

# Cabin renovations continue at the Recreation Center

by DAVE SKRAJNER (142)  
SNPJ Recreation Center Committee

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — Greetings once again from our beloved SNPJ Recreation Center, “the Campsite,” where work continues to restore the cabins.

When you enter the Campsite from the main road, you will be greeted by a line of newly refurbished cabins. Counting cabins #1 and #2, which were previously restored, the entire first row of cabins is complete, along with our test cabin #15.

As you enter these cabins through the new

**SEE CABIN RENOVATIONS**  
ON PAGE 2



Several cabins at the SNPJ Recreation Center have been renovated in recent months, complete with updates to the kitchen area and bathrooms, as well as the addition of air-conditioning units.

# SNPJ Heritage Center preparing for the busy summer season ahead

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)  
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — The SNPJ Heritage Center Committee met Saturday, May 4, to finalize plans for our season full of activities, plus do some cleaning in the gift shop and stock the shelves with some new items. The Heritage Center gift shop and museum will be open every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. starting May 25 and ending Aug. 31.

Our annual Slovenian Heritage Center Weekend is planned June 7-9 at the SNPJ Recreation Center. We’ll kick off the weekend with Patty C and The Guys performing in the Gostilna from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday night. Saturday activities begin with a balina tournament in the Balinarena starting at 9 a.m., organized by Denny Brand. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Gostilna on Friday night.

A paint and sip in the barn led by Sarah Loudon, an event that started a few years back, returns again, although with a little later start time of 6 p.m. You’ll have your choice of three stencils to paint on a tote for a total cost of \$20. You must sign up in advance the day prior since there will be a limit of 30 participants. To close out Saturday evening, bingo is scheduled in the Gostilna starting at 8 p.m.

Sunday will offer another full day of activity, starting at 11:30 a.m. with the dedication of the newly-completed fire pit near the lake in memory of the late Kevin Richards. At noon, Joe Valencic from Cleveland will show the DVD “100% Slovenian – Stories of Slovenian Women in America” in the basement Wine Room of the Culkar Building.

**SEE HERITAGE CENTER SEASON**  
ON PAGE 5

# The Society mourns the passing of former National Board member Bro. Ken Anderson

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH  
SNPJ National President/CEO

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The Slovene National Benefit Society sadly announces the May 2, 2024, passing of former SNPJ Finance Committee member, current District 5 Athletic Board member and SNPJ Lodge 677 President Bro. Kenneth W. “Ken” Anderson, 87. He was a 63-year SNPJ member.

Bro. Anderson was born Feb. 28, 1937, in Detroit, the son of Paul and Julia Anderson. He was the grandson of August and Marit Anderson, who emigrated from Sweden and Norway in the 1870s to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to find work in the copper mine industry.

Ken attended McKenzie High School in Detroit and Waldorf Lutheran College in Forest City, Iowa, where he majored in business and played on both the baseball and football teams. Growing up, Ken attended St. Olaf’s Lutheran Church in Detroit with his parents and family. He enlisted and served in the Michigan National Guard from 1960 to 1962 and was assigned as a mechanic and truck driver at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Ken’s first employment was at a Speedway gas station where he found his love of cars and

met his future bride. His professional career began at the forefront of the computer industry, first working the night shift at Allstate as a mainframe computer operator utilizing punch cards, then at American Standard, and finally at Blue Cross-Blue Shield where he retired as Chief Systems Analyst in 1988.

Ken went on to start several automotive service businesses, working alongside his sons, then sold mortgages in the hot housing market that existed in the late 1990s. During his time at Allstate, Ken became active as a Junior Achievement Advisor, assisting young people learn about business. This was the start of many years of volunteering.

He also coached his son’s baseball teams, served as president of Birmingham, Mich., Little League alongside local Red Wing great Gordie Howe and Tiger great Al Kaline, and helped spearhead the renaming of the league for 13- and 14-year-olds from “Babe Ruth” to the new “Al Kaline League.” Their team, the Yankees, won the league’s inaugural championship.

Ken followed his wife’s family, Frank and Helen Bonardi, joining the SNPJ, where he found a lifetime of involvement. He participated in SNPJ baseball, bowling and golf leagues, and



**Bro. KENNETH W. ANDERSON (677)**  
• 1937–2024 •

traveled to many regional and national tournaments and events, making friendships across the country.

**SEE Bro. KENNETH ANDERSON**  
ON PAGE 6

# The first contestant opens the field for the 2024 Miss SNPJ Pageant

by COURTNEY KOENIG  
Fraternal Director

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The countdown is on until the 2024 Miss SNPJ Pageant, and we welcome the first entrant to the 66th Miss SNPJ Pageant, Anna Mack (138).

Anna, a member of Lodge 138 in Strabane, Pa., is the daughter of Melissa Stanish and the late Ronald Mack, and the granddaughter of Stefani and Michael Stanish.

A 2023 graduate of Canon-McMillan Senior High School, she is now attending college at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. Approaching her sophomore year there, Anna is majoring in mathematics with a minor in economics. With this education, she plans on going through the

process of actuarial certifications prior to and following her graduation.

Anna found her love for mathematics in high school, and before that she had a great love for art. She has many artistic skills, dabbling in almost every medium available to her: painting, drawing, writing, crocheting, and many more throughout her life. There has always been a major element of both mathematics and art in her life – her father was a carpenter and loved to do artistic things like building and drawing, but with that comes a lot of math. He was always certain to teach Anna both, allowing her to learn most of her multiplication tables around age 5.

**SEE FIRST PAGEANT ENTRANT**  
ON PAGE 2



**ANNA MACK**  
Lodge 138, Strabane, Pa.



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## briefly

### Lodge 274 merged with Lodge 749 as of June 1

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — As of June 1, 2024, all members of SNPJ Lodge 274 in Dunlo, Pa., have been merged into SNPJ Lodge 749 in Johnstown, Pa.

We thank the officers of SNPJ Lodge 274 for their service to the members of their Lodge, and we wish them all many more healthy and happy years in the Society. We also thank the officers and members of SNPJ Lodge 749 for agreeing to accept the Lodge merger. We wish you much success going forward.

**KAREN A. PINTAR**  
SNPJ National Secretary/COO

### Lodge 225 hosting annual picnic on June 9

**GIRARD, Kan.** — SNPJ Lodge 225 will host its annual picnic and membership drive on Sunday, June 9, starting at noon at the Arma American Legion. All Lodge members and their guests are invited to attend.

**LINDA SCALES**  
Lodge 225 Secretary/Treasurer

### Change of date for the Lodge 581 Aug. meeting

**ST. MARYS, Pa.** — The date of the SNPJ Lodge 581 third quarter meeting has been changed from Aug. 4 to Aug. 18. The meeting will be held at the Kersey Fireman’s in Kersey, Pa., starting at 12:30 p.m. A polka dance will follow at 2 p.m.; the dance is open to the public.

**MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI**  
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

## THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are July 1 and Aug. 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, June 17, for the July 1 issue, and by Monday, July 22, for the Aug. 1 issue. If you’re concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com) or submit your material via the publications area of our website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).



