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Milestone anniversaries marked for SNPJ and the Imperial Headquarters building in 2024

briefly

New date, venue for the Nat'l. Bowling Tourney

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Attention members who bowl in the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament: There will be a change to this year's date and venue. SNPJ has scheduled the 2024 National Bowling Tournament the weekend of Oct. 11-13. The tournament will be co-hosted by SNPJ Lodges 6 and 138. Stay tuned for more details. The entry form will be available in future PROSVETA issues and online.

I hope to see some familiar faces, and maybe even catch the attention of members who would like to bowl but haven't been able to participate in the past.

COURTNEY KOENIG
 Fraternal Director

Lodge 776 schedules an April meeting date

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Lodge 776 members will hold their second meeting of 2024 on Sunday, April 21, at the SNPJ Recreation Center starting at 2 p.m. All Lodge members are invited and encouraged to attend.

RICH DOMBROSKY
 Lodge 776 President

Sharon Lodge 31 hosting dinner meeting in April

SHARON, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 31 members are invited to a dinner meeting on Tuesday, April 30, at Inn 62, 1890 E. State St., Hermitage, PA 16148; phone (724) 346-4546. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. Members will order from the menu; the Lodge will pay for the cost of the meals. Regular Lodge business and Lodge charitable contributions for 2024 will be discussed.

If you plan to attend, please call Barb Bogolin at (724) 347-1197 by April 22.

BARB BOGOLIN
 Lodge 31 Secretary/Treasurer

THE DEADLINE

The next two PROSVETA issue dates are May 1 and June 3. All material must be received by noon on Monday, April 15, for the May 1 issue, and by Monday, May 6, for the June 3 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.

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
 SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — This year marks the 120th anniversary of our SNPJ. This is an incredible milestone for any organization, company or business. Very few insurers can say that they have been around this long.

Longevity and success like this are the result of a dedicated membership and a willingness to adapt to changing times and conditions. It also takes hard work on the business side – not just

as a fraternal benefit society, but as an insurer – in order to be sustainable for all of these years.

SNPJ was organized in 1904 by nine independent societies made up of Slovenian immigrants. The model used to form our organization was the fraternal benefit society model which ethnic immigrant groups used at the time in order to fill a need to provide life insurance as well as sick and disability benefits to its members not offered to immigrants by commercial insurers.

For years after 1904, Slovenians continued

to make the courageous journey to America. And when they came, SNPJ was there to greet them. Imagine if SNPJ didn't exist in these early years; imagine nobody giving help and direction to the immigrants who literally just got off the boat.

Fortunately, SNPJ was there. SNPJ showed them the way to the SNPJ Slovenian communities throughout this country. Our Society played

SEE SNPJ ANNIVERSARIES
 ON PAGE 2

SNPJ playing host to an April 24 presentation on Slovenian migration

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
 SNPJ National President/CEO

PITTSBURGH — Join SNPJ and Honorary Consul of Slovenia Petra Mitchell for an event coordinated by Joseph Valencic as we welcome Dr. Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik. Dr. Milharčič Hladnik will present "Daring Dreams of the Future: Slovenian Mass Migrations 1870-1945" (Peter Lang, 2024), the newest and most comprehensive book about Slovenian migration. She is a co-author and researcher.

Join us on Wednesday, April 24, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Catalyst Connection, Mill 19, Hazelwood Green, 4501 Lytle St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207. If planning to attend, please RSVP by e-mail to pcushman@snpj.com or phone (724) 695-1100 ext. 146.

A brief summary of the book:

"In the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, nearly one-third of the population of today's Slovenia permanently settled in countries around the world. Many more were traveling back and forth, searching for work to ensure the survival of family members left behind at home and the prosperity for the families and communities they were creating abroad.

"From one of the smallest nations in Europe, barely reaching one and a half million inhabitants at the time, people departed in numbers reaching 440,000. This book tells their stories



Dr. Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik

about the "daring dreams of the future," as the Slovenian poet Oton Župančič – whose words open the book – so beautifully put it.

"The people who left took recipes for their foods, accordions for their music, and love for their culture and language, which was, and has remained, a linguistic island between Vienna and Venice. In their new communities they built homes, churches, and cultural institutions that have survived until today."

SEE PRESENTATION
 ON PAGE 2

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

Spring ushers in the 2024 season for the Heritage Center

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)
 SNPJ Heritage Center Director

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Spring has arrived, and we're looking forward to a new season of outdoor activities. I try to include activities from Cleveland to Pittsburgh since the Heritage Center Committee will travel north and south from the SNPJ Recreation Center to keep our Slovenian heritage alive.

SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members met again on March 16 via Zoom to finalize plans for our May and June activities. Committee members will be returning to Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 11, for the European Union embassies open house event. The Slovenian Embassy will be welcoming Patty Candela, Mary Jo Hartman, Kristina Hartman Lickert and Ed Robich from our committee as we display our traveling museum of Slovenian items. We always enjoy this trip; the delegation at the Slovenian Embassy is very friendly and appreciative of our participation in the open house. The hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

A really great outdoor event in which the Heritage Center will be participating is the Music & Craft Festival at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, on Saturday, May 18, from noon until 10 p.m. A total of 16 bands will be performing, and more than 30 crafters will be displaying their crafts. The Heritage Center will have items from our gift shop available for purchase, and possibly a few new items will be ready. Watch for a new polka tie-dye design T-shirt and the long-awaited quarter-zip, lightweight sweatshirt. We also have a new coffee cup design.

Our June activity at the SNPJ Recreation Center is our annual Heritage Center Weekend. We open the weekend on Friday night, June 7, with Patty Candela and The Guys performing in the Gostilna from 8 to 11 p.m. More activities are scheduled on Saturday, June 8, including a balina tournament at the Balinarena organized by Denny Brand. You

SEE HERITAGE CENTER
 ON PAGE 4

Miss SNPJ shares the rewards of her experiences

by MORGAN SINAN (782)
 Miss SNPJ 2024

GLENSHAW, Pa. — As the thrilling period of my reign as Miss SNPJ 2024 continues to unfold, it's with great excitement and gratitude that I reflect on the past few months since my crowning in July.

This period has been a whirlwind of different experiences. From embracing my Slovenian heritage at the Polka Hall of Fame to reveling in the cultural festivities of the 12th annual Cleveland Kurentovanje and showcasing my bowling skills at the Winter Classic Bowling Tournament, each event has been a stepping stone in my evolution as an ambassador for the SNPJ community. Moreover, amidst these events, my personal life has been equally bustling with excitement and honors. The past few months have been filled with adventure and achievement, and I invite you to join me as we explore this journey together.

Let's rewind to the first event, the Polka Hall of Fame celebration during Thanksgiving weekend. It was a weekend filled with music, merriment, and the unmistakable energy of the Slovenian community coming together to celebrate our cherished traditions. Amidst the festivities, I had the honor of announcing one of the Trustees Honor Roll recipients, the Haughville Slickers, and learning about and meeting many other talented individuals.

This exciting event, hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, symbolized the cherished tradition of celebrating the rich heritage of Cleveland-style polka music. Rooted in Slovenian folk traditions yet universally beloved, the Polka Hall of Fame pays homage to many polka legends, preserving their legacy for generations to come. It was such an honor to represent SNPJ and polka the weekend away!

The next event I could attend was the 12th



Miss SNPJ 2024 **MORGAN SINAN** displays the trophy from the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Championship. Morgan was selected to the PSAC All-Conference Second Team and the United Soccer Coaches All-Atlantic Region Team for the goalie position.

annual Cleveland Kurentovanje Festival. Among the bustling streets and jubilant atmosphere of Cleveland Kurentovanje, one of my favorite events thus far, I immersed myself in the cultural festivity and community spirit. Participating in the parade alongside fellow SNPJ members, I felt a deep sense of unity and pride in our shared heritage. From the colorful costumes adorning the participants to the lively beats of traditional music, every moment of the festival was infused with an infectious energy.

As I embraced the festivities, I couldn't help but admire the remarkable display of Slovenian heritage and the sense of unity that permeated

SEE MISS SNPJ 2024
 ON PAGE 7



Willa Marie Florich
 Born Nov. 5, 2023
 Cleveland Lodge 142

Lodge 142 welcomes Willa Marie Florich as the newest addition to the Lodge. Willa, a fifth-generation SNPJ member, is the daughter of Miss SNPJ 2010 Kara Maruszak (142) and William Florich (142), and the granddaughter of Carol Maruszak (142) and Ron Maruszak (142). We welcome Willa to the Society and extend our best wishes to her entire family.

follow SNPJ on Facebook!

PROSVETA ENLIGHTENMENT

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SNPJ Region 1 treats members, family, friends to a free dance at the Yukon Slovenian Hall in April

by MAURY SINAN (782)
SNPJ Region 1 Vice President

YUKON, Pa. — Fraternal greetings to all! The second annual SNPJ Region 1 Members, Family and Friends FREE Dance will take place Sunday, April 21, at the Yukon Slovenian Hall. The dance is for members, families and friends to show our appreciation for all you do for the SNPJ.

The Polka Classics are returning to perform from 2 to 6 p.m. Dink Makowski and his crew did a fantastic job last year; they will not disappoint! Last year the Yukon Slovenian Hall was filled with music, dancing and fraternalism – it was a fantastic time!

We received several compliments on the food last year, so come hungry! The menu offers the following for purchase: pit-roasted pork loin/smoked pulled pork/Slovenian sau-

sage sandwiches and dinners, halusky, Slovenian potato salad, beans that eat like a meal, and mashed potatoes with plenty of sauerkraut.

Sandwiches are priced at \$5; dinners are \$8 and include two sides and a roll. Sides are also available for \$2 each. The desserts include Grandma Fran's Potica, Kremšnita (Lake Bled Cake), traditional Slovenian strudel, and more. Come with an appetite; I promise you will leave full!

