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May celebration recognizes Lodge 138 honorees

by BEVERLY PABIAN
 Lodge 138 Treasurer

STRABANE, Pa. — Lodge 138 members recognized their 50-, 60- and 70-year honorees May 16. The festivities were held at the Fairview Sunset Room in Bridgeville, Pa., with music provided by the George Suhon Duo.

Since we usually have a banquet every two years, we recognized our 2008 and 2009 honorees. Our 2008 honorees included 50-year members Josephine (O'Shinsky) Davis and Carl Nagode; 60-year members Richard Kern, Rudy Martincic, John Pavlik and Peter Petronka; and 70-year members Tony Bole and Sophia Kern. The 2009 honorees are 50-year member Margaret "Peg" Mosurak; 60-year members Rose Cadez, Frances Dolence and Herman Mikec; and 70-year members Lillian Opeka, William Progar and Joseph Senkinc.

SEE LODGE 138 MEMBERS
 ON PAGE 6



Strabane Lodge 138 recognized its 2008 and 2009 fraternal honorees during a May banquet.

Westmoreland Fed sets July 31 meeting date

EVANSTOWN, Pa. — The Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges will hold a quarterly meeting Friday, July 31, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Evanstown Picnic Grove near Herminie, Pa. Lodges, please be sure to send your representatives.

MARY ANN BEBAR (41)
 Federation President

SNPJ insurance seminar heads to Cleveland in July

IMPERIAL, Pa. — SNPJ Marketing Director Greg Felton will be hosting an insurance seminar in Cleveland Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m. until noon. For additional information or to reserve your spot at this seminar, contact Greg Felton by phoning 1-800-843-7675 or by e-mailing gfelton@snpj.com.

Register for e-mail notice of insurance premiums

IMPERIAL, Pa. — SNPJ is now offering members the opportunity to receive their life insurance premium notices via e-mail. To register for this service, simply phone the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 or e-mail rwright@snpj.com and request to have your bills e-mailed to you. We will be happy to send you a one-year supply of envelopes for your use when returning payments to the Home Office. The number of envelopes sent will be determined by the frequency of premium payments you make.

Have you recommended a new member lately?

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Be sure to take advantage of SNPJ's Recommender Program which offers SNPJ members an enhanced benefit for encouraging family, children, friends and acquaintances to join SNPJ. The recommender will receive \$10 for each valid referral submitted. Every valid referral earns the recommender one chance in the quarterly drawing for an opportunity to win \$100 and an additional chance in the year-end drawing for an opportunity to win \$500. See page 6 for the Recommender coupon.

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are July 29 and Aug. 12. All material must be received by Monday, July 20, for the July 29 issue, and by Monday, Aug. 3, for the Aug. 12 issue. If you are running short on time and concerned about making the deadline, try faxing your submission to (724) 695-1555 or e-mailing prosveta@snpj.com.

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

A chance to reunite

Annual Beaverdale Reunion unites Pennsylvania, Ohio family and friends

by LEE JACKOPIN
 Lodge 355 Secretary/Treasurer

KIRTLAND, Ohio — People whose roots are in Beaverdale and the small coal mining towns of Cambria County again enjoyed a reunion at the SNPJ Farm Sunday, June 28. This continues the recent tradition started in 1990, a reunion of people from the Beaverdale area on the last Sunday in June at the SNPJ Farm. That was selected as an easy-to-remember date and place—the last Sunday of June at the SNPJ Farm. Thus, this was the 20th consecutive annual Beaverdale Reunion held at the SNPJ Farm.

This continues the practice, which was started after World War II, to hold a reunion in the Cleveland area of people and families whose roots were in the Beaverdale area. People came from Beaverdale to reunite with their relatives and friends living in the Cleveland area. The origin of the Beaverdale Reunion is not known with certainty. Bob Jamison (158), with Onnalinda roots, opined recently that there were gatherings of his Jamison and White relatives from Pennsylvania and Ohio in Newton Falls, Ohio, in the 1940s, and somehow that expanded

into the Beaverdale Reunions.

Eventually, the Beaverdale Reunions were held at Geauga Lake Park in Ohio. Relatives and friends came from Pennsylvania by charter bus, and one year there were three busloads! The reunions were always inclusive and included people with roots in many of the other small Pennsylvania coal mining towns, such as Dunlo, Johnstown, Krayn, Lloydell, Mundy's Corner, Nanty Glo, Onnalinda, Portage, St. Michael, Salix, Scalp Level, Sidman, South Fork, Wilmore, Windber and others. The reunions at Geauga Lake Park continued into the 1960s; then they stopped.

However, in the 1980s a group including Joe Goletz, Joan (Hrebar) Goletz (deceased), Bill Hynds (deceased), Lee Hynds, Bill and Mary (Boris) Ilersich, Jim Ilersich (deceased), Irene (Sustarsic) Kelly (deceased), Lynn Robinson, George Rubal (Beaverdale) and Elsie (Niznik) Rubal (deceased), among others, decided to re-start the reunion at the Strawberry Lane Metropark in Willoughby, Ohio. In 1989 the registration lists included 169 at the spring reunion and 122 at the fall reunion. A problem was that several people had to arrive during the night to claim the pavilion for the reunion the next day.

Therefore, Jim Ilersich suggested holding the reunion at the SNPJ Farm every year on a fixed day — the last Sunday in June. Everything was there, since the SNPJ Lodge sponsoring their

SEE REUNION
 ON PAGE 6



Residents of Beaverdale, Pa., and several surrounding communities made the trip to the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, to attend the annual Beaverdale Reunion June 28.

Golden Eagles Lodge slates annual dance

by TONY KREN
 Lodge 643 Secretary

GIRARD, Ohio — The annual Golden Eagles-sponsored polka dance is scheduled Sunday, Aug. 9, at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ, Pa. Del Rezek and his orchestra will perform for your listening and dancing pleasure. The dance will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. with a 50/50 drawing and bake sale planned. There will be good food, good polka music and a good atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.

Golden Eagles Lodge 643 was well represented at a recent polka dance held at the Croatian Strassmayer Picnic Grounds in

SEE GOLDEN EAGLES
 ON PAGE 6



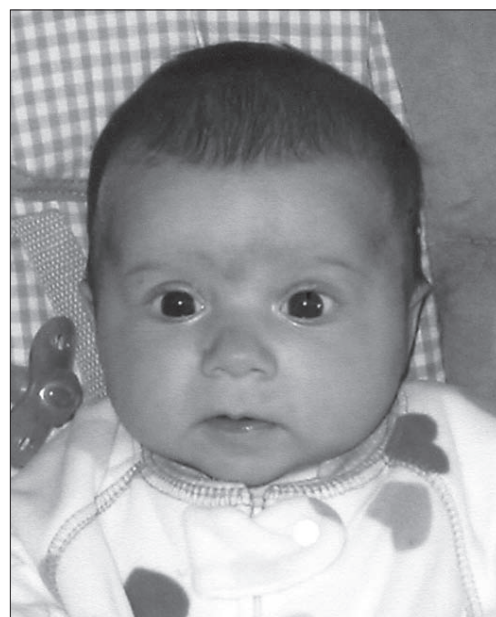
• **Aaron J. Ruffalo**
 Born Jan. 9, 2009
 Southview, Pa., Lodge 265

Lodge 265 welcomes Aaron Joseph Ruffalo as its newest addition. Aaron is the son of Ray and Kara Ruffalo, brother of Connor Ruffalo (265), grandson of Chuck and Kim (265) Spencer, and nephew of Mitch Spencer (265) and Becca Spencer (265). We welcome Aaron to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.



• **Katelynn N. Roman**
 Born July 23, 2008
 Universal, Pa., Lodge 715

Lodge 715 welcomes its newest addition, Katelynn Nichole Roman. Katelynn is the daughter of Joseph and Thresa Roman, granddaughter of Nick (715) and Annette Roman, and great-granddaughter of Nick and Aileen Roman (715). We welcome Katelynn to SNPJ and extend our best wishes to her entire family.



• **Mya S. Smith**
 Born Nov. 10, 2008
 Barberton, Ohio, Lodge 626

Lodge 626 welcomes Mya Sinclair Smith as its newest addition. Mya is the daughter of Ryan (626) and Chrissie Smith, sister of Sophia Smith (626), granddaughter of Fred and Joann (626) Smith, and great-granddaughter of Molly Samsa (626). We welcome Mya to the Society and extend our best wishes to her entire family.



• **Sophia, Ava and Julianna Kontak**
 Borough of SNPJ, Pa., Lodge 776

Lodge 776 welcomes its newest members, 5-year-old Sophia, 3-year-old Ava and 6-month-old Julianna Kontak. The girls are the daughters of Jim and Andrea Kontak (776), and granddaughters of Lodge Secretary Edward and Henrietta Snyder (776). We welcome the Kontak family to SNPJ and extend our best wishes to their entire family.

PROSVETA ENLIGHTENMENT

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Have something for Up-and-Coming?

Lodge/Organization _____

Type of Event _____

Site _____

If a concert or dance, who is performing? _____

Date _____

Time _____

Who to contact _____

Phone () _____

Complete and return to:
PROSVETA
247 W. Allegheny Road
Imperial, PA 15126-9774
e-mail: prosveta@sn timer.org

Lodge 6 heading to the Recreation Center for annual dance

by MARIA CUMMINGS
Lodge 6

SYGAN, Pa. — The members of Lodge 6 in Sygan are excited to host their annual Lodge picnic and dance in the Borough of SNPJ, Pa., Sunday, July 19. We invite you to the upper pavilion at the SNPJ Recreation Center from 2 to 8 p.m. Our guests will enjoy musical entertainment provided by the Del

Sinchak Band and Jack Tady & the JTB. As always, the kitchen will be serving a delicious menu. Admission to the dance is only \$8 per person; children under 16 will be admitted free of charge. We look forward to seeing many of our Lodge members and friends at this special event.

Please note that the bar room at the Sygan Club will be closed the day of the picnic so our members

and staff can enjoy the outing. Youth Circle 36 Director Ruth Wright is planning activities for the youth members at the picnic. Last year the children (and even some adults) enjoyed water balloons, hula hoops, Frisbee, jump ropes and swimming. Bring the entire family for a day of fine dance music, a tasty meal and mingling with your friends from Sygan.

Lodge 355 keeping it traditional for third Farm picnic

by LEE JACKOPIN
Lodge 355 Secretary

FAIRPORT HARBOR, Ohio — The Brothers and Sisters of Lodge 355 are excited to host their third picnic/dance at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, Sunday, Aug. 23. The SNPJ Farm is on Heath Road, which runs south off Route 6, two miles east of Route 306 and three miles west of Auburn Road.

The gates open at noon, and the admission fee is \$5 per person; there is no charge for youths 16 and under. Delicious roast beef and sausage dinners will be served beginning at 2 p.m. for \$8 each. The Ladies Auxiliary will cook these meals the traditional Slovenian way, and Lodge 355 mem-

bers will help serve. Hot dogs, roast beef and sausage sandwiches, as well as krofe, will also be available. The bar will have the usual assortment of beverages, including Laško and Smile, two beers from Slovenia.

Bob Kravos and the Boys In The Band will perform for your dancing and listening pleasure from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Boys In The Band have received several awards for their many recordings. Bob Kravos is the great-nephew of Frank Yankovic. The band will play Yankovic favorites, Slovenian polkas and waltzes, as well as other music.

The SNPJ Farm has features for both young and old, such as balina courts, swings, horseshoe pits, slides,

corn toss boards and a round-about. This is a great chance to show your children and grandchildren the arts of lagging and hitting in the game of balina. There are many picnic tables around the pavilion, plus places in the sun for lawn chairs to listen to the music, talk, spend time with relatives and friends, and have fun. All these activities are a reminder that this picnic site was originally referred to as the Recreation Grounds.

The SNPJ Farm was purchased and formed in 1939; this is its 70th anniversary year. Seventy years ago it was a place out in the country for SNPJ members living in the Cleveland area. Some things have changed; the local area is no longer rural, the

crowds are smaller, fewer youth attend the activities and the prices have increased. But the same camaraderie, fraternalism, good food and music still exist every Sunday!

Fairport Lodge 355 invites everyone to come out to the SNPJ Farm with family, relatives and friends for a wonderful picnic/dance. There will be excellent food and beverages, superb music for your dancing and listening pleasure, and other recreational activities. This is an ideal time to be with your relatives and friends, and to renew old friendships.

For additional information please contact Lee Jackopin by e-mailing li_jakopin@yahoo.com or phoning (440) 943-3170.

Join the Comrades Lodge for their July 19 Farm picnic date

by DOUG ELSERSICH
Lodge 566 President

KIRTLAND, Ohio — Save the date of Sunday, July 19, for the annual Comrades Lodge 566 picnic at the SNPJ Farm on Heath Road in Kirtland. This year we will host the reunion with great food, beverages and music.

Dinner service will start at 2 p.m. with the traditional roast beef and klobase dinners alongside wonderful home fried potatoes, vegetables and salad. And don't forget those delicious, delectable krofe. Come early to make sure you get what you like!

No one can be sad when listening to polka music, including you, so get out your dancing shoes. The Joe Novak Orchestra will be providing dance music from 3:30 until 7:30 p.m. Admission, including the four hours of music, is \$5. The delicious home-cooked Slovenian dinners are priced at \$8. Where else can you go for more fun at these prices? Nowhere!

Remember, the Lodge 566 picnic is Sunday, July 19, at the SNPJ Farm. For more details phone Rose Mary Toth at (440) 358-9141 or Doug Elersich at (440) 257-2540.

E. Ohio/W. Pa. Fed plans Sept. meeting

by JOAN PLUNKETT (358)
Federation Recording Secretary

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania Federation meeting was held June 28 at the SNPJ Recreation Center. President Adam Furin (643) presided at the meeting.

Lodge delegates gave their reports. Borough of SNPJ Lodge 776 is sponsoring a night at the Scrappers baseball game Friday, Aug. 14. For reservations contact Cathy Kalenits at (330) 782-3633.

Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643 reported that

they are hosting a dance at the Recreation Center Aug. 9 featuring the Del Rezek Orchestra.

The Federation is sponsoring a dance Aug. 2 in the Alpine Room at the Recreation Center. The Del Rezek Orchestra will provide the entertainment.

Recording Secretary Joan Plunkett reported on the Federation Conference held June 6. President Furin and Recording Secretary Plunkett represented our Federation.

The next Federation meeting will be held Sept. 27 at the Recreation Center at 2 p.m.