**Brooks C. Cadez**  
Born July 14, 2023  
Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138

Lodge 138 welcomes Brooks Cameron Cadez as the newest addition to the Lodge. A fifth-generation SNPJ member, Brooks is the son of Jacob and Bethany Cadez, grandson of Jim and Laurie Cadez, and great-grandson of the late Jim and Rose Cadez, all members of Lodge 138. We welcome Brooks to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.



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**PROSVETA**  
*ENLIGHTENMENT*  
(USPS 448-080)  
(ISSN 1080-0263)

The Official Publication of the  
**Slovene National  
Benefit Society**

**247 W. Allegheny Road  
Imperial, PA 15126-9774**  
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Subscription rate is \$8 per year for non-SNPJ members in the United States (Fla. subscribers, please add 6 percent sales tax). Canadian and foreign subscriptions, \$50 per year. Advertising information available by contacting our office. Material concerning the official workings of the Slovene National Benefit Society is given publication priority. Unsolicited manuscripts returned only if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to:  
**PROSVETA, 247 W. Allegheny Rd.,  
Imperial, PA 15126-9774**  
(Published monthly)  
(Periodical postage paid at Imperial, Pa.,  
and additional mailing office.)

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The current Miss SNPJ Pageant Court:  
[from left] 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 announced Sunday, July 14, during Slovenefest weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

## First contestant enters the 2024 pageant

**FIRST PAGEANT ENTRANT**  
FROM PAGE 1

While in high school, Anna was able to apply her artistic skills for community service, such as window painting at a hospital, arts and crafts with children at events, painting faces, and more. These activities taught her the importance of art to the community and how donating her time can make a world of a difference for others.

Anna competed on the women's indoor and outdoor track and field teams for Chatham this year, and plans to also join the cross country team in the coming year. During her freshman year she was able to compete in both the 4x200 indoor and 4x100 outdoor events, in which only the four fastest girls are part of the team, and she was honored to be able to be a member of those teams as a freshman.

Anna was on the Canon-McMillan High School track and field team during her junior and senior years, and she has always loved to run. She began her career as one of the slowest on the team, but with more training she became one of the top girls. Anna participated in sprints in high school and continues to do so now, as well as jumping. She lettered both years she participated and was awarded various medals throughout her two years of track and field at Canon-McMillan.

Anna has been an SNPJ member since 2017. She has participated in just about every event held at Strabane Lodge 138, including dressing as the Duck Race mas-

cot and the Easter bunny. She has spent most of her time as a member of Youth Circle 19 since her mother is a former Circle member and worked in the Lodge 138 kitchen when she was younger. Anna loves assisting with events and helping the Lodge grow through promotions, and she hopes to continue to support Lodge 138 as she gets older.

Throughout her time as an SNPJ member, Anna has helped make costumes for plays and musicals held at Christmastime, handed out snow cones at the annual Duck Races, set up a number of parties, participated in many of the Fourth of July parades, served during the Men's 200 Club, and bowled with the kids for many years – sometimes letting them win, though those kids really know how to bowl!

Anna has also been working in the Lodge 138 kitchen during all of her breaks from school, and plans to continue working in the kitchen this summer. She is doing this not only to support the Lodge, but to follow in her mother's footsteps as she has made the kitchen a tastier place throughout her time as the kitchen manager.

We welcome Anna and wish her the best in the 2024 Miss SNPJ Pageant.

The pageant program will begin at noon in The Alpine Room on Saturday, July 13; everyone is invited to attend. The crowning of Miss SNPJ 2025 and her court will take place in The Alpine Room starting at noon on Sunday, July 14. I look forward to seeing everyone at Slovenefest 2024!

## Lodge 34 joining in the Slovenian Independence Day festivities at the SNH

by JERRY WATSON  
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

**INDIANAPOLIS** — *Dober dan!* Lodge 34 members held their first quarterly meeting of the year on March 8 at the Slovenian National Home (SNH). The meeting included preparing and serving the Friday night dinner at the SNH.

Lodge officers got together and created an outstanding dinner of gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. The sandwiches included a pepper of choice, three different cheeses, and two different types of bread. Tomato soup, chips, and cookies rounded out the meal.

Many of the diners expressed their thanks to our

Lodge members for the great food, along with the donation of all proceeds to the SNH.

We're glad to have Lodge 449 member Alenka Rus represent our Lodge at the SNPJ Young Adult Conference in June. Many thanks to SNPJ Region 4 Vice President Tina Rigler for her assistance.

Our second quarterly meeting will be held Saturday, June 22, at the SNH starting at 3 p.m. The SNH is hosting a Slovenian Independence Day festival that day, and our Lodge has agreed to help with the many festival activities, donate krofe, and prepare a Slovenian soup. Please try to attend the meeting and enjoy the festival.



The gourmet grilled cheese dinners served by SNPJ Lodge 34 members are always a hit at the Indianapolis SNH.

## Work progressing on cabin renovations at the Rec Center

**CABIN RENOVATIONS**  
FROM PAGE 1

doors, you will be greeted with new flooring and a redesigned kitchen area, complete with a new sink and shelving. The bathrooms have new showers and sinks. The cabins are air-conditioned (you read that right!), and there are new windows throughout. There are also roofline exhaust fans to keep that warm rising air from accumulating at the ceiling and making the cabins

harder to cool.

So please keep those donations coming! We are being judicious with all contributions to the Cabin Renovation Fund. See the Rec Center Cabin Renovation Project article on page 6 for donation information.

As the donations are received, we will continue to move forward with this project, always, always making certain every dollar is used wisely and making our Campsite more appealing to SNPJ members.



In addition to air conditioning, the newly renovated cabins feature new flooring, a redesigned kitchen area with new sinks and shelving, new bathroom fixtures, new windows, and roofline exhaust fans for improved ventilation.

## Up-and-Coming... A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- JUNE 7-9 .... SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).
- JUNE 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 9 ..... SNPJ Silverstars Lodge 729 Indoor Picnic at the Yukon, Pa., Slovenian Hall. Music by Garrett Tatano, 2-6 p.m. Admission \$10.
- JUNE 14-16 ... SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144, or e-mail [ckoenig@snpj.com](mailto:ckoenig@snpj.com).
- 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 prize 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, Utica, Mich. Game time is 5:30 p.m.
- 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](mailto: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.
- JULY 28-AUG. 3 .... Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).
- AUG. 30-SEPT. 1 ... National SNPJ Days weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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by GINA WISE  
SNPJ Marketing Manager

# Slovenefest: More than an event

From July 12-14, the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ, Pa., will come alive with the vibrant spirit of Slovenia. Mark your calendars now because it's sure to be another unforgettable celebration! Whether you're a seasoned attendee or a first timer, here's why you should rally your friends and family to join in the festivities. You don't need a Slovenian heritage to enjoy Slovenefest – everyone is welcome! It's more than an event to celebrate Slovenian culture; it's a time of love, laughter and lasting memories.

Slovenefest isn't just an event, it's a feast for the senses. From the moment you step onto the festival grounds you'll be greeted by the lively music, the aroma of traditional dishes, and the colorful swirl of dancers. Share this vibrant experience with your loved ones – they'll thank you for it!

There's something magical about celebrating alongside family and friends at an event; but Slovenefest brings people together in a way that transcends generations and backgrounds. As you're sipping on a cold beer or enjoying a polka or waltz, you'll feel the warmth of unity and togetherness. Encourage your loved ones to be part of this shared tradition.

