft Festival at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio; and June 7-9 for Heritage Center Weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

Help the SNPJ Home Office by keeping your e-mail address updated

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, athletics, and product and annuity updates through e-mail communication.

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 using e-mail 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

- FEB. 13Bingo at Sygan SNPJ 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. 16-18SNPJ 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.
- FEB. 27Bingo at Sygan SNPJ 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.
- MAY 25CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio. For details contact Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001.
- JUNE 9Second annual Family Fun Day hosted by the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by the Chardon Polka Band.
- 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.

We've Got You COVERED



by GINA WISE
SNPJ Marketing Manager

A change of seasons

Once again we find ourselves on the eve of another Groundhog Day, an indicator that spring is right around the corner. While we never know what the future holds, or how our plans and dreams will turn out, we can count on the fact that the seasons will continue to change.

Spring will bring new growth, summer will bring warmth, autumn will bring colors, and winter will bring cold. We can only do our best to prepare for the challenges and opportunities that come with each new season and hope for the best.

We prepare by adjusting our clothing, activities, diet and health habits to suit the weather and the environment. We prepare with Miracle-Gro for the best plants and shrubs. We prepare for the hottest days by purchasing plenty of ice cream and Popsicles. We prepare by mapping our road trip to see the fall foliage. We prepare for the coldest days by having salt and a shovel at the ready. All this preparation – no matter what else is happening in the world – because we know we can always expect the cycle of nature to continue.

Our lives experience a change in seasons when we move from employment to retirement. This is a major transition that can affect our income, lifestyle, health and identity. We must prepare for this change too by planning ahead and saving money, staying healthy, and finding new ways to enjoy and contribute to society. To prepare fully and overcome perhaps the biggest challenge related to this change in season, we must make sure that we have enough money to last us the rest of our lives.

One of the best ways to do that is to invest in a fixed annuity. A fixed annuity is an insurance contract that allows you to accumulate money for retirement or to protect funds you've already saved once you've reached retirement. You can make periodic or lump-sum contributions to your annuity and earn a fixed guaranteed interest rate. Your money grows tax-deferred, meaning you don't pay taxes on the interest until you withdraw it.

When it is time to withdraw, you have several options for your account balance: You can keep it within the annuity to continue earning interest, you can roll it over to a new SNPJ annuity, or you can withdraw it as a lump sum. Withdrawals can be made as needed, scheduled to occur on a regular basis, or your account balance can be annuitized, which means it is converted into a stream of regular payments that will last for as long as you live or for a specified period. Either way, you can enjoy a steady and reliable income that will never run out, no matter how long you live or how the market performs.

A fixed annuity is one of the few financial products that can offer you such a guarantee. It is backed by the financial strength and superior claims-paying ability of SNPJ, not by the government or any other entity.

If you are looking for a safe and simple way to secure your retirement income, a fixed annuity may be the right choice for you. It can provide you with the peace of mind that comes from knowing that you have a guaranteed income for life no matter what happens in the world. It can be the perfect complement to your other sources of retirement income. And it can help you achieve your retirement goals, whether they are to travel, pursue hobbies, spend time with family, or simply enjoy life.

Don't leave your retirement to chance. Just like the ever-changing seasons, you can count on the guarantees that come with an SNPJ fixed annuity to help secure your retirement. Start preparing today by speaking with an SNPJ advisor. Call 1-800-843-7675 or visit snpj.org to be put in touch with an advisor near you.

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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New business club aims at American markets

WASHINGTON, D.C. (STA) — In December, a business club known as the American-Slovenian Club (ASC) was launched in Washington as a platform offering companies easier access to information and assistance in their efforts to enter the markets in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

As Slovenian Ambassador to the United States Iztok Mirošič explained, there is a great deal of interest among Slovenian companies to enter the North American markets. “There are huge benefits to being present on the American market[s], but companies need to overcome the barriers to entry,” Mirošič said, announcing the embassy’s support for the ASC, the first private club of its kind in Washington.

According to the ambassador, the initiative for the ASC came from the former head of the Slovenian Manager Association, Saša Mrak Hendrickson, who also leads the club. A venue for meetings and events will be provided by the Slovenian embassy.

The first-ever Slovenian judge elected to the ICC

NEW YORK (STA) — Beti Hohler will become the first Slovenian to serve as a judge on the International Criminal Court when she is sworn-in in March. She was elected in New York in early December, receiving 82 of a possible 123 votes.

An expert in international criminal law, Hohler currently serves as a trial lawyer for the ICC Office of the Prosecutor. She is also a member of the ICC Appeals Board.

At 42, she is also the youngest judge to serve on the International Criminal Court. “I’m thrilled about this success and recognition,” Hohler said following her election, thanking the team at the Slovenian mission to the UN for their lobbying efforts.

While she didn’t expect to be elected, Hohler said her election didn’t catch her by surprise either. Among the qualities that ensured her success were her expertise, personal approach, and readiness to engage in talks with all parties, she explained. It also helped that for the past eight-and-a-half years she had been working as an ICC prosecutor.

“We had an exceptional candidate, and perhaps it was a bit helpful that we are used to candidacies,” said Boštjan Malovrh, Slovenia’s ambassador to the UN, in reference to Slovenia having been elected to the UN Security Council.

“We’re pleased that countries trust us... The effectiveness of diplomacy is measured by specific results. It is not enough just to participate; we have to leverage the opportunities that come our way,” Malovrh said.

Slovenian Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon congratulated Hohler and acknowledged that [her election] marked Slovenia’s third recent success in a UN election, which was testament to the country’s good work, credibility and trustworthiness. Fajon is confident that Hohler will make a significant contribution to the court, which is more important than ever in a time of many serious conflicts and wars.

The ICC has 18 judges, nine men and nine women, who are elected for nine-year terms. Hohler was nominated for the position by the president in 2022, and later endorsed by Slovenia’s National Assembly and the government.

A new super-resolution microscope for Slovenia

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In late November, the Ljubljana Faculty of Electrical Engineering acquired a EUR 1.25 million (\$1.36 million) super-resolution microscope, the most expensive single piece of equipment ever purchased by the University of Ljubljana. The microscope will allow researchers to observe cellular processes in even greater detail.

Marko Topič, the faculty dean, explained that the purchase of this newest microscope was made possible by stable research funding. Half of the cost was covered by the Slovenian Research Agency (ARIS), with the university and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering contributing 25 percent each.



The Zeiss Elyra 7 Lattice SIM2 microscope allows observation of living biological cells and the processes taking place in them. According to Topič, there are only some 50 devices in the world that allow observation of cells at such high resolutions.

The state-of-the-art optical microscope “has provided the researchers of the Cybernetics Laboratory and all collaborators with indispensable research equipment for further breakthroughs in the field of electroporation [the use of short, high-voltage pulses to overcome the barrier of a cell membrane],” Topič said.

The new microscope is expected to lead to even greater interdisciplinary cooperation both within the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and the University of Ljubljana, as well as with other research organizations in the field.

Team making progress in hydrogen production

LJUBLJANA (STA) — A team of Slovenian and Serbian researchers has made significant progress in hydrogen production, a demanding and costly process, discovering spontaneous water splitting between the fibers of rutile, a common mineral.

Researchers at the Jožef Stefan Institute (IJS), Slovenia’s foremost science research organization, wrote in a press release that the discovery had “opened up new avenues in the research of catalyst water splitting, a significant step in clean energy pursuits.”

Hydrogen combustion is among the cleanest energy production methods since the only byproduct is water. One of the ways to create hydrogen is to split water, but this is a demanding procedure. Hydrogen production through water splitting accounts for only four percent of global hydrogen production, the IJS researchers added.

Now, a team at the IJS Department of Nanostructured Materials has found that hydrogen production is also possible under atmospheric conditions. The research that led to this discovery, which started in 2014, delved into the hydrothermal growth of rutile and the stability of its fibrous structures.