SNPJ Recreation Center 2009 Dance Schedule



July 19	Lodge 6 Annual Dance Del Sinchak and Jack Tady orchestras (pavilion)	2 to 8
July 26	Bob Turcola Orchestra and Eddie Vallus Band II	2 to 8
Aug. 2	East Ohio/W. Pa. Federation Dance Del Rezek Orchestra	3 to 7
Aug. 9	Lodge 643 Annual Dance	3 to 7
Aug. 16	Lodge 715 Annual Dance Mikey Dee Orchestra (pavilion)	3 to 7
Aug. 23	Frank Stanger Orchestra	3 to 7
Aug. 30	WKBN Dance Stan Blout and Del Rezek orchestras	2 to 7
Sept. 6	FREE Labor Day Dance Joe Grkman Orchestra (new pavilion)	2 to 8
Sept. 13	Lodge 153 Annual Dance Jeff Pecon Orchestra	3 to 7
Sept. 20	Penn Ohio Polka Pals Del Rezek and Jack Vasko orchestras, and Trontell & Zagar	2 to 8

The SNPJ Recreation Center invites all members, families and friends to the dances and other events planned in 2008. Dances are held in the Alpine Room unless otherwise noted. Schedule is subject to change. For information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center at 1-877-767-5732.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- JULY 18 Lodge 745 participation in the Eppie's Great Race relay triathlon. Visit www.sn timer.org or e-mail Connie Mlakar at conniemlakar@yahoo.com for additional information.
- JULY 18 Orange Coast Lodge 786 Barbecue & Swim Party, noon-5 p.m. at the Rancho Niguel Rec Center, Laguna Niguel, Calif. For information phone Jean Koci at (949) 495-0097 or e-mail ajkoci@cox.net.
- JULY 19 Westmoreland (Pa.) Federation hosts Steve Novosel's Polka Picnic at the Evanstown Picnic Grove, Evanstown, Pa.; 1-7 p.m. Entertainment by the Eddie Rodick and Ray Skovenski bands. For details phone (724) 668-7394.
- JULY 19-25 First Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For details phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- JULY 26 Utopians Lodge 604 annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Godina's roast lamb and pig available (pre-order), in addition to the Farm dinners. Music by the Eddie Rodick Orchestra, 3:30-7:30 p.m. For information contact Gerri Trebets at (440) 951-9611.
- JULY 26-AUG. 1 Second Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For details phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- AUG. 2 SNPJ Farm Board Chicken BBQ Picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by the Don Wojtila Orchestra 3:30-7:30 p.m. For additional information contact Joseph Blatnik at (440) 943-1191.
- AUG. 7-9 SNPJ TEL Workshop at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For registration information contact Fraternal Director Kevin Richards at 1-800-843-7675 or e-mail krichards@sn timer.org.
- AUG. 9 Annual Utah Slovenian Day Picnic at the Price City Park Shelter, Price, Utah; noon-5 p.m. For additional information contact Gene or Joann Lessar at (435) 637-6925.
- AUG. 9 CAL Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Dinners served at 2 p.m.; dancing to the Bob Kravos Band 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- AUG. 9 Westmoreland (Pa.) Federation Appreciation Picnic/Membership Drive at the Evanstown Picnic Grove, Evanstown, Pa.; 1-5 p.m. Free admission. Entertainment by the Jim Rhoades Band. For information phone Mary Ann Bebar at (724) 668-7394.
- AUG. 9 Golden Eagles Lodge 643 annual dance at the SNPJ Recreation Center; 3-7 p.m. Music by the Del Rezek Orchestra, 50/50 drawing and a bake sale. For more information, phone Tony Kren at (330) 545-4981.
- AUG. 16 Lodge 142 annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Dinners served beginning at 2 p.m.; music by Eric Noltkamper, 3:30-7:30 p.m. For additional information phone Dolores Dobida at (440) 943-5559.
- AUG. 16 Westmoreland (Pa.) Federation hosts the Polka Review Polka Picnic at the Evanstown Picnic Grove, Evanstown, Pa.; 1-7 p.m. Entertainment features the Karl Lukitsch and Dick Tady orchestras. For information phone (724) 668-7394.
- AUG. 23 Westmoreland (Pa.) Federation hosts the Mikey Dee Polka Picnic at the Evanstown Picnic Grove, Evanstown, Pa.; 1-7 p.m. Entertainment by the Mikey Dee Band and The Polka Quads. For information phone (724) 668-7394.
- AUG. 23-29 Senior Roundup Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For details phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- AUG. 23 Fairport, Ohio, Lodge 355 third annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Dinners served at 2 p.m.; music by Bob Kravos and the Boys In The Band, 3:30-7:30 p.m. For details phone Lee Jackopin at (440) 943-3170 or e-mail li_jakopin@yahoo.com.
- AUG. 30 Cleveland Lodge 126 annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by the Jeff Pecon Band, 3:30-7:30 p.m. For information contact Ed Sumrada at (440) 942-6988.
- AUG. 30 Westmoreland (Pa.) Federation Polka Picnic at the Evanstown Picnic Grove, Evanstown, Pa.; 1-7 p.m. Music by the Del Sinchak Band and Joe Grkman Orchestra. For information phone Mary Ann Bebar at (724) 668-7394.
- SEPT. 4-6 National SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Weekend activities include the National golf, balina and horseshoes tournaments; the Rec Center Reverse Raffle and the annual Sunday picnic. For additional information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- SEPT. 6 SNPJ Farm Board Picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Entertainment features Eric Noltkamper from 3:30-7:30 p.m. For more information contact Joseph Blatnik at (440) 943-1191.
- SEPT. 7 End of Summer Dance at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio; 3:30-7:30 p.m. Music by the George Staiduhar Band. For more information phone (440) 256-3423.
- SEPT. 12 La Salle, Ill., Lodge 2 dinner theater outing to Stage 212 in La Salle. Performance begins at 6 p.m. For additional information contact Eleanor Kuhar at (815) 883-8983.
- SEPT. 13 Youngstown, Ohio, Lodge 153 annual dance in the Alpine Room at the SNPJ Recreation Center; 3-7 p.m. Music by the Jeff Pecon Orchestra. For more information phone Diane Chermely at (330) 629-8882.
- SEPT. 13 Westmoreland (Pa.) Federation hosts the Frank Palombi Picnic at the Evanstown Picnic Grove, Evanstown, Pa.; 1-7 p.m. Music by the Frank Palombi Good Time Band and Sounds of Country. For information phone (724) 668-7394.

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We can help you design a plan to protect your family. Call your Lodge secretary, local sales representative or the Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 for more information. Start building your future today!

- **Thought for the Week** — My goal in life is to be the kind of person that my dog thinks I am.

Slovenian proverb



Pediatric clinic opens its doors after 16 years

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Most departments of the children's hospital in Ljubljana have begun operating at a new location. The new pediatric clinic opened its doors after 16 years of complications with planning and construction, and 11 years after the foundation stone was laid.

All patients from the old building were moved to the new facility, which started routine work June 29, according to Ciril Kržisnik, medical director of the pediatric clinic. "Patients who could be released were sent home June 26, while the last 22 seriously ill children who could not be released were moved to the new location June 29," Kržisnik said.

He added that the new pediatric clinic, where 30 patients are currently being treated, has started to accept new patients. Some 60 to 80 new patients are usually admitted on Mondays, while around 200 children are examined at the hospital daily.

The only department to stay in the old building is the pediatric neurology ward, which will remain there until July 17. In addition, all patients in need of surgery will be admitted into the old facility until the beginning of September.

"Construction of the new pediatric clinic took 16 years and cost \$137 million," Kržisnik said, adding that an open door day would be organized to present the clinic's work at its new location.

The foundation stone for the clinic was laid in 1994 and then again in 1998, while work on the construction site started in 2003. The construction work was finished Aug. 18, 2008, and the hospital was equipped April 24, when Health Minister Borut Miklavčič officially handed the facility over to UKC Ljubljana Director General Darinka Miklavčič.

The new clinic has 201 beds, 157 of which are non-surgical while the rest are for children who require surgery and intensive care. Kržisnik told the press he was happy that the clinic was finally open as it is a big gain for sick children and their parents, as well as the medical staff. According to him, working conditions at the clinic are very good. The clinic employs 490 people, 70 of whom are doctors and 60 are specialists from across the country.

Slovenia establishes the Council for Youth

LJUBLJANA (STA) — On June 24, the Slovenian government established the Council for Youth which will monitor the situation of Slovenia's youth and prepare measures to reconcile their interests with those of society. The council will be chaired by Education Minister Igor Lukšič, according to a press release issued by the government Communications Office.

The council will assess the situation of youth in society and monitor the effect of youth policies on changes in society. It will also give its opinion to bills and other regulations concerning the young. The council will also propose the financing of activities, and look into trends in programs and financial plans of youth organizations.

The government also appointed its representatives to the council for the next four years. Apart from government representatives, the council will include several youth organization representatives.

Slovenian reading room open at German university

NUREMBERG, Germany (STA) — Slovenian Culture Minister Majda Širca opened a Slovenian reading room in the Bavarian city of Regensburg July 1. This opening comes nearly 15 years after a German reading room was established in Ljubljana. Its intended use is for native speakers and students of the Slovenian language. It will also provide information on Slovenia from a number of fields, including the economy, tourism, education and culture.

The new reading room was set up following a 2006 initiative of the University of Regensburg to form a Slovenian reading room as part of its Bavarian Academic Center for Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The project was included in the work of the permanent Slovenian-Bavarian commission in 2007, while the University of Regensburg and the Slovenian Culture Ministry signed a protocol on its establishment in October 2008, according to a press release from



the Culture Ministry.

The reading room will function as a modern library with Slovenian material that will be included in the Slovenian Cooperative Online Bibliographic System and Services (COBISS), a system which allows access to information from all Slovenian libraries and the borrowing of books from other libraries.

Minister Širca also met with Wolfgang Heubisch, the Bavarian State Minister of Science, Research and the Arts, to discuss the possibilities of broader cooperation in all cultural fields.

H1N1, four cases, confirmed in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In late June, Slovenia's National Institute of Public Health confirmed the fourth case of the H1N1 swine flu virus in Slovenia.

The most recent case involved a woman who returned to Slovenia from France on the same bus as a man who was diagnosed positive for H1N1. The institute believes that the woman likely contracted the virus in France.

The first case of the H1N1 swine flu virus in Slovenia was confirmed June 19. The second and third cases were confirmed in the same week. All infected individuals contracted the disease abroad and are currently recovering.

Deaths on Slovenian roads dropped in 2008

BRUSSELS, Belgium (STA) — A study carried out by the European Transportation Safety Council (ETSC) shows that the number of road fatalities in Slovenia decreased last year by 27 percent compared to 2007. However, the road fatality rate in the country remains among the highest in the EU, according to the study results published in Brussels.

Together with Estonia and Lithuania (-33 percent), and Latvia (-25 percent), Slovenia is among the countries which managed to decrease the number of road deaths in 2008. The ETSC attributes the decrease partially to the economic crisis and high oil prices.

With a road fatality rate of more than 100 per million citizens, Slovenia is above the EU average. The countries with the highest rates are Bulgaria, Latvia, Greece, Romania, Poland and Lithuania, which are close to a rate of 150. The EU average is 79 fatalities per million people. According to the study, the safest roads are in Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK and Switzerland, where fewer than 50 people per million are killed on roads annually.

The study also reviewed the 2001-2008 period. The countries which decreased the number of road deaths the most during that period are Luxembourg and Portugal (by 47 percent), followed by Spain and Latvia (43 percent), and Belgium (38 percent). With a 23 percent decrease in the number of road fatalities in the period, Slovenia is under the EU average, which stands at 28 percent.

Some 39,000 people were killed in road collisions in 2008 across the EU, which is 15,400 less than in 2001 but still far from the 27,000 deaths limit the EU set in its Road Safety Target for 2010.

The average annual decrease since 2001 has been only 4.4 percent instead of the 7.4 percent needed for the target to be reached. This could delay the EU in reaching its target until 2017, according to the ETSC. Slovenia is also below the EU average in this area, having decreased the number of deaths on its roads at the average annual rate of less than two percent since 2001.

New tourist complex to be constructed in Maribor

MARIBOR (STA) — The MTB construction company, and window and door maker MIK are planning to construct a large tourist complex at the base of the Pohorje hills near Maribor. Construction of the \$140 million project, which will include accommodation, athletic and swimming facilities, should start next year and be finished by 2013, the companies announced.

"The two companies would like to complete the construction themselves,

but the door is already open to future complex owners, or parts of it," said Franci Pliberšek, owner and head of the Celje-based MIK.

According to Blaž Mlinarič, owner of the Maribor-based MTB, the complex will be the ideal solution for accommodations, leisure and recreation during the 2013 Winter Universiade in Maribor. "Maribor also needs tourist facilities that will attract foreign guests irrespective of the universiade," he added.

During the construction, the project will provide work for a number of businesses, from small entrepreneurs to the service sector, while the complex will later employ between 300 and 400 people.

Project architect Igor Žnidar explained Pohorske livade will have a four-star hotel, apartment villas, houses and blocks of apartments. He stressed the energy efficiency of the project, and the use of local and natural materials. The leisure and sports facilities will include a swimming complex, grounds for ice-skating in the winter and roller blading throughout the year, a climbing wall, standard sports fields and a sports-rehabilitation center.

Žnidar said the complex is an upgrade of the existing tourist facilities around Pohorje and will be an extremely interesting destination for tourists from a radius of at least 124 miles, which amounts to around two million people in Slovenia, Austria and Croatia.

Slovenian hospitals invest in energy efficiency

LJUBLJANA (STA) — On June 22 the Slovenian Health Ministry presented a \$44 million project aimed at increasing energy efficiency in Slovenian hospitals. As part of the project, 10 Slovenian hospitals will renovate their facades, doors, windows and infrastructure by 2011. Funding for the project, which should decrease energy costs by some 10 percent, will come from European funds.

Head of the Ministry's Directorate for Health Care Economics, Elda Gregorič Rogelj, told the press that energy costs accounted for 10 percent of all material costs in hospitals, which amounted to \$28 million. "These costs have been growing rapidly in recent years," she added.

Gregorič Rogelj explained that 10 hospitals requiring the investment the most were chosen among those that applied for the project. According to her, this is a priority project because of the government's anti-crisis measures aimed at stimulating the investment cycle and preserving jobs in the construction field.

Slovenians win historic tickets to Wimbledon

LONDON (STA) — Luka Gregorc became the first-ever Slovenian men's tennis player to qualify for the main tournament at Wimbledon. Shortly after, he was followed by fellow Slovenia Grega Zemlja.

Gregorc, who is ranked 200th in the world, beat Australia's Joseph Sirianni in the third round of qualifiers for the right to play on the hallowed Wimbledon grass. His success was followed only hours later by 174th ranked Grega Zemlja, who beat Danai Udomchoke of Thailand to also secure a berth in the tournament.