We will again offer a basket drawing. Any Lodges that would like to bring a basket for the drawing should let me know. We want to keep the cost at around \$30 per basket; I suggest having members donate items. We will provide boxes and the drawing tickets. The proceeds will be split evenly among the participating Lodges. The Lodges that

participated in last year's drawings each received \$60.

If your Lodge would like to bring something to present and sell, please let me know and we will ensure you have space to do so.

Again, admission to the dance is free; each person entering will receive a complimentary ticket for a door prize. My fraternal gratitude and thanks to the Yukon Slovenian Hall and SNPJ Lodge 729 for their help with the use of their hall.

Please help get the word out – the more participation, the better! It will be wonderful to fill the Yukon Slovenian Hall with SNPJ fraternalism for a second consecutive year!

Your help is appreciated. Please contact me with any questions: call or text (724) 553-6873, or e-mail maury@zoominternet.net.

Visit to Fla. SNPJ Days offers a winter break

by TINA RIGLER (449)
SNPJ Region 4 Vice President

CICERO, Ill. — I had the opportunity to once again take a break from the cold Chicago weather and travel to warmer temperatures.

Upon arriving in Daytona, Fla., on Feb. 22, my family was invited to attend an evening of socializing at Ruth Benedict's home with Samsula Lodge 603 officers and members. My thanks to Ruth for the delicious meal. I enjoyed meeting new people and catching up with Jeannette Humphrey and Connie Massey.

As Region 4 Vice President, I attended Florida SNPJ Days in Samsula on Feb. 23-24 with my husband, Vince; my brother, Edward Dabrowski; and my mother-in-law, Marija Rigler. We all had a great time and enjoyed the festivities, which included delicious food, great music and, of course, the southern hospitality. Carmella Smidl and Nancy Miller from the Chicago area were also in attendance.

It was nice to see young adult member Shane Miller, along with Miss SNPJ's parents, Maury and Kathleen Sinan. Maury serves as SNPJ Region 1 Vice President.

It was also nice to see Christian Razpotnik bartending at the Lodge 603 Hall on Saturday. Christian, who just recently became a member of Lodge 603, joined in the button box jam with Vince Rigler. Music by the Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland filled the hall both days.

Lodge 603 President Connie Massey exceeded a short program on



SNPJ members from Lodges in the north chased away the winter chill at Florida SNPJ Days, held Feb. 23-24 at SNPJ Lodge 603 in Samsula.



[From left]
SNPJ Region 4
Vice President
TINA RIGLER
(449), Lodge 603
Secretary **RUTH
BENEDICT**,
Lodge 8 member
**CARMELLA
SMIDL** and Lodge
603 member
**JEANNETTE
HUMPHREY** inside
the Samsula Lodge
603 Hall.

Feb. 24. The main speaker was National Secretary Karen Pintar. Karen's husband, Ken, was also in attendance; they have been attending Florida SNPJ Days for many years.

Secretary Pintar presented Lodge 603 with a check for hosting a cultural event. Congratulations to the officers and members of Lodge 603 for all

their hard work and dedication to keep up with these activities. Drawing and door prizes were awarded to the many lucky winners.

After attending Florida SNPJ Days, my family continued on to Orlando, Fla., for a few days before returning home to the chilling temperatures.

Hosted by SNPJ, April presentation highlights Slovenian migration

PRESENTATION
FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik is a researcher at the Slovenian Migration Institute of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and a professor at the University of Nova Gorica. Her research interests include human rights and migrant

integration, gender inequalities and women migrants, as well as methodologies ranging from oral history to analyses of correspondence and texts.

We extend our appreciation to Honorary Consul of Slovenia for Pennsylvania Petra Mitchell and to SNPJ Region 1 Vice President Maury Sinan their for help planning

this event. Petra is the president and CEO of Catalyst Connection, which is located at Mill 19, a must-see location.

Mill 19 is a remarkable redevelopment project situated in the Hazelwood Green area of Pittsburgh. This historic site was once home to the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company mill. It now serves as a green,

sustainable, advanced manufacturing research center.

The offices sit within the shell of the original mill. This is an appropriate location for this presentation since many of our forebears who made the courageous journey to America worked in the mines and the mills, including this one.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- APRIL 6 Sygan Lodge 6 Couples Nite Out in the Sunshine Room. Tickets are \$120 per couple and include appetizers, dinner, drawings, and dancing to the music of Dancing Queen. To purchase tickets call the club at (412) 221-9862.
- APRIL 21 SNPJ Region 1 second annual Free Dance at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa. Music by the Polka Classics, 2-6 p.m. Pork dinners, Slovenian sausage and Slovenian desserts (Bled cream cake - *Blejska kremšnita*, Slovenian strudel and potica) available for purchase. For more information e-mail maury@zoominternet.net or call/text (724) 553-6873.
- MAY 18 Fourth annual Music Festival & Craft Show at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Features 16 polka bands and more than 40 crafters.
- MAY 25 CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio. For details contact Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001.
- MAY 27 Memorial Day holiday dance hosted by Val Pawlowski at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio.
- JUNE 2 Polka dance hosted by Joey Tom-sick at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Entertainment features the Eddie Rodick Orchestra.
- JUNE 9 Second 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.
- JUNE 16 SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio.
- JUNE 23 Westmoreland Federation 13th annual Pretty in Pink fundraiser at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa. Dancing from 2-6 p.m. to the Polka Classics, Basket drawings, 50/50 drawing and door prizes drawings. Food and refreshments available for purchase. For details contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404.
- JUNE 23 SNPJ Loyalties Lodge 158 annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Entertainment features the Don Wojtila Band. Free admission.
- JUNE 29 SNPJ Region 3 doubleheader baseball game and picnic dinner at Jimmy John's Field in Utica, Mich. Game time is 5:30 p.m.; tickets are \$32 per person. Contact Ken Anderson at (248) 808-2185 for tickets.
- JULY 6 SNPJ Lodge 643 picnic at Tod Park, Lawrence Ave. in Girard, Ohio. Music by the Anthony Culkar-Wayne Golob Band, noon-3 p.m. Admission \$5. For information contact Ray Kovac at (330) 824-2154 or e-mail raykov29@aol.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.

Have something for Up-and-Coming?

Lodge/Organization _____

Type of Event _____

Site _____

If a concert or dance, who is performing? _____

Date _____

Time _____

Who to contact _____

Phone () _____

E-mail _____

Complete and return to:
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We've Got You COVERED

by GINA WISE
SNPJ Marketing Manager



Why life insurance matters

When my friend Lesley was 23 years old, she saw life insurance as just another line item on her employer's benefits package. She didn't pay much attention to it – I mean, who does when they're young and healthy? But life has a way of teaching us profound lessons, often in unexpected ways.

Lesley's mom was her rock. I remember in high school, she was the one who cheered Lesley on during softball games and stayed up late helping her with algebra homework. They shared laughter, secrets and countless cups of tea when Lesley came home on semester breaks from college. Lesley's mom was invincible, or so Lesley thought.

One afternoon, when Lesley was still at the company she joined right out of college, her office phone rang. The news hit her like a tidal wave: Her mom had passed away suddenly. Her world blurred, and she stumbled through the days that followed. Amid the grief, practical matters surfaced – funeral arrangements, bills, and the weight of responsibility.

As her family sorted through paperwork, they confirmed what they had already suspected; her mom had no life insurance. She'd always been healthy, vibrant and full of life. But as Lesley learned, life doesn't discriminate. It doesn't care if you're young or old, rich or struggling. It simply unfolds, and we must navigate its twists and turns.

That's when Lesley realized the true value of life insurance. It wasn't just about numbers on a policy or premiums deducted from her paycheck. It was a promise; a lifeline woven into the financial fabric of our lives.

Without that safety net, Lesley's family quickly faced an unexpected burden. Funeral expenses, credit card bills and the mortgage, all pressing down on their grieving hearts. They scrambled to make ends meet, juggling emotions and financial stress. It was a painful lesson.

Determined not to repeat history, at 31 years old Lesley took action. She researched different plans and their provisions, consulted an advisor, and made a promise to herself and her loved ones. She purchased a life insurance policy, not just for her, but for her husband too. It was more than paperwork; it was a pact – a promise that transcended ink and signatures.

Lesley and her husband talked about the unimaginable. If something were to happen to either of them, their policies would be the other's lifeline. It would pay off debts, fund their children's education and provide a cushion for the grieving soul left behind.

Years passed, and life unfolded. They celebrated birthdays, weathered storms and watched their children grow. The life insurance policies remained tucked away; a silent guardian. It allowed them to dream and plan for the future without fear. It was a promise fulfilled, even when they couldn't see it.

And then, at 55 years old, Lesley's husband fell seriously ill. The hospital bills piled up and uncertainty loomed. But his policy – the promise they'd made years ago – stepped in. The living benefits covered medical expenses, eased their worries and allowed them to focus on healing. It wasn't just paperwork; it was a lifeline.

So if you're wondering whether it's worth it, remember Lesley's story; one of love, loss and promises kept.

Make your promise of life insurance today. Call 1-800-843-7675 or visit snpj.org to be put in touch with an SNPJ 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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Mediterranean cultures center approved in Koper

KOPER (STA) — The Koper Science and Research Centre (ZRS Koper) has obtained a building permit for a Centre of Competence for Mediterranean Cultures which will focus on olive growing and other forms of Mediterranean agriculture. The building will be located near the coastal town of Škofije and is planned for completion in 2026.

ZRS Koper announced in early March that the new complex will provide adequate premises for the Institute of Oliveculture, its laboratory and all accredited activities, while also housing the recently established Institute of Viticulture and Wine Production. “We are happy that the staff of the ZRS Koper Institute of Oliveculture will finally get adequate research infrastructure which their excellent work deserves,” wrote ZRS Koper director Rado Pišot.