As IJS researcher Aleksander Rečnik explained to the press, rutile is known to split water on its surface under UV light; however, the process is very ineffective. The newly discovered process recorded a 25 percent water dissociation rate, a much higher percentage than recorded in previous studies.

A lot of work is yet to be done in this field, but Rečnik believes that the study has created the first spark of hope for an efficient catalyst water-splitting procedure resulting in hydrogen production.

Seed-planting drones reforesting Kras region

KOSTANJEVICA (STA) — Portions of the Kras region that were devastated during massive wildfires in 2022 are being reforested using seed-planting drones, the first time this reforestation technique has been used in Slovenia.

“We have chosen this method because of the hard-to-access terrain, the rocky ground, and so that we do not have to send people to an area where there may still be remnants of the First World War,” Forestry Service director Gregor Danev said as the reforestation plan was introduced in December.

If the drones prove effective, forestry authorities will deploy the technology more widely, given that extensive reforestation will be needed in the coming years due to various natural disasters.

Even before the roadmap to reforest the wildfire area in western Slovenia, close to the border with Italy, was drawn up, the Forestry Service invited several organizations, including researchers, to join forces with them in pursuit of reforestation solutions.

Among those heeding the call was Projekt O2 from Croatia, which is dedicated to seed planting by drones. Projekt O2 representatives will manage the Kras reforestation project. “This effort is particularly important for us because, after three years of work, this

is the first time we are working outside our country,” Projekt O2 representative Goran Ladišić said.

The Forestry Service provided seeds of field maple, Montpellier maple and linden trees of Slovenian origin for the production of the seed balls used in the project, along with a suitable substrate.

Following the major wildfire in the summer of 2022, to date a total of 300 hectares (approx. 740 acres) have been reforested in Kras with the planting of seeds and saplings.

Frida the robot assisting at Maribor hospital

MARIBOR (STA) — Frida, a humanoid robot, has been helping out at UKC Maribor Hospital for a year and a half as part of the testing within a research project. Hospital staff were initially reserved about Frida, fearing that artificial intelligence was [being introduced] to replace them, but they have since changed their minds and are much more positive about it – and so are the patients.

Frida was developed as part of HosmartAI, an international project which in Slovenia brings together UKC Maribor and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (FERI).

As of December, around 400 patients had come in contact with the robot in several UKC Maribor wards, said Frida project manager Izidor Mlakar. A case-control study was implemented to evaluate the robot’s performance, involving 100 patients who interacted with Frida and 100 who didn’t.

UKC Maribor acting director Vojko Flis said during a presentation that the robot was meant to help staff rather than replace them. “The purpose of the robot is to do some of the jobs that medical staff currently do, but wouldn’t need to do,” Flis explained.

“One such example is when a questionnaire needs to be [completed] when a patient is being admitted to a ward, which now takes a nurse at least 15 minutes to do. The robot is now being tested on filling in the questionnaire,” Mlakar said.

Flis said that at the very start, when they registered the project for funding, “We were already thinking how such a robot could help the staff.” He said there had been concerns that the warm hand of a nurse could not be replaced, but this wasn’t even the purpose. “Quite the opposite, it is to give the nursing staff more time for patients,” he said.

But there is still a long way to go before Frida can enter commercial use. Once the study is finished in Maribor, it should be carried out at some other medical organizations in Slovenia. Then comes standardization, which could take five to seven years, while it should also be established whether an investment in the robot, which costs EUR 20,000 (approx. \$22,000), is justified since it would have a major impact on work processes and patient satisfaction.

A new score for classic Buster Keaton silent film

LJUBLJANA (STA) — A new musical soundtrack for the Buster Keaton silent film “Our Hospitality” (1923) premiered in Ljubljana on Dec. 28. Composed by Andrej Goričar, the orchestral piece was performed live to accompany a screening of the era-defining slapstick comedy.

Starring Keaton, and co-directed by Keaton and John G. Blystone, the film is “a humorous take on clan rivalry and fraternal enmity before the American Civil War,” according to the website of the Cankarjev Dom, Slovenia’s largest arts center, which hosted the screening.

Prior to the screening, Goričar, a pianist and composer known for his silent film scores as well as other musical compositions, said this latest score is as diverse as the film for which it was written. “I see this film as a kind of epic poem because it refers to a story from American history,” he added.

Since 1996, Goričar has been the in-house pianist for the Slovenian Cinematheque, which helped organize the event. The new score was performed by Goričar’s Orchestra of the Imaginary.

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

New year, new activities at Imperial Lodge 106

by TERRY MESSNER
Lodge 106

IMPERIAL, Pa.—Greetings and happy New Year from your friends at SNPJ Lodge 106. We wish you a happy and prosperous 2024!

We are proud to announce that SNPJ Lodge 106 is the venue for another Gostilna Chef Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 29, in our newly-renovated banquet room, The Imperial Room. The SNPJ Heritage Center is hosting this event.

The doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner will follow at 6:30. The cost is \$75 per person. RSVP to SNPJ Heritage Center Committee member Kristina Hartman Lickert via e-mail to khartmanlickert@gmail.com or call/text (412) 862-0413. For more information, see the “Gostilna Chef Dinner” article on page 1.

We play bar bingo every first and third Thursday of the month, starting with early bird games at 6:30 p.m.

The Timothy Earl Band will be performing Saturday, March 2, from 8 to 11 p.m., and we have also scheduled Ruff Creek, for the very first time, on Friday, April 12, from 8 to 11. Both groups will be performing in our banquet room; there is a \$10 per person cover charge for each performance.

Mark your calendars for our first-ever Pet Pictures with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. We’re asking

a \$5 donation for each pet; the funds raised will be donated to charity.

The Lodge 106 annual kids’ Easter party will follow the Pet Pictures with the Easter Bunny from 1 to 3 p.m. As always, all children must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. The party will include an Easter egg hunt, games, music, food and refreshments and, of course, a visit from the Easter Bunny. Hop on over for a day of fun!

Johnstown Lodge 749 catching up to start the year

by EVELYN DIMPFL
Lodge 749 Secretary

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — I am hoping all of you SNPJers out there enjoyed a very wonderful Christmas, and will enjoy a happy and healthy 2024. It’s been a while since I’ve written, and there are a few things to call attention to.

Our Lodge approved a donation to the Miss SNPJ Pageant, as well as a donation to the Cabin Renovation Fund in memory of past Lodge President Joe Vasilko. The Home Office sent a nice thank you letter for the donation.

We also made a donation to the Johnstown Slavic Fest that was held in September, along with a donation to Saturday’s Kitchen. We try to do what we can in the name of fraternalism.

According to Julie Wagner,

the September Slavic Fest was quite a success here in Johnstown. It’s always a wonderful weekend with all kinds of Slavic foods, beverages and music. Johnstown holds several festivals each year with an ethnic flavor – come join us!

It is with sadness that I report the deaths of the following members:

Rose Winter passed away recently. I remember her very well when I was working the membership tent at a Slovenefest some years ago when she approached and said she wanted to become an SNPJ member. She immediately signed up for an annuity. To her family, I send you my condolences.

To the family of Mary Kelly, who died several months ago, I send my deepest sympathies.

Member Genevieve Keren-

sky died this past summer. I knew her well. “Jenny,” as she was called, met her husband Nick when he served during WWII in France. She became his war bride and came to the United States after the war and set up their household. I knew them both well.

Nick stopped at my house one day to take out annuities for himself and for his wife. They had no children, but many wonderful relatives and friends. To you all, I send deepest sympathies on your loss.

Peter Machine died Sept. 28, 2023. He and his wife became SNPJ members after his life insurance with the former Bethlehem Steel was canceled. He and his wife were a lovely couple.