Slovenia came close to completing a hat-trick, but its third qualifier, Blaz Kavčič, lost his qualifying match to Adrian Mannarino of France.

NBA: Suns draft Pleadzic before trade to Cavs

NEW YORK (STA) — Emir Pleadzic, a 22-year-old member of the Slovenian National Basketball Team, was selected in the NBA draft as the 57th overall pick. Pleadzic ended up with the Cleveland Cavaliers after being drafted by the Phoenix Suns and then traded for cash considerations.

It's not yet known whether the 6'8" forward, who plays for Turkey's Fenerbahce, will head to the NBA immediately or choose to spend more time in Europe before making the move.

Four Slovenian players competed in the NBA last season: center Raso Nesterovic (Indiana Pacers), guards Beno Udrih (Sacramento Kings) and Sasha Vujačić (Los Angeles Lakers), and Goran Dragić (Phoenix Suns).

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Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges

Picnic Schedule 2009

The Evanstown Picnic Grove
Evanstown, Pa.
The grounds open at noon



July 19	Steve Novosel's Polka Picnic Eddie Rodick & Ray Skovenski	1 to 7
July 26	American Slovene Day Radio Picnic Frank Stanger & Kres Folklore Group	TBA
Aug. 9	Federation Picnic & Membership Drive Jim Rhoades (free admission!)	1 to 5
Aug. 16	Polka Review Polka Picnic Karl Lukitsch & Dick Tady	1 to 7
Aug. 23	Mikey Dee's Polka Picnic Mikey Dee & Polka Quads	1 to 7
Aug. 30	Westmoreland Co. Federation Picnic Del Sinchak & Joe Grkman	1 to 7
Sept. 13	Frank Palombi's Picnic Frank Palombi & The Sound of Country	1 to 7

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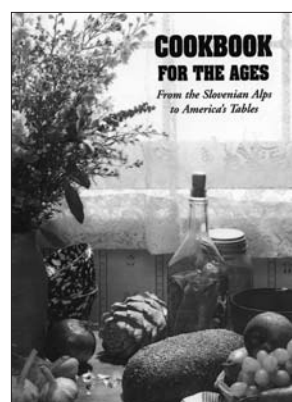
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Danilo Türk v rudarski jami

HEADLINE: Danilo Türk in the mining pit

TOPIC: President of Slovenia Danilo Türk recently visited the Velenje coal mine, and was in the mine for the first time. After the meeting he praised the well-equipped mine and the importance of the good connection with the nearby steam power station. Along with mine Director Milan Medved, the president viewed the "vital parts" of the coal mine, such as the system to transport people and a modern system to transport materials and equipment. The employees introduced the president to the 1,372-foot underground digging process, with which they mine between 10,000 and 12,000 tons of coal daily.

Predsednik države Danilo Türk je pred dnevi obiskal Premogovnik Velenje in si prvič tudi ogledal jamo. Po srečanju je pohvalil dobro tehnološko opremljenost premogovnika in pomen povezovanja z bližnjo

Termoelektrarno Šoštanj. "Tukaj imamo pomemben del energetske in ekološke prihodnosti Slovenije," je menil. Z direktorjem premogovnika Milanom Medvedom si je ogledal "vitalne dele" premogovnika, kot sta transportni sistem za prevoz ljudi ter sodoben sistem za prevoz materiala in opreme. Zaposleni so predsedniku 400 metrov pod zemljo predstavili potek odkopa, s katerim vsak dan pridobijo od 10.000 do 12.000 ton premoga (lani je premogovnik odkopal dobre štiri milijone ton premoga in pri 130 milijonih evrov prihodkov ustvaril več kot 400.000 evrov dobička). Velenjski premogovnik sestavlja Termoelektrarno Šoštanj pomemben energetski steber za preskrbo slovenskega trga z električno energijo. Predsednik je poudaril, da je tehnološki napredek, ki je bil dosežen v Velenju, pomemben tudi kot možnost za ekonomsko sodelovanje z drugimi državami.

DELO

HEADLINE: Proud of their long tradition

TOPIC: Padna, one of the nicest and most interesting Istria villages, is located on a ridge of Šavrinško hilly land above the Drnice valley, between Šmarje and Dragonja, 682 feet above sea level. The village was recently honored with its first history. The book was written by Alberto Pucer, a historian, archivist, recipient of the Kocjančič Award and author of numerous books and articles about Istria.

The village Padna was first mentioned in 1028 in archive documents, and in 1797 it had three churches. In 1921 the first school opened, and in 1958 the school was transformed into a cultural home. In 1990, the Božidar Jakec Gallery opened in the village. Jakec, a well-known Slovenian painter, vacationed and worked in Padna, where his parents lived for seven years.

The people of Padna are very proud of their history and customs – churches

and examples of characteristic Istria architecture, a more than a thousand-year-old olive growing tradition, viticulture, trade...

Na slemenu Šavrinškega gričevja, nad dolino Drnice, med Šmarjami in Dragonjo, 208 metrov nad morjem, je ena lepših in zanimivejših istrskih vasic - Padna, ki je zadnje dni dobila svojo prvo monografijo. Izdala jo je koprška založba Libris, avtor pa je Alberto Pucer, zgodovinar, arhivist, dobitnik Kocjančičeve nagrade in avtor številnih knjig, knjižnic in člankov o Istri.

Na prste ene roke bi lahko prešteli istrske vasi, ki se lahko pohvalijo z monografijo. Takratna je temeljita dopolnitev drobne knjižice, ki jo je Alberto Pucer izdal že pred 23 leti. V njej z besedo, fotografijami ter arhivskim in zgodovinskim gradivom pripoveduje o ljudeh in njihovi ustvarjalnosti. Iz kronologije zvedo, da je v bližini Padne arheološko najdišče z antičnimi ostanki iz drugega stoletja našega štetja. Najdragocenejša je

marmornata pletenina pod kropilnikom v cerkvi sv. Blaža. V arhivskih dokumentih so vasico prvič omenili že leta 1028, leta 1597 pa je imela tri cerkve. Leta 1921 je dobila šolo, 1958, pa so jo preuredili v kulturni dom. Leta 1990 so v vasi odprli galerijo Božidarja Jakca, saj je ta naš znameniti slikar večkrat dopustoval in ustvarjal v Padni, kjer sta se poročila in sedel let živelja njegova starša. V galeriji je Tone Pavček napisal besede, vklesane v kamen: "Ta svet mu je dal barve, luč in sence, da je proslavil sebe in Slovence." Gručasta vasica na vrhu slemena se ponaša z izrednim pogledom po slovenski Istri, vse do morja.

V Padni so ponosni na svoje šege in navade. V noči na prvo soboto v maju so imeli fantje večer "dišpetov" - nagajivih dejanj, s katerimi so opozarjali na iskričev duha. Ponosni so na cerkve in ohranjeno značilnost istrsko arhitekturo, na tisoč let staro oljkarstvo, vinogradništvo, obrt, zabavo, domačo kuhinjo...

DELO

Stavijo na sadna, sveža in dišeča vina

HEADLINE: They are betting on fruit, and fresh and fragrant wines

TOPIC: The Zlati grič (Gold Hill) Company from Slovenske Konjice built a new wine cellar utilizing the most modern technology in the center of its 247-acre Škalce Vineyards. The company generates half of its income through viticulture, fruit growing and wine making, and half through restaurant and tourist activities.

"The new Zlati grič wine cellar is technologically one of the most modern in Slovenia, and we will be able to store 286,000 gallons of wine," said director Janez Lešnik.

In three years they will have between 154,000 and 176,000 gallons of the best bottled wines, mainly white, Lešnik announced. The most modern equipment makes it possible to produce a fresh and distinctly aromatic wine of a new style, for which there is great demand around the world.

Konjiško podjetje Zlati grič je sredi svojega sto hektarov velikega vinogradniškega posestva Škalce postavilo novo vinsko klet naj sodobnejše tehnologije. Podjetje ustvari pol prihodkov z vinogradništvom, sadjarstvom in pridelavo vina, pol pa z gostinsko in turistično dejavnostjo.

Arhitekt Andrej Kemr in Boris Igor Skulj sta klet zasnovala v štirih funkcionalno povezanih delih. Gradnja kleti, ki jo je z 1,13 milijona evrov podprl tudi evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja, je stala 5,2 milijona evrov.

Nova vinska klet Zlatcega griča je tehnološko ena najsodobnejših na slovenskih tleh, v njej pa bodo lahko hranili 1,3 milijona litrov vina, je dejal direktor Janez Lešnik. Klet je za podjetje prelomnica. Čez tri leta bo v njej od 700.000 do 800.000 litrov ustekleničenega vrhunskega vina, predvsem belih sort, je napovedal Lešnik. Najsodobnejša oprema omogoča izdelavo sadnih,

svežih in izrazito aromatičnih vin novega sloga, po katerih je v svetu veliko povpraševanje. Enolog Sašo Topolšek je prepričan, da bodo vina Zlatcega griča po kakovosti enakovredna svetovni konkurenci in bodo med zahtevnimi ljubitelji vin narekovala celo smernice.

DELO

DETEKTIV - Privatni detektiv vpraša gospoda Kočarja: "Povejte mi, kaj in kakšni so tisti ljudje, ki stanujejo nasproti vam?" - "Nima smisla, da se zanimam zanje, saj niti moja žena ni mogla nič zvedeti o njih!"

Prometne informacije na radijskih valovih

HEADLINE: Traffic information on radio waves

TOPIC: Srečko Trglec, manager of Radio Slovenia International (Radio SI), along with Gregor Fick, director of Road Management, and Tomislav Nemeč, the president of the Dars administration, announced that a national radio traffic service is now working across Slovenia. On Radio SI, where most of the programming is filled with music, all the traffic information in Slovenian,

German and English will be reported four times per hour, or as soon as it is necessary to announce traffic conditions.

Complete traffic information is always available on the Internet, but for drivers, information via radio waves is most useful.

Odgovorni urednik Radia Slovenija International (Radio SI) Srečko Trglec je z direktorjem direktorata za ceste Gregorja Ficka in predsednika uprave Darsa Tomislava Nemeča objavil, da je v državi

začel delovati nacionalni radijski prometni servis. Na Radiu SI, kjer štiri petine programa zapolni glasba, bodo prometne informacije v slovensščini, nemščini in angleščini predvajali štirikrat na uro. In takoj, ko bo potrebno.

Najhitreje so prometne informacije dostopne sicer na spletu; od pomladi leta 2006 jih pripravlja Prometno-informacijski center (PIC). Za voznike so med vožnjo najbolj priročne radijske informacije. Te v Sloveniji pripravljajo

nacionalna radijska hiša in številne komercialne radijske postaje. Gregor Ficko je ob predstavitvi projekta dejal, da je bistvena hitra odzivnost. Informacija mora takoj v eter.

Dars dobro sodeluje z lokalnimi radijskimi postajami, tudi s takimi, ki so slišne po vsej državi. Radio SI ima nekaj sivih lis, tudi na avtocestah. Se pa po Trglecovih besedah z RTV-oddajniki in agencijo pogovarjajo o boljši pokritosti.

DELO

Idejni projekt za novo kočo do konca poletja

HEADLINE: An ideal project for the new hut until the end of summer

TOPIC: Through the end of summer, the Gorje Mountain Association, caretaker of the hut on Dolič which was destroyed during the winter by an avalanche, will prepare a plan and an ideal project to erect a new hut on Dolič, according to Franc Ekar, the president of the Mountain Association of Slovenia. Because of the long proceedings to adopt a legal basis, the change of location for the hut would be very time consuming, and for this reason they would like to build the hut on the same location, and it would be designed in such a way

that it would be safe in the event of an avalanche.

Ekar added that some mountain visitors have been taking various items from the destroyed hut, and now he has asked all visitors not to take anything from the hut.

Planinsko društvo Gorje, skrbnik koče na Doliču, ki jo je pozimi uničil snežni plaz, bo do konca poletja pripravilo programsko zasnovano in idejni projekt za postavitev nove postojanke na Doliču, je povedal Franc Ekar, predsednik Planinske zveze Slovenije. Hkrati bodo poskušali zagotoviti denar za novogradnjo. Sprememba lokacije koče bi bila zaradi dolgotrajnih

postopkov za sprejetje pravnih podlag zelo zamudna, zato bi radi kočo postavili na istem mestu, zasnovali pa bi jo tako, da bo varna pred morebitnimi novimi plazovi. Do konca meseca si bo mednarodna ekipa strokovnjakov ogledala uničeno kočo in lokacijo ter odločila o ukrepih, ki bodo zagotavljali varnost pred plazovi, je dodal Ekar.

Opozoril je, da ne pripravi iz uničene koče na Doliču odnašajo opremo, kar je označila za "mrhavinarstvo".

Zato je vse obiskovalce Doliča pozval, naj opreme in drugega inventarja ne odnašajo.

DELO

V Koprju največja ladja doslej

HEADLINE: In Koper the largest ship to date

TOPIC: The largest container ship, the CMA CGM Balzac (a French ship), recently arrived at Port Koper. It was moored to the extended first pier. The ship sailed from Asia filled with 6,747 containers. In Koper they unloaded 745 containers and loaded another 672 containers in 24 hours. With this activity, a new weekly shipping line, the Phoenician

Express linking the Far East and the northern Adriatic, began operating in Koper.

The French shipowner opened this new regular line, along with the Danish Maersk Company, and they are transporting from Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt to Trieste and Koper. Gregor Veselko, the president of the Port Koper administration, said, "If we hadn't invested in the infra-

structure of Port Koper in the last few years, we could not receive such large ships. With this new line we are preserving a competitive situation and promoting the northern Adriatic path."

This large container ship is 990 feet long, 131 feet wide and 183 feet high.

Pred dnevi je v koprsko pristanišče priplula CMA CGM Balzac, največja kontejnerska ladja (francoskega ladjarja) doslej. V pristanišču

so jo privezali ob podaljšan prvi pomol. Iz Azije je odplula polna - s 6747 zabojniki, v Koprju pa je v 24 urah raztovorila 745 in naložila 672 drugih zabojnikov. S tem je začela v Koprju obratovati nova tedenska linija Phoenician express med Daljnim vzhodom in severnim Jadranom. Novo redno linijo je francoski ladjar odprl skupaj z danskim Maerskom, vozijo pa iz Šangaja, Putjane, Hongkonga, Singapurja, malezije, Saudske Arabije,

Egipta v Trst in Koper. Gregor Veselko, predsednik uprave Luke Koper, je pri tem izjavil: "Če v zadnjih letih ne bi bilo teh velikih naložb v infrastrukturo Luke Koper, takšne ladje ne bi mogli privezati. Z uvedbo linije ohranjamo konkurenčni položaj in promoviramo severno-jadransko pot".