The city of Koper has provided land for the new complex free of charge for 40 years in the area of a former military post in Plavje, and the Higher Education Ministry has included the project on its priority research infrastructure list.

The new center will conduct research in olive and wine growing, introducing digital technologies for the sustainable development of Mediterranean agriculture and improving adaptation to climate change. It will also support the competitiveness of Mediterranean agriculture.

ZRS Koper believes the center will contribute to the protection of the country's agricultural sector and the preservation of the cultural heritage of the region, while placing Slovenia alongside the most acclaimed European institutions in the field of olive growing.

The regions of Slovenian Istria and Goriška have long been known for olive growing, yet this sector suffered a lack of proper infrastructure and support. To change this trend, a number of activities have been carried out within the Institute of Oliveculture since 2010, combining research and other activities. As part of its public service, the institute is currently the accredited national coordinator for olive growing.

The institute cooperates with many national and European institutions. Its laboratory is the only one in the country that tests the quality and authenticity of olive oil, while also being an accredited lab of the International Olive Council.

Lipica stud farm selling 36 horses in 2024

LIPICA (STA) — Kobilarna Lipica, the stud farm known for its Lipizzan white horses, is planning to sell 36 horses this year, mostly those that no longer need for breeding or riding programs. The stud farm expects to generate EUR 173,000 (\$189,000) in revenue from sales.

According to the Economy Ministry, Kobilarna Lipica can sell horses with resale value, as well as those that have been withdrawn from use due to age or injury. It can also transfer the ownership of horses from the Economy Ministry to the Interior Ministry or the General Police Administration.

Every year the company has to draft a horse management plan which has to be approved by the government. Under the 2024 plan, which the government approved in March, the stud farm is selling two horses that have been withdrawn from use, for which it will receive EUR 500 (\$546). It will also sell 34 horses that are fit for either working or breeding, for which the farm will receive EUR 172,500 (\$189,000).

According to the Economy Ministry, horses listed for sale can be either sold before the next annual plan is approved or retained if they are needed for public service.

At the end of November 2023, the farm managed 377 horses which are owned by Slovenia. The farm sold 37 horses in 2023, 62 in 2022, and 56 in 2021, according to data from the annual plans.

In early March the farm welcomed its first foal of 2024, which spent its first week with its mother in the maternity stalls before joining the herd. The farm is expecting 27 more foals by early June.

Slovenia opens a national space education office

VITANJE (STA) — Slovenia opened a national office of the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO)



in October and presented the project at the Noordung Centre in Vitanje in mid-February. In Slovenia, the project is nationally co-funded and led by the ČŠOD center for school and extra-curricular activities. The Noordung Centre is a key partner in the project.

The project aims to develop and promote the use of space-related content in science, technology, engineering and math to educate younger generations and increase their interest in the field. Aleksandra Krumpak, the head of the project, said during the presentation.

As Krumpak explained, the two-year project mainly addresses students at the primary and secondary school levels, along with their teachers. “This school year we started slowly, expanding the topics into different forms of informal education,” she added.

The project also raises awareness of job opportunities and the benefits space technologies bring. It is funded in part by the European Space Agency (ESA) and by national partners, mainly the education and economy ministries.

Attending the presentation, Education Minister Darjo Felda said that Slovenia's efforts over the last few years to establish an ESERO office finally bore fruit. “Educational institutions are trying to keep up with technological progress and environmental concerns by encouraging new, personalized, cooperative teaching methods,” Minister Felda added. He also drew attention to the current shortage of suitably qualified staff in the field.

Tanja Permozer, the director of the Slovenian ESA office, highlighted the opportunities for cooperation of Slovenian companies. She added that staff shortages were a global concern in the field of space technology. “Staffing is a serious problem around the world, which is why young people have a lot of opportunities; especially Slovenian staff, [who are] always well received,” she said.

An ancient harbor discovered near Portorož

PIRAN (STA) — Bernardin and Portorož are among Slovenia's busiest seaside resorts, but it is not well known that the stretch of the coast and sea between the resorts holds an important archaeological site. After discovering the remains of an ancient settlement and a fish farm, divers have now found evidence of an ancient harbor, including ship masts. Excavations at the Fizine site have been conducted since 2017, the final phase of the underwater survey focusing on the search for evidence of the ancient harbor.

Representatives from the Institute of Underwater Archaeology told the press that the findings confirm the existence of a small harbor with a mooring and a wooden structure; of particular importance is the discovery of the masts. The wooden structure discovered near Bernardin beach could have been used to allow access from boats to the shore, or as a breakwater.

More than 3,000 ceramic fragments have been found in layers at the site. “The findings so far show the majority are imported, late-antiquity pottery: amphorae, kitchenware and fine tableware,” the representatives said. In addition to pieces of ceramic vessels, the site also yielded a sail element, a large number of wooden stakes, and two pieces of different masts.

Dated from between the third and fourth centuries AD, the mast pieces were probably in secondary use as a mooring for a vessel or as a supporting beam for a wooden structure. The first mast, made of fir, is about one meter (3.3 feet) long and included an integrated oak pulley. The second mast is made of spruce and is about one and a half meters (five feet) long.

The institute says findings of masts and sails from antiquity are extremely rare, and interpretations are mainly linked to visual historical sources such as reliefs, statues, drawings, paintings, mosaics, and depictions on coins. “If the interpretations of the two Fizine elements are confirmed, these are unique examples on a global scale,” the researchers say. In fact, they are extremely rare examples of ancient masts, considering the finds from at least the past 20 years throughout the Mediterranean region.

The wood will be conserved at the restoration center. All relics will be handed over to the Sergej Mašera Maritime Museum in Piran, which also keeps other finds from the Fizine area.

Two other Roman sites in the area were discovered earlier. The first was explored in 1998 and comprises the remains of a settlement with a farm building. The second site is now below sea level.

Slovenia has one of the longest traditions of underwater research in Europe, the first of which was carried out in 1884 in the Ljubljana River near Vrhnika.

Warner has a minority share in the Nika label

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Warner Music, one of the world's three largest music labels, has acquired a minority share in the Slovenian independent label Nika, which operates Slovenia's largest online music store. The deal will allow Warner Music to stream Nika's roster via its international network, the Warner group announced on its website.

Nika, which was established in 1989 as the first private-sector music label and distribution company in the former Yugoslavia, has been a Warner Music licensee in Slovenia since 1995. In 2017, Nika commenced distributing its own catalogue through Warner Music to other markets.

Nika's repertoire of more than 11,000 songs – including tracks from Big Foot Mama, Koala Voice, Luka Basi, Nipke, and Siddharta – is currently distributed through ADA, Warner Music's independent distribution and label services arm. Nika also operates the largest Slovenian online music store, offering more than 300,000 titles.

Warner Music bought the minority share in Nika through its subsidiary, Warner Music South East Europe, which operates in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary. Warner Music representatives said that they have been cooperating with several Slovenian musicians and have had an excellent experience [working] with Nika, which was why they took the partnership to a new level.

Nika founders Darjo Rot and Marko Stopar said that closer cooperation with Warner Music Group would help Nika bring its artists to the world stage.

According to the latest data available, Nika generated almost EUR 182,000 (\$199,000) in profit in 2022 as revenue topped EUR 2 million (\$2.19 million). The revenue of Warner Music Group, which is a major global label, alongside Sony Music and Universal Music Group, topped EUR 6 billion (\$6.56 billion) for the first time ever at the end of September 2023.

New awards for the Slovenian Tourist Board

LJUBLJANA (STA) — As part of ITB Berlin, a leading tourism trade fair, the Slovenian Tourist Board (STO) won the Best of the Alps award for its work promoting sustainable tourism, according to the STO website. Five promotional projects conducted by the STO won The Golden City Gate awards.

The STO won the Best of the Alps 2024 award, which honors individuals, businesses and institutions in the Alpine region for outstanding achievements and contributions to economic, cultural, social and political life. As part of the Slovenian evening at ITB Berlin, STO director Maja Pak Olaj and Economy, Tourism and Sport Minister Matjaž Han received the award from the president of the Best of the Alps Association.

The STO also won awards for all five projects submitted to The Golden City Gate, an international tourism film and multimedia competition. The Ultimate Julian Alps Sensory Adventure won gold by combining modern technology and environmental awareness. Texas Feels Slovenia 2023, a campaign bringing together business, investments and basketball, also won the gold award, as did the promotional booklet “Slovenia, a Sports Destination.”

The new I Feel Slovenia stand, with which the STO was represented in Berlin, won silver, while the STO Instagram profile was rated “excellent.”