Continuing, I was stunned to learn of the death of Jessica

Nimby. While I had never met her, she had a very nice aunt who enrolled her many years ago. Sympathies are also extended to the families of Andrew Tomsk and James Mihelcic.

On the brighter side, Jason and Sammie Edsall welcomed their darling baby girl on Aug. 10, 2023, and she will soon become one of our newest SNPJ members. Also on the new baby list, member Ian Pavlov and his wife became the parents of a little one as well. Congratulations to these new parents, and to the grandparents as well.

As a reminder, it’s always a good idea to review your documents for updates, additional insurance coverage or, perhaps, take out an annuity with the SNPJ. Rates are great – call me!

Treat your sweetie to the PHOF Sweetheart Ball

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

CLEVELAND — Treat your “sugar” to an afternoon of dancing and romancing as the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame presents the annual Sweetheart Ball, featuring the music of Frank Moravcik and Linda Hochevar, at the American Croatian Lodge in Eastlake, Ohio, on Sunday, Feb. 18. Enjoy four hours of the finest polkas, waltzes and pop tunes in a ballroom setting.

Swing your sweetie around the dance floor as Linda, Frank and the orchestra perform from 2 to 6 p.m. They’ll put you in the mood with their melodies. Sandwiches, beverages and treats will be available. Your Hall of Fame hostess Sharon Staiduhar has surprises in store for lovebirds – you may even go home a winner!

The American Croatian Lodge is located at 34900 Lake Shore Boulevard, just west of SOM Center Road (Route 91).

For table reservations, phone (440) 679-1420.

Admission is \$15 at the door; guests 18 and under admitted free of charge. Advance tickets are available for \$12 through the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd St. in Euclid, next to Euclid City Hall. Order by phone, (216) 261-3263, or e-mail PolkaShop@aol.com.

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.



Linda Hochevar and Frank Moravcik will perform for the Polka Hall of Fame Sweetheart Ball on Sunday, Feb. 18, at the American Croatian Lodge in Eastlake, Ohio.

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the month of December 2023

SNPJ Lodge 723, Fontana, Calif. \$1,000 <i>In memory of Past President Jacob Chesnic</i>	Kapel family (nieces and nephew of “our Uncle Jake”) \$100 <i>In memory of Jacob Chesnic</i>	SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. \$40 <i>In memory of Dominic DeBacco</i>
SNPJ Pioneer Lodge 559, Chicago \$125 <i>In memory of deceased members James L. Calkin (Burr Ridge, Ill.), Hildegard Romberger (Mundelein, Ill.), Wyatt Somrak (Covina, Calif.), Robin Marie Hall (Gilbert, Ariz.), and Joyce M. Oblak Clark (Blue Island, Ill.)</i>	Matthew C. (158) & Suzanne Kocin, Twinsburg, Ohio \$100 <i>In memory of Theresa Kocin</i>	Pauline Barbish (604), Willowick, Ohio \$25 <i>In memory of Carol Altman</i>
	SNPJ Centennial Lodge 776, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. \$100 <i>In memory of deceased Lodge 776 members in 2023</i>	SNPJ Lodge 117, Yukon, Pa. \$25
		Edward E. & Henrietta M. Snyder (776), Medina, Ohio \$25 <i>In memory of Joseph Tonya and Ann Feltes</i>

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting May 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

Approved the minutes from the March 14, 2023, meeting.

President Evanish reported he will be attending an American Fraternal Alliance meeting.

Sis. Pintar provided an update on the upcoming training for Spectra that will be held at the Home Office.

Reported that the Executive Committee will be attending the upcoming Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance meeting and legislative luncheon.

Approved pursuing the Tri-Global lease for the solar project.

Reported that we hired Terry Champ as chief information officer (CIO).

Approved using MVP Consulting as sales and marketing consultants for the Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

July 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

Approved the minutes from the May 1, 2023, meeting.

Reported that in June we approved \$16,000 for electrical work needed at the SNPJ Recreation Center for added service to the North Pavilion area to provide upgraded service for the RVs.

Sis. Pintar reported on the training that has been taking place for Insurance Administration staff on the new system.

President Evanish reported on a successful Slovenefest and Miss SNPJ Pageant.

Reported that we hired Sales and Marketing Assistant Kayla Rennie as a full-time employee in June.

Approved the stipend of \$300 for the SNPJ Region 3 activity held in Michigan.

Approved a donation of \$250 to the North Fayette Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Approved a donation of \$300 to Steubenville Cultural Trust for sponsorship of their Nutcracker Village Season.

Approved a donation of \$300 to the Chicago District Federation for the Memorial Day services program book.

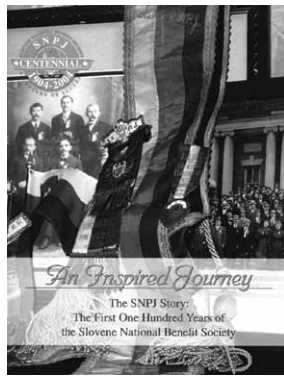
Approved payment of \$1,250 to SNPJ Lodge 138 for co-sponsorship of Canonsburg Oktoberfest advertising.

Approved a donation of \$200 to the Westmoreland County Federation for hosting a cultural event.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH
National President/CEO

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO



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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PROSVETA Crossword

Valentine’s Day (#0224) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- “Without further _____,” pl.
- Sweet 16 gift
- Steps to the river, in India
- *Michael Bubl  s “_____ the Last Dance for Me”
- Bigger than big
- Nonkosher
- Big-ticket one
- October birthstone
- *#5 Down’s target
- *Reason to celebrate Lupercalia, Valentine’s Day predecessor
- Make over
- Omit
- Hexagonal fastener
- December birthstone, pl.
- Most gem  tlich
- Ed.’s request
- Two dots above a letter
- Brussels org.
- Church recesses
- _____ or chicken?
- Encourage (2 words)
- What hoarders do
- He crossed the Rubicon
- Jet follower
- English county courts, in the olden days

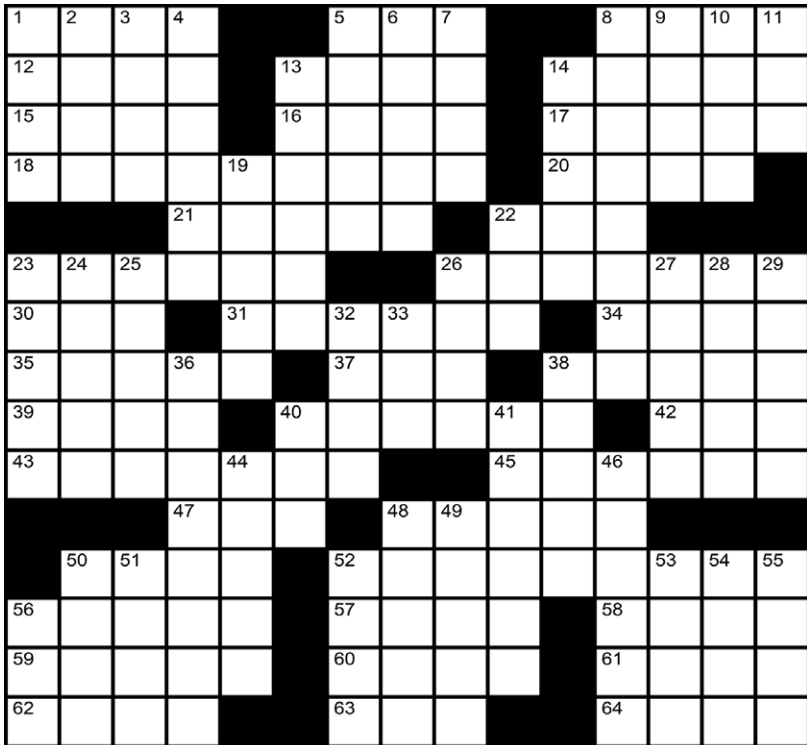
- Gentlemen’s gentlemen
- Chop off
- Paparazzo’s quest
- Port in Yemen
- *Heart-shaped box content
- Range
- Top notch
- Baron Munchhausen, e.g.
- Journalists and reporters
- Speed unit
- All is well that does this well
- Bald eagle’s nest
- Ever, to a poet
- Tinkerbell’s powder