By inviting your loved ones to Slovenefest, you're not only inviting them to an event, you're also passing down a legacy. Imagine your children learning the lyrics of your favorite Slovenian melodies, or your grandparents sharing tales of their own SNPJ adventures. These memories become part of your family's story – a gift for generations.

When you need to take a break from dancing, make a beeline for the SNPJ Membership Booth. Encourage your friends and family to become SNPJ members so they can gain access to new opportunities and help secure their financial future.

Remind your friends and family that the fun doesn't end when Slovenefest does. SNPJ membership means that at the Lodge level there are picnics, game nights, live music and other activities throughout the year. Membership means participation in national athletic tournaments. Whether it's bowling, balina, bean bags or golf, imagine their thrill of competing on a grand stage. Membership means that young adult members can receive scholarship assistance, compete in the Miss SNPJ Pageant, attend the Young Adult Conference, and much more.

And who doesn't love surprises? At the Membership Booth, you and your loved ones can register to win free prizes. It's a delightful bonus that adds to the excitement of the day.

While Slovenefest is a whirlwind of fun, it's essential to share with your guests the broader benefits of membership. An SNPJ membership is more than an access card. The life insurance or annuity policy purchased for that membership is a legal contract that protects individuals or families financially, and it's backed by the promise of a 120-year-old fraternal benefit society.

Encourage your guests to visit the Membership Booth and speak with an SNPJ agent. While membership is achieved by becoming the insured on an SNPJ life insurance policy or the owner of an SNPJ annuity, there are many ways to accomplish this. An SNPJ agent can guide your loved ones by making recommendations and providing options based on their personal situation.

If you have family or friends who want to become members prior to Slovenefest, have them call the Home Office at 1-800-THE-SNPJ so we can get them in touch with an SNPJ agent near them.

For Slovenefest information visit [www.slovenefest.com](http://www.slovenefest.com).

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



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## Slovenia elected to the UNICEF Executive Board

**NEW YORK (STA)** — Slovenia was elected to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a three-year term starting in January 2025 and running through the end of 2027, Slovenian Ambassador to the UN Boštjan Malovrh announced in mid-April following the UN Economic and Social Council elections.

The Executive Board is the governing body of UNICEF. It oversees the agency's work; approves policy, budget and country programs; and provides country support. The board includes representatives of 36 UN member states, with seats distributed according to the world organization's regional key. The Western Europe and Others group has 12 seats, the Africa group eight, the Asia group seven, Latin America and the Caribbean five, and Eastern Europe four.

The Executive Board meets in New York three times a year, in February, June and September.

The work of the Executive Board is coordinated by the Bureau, comprising the president and four vice presidents, each officer representing one of the five UN regional groups.

## Space technology companies visit the U.S.

**DENVER (STA)** — In mid-April, several companies that have contributed to Slovenia developing a notable space technologies sector in recent years presented themselves in Colorado Springs and Denver as part of a roadshow organized by the Slovenian Space Office, the SPIRIT public agency, the Slovenian Defense Ministry and the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The visit, designed to promote Slovenia's promising space sector that includes more than 40 small and mid-sized companies developing innovative technologies and materials, was described by the Economy Ministry as "one of the important steps to strengthen future cooperation between Slovenia and the U.S."

The first leg of the roadshow took place in Colorado Springs, where seven Slovenian space industry companies – Dewesoft, Duol, FerroČrtalič, Intectiv, Obeor, Paradigma Technologies and Skylabs – attended the Space Symposium and presented their products.

According to the Economy Ministry, more than 12,000 participants from around the globe, including representatives from governments, space agencies, companies and institutions, attend the event each year, making it an excellent platform for creating contacts and learning about global trends in the space sector.

While in Colorado Springs, the Slovenian delegation, led by Tanja Pernozer, the director of the Slovenian Space Office, met with a representative of Axiom Space, the company building the first private space station, which has international cooperation agreements with a number of countries, as well as with NASA.

Pernozer also met with representatives of the European Space Agency (ESA) and with officials representing the institutions of its member states. Slovenia is an ESA associate member and is currently seeking full membership.

Strengthening international cooperation with key partners such as the ESA, the U.S., Italy, France, Germany and EU countries is of enormous importance to Slovenia, whose space sector has been developing rapidly since the country became an associate member of the ESA in 2016, the Economy Ministry noted. "Some companies are already successfully cooperating with the U.S., but there are many more opportunities to strengthen cooperation in this field," the ministry added.

## Plenty of waste removed from the Ljubljana

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — In late April, divers removed roughly a ton of waste from the Ljubljana River, which runs through Ljubljana, during their 33rd annual campaign to wrap-up the spring cleanup in the Slovenian capital.

Some 100 divers were involved in the effort in the Ljubljana, along with fishermen, firefighters and other volunteers who helped onshore. The waste



recovered from the river was displayed at the Cobbler's Bridge.

Since some of the items recovered were likely linked to criminal offenses such as thefts, the event also included police officers, who tried to establish which of the items might be linked to a crime.

Miro Potočnik, the head of the Vivera Underwater Activities Association, was happy to note that the amount of waste discovered was declining year after year. "When we first started cleaning up the riverbed 33 years ago, we gathered four tons; this year we ended up with just under a ton."

This year, for the first time, the divers made their way under the Ljubljana central market to remove waste.

The cleanup campaign was accompanied by an entertainment program featuring the Water Man and Urška who, in a famous ballad written by poet France Prešeren, ventured into the depths of the Ljubljana River.

## Center Rog honored by the EU Heritage Hub

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Center Rog, the arts and culture hub launched in October 2023 in the revamped central building of Ljubljana's former Rog bicycle factory, was recently selected as one of 10 European examples of Local Good Practice in the Field of Cultural Heritage for contributing to the green, digital and social transformation of society.

The center – which houses production "labs" (or co-production workshops), studios for artists and collectives, a library, a large area for socializing and exhibitions, restaurants, cafes and shops – was so honored by the European Heritage Hub, an EU-funded pilot project that brings together heritage initiatives across Europe.

Center Rog director Renata Zamida, who explained that Rog was one of 40 entries from 33 cities or regions from around Europe, said the center would continue to strive for positive change and for meeting local challenges. She noted that the Eurocities network, in which Ljubljana also participates, will present the recognized projects in more detail in the coming months.

The recognition was announced during a late April press conference by Ljubljana Mayor Zoran Janković, who said Center Rog's main problem at present was finding enough space for everybody wishing to be active there.

## Ajdovščina included on the Phoenicians' Route

**AJDOVŠČINA (STA)** — As of April 1, the municipality of Ajdovščina in southwest Slovenia is now included in the Council of Europe Phoenicians' Route which reinforces intercultural links created by the Phoenicians throughout the Mediterranean. The connection helps boost the cooperation of various institutions, universities, museums and cultural research centers.

The Phoenicians' Route refers to the major nautical routes used by the Phoenicians since the 12th century BC for trade and cultural communication in the Mediterranean. The goal of the Route is to reinforce the historical links created by ancient civilizations.

"[The Route] promotes Mediterranean culture and strengthens ties among the Mediterranean countries that share the same history. It is based on historical, social and cultural relations that the Phoenicians created along these nautical routes," the Ajdovščina municipality explained on its website.