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

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2024 SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament Results

Tournament rolled Feb. 16-18, co-hosted by SNPJ Lodges 6 and 138

Men's Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*J.P. Bevec/J.R. Martino	138	1,318	\$176
**Z.Camp/R. Curtis	6	1,435	\$176
D. Martino/F. Visnikar	6	1,378	\$154
M. Lucas/D. O'Neil	138	1,356	\$126
M. Blake/L. Teyssier	6	1,353	\$100
T. Zivkovich/B. Frank	158	1,348	\$90
P. Cummings/J. Cummings	6	1,340	\$80
J. Rennie/G. Gottschalk	6	1,326	\$66
J. Barthurst/A. Phillips	6	1,309	\$54
J. Salizzoni/R. Miller	6	1,292	\$46
D. White/M. Paris	6/138	1,282	\$30

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Zac Camp	6	686	\$35
J.R. Martino	138	684	\$30
Art Stimmel	138	684	\$30
Nevin Robb	6	680	\$29
Larry Butka	138	670	\$27
Ed Pelino	6	667	\$26
Luke Teyssier	6	665	\$24
Rob Miller	6	661	\$23
Greg Curl	6	660	\$21
Mark Conley	6	654	\$19

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
John Barthurst	6	2,103	\$45
Larry Butka	138	2,055	\$38
Art Stimmel	138	2,048	\$30
Zac Camp	6	2,044	\$25
Gary Usnick	6	2,033	\$21
Denny Brand	6	2,027	\$20
Dave Martino	6	2,003	\$16

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Dana Magdich	6	677	\$44
Jordan Teyssier	6	673	\$40
Sarah Gabriel	138	672	\$36
Shari Gabriel	138	666	\$30
Amy Mavrich	138	666	\$30
Beverly Bozicevich	6	665	\$26
Laurie Lorenzato	6	659	\$24

Men's Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*The Corporation	6/138	2,645	\$212
**Golden 6	6	2,721	\$212
Older Guys	138	2,719	\$168
Weiners	6	2,706	\$132
Wackos	6	2,684	\$108
Pocket Pounders	138	2,638	\$92
Gamblers	138	2,632	\$80
Trouser Trout	138	2,622	\$76
Sportshaven	6	2,593	\$72
Not A Chance	6	2,579	\$68

Men's All-Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Doug White	6	2,016	\$55
**Justin Butka	138	2,201	\$55

Women's Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*M. Graff/K. Almo	138	1,173	\$140
**A. Shields/T. Vehar	138	1,488	\$140
D. Volpe/T. Halaburda	158	1,423	\$100
J. Butka/M. Sanger	138	1,360	\$80
J. Randolph/L. Lorenzato	106/6	1,336	\$66
R. McNurten/M. Binotto	138	1,335	\$60
K. Miller/J. Cushma	6	1,333	\$54

Women's Singles Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Missy Graff	138	624	\$90
**Keri Miller	6	731	\$90
Tamme Vehar	138	692	\$67
Jan Cushma	6	688	\$57
Krista Almo	138	682	\$55
Ashley Shields	138	680	\$50

Women's Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Shut Up & Suck It	138	2,037	\$160
**Drunk On A Lane	138	2,640	\$160
Superstars	6	2,621	\$112
Don't Give A Split	6	2,564	\$100
Pin Pals	6/138/158	2,510	\$80

Women's All-Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Missy Graff	138	1,889	\$44
**Ashley Shields	138	2,177	\$44
Keri Miller	6	2,104	\$38
Beverly Bozicevich	6	2,046	\$29
Krista Almo	138	2,030	\$25

*Indicates Actual Champion
**Indicates Handicap Champion

Spartans Lodge 576 prepares for summer activities

by CHRISTIAN THOMEY
Lodge 576

CLEVELAND — Happy April to all Spartans Lodge members! I hope everyone has taken care of themselves this past winter as we soon move into spring.

Over the past couple of months, our officers have been diligently planning events that will occur sometime later this year. This includes our annual picnic and balina tournament on Aug. 11. Stay tuned for more details.

We're hoping to hold our next meeting on Monday, April 29, starting at 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, 36099 Euclid Ave., Wiloughby, OH 44094. If you are unable to attend in person and would like to call in, please let Recording Secretary Toni

Thomey know.

For future articles, please reach out to me at cthomey2000@gmail.com if you have any important news or event information to share in our articles. I look forward to hearing from you.

St. Marys Lodge 581 slates April road cleanup date

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — Lodge 581 plans a big cleanup day along Jackson Road and West Creek Road in St. Marys on April 13 (rain date of April 20) from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. with the assistance of Pennsylvania Cleanways, the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters, and Friends of Jackson Road.

If you can't stay the whole day, come for as long as you can. Snacks, breakfast and lunch are served; polka music is provided by John Moore. We'll meet at 1285 Jackson Road. Students who need service hours, Scouts, adults and children are welcome. Call

John Troha at (814) 512-6228 to register, or just show up.

Lodge 581 extends a special thank you to Bill Grolemond of Pittsfield, Pa., for his service to our Lodge. Bill has been an SNPJ member for the past 59 years, and for the past four years he has served as a Lodge 581 auditor.

In addition to his Lodge activity, he has been a member of the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters for 20 years and has served as a trustee for the past six years.

Before his retirement, Bill taught fifth and sixth grade for 30 years in Pittsfield. He and his wife Judy continue dancing the polka at the Polka Boosters

dances and volunteering whenever they are needed.

Lodge 581 will hold its next meeting on April 28 starting at 12:30 p.m. at Wildwoods in St. Marys. All members are welcome. Bring your family and enjoy the polka dance after the meeting; the Anthony Culkar Band will perform from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is free if this is your first time attending a Polka Boosters dance.

Other April dance dates include April 14, Dick Tady at Kersey Fireman's; and April 21, Garrett Tatano at Wildwoods.

For more information contact Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer



St. Marys Lodge 581 auditor **BILL GROLEMOND**, a former teacher, continues to volunteer his service for Lodge activities.

Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 or Lodge President Pat Moore at (814) 837-9218.

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Sept. 20, 2023

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

Approved the minutes from the July 20, 2023, meeting.

Reported that we approved the final Tri-Global Solar lease at the end of July.

Reported that the Society made a \$5,000 donation in August to Slovenia for the victims of the recent floods affecting the country.

Sis. Pintar reported that the new life insurance administration system went live on Sept. 5, 2023, after she, Bro. Lawrence and Bro. Champ verified that the information was valid on the new system.

Discussed the upcoming National Board meeting and reported that Todd Martin will provide an educational session to the Board at this meeting.

Approved a donation of \$150 to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance for a scholarship.

Approved a donation of \$100 to the WPFA Scholarship Foundation for a half-page ad in the 40th convention booklet.

Approved a donation of \$100 to Grace Leadership Institute, a Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance charity.

Approved a donation of \$200 to the Chicago District Federation as a cultural donation for an event held in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH
National President/CEO

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

With spring, a new season opens for the Heritage Center

HERITAGE CENTER
FROM PAGE 1

can register to play in the tournament on Friday night in the Gostilna.

Back by popular demand, a paint-and-sip led by Sarah Loudon will be held in the barn starting at 6 p.m. This year's project will be your pick of a

saying imprinted on a tote. You can complete your day with bingo in the Gostilna at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, June 9, Joe Valencic from Cleveland will show the movie "100 Percent Slovenian: Stories of Slovenian Women in America" starting at noon in the Wine Room, located in the basement of the

Alpine Room.

Then it's off to the Heritage Pavilion for the free-admission dance featuring the Frank Stanger Orchestra alternating with the Western Pa. Button Box Club from 1 to 6 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the dance. We will also have items

from the gift shop for sale, a donation jar to help defray cost of the bands, and we'll hold a 50/50 drawing to benefit the Heritage Center.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this weekend of activities at the SNPJ Recreation Center, then plan to join us. See you there!

Important figures to consider...

- 29%... people who would purchase more life insurance if they were asked
- 62%... people who own coverage, but don't know what they have or why they have it
- 82%... people who are under-insured

If your coverage is over 5 years old, contact SNPJ for a policy review.
1-800-843-7675



PROSVETA Crossword

Classic Toys (#0424) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- *" Wars" toys from Kenner in the '70s
- *Certain toy G.I.
- Miss America's accessory
- Pot inhale
- Morsel of Little Miss Muffet's meal
- Private
- Larger-than-life
- Children's author _____ Blyton
- Post-Its
- *Sticks and spoons toy set
- One of the Olsens
- Gibson garnish
- Middle-earth creature
- Bias
- Neat in appearance
- Chasing game
- Chancellor, in Europe
- Not happening
- Anomie, alt. sp.
- Local area network
- Re-attempt
- Wyatt Earp's card game
- Common parakeet, colloquially speaking
- Snakelike fish
- Not yet a wife
- *Like certain toy Cathy

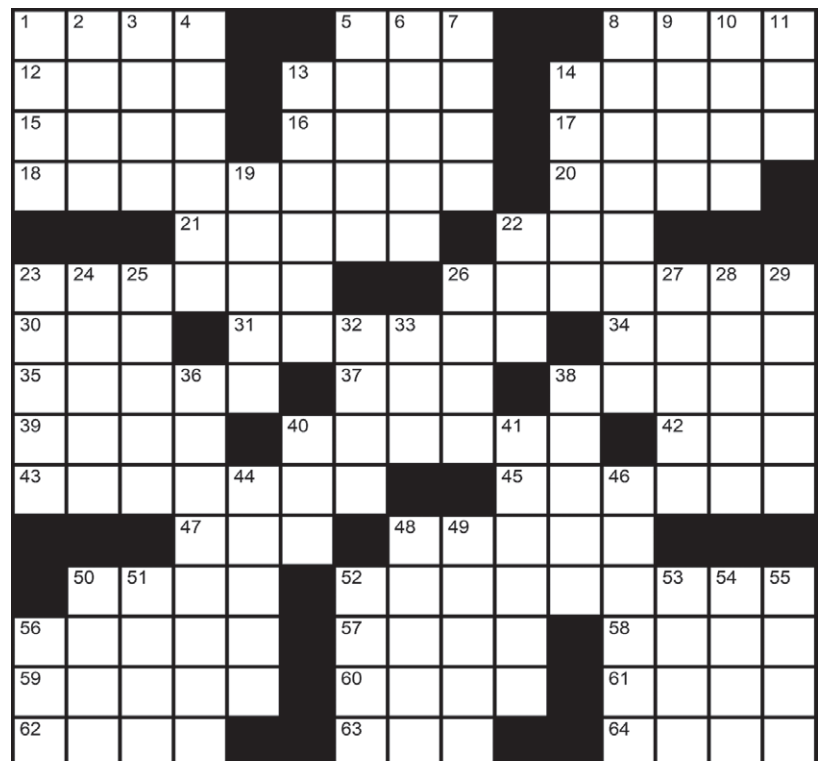
- Mine deposit
- Water nymph
- Cassette contents
- *Illuminated picture maker
- Wainscots
- Play parts
- The Fonz: "Sit _____!"
- Face-to-face exams
- Not this
- Brainchild
- Homey, alt. sp.
- "Fight for You" singer
- High rocky hills

DOWN

- Editor's mark
- African antelope
- Related
- Suppose
- Political club, in the olden days
- Celestial hunter
- Whirlpool
- *Sno-Cone, actually (2 words)
- Opposed to
- "As _____ on TV"
- Retail posting acronym
- Blood-red
- Beginning of essay
- "Dear Diary" bit
- Hockey legend

- "The Office" people, e.g.
- Veranda on Oahu
- Ancient Greece marketplace
- "The _____ Show" (1976-1980)
- Sacred song
- White heron
- *Raggedy Ann or Strawberry Shortcake, tenderly
- *Professor Plum and Colonel Mustard game
- Little bit
- *Avenues and railroads game
- Betty Ford Center, e.g.
- Spelling contest
- Superlative of icy
- Edible herb
- Quick and skillful
- Specialty
- Rose oil
- Tropical edible root
- Dwayne Johnson's 2022 role Black _____
- Woden slat
- _____China
- Part of a traditional wedding cake
- Greek Hs
- *Play-_____

The solution to puzzle #0424 will run in the May 1 issue.