DOWN

- “Clueless” catch phrase
- *Get-together
- End of a break-up phrase
- Explosive of Czechoslovakian origin
- *Winged one
- September stone
- Bank on
- *_____ card
- Not tails
- ’70s hairdo
- Sylvester, to Tweety
- Wholism, alt. sp.
- Monotonous hum

- Intestinal obstruction
- “Wayne’s World” catchphrase
- Japanese port
- Necklace clasp location, pl.
- Affirmatives
- *Kisses’ partners
- National emblem
- Type of weasel
- BBQ tool
- Pasturelands
- Accompanies wisdom?
- *a.k.a. St. Valentine’s Malady
- *Muse of love poetry
- Large edible mushroom
- Long-legged shore bird
- Regions
- Bummed about
- Bell’s invention
- Laurels
- Homesteader’s measure
- Active one
- Soap block
- Hokkaido language
- Small amounts
- Formerly, formerly
- *Romantic destination

The solution to puzzle #0224 will run in the March 1 issue.





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OUT FONTANA WAY: Memories of the Slovene Hall

by PAMELA RICHTAR PANDZA
Lodge 723 Recording Secretary

FONTANA, Calif. — The Slovene Hall in Fontana had a long and vibrant history. For some of us, its closing and subsequent razing has stirred strong emotions. It was a unique and historical building with knotty pine walls that seemed to exhibit the life and strength of the trees themselves that were their source. The nature of the materials, the spring in the wooden floors, the iconic light fixtures, the locally crafted kitchen tables, and the inviting bar were some of its endearing features.

The pioneer families of Fontana built the Slovene Hall, and over time a vast set of characters enhanced it; managed and volunteered their work; held meetings to manage it; kept associated clubs alive; and sponsored dinners, dances, weddings, wakes and events galore.

Some of our members and friends submitted their Slovene Hall memories. Anne Hardin, a member of SNPJ Lodge 225 in Girard, Kan., who resides in Fairland, Okla., was one. She wrote:

“I am sending you a photo from 1957. The Tomazin Brothers played for this Halloween dance. We had just met them that year and heard all about the Fontana fun. My sister Shirley and I would sew our own dresses especially for the dances.

“The following year, our dad and his brother started the Odenbrett Brothers Band and played polka dances in Southern California until 1963.

“I married John ‘Whitey’ Zak. He played banjo at the Slovene Hall many times with various bands. His last gig was in Fontana for Memorial Weekend in 1994. He passed away two weeks later.



Shirley and Anne Odenbrett at a Slovene Hall Halloween dance in 1957.



Old-timers in front of the hall when the main entrance was still at the front of the building.

“I loved dancing and socializing at the Slovene Hall and made a lot of miles on that floor, dancing my way into the 1990s. I met my current husband at a polka dance in St. Louis. I look forward to reading PROSVETA and am happy there’s a group to keep SNPJ Lodge 723 going.” [Do you remember the toe-head Zak children at dances?]

Anne (Odenbrett Zak) Hardin

Another memory came from Maria Videgar Sego:

“Vinska Trgatev (Grape Harvest Festival) was the grandest annual event at our beloved Slovene Hall.

I so looked forward to this one every November and brought friends through the years to enjoy and ‘enlighten.’ We ended up participating in the pageantry as well.” [Do you remember Rob and Maria’s reign as the first couple of the Trgatev village?]

Another memory comes from Jesse Leathers, grandson of one of the Slovene Hall’s premier event organizers, Sophia Janes, and Jerry, her banjo-playing husband:

“Wow! I remember the 1980s and the SNPJ Days. The hall full of dancers and musicians, leaving only elbow room. Music and dancing in the main

hall, the bar, and outside. Cars parked for a mile, with RVs noticeably from long distances.” [Did you know that this “kid” Jesse has just become a grandfather to baby Oliver?]

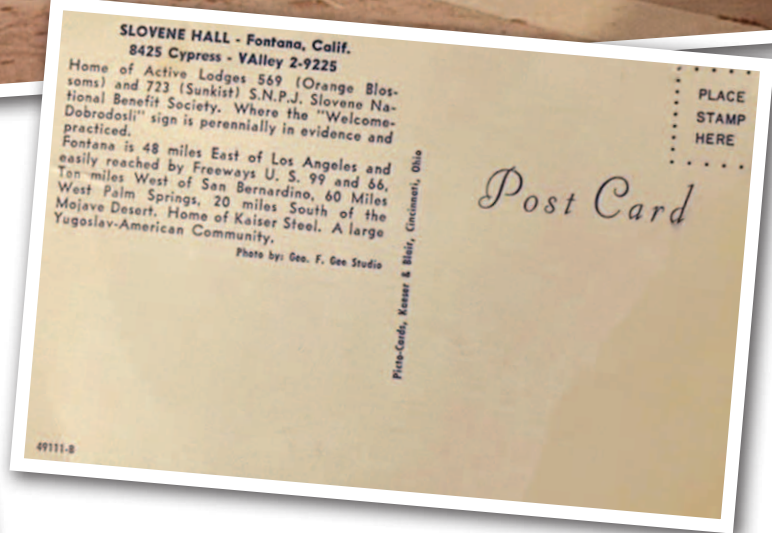
Many folks held wedding receptions and other celebrations at the hall. This comes from Mary Cherpin:

“We held our wedding reception there on April 15, 1989. We had a polka band. Frank Rote wasn’t available, so we hired Hal Richards. All of my mom’s brothers and sisters came out from Ohio and Indiana, and we had a great time.

“All nationalities blended in at the

Hall; my heritage is Slovak, and my husband’s side is French-Canadian.” [Since this was written, Mr. Cherpin sadly has passed away after battling cancer.]

In future issues I will highlight some of the activities, clubs, traditions, and special occasions from Slovene Hall history. Meanwhile, I hope to see Lodge 723 members and their guests at the next meeting on Sunday, Feb. 4, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Ronald McDonald House. Let’s carry on in memory of the Slovene Hall and all of the amazing people who were a part of it!



[Top and above] The front and reverse of an old postcard identifying the Slovene Hall as the home of Fontana SNPJ Lodges 569 and 723.

2024 Miss SNPJ Pageant Official Entry Form

Entrants must be between the ages of 18-28 by July 12, 2024, and an SNPJ member in good standing for at least three months.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

E-MAIL _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

SNPJ LODGE NUMBER _____

PARENTS' NAMES

GRANDPARENTS' NAMES

I will compete in the Miss SNPJ talent competition

☐ YES ☐ NO

Type of talent _____

(NOTE: Talent is not necessarily proficiency on a musical instrument or singing ability. Creativity is encouraged. Everybody has a talent.)

ENTRIES ACCEPTED BY E-MAIL ONLY

E-mail the completed entry form, along with a clear, color photo, to SNPJ Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig:

ckoenig@snpj.com

In your e-mail, please describe any school honors you have received, and any organizations, clubs and activities you are/were involved with. Be sure to include specific SNPJ Lodge, Youth Circle or Federation activities.

Pageant Entry Deadline: June 7, 2024

For more information contact SNPJ Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig by phoning 724-825-8180

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting

Teleconference meeting held March 17, 2023

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chairman Hervol with Sis. Anderson and Brothers Clifford, Evanish and Lawrence all on the call.