The consortium of Phoenicians' Route members brings together institutional, territorial and thematic cultural bodies; universities; research centers; schools; non-profit organizations; private individuals and other groups from 15 Euro-Mediterranean countries. The consortium currently has 108 members, including 18 universities and 22 museums.

According to the Ajdovščina municipality, consortium members are committed to cooperating in research and development, improving knowledge, and raising awareness of both history and European culture. They also organize

cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans, promoting contemporary cultural and artistic programs. At the same time, they strive to promote cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development.

Ajdovščina was included in the Phoenicians' Route due to its long Roman history: from the first post station, mansio Fluvio Frigido, dating from the second century BC; to the late Roman military camp, Castra Ad Fluvium Frigidum; and the third century AD fortress, Ad Pirum, which was part of the Claustre Alpium Iuliarum Roman defense system.

## Band debuts prehistoric silver fir instruments

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Musical instruments made from an ancient silver fir trunk discovered last year during a nature restoration project in Triglav National Park were debuted by Bakalina Velika, an experimental world music band, during a recent concert performed in Ljubljana.

Jani Kutin, the band's frontman, was involved in the discovery of several large pieces of wood in a pond near his home in the village of Čadrg in the Tolmin area of western Slovenia. One of the samples has been confirmed by radiocarbon dating to be more than 6,500 years old; the results of two additional samples are still pending, Kutin explained. At any rate, both samples are more than 2,100 years old.

The ancient logs were discovered during a restoration of man-made ponds that once served as watering holes for cattle, but were also a key habitat for native species of newt and toad.

Kutin said his brother, Samo, another member of the band, suggested turning the wood into musical instruments. To date, local musical masters have made a flute and a lyre from the ancient silver fir. The wood turned out to be not only strong, but flexible enough to provide a nice resonance. "The instruments are great, and we are happy," Jani Kutin said. The Kutins are planning to have more instruments made from the ancient wood: a classical guitar, a violin, and a more professional lyre.

For the April performance, the two silver fir instruments were used during improvisation since the performers have yet to incorporate the instruments into their compositions.

The band Bakalina Velika, which is currently working on a new album, released their most recent album, "Zvezdna srebruo" (Star Silver), in April 2022. "Bakalina" is an archaic term for a large clay bowl.

## Medieval Borl Castle reopens after renovation

**CIRKULANE (STA)** — Borl Castle, a medieval castle perched high on a cliff above the Drava River in the Cirkulane municipality in northeastern Slovenia, reopened to visitors in late April following a EUR 2 million (\$2.13 million) restoration project through which roughly a third of the castle was restored.

The castle's origins date back to the 12th or 13th century. It was nationalized after WWII and restored in 1952. Initially offering a restaurant and then a hotel, both were closed in the early 1980s. The castle was then used occasionally for special events.

The Culture Ministry was responsible for the renovation project, in cooperation with the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Institute for Nature Conservation. Culture Minister Asta Vrečko said the project was the first step in the restoration of this monument of national importance.

Hosting an exhibition that provides insight into the biodiversity of the area along the Drava, "the castle will welcome visitors on guided tours, mainly on weekends," according to the director of the agency managing the castle.

The castle's renovated Knights' Hall will accommodate concerts, meetings, events and weddings. Various events can also be held in two castle courtyards.

Management of the castle was recently signed over to the Cirkulane municipality. Mayor Antonija Žumbar said the municipality will cover the costs of maintenance and staff, while the government will continue to provide funding for major repairs and investments.

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



SNPJ fraternal sympathies

BRO. JOHN L. YANOSIK JR.  
• LODGE 265 •

**SOUTHVIE****W, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 265 sadly report the Oct. 5, 2023, passing of Bro. John Louis Yanosik of Houston, Texas, surrounded by family. He was a 61-year SNPJ Lodge 265 member.

Bro. Yanosik was born Dec. 22, 1943, in Southview, a beloved son of the late Anna (Tkaczuk) Yanosik and John Louis Yanosik. He grew up in the coal mining community of Southview and learned the value of hard work on the family farm, growing crops and raising cattle. While attending school he competed as a wrestler and played baseball.

After graduating from Fort Cherry High School in 1961, John attended the University of Pittsburgh to study chemical engineering, culminating with his doctor of philosophy degree in 1970. During this time he also became a lifelong fan of the Pitt and Pittsburgh sports teams.

John then moved to Tulsa, Okla., to start his career with Amoco (Pan American) as a reservoir engineer. While in Tulsa he met the love of his life, Linda Donley, and they were married Sept. 21, 1974.

John and Linda made their home in Tulsa while raising their three children. He taught his children how to play baseball and softball, and was a successful coach for several of their teams. He supported his children in their extracurricular activities, and would often take his family for weekend fishing outings and summer road trips.

A hobbyist, John enjoyed his collections and built creative model train layouts. But his favorite personal activity was his time spent as an avid golfer at Oaks Country Club.

In 1997, John and his family moved to Houston to start their new life in Texas. As part of the move, he jumped at the chance to live near Champions Golf Club, where he continued to look forward to time spent playing with friends and competing in tournaments. Known as “Grandpap,” John was a loving grandfather and enjoyed supporting his grandchildren in their many artistic, athletic and intellectual endeavors.

A devout Catholic, he was a member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church, where he served as a Eucharistic Minister.

In his spare time he perfected his gardening skills and took pleasure in sharing his produce, while also savoring the tranquil views of birds in his flower gardens.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years, Linda Donley Yanosik; his children, John (Mayra) Yanosik, Justin (Regina) Yanosik, and Jessica (Erik) Christenson; and his grandchildren, Julia, Marisa, Andrew, Catherine, Addison, and Jacob.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, JoAnne Hixenbaugh, James Yanosik, Anne Marie Stuhler, and Jerome Yanosik.

Funeral services for Bro. Yanosik were held Oct. 14 at the Mary Chapel of Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Houston. Interment followed in Klein Memorial Park Cemetery, Pinehurst, Texas.

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

BRO. ELMER F. GASPER  
• LODGE 6 •

**SYGAN, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 6 sadly report the Dec. 27, 2023, passing of Bro. Elmer “Elmo” Frank Joseph Gasper, 91, of Carnegie, Pa., formerly of Muse, Pa.

Bro. Gasper was born and raised in Morgan, Pa., a son of the late Jozsef and Harriet (Dalverny) Gaspar. After graduating from South Fayette High School in 1949 he was employed by the O. Hommel Company in Carnegie for 47 years until his retirement in 1997. He loved spending time with his children.

He was always the funniest man in the room, with an incredible sense of humor and lightning quick wit. He loved all types of music and was a great dancer. The ladies used to line up to dance with him at Mario’s in Muse. One of his favorite types of music was polka music, and he helped the late Gil Yurus send out polkas on WKEG radio in the 1970s. Elmer was a 73-year member of SNPJ Lodge 6 in Sygan and an avid bowler. For most of his life he was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Muse, where he served as a commentator and sang in the choir in his younger days.

He was a former member of Cecil Twp. VFD #2 in Muse, where was very active for many years and served on several committees. A lifetime member of the Washington County Fireman’s Association, he served as association president from 1972-1973. He also served one year as tax assessor for Cecil Twp., Pa. He was a current member of the Glendale Fireman’s Club and

Little Jim’s Club in Glendale.