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We value you as a member of the Slovene National Benefit Society and we take your personal privacy seriously. We will inform you of our policies for collecting, using, securing and sharing non-public personal information the first time we do business and every year that you are an SNPJ member.

You have provided SNPJ with certain non-public personal information, such as your name, age, residence, marital status and social security number. When you applied for life insurance you may have also provided us with employment and medical information and authorized us to obtain further information concerning your health history, mode of living, avocations and other personal characteristics. Based on this authorization, only the minimum amount of information necessary to underwrite your application has been collected. We may obtain other information from your transactions with us, such as your payment history and claim documentation.

We maintain the highest level of confidentiality concerning your non-public personal information. The employees at the SNPJ Home Office have been trained in the careful handling and protection of such information. Oversight of these matters is rigorous, and our employees understand that improper disclosure of non-public personal information is a serious matter with severe consequences.

We are a fraternal benefit society which has always been committed to protecting the privacy of our members. There are no affiliated financial institutions or third-party non-affiliates which have access to your non-public personal information, except pursuant to your written authorization. We never sell lists of our members' names and addresses to any goods or services vendor.

Access to your records is limited to those Home Office employees who are working with your file. Should we be required to disclose information in connection with civil or criminal litigation we must comply; however, such instances are very rare. Our policy of protecting the security of non-public personal information also extends to potential insureds and former insureds who no longer maintain coverage with us.

Jack Tady celebrating his 72nd year in the polka music business

Press Release
submitted by JACK TADY (6)

CHESWICK, Pa. — Join the fun of Jack Tady's 72nd anniversary promoting and performing polka music, and marking his 42 years on polka radio.

The celebration will be held Sunday, April 7, at the Acme Slovene Club on Herron Ave. in Cheswick, Pa. Music will be performed from 2 to 6 p.m.

by Jack Tady Bears: Guys & Satin Dolls, and a giant jam session featuring the friends Jack has made over the years — Dick Tady, Bill Bevec, Dan Klanica, Steve Novosel, Jack Slagel, Tony Zupancic, Don Lavrich and more. Musicians can contact Jack (724) 274-7202 if they will be attending.

Everyone is welcome — bring your instrument! Food and refreshments available.



The SNPJ Farm 2024 Picnic Schedule

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

May 18	4th Annual Music Festival & Craft Show 16 bands/more than 30 crafters
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday Dance Frank Stanger Orch. & Don Wojtila Band
June 2	Mentor Rotary Club Dance - open to the public Eddie Rodick Orch.
June 9	Miss SNPJ Commission Family Fun Day The Chardon Polka Band
June 16	SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary Picnic Entertainment TBA
June 23	SNPJ Loyalties Lodge 158 Picnic Don Wojtila Band — <i>FREE</i> admission!
July 4	July 4th Holiday Dance Frank Stanger Orch. and Klancnik & Friends
July 21	Cleveland SNPJ Federation/ SNPJ Farm Board Picnic Bob Zolka Band & more TBA
July 28	SNPJ Lodges 5 & 604 Combined Picnic Don Wojtila Band & Polka Mass
Aug. 11	SNPJ Spartans Lodge 576 Picnic and Lou Novak Balina Tournament Joe Novak Band & Patty C and The Guys
Aug. 25	Bill Bevec Picnic & Dance Bill Bevec Band & more TBA
Sept. 2	Labor Day Holiday Dance Frank Stanger Orch. & Eddie Rodick Orch.
Sept. 14	Slovenian Sausage Festival hosted by the Polka Hall of Fame
Sept. 22	SNPJ Farm Slovenian Grape Festival Annual parade/music by Tony Fortuna Band

SNPJ FRATERNAL HONOREES

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

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Bro. **JOHNNIE J. ZIBERT**, a member of Lodge 225 in Girard, Kan., celebrated his 50-year SNPJ membership anniversary in September 2023. He writes:

"Fifty years is a long time, but it sure can go by quickly. I was both surprised and honored to receive my 50-year certificate and pin at our SNPJ Lodge 225 monthly meeting.

"Being the third generation John Zibert of Lodge 225, it makes me proud to be a member of the SNPJ. Over the years I have enjoyed attending many Lodge picnics, dances, SNPJ National Conventions and Slovenefest, and I continue to enjoy the many Society friends I have been fortunate to make.

"Following in my late father's footsteps, I have also enjoyed many years of playing the accordion — both with my father and his band, as well as other bands — for dances and events. Polka music is such wonderful music!

"After retiring with 30 years of service in the electrical generation industry, my wife Julie and I now reside in Joplin, Mo.

"Thank you to the SNPJ for this recognition."

Bro. JOHNNIE J. ZIBERT
Girard, Kan., Lodge 225
Joplin, MO

• Cleveland Lodge 576 member Sis. **IRENE M. HENKEL** celebrated her 70-year SNPJ membership anniversary in August 2023. In a note of appreciation addressed to National President Joseph C. Evanish, she writes:

"Please forgive my late response to the letter of congratulations and the beautiful memorial 70-year SNPJ blanket.

"My late response is due to the

depression I have been in, since May 2021, with the loss of my husband Kenneth, the love of my life.

"I am finally trying to remember all the wonderful times we had together. So many of them at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland: the Sunday breakfasts with our family and friends, picnics, dinners, polka dancing (Kenneth was the best dancer; all the ladies wanted to dance with him), and balinca too.

"We even traveled, many times, with mom and dad and the family to Enon Valley, Pa., to stay in the cabins and attend the Miss SNPJ Pageants. I've come across so many pictures taken there and at the SNPJ Farm. All good memories, coming back slowly.

"Soon, I hope to return to the SNPJ Farm on Sundays and hopefully see the friends I have missed, especially Eleanor Epply. I hope she is well.

"In closing, please accept my thank you for your letter and the beautiful 70-year blanket. As I look at it, I remember all the good times I had as a child with my parents, with my husband, and with my children at the SNPJ."

Sis. IRENE M. HENKEL
Cleveland Lodge 576
Wickliffe, OH

• Sis. **MICHELLE A. FULLER**, a member of Lodge 5 in Cleveland, celebrated her 50-year SNPJ membership anniversary in March. In a note of appreciation addressed to National President Joseph C. Evanish, she writes:

"Thanks for the 50-year SNPJ membership pin and certificate of recognition.

"I've been married for 39 years to my husband, Gary. We have one daughter, Ashley, 35; and I have two stepchildren, Kelly, 52, and Rob, 50; six grandchildren and one great-



Bro. JOHNNIE J. ZIBERT (225)



Sis. MICHELLE A. FULLER (5)

granddaughter.

"After working at Lincoln Electric Company for 48 years, I've been retired for two and a half years. I enjoy traveling, reading, exercising, and spending time with my family."

Sis. MICHELLE A. FULLER
Cleveland Lodge 5
Mentor, OH

Bole Balina Bash continues a legacy of competition

by JANICE ROCKWELL (138)
and DARLA BOLE (138)

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.

— Are we starting an annual tradition? Maybe. Those of you who attended our celebratory balina tournament last year to honor our mother, Josephine Bole, apparently had a good time because many of you have asked me if we're doing it again.

Why not? It was a beautiful spring Saturday morning with the special excitement of many folks seeing each other for the first time since last season. Sure, there's social media for staying in touch over winter, but nothing replaces warm hugs and friendly faces — other than the sweet clink of your balina ball knocking your opponent's ball out of the way

and cooing up to the balinc, pallino, pill (you know, the little yellow ball).

The balina court was my parents' happy place within their happy place, the SNPJ Recreation Center. My mom loved to compete. My dad loved everything about balina: playing, bombing (he was an ace), improving the courts, grooming the courts, refereeing tournaments, and teaching others the game. Balina with their friends was a Friday ritual in my parents' retirement years.

Such a devotee to the game was my dad that initially he didn't like it when the "young" folks started bringing snacks to the courts. I'm reminded of the "Dancing with the Stars" longtime head judge

Len Goodman's frowns and commentary about "all that messing about" in reference to backup dancers and props as part of a dance routine. However, dad also liked a party — in any setting. Once he saw how the snack smorgasbord brought people together and discovered that SNPJ balina players really knew how to cook and bake, he was sold!

In honor of our parents, Tony and Josie Bole, we will host the Bole Balina Bash double elimination (subject to change, pending number of entrants) tournament at the SNPJ Recreation Center, 270 Martin Rd., Enon Valley, PA 16120, on Saturday, May 11, starting at 10 a.m. and concluding around 4 p.m.