Discussion on the Society’s discretionary contribution to the employees 401(k) retirement benefit. Motion by Bro. Clifford, second by Sis. Anderson, to recommend to the National

Board that the Society pay a 3% discretionary 401(k) benefit to the employees retirement plan for calendar year 2022. Motion approved. Brothers Evanish and Lawrence answered questions, but did not participate in discussion and abstained from voting.

Motion by Sis. Anderson, second by Bro. Clifford, to approve the report of the Finance

Committee to the National Board. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. by Bro. Clifford, second by Bro. Evanish. Motion approved.

RICHARD HERVOL **ROBERT J. LAWRENCE**
Chairman Secretary

Teleconference meeting held May 3, 2023

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Chairman Hervol with Sis. Anderson and Brothers Clifford, Evanish and Lawrence all on the call.

A motion was made by Bro. Clifford, second by Sis. Anderson, to approve the minutes of the Jan. 25, 2023, and March 17, 2023, meetings. Motion approved.

No transactions to report for the quarter.

Reviewed the portfolio.

Joined by phone conference at 2 p.m. with Wellington Management Company representatives Courtney Brophy, 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.

The next meeting date will be determined.

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

RICHARD HERVOL **ROBERT J. LAWRENCE**
Chairman Secretary

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.

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PROSVETA Crossword U.S. PRESIDENTS (#0124) solution

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T	A	P	I	R		R	E	N	T		I	D	O	L		
O	M	E	G	A		A	S	T	I		T	I	R	O		
W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N		Z	E	S	T		
				N	O	G			G	I	G	U	E	S		
S	T	O	W	E	D		B	R	O	K	E					
L	A	T	H	E		F	E	E		E	R	E	C	T		
A	N	T	I			O	L	D			A	G	U	E		
P	H	O	T	O		R	I	O		F	L	A	R	E		
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E	R	I	E			M	A	Y	S		S	T	E	E	R	

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SNPJ fraternal sympathies

Sis. MARY A. HESS
• LODGE 174 •

KRAYN, Pa.—The members of Lodge 174 sadly report the Aug. 1, 2023, passing of Sis. Mary A. (Kohler) Hess, formerly of Johnstown, Pa., at her home in Bradenton, Fla. She was a 54-year SNPJ member.

Sis. Hess was born Jan. 30, 1930, in Johnstown, the daughter of the late Carl A. and Stephanina (Stella Kemp) Kohler. Residing in Johnstown most of her life, she was a loving mother and wife. Later in life she worked for Lee Hospital until retiring.

Mary is survived by her five children, John C. Hess of Bradenton, Sue Hess-Anderson of Swansea, S.C., Joe Hess of Latrobe, Pa., Stewart Hess of Dunkirk, Md., and Sally Hess-Amidon of Punta Gorda, Fla.; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 72 years, John L. Hess; a brother and a grandchild.

A private service for Sis. Hess was held in Swansea, S.C., where was laid to rest beside her husband.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 174 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Hess’ family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. MARLENE A. STRHO
• LODGE 89 •

MIDWAY, Pa. — The members of Lodge 89 sadly report the Nov. 22, 2023, passing of Sis. Marlene A. Strho, 92, of Belleview, Fla., formerly of Eldersville, Pa., in her home, surrounded by her loving family, after a yearlong battle with cancer. She was a 74-year SNPJ member.

Sis. Strho was born Sept. 24, 1931, on the Orenchuk farm in Eldersville, a daughter of the late Anthony Joseph and Anna Mildred (Puskarich) Resnik.

She attended the former Union High School in Burgettstown.

On July 22, 1950, in Bethel Methodist Church, she married her husband of 68 years, Michael Leonard Strho, who passed away March 13, 2019.

Marlene worked in a factory in Slovan, Pa., while her husband served in the Army during the Korean War, then went back to school to receive her GED. She then furthered her education at beauty school in Washington, Pa., and ran a beauty shop out of her home from 1960 to 1973. She then worked as an assistant to Dr. John Waldron in Paris, Pa., for several years.

Marlene had resided in Florida with her niece, Carolyn, and Carolyn’s husband, Rick, since 2012, where she was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Belleview, Fla. She loved to read, work crossword puzzles, and donate her time crocheting many hats and blankets for World Vision.

The last few months of Marlene’s life were filled with love, laughter and many hours of reminiscing with all the family who came to visit her. She said if laughter was the best medicine, she would live another year!

Marlene leaves behind her dear sister, Lorraine Billie, who took loving care of her for the last two years of her life; her beloved nieces, Carolyn (Rick) Chynoweth, Maria (Rob) Tomacari, Kathleen Billie, Andrea (Al) Tomsic, Lori Billie, Marlo (Nick) Smith and Toni (Ryan) McDonald; as well as several great-nieces and great-nephews.

A memorial service for Sis. Strho will be held July 6, 2024, in Bethel Church, Avella, Pa., followed by burial in the church cemetery. A celebration of life will follow at the Slovan VFW.

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

Bro. GEORGE A. KNAFELC
• LODGE 2 •

LA SALLE, Ill.—The members of Lodge 2 sadly report the Nov. 26, 2023, passing of Bro. George A. Knafelc, 96, at the La Salle Veterans’ Home with family at his side. He was a 79-year SNPJ Lodge 2 member.

Bro. Knafelc was born May 9, 1927, in La Salle, a son of the late Antone and Theresa (Spelich) Knafelc. He married Genevieve Klimek on April 18, 1951.

After leaving the Navy at the conclusion of WWII, George worked as a carpenter until he started his own business, Practical Builders Construction, in 1947. He owned and operated Practical Builders for nearly 70 years.

With the help of his brothers, his sons, and several good friends, he tackled many difficult jobs and became known for his hard work and expertise in most areas of construction. A great many homes and businesses in the Illinois Valley benefited from his knowledge, skill and work ethic.

His great joys were his family, his garden, big band music and dancing, baseball, and more work. In his spare time (weekends and evenings) he built many apartments, again with the help of family and friends, but often working by himself after dinner with the Chicago Cubs or White Sox broadcast on the radio. He did this until he was in his mid-80’s when his health started to fail.

He is survived by two sons, Greg (Dianne) and Geoff (Jane) Knafelc; three grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; a combined 20 great-grandchildren; his sister, Darlene Knafelc; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Gen; a daughter, Georgeann; a son, Gene; two brothers, Jim and Kenny; and two sisters, Jean Ferrari and Lorraine Momeny.

On behalf of the members

of Lodge 2 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Knafelc’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. ROSE A. PREY
• LODGE 2 •

LA SALLE, Ill.—The members of Lodge 2 sadly report the Nov. 27, 2023, passing of Sis. Rose Ann (Bukovec) Prey, 98, of Oglesby, Ill., at her home surrounded by family.

Sis. Prey was born Oct. 4, 1925, in Hibbing, Minn., a daughter of the late John and Frances (Konda) Bukovec. Rose Ann graduated from Mendota High School and La Salle-Peru-Oglesby (LPO) Junior College.

She married William A. “Bill” Prey on June 23, 1948, at Holy Cross Church in Mendota, Ill. Together, they founded the Prey Funeral Home in Oglesby in 1949. Rose Ann assisted Bill in the operation of the funeral home prior to Bill’s passing on July 25, 2002.

A 74-year SNPJ Lodge 2 member, she was active in the Slovenian Union of America, American Legion Auxiliary Post 237, Daughters of Isabella, Altar and Rosary Society, and Women’s Independent Lodge. She was also a member of Holy Family Church in Oglesby.

Rose Ann enjoyed baking poticas, cakes, apple strudels, pizzelles and coffee cakes, and she loved visiting with family and her many friends. She also enjoyed playing Scrabble every day with her caretaker, Donna Scott.