A member of the West Penn Track Club, he started running for fun in his late 50s. After retiring at age 65 he became a competitive runner in four states, winning numerous trophies, medals and plaques in his respective age group. He ran dozens of 5K and 10K races, and competed in four-man team races. His biggest accomplishment was completing a half marathon.

On Feb. 23, 1957, he married Catherine Stajduhar, who passed away April 7, 2010.

Surviving are his sons, Robert Gasper of Pitcairn, Pa., and John Gasper of Cecil; his daughter, Kaye Gasper of Canonsburg, Pa.; a grandson, Bob (Amy) Gasper of Bradenton, Fla.; a granddaughter, Katie (John-Michael D’Arcangelo) of Denver; a great-grandson, Dexter D’Arcangelo; and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his ex-daughter-in-law, Clara Smeltzer; and his longtime friend, Linda Rajchel.

Deceased, in addition to his wife and parents, are his siblings, Russell, Eugene, Harry, Raymond, Mildred Gasper and Mabel Micklege; and a granddaughter, Cara Gasper. He was the last of his immediate family.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Gasper on Jan. 4 in Holy Rosary Church-St. Oscar Romero Parish, Muse. Private interment followed in Oak Spring Cemetery, Canonsburg.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 6 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Gasper’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. DONNA M. RONCEVICH  
• LODGE 782 •

**GLENSHAW, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 782 sadly report the Feb. 24, 2024, passing of Sis. Donna Marie (Hochoer) Ronceвич, 88, of West Deer Twp., Pa., formerly of O’Hara Twp.

Sis. Ronceвич was born Aug. 22, 1935, in Pittsburgh to the late Frank and Mary Catherine (Doerffler) Hochoer. Donna grew up in Etna, proudly graduating from the former Etna High School in 1953.

A natural caregiver, she worked as a home health companion, cooked for the homeless, and made modesty smocks for breast cancer patients. A devoted daughter and only child, her greatest joys in life were her children, grandchildren, husband, and friends.

A 66-year SNPJ member,

she also was a member of St. Joseph’s of O’Hara Roman Catholic Church, and more recently Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in West Deer.

Donna enjoyed cooking, gardening, embroidery, couponing and clearance shopping. She loved to host holidays, birthday parties and Sunday get-togethers. Her Fun Bun sandwiches were legendary.

Donna was a selfless individual. In addition to her seven children, throughout her life she mothered various friends of her children, as well as random pets. She was a wonderful, loving, kind woman, and a friend to all.

She is survived by her children, Thomas (Sally) Ronceвич, Michael (Michelle) Ronceвич, Patricia Ronceвич (Wes Morar), Jon Ronceвич, Raymond (Beth) Ronceвич, and Traci (Matthew) Stotler; 11 beloved grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Thomas “Archie” Ronceвич; daughter Linda Lee Ronceвич; and a grandson.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Sis. Ronceвич on March 1 in Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Transfiguration Church, Russellton, Pa. She was laid to rest next to her husband in St. Mary’s Cemetery, O’Hara Twp.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 782 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Ronceвич’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. DALE R. OPEKA  
• LODGE 138 •

**STRABANE, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Feb. 29, 2024, passing of Bro. Dale Richard Opeka, 63, of McMurray, Pa., in St. Clair Hospital, Mt. Lebanon, Pa. He was a 45-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member.

Born in McMurray, Dale was a graduate of Peters Township High School and later earned his mechanical engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He was a visionary in the automotive industry, purchasing and expanding Opeka Auto Repair into one of the largest privately-owned automotive repair businesses in Western Pennsylvania.

Beyond his business achievements, Dale’s greatest joy in life was being a father. Additionally, his passion for travel took him and his family to many corners of the world, yet he found equal joy in the simple pleasures of life on their

farm in Nottingham Twp., Pa.

Dale was the cherished husband of Corinne “Rene” Evans Opeka, with whom he shared 34 beautiful years of marriage. He was a devoted father to Evan Opeka and Ross Opeka (fiancée Peyton Roy), both of McMurray.

His legacy of love extends to his sister, Nancy (Bill) Barnard of Upper St. Clair, Pa., and aunt Terri Opeka of Denver. He was a fond nephew of Jennie Zuzek, Frank Opeka and Matthew (Jean) Opeka, remembering also his late aunt, Elsie Chesnik. His role as brother-in-law to Sandra (Samuel) Sarnicke and Karen (Eric) Pfeil was equally treasured. Dale’s warmth, wisdom

and humor will be missed by his numerous nieces, nephews and countless friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lillian and John Opeka Jr.

Dale’s life was a testament to his unwavering spirit and the love he had for his family and community. His life was a beacon of dedication and service, and his memory will forever inspire those who knew him.

A funeral service for Bro. Opeka was held March 6 at Beinbauer, McMurray.

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

In Loving Memory

BABCOCK

GRANT

April 10, 1929 – July 10, 2016

LORRAINE

January 26, 1930 – May 27, 2018

Former President & Secretary of Lodge 689

So very loved and deeply missed  
by Shelly, Dave, Gaye and families

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of April 2024

LODGE	NAME	DEATH DATE	CITY, STATE
A02	Esther A. Dugoni	01-05-2024	Pittsburgh, Pa.
A02	Jean Bertha Zotter	04-01-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
2	Mary B. Sterchi	12-04-2023	Mendota, Ill.
5	Brittany Jane Dulay	01-18-2024	Parma, Ohio
6	Ronald J. Demsher	02-21-2024	Bridgeville, Pa.
6	David Snyder	03-19-2022	Hefflin, La.
8	Rose Conti	01-21-2024	Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
31	Verna I. Weyer	04-16-2024	Sharpsville, Pa.
33	Tina A. Polzot	04-07-2024	Aliquippa, Pa.
34	Ida Webb	07-02-2022	Cedar Hill, Mo.
87	Leslie A. Murray	12-29-2023	Wolf Creek, Ore.
106	Amy F. Hartman	02-14-2018	Escondido, Calif.
106	Gail A. Ulager	02-05-2024	Moon Twp., Pa.
106	David J. Stasiulewicz	03-31-2024	Steubenville, Ohio
126	John R. Makcen	03-01-2024	Willowick, Ohio
126	William Verbic	08-01-2022	Wickliffe, Ohio
138	Helen Premro	03-22-2024	Canonsburg, Pa.
138	Helen Johnson	04-20-2024	Canonsburg, Pa.
207	Dorothy M. Tebeau	04-28-2021	Billings, Mont.
216	John H. Youk Sr.	03-31-2024	Verona, Pa.
218	Mary L. Evans	02-25-2024	Pueblo, Colo.
225	Larry D. Hallacy	10-04-2023	Pittsburg, Kan.
265	John L. Yanosik Jr.	10-05-2023	Houston, Texas
277	Myrna J. King	01-21-2024	Poland, Ohio
277	Goldie A. Strong	04-01-2024	Struthers, Ohio
518	Josephine F. Almas	12-02-2023	Canton, Mich.
518	Carl L. Slapshak	04-06-2023	Howell, Mich.
559	Leonard J. Grzbek	01-15-2021	Downers Grove, Ill.
559	Marian Gornik	03-10-2024	Joliet, Ill.
581	Jerry L. Bizzak	03-15-2024	Kane, Pa.
584	Mary Young	03-31-2024	St. Paul, Minn.
584	Celestine M. Spehar	03-03-2024	Minneapolis, Minn.
584	Michael K. Zeman	02-21-2024	Richfield, Wis.
604	Lucille C. Krancevic	12-26-2023	Willoughby, Ohio
604	Ronald Princ	03-18-2024	The Villages, Fla.
689	Marko Yelenich Jr.	10-18-2023	Henderson, Nev.
715	Ludwig S. Zerjav Jr.	07-27-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
715	Martin F. Kumer	03-25-2024	Monroeville, Pa.
715	Joseph E. Babyok	01-01-2024	Coraopolis, Pa.
715	Alfred J. Novak	03-21-2024	Slickville, Pa.
721	Edward J. Yager	11-17-2018	Cranberry Twp., Pa.
723	Joseph Puntar	01-16-2020	Orem, Utah
723	Robert John Cherne	02-05-2024	Sylmar, Calif.
749	Melissa A. Meyers	01-15-2024	Johnstown, Pa.
749	Angela D. Williams	03-23-2024	Davidsville, Pa.
749	Robert G. Williams	04-11-2024	Davidsville, Pa.
770	Jenna M. Sefcik	03-01-2024	Poland, Ohio
771	Erika Pelz Churan	02-03-2024	Youngstown, Ohio
782	Judith L. Kostecky	02-09-2024	Butler, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR  
National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA Crossword