Christine Cabou, podpredsednica uprave CMA CGM, je dejala, da imajo sredozemska pristanišča v letošnjem prvem polletju v primerjavi z istim

obdobjem lani padec pretvora zabojnikov v povprečju od 15 do 20 odstotkov. Za Koper so se odločili zato, ker je tukajšnje pristanišče "naravni vhod-vrata" do srednjeevropskega trga. Veselko dodaja: "V petih mesecih smo pretovorili 141.000 zabojnikov; to je šest odstotkov več kot smo načrtovali. Koprsko pristanišče je v Sredozemlju v vrhu po prometu. Vsa preostala pristanišča imajo izgubo, koprsko ne."

DELO

Kraševci "prepričali" diplomate

HEADLINE: People from the Karst "convinced" diplomats

TOPIC: The 17th consular event, at which 57 countries were introduced, recently ended in Lyon, France. At Bellecour Square, one of the largest city squares in France, people from the Karst (a large delegation from the Sežana municipality) introduced Slovenia this year — this was Slovenia's fifth time participating in this event. In one of the 57 booths displaying typical offerings of the countries participating at the event, the Karst group impressed visitors with Karst pro-

sciutto, wines and other specialties. Chefs from the Safir Hotel in Sežana prepared delicious food, wine makers Primož Štoka and Edvin Širca offered a variety of regional wines, Jernej Bartolato presented souvenirs made of Karst rocks, and the folklore group Kraški šopki (the Karst Bouquets) entertained with songs and dances.

Tatiana Rodica Dumas, honorary consul in Lyon, said that one of the important results of Slovenia's participation is that all members of the diplomatic corps in Paris pledged that next year they will

gather together to visit Slovenia in April or May.

Spredstavitev 57 držav udeleženk v Lyonu, so se pred kratkim končali jubilejni, deseti konzularni prazniki. Na trgu Bellecour, enem največjih mestnih trgov v Franciji, so letos Slovenijo - ta se prireditve udeležuje že petič - dva dni zastopali Kraševci, velika delegacija občine Sežana.

Na eni izmed 57 stojnic s tipično ponudbo držav, ki so sodelovale na prireditvi v Lyonu, so kraševci navdušili s ponudbo pršuta, kraških vin (zlasti terana in vitovske grganje, teranovega toša s pršutom)

in drugimi posebnostmi. Kuharski mojstri hotela Safir iz Sežane so med drugim poskrbeli za navdušenje nad Krasovim pršutom in točem s polento, vinarja Primož Štoka in Edvin Širca z vini, Jernej Bartolato s spominki iz kraškega kamna, folklorna skupina Kraški šopek s pesmijo in plesi, Metlarji z nevsakdanjimi instrumenti in glasbo, Mladinski hotel Pliskovica - v sodelovanju s STO - s ponudbo počitnic, ki so drugačne od klasičnih hotelskih. Nad vsem, kar so predstavili Kraševci, je bil navdušen tudi Gerard Collomb, župan Lyona. Ta je v družbi častne konzulke Slovenije

Tatiane Rodica Dumas in sežanskega župana Davorina Terčona na kraški stojnici okusil tudi nekaj dobrot Krasa. Na županstvu, kjer je župan Lyona priredil sprejem za diplomate in druge ugledne goste konzularnih praznikov, je vhod v palačo in osrednjo dvorano s slikami okrasil sežanski slikar Marjan Miklavc. Kakor je povedala Tatiana Rodica Dumas, je eden od pomembnih rezultatov ponovne uspešne predstavitve Slovenije sklep, da vsi konzuli v Lyonu in člani diplomatskega zbora v Parizu prihodnje leto aprila ali maj skupaj obišejo Slovenijo.

DELO

Universal Comets will recognize anniversary members in October

by ANN EVANISH
Lodge 715

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — The most recent meeting of Universal Comets Lodge 715 was held June 11 at the Bohemian Club. All officers were present with the exception of auditor Frank Svoboda.

Lodge 715 activities for the year include a dance featuring the Mikey Dee Orchestra in the Alpine Room at

the SNPJ Recreation Center Sunday, Aug. 16, from 3 to 7 p.m. The annual Remezo/Kumer Golf Tournament will be played Saturday, Sept. 19, at Mohawk Trails Golf Course. Lodge 715 President Marty Kumer and Vice President Jamie Evanish will be in charge of this event.

Our annual luncheon buffet, when the Lodge officers honor our 50-, 60- and 70-year members, is sched-

uled Saturday, Oct. 24, at Palmieri's Restaurant, Old Frankstown Road in Plum Borough, Pa., from noon until 4 p.m. The owner assured me that we will be seated in a larger room. Please plan to attend and catch up on friends and family news. Additional information will be available later.

According to Secretary/Treasurer Roger Evanish, our Lodge had five young adults participate in the

Young Adult Conference, and several teenagers will be attending the TEL Workshop Aug. 7-9.

Since the beginning of the year we have lost several Lodge members. Those deceased include Jennie Previc, Michael Evanish, E. Guy McWilliams, Michael Orlic and Tom Bertovich. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

On a good note, happy birthday

greetings go out to Fran Remezo, celebrating her 90th birthday. We also had a great turnout for our March 21 shuffleboard tournament, complete with good food and tough competition.

Our next Lodge meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 13, beginning at 8 p.m. at the Bohemian Club, Hill St. in Universal. Please try to attend; we need more members to participate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Far from home, but still immersed in heritage

When leaving home three years ago to begin my college education at Bucknell University as a mechanical engineering major, one of my concerns was that I would lose touch with my Slovenian culture. Since there are no other students of Slovenian heritage at my university and no SNPJ nearby, I felt determined to hold onto my appreciation for the Slovenian culture upon which I had been raised.

The way in which I ended up doing so might not be what one would expect. No, I didn't start a Slovenian club on campus. Nor did I ask dining services to start serving traditional Slovenian food in the cafeteria. And no, I didn't begin to polka at every college party I went to... well, maybe a few times.

After becoming acquainted to Bucknell, I've developed a solid group of supportive and charismatic friends. Interestingly enough, the majority of my friends are of Asian descent, some of whom are American born and some of whom are international students. At first glance, Asian cultures might appear to be very different than many Eastern European cultures. Even so, I soon found myself at every Asian event on campus including the Burmese Water Festival, the Chinese New Year celebration, and Sushi making night.

At each and every event, I found myself completely at home, having a wonderful time, enjoying the company of my friends and indulging in the traditional Asian dishes. After a while I began to wonder why I felt so comfortable immersed in a culture so unlike my own. And I started to realize that it wasn't the culture itself that was so enticing, it was the students' appreciation and celebration of their culture that was so familiar to me. I felt drawn to this group of students because they too understood the importance and uniqueness of embracing and sharing cultural traditions and ethnicity with those around them.

At the same time, I have revealed much of my Slovenian

PROSVETA welcomes letters to the editor from all SNPJ members. All submissions to Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, Lodge and telephone number for verification, and all are subject to editing. The views expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Slovene National Benefit Society or PROSVETA.

Letters to the Editor submissions should be addressed to SNPJ PROSVETA, Attn: Letters to the Editor, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. Letters may also be faxed to (724) 695-1555 or e-mailed to snpj@snpj.com. Not all letters will be printed or individually acknowledged.

heritage to those around me as well. Friends gathered at our apartment on what I had declared "Hug a Slovenian Day" to enjoy live button box music, Slovenian klobase, sauerkraut, pierogies, haluski, and, of course, slivovica. Every single one of them left with a full stomach and a smile on his or her face. I am also proud to say that each and every one of my friends knows how to polka dance and can toast "Živijo!" with a good glass of wine. One thing is for sure—every culture can appreciate good food and good company!

The celebration of my Slovenian heritage has taught me on a grander scale the significance of cultural understanding. Even though I am not surrounded by my familiar Slovenian community while I'm away at school, I have found a group of loving, caring friends who share a similar appreciation for culture.

JACQUELINE DENNING
Miss Talent 2007
Lodge 41, Irwin, Pa.

A simple case of culture shock

Polka dancing, Slovenian food and lively button box

music were always familiar to me growing up. As I got older, my Slovenian heritage remained a large part of my life, as I continued to attend SNPJ events and polka dances, and learned to play the button box. Most of my friends eventually tagged along to multiple ethnic events and also grew to love my cultural traditions. It became the norm for me to play my button box at graduation parties, birthday celebrations and every other get-together. I was so pleased to see my friends experiencing something that I considered such an important and wonderful aspect of my life.

When I graduated from high school in 2008 and decided to study mechanical engineering at Bucknell University in the fall, I wasn't sure how my new classmates would react to my polkas and button box practices. When I first told my roommate about my ethnicity, she seemed very excited and even asked me to teach her to polka dance. I promised her I would eventually bring my button box to school and give her a lesson. A few months passed and my mom came to visit, with button box in tow. My friends were thrilled to hear me play polkas and waltzes.

After hearing my button box, my resident advisor asked me to perform at an event called "Culture Shock 2009," a talent show for cultural acts. I gladly agreed. The event was full of unique dances and musical performances, showcasing ethnicities from all over the world. My button box and traditional Slovenian dress were a hit, and a number of students continue to ask me about my heritage.

I take great pride in my Slovenian heritage and am always attempting to broaden the horizons of my peers. I am thrilled to be able to share a small piece of my culture with my classmates and will continue to spread the fraternalism that I was taught my entire life.

ROSIE DENNING
Lodge 41, Irwin, Pa.

The summer livin' comes easy for Warren Lodge 321 members

by Cerkvena Mis
Lodge 321

WARREN, Ohio — Do you remember the song about summertime? You know, "the livin' is easy" and something about it being hot? Well that's how Hermina Gail Church is still livin'. If you're wondering, she's still not walking, and that boot she has to wear looks very hot. You know, her cousin, Becky Bucco, and her neighbor, Robin Zackeroff, helped my girlfriend, Hermina Joy Church, get her into one spot. She stayed there for a long time.

Who was that guy being awfully cozy with her? My girl Ann Tomazin always keeps me informed. That's Uncle George, and Ann told me he gives very good hugs. I wonder how Charles Tomazin feels about that? Maybe a better question is, does he get one too?

Charles Paukovich and Dan Gelet were worried after looking at Fred Church's garden. I think they were trying to figure out when the produce would be coming in. I bet you they'll have another picnic over here and not tell anybody, if you know what I mean.

All my girls are on the disabled list! Kelley Church is still on the mend and is making progress. Maybe by August she and I can teach David Hassler and John Church a lesson in corn toss. Stayed tuned, because before Kelley was injured, she showed no mercy. Oh, and

don't ask her to play for cheese. Not only will she whip you, but then she'll taunt you with the cheese!

Speaking of cheese, Breanna Bucco and Robert Zackeroff were into the cheese, pepperoni rolls and chicken... but no hot sauce. With all the waiting they did on Hermina Gail, they should open a catering business. I think the walker is just an excuse.

Despite no one playing corn toss, it was a good picnic. I think the guys were afraid of embarrassing themselves. The food was good and the company was better. I can't wait for a nap and the next get-together with my crew. *Lahko noč!*



Lodge 321 members enjoying a picnic during a recent get-together in Warren, Ohio.

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PROSVETA Crossword

Summer Fun (#1409) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- Heart of Inca empire
- Drink it iced in the heat
- Increase
- U.S. ____ golf major
- What summer's days do for kids with no plans
- Frequently
- Organ of photosynthesis
- Comfort
- "Dressed to the ____"
- Often sold roadside
- Hurry up
- Large passenger ship
- National Institutes of Health
- Growing place
- Percussion instrument played with small mallets
- "____ Whitney," invented the cotton gin
- Move sideways or in an unsteady way
- Standard
- "Don't ____ words!"
- Generous with its money
- "Let's ____ to disagree"
- ____ Verde National Park
- "Little Women" novelist
- Pick up, as in suspect
- Nemo's home plant
- Cool cruise destination
- Cherry middle

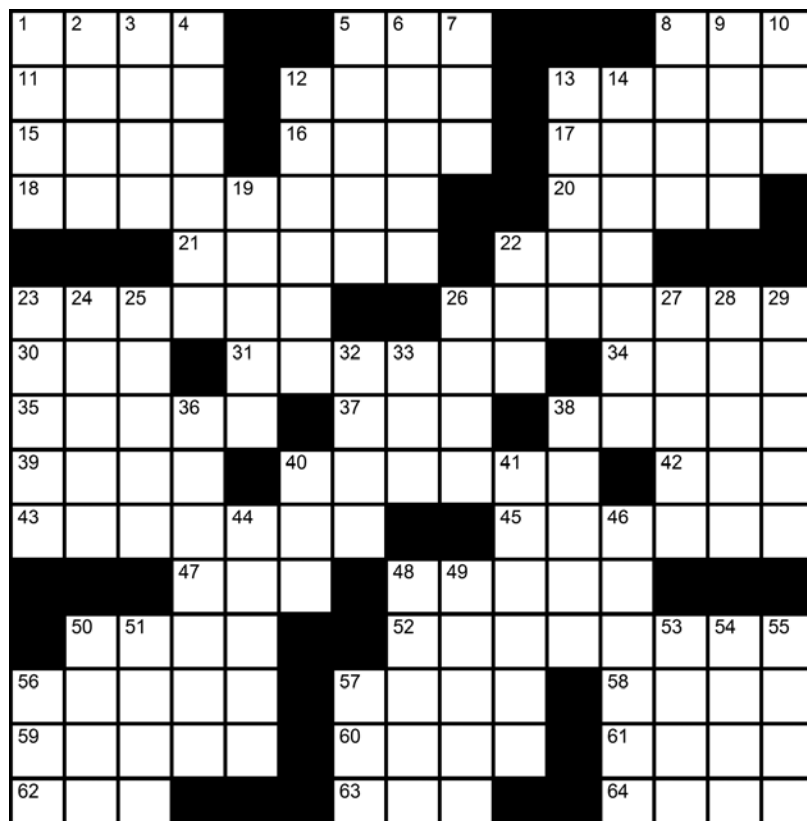
- Eskimo boat
- It's in need of protection
- The hotter it is, the faster it goes
- Reeked
- Half-way around the world from US
- Known for its notebooks
- Messages between computers to make sure they're working
- American composer of popular music (1885-1945)
- Bring together
- Paul is to Simon as this is to Garfunkel
- "No, thank you. I already ____."
- Margarine

DOWN

- It's often conducted by Gallup
- D'Artagnan's sword
- Quantity of paper
- Lay out, as in a map
- What kids do with baseball cards
- One who relieves
- ____ of Aquarius
- Sicilian volcano
- "____ trying!"
- Half the width of em in printing
- ____ Favre
- Currently broadcasting
- Easy to get hooked doing this

- Sister's daughter
- Indian bread
- Fashion designer Kahng
- Sigourney Weaver's box office hit
- Shampoo, _____, repeat
- Office document
- Between dawn and noon, pl.
- No school
- Single-cell protozoan
- Rattling
- More of the same
- Roughing it
- Road-tripping guide
- Don't let him ruin your picnic
- Australian venomous snake
- Pig sounds
- With hands on hips and elbows out
- Cinderella's win
- Silk-patterned fabric
- Evoke emotion
- 18th century German philosopher
- Finish a surface, as in a wall
- Muffin Man's Drury ____
- Edible root of taro plants
- Masseuse's office
- Also known as

The solution to puzzle #1409 will run in the July 29 issue.