Survivors include her three children, Frances “Fran” Morrison of Oglesby, William “Bill” (Nancy) Prey of San Diego, and Nancy (James) Semenak of Columbia, S.C.; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill; a brother, Herman Buk-

ovec; a sister, Valeria Taylor; and a son-in-law, Dennis Morrison.

Funeral services for Sis. Prey were held Nov. 30 at Prey-Mueller Funeral Home, Oglesby. Burial followed in St. Vincent’s Cemetery, La Salle.

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

Sis. SOPHIA C. KERN
• LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Dec. 7, 2023, passing of Sis. Sophia C. Kern, 103, of Canonsburg, Pa., in Encino, Calif.

Sis. Kern was born July 2, 1920, in Bishop, Pa., a daughter of the late John Joseph and Mary Malesic Nemonich. She was affectionately called “Sophie” by those who knew and loved her.

During her childhood, Sophia lived across Pennsylvania before settling in Canonsburg in 1938 with her parents and siblings. She graduated from the former Cecil High School in 1938. Sophia was employed by RCA for 14 years; her last position was secretary in the business office.

On July 3, 1954, she married the late Richard J. Kern, and the couple moved to the Borland Manor area of Canonsburg, which had been her home for the past 67 years. She and Richard were married for 55 years until his passing on Aug. 22, 2009. Sophia was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Sophia enjoyed watching daily Mass, cheering on her

beloved Pittsburgh Steelers, bowling, keeping in touch with friends, listening and dancing to Slovenian polkas, volunteering at a local nursing home, traveling (flying across the country until the age of 102), and spending time with her family.

An 85-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member, Sis. Kern outlived her SNPJ policy in August 2021. She was a faithful member of St. Oscar Romero Parish-St. Patrick Church, where she was a Eucharistic minister and a member of the Christian Mothers Guild. She was also active in various Catholic charities.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her two daughters, Mary Ann Benthall of Williamsburg, Va., and Kristine Kern (Glenn) Irani, MD, of Encino; five grandchildren, Heather (Scott) Such of Concord, N.C., Jaclyn (Brian) Shipley of Boone, N.C., Shannon Irani of Los Angeles, Richard B. Kern of North Carolina, and Jessica Kern of North Carolina; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and cousins.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Sophia was preceded in death by her son, Richard K. Kern; a granddaughter, Megan Irani; and her siblings, Rudy Nemonich, Joseph Nemonich, Christine “Teenie” Nemonich, John Nemonich, and Mary Nemonich Vardjan.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Kern on Dec. 16 in St. Patrick Church, Canonsburg. Interment followed in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray, Pa.

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

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of December 2023

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
1	Lillian E. Appleyard	10-21-2023	LaGrange, Ill.
5	Patricia F. Buchner	10-16-2023	Conneaut, Ohio
5	Mary Podlogar	11-19-2023	Euclid, Ohio
8	Arthur H. Kuhel	09-03-2023	Mesa, Ariz.
31	Dominic J. DeBacco	05-29-2023	Chicora, Pa.
34	John D. Penn	06-20-2021	Indianapolis, Ind.
41	Donald J. Bohince	06-11-2023	Lancaster, Pa.
41	Rita Marie Oblak	11-16-2023	Jeannette, Pa.
87	Barbara L. Nowicki	07-12-2022	Irwin, Pa.
87	Theodore W. Nowicki	10-23-2022	Irwin, Pa.
87	Patricia A. Bobnar	07-20-2023	Kealakua, Hawaii
106	Thomas Marnich	11-30-2023	McKees Rocks, Pa.
138	Tessie Radosy	11-09-2023	Canonsburg, Pa.
142	Frank A. Koncilja	08-18-2023	Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio
158	Frances M. Martin	03-31-2023	Avon Lake, Ohio
158	Richard L. Oshaben	09-17-2023	Clearwater, Fla.
158	Richard Damore	11-28-2023	Wickliffe, Ohio
174	Sheldon L. Miller	09-25-2023	Johnstown, Pa.
174	Robert Strazisar	11-03-2023	Parkhill, Pa.
190	Jesse L. Lemmon	11-12-2023	Indiana, Pa.
225	Madeline M. Yartz	07-10-2023	Arma, Kan.
358	Gerald J. Arendas	01-17-2023	Lowellville, Ohio
559	Frank J. Crotty	01-09-2023	Joliet, Ill.
564	Irene J. Farah	02-19-2019	Flint, Mich.
564	Michael H. Tribu	06-18-2023	Summerfield, Fla.
576	Irma F. Pryately	12-07-1998	Conneaut, Ohio
584	Jeanette Berg	08-28-2023	Strum, Wis.
584	Howard B. Marline	10-20-2023	Duluth, Minn.
584	Dolores E. Petershack	12-12-2023	New Berlin, Wis.
603	Paul Roger Betournay	11-28-2023	Lake Helen, Fla.
604	Sandra K. Ziegler	11-22-2023	Reynoldsburg, Ohio
643	Anthony F. Swead	05-05-2023	Warren, Ohio
677	Edward Anthony Prim	07-21-2023	Grosse Pointe Wood, Mich.
677	Evelyn B. Sever	11-16-2023	Royal Oak, Mich.
715	Lorraine C. Ivanusic	11-20-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
721	Mary L. Hackney	09-14-2023	East Liverpool, Ohio
723	Frances Harmon	10-22-2023	Broomfield, Colo.
723	Jacob Chesnic	11-01-2023	South Bend, Ind.
729	Frances J. Minshaw	11-03-2023	Wilmington, N.C.
776	Harry J. Boben	10-20-2023	Butler, Pa.
776	Helen E. Boben	10-29-2023	Butler, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA 2024 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2024

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
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FEBRUARY 2024

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MARCH 2024

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DECEMBER 2024

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

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SNPJ Wolverines Lodge 677 members celebrated the holidays during their December meeting at the Moose Preserve.



Lunch meeting finishes the year for Lodge 677

by KAREN SCHNUELL-RUTH
Lodge 677 Secretary

DETROIT — During a lunch meeting held Dec. 16, 2023, at the Moose Preserve on Woodward Ave., Lodge 677 members discussed upcoming activities and the 2024 meeting schedule, and elected our 2024 officers. We extend get well wishes to Lodge President Ken Anderson and thank Vice President Steve Anderson for leading the meeting.

It was great to have Recording Secretary Carol Roberts,

Tom Jackson, auditor Dorothy Anderson, and Treasurer and SNPJ National Board member Tracey Anderson in attendance, along with Steve, Holly and Jack Anderson (an SNPJ scholarship recipient); auditor Jeff Anderson, and Karin and James Anderson; and Bill Ruth and Lodge Secretary Karen Ruth.

We missed seeing Jerry and Darlene, our friends up north. Happy New Year to all Lodge 677 members across the country!



The current Miss SNPJ Pageant titleholders: Miss Talent 2024 **ANNA MACK** (138), Miss Activity and Miss SNPJ 2024 **MORGAN SINAN** (782), and Miss Fraternalism 2024 **CARA FABIAN** (218). Miss SNPJ 2025 and her court will be selected during this year's Miss SNPJ Pageant.

A June 7 entry deadline for the Miss SNPJ Pageant

MISS SNPJ PAGEANT
FROM PAGE 1

contestants are encouraged to enter the pageant this year and/or again in the future.

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

The deadline to enter this year's Miss SNPJ Pageant is June 7; see page 5 for the entry form. The entry form is also available on the Miss SNPJ Pageant page of the SNPJ website, snpj.org. The SNPJ Fraternal Department would

be happy to address any questions, which can be e-mailed to ckoenig@snpj.com.

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

The Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund is currently accepting donations, and we appreciate any and all monetary donations which will be used to help offset the costs to keep the pageant tradition alive.

To donate, please make checks payable to SNPJ with "Miss SNPJ Pageant" on the memo line and mail to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.