ON THE ROAD (#0524) solution

B	L	U	E	R		E	L	F			F	O	N	T
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PROSVETA 2024 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2024							MAY 2024							SEPTEMBER 2024							
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
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MARCH 2024							JULY 2024							NOVEMBER 2024							
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APRIL 2024							AUGUST 2024							DECEMBER 2024							
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28	29	30					25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					



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

June 9	<b>Miss SNPJ Commission Family Fun Day</b> The Chardon Polka Band
June 16	<b>SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary Picnic</b> Bob Kravos Band
June 23	<b>SNPJ Loyalties Lodge 158 Picnic</b> Don Wojtila Band – <i>FREE</i> admission!
July 4	<b>July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Dance</b> Frank Stanger Orch. and Klancnik & Friends
July 21	<b>Cleveland SNPJ Federation/ SNPJ Farm Board Picnic</b> The Zolkas Band & more TBA
July 28	<b>SNPJ Lodges 5 &amp; 604 Combined Picnic</b> Jeff Pecon Band & Polka Mass
Aug. 11	<b>SNPJ Spartans Lodge 576 Picnic and Lou Novak Balina Tournament</b> Joe Novak & Friends and Patty C & The Guys
Aug. 25	<b>Penn-Ohio Polka Pals Picnic</b> Bill Bevec Band & more TBA

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

A busy summer ahead for the SNPJ Heritage Center

HERITAGE CENTER SEASON  
FROM PAGE 1

On Sunday, a dance in the Heritage Pavilion will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. featuring the Frank Stanger Band alternating with the Western Pa. Button Box Club. This is a free-admission dance with a monetary donation asked at the door. Refreshments and food will be available for purchase at the Heritage Pavilion.

Another great event to check out is the Simply Slavic Festival in downtown Youngstown, Ohio, on Friday and Saturday, June 14-15. This festival honors all the Eastern European nationalities with food, drink and music. Heritage Center Committee members will display our traveling museum in the ethnic tent, and items from our gift shop will be sold in the Marketplace. Be sure to stop by and check out our tables.

Then we have the best event of all, Slovenefest, the weekend

of July 12-14. Our gift shop will be open on Friday from 4 to 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from noon until 6 p.m. We'll also be outside on our patio Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. under smaller tents where items from the gift shop will be sold in the Marketplace, and there will also be a few tents where you can discover more about Slovenia.

On Saturday you can ask Mary Jo Hartman genealogy questions, Sarah Loudon will lead a make it/take it project, and Kathy Hlad will demonstrate the art of playing the button box accordion. On Sunday, Maureen Tuttle will demonstrate *čipke* lace making on a bobbin, and Joe Valencic will introduce you to all of the Slovenian activities in which you can become involved.

Following the Miss SNPJ Pageant crowning ceremonies on Sunday, Selina Progar will conduct a special baking dem-

onstration of Slovenian pastry in the Alpine Room.

The SNPJ Heritage Center has several new items that you'll want to check out as well: a new tie-dye design T-shirt, a new quarter-zip lightweight sweatshirt, and a new coffee mug.

Finally, to close the month of July we'll open the gift shop on Wednesday, July 31, during Family Week for our annual wine and cheese event in the museum.

We look forward to sharing our love of Slovenia with you at these various events.



The stencils available for the totes offered at the paint and sip led by Sarah Loudon on Saturday, June 8, in the SNPJ Recreation Center barn during Heritage Center Weekend.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting  
Teleconference meeting held Aug. 9, 2023

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Chairman Hervol with Sis. Anderson and Brothers Clifford, Evanish and Lawrence in attendance.

A motion was made by Bro. Clifford, second by Bro. Evanish, to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2023, meeting. Motion approved.

There were no transactions to report for the quarter.

Reviewed the portfolio.

Joined by phone conference at 1 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 discussed portfolio investment guidelines.

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

Discussion on the current first-year guarantee rate on annuities.

Motion by Bro. Evanish, second by Bro. Clifford, to adjust the first-year guarantee rate on the eight-year annuity to 5.5% and on the five-year annuity to 5.0% effective Aug. 15, 2023. Motion approved.

The date of the next meeting will be determined.

Motion to adjourn at 2:15 p.m. by Sis. Anderson, second by Bro. Clifford. Motion approved.

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

Teleconference meeting held Nov. 6, 2023

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Chairman Hervol with Sis. Anderson and Brothers Clifford, Evanish and Lawrence in attendance.

A motion was made by Sis. Anderson, second by Bro. Evanish, to approve the minutes of the Aug. 9, 2023, meeting. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Bro. Clifford, second by Bro. Evanish, to approve the report of bond purchases for the third quarter 2023. Motion

approved.

Reviewed the portfolio and transactions for the period.

Joined by phone conference at 1:30 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 2:05 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be determined.

Motion to adjourn at 2:11 p.m. by Bro. Clifford, second by Sis. Anderson. Motion approved.