The entry fee is \$15 per person. Cash prizes will be awarded immediately. One half of the entry fee will go to the Recreation Center Cabin Renovation Fund; the other half will be the prize fund. Good things are happening at the cabins. Be sure to check them out.

We welcome all participants, your families, and spectators to enjoy a beautiful day on the courts. To participate, visit the SNPJ Recreation Center Facebook page for entry form. Alternatively, e-mail your team participants' names, team name, and captain's phone number and e-mail address to jan@rockwellllaw.com. The entry deadline is May 4. See you on the courts!

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 ksanders@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.

SNPJ fraternal sympathies

BRO. RICHARD L. NEKROSIUS • LODGE 2 •

LA SALLE, III. — The members of Lodge 2 sadly report the Dec. 12, 2023, passing of Bro. Richard "Nick" Nekrosius, 83, of La Salle, at Manor Court of Princeton surrounded by his family.

Bro. Nekrosius was born June 17, 1940, in Peru, Ill., a son of the late Clarence and Mildred (Hoffman) Nekrosius. He served with the United States Army.

He married Eloise Ciesielski on July 31, 1965, and retired in 1987 as tool and die maker at Caterpillar in Aurora, Ill.

A 65-year SNPJ Lodge 2 member, Nick was a also member and officer of LaSalle American Legion Post #426, and a member of Dalzell Rod and Gun Club, NRA, Buick Club of America, and La Salle Knights of Columbus. He served on the La Salle/Oglesby Veteran Memorial Group for over 20 years and volunteered at the Illinois Veterans Home in La Salle.

Nick enjoyed boating and snowmobiling at a younger age, and loved working outdoors in his yard. He enjoyed the Indianapolis 500 and hadn't missed a race in 50 straight years.

He is survived by his wife, Eloise, of La Salle; two daughters, Laura (Mike Sabotta) Munson and Andrea (Larry) Weber, both of La Salle; a grandson, Nicholas (Denae Tolu) Munson of Ypsilanti, Mich.; a nephew and niece; a great-niece; and a brother-in-law.

Funeral services for Bro. Nekrosius were held Dec. 16 in Hurst Funeral Home, La Salle. Burial followed in St. Vincent's Cemetery, La Salle, with full military honors conducted by the La Salle/Oglesby Veterans Memorial Group.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 2 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Nekrosius' family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. GERALD A. LIGGITT • LODGE 265 •

SOUTHVIEW, Pa. — The members of Lodge 265 sadly report the Jan. 2, 2024, passing of Bro. Gerald Alphonse Liggitt, 79, of Walnutport, Pa. He was a 61-year SNPJ Lodge 265 member.

Born Aug. 15, 1944, Bro. Liggitt was a family-oriented individual known for his wit and charm. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1966. After his military service he had a career at Westland Coal Mine, and later worked as an aide at the former Western Center.

In his free time, Gerald enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, walking in the woods, bird watching, and visiting the casino.

He leaves behind a loving family that includes his daughters, Jeannina Yeager (Jimmy Rawlins), and Rebecca (Zachery) Frey; three granddaughters; two grandsons; six great-grandchildren; his sister, Marlene Kencec; his estranged wife, Dawne Liggitt; and many nieces and nephews.

A private ceremony was held in his memory.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 265 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Liggitt's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. MARIE J. KEMPA • LODGE 729 •

YUKON, Pa. — The members of Lodge 729 sadly report the Jan. 20, 2024, passing of Sis. Marie Jean (Squarcia) Kempa, 92, of Beaver Falls, Pa., at Woodhaven Health & Rehab Center, Monroeville, Pa.

Sis. Kempa was born April 7, 1931, in Fayette County, Pa., a daughter of the late Paul and Lucy (Nardone) Squarcia. She graduated from South Huntingdon High School. During high school she played the clarinet in the high school band, as well

as for the Yukon Firehall Band and Sewickley Township Band.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, Marie was also a member of Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Yukon and St. Augustine Church in Beaver Falls, Pa. She was an avid reader, and enjoyed quilting, playing card games and making trips to the casino.

Marie enjoyed listening to polka music and going polka dancing with her husband at the Yukon Slovenian Hall and the Herminie Crystal Ballroom. Marie cherished yearly family trips to the beach, and made a memorable trip to Italy to visit with family.

She is survived by a son, Gary (Rhonda) Kempa; a grandson, Anthony Kempa; a granddaughter, Charity (Mike) Valenti; great-grandchildren Milana and Santino Valenti; a sister, Delores Supp; a brother, Paul Squarcia; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her loving husband of 56 years, Joseph Kempa; and a son, Lawrence Kempa.

All services were private.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 729 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Kempa's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. SHIRLEY J. THOMAS • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Jan. 25, 2024, passing of Sis. Shirley Joan (Carter) Thomas, 91, of Canonsburg, Pa., in Jefferson Memorial Hospital, West Mifflin, Pa., with her family by her side. She was a 46-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member.

Sis. Thomas was born Aug. 25, 1932, in Westland, Pa., a daughter of the late Joseph and Bessie Mae (Williams) Carter. Shirley was a graduate of the former Cecil High School, class of 1950, and lived most of

her life in Canonsburg, where she was a member of St. Patrick Church of St. Oscar Romero Parish.

In her youth, she had been employed at the former RCA plant in Canonsburg, and by her mother-in-law at the Thomas Convalescent Homes as a cook.

She was an avid Pittsburgh Pirates fan who enjoyed playing bingo, visiting the casino, attending her grandchildren's sporting events, and spending time with her family playing games with her grandchildren.

On June 6, 1953, she married Ted Thomas, who survives after 70 years of marriage.

Also left behind to cherish her memory are her beloved children, LuAnn (John A.) Svitek of Canonsburg, Susette (Clark R.) Charlier of Finleyville, Pa., Beth Ann Moyer (the late Chuck) of Canonsburg, and Ted Thomas Jr. (Natalie) of Canonsburg; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was the last of her immediate family.

Deceased, in addition to her parents, are a grandson, Dustin Thomas; sisters Laverne Reeves, Donna Mastrangelo and Laura Kennedy; and brothers William, Thomas, George, Joseph, Calvin, Donald and Richard Carter.

Catholic blessing services for Sis. Thomas were held Jan. 30 at Salandra Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc., Canonsburg. Private interment followed.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Thomas' family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JOHN P. FABYANIC • LODGE 776 •

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The members of Lodge 776 sadly report the Feb. 14, 2024, passing of Bro. John P. "Sam" Fabyanic Jr., 82, of

Chippewa Twp., Pa., doing what he loved to do: walking at Big Rock Park.

Bro. Fabyanic was born July 26, 1941, in Beaver Falls, Pa., the son of the late John P. Sr. and Mary (Cencic) Fabyanic. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, where he served as an MP. He retired from Westinghouse (Eaton Electrical) after 40 years of service.

A 35-year SNPJ member, he loved to fish, camp, and ride his motorcycle with his buddies.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 57 years, Helen L. (Weaver) Fabyanic; daughter Deena (Jeff) Merriman; sister Barbara "Micy" Adkins; a sister-in-law; three nephews; several great-nieces and great-

nephews; a great-great-niece; and his beloved cat, Peanut.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Barr; his mother- and father-in-law, Ruth and Ralph Weaver; two brothers-in-law; and a great-niece.

Services for Bro. Fabyanic were held Feb. 20 at Gabauer-Lutton Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc., Chippewa Twp., Pa. Full military honors were conducted at the funeral home by the Beaver County Honor Guard.

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

DEATHS REPORTED For the month of February 2024

Table with columns: LODGE NAME, DATE OF DEATH, CITY, STATE. Lists various members and their passing details.

KAREN A. PINTAR National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA Crossword U.S. States (#0324) solution

Crossword grid solution showing words like CLAD, RENO, YETI, KENTUCKY, GALESES, POI, ALASKA, SARAGENT, RIPERUCTS, ALOE, ACTOR, TAU, ONION, BILK, IAMBIC, ONO, STYLISH, MUTTER, ARM, KOALA, ECHO, VIRGINIA, CROON, IDLE, NODE, PALMY, ADOS, EWER, ASEALOP, RANG.

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.

Order form for 'A CENTURY in the making' book. Price: \$17.50 EACH (INCLUDES POSTAGE). ADD \$1 POSTAGE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL COPY ORDERED. RETURN THIS ORDER FORM TO Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA 15126-9774.

PROSVETA 2024 Publication Dates

Calendar grid for 2024 with publication dates highlighted in black boxes and deadline dates circled. Months include January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.

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.

IN LOVING MEMORY of our dear brother and friend TONY ("SONNY") KREN June 14, 1940 — April 11, 2011 WE MISS YOU Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643

In loving memory of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother It has been 22 years since you left us... MARY LIPOVEC GLAD February 12, 1904 - April 21, 2002 Sadly missed by her family Mary Lou Vidergar; Frank, Gretchen, Anna & Ivan; and Lisa, Keith & Mia.

After Florida Days, Mother's Day dinner on the Samsula Lodge 603 schedule

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — SNPJ Lodge 603 in beautiful downtown Samsula celebrated the Slovenian heritage the weekend of Feb. 23-24 during the annual Florida SNPJ Days/Samsula Polka Festival. We had a nice turnout both days, but as with all celebrations, attendance seems to decrease each year.

We were delighted to have SNPJ National Secretary/COO Karen Pintar and her husband Ken in attendance both days. Karen brought a message from the Home Office and talked about our Lodge keeping up with the Slovenian heritage and fraternalism. She presented a check to our Lodge for conducting a cultural event. SNPJ Region 4 Vice President Tina Rigler was also in attendance.

Lodge 603 President Connie Massey gave a talk about her Slovenian roots and thanked everyone for attending. She also thanked the many workers who volunteering for the festival. It is a lot of work preparing and taking care of members and guests during the festival, as well as for the monthly meetings and activities held throughout the year at our Lodge hall.