After a full year, Lodge 8 looking toward to 2024

[Right, top] SNPJ Lodge 8 and Lodge 449 members made the trip to Samsula, Fla., in February 2023 to enjoy the festivities at Florida SNPJ Days hosted by Lodge 603.

[Right, middle] Gathering for their annual Fourth of July picnic, Lodge 8 members celebrated the holiday with good food, games, swimming and fireworks.

[Right, bottom] During the annual Cultural Center picnic in Lemont, Ill., Lodge 8 members enjoyed the pork, chicken and čevapčiči dinners, along with live polka music and prize drawings.

[Below] Lodge 8 members closed out the year with a donation of detergents and additional laundry supplies to the Loyola Ronald McDonald House.



by CARMELLA SMIDL
Lodge 8 Recording Secretary

CHICAGO — The members of SNPJ Lodge 8 wish a happy New Year to all!

We held our annual meeting on Dec. 10. Our officers for 2024 will stay the same: President Kevin Kovack, Vice President Edward Kovack, Secretary/Treasurer Dolores Novotny, Recording Secretary Carmella Smidl, Sergeant-at-Arms Anelle Eorio, and auditors Carmella Smidl and Edward Kovack. Lodge 8 will hold four meetings this year, in March, June, August and December.

We had a full year of activities in 2023, starting with Lodge members attending Florida SNPJ Days in Samsula on Feb. 25. I always enjoy the music, and the food was so delicious! It's all homemade by Lodge 603 members and fresh from their farms. We had the chance to meet and spend some time with Miss SNPJ 2023 Madison Sinan; what a talented girl!

We returned to the Lodge 603 Hall on Feb. 26 to enjoy more of the delicious food and great music, and to spend time with SNPJ Lodge 449 members. I want to thank Lodge 603 for the warm welcome and for their friendship.

In July we held our annual Fourth of July Lodge 8 barbecue picnic. Members, family and friends got together at Sis. Carmella Smidl's home. We enjoyed good food, games, swimming and fireworks.

On Aug. 13, Lodge 8 members attended the annual Cultural Center picnic in Lemont, Ill. We enjoyed the pork, chicken and čevapčiči dinners, along with live polka music, prize drawings, and games for the children. We were also able to purchase Slovenian baked goods.

Lodge 8 joined in the Chicago Federation annual lunch and movie screening at the Lemont Cultural Center. A delicious lunch was served by the Cultural Center; the Chicago Federation presented the movie and provided popcorn. The movie, titled "Stories of Slovene Women in America," was filmed and presented by Bro. Joe Valencic.

Lodge 8 members donated detergents and other laundry supplies to the Loyola Ronald McDonald House. As always, the staff at the Ronald McDonald House were very excited to receive the donations.

This concludes 2023. Bring on 2024!

Spartans Lodge 576 adds activities director positions

by CHRISTIAN THOMEY
Lodge 576

CLEVELAND — Happy New Year 2024 to all Spartans Lodge members! We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and stayed happy and healthy during these busy times.

Last year brought a lot of fun and exciting things for Spartans Lodge members. The highlight was our annual picnic in August, which included the second annual Lou Novak Balina Tournament. We had a great turnout for this event. Thank you to all the tournament participants, to

our members for the amazing help, and to all of our guests who enjoyed a beautiful day.

During our January meeting we had the pleasure of electing the officers who will serve for 2024. Congratulations to President Karen Novak, Vice President Donna Sebusch, Secretary/Treasurer Linda Gorjup, and Recording Secretary Toni Thomey. We would also like to congratulate our new auditors, Sammi Likovic, Louie Novak and Erica Novak.

We know you will continue to serve us well during this year. I look forward to work-

ing with all of you.

I'm also excited to announce two new positions on our Lodge board. This year we've added an activities director and an assistant activities director. Congratulations to Erica Novak and Sammi Likovic. We look forward to all the fun activities you'll be planning for us this year.

In addition, I'm happy to introduce myself as your new Spartans scribe. For future articles, please reach out to me at cthomey2000@gmail.com if you have any important news or event dates to share in our articles. I look forward to

hearing from you.

On a special note, we would like to send birthday wishes out to our January birthday celebrants, Karen Novak and Betty Young. February birthday wishes to Annie Lawrence, Erica Otto and Toni Thomey. Wishing you all a wonderful year!

Our next meeting is scheduled Monday, April 29, starting at 6 p.m. Stay tuned for the meeting location. We will also try to make the meeting available over Zoom or phone. Please reach out to Recording Secretary Toni Thomey if you would like to attend.

Head to Lodge 603 in Feb. for 2024 Florida SNPJ Days

FLORIDA SNPJ DAYS
FROM PAGE 1

to help out during Florida SNPJ Days. The others continue to volunteer their service year round at our Lodge hall.

George Benedict gave a brief history of our Lodge and the Society. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Paul Roger Betournay.

The Lodge extends congratulations to 50-year member Debra Cucanich and 60-year member Robert Reichel.

Ruth and Barbara Benedict have prepared and sent out the dues notices for this year. Our local Lodge dues remain at \$10. Please mail your check to Ruth Benedict, 3605 Darby Rd., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168. Many members are in arrears and need to pay the local Lodge dues to remain active members of Lodge 603. Our thanks to those who send dues and donations to our Lodge, which are always welcome.

Cindy Griswold reported on Youth Circle 57 activities. The Circle members and their directors enjoyed a dinner outing in appreciation for their

work this year. The Circle hosted the annual Christmas party on Dec. 16 at the Lodge hall with a visit from Santa Claus.

Our thanks to Circle co-directors Cindy Griswold and Ashley Merson for their excellent service to the Youth Circle. Cindy has also done an excellent job as our Lodge hall manager, but unfortunately for us, she is moving back to New York. We wish her well.

With Cindy's departure, our Lodge hall is in need of a manager, and the Youth Circle needs a director. If interested in these positions, please contact Jeannette Humphrey at (386) 427-1689. I will be managing the hall for the next few months. If you have questions or need to book the hall for a special occasion, please give me a call.

The Daytona Beach Polish Club continues to meet at the hall twice each month for a meal and polka dance. Cooks for these meals are also needed. If you can help out, please call me or let our president know.

Connie Massey and Hannah Jones prepared the meal



The newest members of SNPJ Lodge 603, [from left] **BRANDON** and **KIMBERLY SCHMIDT**, **CHRISTIAN RAZPOTNIK** and **HANNAH JONES**, were welcomed during the January Lodge meeting.




The Brad Turk Band performing for a Daytona Beach Polish Club event held at the Samsula Lodge 603 Hall.

for the Jan. 7 Polish Club event. If interested in joining their events, the cost of the meal and dance is \$25 per person; meals are served at 1 p.m. Admission to the dance only, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., is \$15. Reservations are required. The Polish Club will meet again on Feb. 11; the

Brad Turk Band will perform for the dance.

The next Lodge 603 business meeting is scheduled Monday, Feb. 5, starting with a meal at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7. Bring a dish or two to share. See you at the Lodge hall!



cook eat slovenia

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

\$37⁰⁰ each
includes postage

Return completed order form with full payment to:
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Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Number of copies _____

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

Lodge 1 opening 2024 with a March meeting

by MICHELLE HRIBAR-HERNANDEZ
Lodge 1 President

CHICAGO — Slavija Lodge 1 members held their annual elections and Christmas party on Dec. 10, 2023, at President Hernandez's home in Lemont, Ill. In addition to in-person attendees, members also attended virtually.

We congratulate our 2024 officers: President Michelle Hribar-Hernandez, Secretary/Treasurer Janina Hribar, Recording Secretary Marianne Murray, Sergeant-at-Arms Adena Conroy, Auditing Commit-

tee Chairman Eddie Hribar Jr., and auditor David Hernandez.