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Golden Eagles ready for Aug. 9 dance date at the Recreation Center

GOLDEN EAGLES
FROM PAGE 1

Vienna Township, Ohio. Lodge 643 hosted many Ohio Slovene Days in the 1960s and '70s at this beautiful outdoor facility near Girard. Busloads of fraternal members would travel from Cleveland to participate in this annual occasion, along with our Grape Festival each September.

The officers and members of Golden Eagles Lodge 643 would like to express condolences to the family of Stanley R. Hribar who passed away June 14. Stan was the son of the late Stanley and Frances Hribar, the husband of Mary Lou Hribar, and the brother of Barbara (Hribar) Popovich. Stan was a very proud father and grandfather, and he will be sadly missed by all.

Our next scheduled Lodge meeting will be held Thursday, July 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Tod Park pavilion. Pizza and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Due to the August polka dance, the next meeting after July will be Sept. 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Amen Corner in Girard. Take care!



Golden Eagles members **JOE and BERNIE KREN, DUKE KOMLANC, JAN LESKOVEC, MARG KOMLANC and REGIS LESKOVEC** represented Lodge 643 at a recent dance held at the Strassmayer Picnic Grounds.

Strabane Lodge 138 honors members in May

LODGE 138 MEMBERS
FROM PAGE 1

A big thank you to Carl Nagode for bringing his button box. After a little coaxing, I was able to get SNPJ National Treasurer Robert Lawrence to play a few songs. Once the ice was broken, Carl finally gave in and played. Even George Suhon enjoyed playing Carl's button box. Peg Mosurak also played for us during George's break.

It was great to see old friends rekindle their friendships and share memories of the past while making new memories.

It was also a pleasure to meet Josephine Davis from California. She is the daughter of former 138 Lodge Secretary Josephine O'Shinsky.

Unfortunately, Josephine's visit to Pennsylvania ended on a sad note. Her aunt, Edbina "Bini" Marple, passed away May 18. Lodge 138 extends deepest sympathy to you, Josephine, and Edbina's family.

I hope the honorees and their guests enjoyed the banquet. I truly enjoyed meeting with each and every one of you, and I hope to see you at a Lodge 138 event soon!

Annual Beaverdale Reunion draws a crowd to the SNPJ Farm

REUNION
FROM PAGE 1

picnic/dance would provide delicious dinners, sandwiches, beverages, a polka band and recreation grounds for the reunion. And so the tradition continues.

One of the upcoming reunions will be the 50th. Which one is not known, since there are no known early records. Many of the earlier attendees have passed away and some are ailing, but somehow their children and the old-timers who never had a chance to attend the reunion do so now. And so this wonderful tradition continues.

The Beaverdale Reunion 2009 had five dozen registered attendees. It should be noted that four ladies with Beaverdale roots, Pat (Kakabar) Brewer, Gina (Bonfanti) Henriques, Lillian (Bonfanti) Lopez and Betty (Harvey) Aldridge, drove in from the Philadelphia area. Pat attended last year, and it was the first reunion for the latter three.

Bud and Helen (Beyer) Brown (581) came again from Coudersport, Pa. Bud's family had the Brown farm and dairy at the top of the hill near the road from Beaverdale to Lloydell. Bud had an interesting photograph that was a composite of three photographs taken over several decades to show the change in modes of farm and dairy work. It had the barn, silo and dairy buildings, plus a team of mules pulling a wagon, then the more efficient tractor with rubber tires, and finally the truck for delivering milk. Bud said that after the mines were closed and people moved away, he had to close the dairy and find other work.

Kathy Debevits, another first-time attendee, represented the second generation. Kathy was thrilled to learn about her Debevits roots in Onnalinda. My late aunt, Rose Jakopin, married Anthony Debevits from Onnalinda.

George Chabra said he is working on a history of the peoples of Beaverdale and Lloydell. He may contact you to obtain background information. George

said that the Beaverdale Library has been helpful. I remember the stories my father and uncles would tell at wakes and family gatherings about their experiences in Lloydell, Beaverdale and Onnalinda. It would have been nice had I used a tape recorder to preserve that oral history. Years later, in the 1980s after dad passed on, I finally visited Onnalinda. By then, it and many of the small coal-mining towns were declining. That's a shame, but the way of life. Writings such as George's are useful to describe and maintain our hometown coal-mining heritage.

Ed Snyder (776) described "the train from Onnalinda to Cleveland." When things were tough economically, a person would travel to Cleveland and stay at a relative's or friend's home until that person found a job and got settled. Interesting. One could also say "the boat and train from Slovenia to America - or Ljubljana or Ig to Beaverdale or Cleveland." Here also, a person or family would stay with a relative or friend until they found employment.

It can be noted that people and families moved about in the early 1900s - presumably to follow the work and to be nearer their coal mining job. In my family, starting in 1909, the Jakopin family homestead was in Lloydell, on the road going up the hill from Beaverdale to Dunlo. But based on Ellis Island records and places of births, before that, the Jakopin family lived in Marville, Windber, Scalp Level, Dunlo (where my father Felix was born), Slovenia, South Fork and Hooversville. The Jakopin family homestead was the first house on the right, going up the hill, and the Frank and Elizabeth (Jakopin) Ilersich family homestead was two houses further up the hill. Interestingly, Pat (Kakabar) Brewer said she lived across from the Ilersich homestead. And, of course, the Brown farm and dairy was at the top of the hill.

Similarly, my mother, Anna Kosaber, was born in Beaverdale, as were several of her siblings. Her father, George, first lived in Willock, Pa., and then went to Cambria

County, and her mother, Ursula Kocjan, first traveled to live with her brother, Martin, at 6521 St. Clair Ave. in Cleveland and then to Cambria County. They also lived in South Fork, and finally in Wilmore. The Kosaber farm and dairy homestead was on the dirt road, now named Kosaber Road, on the way to the Wilmore dam. Many reunion attendees got their milk from the Kosaber Dairy from my uncles, Glenford, Matt and Frank.

Bill Ilersich recalled that his grandfather, George Jurij Jakopin (a former secretary of Lloydell Lodge 60), enrolled him into the SNPJ. Lodge 60 later merged with Dunlo Lodge 274. Bill later became a member of Samsula, Fla., Lodge 603, as did his wife, Mary (Boris) and son, Bill Jr. They are now Friends of the Farm and attend every picnic/dance.

Many of the Beaverdale Reunion attendees are also SNPJ members: Jackie Berkeimer (158), Doss Dezelon (158), Lee Jackopin (355), Bob and Joanne Jamison (158), Eileen Markusic (158), Martha Meglich (53), Bob and Peggy (Neilson) Pirc (53), Anton Sadar (53) and Henrietta Snyder (776). Martha and Tony worked the kitchen and bar. There were probably other SNPJ members, but that information is just being recorded.

V-Boj Lodge 53 provided good food, cooked Slovenian-style, for the picnic. The Joey Tomsick Orchestra played many Slovenian polkas and waltzes. Joey even got into a couple of pictures with the Beaverdale folks. This was a wonderful chance to reunite with friends and relatives from the old neighborhoods in Pennsylvania. There was a lot of talking, reminiscing, and joy to get together with old friends. That's what this reunion gathering has been all about.

The bottom line is that Beaverdale Reunion 2010 will be held the last Sunday of June at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. We hope to see you then! For more information, contact Lee Jackopin by e-mailing li_jakopin@yahoo.com or phoning (440) 943-3170.

Our best wishes to Outlived members

Lodge 2 member for over 70 years



Bro. JOHN RANCINGAY (2)

LA SALLE, III. — Bro. John Rancingay of Lodge 2 has outlived his life insurance policy. He celebrated his 96th birthday this year and has spent nearly 80 years as a member of the Society.

Bro. Rancingay was born in Oglesby, Ill., Feb. 20, 1913, to John and Angela (Simenc) Rancingay. He held various jobs until he was called to serve his nation in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. On May 10, 1941, John married Sophie Klanske in LaSalle; she passed away Sept. 8, 2004. They had three children, Barb Lyons, Janice Ernat and John Rancingay III.

John retired from Marquette Cement Company in 1975. His retirement years have been spent enjoying his 10 grandchildren. Some of John's many hobbies included gardening and wood working, and he was a state-registered bee keeper. He still enjoys attending monthly Lodge 2 meetings with his daughter, son and the friends he has met during his many years.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 2 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend best wishes for continued health and happiness to Bro. Rancingay.

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting April 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

Approved the minutes of the March 19, 2009, meeting.

Reported that we are in the process of obtaining and reviewing bids for the retention pond service project at the SNPJ Home Office as required by the township.

Reported that the insulation project, as approved by the SNPJ National Board, was completed at the SNPJ Recreation Center at a cost of \$40,000.

Reported that we hired a new Recreation Center Director, Bro. Tim Jergel (782), effective April 1, 2009.

Reported that we received bids for the parking lot and driveway paving at the SNPJ Home Office, and approved a bid in the amount of \$23,428 with a \$3,500 contingency.

Approved payment of \$2,044 to the Society's legal counsel, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney.

Discussed and approved the position of Fraternal Assistant for the summer fraternal programs at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

Approved payment of \$500 for the first installment of two to SNPJ Lodge 776 for hosting the 2009 National Bowling Tournament.

Approved payment of \$500 to SNPJ Lodge 106 for hosting the 2009 SNPJ Western Pa. Bowling Tournament.

Approved a donation of \$100 to the National Association of Fraternal Insurance Counsellors (NAFIC) selected charity.

Cash Withdrawals:

March 24 - There were two Matured Endowments, one of which was a conversion. Cash value, \$11,287.00; insurance, \$11,000.

March 25 - There were 10 Adult Cash Withdrawals, none of which were conversions. Cash value, \$9,104.46; insurance, \$35,750.

April 1 - There were eight Adult Cash Withdrawals, none of which were conversions. Cash value, \$4,325.50; insurance, \$9,189.

April 8 - There was one Matured Endowment and four Adult Cash Withdrawals, none of which were conversions. Cash value, \$2,811.24; insurance, \$7,810.

April 15 - There were two Juvenile Cash Withdrawals, one Matured Endowment, one Outlived Policy and 11 Adult Cash Withdrawals, none of which were conversions. Cash value, \$28,460.52; insurance, \$141,561.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH
National President

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary

SNPJ RECOMMENDER PROGRAM



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

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Badger Jabber

by BOB SMOLE
Lodge 584

MILWAUKEE — The date for our regular Badger Lodge 584 monthly meeting is Thursday, July 16. St. Peter's Church Hall at 79th and W. Lincoln Ave. is the place and 7:30 p.m. is the time. If you received this *PROSVETA* issue on time, you should be able to attend this meeting. I hope to see a good turn out. See you all there!

I've heard through the grapevine that several of our members are recuperating at home after short stays in the hospital. We wish them all a speedy recovery. I'd like to mention them by name but I didn't receive their approval. I know some individuals do not like to have their names mentioned in regards to illness, so I respect and honor that right and will only mention those that have given consent. If you wish to include any personal information in "Badger Jabber," contact me at (262) 242-6204 or rsmole@wi.rr.com; please note "Badger Jabber" in the subject line.

By now, all entrants in the Tony Mlinar Memorial Golf Outing should have received their returned entry fee. Unfortunately, the outing was

canceled again this year due to rain. Two years in a row, can you believe it? I can't! The outing will not be rescheduled for several reasons. The New Berlin Hills schedule is pretty full and very few acceptable dates are available. And when a rescheduled date was picked last year in late season, golfers were either booked or not interested in golfing, making it difficult to get the required 80 golfers to participate. We'll have to wait until next year for the return of the Tony Mlinar Memorial Golf Outing. Thanks again to Bro. Tony Mlinar Jr. and Sis. Paula Marlewski for making all the arrangements. I'm sure they did not arrange for the rain.

Another annual golf outing is coming up very soon. The Fun-O-Leers Golf Outing will take place at Brookfield Hills Golf Course Saturday, Sept. 19. You cannot beat the fun, excitement, prizes, food, drinks and camaraderie that is always a big part of this day on the links. The cost is only \$50 per golfer, which covers the greens fee, (bowling shoes), a cart, Slovenian sausage sandwich at the turn, two drink tickets and prizes.

This is an annual fund-raising event for the Fun-O-Leers. The money raised will go toward the club's charity fund which supports various local charities each year, including the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse, Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Holy Assumption Food Pantry, MS Society,

Milwaukee Breast Cancer Awareness Program, Juvenile Diabetes and the West Allis Special Olympics. Don't miss out on this outing! Start getting your foursomes together and submit your entries early as this outing fills up rather quickly. Entries should be sent to Jim Kodel, 9332 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield, WI 53228. You can contact Jim for additional information at (414) 587-5754. Entry fees must be included with the entry and paid prior to the golf outing date.

Anyone up for a trip to Las Vegas? Local SNP timer Athletic Board Representative Sis. Mary Donovan is looking for some direction. SNP timer is contemplating a bowling tournament in Las Vegas this fall but would like some input from interested members. If you would consider a trip to Vegas for a bowling tournament, contact Sis. Donovan at (414) 405-0532. Mary is also trying to get teams together for the coming 2010 SNP timer National Bowling tournament hosted by Lodge 34 in Indianapolis. This is always a fun trip with good times in Indianapolis. Contact Sis. Donovan in regard to this event. Let's see if we can get a few teams to represent the Milwaukee connection. More information will appear in a future *PROSVETA* issue.

Saturday, Aug. 29, is the date for a "Konzert in the Park" with Ansambel Erazem from Postojna, Slovenia. This group of four men and one woman will be performing at 1 p.m. at Triglav Park

in the Wind Lake, Wis., area. This concert is sponsored, in part, from a grant from the UWM-Slovenian Arts Council. This beautiful outdoor park is nestled among large shade trees, making a perfect setting for the European group to present their wonderful ethnic music.