Ruth Benedict served as the chairperson for the festival and was assisted by her daughter, Dr. Ashley Benedict. Ashley led the strudel making and baking, and donated the ingredients. She was also in charge of the kitchen duties. All Lodge officers worked throughout the weekend. Thanks are also extended to Millie Pell of Youth Circle 57 who sold drawing tickets during the festival.

It was a nice surprise to see Joe and Nancy Novak from Medina, Ohio, at the festival on Friday night. Joe, along

with Vince Rigler, helped out with the jam sessions as many musicians entertained throughout the weekend. Many of you remember that Joe Novak's orchestra entertained at our festivals for many years.

A welcome dinner was held the night before the festival at the home of Ruth and George Benedict. Many thanks to the Frank Moravcik Band and Linda for performing again this year. Our thanks to everyone who came to support our hall.

Bill Tomazin, a past Lodge president and Youth Circle director, celebrated his 75th birthday at the Lodge 603 Hall on Feb. 3. The celebration was a gift from his children. Jennifer Craig carried out a Florida State University theme, and Mechelle Tomazin cooked Bill's favorite dish for everyone to enjoy.

Bill continues to farm in Samsula, and rarely do you see him wearing shoes; thus his nickname, "The Barefoot Farmer," which he received many years ago while selling his produce at a local farmer's market.

We were happy with the two days of work completed by Leonard and Mary Shaw, Jeanie Novotny, Jay Sapp, Mack Turberville and yours truly who trimmed the shrubs around the building. They had become quite overgrown.

John Tesauro, our water inspector, spent many hours cleaning all the vents, filters and air conditioners. Yancey McDonald donated rock for the path to our dumpster, and Clay Benedict spread the pathway.

Lodge members conducted a business session on March 4 with an excellent turnout. Jim Pleterski discussed our Lodge website and will take chairmanship; Marcy Galbreath will take chairmanship of announcing our Lodge activities on Facebook. Sheryl Benedict, Connie Massey and Nancy Bass volunteered to cook the Easter dinner to benefit the Lodge hall.

Connie Massey, Hannah Jones, Barbara Benedict, Jeanie Novotny, Bill Tomazin and yours truly continue to volunteer for the Daytona Beach Polish Club meals that are served twice each month

at our Lodge hall.

We are delighted with the assistance of our newest member, Christian Razpotnik, who comes to help out with our events. Christian repaired our Lodge clock; it now lights up and keeps good time. The clock was made years ago by the late Joe Benedict Jr.

Brandon Schmidt volunteered to do some necessary electrical work. He will also serve as the chairman for the Mother's Day dinner that benefits our local scholarship program. The buffet-style meal will be served Sunday, May 12, starting at 12:30 p.m. Phone the Lodge 603 Hall at (386) 428-3983 for reservations.

Congratulations to Lodge President Connie Massey who recently became a grandmother. Maverick Max Massey was born Feb. 20 to Marshall and Brinlee. The baby was a bit premature, but arrived home from the hospital much earlier than expected. All are doing well.

A baby shower for more than 100 guests was held at the Angler's Yacht Club in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., on March

9. The shower was a gift from Connie's sisters (Marshall's aunts), Barbara Benedict from Samsula and Kathy Hodgdon from Danbury, Conn.; and Marshall's sister, Dr. Crystal Harris from California. Several of Marshall's friends helped out by preparing the

barbecue for the meal.

Congratulations to Linda Luznar who recently became a 50-year SNPJ Lodge 603 member. She received a congratulatory letter and certificate from SNPJ National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish.

See you at the Lodge hall!



SNPJ National Board members in attendance during Florida SNPJ Days: [from left] Region 1 Vice President MAURY SINAN, SNPJ National Secretary/COO KAREN PINTAR, and Region 4 Vice President TINA RIGLER.



In preparation for the Florida SNPJ Days festivities, Mary and Lenny Shaw, Mack Turberville and Jay Sapp trimmed the shrubs around the SNPJ Lodge 603 Hall.



The Florida SNPJ Days celebration always draws a crowd of members from the northern Lodges, all of whom are eager to escape winter and spend some time in the Florida sunshine.

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries April 2024

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
3	Mary A. Sepety	603	Jacqueline L. Bowman
6	Maryann Ciminell	677	Louie J. Bogatay
8	Mildred Cueller	729	Carl L. Beck
138	Robert J. Lawrence	749	Joanne Vasilko
138	Rose M. Lawrence	782	Dolores J. Prasnikar
142	Barbara J. Stith		

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
6	Maryann Rastetter	564	Joel F. Jacklich
8	Francis T. Pishkur	564	Patricia J. Hostnik
8	Robert L. Hoffman	576	Albert L. Fatur
113	Christie S. Bruno	584	Nancy K. O'Halloran
142	Donna M. Hoblit	715	Thomas J. Sorrentino
158	Mark A. Godina	721	Frances L. Angelo
174	Richard H. Mekic	729	Janice M. Yanosky
223	Edward Jerina	782	Joseph Mohar
274	Joseph Primavera	A01	Artemis Andrus

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
1	Patricia A. Dean	138	Ruth A. Dinsmore
2	Anthony R. Penca	142	Nancy Miskovich
5	Thomas A. Sadar	142	Kathleen A. Koth
6	John J. Dermovsek	158	Thomas R. Hrdy
6	Edward M. Hogan	174	Suzanne Hill
6	Theresa Kish	174	Frances P. Thomas
6	Robin K. Capozzi	223	Betty Dragovich
6	Michael A. Pintar	265	Joseph E. Kencec
6	Raymond A. Stevens	518	Shirley A. Moore
6	Charles F. Sholhead	584	Patricia A. Olson
31	William M. Lyden	603	Michael S. Luksan
34	Linda M. Arnold	603	Linda M. Crowder
87	Joseph W. Kertis	604	Lisa L. Markel
87	Carol M. Bombalski	715	Bradley F. Barr
87	Paul D. Orange	749	John R. Zupan
87	Patricia A. Hesson	749	Carole M. Howey
117	Steven J. Premich	782	Melanie A. Seronka
138	Diane E. Carrigan	782	August A. Rosenberger
138	Esther E. McElravy	A01	James M. Kieffer
138	David W. Greer		
138	Donald A. Habe		

A period of cultural and personal growth for Miss SNPJ

MISS SNPJ 2024
FROM PAGE 1

the air. Truly, Cleveland Kurentovanje epitomized the vibrant tapestry of Slovenian culture, leaving an unforgettable mark on all who gathered to celebrate.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of meeting countless individuals from various Slovenian organizations and businesses, each contributing their unique talents and passions to the celebration. In every encounter, I was inspired by the dedication that bound us together, reaffirming the fraternal spirit of the Slovenian community.

As the thrilling rhythm of Cleveland Kurentovanje faded into memorable memories, another exciting chapter of my journey unfolded at the 2024 Winter Classic Bowling Tournament. Co-hosted by SNPJ Lodges 6 and 138, this competitive event rolled into the Lodge 6 lanes in Sygan, Pa., and the Lodge 138 lanes in Strabane, Pa.

I had the honor of inaugurating the men's events of the tournament with the first ball at Sygan on Saturday morning, setting the stage for a day filled with spirited competition and fraternalism. Despite any initial nerves, I managed a respectable seven count – much to my relief! As the tournament progressed I enjoyed the fun atmosphere, mingling with familiar faces and new acquaintances from the SNPJ community.

The Winter Classic Bowling Tournament was yet another unforgettable experience, showcasing the unwavering spirit and fraternalism that defines our SNPJ family.

As mentioned earlier, my personal life amidst these events has been equally busy with activity and achievement. Balancing the responsibilities of my senior-year studies at Gannon University, I also proudly represented my school on the soccer team, culminat-

ing in an unforgettable journey to the NCAA national quarterfinals, where we ranked among the top eight teams in the country.

Beyond the soccer field and the classroom, I embarked on a transformative two-week trip to South Africa, where I immersed myself in the vibrant culture and breathtaking landscapes. This experience enriched my perspective in ways I never imagined, leaving an unforgettable mark on my heart and soul. Indeed, these

moments of personal growth and exploration have been invaluable amidst my reign as Miss SNPJ 2024.

In conclusion, the past few months have been a whirlwind of enriching experiences, heartfelt connections and personal growth. From embracing the Slovenian heritage to showcasing bowling skills and competing in the NCAA national quarterfinals, each event has been a stepping stone in my evolution as a leader and an ambassador for the SNPJ

community and the Miss SNPJ legacy.

As the weather warms and new opportunities arise, I encourage all members ages 18-30 to contact their Lodge secretary to register for a fun and fulfilling weekend at the Young Adult Conference. Remember to keep an eye out for other upcoming SNPJ events too! Join me as we embark on this extraordinary journey together, filled with laughter, learning, and the fraternal spirit of the SNPJ family!



Miss SNPJ 2024 MORGAN SINAN at the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame Thanksgiving Weekend event, flanked by SNPJ Region 5 Vice President FRED MLAKAR (at left); Region 3 Vice President DON SRNICK; and her father, Region 1 Vice President MAURY SINAN.



Morgan with two of the kurenti participating in the 12th annual Cleveland Kurentovanje Festival.



[From left] SNPJ National Secretary KAREN PINTAR, MORGAN SINAN, and SNPJ District 2 Athletic Director DEN BRAND (6) at the Winter Classic Bowling Tournament held in February.



information at your fingertips

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

Fifth Gostilna Chef Dinner at Imperial Lodge 106 a special Leap Day treat

by MARY JO HARTMAN (138)
SNPJ Heritage Center Committee
IMPERIAL, Pa. — Leap Year Day only occurs once every four years, so it seems fitting to do something extra special to celebrate.