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

Report of the Secretary for the period July 1 through Sept. 30, 2023

Purchases:

Trade Date	Security Description	Coupon	Par Value	Cost	Maturity Date
8/18/2023	Allstate Corp	4.200%	350,000	271,509	12/15/2046
8/22/2023	Charles Schwab Corp	6.140%	105,000	105,000	8/24/2034
8/23/2023	Charles Schwab Corp	6.140%	170,000	170,996	8/24/2034
8/18/2023	Columbia Pipe	6.040%	275,000	272,723	11/15/2033
8/18/2023	Cred Agricole	5.510%	275,000	269,657	7/5/2033
8/25/2023	FundDuLac Bug	6.430%	110,000	110,000	11/1/2052
9/5/2023	Philip Morris Intern	5.630%	330,000	323,852	9/7/2033
8/16/2023	Theory & Comptr Sci	6.690%	250,000	250,000	7/1/2033
8/17/2023	VDC 2021-1A A2	2.170%	400,000	351,672	10/15/2046
9/15/2023	VDCR 23-1A A2A	5.000%	205,000	186,395	9/15/2048

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

PROSVETA Crossword  
TV Dads (#0624) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- 1. Necklace lock
- 6. Blue
- 9. \*Mr. Micelli in "Who's the Boss"
- 13. "The Tortoise and the Hare," e.g.
- 14. Beer acronym
- 15. Check recipient
- 16. Angler's basket
- 17. Circle part
- 18. "Orange" warning
- 19. \*Mr. Keaton in "Family Ties"
- 21. \*Mr. Cunningham in "Happy Days"
- 23. Dad's offspring
- 24. "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument
- 25. General Post Office
- 28. Plural of cecum
- 30. Pompous windbag
- 35. Not written
- 37. Scotch ingredient
- 39. Complain
- 40. Spanish surrealist Joan
- 41. Formed #17 Across
- 43. Press back arrow key
- 44. Not odds
- 46. "Musical" constellation
- 47. Backgammon predecessor
- 48. Louisiana music genre
- 50. Aware of
- 52. Jeans brand

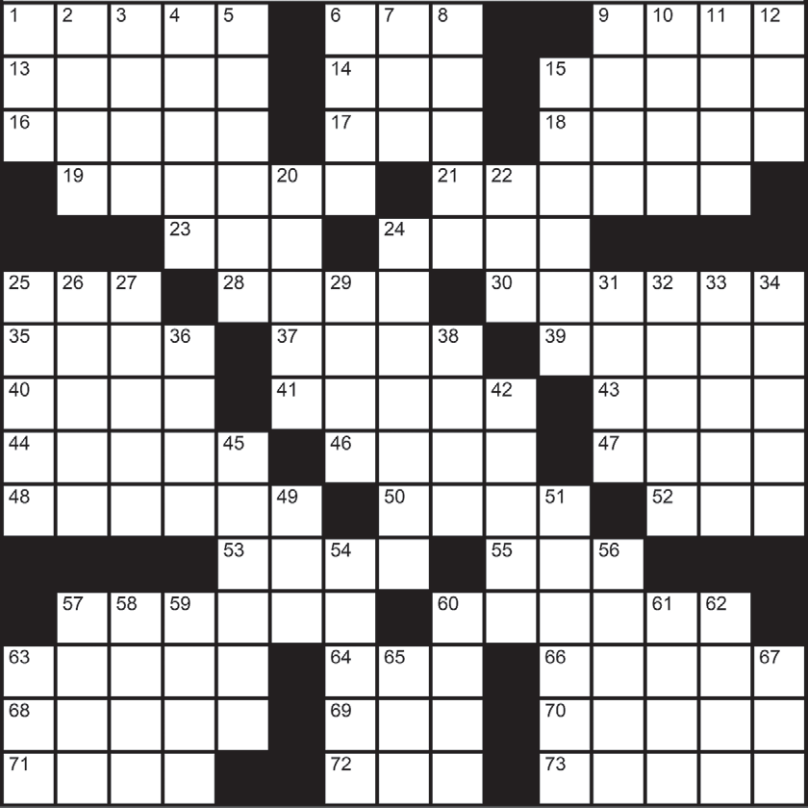
- 53. In a little while, old-fashioned
- 55. Old age, old-fashioned
- 57. \*Mr. White in "Breaking Bad"
- 60. \*Mr. Stark in "Game of Thrones"
- 63. Ruffle on a blouse
- 64. Determine the sum
- 66. Feline sound
- 68. Bronze, e.g.
- 69. Chasing game
- 70. "All joking \_\_\_\_"
- 71. Big Bang's original matter
- 72. Compass bearing
- 73. Type of stocking

DOWN

- 1. Olden-day aerosol can propellant, acr.
- 2. Lawrence, for short
- 3. Aid and \_\_\_\_
- 4. Like gelled hair
- 5. Relating to pelvis
- 6. a.k.a. Xi'an
- 7. Credit card rate, acr.
- 8. Putin's country house, e.g.
- 9. Samoan money
- 10. Deed hearing
- 11. Egghead
- 12. Up to the present time
- 15. a.k.a. melon tree
- 20. Organ swelling
- 22. What organza and forgiveness have in common

- 24. Calm and peaceful
- 25. \*Mr. Addams in "The Addams Family"
- 26. Outhouse
- 27. Propelled like Argo
- 29. \*Mr. Winslow in "Family Matters"
- 31. Give the cold shoulder
- 32. Twofold
- 33. \*Mr. Johnson in "Black-ish"
- 34. Glittery stone
- 36. Like certain Ranger
- 38. Seaside bird
- 42. Old hat
- 45. Scatterbrained, in U.K.
- 49. Top seed
- 51. Nickname for dad (2 words)
- 54. Speak like Cicero
- 56. \_\_\_\_ Buchanan of "The Great Gatsby"
- 57. China's Great one
- 58. Often goes with "willing"
- 59. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
- 60. Upper hand
- 61. Not top-shelf
- 62. Popular symbol of extinction
- 63. \*Mr. Pritchett in "Modern Family"
- 65. \*Mr. Conner in "Roseanne"
- 67. Skin cyst

The solution to puzzle #0624 will run in the July 1 issue.



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# St. Marys Lodge 581 delving into Slovenian culture

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI  
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

**ST. MARYS, Pa.** — The Slovenian class on Zoom from Slovenia has been a great success. All 16 students are planning to take a break during the summer and resume class in September. The class includes not only the Slovenian language, but the culture, geography, foods and celebrations as well.

The SNPJ students range in ages from their 30s to their 80s and join the class from their homes in Pennsylvania, Florida, New Jersey and Maryland. We're excited about continuing the class in the fall.

Lodge 581 members held their second meeting of 2024 on April 28. Reports were given on the two-and-a-half tons of garbage collected along Jackson and West Creek roads, along with a plan for 2025.

In May we selected the winners of the Jerry Troha Music Scholarship. Awards of \$250 will be given to students who qualify by demonstrating that they share their music with their community and are 2024 graduates of one of the high schools in St. Marys. These winners are welcome to entertain at a polka dance in the summer.

Our summer picnic, scheduled Aug. 25, is co-sponsored by the North Central Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters. As with all the dances, if this is your first time attending a dance, your entrance admission will be free. However, you must make a reservation for the meal.

Kersey Firemen will provide the meal, and drinks will be available for purchase. A Chinese auction is also

planned, so bring a donation to be drawn off. Polka music will be provided by Frank Stanger from Doylestown, Ohio. Contact Pat Moore at (814) 837-9218 for picnic reservations. See you all then!

Don't forget, Slovenefest is scheduled July 12-14 at the

SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa. Contact Pat Moore for more information.

As a special notice to Lodge 581 members, the Aug. 4 meeting has been changed to Sunday, Aug. 18, at the Kersey Firemen's.

*Uživajte v poletju!*

<b>Slovenec sem!</b>	<b>I'm Slovene!</b>
<i>Slovenec sem! Slovenec sem! Tako je matri djala, ko me je dete pestovala. Zatorje dobro vem: Slovenec sem! Slovenec sem!</i>	<i>I'm Slovene! I'm Slovene! That's what my mother told me, when in her arms she did hold me. And that is how I know so well: I'm Slovene! I'm Slovene!</i>
<i>Slovenec sem! Slovenec sem! Od zibeli do groba ne gane moja se zvestoba, s ponosom reči smem: Slovenec sem! Slovenec sem!</i>	<i>I'm Slovene! I'm Slovene! From the cradle to the grave, my loyalty will never waver, With great pride, I always say: I'm Slovene! I'm Slovene!</i>

The lyrics to the Slovenian patriotic folk song "Slovenec sem" and the English translation taught to the participants in the St. Marys Lodge 581 Slovenian class.