The USPEH is hosting this special day to commemorate their 31st anniversary. USPEH is formed from eight different groups in the Milwaukee area: Sloga, Milwaukee Slovenian Retirees, Fun-O-Leers, KSKJ, SNP timer, SWU, TRIGLAV and the USPEH Chorus. I know you will enjoy this experience and won't want to miss it. Tickets are \$10. There will be baked goods, sandwiches and plenty of beer, wine and soda for you to purchase beginning at noon with the park opening at 11 a.m. This is an occasion to support the Slovenian culture that we are so proud of. Come out and enjoy; there is plenty of free parking. The fresh air will do you good and the entertainment will be unbeatable. Mark Saturday, Aug. 29, on your calendar.

Triglav Park is located at 6462 Old Loomis Road, a private road just across the street from Col. Heg Park. If you plan to attend, please bring lawn chairs. Advance tickets are suggested to eliminate congestion at the gate. The public is invited to attend the day's festivities. Detailed directions from any direction you're traveling

can be found at www.triglavpark.com. I'll also include some directions in my next article. For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact Sis. Fran Smole at (414) 258-5572. Anyone interested in donating baked items is asked to also contact Sis. Smole.

Summer polka concerts in the park will be held Thursdays at West Allis Veterans Park, 70th and West National Ave. Performances include Steve Meisner July 16, Tom Brusky July 23, Keith Gennerman July 30 and Jeff Winard Aug. 20. This is a good lineup of great local talent. It will be worth your while to take a lawn chair, sit back and enjoy music in the park from 7 to 8:30 p.m. What a wonderful way to spend a summer evening!

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream" Thursday, Aug. 20, at St. Peter's Church Hall, 79th and W. Lincoln Ave., at 7:30 p.m. The annual Ice Cream Social will follow the regular meeting of Badger Lodge 584. This is one of our most popular meetings and I would attribute that to the ice cream. If you have a special or unique topping that you would like to share, please bring it. Otherwise, ice cream and all the normal fixings will be supplied. A "build a sundae" contest will take place; you build it, you eat it. What a deal! Stop in and enjoy a sundae Thursday, Aug. 20, at the annual Badger Lodge 584 Ice Cream Social.

Lodge 603 treats members to steak dinner

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — Greetings from Samsula Lodge 603 in the beautiful sunshine state of Florida where the sun shines most of the time, but thunder, lightning and rain seem to find us too. Lodge members had a great steak dinner last month in appreciation of all the volunteer service during the year benefiting the Lodge hall and grounds. Special thanks to all who helped cook the meal. I'm so thankful that everyone from our Lodge helps out when asked.

I was in Las Vegas with my daughter and son-in-law and missed the appreciation meal, but I heard it was real good. While in Las Vegas, I stopped in Harrah's where we stayed during the SNP timer National Convention several years ago.

Thanks to Janie and Ray Wright for supplying the ice at our Lodge hall. Thanks are also extended to Duke Pell and his sons, Wade and Austin, for making repairs to our picnic pavilion.

Mary and Jack Pleterski traveled to their Virginia home

for rest and relaxation. Jack is doing well following a knee replacement. Get well wishes go out to John Reichel Jr. who also underwent a successful knee replacement at Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. Johnny did so well they sent him straight home from the hospital instead of going to a physical therapy center. Must be that Slovenian blood, good and strong!

By the time you receive this publication, a group of us from Lodge 603 will have talked with you at Slovenefest in the Borough of SNP timer, Pa.

We always enjoy ourselves and thank each of you for your hospitality.

It won't be long before we start getting ready for Florida SNP timer Days and Samsula Polka Festival, scheduled Feb. 19-21, with Florida Slovene Days at Spring Hill Lodge 778 on the west coast the following weekend.

Our covered dish social is scheduled Sunday, July 19, at 6 p.m. with the July Lodge meeting following at 7 p.m.

Until next time, enjoy yourself and keep up with the Slovenian fraternalism.



Pioneers Lodge 559 members and friends enjoyed a social outing at Crystal Light Banquets in June.

Start planning for Florida Slovene Days

by EILEEN HARFMAN
Lodge 778 Secretary

SPRING HILL, Fla. — There's not much happening here in Florida except changes in the weather. After enduring a drought for several months, and experiencing burn and watering restrictions, we were blessed with early summer rains. For nearly two weeks we had heavy rains almost every day. This was followed by high temperatures; it was very hot! Working outdoors or exercising had to be done during the cool, early morning hours.

This week the temperatures are milder, but the heavy rains and thunderstorms have returned. Some places in the Tampa Bay area have experienced minor flooding and even a few mini tornadoes. The weather roller coaster ride continues!

In May, Lodge 778 lost a very dedi-

cated member, Sis. Josephine "Jo" Latin. An SNP timer member for most of her life, Jo volunteered her talents for many years until her health prevented her participation. She will be greatly missed.

Eightieth birthday wishes are extended to Las Vegas resident and former band leader Roman Possedi (8). Roman was born on July 4! He keeps us informed of his exploits via e-mail. Congratulations, Roman, on reaching this milestone. May you celebrate many more years of good health and happiness.

Get well wishes are sent to good friend and talented musician Joe Fedorchak (643). Joe was seriously ill and hospitalized recently. We're glad to hear he's back at home now and feeling better. We wish you a speedy recovery!

My husband Walt and I will soon be

traveling again. We hadn't planned on making a trip to Europe this year, but circumstances intervened. We have been saving our frequent flyer points from our Continental charge card for several years. With the economy in such a struggle, Continental decided to change its policy regarding reward points. Soon it will take more points to receive a free flight, so we took the plunge and booked our flights before the changes took effect. We will be traveling for about a month. I'll share the details of our trip in a future article.

Florida Slovene Days for 2010 are scheduled for March 5-7. Mark your calendar now so you can join the fun! Entertainment will be provided by the popular Mahoning Valley Button Box Club and the crowd-pleasing Polka Quads! Further details will follow.

"The King" a hit with Lodge 559 members

by ANITA VITOUS
Lodge 559 Secretary

CHICAGO — Pioneer Lodge 559 members and friends welcomed June by attending their first social gathering of the year. On June 4 we met at Crystal Light Banquets for an event titled "June Is Busting Out All Over" featuring Dave Thomas as Elvis Presley. Dave is reported to be one of the best Elvis impersonators in the business. Many lucky ladies received a scarf and kiss! One of our own members even received a teddy bear while Elvis sang "Teddy Bear." We were all jealous of Jean Zeleznikar when she received such special attention!

Of course, no outing would be complete without some fabulous food. I must

say, it was some of the best banquet food I've ever had: savory roast pork loin, roast spring chicken, fresh polish sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered finger dumplings, peas, carrots... have I made you hungry yet? Prior to and during dinner, we were treated to some good ol' big band music. Our feet were certainly tapping along to this great music.

Pioneer Lodge 559 meets monthly on the second Friday at noon at Czech Plaza in Berwyn, Ill. Come out and join us for our next meeting. Our next outing will be a picnic Aug. 9. We will also discuss making arrangements to see "Thoroughly Modern Millie" Nov. 19 at Drury Lane. I hope to see you at one of these events.



During dinner, those in attendance enjoyed big band music.

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Publication dates are highlighted in black boxes; deadline dates are circled. The deadline for submissions is noon on the Monday a week prior to the issue date, unless otherwise noted above or on the front page. Submissions may be mailed to *PROSVETA* at 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126; faxed to (724) 695-1555; or e-mailed to prosveta@sn timer.org.

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SNPJ FRATERNAL HONORARIES

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

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President

We of the SNPJ belong to an organization that has a very extraordinary and diverse membership. Our members range in age from newborn to 100-plus years. They come from many different parts of the United States, have a wide variety of ideas and have many different backgrounds. But they all have something in common – their loyalty and love of SNPJ.

It is through our older members, the backbone of our Society, that our younger members have learned and will continue to learn the meaning of fraternalism. They have guided our Society through the good times and the trying times with one common goal... unity and harmony within the SNPJ.

Every year, more and more of these respected SNPJ elders reach the 50-, 60-, 70- and astronomical 80-year milestone of membership in the Slovene National Benefit Society. It is our privilege to honor some of this elite group of elders.

In acknowledging our elder members, we show our respect for these honorees by offering our thanks and appreciation for the loyalty they have shown the Soci-

ety for so many years. In a small way we can etch their names into the archives of the SNPJ even more through PROSVETA.

Upon reaching the 50-year milestone, the Executive Committee forwards a certificate of recognition. Sixty-year members receive a diamond-studded gold pin; 70-year members receive an embroidered fleece blanket and 80-year members receive an SNPJ custom blanket.

We ask our elite elders, once they have received their awards from the Society, to submit a short report on their past and present life style which includes Lodge affiliation, hobbies and other information which might be of interest to PROSVETA readers.

We welcome letters from all of our fraternal honorees. Sometimes, over the years, a member transfers to another Lodge out of state. This short report enables us to pass along addresses so that longtime acquaintances can keep in touch or renew old friendships which have gone astray.

Our congratulations to all who have reached these honored milestones. It is said that our future is in the young, but without our elite elders the traditions and heritage of the SNPJ would not be able to grow and our young would not learn the true meaning of unity, harmony and fraternalism.

• Seventy-year SNPJ member Sis. **STEPHANA CERNE** of Indianapolis Lodge 34 was honored by the Society for her years of membership.

Stephana (Turk) Cerne was born Feb. 28, 1920, to Joseph and Frances Turk, immigrants from Slovenia. Stephana excelled in many activities. She performed in operettas, sang in the Holy Trinity Slovenian Catholic Choir, roller-skated and bowled, all the while being very involved in her SNPJ Lodge.

Sis. Cerne was married to Frank Cerne for 64 years. They had two daughters, Frances, who is married to Joseph Leone, and Nancy, who is married to Alex Yovanovich. She also has six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Stephana worked for Western Electric for several years as a layout operator, supervising over 40 workers. While there she made many lifetime friends.

Sis. Cerne spent this past winter in Venice, Fla., with Frances and Joe. She enjoyed taking walks, swimming and playing in a balina league. She is spending her summer in Brownsburg, Ind., with Nancy and Alex.

Sis. **STEPHANA CERNE** (34)
5481 E. County Road 450 N.
Brownsburg, IN 46112

• Bro. **JOE MARENTICH**, a member of Lodge 559 in Chicago, was recognized by SNPJ for attaining 80 years of membership. Bro. Marentich writes:

"I was born in 1913 and have been an SNPJ member since I was 16 years old. My wife and I celebrated our 68th anniversary in May. We have two sons and two granddaughters.

"I retired in 1975 and have been spending my time doing volunteer work at the church, fishing, playing cards, doing yard work and watching ball games. I also used to do some traveling in my earlier years.

"Thank you for the SNPJ blanket. It was appreciated very much."

Bro. **JOE MARENTICH** (559)
701 Betula Ave.
Joliet, IL 60436

• Aliquippa, Pa., Lodge 721 member Sis. **PAULETTE STRANG** was honored for her 50 years of membership with the Society. Sis. Strang writes:

"My sincere appreciation goes out to the Society for being honored as a 50-year member.

"As a little girl, I remember my involvement in Lodge 721. I'd go to the Slovenian Hall with my mom and dad in West Aliquippa, Pa., where many activities were held for children and adults. I believe we were called the Jolly Quipps Circle.

"I grew up in Aliquippa, the daughter of Paul and Mildred (Jerala) Yaklich, and attended Hopewell Memorial High School. I graduated from Youngstown University with a degree in Business

Sis. **PAULETTE STRANG**
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Sis. **PAULETTE STRANG**
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Administration.

"After marrying my husband, Jim, we moved to Holden, Mass., in 1966 where our children were born and where we worked over 30 years in our respective careers, retiring in 2001. This August, we will celebrate 44 years of marriage. Our family consists of two sons and three beautiful grandchildren. Our son Eric and our granddaughter Emily reside in Chandler, Ariz. Our son Chris, his wife Kerry and our grandchildren McKenna and Christian reside in Bethel Park, Pa.

"As retirees, we winter in Gold Canyon, Ariz., and spend our summers in Chatham, Cape Cod, Mass. Most recently, I have developed a strong interest in my Slovenian heritage and researching my roots. When visiting my uncle, Albert Jerala, he would always talk about his involvement in SNPJ, the Recreation Center, listening to the Slovene radio hour every Sunday and his wonderful trips to Slovenia. His enthusiasm sparked my interest to learn more.

"My husband and I made our first trip to Slovenia in June 2008. The beauty of the country and friendliness of the people were unbelievable. We found two of my grandparents' birth homes; it was very emotional. We returned in June to continue researching the birthplaces of my other two grandparents. We once again enjoyed the wonderful sites and people of Slovenia.

"I learned to cook many ethnic dishes from my parents. In particular, my husband and I love to make our own Slovenian smoked klobase, and I make poticas for both the Christmas and Easter holidays. I also enjoy spending time with my children and grandchildren, antiquing, gardening, and traveling.

"Thank you again for the golden year member honor."

Sis. **PAULETTE STRANG** (721)
122 Potonumecot Road
Chatham, MA 02633

• The Society and Chicago Lodge 559 recently recognized Sis. **GRACE DOERK** in honor of her 60th membership anniversary. Sis. Doerk writes:

"First of all, I would like to sincerely thank SNPJ for my 60-year award. It is indeed an honor to accept this recognition.

"I was born April 8, 1931, to Frank and Agnes Gerdanc in my grandparents home in Auburn, Ill. Little did I realize that years later, the SNPJ Slovenefest would be held in my hometown. Incidentally, both of my parents were born in Slovenia. I attended grade school and high school in Cicero, Ill., and this fall I will be attending my 60th high school reunion. I received an associate degree from Morton College in education, and took various courses at Northwestern University in Illinois throughout the years.

"At the age of 6 I joined Per-

Sis. **GRACE DOERK**
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Sis. **GRACE DOERK**
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

fect Circle 26 where I met my best friends. At this time, Vincent Cankar was the SNPJ National President and his son was a member of our Circle. During my Circle years, we performed skits, plays and productions of all sorts under the direction of Ann Sannemann. I bowled in many SNPJ youth bowling tournaments and was an active contributor to *Mladinski List* where I was in contact with ever so many pen pals, some that I am still in contact with today.

"Over the years my parents took me to all of the affairs at the local SNPJ. At that time we had no car and had to ride three streetcars to get to the hall. After I got out of the Circle at age 18, I became active in Pioneer Lodge 559, bowling and planning activities for the Lodge. At 24 I married Otto Doerk. Together we had our children, Ed and Debbie.