Members approved a financial donation to the Alzheimer's Association. We learned that Sis. Lillian Appleyard passed away in October 2023; our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

Our 2024 meeting dates and activities were also discussed. Meetings will be held beginning at 11 a.m. at McCook Restaurant in McCook, Ill. The meeting dates are as follows: March 3, June 2, Sept. 8 and Dec. 8.



Slavija Lodge 1 members elected officers for 2024 during their annual meeting and Christmas party in December.

Lodge members attended the Grotto Light Festival at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont on Dec. 23, 2023. Please contact Secretary Hribar at (708) 598-2570 with any questions about 2024 meetings or activities. Wishing all a wonderful 2024!

St. Marys Lodge 581 closes 2023 with a baking day

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — In the early morning of Dec. 12, 2023, a total of 12 eager SNPJ Lodge 581 bakers started to prepare potica dough for rising. By early afternoon the volunteers had rolled and filled 14 poticas and two apple strudels. The ages of members participating ranged from 13 to 82.

Once the breads were baking, the group enjoyed lunch and accordion music performed by John Moore. Some breads were sold; others were given to local seniors.

The Lodge 581 Slovenian Zoom class led by Lea Udovč from Slovenia has been filled. We have students from

several SNPJ Lodges between the ages of 50 and 85. We think this will be an enriching experience for all who attend.

Officers were sworn-in and activities for 2024 were approved during the Jan. 21 Lodge 581 meeting held at Wildwoods in St. Marys. Additional Lodge meetings are scheduled April 28, Aug. 4 and Nov. 17 at Wildwoods starting at 12:30 p.m.

Polka dances sponsored by the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters are scheduled Feb. 4 at the Kersey Firemen's in Kersey, Pa., and on Feb. 18 and March 3 at Wildwoods in St. Marys.

For more information on Lodge 581 events, contact Pat Moore at (814) 837-9218 or Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983.



Lodge 581 member **SUNDANCE TROHA**, 13, was the youngest participant in the December baking class.

Support the Rec Center Cabin Renovation Project



by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — SNPJ members have enjoyed the unique and remarkable place that is the SNPJ Recreation Center. Countless memories that have been made there are treasured by thousands. The Recreation Center is now going on 60 years old and thus, wear and tear has taken its toll.

The large upper cabins, situated opposite the lake, are some of the first structures built on the property. A few years ago the renovation of Cabins #1 and #2 were completed. The 12 motel units were also completed. During the offseason of 2023-2024, Cabin #15 was renovated with plans to complete Cabins #3-#7 before the 2024 season.

The cabins will be wrapped in a vapor barrier and vinyl sided. New windows and doors will be installed. On the interior, new flooring will be installed throughout. The bathrooms will have larger showers with new toilets and sinks. The kitchen sink area will be re-designed. A power vent will be installed at the roofline to draw out the heat, and wall air conditioners will be installed for those 90-degree, hot summer days.

There are 24 cabins, which leaves

16 more to do. The budgeted cost to complete one cabin exceeds \$30,000; thus, much more in the way of donations is needed. Since this is not a cultural or educational (scholarship) cause, but rather, recreational in nature, contributions are not considered tax deductible.

We encourage Lodges, Federations, members, friends and other organizations to contribute. Several have already contributed. While we do offer "Club Level" recognition, all donations will be listed in *PROSVETA*.

Donors at the following Club Levels will receive their name on a plaque: Bronze Level, \$1,000; Silver Level, \$5,000; Gold Level, \$10,000; and Platinum Level, \$25,000.

Donation checks can be made payable to "SNPJ." Please indicate "Cabin Renovation" in the memo area. Provide your name and address, and the acknowledgment name and address if the donation is made in memory of someone.

Send your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the months of October-December 2023

SNPJ Centennial Lodge 776, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.	SNPJ Lodge 257, Cleveland	\$50	David A. & Kathleen F. Skrajner (142), Willoughby, Ohio	\$20
\$100			In memory of Judy Germani	

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

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
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SNPJ Membership Anniversaries February 2024

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
8	Marguerite Guerra
89	Rose M. Dubic

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
87	Donald W. Kranitz	643	Rose M. Jisa
223	Josephine A. Dugan	665	Amelia M. Sladic
604	George Beluscsak		

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	Lawrence Jevnikar	223	Frances Flock
6	Elaine McElhinny	371	George D. Reichman
6	Dino W. Colucci	371	Antonette Miklich
8	Nora M. Fleischhacker	371	Lynetta J. Showaker
31	Lawrence S. Odell	518	Roxann Guzak
106	Joyce M. Duran	584	Diane K. Schlofer
106	Rose M. Persin	584	Nancy A. Gams
106	Arlene J. Zaloznik	584	Mary R. Archambault
106	Gary J. Metz	604	Linda A. Richards
113	Larry R. Sanich	629	Patricia A. Jones
158	Kathleen L. Craft	677	Leo D. Bernick
158	Susan Matuch	677	Donna M. White
190	Dolores J. Yakicic	715	Sandra L. Giles
223	Carol J. Weber	721	Allen L. Raub
223	Joyce Graham	723	Jennifer Boudreau

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	Sandra J. Eckart	257	Louis A. Tagliaferro
5	Patricia M. Kreidler	274	Melinda C. Jerome
6	Eleanor Klemencic	559	Madonna M. Bertolotti-Turner
87	Carol A. Wesling		
87	Angela Randall	581	Paul J. Tomazic
87	Raymond J. Yarkovich	584	Michael Stivoric
117	Lester R. Mears	584	Patrick J. Miller
126	Mark A. Gabrenya	603	Linda M. Luznar
138	Michael R. Hostinsky	629	Martin E. Donnelly
142	Daniel A. Pavsek	643	Karla J. Cheng
158	Gayle A. Adams	749	Janet L. Younkins
158	Elaine Hren	749	Deborah A. Marovick
174	Mark L. Ferry	770	Debi M. Moyer
225	Anthony J. Menghini	786	Patricia A. Coleman
225	John C. Fuertsch	A01	Judith Kahr

SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament February 16-18, 2024

co-sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 6 and SNPJ Lodge 138
and SNPJ Athletic Districts 1 and 2

MEN	WOMEN
Doubles & Singles Events at Sygan Lodge 6 540 Third Ave. Bridgeville, PA 15017 Phone: (412) 221-9862	Doubles & Singles Events at Strabane Lodge 138 269 Latimer Ave. Strabane, PA 15363 Club: (724) 745-9860 Lanes: (724) 745-9775
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 17, 9:30 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m.
MEN	WOMEN
Team Event at Strabane Lodge 138 269 Latimer Ave. Strabane, PA 15363 Club: (724) 745-9860 Lanes: (724) 745-9775	Team Event at Sygan Lodge 6 540 Third Ave. Bridgeville, PA 15017 Phone: (412) 221-9862
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 18, 9 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 18, Noon <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 18, 3 p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 18, 12:30 p.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 18, 3:30 p.m.

Doubles & Singles Entry fee \$32 per person Friday/Saturday Only	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2022-23	All-Events \$5 per person YES/NO
1.			
2.			
1.			
2.			

Submit bowlers' names by position in lineup		
Four Person Team Event Entry fee \$64 per team Sunday Only	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2022-23
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

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

The entry fee for each event is \$16 per bowler, \$9.25 of which shall be used for prizes and \$6.75 for bowling. An extra \$5 is charged to all who desire to compete for handicap All-Events prizes. The Slovene National Benefit Society adds \$6 per member to each prize fund except All-Events.

Return form, along with fees of \$16 per person, per event, to:
Den Brand
405 Forbes St., Bridgeville, PA 15017
e-mail: dhbrand3517@gmail.com
Make checks payable to SNPJ Lodge 6

**ENTRY DEADLINE IS
FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

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