# The Society saddened by the loss of former National Board member Bro. Ken Anderson

**Bro. KENNETH ANDERSON**  
FROM PAGE 1

He quickly took on leadership positions within SNPJ Lodge 677 and the Detroit Federation, running youth bowling leagues, chairing tournaments, organizing group outings to Detroit Tigers and Pistons games, and getting others involved. He was the president/founder of the Detroit Athletic League and the originator of Detroit Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

At the Society's national level, Ken's service on the SNPJ National Board included a term as Region 5 Director from 1983-1986, and as a member of the National Board Finance Committee from 1999 through 2022, for a total of 28 years. Over that period, he was elected to serve four-year

terms at each SNPJ Quadrennial Convention.

In addition to serving on the National Board, Ken was also elected to the SNPJ National Athletic Board, serving as a District Director from 1975-1979, and again from 1988 until his passing, for a total of 40 years. He chaired a number of SNPJ Eastern and National bowling tournaments, and SNPJ Motor City Open golf tournaments.

Regionally, Ken served as president of the Detroit SNPJ Athletic League since 1985, keeping the Detroit area golf and bowling leagues active for many years, and chairing many Detroit-Flint bowling tournaments and golf matches.

On the local level, Ken served as SNPJ Wolverine Lodge 677 vice president for 11 years, then led the Wolverine

Lodge as president for more than 52 years, since 1971. From 1975-1977 and again from 1985-1986 he served as president of the Detroit Federation of SNPJ Lodges. He was also a founding member and leader of the former SNPJ Northern Home in Warren, Mich.

He represented the Society at Michigan Fraternal Alliance (MFA) annual meetings for a number of years, serving on the MFA board as president and thus chairing the annual meeting during his tenure.

Ken was respected and honored numerous times over the years for his enduring service. He was always there when someone asked and never complained. He loved spending time with his wife and family at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Pennsylvania and at their cottage in northern Michigan. Ken was loved by his family and friends, and

will be deeply missed. He left this life surrounded by family and love.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy Anderson (nee Bonardi), whom he married May 28, 1960; by his children, Tracey (the late Tim Tavalire), Stephen (Holly) and Jeffrey (Karin); and by his grandchildren, Erik, Jack, James, Holli Sommerfeld, Aaron (Anne) Tavalire, and Hannah (Andrew Astells) Tavalire.

A funeral service for Bro. Anderson was held Saturday, May 11, at Zion Lutheran Church, Ferndale, Mich. The family suggests memorials to the SNPJ Cabin Renovation Fund, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126; or to a charity of the donor's choice.

On behalf of the entire Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Anderson's family and friends on their loss.

# 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 month of April 2024

The following donations were made in memory of Martin Kumer:

Dolores V. Brandt, Myrtle Beach, S.C. ....	\$100
G. Deborah Walko, Bethel Park, Pa. ....	\$100

Vincent "Babe" & Beverly Baselj and family (6), Bridgeville, Pa. ....	\$100
Nancy Jane Welsh, Sewickley, Pa. ....	\$100
Dylan & Doris Lynn, Bensalem, Pa. ....	\$50

Joseph C. Evanish (106), Oakdale, Pa. ....	\$50
Bob & Lydia Cessna, Pittsburgh. ....	\$40
Mary M. Garvin, Beaver, Pa. ....	\$25
Kathleen Paulenich (776), Sharon Pa. ....	\$25

# Members can 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 your mail carrier to deliver the current issue.

Secondly, archived issues are also available on the website. Click on the 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 will 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 expenses? Send us your e-mail address. Simply e-mail *snpj@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 Membership Anniversaries June 2024

### 80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
5	Edward Platzar
584	Joseph J. Nosan

### 70-Year Members

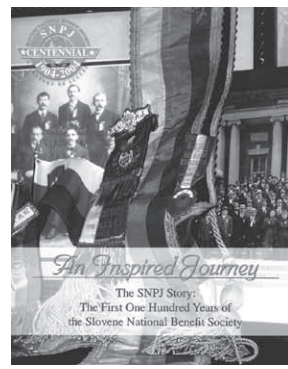
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
34	Delores A. Ruch	225	William S. Rezin
138	Jacqueline DeFelice	257	Robert R. Hochevar
158	Dorothy L. Kapel	584	Donna H. VanEss
174	Louis M. Swelfer	603	Joanne L. Cerrito

### 60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Linda L. Peterson	218	Edwin D. Dover
5	Charlene J. Dornback	562	Nancy K. Shaw
6	Gene P. DeFillippo	584	Ann P. Cich
87	Jacqueline A. Aupke	584	Edith M. Kantola
87	Janet Lomax	604	James M. Winton
106	Robert W. Rozman	723	Paulette Isham-Wolf
138	Jacqueline M. Elias	776	Nancy L. Moran
174	Carol A. Mesaros	A02	Janice R. Horn
174	Charles E. Plis		

### 50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	Mark M. Batulewick	218	Alan J. Tomsic
6	Jean M. Yocius	225	Jonette S. Huchton
87	Stephen C. Holupka	277	Rebecca M. Cartia
89	Marta L. Zak	358	Nancy A. Brent
89	Ernest Stucin	559	David R. Liska
106	Marilyn L. Graham	564	Janice C. Schroeder
126	Anne M. Steeves	584	Dennis P. Purkat
126	Mary E. Graehling	584	Randy A. Grebenc
138	Stanley A. Skerl	584	Deborah A. Nagode
138	Kathleen S. Sisul	604	Robert E. Delly
138	Darlene M. Mann	604	Dale E. Lefferts
138	Louis R. Richards	665	Gary S. Bell
138	John J. Cushma	715	Robert M. Sucheovich
142	Susan A. Zitko	721	Dana Vucinich
158	Thomas C. Gorjup	771	Susan L. Morell
158	Phyllis M. Demaske	782	Joel L. Ostrowski
174	Deborah Grata	A01	John M. Penko
218	Donald K. Tomsic		



## 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.

**\$17.50 EACH** (INCLUDES POSTAGE)

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RETURN THIS ORDER FORM TO  
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Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 80th SNPJ National Golf Tournament

at Black Hawk Golf Course

644 Blackhawk Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Phone: (724) 843-5512 • [www.blackhawkgolfcourse.com](http://www.blackhawkgolfcourse.com)

**Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024**

**Tee times start at 8 a.m.**

### Individual Event

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

### Team Event

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

Entry fee for team and individual events is \$63 per member.  
For individual event only, entry fee is \$58 per member.  
Entry fee includes greens fees, golf cart, prize fund.

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:

**David Sankovich, SNPJ District 3 Athletic Director**

P.O. Box 485, Bessemer, PA 16112

e-mail: [david.sankovich@aol.com](mailto:david.sankovich@aol.com)

**Make checks payable to SNPJ**

ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUG. 17, 2024

The Home Office will verify all memberships.

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