"While raising our children I was not as active in the Lodge, but at 38 I was employed by the SNPJ Home Office, then located at 2657 South Lawndale Ave., Chicago. From then on my activity with SNPJ never ceased. At that time Joseph Culkar was National President, Wilma Scordato was National Treasurer and Michael Vrhovnik was the director of the Youth Department. I saw National Board members from all over the country arrive for their semi-annual meetings before dining next door at the Slovene-operated Berger restaurant. It was then that I knew that I wanted to be involved in the Society.

"Before working 29 years for SNPJ, I worked several years at Western Electric and Hotpoint. I enjoyed my time working for SNPJ. In 1982 my dream came true when I was elected National Assistant Secretary of SNPJ. During this eight year term I wrote a weekly health column for publication in *PROSVETA*.

"In 1990 I was elected National Secretary at the SNPJ Convention. During those years I enjoyed visiting various Lodges throughout the United States. When the Home Office moved from Burr Ridge, Ill., to Imperial, Pa., I relinquished my duties as National Secretary in 1993. In 1994 I was elected to the Supervisory Committee and remained in that position until 2006.

"I served as director of Youth Circle 26 for 10 years and recording secretary of the Chicago Federation for 15 years. I sang with the Prseren Chorus for 10 years. Currently I serve as recording secretary of Lodge 559 as I have for many years. Our Lodge manages to host four activities each year, and Otto and I enjoy attending all of them.

"I have attended most Slovenefests in the Borough of SNPJ, Pa. Otto and I even worked the admission gates for many years. I attended all 15 of the Auburn Slovenefests held in my hometown and many times served as the main speaker. As you can see, I have spent almost my entire life

Sis. **GRACE DOERK**
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN



Sis. **STEPHANA CERNE** (34)



Sis. **PAULETTE STRANG** (721)



Bro. **JOE MARENTICH** (559)



Sis. **GRACE DOERK** (559)

Sis. **GRACE DOERK**
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

in SNPJ activity.

"I've started my 41st year of writing for *PROSVETA*. My columns have brought me so many e-mails, phone calls and letters. I love hearing from all my SNPJ friends. My daughter married in 1982 and has given Otto and I four wonderful grandchildren. Joey graduated Sum Cum Laude from Bradley University, Laura and Michel are currently attending Northern Illinois University, and Annie will be going into the eighth grade in September. My grandchildren are my pride and joy, and I have spent a lot of time with them since my retirement. Family gatherings are very precious to me.

"Although Otto and I have many health problems, we continue to attend Lodge 559 meetings and several senior citizen meetings. At this time there isn't much SNPJ activity in our area, so we are involved with KSKJ, Slovene Women's Club and the Slovene Cultural Center in Lemont, Ill. We have an active social life, between having people over, and meeting friends at restaurants and various events.

"I was elected to serve on the senior committee of my local congressman. Through this committee, I have worked at health fairs and participated in all sorts of meetings. I've also worked part-time in the Bristol Music Store for the last 15 years and immensely enjoy it, as I have always enjoyed music. I've served on the Board of Directors in the community where I live and continue to socialize with neighbors. Our home is located on a lake, so we have many summer visitors who like to partake in the activity here.

"Otto and I have traveled throughout the United States with our children, and we continue to travel in our retirement. Our most enjoyable trips are polka cruises. Just this March we went on the Slovenefest@Sea cruise. We have visited Slovenia and I hope to visit there again. My main interest now is preserving the Slovenian culture and heritage which has been a great part of my life.

"Thanks again for this award. I look forward to receiving my 70-year award and attending the SNPJ National Convention in Cleveland in 2010."

Sis. **GRACE DOERK** (559)
23112 Lacroix Ln.
Plainfield, IL 60544

• The Society and Milwaukee Lodge 584 recently recognized Sis. **HELEN POCZEKAJ** in honor of her 60th membership anniversary.

Helen was active as a young girl, participating in SNPJ Youth Circle softball, basketball (even though she was small) and volleyball teams. Her Circle activity also included singing, dancing and taking active parts in picnics at the

Sis. **HELEN POCZEKAJ**
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN



Sis. **HELEN POCZEKAJ** (584)

Sis. **HELEN POCZEKAJ**
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Arcadian Inn.

As an adult, Sis. Poczekaj continued to be super active in sports, coaching many softball and volleyball teams to championships; her awards and trophies could fill a truck. She was commended by the Pope and a U.S. President for her activities with children and teenagers. Many past team members, who are now adults, recognize her as a positive influence on their lives.

Recently, Helen participated in balina with her granddaughters her as team members. Her granddaughters are members of the Society, as are her daughter, Deborah, and her husband, Joseph.

Helen and Joseph fell in love with the southwest, the Grand Canyon in particular. They hiked down into the Grand Canyon, rode mules down the trails and back up again, and always encouraged others to partake in its awesome presence. They also rode the river and its rapids the full length of the Grand Canyon, which is about 230 miles covered in a six- or seven-day trip. Helen repeated that trip five times. She was the Grand Canyon's greatest advertiser.

Sis. Poczekaj and her husband also took a trip to Slovenia where they visited relatives and toured the beautiful land.

Editor's Note: Sis. Helen Poczekaj passed away Feb. 1, 2009. The Society extends condolences to the Poczekaj family on their loss.

celebrating
your SNPJ
anniversary?

If you would like to share your 50-, 60-, 70-, or 80-year biography with PROSVETA, be sure to address your material to National President Joseph C. Evanish at 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126

ANNOUNCE IT

Fifty years of marriage for Lodge 715 member

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — William and Louise (715) Mandekic of McKeesport, Pa., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple was married May 9, 1959, in St. William's Church, East Pittsburgh, Pa.

William is a member of CFU and served in the military from 1952 to 1954. Louise is the daughter of the late Andrew and Sophia (Gorence) Zupancic. Her twin brother Louis is also a member of Lodge 715. Another brother, Andy, has passed away.

Louise was very involved with *The Voice of Youth* magazine. In fact, she continues to write her pen pal of 47 years, Lodge 581 member Elsie Tomazic of New Britain, Conn.

William and Louise were blessed with four children, Cynthia, Gary, and twins Daniel and Darlene. The joys of their lives are their grandchildren, Alyssa, Danica, Chloe and Ryan. Their children held a surprise party for the couple May 9.

The Society wishes William and Louise good health and continued happiness in the future.



WILLIAM and LOUISE (715) MANDEKIC celebrated 50 years of marriage May 9, 2009.

Young Americans Lodge 564 treats mom to dinner

by MARION VOLPE
Lodge 564 Secretary

DETROIT — Young Americans Lodge 564 members held their annual Mother's Day dinner dance featuring the Good Times Orchestra May 10. This orchestra is full of life! They play from the heart and it is noticed. Eddie Adamic sings the songs of days gone by, and it always brings a tear to my eye as we sing along with him. Our infamous button box club also performed. We had a good crowd. It seemed like everyone enjoyed the evening whether they were dancing, listening to the music, chatting or just taking it all in. It was a wonderful Mother's Day for all.

This is the eighth year that the Lodge's gentlemen cooked for the ladies. They deserve a huge thank you, so thanks goes out to Ermando Volpe, Don Harrison, Tom Hostnik and Rudy Zornik. They worked side by side in the kitchen, making a delicious meal from scratch and washing the dishes as they went along. This year's meal included Italian sausage, rosemary chicken, roasted potatoes, salad, peas and mushrooms, along

with the usual Mother's Day cake for everyone to enjoy.

It wouldn't be fair if we didn't thank all those that worked at this huge event. First of all, a huge thank you is sent to President Rudy Zornik for overseeing all events at the club. This year Marlene Zornik and Suzanne Hellner cleaned the club and its bathrooms. They also set up covered tables with beautiful flowers. Another big task is the bar, and tending bar was John Kunz; he's always ready to help! Joyce Harrison and yours truly took on the 50/50 drawing. We had fun talking to everyone as we went along. We gave out three prizes and still made a nice sum for the club.

Each year at the Mother's Day party, we present our 50-, 60-, 70- and 80-year members with an award from Home Office. However, this year the honorees' awards were mailed directly to them from the Home Office. I'm sure they were proud and pleased to receive their awards. Honorees were John Fifolt, Joann Ensign, Justine Dugar, Joseph Zrimec, Mary Iancin, Frank Zupan, Shirley Menzies and George Schutte.



Young Americans Lodge members [from left] **ERMANDO VOLPE, DON HARRISON, TOM HOSTNIK and RUDY ZORNIK** prepared the Lodge 564 Mother's Day meal from scratch.



The Good Times Orchestra had everyone singing along to the old-time songs.

News from Here & There

by GRACE DOERK
Lodge 559

CHICAGO — Just as I thought, there will be no spring. Summer is upon us with 80 to 90-degree temperatures. Why we don't get any spring or autumn weather is really a mystery.

Otto and I were very happy to have my sister and brother-in-law spend some time with us. We'll be spending more time with them in August in Las Vegas. We were also happy to have our motorcycle friends visit us from Arkansas. I can't believe we've had so much out-of-town company, but we love it.

For those who have sent me get-well cards, sorry, but I didn't have the surgery. I will probably go some time in the fall. My thanks to Donald Zordani for the recent phone call. Donald was a member of our former Perfect Circle 26 group. We talked about having a Perfect Circle reunion again, but I really don't know how many would attend as many of the members now live out of state.

Many people in the Chicago area frequent the summer concerts in Grant Park. This is the first year that I have taken advantage of seeing concerts at Bicentennial Park in Joliet, Ill. The concerts are free, and they are great. A production of "The King and I" will conclude the concert season. The owner of the music store where I work will be the featured pianist, and one of the music teachers at the store will conduct the orchestra. Working in a music store has been a great experience.

It seems that every weekend there is some kind of Slovenian affair held in

our area. This Sunday, many KSKJ and Slovenian Women's Union members were at St. Joe's Park.

Joliet has a big group of Slovenians in the community. Ray Koncar, his sons and his brother from Minnesota entertained, followed by Bob Doszak, who will be one of the featured entertainers many of us will be enjoying on a cruise setting sail next February from New Orleans. This seven-night western Caribbean polka party is scheduled Feb. 21-28 on the Norwegian Cruise Lines. Ports of call include Costa Maya, Santo Thomas, De Castillo, Belize and Cozumel. The all-star musical lineup will include the Eddie Rodick Orchestra (Cleveland Band of the Year for 2007 and 2008), Steve Meisner (Wisconsin's number one polka artist for four years), and the Karousels with Bob Doszak, who is originally from Joliet but now resides in Arizona.

I'm so glad that I have extra time to attend all the Slovenian events in this area, and there are many. I have run into many of the acquaintances I met while attending the Illinois and National Fraternal Congress meetings at these picnics.

Many Chicago-area members will be heading to Triglav Park in the Wind Lake, Wis., area Aug. 29 when Ansambel Erazem from Postojna, Slovenia, is scheduled to perform. We're all looking forward to hearing their wonderful music. It would be nice if we could car pool. We will have room in our car, so give us a call if you're interested in attending this performance.

We were so sorry to hear of the passing of John Krizancic (755). Just last year, Otto and I talked to John and his wife, Martha, in their tent at Slovenefest. John was the nicest man and always had many stories to tell us. We convey our sincerest sympathy to his wife and family.

We were also saddened to hear that Fr. Vendelin Spendov passed away. Fr. Ven-

delin was a priest, pastor and confidant to many. For many of us, he was the one who taught us an appreciation for Slovenian music, especially liturgical music. He will be remembered by many as being one of the first Slovenian composers to create liturgical music in the post-Vatican II era, and he did it so well. I will always remember Fr. Vendelin for conducting the Prešeren Chorus. It was a pleasure singing under his direction. Our sincere sympathy for a person who gained everyone's respect.

Just recently, Cook County, Ill., Treasurer Maria Pappas presented an award of excellence to the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont in honor of the museum's cultural contributions to the Chicago area. These museums and exhibits are born of love and respect for the Slovenian heritage. Together, they give Chicagoland its distinct character as a community of communities. Congratulations!

Unfortunately, it rained here all day on July 4, and the holiday was a disappointment to many who were having family gatherings. We stayed home to watch the fireworks from our house, and it was the biggest display ever. Many of our neighbors go out on their boats to view the fireworks displays. Our family celebrated July 4th on July 5, and as usual we are always happy to be with family. About six of the family's bravest went swimming, but the water was so cold. Some of the adults and kids played games, and before you knew it, the day was over — all too soon.

Can you believe that our days are already growing shorter, and although we've had a few nice days, most of them aren't warm or it's raining? We do hope that the rest of July and August will bring some better days. So enjoy the summer — before you know it, it will be Labor Day.

By the time this article is published, Slovenefest will be over. We certainly hope it was successful.

Lodge 138 youth takes part in leadership forum

STRABANE, Pa. — Christopher Elish, a member of Lodge 138 and a student at North Strabane Intermediate School, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. He was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

Christopher joined a select group of students in Washington, D.C., June 29-July 4 to study leadership and explore some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions. From Capitol Hill to the Smithsonian Institution, and from Gettysburg National Military Park to the International Spy Museum, Christopher examined the characteristics of American leadership during times of national challenge and prosperity. As a forum delegate, Christopher also participated in small-group discussions and exercises to experience first-hand how successful leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus and foster change.

The program is coordinated by People to People Leadership Programs to fulfill the vision President Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People to People during his presidency in 1956. For additional information please visit www.wlleaders.org.



CHRISTOPHER ELISH (138) participated in the People to People World Leadership Forum June 29-July 4.

SNPJ Crossword

INDEPENDENCE DAY (#1309) solution

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The SNPJ Farm 2009 Dance Schedule

SNPJ Farm, 10946 Heath Road, Kirtland, Ohio
off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306
For information phone (440) 256-3423 or (440) 943-1191

July 19	Comrades Lodge 566 Picnic Joe Novak & Friends	3:30 to 7:30
July 26	Utopians Lodge 604 Picnic Eddie Rodick Orchestra	3:30 to 7:30
Aug. 2	Chicken BBQ Picnic Don Wojtila Orchestra	3:30 to 7:30
Aug. 9	CAL Picnic Bob Kravos Band	3:30 to 7:30
Aug. 16	Mirni Raj Lodge 142 Picnic Eric Noltkamper Band	3:30 to 7:30
Aug. 23	Fairport Lodge 355 Picnic Bob Kravos Band	3:30 to 7:30
Aug. 26	Cleveland Pensioners Wayne Tomsic Band	2:30 to 5:30
Aug. 30	Cleveland Lodge 126 Jeff Pecon Orchestra	3:30 to 7:30
Sept. 6	SNPJ Farm Board Picnic Eric Noltkamper Band	3:30 to 7:30
Sept. 7	End of Summer Dance George Staiduhar Band	3:30 to 7:30
Sept. 13	Ladies Auxiliary Picnic Eddie Rodick Orchestra	3:30 to 7:30

Dancers enjoy the finest in Cleveland-style polkas and waltzes at the SNPJ Farm. The Farm features the best-known names in polka music, plus down-home dining. Gates open at noon. Dinners served Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. with music and dancing from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday picnic admission is \$5. Rent the SNPJ Farm for picnics, anniversaries or other special functions! For more information phone (440) 256-3423 or (440) 943-1191.