Therefore, on Feb. 29 an evening of Slovenian food and entertainment was held in the Imperial Room at SNPJ Lodge 106. The SNPJ Heritage Center Committee, in conjunction with Jure Žmauc, president of Slovenian American Business Association (SABA), and SNPJ Lodge 106, were proud to present the fifth in a series of Gostilna Chef Dinners.

Our dinner guests started to filter in around 6 p.m. that evening. They were met with the sounds of button box music played by Darryl Valencic, Frank Valencic and David Pendel. As always, these gentlemen put our guests in the mood for a wonderful Slovenian evening. We are so thankful that they are such a big part of our Gostilna

Chef Dinners.

We were honored to welcome our visiting chefs from Slovenia. We featured Chef Boštjan Volk, champion of the 2023 European Young Chef Award (EYCA) Competition. He trained at the Vocational College of Hospitality and Tourism Maribor (VSGT) and is chef at Gostišče Volk in Velenje, Slovenia, within the culinary region of Šaleška Dolina. Chef Boštjan was joined by Mojca Polak, a mentor and professor at VSGT, and Tristan Romih, a sommelier and VSGT alumnus.

The culinary team, along with members of the Lodge 106 kitchen staff and our own Tracey Belle, spent hours preparing the wonderful dinner. Comments from our diners proved the effort wasn't in vain.

The tables were set with bottles of red and white Slovenian wine. The first course was *Ocvirkovka*, which is a bread



[From left] Sommelier **Tristan Romih**, Chef **Boštjan Volk** and **Mojca Polak** served the guests attending the fifth in a series of Gostilna Chef Dinners hosted by the SNPJ Heritage Center and Slovenian American Business Association President Jure Žmauc at SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial.

with cracklings served with horseradish, pumpkin seed oil and cream cheese. Next we were treated to pumpkin soup topped with pumpkin seeds and pumpkin seed oil.

The main dish consisted of roast pork with roasted potatoes, green beans with

cracklings, and a cabbage salad. Lastly, the meal was topped off by a scrumptious dessert of *miške*, which are fluffy fritters served with a sweet chocolate sauce. It was truly a wonderful meal.

The evening concluded with more button box music and



Visiting chef **Boštjan Volk** shared his culinary skills – and his musical talents – with the Gostilna Chef Dinner crowd.

socializing. As an added surprise, Chef Boštjan enthralled the group with a few numbers on the button box. He is truly a talented individual.

The SNPJ Heritage Center Committee would like to thank all those who made the evening a success. We are always striv-

ing to provide programming to keep our beautiful heritage alive. If you would like to join our mailing list for future events, you can e-mail us at SNPJHeritageCenter@gmail.com. Please follow us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute information.

March meeting, bowling outing launch the year for Lodge 449 members

by TINA RIGLER
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer
CICERO, Ill. — Lodge 449 members held their first meeting of the year on March 10. Secretary Tina Rigler read all correspondence and gave the financial report. Auditors Vince Rigler and Jan Maresh gave the audit report, finding all Lodge books in order.

During this meeting, Lanie Maresh, Robert Rigler, Jason Rigler, Zach Stimach and Alenka Rus were all selected to attend the Young Adult

Conference June 14-16.

Secretary Tina Rigler reported that the Lodge received an award for reaching the Gold Level for Activity in the 2023 SNPJ Lodge Bonus Program.

All Home Office communications were read, including the list of the 50-, 60- and 70-year members. Congratulations to Patricia Walker and Robert Gregory who reached their 50-year memberships with SNPJ in March!

After the meeting, all adult members, youth members and



At the conclusion of their March meeting, Lodge 449 members hit the lanes for some friendly competition.

guests enjoyed bowling and had a great time.

The next Lodge meeting will be held June 9 at 1 p.m. and will be followed by a

picnic, the location yet to be determined. Please contact Secretary Tina Rigler for the address and directions at (708) 257-8312.

Wisconsin outing returns to the golf schedule in June

submitted by
TONY MLINAR Jr.

MILWAUKEE — The 2024 Wisconsin SNPJ Scramble Golf Outing co-sponsored by SNPJ Badgers Lodge 584 and Lucky Lanes will be played Saturday, June 15, at Brookfield Hills Golf Course.

The outing will open with a modified shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. Your \$80 entry fee includes 18 holes of golf with your share of a cart, two drink tickets, and a sandwich at the turn. The day will wind up with the traditional chicken dinner at Bro. Tom Schweiger's Lucky Lanes.

There will be plenty of door prizes to bid on to help raise

money for The Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse. This great group raises funds to fight both breast cancer and prostate cancer research here at The Medical College of Wisconsin, located right in our own back yard.

The deadline to enter this year's outing is June 1. Please complete and return the entry form below.

Bro. Tom Schweiger will be the chairman of this year's event and can be contacted at his Lucky Lanes bowling alleys, (414) 543-7110, with any questions.

Please join us for a great day of golf and fun. More on this event to follow.

Dust off the clubs and enter the CAL Gorjup Open

by RICK GORJUP (158)
Cleveland Athletic League President
CLEVELAND — This year marks the 58th year of the Cleveland Athletic League (CAL) hosting a golf tournament, so don't miss out on a great day of fun and fraternalism!

We always have a great bunch of golfers, and with our CAL representatives, friends and volunteers, this year's outing should be among the best. The tournament is about 55 or so days away now, and we hope to have a big crowd. The winter has been very cold, but with hardly any snow,

so hopefully spring is right around the corner!

This year's CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament will be played at Rolling Green Golf Course in Huntsburg, Ohio, on Saturday, May 25. With a 9 a.m. shotgun start, we ask that you arrive at the course by 8:15 a.m. for check-in at the pavilion. Here's where you'll pick up your goodie bags and scorecards before heading out on the links. Hot dogs and *pivo* will be available at the turn, and a great dinner awaits at the 19th hole.

This is always a fun day,

meeting old friends and making new ones. And remember, this year the beer, pop and bottled water are free – all day long!

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

Since 2024 is our 58th year hosting the tournament, we'll have some extras to commemorate the anniversary.

We hope to see you this year, with all expectations of a great time for all.

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

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

We hope to see you on a beautiful, sunny and warm Saturday, May 25.

SNPJ Youth Circle 2 reunion highlights the Polka Hall of Fame 40th Super Button Box Bash in April

by JOE VALENCIC (5)
Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame
CLEVELAND — Join the squeezebox celebration at the 40th annual Super Button Box Bash on Sunday, April 21. You'll dance and clap along to the sounds of 50 accordionists, plus jam sessions throughout the day. The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame welcomes you to the American Croatian Lodge in Eastlake, Ohio, for "the Woodstock of Polka Music" from 1 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a grand reunion

of the best button accordion players in North America at the largest festival of its kind. Bring your own box and play along. Indulge in nationality treats such as smoked Slovenian sausage and strudel. Pick up a souvenir T-shirt, a sweatshirt, or a polka music CD at the pop-up shop.

Thrill to 10 button box groups and artists appearing on the main stage, plus polka jamming in the annex. Featured performers include The Fairport Jammers, Ron

Likovic, the Valencic Brothers, Frank Moravcik and Linda Hochevar, Kathy Hlad, Patty C & The Guys, and more.

There's also a reunion performance of former members of the SNPJ Youth Circle 2 Slovenian Junior Chorus, the original hosts of the event, directed by Cecilia Dolgan who created the Super Button Box Bash in 1982.

The American Croatian Lodge is located at 34900 Lake Shore Boulevard in Eastlake, Ohio, just west of

Rt. 91 (SOM Center Road). Admission is \$15 on the day of the event; guests age 18 and under admitted free. Save \$3 off admission with the purchase of a \$12 advance ticket through the Polka Hall of Fame.

Contact the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street, Euclid, Ohio, by phoning (216) 261-3263, or send an e-mail to PolkaShop@aol.com. The Polka Hall of Fame is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of January & February 2024

Proceeds from the Verbick Memorial Bowling Tournament\$309.78
Randall W. (138) & Cheryl A. Casciola, Pittsburgh\$300
SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan.\$250
SNPJ Badger Lodge 584, Milwaukee\$210
In memory of 2023 deceased members
The Just families of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Tucson, Ariz. (6)\$200
In memory of Anthony Grandovic

Westmoreland County Federation.....\$100
S.I.D. Society, Kraysn, Pa.\$100

The following donations were made in memory of Agnes Bostjancic:
Donna & Dave Dittmar (138), Strabane, Pa. ...\$50
Barbara & Patrick Smith (138), Washington, Pa. ...\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Engel and family (138), Canonsburg, Pa.\$50

Mr. & Mrs. David E. Cushman (138), Houston, Pa.\$25
Kevin, Lesley & Anna Yarkosky (138), Canonsburg, Pa.\$20
Ken & Andrea Yarkosky (138), Strabane, Pa. ...\$20
Jan & Bo Yarkosky (138), Canonsburg, Pa. ...\$20

2024 Wisconsin SNPJ Golf Outing
Tony Mlinar Sr. Memorial
June 15, 2024

at Brookfield Hills Golf Course, Brookfield, Wis.
Modified shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. • Team scramble

Name	Lodge	Phone or e-mail
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Team captain's name & e-mail: _____

The \$80 per person entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes and lunch. Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Lucky Lanes
5014 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53220
Phone: (414) 543-7110
Make checks payable to LUCKY LANES
ENTRY DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2024

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

58th CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament
May 25, 2024
at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio
9 a.m. Shotgun Start

Men Ladies Youth

Name	Lodge	Phone	Hdcp.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Contact name: _____
e-mail: _____

The \$90 entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes, dinner, and sandwich and beverage at the turn. Youth entry fee is \$80. Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Rick Gorjup
7180 Kory Ct., Concord, OH 44077-2221
Phone: (440) 354-5001 [Home] or (440) 773-3233 [Cell]
Make checks payable to
SNPJ Cleveland Athletic League (CAL)
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 19, 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