65th SNPJ National Golf Tournament

at Bedford Trails Golf Course
713 Bedford Road, Lowellville, OH 44436
Phone: (330) 536-2234
Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009
9 a.m. Shotgun Start

Individual Event	
Name	Lodge No.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Team Event	
Name	Lodge No.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Entry fees for team and individual events are \$55 per member. For individual event only, entry fee is \$50 per member. Entry fee includes greens fees, golf cart, prize fund, lunch at the turn, on-course beverages, a golfer's meal in the dining room at the SNPJ Recreation Center, and a drawing ticket for give-aways. Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Slovene National Benefit Society
247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126
Phone: 1-800-843-7675
Make checks payable to **SNPJ**
ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUG. 21, 2009
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.

Uncle Sam wants your money... and it's up to you whether you pay now or pay later.



SNPJ now offers **Roth IRAs** in addition to our regular IRAs and annuities to help build a safe financial future for you and your family. We've helped build secure futures for our members for over a century. Phone **1-800-843-7675** and we'll be happy to help you too.

SNPJ fraternal sympathies

Sis. MARY STRUNA
• LODGE 53 •

CLEVELAND — The members of Lodge 53 and the Struna family sadly report the June 7, 2009, passing of Sis. Mary Struna at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. She was a 41-year SNPJ member.

Mary, or "Mimi" as she was affectionately called, was born June 16, 1925, to the late Anton and Mary Jadognik. She was a graduate of Collinwood High School in Cleveland and lived in Euclid, Ohio.

Sis. Struna became active in Lodge 53 in 1972. She was a faithful member, serving first as an auditor, then as treasurer. At the time of her passing she served the Lodge as vice president. She was always helpful at Lodge picnics; in her earlier years she could be found working in the kitchen, but as she began to experience back problems she took on the role of selling refreshment tickets. Mimi was also a member of the Slovenian Workmen's Home Ladies Auxiliary, volunteering as a cashier for the Friday fish fries.

Sis. Struna was proud of her Slovenian heritage and enjoyed polka music. Her sense of humor and smile will be ever present in the minds of those who knew her. She will be truly missed by all.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John. Surviving are two daughters, Marilyn (Kevin) O'Toole and Nancy (Kevin) Koscica; grandchildren Colin and Shannon O'Toole, and Maximillin and Angelina Koscica; and a cousin, Emma (Raymond)



Sis. MARY STRUNA (53)

Durn.

Services were celebrated at Zele Funeral Home with interment following in Knollwood Cemetery.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 53 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Struna's family and friends on their loss.

Sis. ANNA FABIAN
• LODGE 304 •

SAN FRANCISCO — The Fabian family and Lodge 304 members sadly report the June 22, 2009, passing of Sis. Anna Črnugelj Fabian in South San Francisco, Calif.

Sis. Fabian was born in the village of Grabrovec, Slovenia. Her father, Martin, passed away one month before she was born. Anna, her mother, Marija Stariha Črnugelj, and Anna's older sister moved from their home in Grabrovec to the Stariha home in Dragonja vas, Slovenia.

When she was 2 years old, Anna's mother left her and her 6-year-old sister in the care

of their grandmother. Anna's mother went to America, remarried, had four more daughters and eventually moved to San Francisco. From age 6 to 12, Anna attended school next to the church in Suhor, Slovenia, walking barefoot for 30 minutes each way. From age 12 to 14, she attended school once a week for three hours. She worked in fields, tended to animals, and helped plant and harvest vegetables and fruits.

When Sis. Fabian was 17, she packed her few belongings in a basket and carried the basket on her head to Metlika to start a job as a maid. Within one month she became so homesick that she quit the job and returned to Dragonja vas. It was upon her return that she and her family started to plan her trip to America.

Sponsored by a former neighbor in her birth village, Anna borrowed \$320 on the Črnugelj land, the cost of her passage to America, which she repaid in installments. She recalled arriving at Ellis Island and seeing the Statue of Liberty. She remained on the island for five days, then boarded a



Sis. ANNA FABIAN (304)

train for a week-long trip to Oakland, Calif. A ferry took her to San Francisco where, in September 1930, she met her mother whom she hadn't seen in 17 years.

It was at Anna's mother's house on Arkansas St. that Joseph Fabian met the newly arrived girl from Dragonja vas. They married in the Church of the Nativity, San Francisco, on July 8, 1933. They had three girls, Joann (Curtis), Diane (Brahney) and Janet. Janet, who passed away in 1969, was an exceptional child who was lovingly and tenderly cared for by Anna and Joe.

Sis. Fabian's home and garden on Utah St. were her castle. Like her husband, she had an inborn love of the land. She remembered her and Joe singing old Slovenian folk songs as they worked side by side in their garden. When Joe passed away in 1977, they had been married 44 years.

Anna and Joe were very active in the Slovenian community, and instilled in their two daughters, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren the love and pride of their Slovenian heritage.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 304 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Fabian's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. MARTIN J. SERRO
• LODGE 87 •

HERMINIE, Pa. — The Serro family and Lodge 87 members report the June 20, 2009, passing of Bro. Martin J. Serro, 93,



Bro. MARTIN J. SERRO (87)

of Sarasota, Fla., formerly of Irwin, Pa.

Bro. Serro was the son of Slovenian parents Frank (Cerar) Serro and Mary Drop Serro. He owned and operated Irwin Trailer Sales before retiring in 1975 and moving to Sarasota in 1980.

In his earlier years, Martin had a polka orchestra known as "Martin Serro and His Trio," in which he played the button accordion. The trio performed until 1942, playing for dances, weddings and picnics. During that time, Martin also hosted a radio show on WHJB in Greensburg, Pa., which aired twice weekly from 1935 to 1942.

In addition to television and radio appearances, Bro. Serro also had a hit recording in 1960 titled "The Slovenian Picnic Waltz." Both the song and Bro. Serro were inducted into the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame.

Martin encouraged many young people in the area to master the button box accordion by traveling to Slovenia and bringing button boxes back to the United States. Many students learned the button box technique from Martin's friend, Mario Mosti of Jeanette, Pa.

Bro. Serro was a lifetime member of the Herminie Volunteer Fire Company; Irwin Lions Club; Loyal Order of the Moose, Irwin; a past president of the Irwin-Norwin Chamber of Commerce; Jeannette Toastmasters; SNPJ Lodge 87 and the Crystal Ballroom in Herminie; Button Box Club of Herminie; Croatian Lodge of Cokeburg, Pa.; St. Edward's and Immaculate Conception churches; and St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Sarasota.

Martin is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Jennie Frowen Serro of Sarasota; daughters Marlene (Chuck) Davis of Acworth, Ga., and Dr. Linda Serro of Estero, Fla.; three grandchildren, Dr. Gregory (Rachel) Houck of Estero, Catherine (Gary) Mazur of Holiday, Fla., and Michael Houck of Estero; and two great-grandchildren, Jacob Houck and Ella Mazur. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Frank, John, Joseph and Louis; and four sisters, Mary Garcar, Rose Andrewson, Anna Serro and Frances Golobish. He has one surviving sister, Jennie Baloh of Herminie, and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Edward's Catholic Church June 26 with interment in the Westmoreland Memorial Park in Greensburg, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 87 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer sincere sympathies to Bro. Serro's family, relatives and friends on their loss.



Bro. FRANK HROVAT (2)

BRO. FRANK HROVAT
• LODGE 2 •

LA SALLE, Ill. — The Hrovat family and members of Lodge 2 sadly announce the June 14, 2009, passing of Bro. Frank

Hrovat, 88, in St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, Ill.

Bro. Hrovat was born Oct. 22, 1920, in Arma, Kan., to Josef and Mary (Trdin) Hrovat. He married Frances "Pat" Hoffman March 9, 1946, in Oak Park.

Frank was a graduate of Polk School in Arma, Kan. He worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Mount Ranier, Wash., and served with the U.S. Army in Korea. He also operated Massey-Harris Farm Implement in Dimmick Township, Ill., and was employed by Wayside Press in Mendota, Ill., for 36 years before his retirement. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mendota, and VFW Post 4079, Elks Lodge 1212 and SNPJ Lodge 2 in La Salle.

Bro. Hrovat is survived by his wife; one son, David (Kathleen) Hrovat of Covington, Ky.; and three grandchildren, Ann Hrovat, Jacqueline Sestito and Paul Hrovat. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Frank J. and a brother in infancy; and five sisters, Mary, Josephine, Victoria, Frances and Rose.

Services were celebrated June 19 in St. John's Lutheran Church. Burial followed in Peru City Cemetery.

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



Bro. ANTON R. DRAGER (3)

BRO. ANTON R. DRAGER
• LODGE 3 •

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — The Drager family and members of Lodge 3 sadly announce the June 14, 2009, passing of Bro. Anton R. "Tony" Drager, 88, at Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown.

Born Dec. 29, 1920, in Johnstown, Tony was the son of the late John and Mary (Korber) Drager. He was a World War II U.S. Navy veteran. Tony received an engineering degree from Purdue University, and retired from Bethlehem Steel in the Rod & Wire Mill. He was a member of St. Clement Church and Retired Men. Tony celebrated his 70-year SNPJ membership anniversary in December 2008.

Bro. Drager was preceded in death by his first wife, Jennie (Balog) Drager, and an infant daughter, Jean Marie. He is survived by wife Olive (Brence) Dezelon-Drager; children John (Melanie) Drager of Jefferson Hills, Pa., Patricia (Robert) Kasten of Plum Borough, Pa., Nancy Armstrong (nee Drager) of Charlotte, N.C., Michael (Kimberly) Dezelon of Paradise Valley, Ariz., Sally McMullen (nee Drager) of Johnstown, Mary (Larry) Koval (nee Drager) of Johnstown, Anne (Ray) Stenger (nee Drager) of Johnstown, and Richard (Stacey) Dezelon of Chester, Md.; grandchildren Richie, Veronica, Jonathan, Chris, Brock, M.E., Dez and Olivia; great-grandchild Parker; brother John Drager of Johnstown; and sisters Frances Grabusnik of Harrisburg, Pa., and Ann Butchko of Columbus, Ohio.

A Mass honoring Tony's life was celebrated June 17 at St. Clement Church with concelebrants Monsignor William Shultz, Father William E. Rosenbaum and Monsignor William Shultz.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 3 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend deepest sympathies to Bro. Drager's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

2009 Western Pa./Lodge 138 Golf Tournament Results

Tournament played June 14, 2009, at Rolling Green Golf Course, Eighty Four, Pa.

Men's Division: Members

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Daren Fetcko	138	71	\$65
**Allan Wargo	138	65	\$65
Frank Mavrich	138	66	\$55
Jeff Kostka	138	66	\$55
Bill Wardle	138	67	\$50
John Bevec	138	68	\$45
Jeff Herforth	138	68	\$45
Charlie Shaver	614	68	\$45
Tim Mavrich	138	69	\$40
Bob O'Hare	138	69	\$40
John Baselj	6	70	\$35
Albert Paul	138	70	\$35
Dave Belfiore	138	71	\$30
Randy Butka	138	71	\$30
Larry Butka	138	71	\$30
Jason Dupra	138	71	\$30
Dave Hervol	138	71	\$30

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Len Butka	138	71	\$30
J.P. Bevec	138	72	\$25
Jim Cadez	138	72	\$25
Sam Killinger	138	72	\$25
Ron Cadez	138	72	\$25
Brian Wagner	138	72	\$25
Mike Hervol	138	73	\$20
Art Stimmel	138	73	\$20
Ken Lawrence	138	73	\$20

Women's Division: Members

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Sara Taylor	138	115	\$50
**Vicki Urbas	138	74	\$50
Jennifer Fetcko	138	75	\$35
Laurie Cadez	138	76	\$25
Gina Mastrangelo	138	80	\$10

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
Thedra Wagner	138	80	\$10
Karen Brumbaugh	138	81	\$5

Men's Division: Guests

Name	Score	Prize
*Cory Ward	79	\$45
**Chris Dille	68	\$35
Steve Hornyack	69	\$20
Steve Wilson	69	\$20
Fred Caruso	70	\$15
Frank Yuvan	70	\$15

Women's Division: Guests

Name	Score	Prize
*Lisa Novak	91	\$10

*Indicates Scratch Champion
**Indicates Net Champion

Golf outing renamed in late member's honor

by MARIANNE MAGISTER
Lodge 665

PITTSBURGH — The Simmons Center for Interstitial Lung Disease at UPMC is sponsoring a golf outing Monday, Aug. 31, at Pittsburgh National Golf Club (formerly Deer Run Golf Club).

Now in its fifth year, the event has been renamed in memory of Bro. Fran Mag-

ister (665) who passed away in September 2008 from end-stage Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). Fran was instrumental in the creation of the event and its ongoing success.

The cost is \$125 per golfer and includes refreshments, dinner and other activities. For non-golfers, the cost for the dinner only is \$25 per per-

son. All proceeds fund patient support, outreach, education and research activities aimed at finding a cure for IPF.

For additional information, contact Marianne Magister at (412) 234-3743. You may also contact Mary Williams at the Simmons Center at (412) 647-3156 or via e-mail at simmonsild@upmc.edu.

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Slovene National Benefit Society
247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA 15126
e-mail: snpj@snpj.com

18th SNPJ National Horseshoes Tournament
Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009, starting at 9 a.m.
at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.

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

Team 1 captain's name, phone number & e-mail address:
Team 2 captain's name, phone number & e-mail address:

Entry Fee: \$10 per two-man team

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Slovene National Benefit Society
Att'n.: National Horseshoes Tournament
247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126
Phone: 1-800-843-7675
Make checks payable to **SNPJ**

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.

SNPJ National Balina Tournament
Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 5-6, 2009
at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.

Name	Lodge Number
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

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

\$20 per team entry fee for men's and women's competition.
ENTRY DEADLINE is Aug. 28, 2009

Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Slovene National Benefit Society
Att'n.: National Balina Tournament
247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126
Phone: 1-800-843-7675
Make checks payable to **SNPJ**

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.